



**National Pg 3**  
Hatch projects in line with policies, youth told

**National Pg 4**  
HESLB hosts Zambian team for five-day training visit

**National Pg 6**  
NeST finalist in Africa innovation awards



Cardiothoracic surgeons at Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute pictured yesterday operating on a child with a heart condition. It was at an ongoing six-day medical camp organised by the specialised facility in collaboration with Australia's Open Heart International at which a total of ten children are expected to be similarly attended to. Photo courtesy of JKCI

## Transparency among carbon trading firms crucial - VPO

By Guardian Reporter

COMPANIES involved in carbon trading in the country need to be transparent and involve the community in project areas so that citizens are aware of the business, a senior official has appealed.

Dr Elikana John, the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) agency chief forester expressed this need at a meeting organized by the Terraformation Co. to explore ways of obtaining funds for the management of land and forests through carbon trading.

He urged the companies to fulfill commitments entered into concerning carbon trading, to bring the benefits of preserving biodiversity to society, highlighting to the company's officials that the government has set a goal of restoring 5.2m hectares.

The meeting, coordinated by TFS and the environment division in the Vice President's Office (VPO), has drawn up rules and guidelines for carbon trading on a societal benefit perspective.

To achieve this objective, the country needs investment and funding for these projects from various stakeholders and global agencies, he stated, asserting that expertise to prepare projects is needed along with research on forest areas, to bring positive results.

Other reports show that Tanzanian officials participated in a side event devoted to mountains conservation as an item to be included as the global agenda preparing meetings of the parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change whose 29th conference was lately held in the Azerbaijan capital of Baku.

The conference ended in overtime on Sunday with only modest climate finance goals, with observers declaring that it failed to deliver on an expected announcement of a new commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

They said that the conference displayed unusually high tensions among nations,

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## As Kariakoo rescue effort closes, deaths climb to 29

Building owner arrested, others on the run

By Guardian Reporter

AS the government winds down the rescue operation for survivors of the collapsed building at Kariakoo business zone in Dar es Salaam, the death toll has risen to 29.

Government spokesman Thobias Makoba updated journalists on the rescue operations at the site yesterday, noting that by early afternoon yesterday Kariakoo was back to normal, with exception of the immediate vicinity of the building collapse.

So far three bodies of the deceased, out of nine more recently found, have yet to be identified, and two people who were injured in the incident are still receiving treatment, he stated.

The process of identifying the bodies

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## 'Team Europe' hopes 200m euro boosts anti-GBV drive

By Gertrude Mbago

WITH more than euro 200m invested in gender equality initiatives, the European Union through its "Team Europe" approach expects to support efforts to combat gender-based violence, empower women, strengthen justice systems and create safer digital spaces for women and girls.

Christine Grau, the EU ambassador to Tanzania and the East African Community, made this affirmation at the launch of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (GBV) in Dar es Salaam on Monday.

She said that the funds are helping to challenge harmful social norms, combat online harassment and provide essential services



**The overwhelming participation of people in the electoral process is proof that Tanzania's democracy is maturing**

## Samia salutes Namibians ahead of presidential poll Urges peaceful election

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan, the chairperson of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) organ on politics, defence and security cooperation, has extended best wishes to Namibia ahead of its general election.

The country conduct voting for presidential candidates and members of the National Assembly today.

The presidential communications directorate said in a statement yesterday that

the president praised Namibia's longstanding commitment to democratic values and peaceful elections.

Urging citizens and political stakeholders to uphold these principles during the electoral process, she said that Namibia has maintained an exemplary reputation as a peaceful nation that upholds democratic principles.

"We trust that the citizens of Namibia will once again demonstrate adherence to these principles and the SADC guidelines for democratic elections," the statement af-

such as helplines, shelters and legal aid for victims of violence.

Violence against women is a global issue, affecting women and girls worldwide, as globally, one in three women will experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, and one in five girls will be a victim of child sexual abuse.

In Tanzania, the statistics are equally alarming as the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2022 report showed that over half of women in Tanzania have experienced some form of violence.

Nearly 50 percent have suffered intimate partner violence, 19 percent of girls are affected by child marriage, and more than

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Al Hilal sink Yanga 2-0 in CAF Champions League showdown

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For Pep Guardiola, there is only one solution to ending Manchester City's crisis

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# Samia salutes Namibians ahead of presidential poll

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statement further noted, acclaiming Namibia's role as a model for peaceful electoral processes in the region.

All political actors, their supporters and the Namibian public need to act responsibly, ensuring peace and stability throughout the election period and beyond, the SADC stateswoman intoned.

"As a region, we look forward to electoral processes that align with

the democratic values and principles enshrined in our SADC Treaty, the SADC Protocol on politics, defence and security cooperation, and the revised principles and guidelines governing democratic elections," she emphasized.

As the organ chairperson, the president reiterated the region's commitment to fostering democratic governance and supporting peaceful transitions of power, it added.

# 'Team Europe' hopes 200m euro boosts anti-GBV drive

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two million Tanzanian women have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM), the envoy noted.

"We must ask ourselves: if it's not me, it's someone I know—our daughters, sisters, nieces and schoolgirls. Each act of violence has devastating consequences on the lives of women and girls," she emphasised.

She praised efforts of President Samia Suluhu Hassan and all local gender equality champions, especially citing the work of organisations like the Coalition Against Gender-Based Violence (MKUKI) who organised the event along with the Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF).

Veteran activist and former cabinet minister Gertrude Mongella stressed the importance of electing leaders who are qualified to serve both women and men equally.

"We do not want to choose leaders just for their gender; we want

leaders with the skills and qualifications to serve everyone, regardless of their gender," she said. "Even if an aspirant is a woman, we must choose her based on her ability to serve all people, not just because she is a woman."

Dr Monica Mhoja, MKUKI chairperson, urged legal reforms as the country approaches the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

She specifically advocated for a review of laws that contribute to GBV, including those related to marriage and inheritance, to ensure they do not perpetuate violence and discrimination against women.

Anna Kulaya, the WILDAF national coordinator, emphasised that the 16 days of activism remind members of the public that the fight for gender equality is alive and well, and that real change requires collective action from all sectors of society.

# As Kariakoo rescue effort closes, deaths climb to 29

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by DNA testing is being conducted if presumably there are relatives or family members wishing to confirm any of those deceased persons to be a loved one.

The rescue operation and the search for additional bodies was lifted yesterday, allowing businesses to resume operations from 2pm in all areas except Mchikichi Street, he said.

The Information Department director noted that after completing the rescue phase, the focus has shifted to removing the and safely storing it in a designated area, while investigations into the cause of the collapse proceed.

The next step is for the government, in collaboration with business owners, to identify properties within the disaster zone that were placed under law enforcement agencies as business stopped in the

morning on Friday, November 15.

"The national disaster committee, which had set up a camp when the disaster occurred, is now handing over the matter to the Dar es Salaam regional authorities," he elaborated, hinting that Manyema and Mchikichi streets which extend to Congo Street bazaar, will remain closed for two to three days while investigations are conducted.

One of the owners has already been arrested and others are being sought by the police as investigations are pursued, he said, avoiding to give details so as to avoid interfering with investigations.

Remsi Mbilu, a clothing business owner in Kariakoo, was happy that shops would now open, saying the past ten days have been too difficult for traders.

Mahamudu Juma, another trader, said that it was time to resume business activities as disasters are part of fate.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (L), who is a member of the ruling CCM's Central Committee, waves to the crowds yesterday on arrival at the Liwale District venue where he was due to grace the climax of the party's campaigns in Lindi Region ahead of local government elections lined up for today across mainland Tanzania. Photo: PMO

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spurred in part by statements from the host, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev that fossil fuels power were a natural gift that countries must use for their prosperity.

The Tanzanian delegation attended the meeting organized by delegations from Kyrgyzstan Andorra and Bhutan along with a Nepalese conservation agency, the KIRDARC Union.

The top forester said that countries making contributions to the meeting largely acknowledged the importance of mountain ecosystems and how they are affected by climate change.

The effects include the loss of

# Transparency among carbon trading firms crucial - VPO

snow, biodiversity, the occurrence of landslides and the drying up of water sources, he stated, where the delegates heard a presentation on how Tanzania is taking steps to ensure sustainable ecology and environment of mountain ranges, highlighting a number of policies, laws and institutional systems meant to enable care of the ecology and environment of mountains.

At the same time Tanzania was

reported to be joining more than 50 countries at the conference agreeing to mitigate impacts of climate change by promoting sustainable tourism.

Ernest Mwamaja, the Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB) marketing director, made this remark on the sidelines of the 29th conference of the parties to the UN framework convention concluded at the weekend.

He said that up to 8.8 percent of global environmental damage is caused by air transportation, directly tied with tourism activities, thus steps envisaged by the group will help reduce the challenges.

Proceedings at COP29 included the tourism sector unlike in previous years, he said, affirming that this will bring benefits to Tanzania as discussions are held to find answers to environmental impacts.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango has a word yesterday with a fellow passenger aboard an Air Tanzania flight from Dar es Salaam to Kigoma, where he was due to take part in mainland Tanzania's local government elections scheduled for today. Photo: VPO

# Experts meet to elevate animal health in Africa

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

EXPERTS yesterday began a three-day meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, to promote animal health in Africa.

The Continental Conference for Veterinary Workforce 2024 brought together more than 175 participants, including veterinary professionals, policymakers, representatives of international organizations, private sector stakeholders and donors to address critical issues in veterinary services and veterinary workforce development in Africa.

Andrew Karanja, cabinet secretary of Kenya's Ministry of Agricul-

ture and Livestock Development, said that animal health is crucial in Africa because more than 50 percent of the population of the region relies on livestock to sustain its livelihood.

"Veterinary professionals can help Africa maintain animal health through early diagnosis and treatment of diseases that affect their productivity," Karanja said, adding that years of underinvestment means that many African countries face a shortage of skilled veterinary professionals.

Francois Caya, chief of staff of the World Organization for Animal Health, an intergovernmental organization, urged African

governments to put in place legislation that will promote animal welfare and disease control to provide a safe environment for animals. Caya also called for cross-border collaboration to tackle transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases that are disruptive to the livelihood of livestock keepers resulting in loss of income for farmers.

Huyam Ahmed Mohammed Elamin Salih, director of the African Union's Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources, said that one of the most effective ways to promote animal health is through vaccination programs, especially for common diseases such as foot

and mouth, rabies and anthrax. Salih added that Africa can leverage modern technology such as telemedicine to expand access to veterinary services even to underserved communities.

Carolyn Schumacher, chief executive officer of the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines, said that investing in veterinary education is one avenue to encourage more Africans to become veterinary professionals. Schumacher also highlighted the role of increased collaboration between governments, universities and industry in research to develop medicines to tackle local diseases.



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Police in Songwe Region have embarked on enhanced patrols, including in Tunduma town in Momba District, Isongole and Itumba in Ileje District, as well as Vwawa ward and Mlowo township in Mbozi District. This scene was captured yesterday. Reports said the idea was to boost security in readiness for mainland Tanzania's local government elections lined up for today. Photo courtesy of Police Hqs

## Do not hate opposition candidates, Zanzibar VP urges CCM members

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR Second Vice President, Hemed Suleiman Abdulla, has called on members of the CCM to avoid harbouring animosity towards candidates of opposition parties participating in the local government elections as their involvement enriches the democratic process. Abdulla made the remarks while concluding the local government elections campaign at Maillimoja Grounds in Kibaha, Coast Region. He noted that participation of other parties fosters healthy competition, urging CCM members and the public to support the party's candidates to ensure continued development in their communities. "The candidates of other parties are here to compete with us. In elections, we show no mercy and

personal friendships do not apply. Our priority is to fight to win and celebrate together," he said. Abdulla highlighted the significant role of women in elections, stressing that their decisions often yield success. He encouraged them to turn out in large numbers to vote for competent candidates. CCM Coast Regional Chairman, Mwinshehe Mlao, expressed confidence that the party's candidates would secure victory, citing widespread public appreciation for the government's achievements. Ahmed Salum, a member of CCM Economic Committee in Coast Region, stated that this year's campaign was digitally focused and the party was optimistic about a decisive victory due to its numerous accomplishments.

## Tanzania voted leading safari destination, again

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA has once again been crowned the world's leading travel destination for the second year in a row. The World Travel Awards' grand finale ceremony also named Thanda Island on the Indian Ocean's Tanzanian waters as the World's Leading Exclusive Private Island also for the second year. Meanwhile Hong Kong was named the world's leading business travel destination at the 2024 World Travel Awards, according to an official press statement from the organizers. The leaders of the global travel and tourism industry gathered on Sunday evening in Funchal, the Capital of Portugal's autonomous region of Madeira, to find out which among their various destinations and properties have been voted the industry's best of the best in the world. The gala evening which took place in the idyllic Atlantic islands of Madeira on Sunday marked the climax of the World Travel Awards 2024 Grand Tour with Tanzania emerging the overall winner. The country however receives an average of 1.5 million tourists per annum.

For the first time in the history of the global awards, the Helium powered, Serengeti Balloon Safari was crowned the world's leading balloon ride operator. The firm conducts game-viewing sky rides in the country's third biggest national park as well as the adjacent Ngorongoro. The annual WTA is a global search for the best travel and tourism properties, destinations and organisations. Previously there were regional award ceremonies hosted in Berlin, Dubai, Saint Vincent & The Grenadines, Manila and Diani Beach, Kenya. During the African version of the awards, Serengeti, famous for its annual wildebeest migration, was crowned the continent's leading national park in 2024, taking the accolade for the sixth year in a row. Mount Kilimanjaro which carries two highest peaks in Africa also emerged as the continent's leading tourist attraction last October. Categories cover the entire spectrum of the industry, ranging from hotels and resorts to airlines and tour operators. In 2023, Tanzania was crowned the World Leading Safari Destination as a country, topping Kenya which won the award in 2022.

# Nchimbi urges election victors to serve with humility, fidelity

By Henry Mwangonde

CCM Secretary General Dr. Emanuel Nchimbi has urged leaders who emerge victorious in today's civil elections to be true servants of the people and avoid abusing power. Speaking during a rally to close campaign for this year's civil elections at Mnyani grounds, Mbagala Kiburugwa in Dar es Salaam, Dr. Nchimbi emphasized that the party has worked hard to

ensure that only the most suitable candidates are fielded. "This election is another opportunity for Tanzanians to exercise their democratic right to choose leaders," he said. "It is a crucial moment for the country but it is also an opportunity to unite and resist divisive rhetoric and actions that could lead to chaos." Dr Nchimbi also highlighted the growing political engagement across Tanzania, noting that

candidates from various political parties have shown strong interest in vying for different positions, a clear sign of the country's expanding democracy. He revealed that over 350,000 CCM members expressed interest in being nominated for various posts but only 100,000 were selected after careful vetting. Dr Nchimbi urged CCM members and Tanzanians as a whole to turn out in large numbers to cast their votes, emphasizing that voting is

both a right and a responsibility. "To the aspirants who will emerge victorious in the elections, I urge you to serve with dedication and humility," he said. Dr Nchimbi said CCM will not tolerate leaders who misuse their powers for personal gain or neglect the people they were elected to serve." Dr Nchimbi said the election period serves as a call for unity and responsible leadership in the coming years.



Police officers were among the people who participated in the launch of this year's edition of the commemoration of '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' on Monday - at Sumagha Secondary School in Tunduma town, Momba District. Each November 25 through December 10, the world observes the event, in effect a campaign meant to raise awareness and mobilise action to end all forms of violence against women and girls. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Develop projects in line with available policies, youth told

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

ZANZIBAR Minister of State in the Office of the President (Labour, Economy and Investment), Shariff Ali Shariff, has called on Tanzanian youth to develop projects aligned with investment policies to actively contribute to the nation's economic growth. Shariff made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the 2024 Top 100 CEO Awards ceremony which also celebrated leaders of various institutions, including high-performing companies of the year. "Young people have the opportunity to elevate their companies to both local and international recognition if they leverage the favourable investment environment in the country," Shariff said. Deogratius Kilawe, Director of Eastern Star Company, stated that the awards aim to honour exemplary leadership, foster innovation, and inspire the next generation of executives. "As organizers of the awards in collaboration with The Global CEO Institute, our mission is to set benchmarks, promote growth and create lasting positive change within the industries and communities we serve," he said. Kilawe further noted that the awards focused on the quality of the participants' achievements. Some winners highlighted that the recognition motivates Tanzanian

companies to excel consistently by developing products that meet international market demands. Victor Seff, Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) Chief Executive Officer was honoured with the 2024 Top 100 African CEOs Award for his outstanding contribution to leadership and service delivery. Seff's accomplishments include advancing Tanzania's infrastructure through a strategic vision and operational efficiency at TARURA. The recognition places him among an elite group of African leaders celebrated for excellence in their fields. The award underscores his ability to drive transformation, implement innovative solutions and uphold the highest standards of governance.

**Young people have the opportunity to elevate their companies to both local and international recognition if they leverage the favourable investment environment in the country**

## Confucius Institute observes 10th anniversary in Uganda

KAMPALA

THE Confucius Institute at Makerere University celebrated its 10th anniversary on Monday, marking a decade of fostering cultural and linguistic exchanges between China and Uganda. The vibrant ceremony, held at the university, featured cultural performances such as Chinese songs and dances. Delegations from China, university faculty and students, and representatives of Uganda's Chinese community attended the event. Uganda's State Minister for Higher Education John Muyingo praised the institute's role in strengthening Uganda-China ties through language and cultural exchange over the past decade, in a message delivered by education official Ismail Mulindwa. Muyingo highlighted the institute's instrumental role in introducing Chinese language instruction in

Ugandan secondary schools and supporting its integration into higher education curricula. He noted that with the Chinese language now being taught and examined at higher levels, including universities, the ministry aims to establish a Bachelor of Arts in education programme featuring Chinese language as a teaching subject. This, he said, would support efforts to train enough teachers to meet the growing demand for Chinese language education. "I urge all stakeholders to continue advancing cross-cultural understanding, innovation, and cooperation as we look to the future to strengthen the bond between Uganda and China, harnessing the transformative power of education and cultural extension for the betterment of our nations," said the minister. Fan Xuecheng, minister counselor

at the Chinese Embassy in Uganda, commended the institute's teachers, volunteers, and students for their dedication, which has deepened the friendship between the two nations. "The pragmatic cooperation between China and Uganda sets a fine example for developing countries to seek development through unity and cooperation. Cultural exchanges and mutual learning have always been an integral part and vivid characteristics of China-Uganda cooperation," Fan said. Deng Guojun, vice president of Xiangtan University, which co-established the Confucius Institute at Makerere University, said the two universities have forged a close bond through the China-Africa Universities 20+20 Cooperation Plan initiated by China's Ministry of Education. This programme connects 20 African universities with 20 Chinese counterparts,

fostering collaboration and mutual development. Deng emphasized the strong bond forged between the two universities, expressing pride in their shared achievements. "These achievements fill us with pride, and we look forward to the continued success of the Confucius Institute in the years ahead." Vice Chancellor of Makerere University Barnabas Nawangwe noted the growing interest in Chinese language studies, driven by expanding economic ties between the two countries. He called for continued investment in infrastructure and programmes to meet the increasing demand. "In the next decade, we envision the Confucius Institute at Makerere University becoming the leading center for Chinese language and cultural studies in East Africa," Nawangwe said.



## Zambia higher education loans board agents in Dar for training

By Guardian Reporter

THE Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB) has received a team of six officials from Zambia's Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Board (HELBSB) for a five-day training visit.

HESLB Executive Director Dr Bill Kiwia said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday, expressing his happiness in hosting HELBSB team for the second time this year to exchange experiences and knowledge.

Dr Kiwia highlighted how HESLB has transformed its operations and services from manual processes to digital systems over the past twelve years to improve loan management.

"Before 2012, many of our activities were manual and involved a lot of paperwork. We decided to embrace technology and now we have no paperwork," he said.

Dr Kiwia also added that HESLB which has marked its 20th anniversary since its establishment in 2004 has served Tanzanians through loans and has now expanded to include loans for diploma students. It also manages the Samia Sponsorship.

"In addition to loans, we manage the Samia Sponsorship for students enrolled in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programmes at various higher education institutions. It targets students who have scored high marks in Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examinations in science subjects," he said.

Chiluba Kalungwana, head of HELBSB Z delegation said that the organization is still in its early

stages. Through the visit, the team seeks to learn from HESLB how to improve service delivery and enhance technology adoption.

"We need to learn how we can elevate ourselves from your team. We cannot reinvent the wheel; we can see the areas where we can improve," Kalungwana said.

Both HESLB and HELBSB are members of the African Association of Higher Education Student Funding Organizations (AAHEFA) along with nine other countries namely Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Malawi, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Ghana.

HESLB was established by the Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Act No. 31 of 2016, replacing the Bursary Committee which was founded under Legal Notice No. 182 of the Education Act CAP 134 of the Laws of Zambia.



**We need to learn how we can elevate ourselves from your team. We cannot reinvent the wheel; we can see the areas where we can improve**

## Kenya drops severely in new openness ranking despite having visa-free policy

NAIROBI

KENYA has plunged in the latest rankings of how open it is to visitors from other African countries despite introducing a visa-free policy earlier this year.

It dropped 17 places to 46th out of 54 nations, according to the 2024 Africa Visa Openness Index (AVOI).

Last year, President William Ruto was highly praised after announcing that Kenya would drop visa requirements for all visitors from the continent.

But in their place most travellers now have to apply online for authorisation before leaving their country, which some have criticised as "a visa under another name".

The system, known as the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA), determines if applicants are eligible to travel to Kenya and can take up to three days to be processed.

Citizens from the East African Community regional bloc are exempt.

President Ruto's vision of visa-free entry proves tricky for some.

The AVOI, supported by the African Union and run by the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), evaluates accessibility of African countries based on visa policies.

It says Kenya's "requirement for ETAs prior to travel for most travellers from other African countries lowered [its] score".

Looking at the continent overall, AfDB director Joy Kategekwa said the fact that "Africans continue to require visas for the most part to enter other African countries is one of the most profound contradictions to the continent's aspirations on regional integration".

She noted that the report also "investigates the question of [ETAs] which, notwithstanding intent, resemble features of a visa".

The report says that the "introduction of ETAs by some countries added additional layers of requirements to the traveller and did not facilitate ease of movement".

Last October, President Ruto said Kenya would be going "visa-free" beginning in January this year, noting that the country was "the cradle of mankind".

But the latest ranking has come as no surprise to some Kenyans.

"I did raise this very matter in January 2024," said Mohamed Hersi, a hotelier and former chairman of

the Kenya Tourism Federation.

In January, Hersi, said that the ETA was "not the same as visa-free", and could make it more difficult for potential visitors to come to the country.

Others have called for change in the policy.

"The ETA isn't progress—it's still a visa, adding another bureaucratic layer and making travel to Kenya harder, not easier. Time for a serious rethink on accessibility," said Kenyan entrepreneur Gina Din.

Documents needed to get an ETA include flight details and proof of a hotel booking.

Except for EAC citizens, all travellers must now pay \$30 (£24) valid for 90 days. Previously travellers were able to pay \$50 for a multiple-entry visa that could be valid for several years.

Before the introduction of the ETA, visitors from more than 40 countries including several from Africa, were able to arrive in Kenya, get a stamp on their passport and enter without paying.

But there was a security element to the introduction of the new system.

A government spokesperson told the BBC earlier this year that the ETA was necessary for vetting travellers.

"Terrorism is one of the global threats at the moment, so we need mechanisms to ensure everyone who is coming to Kenya is [not a risk] to the country," he said.

Kenya has been targeted by al-Shabab jihadist militants from neighbouring Somalia in several notorious attacks.

But looking at people travelling to Kenya overall, from Africa and beyond, the ETA does not appear to have discouraged tourists from coming.

The country welcomed more than a million international visitors in the first six months of 2024, a 21 percent increase from last year, according to the Kenya Tourism Board.

According to the AVOI, Benin, The Gambia, Rwanda and the Seychelles are ranked the highest in visa openness, with Africans requiring no visas to enter the countries.

Sudan is bottom of the index, followed by Libya, Equatorial Guinea and Eritrea.

The report's authors say that overall, despite welcome change in some places, the continent's score has dropped by a small amount.



Victor Ngowi (L), an eye care specialist with Dar es Salaam's Muhimbili National Hospital, attends to a resident of Mbagala in the city at a screening session held at a Mbagala Rangi Tatu hospital yesterday. Photo: MNH

## PM woos voters in final hours of civic elections campaign in Liwale

By Guardian Correspondent, Liwale

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa and member of the Central Committee of the ruling CCM yesterday urged voters in Liwale District, Lindi Region to vote for candidates fielded by the party in today's local government elections.

He emphasized that the party has chosen capable candidates who are able to implement its

election manifesto and bring development to Tanzanians.

He made the appeal when wrapping up local government election campaigns at Ujenzi grounds.

"We present these candidates forward for you to vote for them so that they manage and advance what is in the manifesto. These are capable individuals and that is why we have brought them before you. These leaders are important

because they will connect you with government officials. I have no doubt about our candidates," he said.

He noted that through implementation of CCM's election manifesto, significant progress has been made in meeting the expectations of the people in sectors such as health, education, water, agriculture, fisheries, livestock, infrastructure, energy, and communication.

He also added that the government recognizes the importance of infrastructure and was completing procedures for the construction of the Masasi - Nachingwea - Liwale road (175km) which is to be upgraded to tarmac.

Speaking at the meeting, some of the CCM candidates urged the people to vote for them as they are capable and genuinely committed to working together with the community to bring development.



Kiteto constituency legislator Edward ole Lekaita (in hat) has a word with beneficiaries of wheelchairs shortly after launching a vaccination and clinic programme at Logoet village in Dongo ward at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

KIGALI

RWANDA and the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) signed an agreement on Monday to establish the institute's Africa Regional Office in Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

The agreement, signed by Rwanda's Minister of Health Sabin Nsanzimana and IVI Director General Jerome Kim, paves the way for the regional headquarters to serve as a hub for global health research, innovation, and collaboration, the Ministry of Health said in a statement late Monday night.

"The establishment of the International Vaccine Institute in Rwanda marks a significant step toward the sustained advancement

## International Vaccine Institute to set up its Africa office in Rwanda

of healthcare research and equitable access to vaccines across the continent and beyond," said Nsanzimana, adding that Rwanda is committed to addressing vaccine inequities through local production of vaccines, therapeutics, and other life-saving medical products.

The Kigali-based IVI office said it will represent IVI in Africa, expand its member base and engagement, and emphasize clinical trial training capacity. It will also foster joint grant applications with local partners to accelerate vaccine research and

innovation across the continent.

The IVI, headquartered in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, was established in 1997 under the initiative of the United Nations Development Programme. Its mission is to discover, develop, and deliver safe, effective, and affordable vaccines for global health. Rwanda was chosen to host the African office following a rigorous evaluation of proposals from five African nations.

Early this month, Rwanda and the African Union (AU) inaugurated the African Medicines Agency

headquarters in Kigali, paving the way for the continental regulatory body's operations. The specialized AU agency will facilitate pandemic preparedness, expand access to medicines, support collaboration among regulators, and build resilient health systems across the continent.

Rwanda is also the first of three African nations to host an mRNA manufacturing facility, with vaccines dedicated to serving AU members and advancing access to innovative medicines.





It's water melons aplenty for sale at Dar es Salaam's Simu 2000 (Mawasiliano) open market as found yesterday, the going retail price ranging between 1,000/- and 10,000/- each largely depending on size and quality. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

## Families, schools lead in GBV cases against women, children

A TOTAL of 7,893 incidents of gender-based violence against women and children were reported in Manyara Region between January and October of this year with most cases happening at family level and in school, an official has unveiled.

Anna Fiso, Manyara Regional Community Development Officer, revealed this during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence organized by the Manyara Region Press Club (MRPC) in collaboration with the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs

(UTPC). Fiso stated that the statistics were gathered through the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) and the Health Management Information System, adding that 60 percent of violence occurred within families while 40 percent happened in schools. The officer noted that gender-

based violence is a significant burden on the government which spends over \$6 million annually to support victims through the National Action Plan to End Violence.

"Sodomy has become increasingly common, fuelled by parents' neglect of their children, as they are often preoccupied with

savings groups or earning money," Fiso said.

Daudi Danyesi, Head of Gender Desk at Babati District Police Station, stated that their initiative to raise awareness in the community led to legal actions against perpetrators and contributed to a high reporting rate of such incidents.

## Tamwa for unity to tackle online harassment against women, girls

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

THE Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) has appealed to Tanzanians, development partners and non-governmental organisations to join forces and combat harassment against women and girls through social media platforms.

Dr Rose Reuben, TAMWA Executive Director, made the appeal in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of the 16 days of activism campaign against gender-based violence (GBV).

"Technological advancements have led to a troubling rise in online harassment, particularly on social media which disproportionately affects women and girls."

She explained that the misuse of social media platforms has become a significant problem, with women and girls often targeted by degrading and harmful content.

Dr Reuben highlighted that the 16 days of activism will offer a collective opportunity to reflect on the progress made in combating GBV while also identifying existing gaps and formulating strategies to address them.

She emphasised that the campaign serves as a reminder to society to abandon harmful practices such as physical abuse, female genital mutilation, rape, child marriage and sexual violence.

This year's theme for the 16 days of activism is "Toward 30+ Years of Beijing: Unite to End Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Children", a call to renew the commitment to ending GBV in line with the 12 recommendations set out at the 1995 Beijing Conference on women's rights.

"We urge the government, private sector, civil society and the public to come together and take concrete action to end violence and ensure that women and girls are protected in all spheres of life," she said.

"We also call for full implementation of the Beijing recommendations to eliminate gender-based violence and promote equality."

She further noted several achievements in the fight against GBV, including the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act (SOSPA) and the inclusion of sexual corruption as an offence under the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Act.

She also pointed to the increased representation of women in political decision-making roles as a positive development.

However, despite the advancements, Dr Reuben stressed that women, including those in politics, continue to face significant online harassment.

"This is a major deterrent for women considering political leadership or public roles as many are intimidated by the hostile and abusive environment they encounter online," she said.

"We encourage all women and girls running for political positions to remain resilient and pursue their goals without fear. They should not hesitate to report any incidents of harassment online or offline to the relevant authorities."



**We urge the government, private sector, civil society and the public to come together and take concrete action to end violence and ensure that women and girls are protected in all spheres of life**

## 'Consider civic elections as development opportunity'

By Guardian Reporter

CCM Youth Wing (UVCCM) Chairman Mohammed Ali Kawaida has urged Tanzanians to view today's local government elections not as a trivial event but as a crucial opportunity to demonstrate a genuine commitment to driving the nation's development.

In a statement issued in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Kawaida emphasized that every Tanzanian has a responsibility to vote for leaders who are honest, care about

the welfare of the people and are capable of managing the country's development.

He underscored the importance of selecting leaders who can foster development as this is the core of democracy.

He highlighted key strategic projects implemented by the government such as the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) and port upgrades which have created numerous job opportunities and boosted the

economy.

Kawaida further cited provision of social services such as education and healthcare as another reason to support the government.

He pointed out that the government has made significant investments in social services to ensure that citizens have access to essential services.

He stressed the importance of voters choosing good leaders to ensure continued progress so that development projects remain impactful for the entire society.



Sharifa Suleiman, acting national chairperson of the women's council of the opposition Chadema, (C) addresses a special meeting of the council in Kigoma-Ujiji municipality at the weekend. She is with the council's Western Zone vice chairperson, Rehema Mwacha (L), and the regional chairperson for Kigoma, Hadija Kitwanga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

### APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF SHARES

Notice is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has received an application from HTT Infracore Limited for the transfer of shares involving a change of majority shareholders to HT Holdings Limited. The details of the shares intended to be acquired are as follows: -

S/N	NAME OF TRANSFEROR	NAME OF PREVIOUS SHAREHOLDER AND NATIONALITY	TYPE OF LICENCE	PROPOSED SHAREHOLDERS AND NATIONALITY	SHARES %
1.	HTT Infracore Limited	Olubenga Rotimi (British)	National Network Facilities	Helios Towers Tanzania Limited (Tanzanian)	0.0156
		HS Holdings Limited (Tanzanian)		HS Holdings Limited (Tanzanian)	0.0001
		Helios Towers Tanzania Limited (Tanzanian)		HT Holdings Limited (Mauritian)	99.9843

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 approval of the transfer of shares to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the 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](mailto:dg@tcra.go.tz)

Issued on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

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](mailto:barua@tcra.go.tz), [dg@tcra.go.tz](mailto:dg@tcra.go.tz), Website: [www.tcra.go.tz](http://www.tcra.go.tz)



## E-procurement entity finalist in Africa innovation awards

By Guardian Reporter

THE National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST) has reached the finals of Innovation in Systems Awards, a competition organised by the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) under the auspices of the African Union (AU).

The award event, which will take place in Kampala, Uganda tomorrow, showcases the most innovative public sector systems from across the African continent.

NeST emerged as one of the top five finalists after a compelling presentation by Dennis Simba, Director General of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) in Kampala on Monday.

During his presentation, Simba outlined how the home grown Tanzanian system helps to address significant challenges in public procurement and promotes transparency.

"NeST is a critical tool in modernising and streamlining public procurement processes, not only in Tanzania but across Africa. Since its launch, the system has helped the Tanzanian government save over \$4.95 million," he said.

"As of October 2024, more than 25,000 tenderers and 30,000

procuring entities were actively using the system which has become integral in ensuring compliance with regulations and fostering efficiency."

Simba also highlighted the impressive reach of the system, noting that over 41,300 user accounts have been created, and NeST mobile app with a 4.3-star rating has been downloaded by more than 30,000 users.

"The support of President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been crucial in ensuring the successful roll-out of NeST. Her leadership has provided clear mandate for modernising public procurement in Tanzania through technology," he said.

Simba was joined in Kampala by Michael Moshiri, PPRA Director of Information and Communication Technology and Dr Magoti Harun, a procurement specialist. Both contributed to the development and implementation of the system.

The final round of the Innovation in Systems Awards will take place tomorrow when the winner will be announced. If successful, NeST will be recognised as one of Africa's leading innovations in public administration, setting a new standard for the digitalisation of procurement processes across the continent.

## Brewer laments over excise duty structure

By Guardian Reporter

AS Tanzania approaches the festive season, concerns are mounting over the future of several popular beer brands, with recent changes to the excise tax structure which "threaten" small brewers.

The new tax framework, which was introduced in recent years, has drawn criticism for placing small brewers at a disadvantage.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the managing director of brewer firm voiced concerns over the impact of the excise structure on competition within the industry.

"The current tax structure favours large brewers with their own malting plants, leaving smaller producers that rely on imported malt at a distinct disadvantage," he said.

"While larger brewers benefit from a lower excise rate of 620/- per litre for beer made from locally sourced malt, smaller brewers that depend on imported malt face a much higher excise tax of 918/- per litre."

The difference in tax rates has resulted in a competitive imbalance. Larger companies which own malting plants can produce beer more cheaply due to the tax incentive.

In contrast, he said smaller brewers that often do not have the capital to set up expensive malting

facilities are left struggling. The cost of establishing a malting plant is prohibitive, with estimates ranging from \$40 million to \$50 million, a barrier that many small breweries cannot overcome.

Anyalebechi proposed an alternative tax solution: an intermediate excise tax band of 680/- per litre for beer made with at least 75 percent locally sourced ingredients.

According to him, the proposal aims to level the playing field by encouraging the use of locally grown crops such as maize, sorghum and cassava which could help reduce reliance on expensive imported malt and promote the growth of agriculture sector.



**The current tax structure favours large brewers with their own malting plants, leaving smaller producers that rely on imported malt at a distinct disadvantage**

## Botswana hosts conference to advance Africa's firm growth

GABORONE

IT is important to capitalize on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to boost intra-Africa trade and position the continent as a global economic force, President of Botswana Duma Boko said during an international conference.

Addressing delegates at the African Economic Conference, which is co-hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the United Nations Development Programme in Botswana's capital city, Gaborone at the weekend, Boko said that multilateral cooperation and economic integration into regional trading blocs are more important than ever.

"One of the most promising developments the world has ever seen is the AfCFTA, which is the largest single free trade area in the world," he said.

Highlighting AfCFTA's potential

to reshape Africa's economic landscape by encouraging investment, creating jobs and promoting industrialization, Boko said that regional cooperation must go beyond trade to include shared physical infrastructure, resource management and conflict resolution.

Claver Gatete, executive secretary of the ECA, said AfCFTA is the "crown jewel" of Africa's economic integration efforts, calling for its expedited implementation.

He reiterated the need for free movement of people, products, and services for integration, citing Botswana's visa-free policies, as well as those of Rwanda and Ghana, as examples of how they can remove barriers to greater intra-African collaboration.

The three-day conference, held from Nov. 23 to 25 under the theme "Securing Africa's Economic Future Amidst Rising Uncertainty," gathered together experts to propose measures to enhance African development.



Muheza District Council chairman Erasto Mhina (R), vice chairman Salim Sechambo (2nd-L), acting director Luth Mwelo (L) and Kisiwani councillor Shabani Chewaja pictured on Friday shortly before attending a councillors' meeting. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Correspondent Frank Aman, Bariadi

YOUTH in Simiyu Region have been encouraged to actively participate in today's local government elections and choose capable leaders.

Speaking during the conclusion of the regional campaign in Simiyu, Shemsu Mohamed, CCM regional chairperson, emphasized the critical role of youth in shaping electoral outcomes.

She urged young people to fully engage in the electoral process to ensure a decisive victory for the ruling party.

"Your participation in the local elections is vital not only for CCM's success but also for advancing

## Youth urged to turn out, vote for capable leaders

President Samia Suluhu Hassan's vision of a sustainable and prosperous Tanzania," she said.

Her remarks served as a final rallying call to energize grassroots support as the region prepared for the polls.

During the campaign, Mohamed visited Meatu District where she met with CCM candidates for various local government positions and stressed the importance of

unity and teamwork.

"Youth are the backbone of any successful election campaign. You play a key role in mobilizing voters, raising awareness about the electoral process and ensuring high voter turnout," she stated.

She highlighted the importance of using elections as an opportunity to win seats and enact meaningful reforms that benefit the people of Simiyu and the nation as a whole.

"This year's election is not just about gaining seats; it's about delivering real change for the people of Simiyu. Let's come together as one CCM family to secure a bright future for everyone," she said.

Mohamed reiterated that a strong CCM presence at the local level would create a foundation for broader political and economic progress in the region.



Mbeya district commissioner Beno Malisa (R) pictured yesterday symbolically receiving a consignment of corrugated iron roofing sheets from Tanzania Forest Services Agency senior conservator Thadeus Shirima, who is also head of the Kiwira Forest plantation, for use at the district's Igoma Police Station. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

## UN humanitarian chief in Sudan to raise awareness about violence against women

KHARTOUM

THE United Nations humanitarian chief has stressed that the organisation "must do better" to support people in Sudan as he attended an event in the war-wrecked nation to raise awareness about violence against women.

"It is your voices that we need the world to hear," Tom Fletcher told crowds gathered at an event in Port Sudan while launching the UN's annual 16 days of activism against gender-based violence campaign which this year's uses the slogan 'You are not alone'.

"We must do better. We must make sure that these words, 'You are not alone', are not just words that people say into a microphone when they visit you, but they become the core of our work," he urged.

Sudan plunged into conflict in mid-April 2023 when long-simmering tensions between its military and paramilitary leaders broke out in the capital of Khartoum and spread to other regions.

Since then, more than 20,000 people have been killed in the conflict, according to the UN.

Some 14 million people – 30 percent of the population – have been forcibly displaced, either to other parts of the country or abroad in what the UN says is one of the world's worst displacement crises.

Human Rights Watch has accused the paramilitary group fighting against the military of rampant sexual violence against women, including gang rape and forced marriages of girls.

The international rights group also accused the military of sexual violence.

"Gender-based violence is

nothing new. But with the war and since the war erupted in April last year and launched Sudan into one of the biggest protection and GBV (Gender-based violence) crises, there is an increase in gender-based violence cases, especially in conflict zones," said Shaza Ahmed, Executive Director of Nada Elazhar, a female-led organization which helps victims of gender-based violence, as she attended the UN event on Monday.

The launch of the event has coincided with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.





Work in progress at a Mnazi Mmoja section of Bibi Titi Street yesterday in implementation of Dar es Salaam's Bus Rapid Transit road project. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

# Kenya seeks to become major carbon economy

NAIROBI

KENYA plans to establish a carbon market, allowing public and private entities to trade emission reduction units, offsets and mitigation outcomes, an industry official said on Monday.

Kenya has already set up a technical structure to supervise the development of carbon projects and promote participation in carbon markets, according to Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen), a member of the multi-sectoral technical committee (MSTC), a high-level group charged with creating the framework for the country's carbon market.

"The initiative is expected to catalyse the growth of Kenya's carbon economy, paving the way for the country to monetize its climate actions through the sale of carbon credits," said Peter Njenga, managing director and chief executive officer of KenGen, in a statement issued in Nairobi yesterday.

Njenga noted that KenGen has already earned a cumulative 6.9 million carbon credits from six Clean Development Mechanism projects registered under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He revealed that the projects include the Olkaria II Geothermal Expansion, the Redevelopment of Tana Hydro Power Station, and the Ngong Wind Project.

KenGen said that it aims to strengthen Kenya's position as a leader in climate action and green energy.

Njenga added that the MSTC will play a critical role in driving investments into climate projects and ensuring compliance with national and international regulations.

*"The initiative is expected to catalyse the growth of Kenya's carbon economy, paving the way for the country to monetize its climate actions through the sale of carbon credits"*

## JOHANNESBURG

THE South African government has welcomed the outcomes of the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as "a significant step in the right direction."

According to a statement issued yesterday by the South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), the outcomes of COP29, which started on Nov. 11 and concluded in the early hours of Nov. 24 in Baku, Azerbaijan, included the Baku Climate Unity Pact consisting of a New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance, global goal on adaptation and mitigation work program. It also reached key decisions on issues relating to the global carbon market mechanism under articles of the Paris Agreement.

South African Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Dion

# South Africa welcomes COP29 results as step in right direction

George, who was also the leader of the South African delegation, said in the statement that "for South Africa, the decisions that were adopted are a win."

"We do see the outcomes as a significant step in the right direction as it is more than what we had going into the negotiations and we can now build on that," said George.

The minister said South Africa's negotiating team was particularly pleased about the decision on the mitigation work program. "The mitigation work program will provide further opportunities to share experiences and match investment needs with investors. I am pleased with the outcome," he said.

With regard to the new finance goal, the developed countries have committed to mobilizing at least 300 billion U.S. dollars per year by 2035 for developing countries for climate action. It also provides signals to the private sector and multilateral development banks to scale up financing to developing economy countries to 1.3 trillion dollars per year by 2035, according to the statement.

"The decision underscores the importance of reforming the multilateral financial architecture, to make it fit for purpose to address the climate crisis. It also calls for scaled-up support for climate action from multilateral financial institutions

through grant-based and concessional financing," said Maesela Kekana, deputy director general for Climate Change and Air Quality Management at the DFFE.

Kekana, the chief negotiator, said that it also underscores the need to reduce barriers and address challenges faced by developing economy countries such as limited fiscal space, high levels of debt and high cost of capital.

In the statement, the DFFE noted that the adoption of the decision on carbon markets will allow South Africa and other developing economy countries to initiate new carbon market projects which will facilitate investments in green technologies and economic opportunities.

## PHNOM PENH

THE UN head, Pope Francis and others have called for nations to end the production and use of land mines, even as their deployment globally grows.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a message to delegates at the fifth review of the International Mine Ban Treaty, also known as the Ottawa Convention that 25 years after it went into force some parties had renewed the use of antipersonnel mines and some fall behind in their commitments to destroy the weapons.

"I call on states parties to meet their obligations and ensure compliance to the convention, while addressing humanitarian and developmental impacts through financial and technical support," Guterres said at the opening of the conference in Cambodia.

"I also encourage all states that have not yet acceded to the convention to join the 164 that have done so. A world without antipersonnel mines is not just possible. It is within reach."

In a statement read on behalf of Pope Francis, his deputy Cardinal Pietro Parolin said that antipersonnel land mines and victim-activated explosive devices continue to be used. Even after many years of hostilities, "these treacherous devices continue to cause terrible suffering to civilians, especially children."

"Pope Francis urges all states that have not yet

# World leaders urge nations to end production and use of land mines

done so to accede to the convention, and in the meantime to cease immediately the production and use of land mines," he said.

The treaty was signed in 1997 and went into force in 1999, but nearly three dozen countries have not acceded to it, including some key current and past producers and users of land mines such as the United States, China, India, Pakistan, South Korea and Russia.

In a report released last week by Landmine Monitor, the international watchdog said land mines were still

actively being used in 2023 and 2024 by Russia, Myanmar, Iran and North Korea. It added that non-state armed groups in at least five places – Colombia, India, Myanmar, Pakistan and the Gaza Strip – had used mines as well, and there were claims of their use in more than a half dozen countries in or bordering the Sahel region of Africa.

At least 5,757 people were killed and wounded by land mines and unexploded ordnance last year, primarily civilians of whom a third were children, Landmine Monitor reported.

## AMERICAN EMBASSY, DANISH & NORWEGIAN DAR ES SALAAM

### PUBLIC AUCTION:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE under instructions received from British High Commission, Embassy of Sweden & Helios Towers Tanzania We shall sell Household furniture's, Vehicles & Generator by public auction on Saturday November 30, 2024 commencing at 10:00 am. The auction will take place at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street.

Furniture and Computers Bidding Start at 10:00am: Sofa sets, Chest drawer, Dresser, Mirror, Book shelves, Dining table, Chairs, Wardrobes, Beds, Mattress, Steel lockers cabinet, Carpets, Fridge double door, Deep Freezer, Washer, Dryer, Electric/Gas Cooker, Garden Table, Garden chairs, Photo copy m/c Nashuatic MP6500, 5002, 2205 & Xerox 7970, Computer set, Laptops, Printer HP Laser Jet, Flat TV, A/c split unit, etc.

Vehicles & Generator Bidding Start at 12:00 hrs

Unit	Make	Model	Year	Duty
1	Land Rover Discovery SE	SDV6 Diesel Engine	2015	Not Paid
1	Nissan Patrol Station Wagon	TD42 Diesel Engine	2011	Paid
1	Toyota Land Cruiser Prado S. Wagon	1KZ Diesel Engine	1994	Paid
3	Generator 33 KVA - 3 Phase	Perkins Diesel Engine	2015	Not Paid
1	Generator 66 KVA - 3 Phase	Perkins Diesel Engine	2015	Not Paid
1	Generator 150 KVA - 3 Phase	John Deer Diesel Engine	-	Not Paid
1	Generator 20 KVA - 3 Phase	Yanmar Diesel Engine	2009	Not Paid

All items may be inspected at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street from November 27 th to 29, 2024 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

#### AUCTION CONDITIONS:

- The winning bidder for Furniture has to make full payment to cashier immediately. For Vehicle or Generator winning bidder must pay 25% to cashier immediately and the final payment in full within 5 working days by December 6, 2024 at 4:00pm. For payments not made within 5 working days, the Vehicle or Generator will be offered to the next highest bidder and the advance payment will be forfeited.
- Payments via CRDB VISA, Master Cards and Lipa namba will be accepted.
- All items are sold on "as is" basis with no guarantee.
- Duty and all taxes are the responsibility of the buyer.
- Bidder will remove the items after all payments and duties
- All persons entering the premises must obtain a Bid Number at the entrance.

For further information contact:  
UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE,  
(PLOT NO. 5 "E" LION STREET SINZA) DAR ES SALAAM  
CELL NO: 0754 284 926 E-mail: universalauction@hotmail.com  
Insta: universalauctioncentre

## JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA WIZARA YA FEDHA



### MWALIKO WA KUSHIRIKI MKUTANO WA PILI WA JUMUIYA YA WAHASIBU WAKUU WA SERIKALI AFRIKA-AAAG

Tanzania inatarajia kuwa mwenyeji wa Mkutano Mkuu wa Wahasibu wa Serikali wa Afrika mwaka 2024 (AAAG) utakaofanyika jijini Arusha kuanzia tarehe 2 hadi 5 Desemba, 2024.

Mkutano wa pili wa Jumuiya ya Wahasibu Wakuu wa Serikali Afrika utakuwa na mada mtambuka ambazo zitasaidia watumishi wa kada mbalimbali kuwaongezea ujuzi na Maarifa.

Pia Mkutano huu utasaidia Viongozi na Watumishi wa Tanzania kupata nafasi ya kubadilishana uzoefu na kupeana fursa na Viongozi na Watumishi toka nchi nyingine za Afrika, Benki ya Dunia na IMF. Mgeni rasmi anatarajwa kuwa Mheshimiwa Dkt. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania.

Ada ya ushiriki ya mkutano ni **Shilingi za Kitanzania 1,300,000/=** kwa kila mshiriki. Hivyo, Mamlaka husika zinaombwa kuwaruhusu na kuwalipia Wahasibu, Wakaguzi wa Ndani, Maafisa Usimamizi wa Fedha, Maafisa TEHAMA na watumishi wa kada nyingine kuhudhuria mkutano huu.

Washiriki wote wanatakiwa kuanza kijijsajili kupitia lango (portal) lifuatalo: <https://conference.aaag.org.zm> kuanzia sasa hadi tarehe 01 Disemba, 2024 na ada ya ushiriki iliipwe kupitia **akaunti namba 9924915301 yenye jina African Association of Accountants General (AAAG).**

Aidha, kwa Taasisi za Umma, Kampuni mbalimbali na watu binafsi wanaotaka kudhamini Mkutano huu kwa lengo la kujitangaza kibiashara na kufanikisha Mkutano huu; Wizara ya Fedha inawakaribisha.

Kwa mawasiliano zaidi piga Namba ya simu +255 713 525 592 barua pepe, veronica.kishala@hazina.go.tz na evans.sayile@hazina.go.tz Sanduku la Posta ni Katibu Mkuu, Wizara ya Fedha S.L.P 2802, Dodoma.

Pia kama muombaji amesahau namba ya simu, barua pepe na Sanduku la Posta anaweza kupata mawasiliano kupitia wakuu wa Hazina Ndogo waliopo kila mkoa Tanzania bara na Ofisi ya Mhasibu Mkuu wa Serikali Zanzibar.

**Kwa Nakala Ngumu tafadhali wasilisha kwa anuani ifuatayo:**

**Sekretariati ya Kamati ya Maandalizi Mkutano wa AAAG, Wizara ya Fedha Idara ya Mhasibu Mkuu wa Serikali Jengo la Hazina (Ghorofa ya Pili), 18 Barabara ya Jakaya Kikwete, S.L.P 2802, DODOMA.**

Tangazo hili limetolewa na:

KATIBU MKUU - HAZINA  
Novemba, 2024



## Ethical governance, inclusive legislation on artificial intelligence a rather tall order

How far can governments or the public sector in Africa in general and in the eastern Africa region in particular keep pace with the development of artificial intelligence (AI), as new research on legal and policy frameworks on the issue seems to suggest?

There is no doubt that AI is making headway all over the world and is increasingly conditioning the way people work through the internet - across all manner of sectors.

Nor for that matter is it clear that specific laws are needed on AI that aren't currently in place with regard to communications generally, as it risks becoming a matter of taste.

On that particular score, it is likely that there is nothing special regarding AI in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Mauritius and for that matter Zambia where a recent report demands that they institute 'immediate legislative action to keep pace with AI adoption on the continent'.

It appears that the countries are mentioned because those working on the report conducted a data collecting study on those countries. It is definitely not because their internet governance scenarios or specifically AI landscapes will likely have anything in common.

The risk which the report is talking about is similarly hypothetical, and one has to take a keen look to see how the spread of AI as such has a profoundly unethical look which can directly be corrected by each country legislating on its own.

Even in that blanket advice being directed at countries in the region contains a preliminary suggestion, that 'swift and comprehensive

legislative action' can be done simply in the context of African countries.

That is the minimum that the countries represent as a group, and from that focal point they are deemed to be ready to legislate quickly to avoid falling behind others in 'AI ethical and effective governance'.

For such simplistic assumption to make its way in a research report, it is evident that it psychologically relies on formal positions or approaches underlining the collective work sphere or the media sector - in many ways linking it with law activism.

We hear that, considering the pace and ferocity at which it is spreading, AI has significant implications for human rights and societal well-being - as the report vividly warns.

We have plenty of inadequacies in our human rights systems and, seriously speaking, can all this be corrected the moment one enters emerging AI sphere?

More significantly, what are described in rather astonishing terms as AI-induced human rights breaches relate to privacy, as the surveyed countries mostly rely on 'soft laws or general laws such as data protection regulations' to partially govern AI 'without dedicated legislation'.

There is still valid reason to believe that the supposedly soft laws or general legislation can cover AI activity as well, including the law as relates to defamation.

The rush to legislation could be construed as meant to pin down those concerned to offer services in ways that are convenient to the state as well as to activist organisations, rather than to the market - and hence the 'human rights' tag here.

## Yes, personal data can't be left to lenders for blackmail

The Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC) has issued a stern warning to online lenders whose vetting of applications involves demanding and using the personal data of those seeking loans.

This is not the first time the matter has been raised in public, as the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) had already mentioned scores of online lenders it has not registered and are thus not supposed to be doing money business online.

In effect, therefore, such people conduct whatever they are engaged in not only illegally but also unethically.

The PDPC chief executive recently stated as much at a press conference in the wake of controversies concerning practices of online lending platforms.

The central bank has emphatically signalled that most ought to be delisted as it is unclear if they are doing lending as an auxiliary activity.

The methods employed in a way resemble those of a network in a voluntary group in offices or residential neighbourhoods where the whole group pays up if one member defaults on contributions or remittances.

The CEO intimated that legal measures would follow with respect to all those persisting in demanding their clients' personal data for use - even misuse - in the event of, say, default or lateness in loan repayments.

That means they would have to choose between abandoning lending and skipping demanding personal data.

Investigations reportedly show that they are still operating even

in the notification on delisting, apparently because BoT and the communications regulator didn't rush to 'name and shame' anyone.

Had it been otherwise, it would simply have been the same as using their own methods against themselves, which would be faulty on the part of the two regulatory institutions.

Only when such notices serve the purpose of informing the public on the activities of individuals who have a measure of goodwill in a certain direction and can't be restrained can that method be applied.

But even then the purpose wouldn't be to tell the public not to do business with anyone, only that the last employer placing the notice wouldn't honour any such deals.

Is it not clear how many people seek out such lending platforms for loans, risking their personal data being displayed on networking groups.

Most online lending groups will either seek licences to move from informal and even predatory online lending to more formalised business where their practices will be properly controlled.

This dispute is similar to a 'short introduction to the ways of the Mafia', where its higher level would be the use of physical violence not just on belongings as the relatively formal lending entities with offices often do.

Those lending online commonly damage their 'clients' psychologically while their street peers go for belongings, which forms part of collateral, and often it is household property where a borrower's spouse is in the dark about any such deals or transactions.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

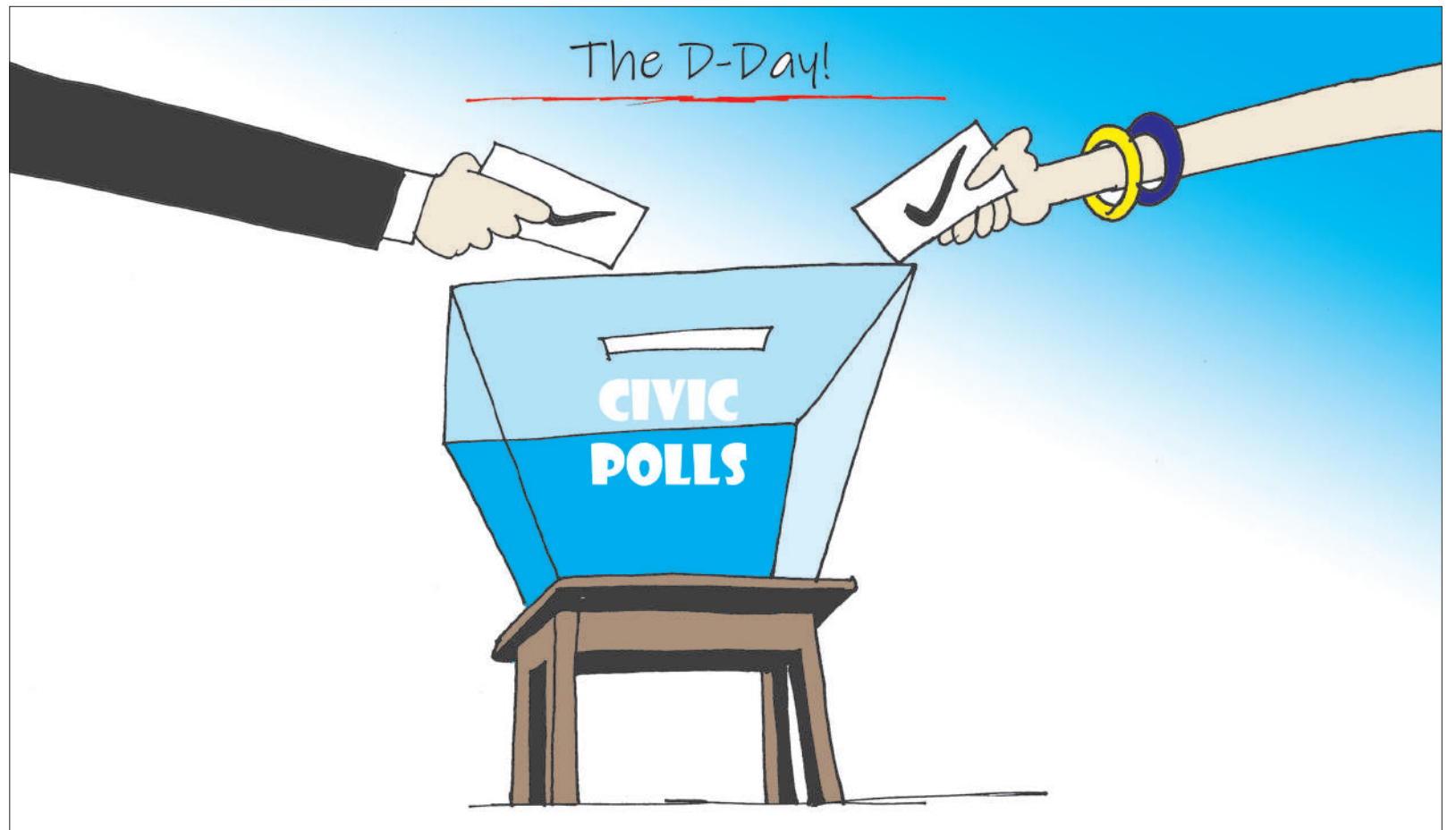
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By Jan Rosenow

## Why energy efficiency needs a radical rethink

ENERGY efficiency has historically been the most significant contributor to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Over the past few decades, more than 90 per cent of the progress in separating or disengaging economic growth from carbon emissions has come from reducing energy intensity.

This essentially means using less energy to produce the same economic output, which demonstrates the critical role of efficiency in creating more economic value with less energy.

A large portion of energy efficiency gains has come from replacing older fossil fuel technologies with more efficient ones, often still reliant on fossil fuels.

These improvements, which enable the same level of energy services using less energy, have been widely supported by public policies, funding programmes and regulations to encourage their adoption.

But those traditional energy efficiency measures must evolve to meet the more ambitious climate targets.

While the efficiency gains from established measures like insulation, LED (light-emitting diode) lighting and high-efficiency appliances remain crucial, these approaches alone are insufficient for achieving net-zero goals.

Energy efficiency is not a virtue in and of itself. It is valuable only when it delivers tangible social benefits, such as improving energy security, reducing energy poverty, boosting economic performance or reducing environmental impacts.

Until fossil fuels are entirely phased out, efficient use of these fuels helps reduce carbon emissions. However, in a zero-carbon energy system, fossil fuels lose their role, and energy efficiency alone will no longer contribute to reductions in emissions.

So what could the role of energy efficiency be in a net zero energy system?

### Aligning efficiency with net zero

By 2050, global energy-related emissions from fossil fuel combustion must approach zero. This poses challenges for traditional energy efficiency programmes, which often focus on improving fossil fuel combustion processes.

In the buildings or construction sector, significant progress has been achieved through improving heating efficiency, such as promoting condensing boilers in the UK.

However, many countries still support fossil fuel heating under energy efficiency policies, which risks delaying the transition to zero-carbon alternatives like heat pumps.

In the transport sector, energy

efficiency standards have historically improved internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle performance.

With electrification, battery electric vehicles (BEVs) - three times more efficient than ICE vehicles - are emerging as the future standard. However, continued efficiency standards for BEVs are essential to minimise demand for electricity.

In industry, decarbonising processes will require electrification or carbon capture. Incremental fossil fuel efficiency gains are insufficient unless paired with other zero-carbon solutions.

Policymakers should prioritise replacing fossil fuel technologies with efficient, zero-carbon alternatives instead of marginally more efficient fossil fuel technologies to avoid lock-in, stranded investments, and missed decarbonisation targets.

### Falling costs of renewables

The falling costs of renewable energy challenge the traditional perception that energy efficiency is always the most cost-effective way to reduce emissions.

Historically, energy efficiency has been promoted under the principle of least-cost planning, which prioritises energy savings over new energy production.

In Europe, this approach has inspired the "Efficiency First" principle, which emphasizes reducing energy demand as a cost-effective alternative to energy infrastructure investment.

However, with significant reductions in the costs of renewable energy - solar, onshore wind and offshore wind costs have dropped between 2010 and 2023 by 90 per cent, 70 per cent, and 63 per cent since 2010 - renewable energy is now more affordable than ever.

Utility-scale solar costs are as low as US\$0.044/kWh, and onshore wind is even cheaper at US\$0.033/kWh. While system integration costs such as grid upgrades and storage may increase with higher renewable penetration, analysis suggests that these costs remain manageable.

Energy efficiency still plays a critical role, particularly where measures like LEDs deliver cost savings that exceed their upfront investments. However, as renewables become cheaper, the balance is shifting.

Long-term decarbonisation will require a mix of energy efficiency and renewable deployment, though in a 100 per cent renewable economy, efficiency will serve broader goals, such as reducing energy bills, improving comfort and enhancing energy security. These arguments will become central as the focus on carbon reduction diminishes.

### Electrification is efficiency

The process of electrification itself

will generate an energy efficiency improvement larger than any other prospective change.

Electrification is a key strategy for decarbonising various sectors, provided that the energy is sourced from renewable or near-zero-carbon sources. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), more than half of global demand for energy could be electrified by 2050, significantly reducing overall emissions.

IEA is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organisation established in 1974 and providing policy recommendations, analysis and data on the global energy sector.

It was set up under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in the aftermath of the 1973 oil crisis to respond to physical disruptions in global oil supplies, provide data and statistics about the global oil market and energy sector, promote energy savings and conservation, and establish international technical collaboration.

Since its founding, the agency has also coordinated use of the oil reserves that its members are required to hold.

In subsequent decades, the IEA's role has expanded to cover the entire global energy system, encompassing traditional fuels such as gas and coal.

Also covered are cleaner and fast-growing energy sources and technologies including renewable energy sources; solar photovoltaics, wind power, biofuels as well as nuclear power, hydrogen and the critical minerals needed for these technologies.

IAE's core activity is providing policy advice to its member states and associated countries to support their energy security and advance their transition to clean energy.

More recently, it has focused in particular on supporting global efforts to accelerate clean energy transition, mitigate climate change, reach net zero emissions and prevent global temperatures from rising above 1.5°C.

All IEA member countries have signed the Paris Agreement which seeks to limit warming to 1.5°C, and two-thirds of IEA member governments have made commitments to emission neutrality by 2050.

The transition to electrification reduces emissions in two main ways: fuel switching and efficiency gains. The first occurs when fossil fuels are replaced by electricity, which will become cleaner as more renewable energy is integrated into the grid.

The second - that is, efficiency improvement - is meanwhile significant what with technologies like heat pumps and electric vehicles being much more energy-efficient compared to their fossil fuel counterparts.

Heat pumps can be three or even

up to five times more efficient than traditional heating systems, and electric vehicles are typically three times more efficient than internal combustion engine vehicles.

As electrification expands, the timing of energy use becomes critical for both carbon emissions and energy system costs.

The carbon emissions from the power grid can vary significantly throughout the day, seasons and between regions.

Saving electricity during peak hours, when renewable generation is low, can yield greater carbon savings than reducing consumption during periods of excess renewable energy.

Reducing peak demand also helps avoid grid congestion and decreases the need for expensive peaking power plants.

However, using electricity during times of low renewable generation may lead to higher energy system costs in the form of grid congestion and required generation capacity.

As electrification progresses, energy efficiency policies must adapt to prioritise when energy savings occur - not just how much is saved.

For example, implementing energy efficiency measures that save electricity during daytime in regions with consistent solar generation might not be effective and could worsen the challenges of integrating non-dispatchable renewables.

Energy efficiency programmes can target the most useful savings from a system perspective and reward them accordingly. This already happens in some jurisdictions.

### Way forward required policy reform

The shift towards net zero emissions and changes in energy systems present new challenges for traditional energy efficiency roles.

Energy efficiency will remain crucial for meeting climate and societal goals. However, the benefits of energy efficiency must be redefined.

The focus on user cost reductions is inadequate; in the short term, carbon reduction - through both demand reduction and facilitating the transition to renewable energy - is the primary benefit.

In the long-term, the emphasis will shift to reducing system costs, particularly for electricity and hydrogen capacity. This requires a whole-system approach, incorporating the timing and location of energy use.

The good news is that technological advances and a deeper understanding of decarbonisation pathways allow energy efficiency policies to be adjusted to better align with the net-zero agenda.

• A medium.com dispatch. Jan Rosenow is an energy transition optimist.



By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

# Empowering women ex-prisoners: A platform for advocacy and change

**W**OMEN ex-prisoners often face significant discrimination and mental health challenges after their release, compounded by a lack of access to basic rights and opportunities.

Empowering women ex-prisoners is crucial for multiple reasons, both at the individual and societal levels. These reasons encompass their personal growth, the well-being of their families, and the broader socio-economic benefits to the community.

Many women ex-prisoners face barriers to employment, education, and social reintegration, which can lead to a return to criminal activities out of desperation. Empowering them with skills, education, and opportunities reduces the likelihood of reoffending, fostering a safer and more stable society.

Empowerment initiatives can equip women ex-prisoners with vocational skills, entrepreneurship opportunities, and financial literacy, enabling them to become economically self-reliant. This not only improves their quality of life but also reduces dependency on others, breaking cycles of poverty.

Many ex-prisoners face social stigmatization, isolation, and discrimination, making it difficult to reintegrate. Empowering them helps rebuild their confidence and fosters acceptance within their communities.

Empowered women ex-prisoners advocates for change as they can inspire others and contribute positively to society, serving as powerful role models for both their peers and younger generations.

When women ex-prisoners are empowered to lead productive lives, contribute to the economy instead of relying on state support. This reduces the financial burden of incarceration and social welfare on governments and communities.

Recognizing these barriers, a group of women ex-prisoners from Segerea and Ukonga in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region have established the Tanzania Women Ex-Prisoners Platform to advocate for their rights, address systemic challenges and promote reintegration into society.

The initiative was launched during a one-day training session organized by the Tanzania Prisoners Hope Foundation (TPHF) with support from the Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT).

Mary Rusimbi, Co-Founder of WFTT told training participants that such gatherings are important as they are a unifying platform for women ex-prisoners.

"This platform should not only amplify your voices but also serve as a tool for dismantling oppressive systems and creating awareness within the community," she said.

## A unified voice for advocacy

The platform aims to bring women ex-prisoners



Women ex-prisoners attend a training session at Nendiwe Feminist Wellness and Coaching Centre. Photo: Beatrice Philemon.

together to collectively advocate for policy reforms, social acceptance, and economic empowerment.

By fostering collaboration, the group seeks to challenge societal stigmas and reduce obstacles faced by ex-prisoners, including reoffending.

Rusimbi encouraged participants to set clear, impactful goals aligned with their interests. "Your platform must reflect your needs and help society understand why individuals are sentenced to prison, while advocating for fair treatment after their release," she added.

## Building economic resilience

The event also focused on equip-

ping participants with practical knowledge of microeconomics and business principles.

TPHF Executive Director, Lucas Mwimo, highlighted the importance of financial literacy for economic success. Participants were trained on strategies for managing personal finances, developing businesses, and achieving sustainable livelihoods.

Mwimo stressed that success begins with a clear vision. "Your life mirrors your thoughts and ideas. If you don't know where you're headed, you'll never get there," he said, urging participants to work with integrity and prioritize quality in their businesses and services.

Participants were equipped with

key business tips including conducting market research, selecting high-traffic locations for retail operations, offering competitive prices and maintaining financial discipline.

Mwimo advised participants to adapt to customer needs and preferences to build loyalty and long-term success.

The initiative recognizes the importance of mental and physical well-being. Participants were encouraged to maintain a healthy lifestyle, eat nutritious meals, and engage in regular exercise to combat depression and foster resilience.

The platform's long-term goals include reducing recidivism, creat-

ing safe spaces for dialogue, and empowering women ex-prisoners to rebuild their lives. By collaborating with educational institutions and women's rights networks, the platform aims to raise awareness, challenge stereotypes, and foster a more inclusive society.

Mwimo noted: "This platform is not just about addressing challenges. It's about creating opportunities for personal growth, community development, and sustainable change."

With the support of organizations like TPFH and WFTT, women ex-prisoners in Tanzania are finding their voices, reclaiming their rights, and shaping a future filled with hope and opportunity.

# Tanzania: Preparations for graduation from LDC status

By Telesphor Magobe

**T**HERE are positive and negative implications for a country which graduates from the UN least developed country (LDC) status, which are worth considering and acting on so that a transition period passes smoothly.

According to the Handbook on the Least Developed Country Category: Inclusion, Graduation and Special Support Measures, a graduating country prepares itself and starts implementing a smooth transition strategy, as part of its development strategy. This includes establishing a consultative mechanism in cooperation with its development and trading partners.

"The General Assembly calls for countries to integrate their preparations for sustainable graduation and its smooth transition beyond graduation into their long-term national sustainable development plans and development financing strategies, as appropriate."

In this way, development and trading partners are called on to extend LDC-specific support measures for an appropriate period, or phase them out gradually, as well as to provide targeted support throughout the entire graduation and smooth transition process "to avoid any disruptions to the development progress of graduating and graduated countries." The General Assembly also assigns specific responsibilities to the UN development system to support graduation.

Kimberly Elliot in her article 'A Smoother Trade Transition for Graduating LDCs' says: "when a country successfully graduates, it loses access to special finance and trade programmes that come with LDC status. In the case of trade, that can mean the graduating country's exporters suddenly face higher tariffs than their more advanced competitors face, so-called most-favoured nation (MFN) tariffs."

Furthermore, Elliot says even if these countries remain eligible for the generalised system of prefer-



Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC)

ences (GSP) available to developing countries, "those programmes are typically much less generous than the duty-free, quota-free market access that most advanced economies provide for LDCs."

Elliot is a senior fellow at the Centre for Global Development. She is also the author of various books and articles on trade policy and globalisation.

UN CDP Note (2023) says after graduation, countries no longer benefit from the following measures, namely, some, but not all, measures have a 'smooth transition' period - that is - the period after graduation during which a graduated country continues benefiting from LDC-specific international support measures.

The measures include 1) preferential market access for goods, 2) preferential market access for services, 3) special and differential treatment under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreements, 4) special and differential treatment and additional flexibilities under certain regional agreements,

and 5) capacity-building, training and technical assistance related to trade.

The CDP Note suggests that the impact of graduation on technical and financial cooperation is naturally a concern for many countries. "In practice, it depends on how a country's main development partners consider the LDC category, on the extent to which a graduating country takes advantage of LDC-specific instruments, and what kind of support is in place after graduation."

Tanzania is one of the 45 UN LDCs since 1971. In March this year at a triennial review of the list of LDCs, the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) found that Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania had fulfilled the criteria for graduation for the first time. All of them will be considered for graduation at the next triennial review in 2027, according to the 2024 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) report.

Various reports show that Tanzania is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. The United Nations Industrial

Development Organisation (UNIDO) Classification Edition 2024 classifies Tanzania as an "emerging industrial economy" and now belongs to a group of countries referred to as 'medium-income industrialising economies'. These are countries or areas classified as medium-income, but still remain at comparatively low levels of industrialisation.

They are the economies that can benefit the most from prioritising industrial development in their policy strategies. These are 15 economies, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam.

Africa Development Bank Group suggests that Tanzania's real GDP growth is projected at 5.7 per cent in 2024 and 6 per cent in 2025. This growth is driven by agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism and is supported by public investments and reforms to improve the business environment. It also says that

inflation is projected to drop to 3.3 per cent in 2024 and 3.4 per cent in 2025, helped by stability in food and energy prices.

Bank of Tanzania (BoT) says global activity continues showing signs of steady growth in 2024 and has been satisfactory and the likelihood of reaching projections remains high. Moreover, it suggests, there is a high likelihood of attaining a growth projection of 5.4 per cent for 2024 and this performance is attributable to steady increases in public and private sector investment and growth of exports.

Therefore, after being assessed again by the CDP during the triennial review of 2027, Tanzania will most probably be recommended for the last stage of triennial review in 2030 after which, if it maintains its positive performance, will graduate from the LDCs status. But we have to start working on this right now to avoid negative implications.



By Justin Catanoso

# COP29: Can investment capital fill the public climate finance gap?

**A**S 198 nations convene in Baku, Azerbaijan, for the 29th United Nations climate summit, one word will almost certainly dominate COP29 technical negotiations and private discussions: finance.

After two years of record heat, prompting an unprecedented string of extreme weather disasters, there appears to finally be a global consensus that a climate crisis – devastating wealthy and poor nations alike with drought, wildfire, flooding and sea-level rise – can no longer be ignored.

But a key consensus is still needed on how to mobilize the estimated \$2 trillion by 2030 needed to rapidly transition national economies to a post-carbon world – fully converting to renewable energy and low-carbon transportation, while compensating countries in the Global South being ravaged by global warming impacts.

“People keep talking about this COP as being the finance COP,” said Andrew Deutz, a finance expert and global policy and partnerships manager with WWF. “But to be honest, from this meeting going forward, every COP will be a finance COP.”

A first significant step in this direction has been the discussion and, perhaps, adoption at COP29 of a new and ambitious financial target aimed at raising funds to support countries affected by the worsening impacts of climate change, known as the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG). While the specific details are yet to be determined, the discussions at COP29 could mirror how challenging it will be to find consensus on these new targets.

Leaders have called for a fair and robust NCQG, while civil society has worried that the pace of the negotiations and the current discussion might lead to a disappointing outcome.

Despite intense pressure from climate activists, national delegations have dodged the finance question year-after-year and COP after COP, creating a disconnect over where the many billions – or likely trillions – will come from for the mitigation, climate adaptation, and loss and damages initiatives required to avert climate catastrophe.

## State money, investment capital or both?

“COP29 is a test of wealthy countries’ commitment to securing a livable planet,” said Teresa Anderson from ActionAid International, an environmental NGO. “If we want to unleash climate action on a scale that can save our future, the countries that have caused the climate crisis must pay to fix the mess. Whatever the cost, paying for ambitious climate action now will be far cheaper than the cost of catastrophe later.”

While it is little realized, wealthy countries have lately begun mobilizing for climate action, putting up \$115.9 billion in 2022, according to the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). That amount exceeded the goal of reaching \$100 billion by 2025.

The problem, however, is that even this amount is still far short of what’s needed – a troubling reality that will almost surely consume two weeks of talks in Baku.

Also worrying: Future levels of climate funding by wealthy nations remain in doubt, especially with climate denier Donald Trump retaking office in the U.S. in January 2025, and with big questions as to how willing European nations or China will be to dig deeper into public-money coffers to help India with its renewable energy transition, for example, or Bangladesh with flood protection.

“What will never work is expecting governments to fund the trillions of dollars necessary out of taxpayer money; it’s not going to happen,” Bill Winters, CEO of U.K.-based bank Standard Chartered, told Bloomberg during Climate Week NYC in September. “So, if the public sector isn’t funding this with appropriate impetus from governments, we [financial institutions] can definitely get this done.”

Such market-driven, profit-oriented bravado likely won’t sit well with climate activists and some national leaders who have seen how past nongovernmental financing too often piled more debt on debt-ridden nations.

“Pushing forward market mechanisms in place of climate finance is unacceptable,” said Kelly Stone, a policy analyst with ActionAid USA. “Market mechanisms are not climate finance. These mechanisms promote offset-



Solar irrigation for farmers and solar home systems for rural families installed by NGO Nusra in Bangladesh

ting – letting countries and companies pay to avoid cutting their own emissions, which the world cannot afford, and which does not fulfill developed countries’ climate finance obligations.”

However, such concerns could be swept aside to address climate urgency: The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and private institutions all say they stand ready to invest far more (with significant caveats) than G20 nations have done or ever will do.

## Thinking big ... really big

Deutz said an investment capital climate funding scenario needs to operate within a global context to work effectively. He suggested the math in support of climate finance could add up if one thinks broadly enough – meaning the whole planet.

“The world put to use \$116 billion in 2022 through all its climate funds,” he told Mongabay. But “to hit other [climate-related] goals, the total amount that needs to go to developing countries for adaptation and loss and damage, for example, is \$2 trillion. That’s a huge amount, right?”

“But on the other hand, the global economy is \$105 trillion [annually], and it grew by \$5 trillion in 2023. So, we’re looking at a small percentage of the global economy [2%] needed for our climate needs. Plus, the world spent \$7 trillion alone [in 2022] subsidizing the fossil fuel industry. A lot of that needs to be redirected to projects not destroying the planet. When you look at those numbers as a reference point, [\$2 tril-

lion] is not such a crazy amount of money.”

Barbara Buchner, an economist and global managing director of the Climate Policy Initiative in San Francisco, told Mongabay she agreed: “The money is there,” she said, especially considering how quickly the world mobilized trillions to fight COVID-19, ramp up defense spending for NATO, and pay fossil fuel subsidies in recent years.

“Redirection of existing funds needs to become a priority,” Buchner said, then added, “I think we have been focusing far too much up to now on the quantity side, which obviously is important, but far less so on the quality side, on the impact of every dollar spent, which is more challenging, but I think it’s really important.”

Finance deployed; bigger hopes delayed That’s where things get challenging: the weighing of risk and reward.

For example, Standard Chartered does the vast majority of its climate finance in Asia, Africa and India, all areas with massive energy-transition and climate-adaptation needs. Climate finance is 10% of the bank’s revenue, and it plans to invest \$2 billion on such projects in 2025.

“If we can offer a decent, risk-adjusted return [to investors], there’s plenty of money available,” Winters said. “I think the only way we’re going to be successful in the fight against climate change is to offer people an acceptable return; it doesn’t have to be a huge return. That’s the only way to move trillions and trillions.”

But to Buchner’s point, Winters discussed the quality of investing in a reforest-

ation project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has the world’s second-largest tropical forest.

“I think we’ve got a problem before we even get to that point, which is coming up with the right projects that have the right assembly of risk takers,” Winters said. “There are the technical risks of surveillance and monitoring. Is the money actually being used for what’s intended, and not being siphoned off by bribery or corruption? And so, before you even get to the point of delivering the money, you’ve got real technical problems that have to be overcome. The good news is that everybody is aware of this, and we’re trying to correct it as best we can.”

Valerie Hickey, global environment director at the World Bank, told Mongabay that at COP29, it’s essential to “build high-quality carbon markets, which have not yet met their potential.” That, too, would help attract so-called ESG investors (environmental, social and governance).

Hickey added, “We’re committed to devoting 45% of total financing to climate by 2025, with half of our public financing going to adaptation and half to mitigation, across a wide variety of sectors. In fiscal 2024, we hit 44%, or \$43 billion, and believe we will pass our overall goal sometime next year. However, we need to keep pushing on adaptation and achieving balance in our commitments.”

Offering examples of where the World Bank is now directing billions, Hickey pointed to a new public transportation

system in Senegal that will move 300,000 passengers daily; a new initiative to bring affordable renewable energy to 100 million Africans by 2030 in concert with the African Development Bank; and a pilot wetland restoration project in Rwanda with a support grant from the U.S.-based Global Environment Facility.

“We need to celebrate progress where it is being made,” Hickey said. “And we need a contagion of good ideas and actual impact to spotlight the way forward.”

Overall, WWF’s Deutz said, “I like to think we’re getting closer to a financial tipping point. We still need a lot more ambition in the [climate] mitigation efforts of the world, but we’re starting to see economies that are figuring that out.”

Asked how much progress on finance can realistically be expected over the next two weeks at COP29 – the third consecutive COP held in a major oil-producing country – Deutz tempered his optimism.

“I’m not sure we’re seeing the political leadership we need in the next two weeks,” he said, “which is why a lot of people are sort of already thinking past Baku to Belém [Brazil at COP30] next year. So, what can President [Luiz Inácio] Lula [da Silva] deliver? And what can the Brazilians deliver when we have a COP in the Amazon?”

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



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# Ethiopia hosts first-ever electric vehicle expo to advance green mobility

ADDIS ABABA

**E**THIOPIA is hosting its first-ever green mobility exhibition as part of its commitment to reducing carbon emissions and promoting green transport solutions.

Held from Nov. 22 to Saturday at Huajian International Light Industry Special Economic Zone in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, the Ethio-Green Mobility 2024 exhibition showcases the latest innovations and technologies in green mobility, including cutting-edge electric vehicles (EVs) and renewable energy technologies.

Addressing the event, Ethiopian Minister of Transport and Logistics Alemu Sime highlighted the expo as part of the government's commitment to advancing sustainable mobility and building a climate-resilient green economy.

Sime noted that Ethiopia is working hard to reduce dependence on nonrenewable energy in the transport sector by utilizing its abundant renewable energy resources.

The exhibition, drawing a bevy of Chinese exhibitors, serves as a platform to create networks and facilitate market linkage among firms and clients engaged in green mobility.

Li Xuan, Ethiopian representa-

tive of Chinese EV brand Neta Auto, observed an increasing demand for EVs in Ethiopia after the government's plan to cut importation of gas-powered cars.

"Many China-made EV brands are on sale in Ethiopia where the market for EVs booms after the government's plan to ban importation of gasoline vehicles," Li told Xinhua.

Belayneh Kindie Metal Engineering Complex, a local company engaged in the assembling of electric minibuses and coaches, also has its products displayed at the exhibition.

With Semi-Knocked-Down and Completely-Knocked-Down components imported from the Chinese Golden Dragon Company, the engineering company assembles and supplies EVs to the local market in Ethiopia.

Ermiyas Dersu, quality control manager of the company, told Xinhua that the demand for EVs is promising in Ethiopia, as the company has sold 216 minibuses in less than a year.

"As part of its commitment to promoting electric mobility, the government of Ethiopia has allowed importation of EVs with tax preference while facilitating loans to importers," Dersu said, adding that the market for EVs contin-



ues to expand thanks to increasing availability of spare parts and improving charging facilities.

Apart from four-wheelers, electric bicycles and tricycles have also caught the attention of many visitors to the exhibition.

Woda Vehicle Manufacturing PLC is a local company specializing in the research and manufacture of light EVs. Their electric tricycle can travel between 80 and 100 km when fully charged, with only about one twenty-fifth of the cost per km on average when compared with a conventional three-wheeler, according to the company.

"This electric tricycle is getting more and more popular in Ethiopia, especially in rural areas and small towns. We have sold more than 500 units in one year across the country," said Michael Mulugeta, the company's marketing officer.

Currently, more than 100,000 EVs are on the road across Ethiopia, while authorities seek to have up to 500,000 EVs in the coming 10 years, replacing 95 percent of cars powered by fuel.

The government is working to expand EV production and public charging stations and will offer support such as free or leased land for investors in EV after-sales service, according to the Ministry of Transport and Logistics.

Early this year, the government of Ethiopia announced a ban on imports of gasoline or diesel vehicles to fast-track the transition to electric mobility in the face of a global fuel price hike.

"Ethiopia is going ahead to harness its renewable energy resources. This is a good start. I witnessed the EVs, with fair prices, winning the hearts of buyers," said Yonas Leaketsion, a visitor at the exhibition,

# Expand choices for women, prevent new HIV infections in Africa

By Wambi Michael, Kampala

**I**N Uganda, women and girls are more affected by HIV. Out of 1.4 million people living with the disease, 860,000 are women and girls.

According to UNAIDS, every week, 4,000 adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 years became infected with HIV globally in 2023, with 3,100 of these infections occurring in sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2023, in sub-Saharan Africa, women and girls accounted for 62 percent of all new HIV infections.

As part of the efforts to prevent new infections and death among the adolescents and women, Uganda adopted oral PrEP in 2017, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, is medicine people at risk for HIV take to prevent getting HIV from sex or injection drug use.

In January 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended that the dapivirine vaginal ring (DPV-VR) may be offered as an additional prevention choice for women at substantial risk of HIV infection as part of combination prevention approaches.

Because Uganda largely depends on donor support for HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention, PrEP tools like the dapivirine vaginal ring (DPV-VR) and a twice-yearly injection known as lenacapavir are rolled out in a phased-funded approach, and therefore more women and adolescent girls continue to be infected despite the efficacy of these medications and tools.

A bio-behavioral survey conducted in 12 of Uganda's regional towns found that 54 percent (over half of the sex workers aged 35-49 years) were living with HIV. The results of the survey released in October indicated that one in three commercial sex workers missed taking their ARVS at least once.

Dr. Geoffrey Musinguzi, the principal investigator, said each female sex worker had

had a sexual encounter with at least four men. He suggested HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) could stop the majority of HIV transmissions that still happen in Uganda and most of the sub-Saharan countries.

Lynette Nangoma (not her real name) is one of the lucky female Ugandan women who have had the chance to have access to oral pre-exposure prophylaxis as well as the vaginal dapivirine vaginal ring. She told IPS that there are times when she forgets to take her PrEP pills. Nyangoma usually engages in multiple sexual relationships. "Thank God I'm still alive and HIV-free. I think those tablets helped a lot. As you may know, this job of ours can be risky," she narrates.

Dr. Daniel Byamukama, the head of HIV prevention at the Uganda Aids Commission, revealed that HIV prevalence remains high among key populations, at 33 percent among sex workers, 15 percent among prisoners, and 17 percent among people who inject and use drugs.

Nangoma told IPS that she has been using the dapivirine vaginal ring for the last four months.

"I feared it at first when a health worker was brought in to teach us about it. It looked too big. But I decided to try it. I can tell that for me, I find very convenient."

The dapivirine vaginal ring is a female-initiated option to reduce the risk of HIV infection. It must be worn inside the vagina for 28 days, after which it should be replaced by a new ring. The ring works by releasing the antiretroviral drug dapivirine from the ring into the vagina slowly over 28 days.

Nangoma told IPS that some of her colleagues have been hesitant to use it, fearing discomfort.

Dr. Carolyn A. Akello, who has spent over 10 years in HIV/AIDS research with a focus on HIV prevention among women of reproductive age, including adolescent girls and young women, told IPS: "Yes, it looks



Lillian Mworeko of ICWL with UNAIDS Executive Director, Winnie Byanyima, at the launch of the Choice Manifesto.

big, but actually the vagina is a very accommodating organ. The ring is inserted into the vagina, and it is held up by the muscles. The ring was well researched. It is one size fits all. So whether small, big, or short, it fits every woman. It usually goes to the back of the vagina. There is where it sits for all the 28 days."

"For a woman to use it consistently, we ask her to leave it there even during sex and menstrual periods. And many women, once they fix it, actually say, 'Wow. The ring seems to have disappeared; I don't feel it any more.' And also, many men don't feel it during sex. Seven out of ten men did not know that their partner was using the ring," said Akello.

Unlike daily oral PrEP, dapivirine vaginal ring does not rely on remembering to take a pill each day and is also discreet as it stays inside the vagina throughout the month.

HIV/AIDS activist and access to medicine campaigner who leads the International Community of Women Living with HIV in Eastern Africa (ICWEA), Lillian Mworeko, told IPS that one of the advantages of the dapivirine vaginal ring is that it is discreet.

"It gives power to the wom-

an in terms of control. They are able to fix it themselves. They are in charge. You are giving power to the woman to take care of their prevention. We strongly advocate for it," Mworeko said. "So that women, especially adolescent girls and young women who are not able to negotiate for safer sex, have a tool that is in their control without seeking permission."

Uganda was among the first countries in sub-Saharan Africa to approve dapivirine ring. Others included Namibia, South Africa, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Rwanda, Eswatini, Lesotho, and Botswana. The ring was designed for women to use in countries that still carry a high level of stigma around HIV. In 2023, South Africa announced a national rollout of the ring. Eswatini, Zambia, Rwanda, and Kenya have embarked on similar efforts.

Dr. Diana Atwine, the Permanent Secretary at Uganda's Ministry of Health, said the dapivirine vaginal ring is only available in seven districts funded by USAID under PEP-FAR. Less than three hundred women had accessed the vaginal ring through that initiative by the end of August 2024.

While Atwine says lenacapavir will be a game-changer in terms of reducing the burden

of daily pills and minimizing stigma and stigmatization, her ministry's budget cannot afford the high cost of such tools.

As Uganda joins the rest of the world to mark World AIDS Day, Mworeko used the occasion to express her frustration that so many women in Africa cannot access these tools because their governments say they cannot afford them. Gilead Sciences, the company behind lenacapavir, reportedly charges the one-month ring, which currently costs USD 12.8 per month.

"When we talk about life and the lives of people, we need to put it into the context that nothing can compare with a person who is going to live with HIV for the rest of their life. We cannot compare the price of prevention with treating a person for life," argues Mworeko.

She suggests that other than waiting for donations that delay or never arrive, the leaders of Africa must set part of their national budgets to ensure that women and girls have access to the new prevention tools and methods.

"What is the cost of preventing a young girl from getting HIV, and they are going to live the rest of their life free of HIV? They are going to deliver babies

free of HIV, and they are going to contribute to the economy of their country. Compared to not acting now in the name of the cost, we are going to have this young person infected with HIV, and we must treat them," Mworeko asked.

When asked about the facts that Uganda and other countries in Africa lacked money to make their own purchases of the prevention measures, Mworeko said, "What are our priorities? Who prioritizes what? We must prioritize where our hearts are. We cannot continue talking about new HIV infections when tools are here."

Part of Mworeko's frustration was partly directed towards researchers and the manufacturers of these medicines and preventive measures.

"I think the most disturbing situation is that most of the research is done here in our country. We are slow at rolling them out. Yet other countries pick up and fund these interventions. So we contribute to research, but we don't benefit as a country. Because there is no one who would want to see their children infected with HIV," says Mworeko, one of the activists behind the HIV Prevention Choice Manifesto for Women and Girls in Africa.

Uganda was among the countries where clinical trials for Gilead's PURPOSE 1 were conducted. The results showed the high prevention effectiveness of the six-monthly long-acting injectable drug lenacapavir for cisgender adolescent girls and women, cisgender men, and transgender women.

The Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC), UNAIDS, and other partners called on Gilead Sciences to accelerate their efforts in ensuring that it is made available, accessible, and cost-effective, especially to low- and middle-income countries. It said the company's approach must reflect the urgency of their needs.

"We urge Gilead to act swiftly in ensuring equitable, sustainable, broad access, particularly in markets with the

highest need," said GPC.

Gilead promised in early October that it will prioritize providing lenacapavir to Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe until generic versions are available.

Dr. Flavia Matovu Kiweewa, one of the researchers on Gilead Sciences' PURPOSE program in trials in Uganda, said: "I know Gilead Sciences has committed to providing licenses to generic manufacturers to make this product. But countries need to advocate so that we can be the first beneficiaries of lenacapavir because we have significantly contributed to the study. But not only that, we are seeing lots of infections in young women."

Dr. Herbert Kadama, the PrEP coordinator at the Ministry of Health, said Uganda plans to adopt lenacapavir and dapivirine vaginal ring are part of the efforts to address the challenges women also face with HIV/AIDS. He noted that 63 percent of new infections in Uganda, like the rest of Africa, are in women and girls.

According to Dr. Flavia Matovu Kiweewa, lenacapavir prevents HIV acquisition by HIV-negative women by 100% compared to other preventive measures, but it is not a vaccine.

"We are glad that for the first time ever in history, we have an intervention that can give 100% protection against acquiring HIV. For us who have been in the PrEP field for quite some time, we faced lots of disappointments, especially for women trials. Because women are not able to adhere to daily interventions and they are influenced by their partners and friends," said Matovu Kiweewa.

"Lenacapavir is going to be a game changer in the HIV prevention landscape. We are very excited that if we can access lenacapavir in Uganda and other high-burden settings in Africa, we will reduce the incidence of HIV significantly," she added.



# Balancing identity, progress in education as public English medium schools expand

By Adonis Byemelwa

**H**AKIELIMU, a Tanzanian non-governmental organization advocating for education equality, has called on the government to ensure equitable conditions for both Kiswahili- and English-medium public schools. The organization aims to dismantle the perception, prevalent among citizens and leaders, that English-medium public primary schools are inherently superior to Kiswahili-medium schools.

The plea follows an incident on November 13, 2024, when parents at Ubungo National Housing Primary School raised concerns that the school was being sold. The uproar prompted clarifications from Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila and Ubungo District Commissioner Hassan Bomboko.

During a press briefing in Dar es Salaam on 20th November 2024, HakiElimu Executive Director, Dr. John Kalage, voiced his dismay over statements by Ubungo district leaders that the school would be upgraded to an English-medium institution.

"According to Tanzania's 2014 Education and Training Policy, revised in 2023, Kiswahili remains the official medium of instruction for primary education, except for schools granted special approval to use English. Both languages hold equal status in education delivery," said Dr. Kalage.

He decried the perception that English-medium schools possess greater prestige, a notion that perpetuates social inequality and has infiltrated parents, students, and the wider community.

"This unfounded belief creates divisions, favoring English-medium schools in terms of resource allocation while sidelining Kiswahili-medium schools," he remarked.

HakiElimu's 2024 analysis of public primary schools revealed stark disparities. English-medium public schools have a more favorable teacher-pupil ratio of 1:55, compared to 1:63 for Kiswahili-medium schools, against a recommended ratio of 1:45.

As well, English-medium schools average a pupil-classroom ratio of 1:47, significantly better than the 1:72 seen in Kiswahili-medium schools. These disparities highlight inequalities in teacher distribution and infrastructure, Dr. Kalage noted, emphasizing that such imbalances undermine inclusive education and hinder national unity.

Parents often opt for English-medium schools due to the dominance of English in secondary education, where it serves as the primary language of instruction. However, Dr. Kalage argued that research indicates students perform better when taught in a language they understand.

"The government should treat English as a foreign language subject rather than a medium of instruction in primary education, allowing students to first build strong academic foundations in Kiswahili," he advised.

The government, however, has defended its plans to establish public English-medium primary schools. Education Minister Professor Adolf Mkenda explained that the initiative aims to provide parents with affordable choices while addressing weaknesses in English language instruction.

Prof. Mkenda acknowledged a systemic challenge:



HakiElimu Executive Director, Dr John Kalage (centre) says the perception that English-medium schools possess greater prestige perpetuates social inequality.

many students completing primary education in Kiswahili struggle to adjust to English in secondary schools. "We have seen significant gaps in how we teach English. We are improving the curriculum to ensure students gain practical communication skills in English from the early grades," said Prof. Mkenda during a recent interview in Dar es Salaam.

Under the new curriculum, English will be introduced as a second language starting from Grade 1, with an emphasis on conversational competence. "We want to ensure that by the time a student completes primary education, they can confidently use English," Prof. Mkenda stated.

He emphasized that the goal is not to undermine Kiswahili-medium schools but to enhance English instruction across all public schools, providing parents with three clear options: government-run Kiswahili-medium schools with improved English teaching, government-run English-medium schools, and private English-medium schools.

Critics argue that branding public English-medium schools as "special" creates an unfair hierarchy within the education system. Boniventure Godfrey, HakiElimu's Program Manager, questioned why English-medium schools are portrayed as more prestigious and why their infrastructure is prioritized over Kiswahili-medium schools.

"Parents at Ubungo National Housing Primary School are now being forced to relocate their children to faraway schools, disrupting their lives. If the government prioritizes one group of schools over another, isn't that clear discrimination?" Godfrey asked.

Social media recently amplified concerns when rumors surfaced that Ubungo National Housing Primary School was being sold, sparking panic among parents. Regional Commissioner Chalamila dispelled the rumors, explaining that the school was undergoing renovations and had not been sold. Nevertheless, parents expressed frustration at the lack of transparency and felt sidelined by the changes.

Dr. Kalage underscored the need for inclusive policymaking, urging the government to engage stakeholders, including parents, educators, and education advocates, in discussions about shifting schools to English-medium instruction.

"Equity in education means all students, regardless of the language of instruction, deserve equal resources and opportunities to succeed," he said.

Prominent Tanzanian author and educator Richard Mabala has also weighed in on the debate, strongly opposing the government's emphasis on English-medium schools. Mabala argued that Kiswahili, Tanzania's national language, is integral to the country's identity and a vital tool for fostering unity.

"Teaching in Kiswahili allows students to learn in a language they fully understand, which significantly enhances their comprehension and academic performance," Mabala has written in his advocacy work. He criticized the overemphasis on English, warning that it alienates many students and undermines Kiswahili's role in national development.

Despite these criticisms, some education stakeholders have welcomed the government's initiative. Simon Mapela, a veteran private school teacher, noted that English-medium public schools offer

middle-income parents access to affordable English-based education, which was previously dominated by expensive private schools. "The government is addressing a gap by making English-medium education more accessible," Mapela said.

Private school owners like Mahmoud Mringo also support the initiative, likening it to offering insurance policies tailored to customer needs. "Parents will always seek quality education for their children. If the government provides affordable, high-quality English-medium options, it is a positive step," Mringo remarked.

However, the issue remains deeply divisive. Critics argue that the additional fees charged at public English-medium schools—ranging from Sh 300,000 to Sh 600,000 annually—contradict the government's free education policy.

Mr. Godfrey pointed out that these fees create a barrier for low-income families, reinforcing educational inequality. "Why should parents in public schools pay fees for English-medium instruction when the government claims education is free?" he asked.

The broader challenge lies in balancing the demand for English-medium education with the need to preserve and promote Kiswahili as a cornerstone of Tanzania's education system. Advocates like Mabala argue that Kiswahili represents more than a language of instruction; it is a symbol of cultural pride and social cohesion.

By strengthening Kiswahili-medium schools and ensuring equitable resource distribution, the government can uphold its commitment to inclusive, high-quality education for all.

The debate over the medium of instruction in Tanzania's education system highlights a conflict between embracing globalization and preserving cultural identity. The government's push for English-medium public schools aims to improve proficiency, yet it risks undermining Kiswahili—a language with over 70 million speakers globally, according to Unesco—central to Tanzania's identity. Ironically, while Kiswahili is promoted internationally, over 70 public schools have transitioned from Kiswahili to English-medium instruction.

In Chamazi Ward, Temeke District, this shift is evident. Omega Lilies English Medium Primary School, a private institution, has lost many students to public English-medium schools due to affordability.

According to the head teacher, Deogratias Muchunguzi, private schools charge an average of Sh 2,000,000 annually, compared to Sh 300,000-600,000 for public English-medium schools. This trend raises concerns about equity and Kiswahili's diminished role in education.

Critics warn of cultural erosion and growing inequalities, as English-medium schools gain prestige and resources, sidelining Kiswahili-medium ones. HakiElimu highlights disparities in teacher-pupil ratios favoring English-medium schools.

Yet proponents argue this shift eases students' transition to secondary education. A dual-language policy respecting Kiswahili's cultural role while strengthening English instruction could balance globalisation and heritage. Tanzania's education reforms thus test its ability to unite identity with progress.

Kingsley Ighobor

EXECUTIVE Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, Claver Gatete, discusses the implications of Africa's rising debt, strategies to address it, and priorities for the upcoming Financing for Development Conference in Spain in 2025. The following are excerpts from Part I of his interview.

What are the implications of the rising debt for African countries and what solutions would you propose?

Our debt goes up after each major shock. For example, debt increased during the 2008-2009 global financial crisis, followed by a surge in fuel prices due to the Arab Spring. Next came the COVID-19 pandemic, and soon after, the war in Ukraine. Now, we have the conflict in the Middle East. The combination of all these meant countries had to borrow more.

Global crises divert funds away from development and toward managing conflict, driving up fuel and food prices and contributing to inflation.

This is not the first time that countries are facing high-level debt but there has always been a solution, mostly because most of the debt was owed to the Paris Club, Bretton Woods institutions [IMF and the World Bank], and regional development banks. It was easy to bring people together to tackle the problem.

This time, debt is increasingly owed to non-Paris Club creditors, significantly China, India, the Arab world, Türkiye, and so on. It is difficult for all the creditors to sit together and propose a solution.

Also, countries' economies have grown since the end of the World

## Domestic resources key to Africa's debt freedom

War II, but resources have not kept pace. Concessional resources that developing countries used to access have not increased at the same rate as economic growth.

In addition, funding from international financial institutions is often insufficient, pushing countries to supplement with a mix of concessional resources, non-concessional resources, and private lending.

Coordinating these funding sources is difficult. This is where the G-20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments comes in, though it has complicated elements. For example, previously, countries in negotiation were not required to make interest payments but this time they must keep paying interest even during negotiations, which now take much longer. We've seen this prolonged process with Ghana, Zambia, and Ethiopia.

**How long do these negotiations take?**

It can take years, depending on how quickly the countries you owe the money agree or disagree.

**How does it affect African economies?**

Most of the debts, if not all, are in foreign currencies, which means African countries cannot repay in local currency.

This becomes a problem if the local currency is weak, as debt is usually repaid through the reserves, which depend on foreign currency inflows, often in the form of aid. Also, when you are increasing exports, you are earning foreign currency.

However, currently, aid and for-



The Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, Claver Gatete, delivered a statement at the opening of a two-day Africa Regional Consultation for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

eign direct investment have decreased, and exports are not growing as expected.

Comparing foreign currency earnings with foreign currency payments reveals significant macroeconomic implications. It means the central banks lack the capacity to support the banking system for importers of goods and services.

Secondly, debt repayment limits the fiscal space for spending in other sectors. Usually, the social safety nets and sectors such as education and healthcare are ring-fenced. But limited fiscal space affects social safety nets and we don't have advanced welfare systems like rich countries do.

As inflation goes up, wages remain stagnant, and people become poorer.

**Are there any solutions to these**

**challenges?**

Yes. The first step is to address the urgent issue of debt. The second step is to tackle its root causes.

There is need to reform the international financial architecture. Without restructuring the global economy established after World War II, along with its governance, finance, shareholding, and other systemic issues, a lasting solution is difficult. That effort [reform] is led by the UN Secretary-General [António Guterres], trying to find a middle ground with the international financial institutions.

Domestic resource mobilization is also important, but it requires reforms in taxation, formalizing the informal sector which accounts for 82 per cent of total employment. Countries need to digitize their economies so everybody pays their fair share of taxes, and they must

tackle illicit financial flows.

There is also the private sector, which relies on the banking system and capital markets for funding. Without functional capital markets or stock exchanges, the private sector has no way of getting money. Most of our banking systems are not rated, so borrowing is very expensive. That's why the stock exchange is essential.

Another factor is credit rating. A better rating provides access to relatively cheaper resources and instills confidence in investors and lenders. That's why we are working with Africa Peer Review Mechanism, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and other partners to help countries build capacity and improve their credit ratings.

Since independence, only two out of 54 African countries have achieved an investment-grade rating.

**Which are those countries? Botswana and Mauritius.**

How receptive are multilateral financial institutions to calls for reform of the global financial architecture, which is also a key element of the Pact for the Future?

They are feeling the pressure, but change takes time. It's not just about the banking system or the financial institutions themselves; these institutions manage their shareholders' funds. The shareholders are primarily the member countries. Some shareholders do not want to lose their controlling stakes.

For instance, in 2021 Africa received only 5 per cent (about \$33 billion) out of the \$650 billion of the

IMF's Special Drawing Rights.

Africa's shareholding in the IMF is equivalent to that of Germany. Reforming this shareholding arrangement and allowing countries a larger share will solve this problem.

When it comes to reforms, we've seen the Addis Ababa Agenda, the Doha Declaration, and the Monterrey Consensus—essentially supporting poorer countries to overcome development hurdles. How can we be sure that change is possible this time?

Global crises and conflicts have made it harder, even for rich countries, to fulfil their commitments. Developed countries had pledged to give 0.7 per cent of their GNP as part of Official Development Assistance to developing countries, which includes many African countries. Very few countries met that obligation.

In 2009, developed countries pledged \$100 billion per year by 2020 in climate finance to developing countries, which they didn't fulfill.

Aid has declined, and 71 per cent of public climate finance is in loans. Everything we do in terms of innovative financing is, at the end of the day, another debt adding to existing debt.

We need lasting solutions, not just relying on reforming the global financial architecture because that will take time. That's why we emphasize the need for domestic resource mobilization.

What will Africa's priorities be at the Financing for Development Conference next year in Spain?

There are many. The ECA has been leading high-level negotiations, working with Africa's finance ministers to address key issues, including debt.



# BUSINESS

## Ports' cargo handling up by 16pc

By Guardian Reporter

THE volume of cargo handled at major sea and lake ports increased by 15.9 percent to 28.1 million tonnes from 24.2 million tonnes, driven by strong growth of cargo handled at Tanga and Dar es Salaam ports.

The increase in volume of cargo handled was nearly recorded in all ports, save for Kilwa, Lindi, Mbamba Bay and Itungi ports.

The performance of Dar es Salaam port, which accounted for 87.5 percent of the total cargo handled, was largely due to deepening and widening of the entrance channel and turning basin at the port.

The volume of cargo handled at the Dar es Salaam port amounted to 24.5 million tonnes in 2023/2024, an increase of 16.6 percent, compared to 21.1 million tonnes recorded during the previous year.

According to the Tanzania Port Au-

thority (TPA), the Dar es Salaam port has increased its container handling capacity from 60,000 to 100,000 containers per month.

TPA Director of TPA, Plasduce Mbossa attributed the increase to the improvement of digital systems integrated with other institutions, deepening of berths, purchasing of modern equipment, and the opening of offices in neighboring countries such as Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.

Currently, Dar es Salaam port can accommodate large vessels measuring up to 300 meters in length, making it possible by deepening the entrance channel and the turning basin, which allows larger ships to access the port.

As for Mwanza port, BoT report attributes the increase was due to exportation of coal to neighbouring countries, while improved performance at Tanga port was on account of renovation and upgrading of the port to accommodate



Tanga Port

large ships.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan said in October this year that the expansion of Tanga Port is part of Tanzania's strategy to increase its capacity to handle larger ships, attract more vessels, and boost the amount of cargo it handles.

Acting Manager of Tanga Port Donald Gaile said the expansion divided into two phases, as the first phase, which cost 172.136bn/- included dredging the entrance channel and the berth to accommodate larger vessels.

"Tanga Port has a long history, being the

first built in 1891 during German East Africa, but over time, its performance weakened. Ships used to anchor two kilometres away due to the shallow berth at the two docking areas here," said Gaile.

He added: "Previously, ships had to offload cargo away from the pier, resulting in additional costs. Now, with the improved infrastructure, ships can dock directly at the pier, significantly reducing cargo handling expenses."

Provisional data for 2023/2024 and revised

data for 2022/2023 released recently by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) show that the volume of cargo handled at Tanga port went up by 26 percent to 1.18 million tonnes from 0.94 million tonnes.

Volume of cargo handled at Kilwa and Lindi ports decreased mainly driven by decline in transportation of condensate, timber and seaweeds.

BoT report show that the Mtwara port, which accounts for 6.2 percent of all cargo handled in the country and the deepest port, recorded an increase of the volume cargo handled by 6.1 percent to 1.7 million from 1.6 million respectively.

The port's preparations have also been strengthened with the acquisition of new equipment, including two mobile cranes, an empty container handler machine, reach stackers, and modern tugboats.

The new equipment have significantly improved the port's container handling capacity and positioned it better to transport all the cashews.

A total of 157.8bn/- was invested in the construction of a new 300-meter-long berth at the Port of Mtwara.

This berth, with a water depth of 13 meters, can accommodate ships up to 230 meters in length and handle large vessels weighing up to 65,000 tonnes.

# Africa's instant payment transactions hit \$1.03bn

By Guardian Correspondent

ACTIVE instant payment systems across Africa processed a record 49 billion transactions, totaling a value of \$1,036 billion in 2023, according to a report released on November by AfricaNenda, an independent organization focused on digital financial services development in collaboration with the World Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

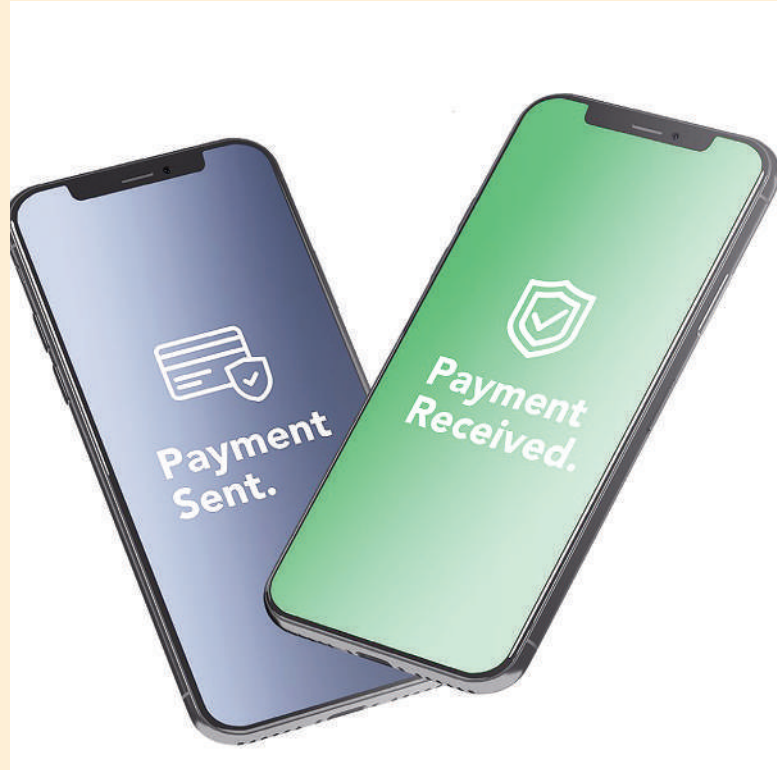
The report, titled "The State of Inclusive Instant Payment Systems in Africa SIIPS 2024," reveals that transaction volumes handled by these systems grew by an average of 37 percent per year from 2019 to 2023.

The value of these transactions also saw an average annual growth of 39 percent over the past five years.

Based on interviews with industry stakeholders, digital financial services experts, central banks, and consumer surveys, the report shows that Africa had 31 active instant payment systems as of June 2024, down from 32 in June 2023. These include 28 national systems and 3 regional systems: the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), GIMACPAY (CEMAC), and TCIB (SADC).

Between July 2023 and June 2024, two new systems were launched: KWiK in Angola and LeSwitch in Lesotho. Three systems previously listed in 2022 and 2023 were removed from the database due to non-compliance with inclusion criteria at the time of the update.

These include SYRAD (Djibouti), which is not fully



operational; NamPay (Namibia), which does not operate 24/7 year-round; and the Somalia Instant Payment Network, which is undergoing modernization and is not yet fully functional.

Seven countries Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, and Tanzania have multiple operational SPIs, with Ghana being the only country where national systems are interoperable.

Overall, 26 African countries currently have instant payment systems, with an additional 27 countries planning to launch their own systems in the near future.

The report also highlights mobile apps as the most widely used channel for instant payments, with at least 30 systems using this method.

Mobile apps offer a more personalized user experience and can be outsourced to third-party technology providers, including fintechs.

The second most common channel is USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Service Data), used by 23 systems, allowing access on basic mobile phones despite security concerns due to the lack of message encryption.

Other channels, including human-assisted methods (through mobile money and banking agents), QR codes, point-of-sale (POS) systems, ATMs, and near-field communication (NFC), are less commonly used.

The 31 active instant payment systems in Africa are categorized into four main types. Multi-domain SPIs, which enable interactions between bank accounts and mobile money wallets, are the most common, with 14 systems.

Mobile money SPIs follow with 9, and bank-based SPIs account for 7. Only one system uses central bank digital cur-

cy (CBDC), specifically Nigeria's eNaira.

Mobile money SPIs handle the largest transaction volumes, while multi-domain systems manage the highest transaction values.

Between 2022 and 2023, the value of transactions processed by multi-domain systems rose by 63 percent, compared to 28 percent for bank-based systems and 16 percent for mobile money systems.

All of Africa's instant payment systems support person-to-person (P2P) transactions, and 24 enable person-to-business (P2B) payments.

However, only 12 systems allow person-to-government (P2G) payments, such as taxes, while only 6 support government-to-person (G2P) payments, like pensions and social transfers. Cross-border payments are enabled by just 6 systems.

The report also notes that no instant payment system in Africa has yet reached a fully mature level of inclusivity, characterized by comprehensive case coverage, consumer grievance mechanisms beyond regulatory requirements, and low transaction costs for end users.

However, nine systems are moving toward this ideal, including Instant Pay and Mobile Money Interoperability (Ghana), GIMACPAY (CEMAC), Natswitch (Malawi), and National Financial Switch (Zambia).

## Transparency needed in PPP projects, says expert

By Guardian Correspondent

TRANSPARENCY and effective strategy execution in Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have been identified as critical tools for successfully implementing development projects.

This was highlighted by Said Al Harthi, Strategy Execution Expert and Chief Executive Officer of Tanfidh, during a press briefing held on Monday in Dar es Salaam.

Al Harthi explained that many government projects stall or encounter challenges during implementation due to a lack of transparency and ineffective strategy execution, either at the leadership level or among pro-

ject implementers.

"In developed countries, many government projects involve private entities and individuals, including grassroots stakeholders, to gather input and ensure proper execution. Introducing education on strategy execution is crucial to equip project implementers with the skills needed to perform professionally," he emphasized.

Al Harthi further noted that even in private companies, a well-developed strategy is meaningless without effective execution.

"Making strategy work is increasingly critical for organizational success. Given the current global economic challenges, this principle applies to all types of organizations—public, private, or non-governmental,"

said Al Harthi. He observed that leaders are often more proficient in strategy formulation than execution, focusing on planning rather than implementation. This creates significant challenges, as strategy execution is frequently delegated to lower-level staff who may lack proper training and guidance.

Al Harthi stressed that strategy execution is a disciplined process involving a logical set of interconnected activities that enable an organization to implement its strategy effectively.

"Without a carefully planned approach to execution, strategic plans and objectives cannot be achieved. Developing such an approach, however, remains a significant challenge for management," he stated. He added

that the unpredictable nature of today's business environment makes long-term planning increasingly difficult, with five-year plans potentially becoming obsolete in a matter of weeks.

For organizations to succeed in the modern market, Al Harthi recommended adopting new business practices, such as continuously assessing progress, adapting swiftly, building capabilities, and fostering a culture of learning.

Salim Baabde, a board member of the Tanzania Association of Oil Marketing Companies (TAOMAC), echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the importance of strategy execution training in Tanzania.

"For us, this course has been highly beneficial. I urge the government and other companies to adopt this training to address workplace implementation challenges effectively," said Baabde, who is also the Director of a local oil company.

## Dollar up, stocks retreat as Trump pledges tariffs

TOKYO

THE dollar rallied sharply on Tuesday after US President-elect Donald Trump pledged tariffs on all imports from Canada and Mexico, and additional tariffs on China.

Stocks declined, giving back some of the robust gains of the previous session, when they were buoyed by the nomination of fund manager Scott Bessent as Treasury Secretary, considered by investors as a voice for Wall Street in Washington.

Bessent's appointment had also led to a sharp fall in U.S. yields as investors scooped up Treasury bonds, sending the dollar sliding in the previous session.

"It's almost as if Trump wants to remind markets who is in control, after nominating Scott Bessent as Treasury Sec - a man markets expected to cool Trump's potency," said Matt Simpson, senior market analyst at City Index.

"With the Canadian dollar rising against the Mexican peso, markets are assuming this will

hit Mexico the hardest."

The dollar jumped 1.6 percent to 206,000 Mexican pesos as of 0213 GMT on Tuesday, and climbed 1 percent to C\$1.4132.

It strengthened 0.2 percent to 7.2628 yuan in offshore trading, after earlier reaching the highest since late July at 7.2730 yuan.

Australia's risk-sensitive dollar - which also tends to reflect the outlook for top trading partner China - slumped 0.5 percent to \$0.6474, after earlier dipping to \$0.64335 for the first time since Aug. 5.

"It was just last month that Trump said that 'the most beautiful word in the dictionary is tariff', so there really should not have been a surprise in Trump's intention, just in the timing of the comments," said Sean Callow, a senior FX analyst at ITC Markets.

"The fall in trade-sensitive currencies makes sense, and should persist near term."

Japan's Nikkei dropped 1.2 percent, giving back most of Monday's gains, as investors contemplated the risks of tariffs on the na-



tion's many heavyweight exports, particularly automakers. Toyota slid 2 percent and Nissan tumbled 4 percent.

Australia's stock benchmark eased 0.46 percent, a day after rising to a record high.

Taiwan's share index lost 0.8 percent.

However, Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 0.6 percent, and mainland blue chips rose 0.2 percent, reversing earlier declines.

Trump said that on his first day in office he

would impose a 25 percent tariff on all products from Mexico and Canada, and an additional 10 percent tariff on goods from China, citing concerns over illegal immigration and the trade of illicit drugs.

Trump has previously pledged to end China's most-favored-nation trading status and slap tariffs on Chinese imports in excess of 60 percent.

"It's definitely a shock to the market and weighing on Chinese assets, especially the export sectors," said Gary Ng, senior economist at Natixis.

"But compared to what he imposed on Canada and Mexico, the magnitude (of the Chinese tariff) is not that big, so investors might still want to see what are the follow ups and when/if the 60 percent promised will actually come through."

US S&P 500 futures pointed 0.1 percent lower following a 0.3 percent gain in the cash index overnight.



# Promising startups set to benefit from 5bn/- fund

By Francis Kajubi

EIGHTEEN promising startups and innovative Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are expected to benefit from 5bn/- funding initiative by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with Imbeju initiative.

This milestone initiative offers catalytic grants and soft loans to fostering entrepreneurship in Tanzania.

Selected from over 400 applications, the startups will benefit from resources aimed at promoting job creation, youth empowerment, and progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Notably, 40 percent of the funds are reserved for women-led businesses, reinforcing gender inclusivity in Tanzania's innovation ecosystem.

The startups span diverse sectors such as agriculture, energy,

circular economy, healthcare, and financial services, providing innovative solutions to societal challenges while creating employment.

Since inception, the programme investees have collectively raised 15.5bn/- in additional funding and generated over 4,000 jobs, with this cohort set to amplify those numbers.

This collaboration leverages FUNGUO's EU-funded non-repayable grants and CRDB Bank

Foundation's reimbursable iM-BEJU grants to provide tailored technical assistance, mentorship, and investment profiling.

Jerry Silaa, Minister of Information, ICT & Communication, lauded the initiative: "Innovation is the backbone of our nation's progress. The unveiling of this cohort reflects Tanzania's entrepreneurial spirit and the Ministry's commitment to supporting digital and inclusive economic growth."

Christine Grau, EU Head of Delegation, emphasized: "With over 1trn/- allocated to private sector development, the EU is proud to foster an ecosystem where entrepreneurs thrive and create sustainable jobs for the youth."

Shigeki Komatsubara, UNDP Resident Representative, highlighted the importance of youth engagement: "Initiatives like FUNGUO unlock young talent, providing resources to innovate

and drive Tanzania's economic future." Joseph Manirakiza, FUNGUO Programme Manager, encouraged entrepreneurs to maximize the opportunity: "This fund offers more than financial support—it transforms businesses into vehicles of lasting impact. Together, we're building businesses, creating jobs, and changing lives."

Tully Mwambapa, CRDB Foundation managing director emphasized the blended fi-

ancing model's role in unlocking opportunities for startups while providing mentorship and ecosystem resources.

Since its launch, the initiative has exemplified the transformative potential of strategic investments in startups and continues to reinforce Tanzania's startup ecosystem, driving progress toward the SDGs through collaboration between development partners, the private sector, and government.

## Initiative inaugurated to empower youths in Kilwa

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE Kilwa District based Dira Yetu Initiative, has launched a strategy to equip school pupils and out-of-school youth with organic farming and life skills.

The initiative aims to address economic challenges, create opportunities, and foster community resilience while reducing conflict.

Speaking during the organization's Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the TUJIWAKI building, DIRA Yetu Chairperson Mwanaid Bilali emphasized the importance of empowering young people to start businesses and create jobs.

Supported by ActionAid Kilwa, the program will collaborate with trained organic farmers, agricultural extension officers, and vocational colleges to enhance youth skills.

"We will partner with agricultural officers, school club teachers, and village meetings to reach youth outside formal education systems," said Bilali.

Participants will learn environmental conservation, climate change adaptation, and resource utilization to improve their economic prospects.

Training will include tree planting to mitigate floods and natural disasters.

Bilali noted that many youth in Kilwa face neglect and limited access to education, forcing them into low-paying jobs.

To address this, the program will target schools, women's groups, and youth in Matandu, Mandawa, and Miguruwe wards to teach organic farming techniques.

DIRA Yetu also plans a youth economic em-

powerment initiative to promote safe, decent work and encourage informed economic decisions.

Youth will be trained in organic farming, vegetable and fruit cultivation, and the blue economy through seaweed farming and coastal conservation.

"Land and the blue economy are key resources youth can leverage to fight poverty," she added.

Since its establishment in 2022, DIRA Yetu has reached 10 villages, promoting life skills, economic empowerment, and climate change education.

It has conducted tree planting campaigns in 10 schools, distributing 940 seedlings in partnership with the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS).

Makame Juma, the Secretary of Dira Yetu Initiative, added that so far they have successfully distributed 940 seedlings of shade trees, fruit trees, and timber in 10 schools with support from Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) and other stakeholders.

They have also launched a tree planting campaign in 10 schools, involving 10 school clubs with a total of 250 students, 10 head teachers, 10 club teachers, and 200 community members.

"We collaborate with TFS in Kilwa District to obtain tree seedlings," he says

The following schools have successfully received seedlings: Nangulukulu Primary School, Mandawa, Lihimalyao North, Mikindani Day Centre, Kisongo Primary School, Njinjo Secondary School, Njinjo Primary School, Mzizima Primary School, and Kipindimbi Primary School.



DIRA Yetu Initiative Chairperson Mwanaid Bilali (standing) speaks to Principle Community development officers and members of the initiative attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Kilwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kilwa District Community Development Officer Seuri Sumayani urged the initiative to follow President Samia Suluhu Hassan's "4Rs" philosophy—reconciliation, resilience, reform, and rebuilding.

Joyce John, ActionAid Kilwa's programme officer says in a bid to achieve your goals and dreams, strive to be excellent in your work, and seek information that will help make your activities better.

She says, every day, laws, plans, regula-

tions, policies, and guidelines are changing due to a number of factors, therefore, make an effort to seek information.

She also called upon members of the Dira Initiative to put in effort to make sure that their goals are achieved.

"Use challenges as opportunities, let the challenges guide you in seeking change to so that you can reach the Kilwa community. The Kilwa community needs you, and the children also need you."

She urged them to collaborate with other stakeholders and improve relationships, seek economic opportunities and funding to ensure that their goals are achieved.

"Kilwa has forests resources, but how are we utilizing them to benefit from these forests? We can secure projects and money from the opportunities around us," she says.

## Scott Bessent may rue the day he became US Treasury's secretary

By Mark Sobel

SCOTT Bessent (pictured) seems overjoyed at his nomination for US Treasury secretary. But he's perhaps being handed a poisoned chalice. When he leaves office, he may rue the day he became the 79th Treasury secretary as the inconsistencies and ill-conceived thrust of President-elect Donald Trump's economic policies generate huge fallout, catching up with the US and Bessent's reputation and tenure.

The Treasury secretary is the administration's chief economic spokesperson, representing the US globally on economic and financial affairs in fora such as the G7, G20, International Monetary Fund and World Bank. Bessent will play a leading role in selling Trump 2.0 policies to Capitol Hill and internationally.

The problems won't hit immediately but the challenges over time could become overwhelming.

### Fiscal profligacy

Foremost, Bessent will be tied to Trump's fiscal legacy. US debt is high (100% of gross domestic product) and the fiscal trajectory unsustainable. Deficits are already projected at more than 6% of GDP per annum for the next decade. His first fiscal tasks will involve dealing with the debt ceiling and then extending Trump's 2017 tax cuts.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimates Trump's fiscal plans, if he gets his way, could add a further \$8tn to US debt over the coming decade, roughly 2.5% of GDP annually. That amount of issuance may give markets severe bouts of indigestion, pushing up the term premium and slowing growth. Of course, some-

thing may crack - will bond vigilantes savagely impose discipline?

Trump's team will trumpet old canards - tax cuts will boost growth, largely paying for themselves; they will slash spending. Don't believe the hogwash. Trump has said he won't touch entitlements, the heart of mandatory spending and two-thirds of the budget. Discretionary spending is largely defence, and that may have to go up. The interest bill is soaring. Spending cuts mean goring somebody's ox. Bessent runs the risk of presiding over the height of fiscal profligacy. What would Alexander Hamilton say?

### The Fed whisperer

The Treasury secretary typically meets privately and often with the Federal Reserve chair. The media is obsessed with whether Trump can or will fire current Chair Jerome Powell. They miss the boat. Trump's fiscal plans and tariffs will boost interest rates and inflation, slowing how far Fed rate reductions can go.

The Fed may have to temporarily quell episodic market indigestion, but doing so on a lasting basis would border on succumbing to incipient fiscal dominance. If this scenario unfolds, an independent Fed will push back. Trump may revert to hammering the Fed, pressing it perhaps to pursue some form of quantitative easing or yield curve control, catching Bessent in the crosshairs notwithstanding his wrongheaded call for a shadow Fed chair.

### Tariffs and sanctions

The Treasury plays a leading role on financial sanctions. It's a secondary player on trade policy but a long-time voice for liberal trade.

On financial sanctions, will Trump 2.0 be unilateralist or multilateralist? When a unilateralist Trump pulled out of the Iran Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Europe lamely responded by seeking to create a payments system bypassing the dollar - the ill-fated Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges. The mere act showed deep antipathy. President Joe Biden's administration, especially in its praiseworthy efforts to block Russian central bank and oligarch assets, acted multilaterally. Greater unilateralism would stir the pot between the Treasury secretary and foreign colleagues.

Trump's proposed 10% across-the-board and 60% on China tariffs will put US protectionism on steroids. Bessent will have to defend Trump's trade policies, especially to global financial authorities. That will not make him popular.

### The dollar

In recent decades, only the secretary of the Treasury spoke on the dollar and said as little as possible. Regardless of whether Bessent reportedly thinks the dollar should be left to float, cacophonous Trump officials have called for 'devaluation'. Bessent could end up scrapping with Trump's trade team.

The dollar is already strong and it's mainly a 'Made in USA' story. Dollar appreciation since Trump's victory underscores that fiscal expansion and tariffs are more likely to drive the dollar up, not down. The dollar may soon approach its 1985 pre-Plaza Accord real trade-weighted peak, associated with significant protectionist pressure.

Administration options for devaluing the dollar are limited. Neither jawboning nor intervention



are likely to have lasting impact, and a Mar-a-Lago Accord seems infeasible given that an independent Fed targets inflation, not exchange rates, and a weaker dollar might require fiscal consolidation, not expansion. Tariffs, let alone measures to reduce capital inflow, could curb some US bilateral deficits. But the dollar's reserve currency and global financing role may be weakened, perhaps raising US financing costs. No respectable Treasury secretary should wish to be associated with talking down the dollar, calling for devaluation or undermining its global role.

Everybody in Washington is a China hawk. Trump's selection of national security officials makes clear that talons will be out. The US and Chinese economies account for more than 40% of global GDP. This systemic relationship will most likely become frostier. The Treasury under Secretary Janet Yellen reestablished discussions with Chinese finance authorities, including in bilateral visits and economic and financial dialogues. Neither side was under any delusion that US-China relations were hunky dory. But at least frankness helped limit misunderstandings. Will the

Treasury continue these?

Moreover, US fiscal expansion and tariffs should put downward pressure on the renminbi. China may allow the renminbi to slide in response to tariffs, though with restraint, fearing it could trigger a massive one-way selling wave, as happened in 2015-16. Regardless, renminbi weakness on top of large trade surpluses may prompt the White House to instruct the Treasury to designate China for currency manipulation even if the criteria are not met, as happened in 2019, or rekindle ill-conceived Department of Commerce-mandated currency undervaluation countervailing duties.

Bessent may also need to play a role in scuttling the G20-Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development international tax deal and helping lead the charge on financial market deregulation. These are only a few areas that will be on the incoming secretary's plate. The challenges will be heroic, fraught with peril. It's hard to imagine what success looks like. Bessent may rue the day he became the 79th secretary of the Treasury.



# Data centre boom fuels demand for nuclear projects

OREGON

TECH giants are increasingly turning to nuclear power to meet the growing energy demands of the data center boom.

For example, recent projects include Amazon's funding of four small modular reactors in Washington state, Google's agreement with Kairos Power to develop small modular reactors by 2030 and Microsoft's power purchase agreement to restart Three Mile Island Unit 1, a nuclear power reactor near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, that was shut down in 2019.

That connection between data centers and nuclear power plants should continue to strengthen, said Gordon Dolven, director of data center research at CBRE, a Dallas-based commercial real estate services firm.

"This role is expected to grow, especially with advancements like small modular reactors," said Dolven. "[These] offer scalable and flexible solutions to support future energy needs."

Integration of nuclear energy into tech companies' operations offers new opportunities for contractors with specialized experience, said Fluor CEO David Constable during the firm's third quarter earnings call.

Constable recently identified small modular reactors as a key growth area, saying "there's a strong appetite for nuclear energy to meet incredible demand for power globally." He noted that "interest has never been greater."

SMRs offer significant advantages for contractors during the construction phase. Their modular design simplifies construction, reduces timelines and requires less land compared to traditional reactors, according to an Amazon news release.

This makes SMRs particularly well-suited for powering data center operations, which demand reliable, around-the-clock energy to support artificial intelligence, said Dolven.

"There is growing interest in placing data centers near nuclear facilities. This is driven by the need for a reliable, 24/7 power source to support the growing demand for data centers, especially with the rise of AI workloads," said Dolven. "Nuclear power offers con-



sistent energy with zero carbon emissions, aligning with both operational and sustainability goals."

Although expensive to build, nuclear power plants also offer relatively low operating costs for data center operators, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That makes them an attractive option for tech companies aiming to power energy-intensive data centers while meeting emission reduction targets.

Amazon agreed in October to fund four SMR construction projects in Washington state in partnership with Energy Northwest.

The plant will generate 320 MW in its first phase.

"It's an important area of investment for Amazon," said Matt Garman, CEO of Amazon Web Services, in a news release. "Our agreements will encourage the construction of new nuclear technologies that will generate energy for decades to come."

Similarly, Kairos Power, a nuclear technology, engineering and manufacturing company, will develop, construct and operate a series of advanced reactor plants as part of its agreement with Google.

The first SMR is set to be deployed by 2030, with plants strategically located near Google's data centers, according to Kairos.

In Pennsylvania, Microsoft also entered into a 20-year agreement with Constellation Energy to purchase power generated by the Crane Clean Energy Center, formerly known as Three Mile Island Unit 1. The deal will supply Microsoft's data centers in the region, and includes significant investments to restore the plant, such as the turbine, generator, main power transformer and cooling and control systems.

# China expecting 85pc of 5G penetration by 2027

BEIJING

CHINA aims to achieve a 5G user penetration rate of more than 85 percent by the end of 2027, as the world's second-largest economy accelerates the large-scale applications of 5G technologies.

By that point, there will be 38 5G base stations for every 10,000 people, 5G will account for 75 percent of mobile internet traffic, and the number of Internet of Things terminals connected by 5G in the country will exceed 100 million, according to an action plan formulated by multiple government departments.

Meanwhile, the penetration rate of 5G technologies in large and medium-sized industrial firms will reach 45 percent by the end of 2027, according to the plan publicized Monday.

The plan is designed to vigorously promote the large-scale development of 5G applications, accelerate the development of new quality productive forces, facilitate the popularization and application of new-generation information technology, and strengthen the new driving forces for high-quality economic and social development.

It strives to promote the integration and innovation of digital technologies and support the nation's new industrialization and modernization of the information and communication industry.

As of the end of September this year, the number of 5G base stations in China reached about 4.09 million. Meanwhile, the number of 5G mobile subscribers hit 981 million, according to data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

With a population of around 1.4 billion, the nation's 5G user penetration rate has reached around 70 percent.



**It strives to promote the integration and innovation of digital technologies and support the nation's new industrialization and modernization of the information**

# Investors uphold \$1trn climate change finance

BAKU

At COP29, developing countries were pushing to negotiate a deal that would secure \$1 trillion in annual funding to fight climate change but many investors appear hesitant to commit to these nations.

Alterra, the world's biggest private fund dedicated to fighting climate change, is struggling to find the right projects to invest in, especially in Africa.

Majid Al Suwaidi, the fund's manager, shared this concern during a panel at COP29 focused on financing the energy transition.

Launched by the United Arab Emirates during COP28, Alterra has a bold vision to raise \$250 billion for climate investments by 2030. But Al Suwaidi admitted that the fund has hit a roadblock.

"We simply don't have enough projects. The enabling environment isn't ready," he said, pointing specifically to challenges in developing countries and emerging markets.

This situation shines a light on why energy transition projects in Africa often fail to attract major investments. Several factors are to blame: political instability, shifting regulations, a lack of infrastructure, and the high risks of combining public and private funding.

Al Suwaidi provided a clear example of how difficult this has been for Alterra.

The fund currently manages \$30 billion, but only \$6.5 billion has been allocated to strategies led by major players like BlackRock, Brookfield Asset Management Ltd., and TPG. Even more concerning, not all of that \$6.5 billion has actually been invested yet.

The hesitation isn't just on Alterra's part. Private investors and banks are also reluctant to get involved because many African governments don't offer strong financial guarantees.

This lack of investment is deepening the continent's energy crisis, where over 600 million people still do not have access to electricity. It also keeps countries dependent on fossil fuels, making the transition to clean energy even harder.

Africa has enormous potential for renewable energy, especially solar, wind, and geothermal power. But despite this, the continent receives less than 2 percent of global renewable energy investments. The problem isn't the lack of resources; it's the lack of funding to develop them.

Al Suwaidi's comments highlight a bigger issue, which is how global climate financing works needs to change. For funds like Alterra to succeed, stronger cooperation between governments and private investors must be strengthened.

Clearer regulations, better infrastructure, and financial safeguards could make energy transition projects in Africa much more attractive.



**MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM**

ITV PGM SCHEDULE		SATURDAY 23 Nov		CAPITAL		SUN 24 Nov															
<b>WEDNESDAY 20 Nov</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 KumeKucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 KumeKucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Laws of love 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Mjue zaidi 11:40 Maji Kilimanjaro 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:50 BundeSiga na DW 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:40 Mapishi 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 Music: The Base 18:00 Hapa na Pale 18:15 Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative 18:25 Jarida la wanawake 19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT 19:30 Soap: Laws of love 20:00 Habari 21:05 Abu Yako 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tanasco 21:35 Kipindi maalum 21:50 Ripoti maalum 22:25 Soap: Uzalo 22:50 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot 23:00 Jiji Ietu 23:30 Music: The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera	11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT 13:30 Art and Lifestyle 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Shamsam za pwani rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Hapa na Pale 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Soap: Laws of love 20:00 Habari 21:05 Malumbano ya hoja 22:50 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot 23:00 Jiji Ietu 00:30 Music: The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera	<b>FRIDAY 22 Nov</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 KumeKucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 KumeKucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Usafiri wako 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Mjue zaidi 11:40 Maji Kilimanjaro 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:50 BundeSiga na DW 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:40 Mapishi 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 Music: The Base 18:00 Hapa na Pale 18:15 Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative 18:25 Jarida la wanawake 19:00 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18:00 Hapa na Pale 18:15 ITV Top 10 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Soap: Laws of love 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 22:50 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot 23:00 Jiji Ietu 23:30 The Base	<b>WED 20 Nov</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 KumeKucha Michezo rpt 10:00 Meza Huru Rpt 11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt 12:00 Dw News Africa rpt 12:30 Our Earth 13:00 Telenovela: In Love With Ramon rpt 14:00 Capchat 15:00 Out & About rpt 15:30 Special Pgm : Culinary Tourism rpt 16:00 Business Edition Rpt 16:30 Culinary delight rpt 17:00 Innovation rpt 17:30 Meza huru 18:00 Sports Gazette 19:00 Chetu ni chetu 20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt 20:45 Telenovela: In Love With Ramon ep#6 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Dakika 45 22:45 The Decor 23:15 Al Jazeera	<b>Thurs 21 Nov</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 KumeKucha Michezo rpt 10:00 Meza Huru Rpt 11:30 Spots gazette 12:00 Innovation 12:30 Culinary delight rpt 13:00 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon rpt 14:00 Our Earth rpt 14:30 DW news Africa rpt 15:00 Beyond the Narrative rpt 15:45 The Decor rpt 16:00 Tomorrow Today 16:30 Business edition rpt 17:00 In good shape 17:30 Meza huru 18:00 Out & About Rpt 19:00 Eco@Africa 20:00 Our Earth Rpt 20:45 Telenovela: In Love With Ramon ep#7 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt 23:00 Al Jazeera	<b>Frid 22 Nov</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 KumeKucha Michezo rpt 10:00 Meza Huru Rpt 11:30 Capchat 12:00 Décor Rpt 13:00 Telenovela In Love With Ramon rpt 14:00 Culinary rpt 14:30 Ripoti Maalum 15:00 DK 45 rpt 16:30 Dw News Africa rpt 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt	17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Rev 19:30 Beyond the Narrative 20:00 Abu Yako 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition 20:45 Telenovela: In Love With Ramon ep#8 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Malumbano ya Hoja Rpt 00:00 Al Jazeera	<b>Sat 23 Nov</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Rev rpt 09:30 Jagina rpt 10:00 Culinary delight rpt 10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out n'about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt 12:30 Our Earth rpt 13:00 Business edition rpt 13:30 AlJazeera 14:30 Telenovela: 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## WORLD

## 140 women killed by partner or family member every day, UN report shows

## UNITED NATIONS

AN average of 140 women and girls were killed every day in 2023 by their partner or a family member, according to a UN report published on Monday.

The report, released by UN Women and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), reveals that femicide, the most extreme form of violence against women and girls, remains pervasive globally, and "the home is the most dangerous place for women and girls".

About 85,000 women and girls were killed intentionally across the world last year. Sixty percent of these deaths, or 51,100, were committed by an intimate partner or a family member, new data show.

Africa recorded the highest rates of intimate partner and family-related

femicides, with an estimated 21,700 women killed, followed by the Americas and Oceania.

In Europe and the Americas, most victims were killed by their intimate partners, representing 64 percent and 58 percent of cases, respectively, while elsewhere, close family members were the primary perpetrators.

Despite efforts made in several countries to prevent the killing of women and girls, femicide "remains at an alarmingly high level", the report said.

"We see the numbers in this report as the tip of the iceberg because we know not all women's deaths are recorded and not all causes of death are accurately recorded as femicides, and there were many communities where we couldn't access any information," said Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, UN Women's deputy executive director.



A woman walks with her children suffering from mpox after a treatment at a clinic in Muni, eastern Congo, Aug 19, 2024. AP

Sima Bahous, UN Women executive director, said that "violence against women and girls is not inevitable – it is preventable".

She emphasized the need for robust legislation, improved data collection, greater government accountability and a zero-tolerance culture.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also called for action to end violence against women and girls.

"The epidemic of violence against women and girls shames humanity," Guterres said in a message for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, observed on Nov 25.

The UN chief stressed that crises of

conflict, climate and hunger have inflamed inequalities, adding that horrendous sexual violence is being used as a weapon of war.

The United Nations Spotlight Initiative and the UNITE by 2030 to End Violence against Women initiative call on all of us to join forces to end the scourge of violence against women and girls, he said, calling for urgent action for justice and accountability, and support for advocacy.

"Almost 30 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action promised to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls – it's beyond time to deliver," the UN chief noted.

Agencies

## China pledges to ensure stability of global industrial, supply chains

## BEIJING

CHINA will continue to take concrete actions to ensure stable and unimpeded global industrial and supply chains, Premier Li Qiang said Monday.

Li made the remarks while attending a symposium with representatives of enterprises and organizations participating in the upcoming second China International Supply Chain Expo.

Present at the symposium were representatives of Apple Inc., Rio Tinto, Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Ltd. and the US-China Business Council, among others.

Highlighting their full confidence in the Chinese economy and optimism about the huge potential of the Chinese market, corporate representatives said foreign firms in China are willing to expand their investment and deepen their development in the country, strengthen cooperation on global industrial and supply chains, and achieve win-win results.

Li said with the in-depth development of economic globalization, global industrial and supply chains have expanded gradually over the past few decades, promoting the rapid growth of the world economy and benefiting all parties.

While global economic growth now lacks momentum, certain protectionist acts and moves that overstretch the concept of security continue to damage global industrial and supply chains, pushing up corporate costs further, reducing economic efficiency and hinder-



Chinese Premier Li Qiang attends a symposium with representatives of enterprises and organizations participating in the second China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE), in Beijing on Monday. Xinhua

ing common development, he said.

Li called for firm efforts to safeguard stable, unimpeded global industrial and supply chains, as well as the common interests of all parties.

The premier noted that China has achieved generally steady economic growth and made further progress this year, saying that more efforts will be made to step up counter-cyclical adjustment and promote sound economic development.

China will accelerate the construction of a modern industrial system, and provide solid support for the efficient operations of global industrial and supply chains, Li said.

Efforts will also be made to strengthen the integration of sci-tech and industrial innovation and to better integrate into international innovation cooperation, he said.

China will promote high-standard opening up steadfastly, expand market

access further, and welcome more foreign enterprises to engage in industrial cooperation in the country, the premier said.

He expressed the hope that enterprises continue to support economic globalization firmly, deepen the international division of labor and cooperation, and work together to make global industrial and supply chains more dynamic, resilient and efficient.

Xinhua

## UN humanitarian chief meets Sudan's Al-Burhan to address aid crisis

## KHARTOUM

UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher met with Sudan's military leadership on Monday to discuss critical aid delivery amid the country's ongoing conflict, officials said.

Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council Chairman Abdel

Fattah Al-Burhan urged authorities to collaborate with UN agencies to ensure humanitarian assistance reaches those in need, according to an official statement.

The meeting, held in Port Sudan, focused on strategies to address the humanitarian

crisis triggered by fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) since mid-April 2023.

Fletcher emphasized the importance of strengthening UN-Sudan partnerships to overcome aid distribution

challenges. Sudan's acting foreign affairs undersecretary, Omar Issa, described the discussions as "positive and fruitful."

The conflict has devastated Sudan, with over 27,120 deaths and more than 14 million people displaced, accord-

ing to tracking organizations. Fletcher arrived in Port Sudan on Saturday for his first humanitarian mission as the newly-appointed Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. He assumed the role on Nov. 18.

## Mohammed VI Foundation launches African Academy of Health Sciences in Dakhla

## RABAT

THE Mohammed VI Foundation for Science and Health announced the launch of the African Academy of Health Sciences (AAHS), an institution dedicated to promoting research and development in health sciences in Africa.

The launch ceremony took place over the weekend at the Mohammed VI University of Science and Health in Dakhla, the Foundation said in a press release.

Located in Dakhla, the African Academy of Health Sciences aims to promote South-South cooperation to ensure African health sovereignty. Its goal is to create a platform for exchange and partnership to advance scientific research in health, in a context that adapts to Africa's specificities. It also emphasizes excellence in health science education by offering training programs which meet the continent's needs.

The AAHS also seeks to bring together experts through the creation of African networks to develop strategies, conduct research projects, and disseminate knowledge and best practices in health, thus becoming a key body and major task force for African health.

The AAHS maintains strategic partnerships with institutions such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and stakeholders in the pharmaceutical industry to encourage health cooperation.

It also participates in collecting and analyzing health statistics through the Big Data initiative and acts as a non-profit African observatory, responding to public health questions from Moroccan authorities as well as African or global institutions.

The Academy's areas of action include human health (public health, emergencies, cardiology), animal health (veterinary and food safety), and environmental health (climate change, desertification, water, and water stress).

Through its various initiatives, the AAHS aims to become a hub for health development in Africa, promoting scientific innovation and organizing conferences and symposia to contribute to the sustainable improvement of African health systems.

## 3rd India-Tanzania Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting held in Goa to further expand bilateral ties

THE third edition of Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting between India and Tanzania took place in Goa on November 26, 2024.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed a wide range of areas of cooperation, including growing training partnership and service-to-service, maritime & defence industry collaboration.

They also reviewed the progress on decisions taken during the previous JDCCs, and explored new areas to further expand bilateral defence cooperation.

The Indian delegation, led by Joint Secretary Shri Amitabh Prasad, included senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. The High Commissioner of India to Tanzania Shri Bishwadip Dey also attended the meeting. The Tanzanian delegation was led by Land Forces Commander Maj Gen Fadhil Omary Nondo.

As part of the tour, the Tanzanian delegation will visit Goa Shipyard Ltd to get first-hand experience of India's capabilities in port development and shipbuilding. The delegation is also scheduled to visit INS Hansa and National Institute of Hydrography in Goa.

India shares close, warm and friendly relations with Tanzania which are bolstered by robust capacity building & avenues for developing partnership. The two countries have a five-year roadmap to guide defence cooperation.



Amitabh Prasad (R), Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence of Govt of India meeting Tanzania Land Forces Commander Maj Gen Fadhil Nondo(L) during the 3rd Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting in Goa, India yesterday. Key discussions focused on training, maritime collaboration, and advancing defence partnerships.

THE Meng Xiang, or "Dream", China's first domestically designed and built deep-ocean drilling vessel, was officially commissioned in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province on Nov. 17. It marked a significant step forward for China in deep-sea exploration, detection and mining.

Zhou Chang, head of the command of the drilling vessel from the China Geological Survey, the Ministry of Natural Resources, said that one of the key functions of the Meng Xiang vessel after its commissioning is to serve as a significant platform for global scientists to conduct deep-sea drilling research.

## China's first deep-ocean drilling vessel commissioned

Feng Qizeng, head of the drilling system of the Meng Xiang, said that the vessel is capable of conducting drilling operations on the seabed at depths of several thousand meters, accessing rock core samples from the seabed, and enabling direct observation, analysis, testing, and scientific research.

Thanks to technological innovation and equipment integration, the vessel is able to drill as far as 11,000 meters beneath the sea, Feng added. The drilling system of the vessel leads the world.

The Meng Xiang vessel is

like a mobile "national laboratory" at sea. On board, there are nine laboratories including basic geology, paleomagnetism, organic geochemistry, microbiology, marine science, natural gas hydrates, geophysics, drilling technology, with a total area exceeding 3,000 square meters. These labs are equipped with over 150 sets of various precision experimental instruments.

The Meng Xiang vessel is equipped with an "intelligent brain." Its advanced comprehensive information system can aggregate and an-

alyze data from over 20,000 monitoring points in real time, enabling intelligent monitoring, intelligent collaboration in experiments, intelligent health protection for personnel, and intelligent vessel-shore integration throughout the entire operation process.

"For offshore drilling and experiments, the stability of the vessel is crucial. The Meng Xiang vessel can operate normally with a degree six on the Douglas sea scale and survive under level-17 typhoons," said Zhang Haibin, chief designer of the vessel.

The vessel has a gross tonnage of 33,000 tons, a total length of 179.8 meters, a beam of 32.8 meters, a displacement of 42,600 tons, a range of 15,000 nautical miles, and a crew capacity of 180 people. It can work at sea for 120 consecutive days without replenishment. With a draft of 9.2 meters, it can pass major sea areas and dock at major terminals around the world.

It is reported that the preliminary design of the vessel was completed in May 2020. Construction work started in November 2021, and com-

prehensive sea trials were finished in October 2024.

"It is the first ship of its kind, so there was no precedent to follow. The engineering volume is more than ten times that of existing marine vessels and tens of times that of scientific research vessels. The enormous pressure at the depths of 11,000 meters poses challenges to equipment, water, electricity, fluids, and materials," Zhang said.

By leveraging the concept of "modular design," several world-class technological challenges have been over-

come, which has made this small-tonnage vessel multifunctional. The vessel is the first in the world that combines deep-sea scientific drilling, deep-sea oil and gas exploration, and natural gas hydrate exploration and trial mining.

After two rounds of sea trials, the Meng Xiang vessel has proven its key performance indicators to exceed design expectations, achieving several major breakthroughs. It has established a fully independent Chinese technological system for the design and construction of ultra-deepwater drilling equipment.

People's Daily



# Judge tosses Trump 2020 election case after prosecutors' request

WASHINGTON

A US judge on Monday dismissed the federal criminal case accusing Donald Trump of attempting to overturn his 2020 election defeat after prosecutors moved to drop that prosecution and a second case against the president-elect, citing Justice Department policy against prosecuting a sitting president.

The order from US District Judge Tanya Chutkan puts an end to the federal effort to hold Trump criminally responsible for his attempts to hold onto power after losing the 2020 election, culminating in the Jan 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol by a mob of his supporters.

The move came after Special Counsel Jack Smith, the lead prosecutor overseeing both cases, moved to dismiss the election case and end his attempt to revive a separate case accusing Trump of illegally retaining classified documents when he left office in 2021 after his first term as president.

It represents a big legal victory for the Republican president-elect, who won the Nov 5 US election and is set to return to office on Jan 20.

The Justice Department policy that the prosecutors cited dates back to the 1970s. It holds that a criminal prosecution of a sitting president would violate the US Constitution by undermining the



President-elect Donald Trump speaks at meeting of the House GOP conference, Nov 13, 2024, in Washington. AP

ability of the country's chief executive to function. Courts will still have to approve both requests from prosecutors.

The prosecutors in a filing in the election subversion case said the department's policy requires the case to be dismissed before Trump returns to the White House.

"This outcome is not based on the merits or strength of the case against the defendant," prosecutors wrote in the filing.

Prosecutors in the documents case signaled they will still ask a federal appeals court to bring back the case against two Trump

associates who had been accused of obstructing that investigation.

Trump spokesman Steven Cheung hailed what he called "a major victory for the rule of law."

Trump had faced criminal charges in four cases - the two brought by Smith and two in state courts in New York and Georgia. He was convicted in the New York case while the Georgia case, which also relates to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election, is in limbo.

In a post on social media, Trump railed on Monday against the legal cases as a "low point in the History of our Country."

The moves by Smith, who was appointed in 2022 by US Attorney General Merrick Garland, represents a remarkable shift from the special prosecutor who obtained indictments against Trump in two separate cases accusing him of crimes that threatened US election integrity and national security. Prosecutors acknowledged that the election of a president who faced ongoing criminal cases created an unprecedented predicament for the Justice Department.

Chutkan left open the possibility that prosecutors could seek to charge Trump again after he leaves office, but prosecutors would likely face challenges bringing a case so long after conduct involved in the case happened.

Trump pleaded not guilty in August 2023 to four federal charges accusing him of conspiring to obstruct the collection and certification of votes following his 2020 loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump, who as president will again oversee the Justice Department, was expected to order an end to the federal 2020 election case and to Smith's appeal in the documents case.

Florida-based Judge Aileen Cannon, who Trump appointed to the federal bench, had dismissed the classified documents case in July, ruling that Smith was improperly appointed to his role as special counsel.

Smith's office had been appealing that ruling and indicated on Monday that the appeal would continue as it relates to Trump personal aide Walt Nauta and Carlos De Oliveira, a manager at his Mar-a-Lago resort, who had been previously charged alongside Trump in the case. Both Nauta and De Oliveira have pleaded not guilty, as did Trump.

In the 2020 election case, Trump's lawyers had previously said they would seek to dismiss the charges based on a US Supreme Court ruling in July that former presidents have broad immunity from prosecution over official actions taken while in the White House.

Trump denied wrongdoing in all cases and argued that the US legal system had been turned against him to damage his presidential campaign. He vowed during the campaign that he would fire Smith if he returned to the presidency.

Trump in May became the first former president to be convicted of a crime when a jury in New York found him guilty of felony charges relating to hush money paid to a porn star before the 2016 election. His sentencing in that case has been indefinitely postponed.

The criminal case against Trump in Georgia state court involving the 2020 election is stalled.

## Brics for more members as South American countries seeks to join bloc

KAZAN

AS BRICS expands its influence on the global stage, nations across South America are increasingly looking to join the grouping.

Many South American countries see BRICS as a way to strengthen their economies, deepen international cooperation, and pursue more equitable global partnerships.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, speaking ahead of the summit in Kazan, pointed out how BRICS has come to represent the shift in the global economy.

Lavrov highlighted how new centers of economic growth have emerged, particularly in Eurasia and the Asia-Pacific, as the world's development focus moves away from the Euro-Atlantic region. He stressed that BRICS operates differently from Western institutions like the European Union, which impose decisions that do not always align with the interests of member nations.

BRICS, on the other hand, promotes collaboration without placing undue pressure on its members, making it an appealing alternative.

Lavrov underscored that BRICS has no intention of competing with or containing any country.

Instead, it seeks to enhance the collective potential of its member states through cooperation in various sectors such as trade, communications, and modern technologies. This openness has sparked increasing interest, particularly from countries in South America.

Latin American nations have shown growing enthusiasm for joining BRICS, with Brazil already one of the founding members.

Dr. Aparajita Pandey, an expert on Latin America and the Caribbean, remarked that "more countries have shown an interest in being members of the grouping that has evolved as an alternative to the West-dominated frameworks of multilateral blocks and global economic institutions."

She noted that the appeal of BRICS to the region stems from its representation of the global majority and its potential to address economic and developmental needs without the constraints imposed by Western financial systems.

Brazil's involvement has paved the way for other Latin American nations, and Dr Pandey explained that the presence of Brazil in BRICS "sets the tone for the rest of Latin America to view the grouping with greater faith and potential." China and India, two key BRICS members, also hold significant influence in Latin America. China's deep market penetration and India's rapid economic growth, which is expected to surpass many major economies by 2030, are drawing the attention of countries like Bolivia and Colombia.

Bolivia has expressed a strong desire to join BRICS, viewing membership as an opportunity to enhance its participation in global trade.

According to Pandey, "Bolivia has worked closely with China and Russia on lithium, and this helps their bid for the grouping." The country sees BRICS as a platform that represents 45 percent of the world's population, providing vast opportunities for trade, investment, and people-to-people connections.

Bolivia's close collaboration with key BRICS members on resource development, such as lithium, highlights its alignment with the bloc's goals of sustainable growth and equitable development.

Colombia has also demonstrated significant interest in BRICS, with Dr. Pandey noting the country's efforts to "foster a deeper strategic partnership with India" as part of its bid. Colombia, like Bolivia, sees the New Development Bank (NDB) as a promising alternative to traditional Western financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Latin American nations have long been wary of Western-led financial mechanisms, particularly after the economic struggles of the 1980s, and view the NDB as a more favorable option for investment and growth.

Agencies

## Zimbabwean president calls for international support to resolve debt issues

HARARE

ZIMBABWEAN President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Monday urged creditors and development partners to help the southern African country address its external debt, which is undermining economic development.

In his keynote address at the seventh high-level structured dialogue platform forum in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, Mnangagwa (pictured) said Zimbabwe had made tremendous progress in implementing economic, public sector, and governance reforms to pave the way

for the successful resolution of the country's 21 billion U.S. dollars debt, made up of 13 billion dollars in external debt and 8 billion dollars in domestic debt.

He said the successful implementation of the arrears clearance and debt resolution strategy is key for Zimbabwe to unlock new concessional external financing that is critical for achieving economic development.

"Since the establishment of the structured dialogue platform process in 2022, we have registered tremendous progress, with growing consensus,



trust, and confidence in this initiative," Mnangagwa said. "I call for the continued support of the international financial

institutions, development partners, our creditors, and the international community for the arrears clearance and debt resolution process."

The arrears clearance and debt resolution process is being championed by African Development Bank (AfDB) President Akinwumi Adesina while former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano is the high-level facilitator.

Mnangagwa reiterated Zimbabwe's commitment to the successful resolution of the arrears clearance and debt resolution process, pointing out that access

to external concessional financing will be key for long-term funding of the country's development projects.

He said to anchor the implementation of further economic reforms under the debt resolution process, the Zimbabwean government is currently negotiating a Staff Monitored Program (SMP) with the International Monetary Fund. Speaking at the same event, Adesina said the IMF staff mission is expected to prepare the framework for the SMP during its routine staff mission to Zimbabwe in January next year.

## China slams US military aircraft's transit of Taiwan Strait

BEIJING

A Chinese military spokesperson yesterday slammed the United States for sending a P-8A anti-submarine patrol aircraft to fly through the Tai-

wan Strait and then hype it up publicly.

Senior Colonel Cao Jun, spokesperson for the Eastern Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army, said the theater command

had deployed its naval and air forces to closely track, monitor, and issue warnings to the U.S. aircraft that had transgressed the strait, effectively responding to the situation.

Noting that the U.S. remarks have

distorted legal principles and misled international public opinion, he urged the United States to stop distorting and sensationalizing the issue and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability.

Xinhua

# China-Europe freight trains make 100,000 trips

AT 10:20 am on Nov. 15, the 100,000th China-Europe freight train, marked as X8083, departed from Tuanjiecun Station in southwest China's Chongqing municipality, and headed for Duisburg, Germany. It marked another milestone after the 90,000th was recorded in May.

Statistics show that the time required to dispatch 10,000 trains has been reduced from 90 months in the early days of operation to just 6 months today.

More than 1,000 years ago, the steady rhythm of camel caravans brought prosperity to the ancient Silk Road. Today, the roaring China-Europe freight trains have become the modern embodiment of cooperation and mutual benefit.

Over the past decade, the China-Europe freight train network has grown increasingly dense. In China, the network connects 125 cities with 93 regular train routes with a speed of 120 kilometers per hour. Internationally, it spans 25 European countries and 227 cities, as well as more than 100 cities in 11 Asian countries.

These "steel camel caravans" traverse continents, fostering trade connectivity and driving economic growth.

Operating weekly with seven outbound and six return trips, the trains maintain a balanced two-way flow. The 100,000 trains have transported more than 11 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of goods across Eurasia, with a total trade value exceeding \$420 billion and a catalog of over 53 major categories encompassing 50,000 distinct products.

German automobiles, Polish apples, Dutch cheese, Kazakh flour - more and more countries along the routes are benefiting from access to the Chinese market. For instance, in 2023, apple trade between Poland and China increased 23.2 percent year on year.

At the same time, the China-Europe freight trains have enabled faster and more cost-effective delivery of Chinese-made goods like electronics, home appliances, and



The 100,000th China-Europe freight train, coded X8083, waits for departing at the Tuanjiecun Station in Chongqing, southwest China, Nov. 15, 2024. The 100,000th China-Europe freight train departed from southwest China's Chongqing Municipality a significant milestone in the development of the service that facilitates economic and trade exchanges between China and Europe.

new energy vehicles to Central Asia and Europe, propelling Chinese manufacturing to global markets.

The China-Europe freight trains exemplify the appeal of openness and connectivity. Many Chinese inland cities

far from coastlines or borders have become new hubs of international trade thanks to the trains. For example, Chong-

qing has seen its export-oriented industries grow by an average of 30 percent annually due to the freight network. Similarly, Chengdu and Zhengzhou, capital cities of Sichuan province and Henan province, respectively, have transformed into key centers for import-export trade and modern international logistics.

Internationally, the trains have spurred the development of new logistics hubs, industrial zones, and trade centers, creating significant job opportunities. At Germany's Duisburg Port, the operation of China-Europe freight trains has attracted over 100 logistics companies, generating more than 20,000 jobs. In Poland, the Malaszewicze rail terminal has experienced exponential business growth thanks to the trains, which greatly boosted the local economy and social development.

Since its inception, the China-Europe freight train network has maintained safe, stable, and efficient operations, establishing a new framework for transcontinental transportation. It has created a robust platform for trade cooperation along its routes, ensured the stability of global industrial and supply chains, and injected fresh momentum into the world economy.

Connecting hundreds of cities and

navigating diverse railway regulations, the China-Europe freight trains are a result of China's commitment to high-level institutional opening up.

China has established a domestic China-Europe Transport Coordination Committee, and co-established a joint work team with six other countries to deepen cooperation on China-Europe freight rail services, in an attempt to facilitate "soft connectivity" of international railway rules.

Additionally, the collaboration between Chinese customs and railway authorities has led to the development of a "95306 digital port system," significantly enhancing customs efficiency and streamlining clearance processes.

Through continuous expansion of institutional opening up in areas such as rules, regulations, management, and standards, the China-Europe freight trains have elevated Eurasian connectivity to new heights.

From launching daily services across the Caspian Sea to increasing the number of scheduled trains, and to fostering deeper collaboration between the China-Europe freight trains and the China-Laos Railway, the network is constantly evolving. It is propelling high-level opening-up to deeper and more practical levels.

People's Daily



# SPORT

## Singida Black Stars suspend coaching duo, eye Gamondi as replacement

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SINGIDA Black Stars have suspended head coach Patrick Aussems and his assistant, Dennis Kitambi, following a string of disappointing results.

The club's announcement comes amid speculation linking them to former Young Africans (Yanga) coach Miguel Gamondi, who recently parted ways with the Premier League champions.

The decision was made public on Monday shortly after Singida's 2-2 draw with Tabora United in an NBC Premier League match played at the Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium.

In an official statement, the Singida Black Stars board of directors cited unsatisfactory performance as the primary reason for suspending the coaches.

Under Aussems and Kitambi, the team has played 11 matches, registering seven wins, two draws, and one loss. However, it was the team's failure to secure victory in three consecutive games that led to the board's decision.

"We would like to inform the public and our fans that the Board of Directors of Singida Black Stars has reached a decision to suspend coaches Patrick Aussems and Dennis Kitambi effective November 25, 2025," the club stated.

"The decision is based on the unsatisfactory conduct of our team in three consecutive matches, despite all efforts made to provide them with the necessary resources. During their absence, the team will be managed by Technical Director Ramadhani Nsanzurwimo as Head Coach, with Muhibu Kanu stepping in as Assistant Coach," the statement added.

While the club maintains that the decision to suspend Aussems and Kitambi is performance-related, rumours have intensified about their interest in Gamondi (pictured).

The Argentine tactician was relieved of his duties at Young Africans on November 15, 2024, following three consecutive winless games, despite leading the team to last season's Premier League title.

Sources within Singida Black Stars suggest that the club may already be positioning itself to secure Gamondi's services.

Despite the recent slump in form, Aussems' tenure at Singida Black Stars has not been entirely lacklustre. Under his guidance, the team has accumulated 24 points from 11 games, placing them fourth on the Premier League table.

They are level on points with Young Africans and



Azam FC, boasting a goal difference of +9, with 15 goals scored and six conceded.

However, the board's decision indicates that consistent results are a non-negotiable priority for the club, which has invested heavily in its squad and technical staff.

Gamondi is a highly respected coach with a wealth of experience in African football. During his time at Young Africans, he secured the Premier League title and guided the team to strong performances in continental competitions.

His track record and tactical acumen make him an attractive option for Singida as they aim to maintain their competitive edge in the Premier League.

As the team transitions under interim leadership, all eyes will be on how they navigate upcoming fixtures. The appointment of Gamondi, if it materializes, would signal Singida's ambition to compete at the highest level in Tanzanian football.

For now, the focus remains on stabilizing the team and regaining the form that saw them emerge as early contenders in the league.

With 24 points and a strong squad, Singida Black Stars still have much to play for in the Premier League.

However, their immediate challenge will be regaining consistency and proving that the recent coaching changes can propel them to greater heights.

## KenGold coach Kapilima confident despite challenging start to Premier League season

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DESPITE a difficult start to their maiden Premier League campaign, KenGold FC head coach Omary Kapilima remains optimistic about his team's prospects.

Currently at the bottom of the league table, with only one win in 12 matches, the team faces an uphill battle to avoid relegation.

KenGold's sole victory, a 1-0 triumph over JKT Tanzania on October 4, has been overshadowed by a string of disappointing results. However, Kapilima is adamant that his players' commitment and improvement in each game are signs of better performances ahead.

"We acknowledge that our results haven't been up to par. However, we're working hard to improve our performance. There are still many games to play, and anything can happen," Kapilima said.

The coach urged fans to remain patient, emphasizing that the league is far from over. He believes the team has the quality and determination to fight back and climb out of the relegation zone.

"The current results aren't ideal, but the league is far from over. We can start poorly but finish strong. We shouldn't lose hope, and those who are predicting our downfall should wait and see," he added.

Kapilima praised his squad's fighting spirit, particularly in recent matches like their hard-fought draw against Coastal Union.

"I'm impressed with the team's resilience. Against Coastal Union, we showed great character by equalizing and dominating possession. I believe we're moving in the right direction."

As the transfer window approaches, Kapilima noted that it's too early to make decisions about changes to the squad. He assured fans that any adjustments will depend on the team's needs and the availability of suitable players.

KenGold's journey in the Premier League remains challenging, but Kapilima's optimism and faith in his players provide a glimmer of hope for the team's survival.

Fans will be looking forward to seeing if the coach's confidence can translate into improved results on the pitch.



Gongo la Mboto soccer team players (in blue jersey) pictured recently fighting for the battle with Kitunda team players during their Third Division League qualifying match held at Kitunda Primary School grounds in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## SPORTS

## Tanzania draws tough group in 2024 WAFCON finals

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE draw for the 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) finals, held last week in Sale, Morocco, placed Tanzania in a challenging Group C alongside defending champions South Africa, perennial contenders Ghana, and tournament regulars Mali.

The tournament will run from July 5-26, 2025, in Morocco.

This is Tanzania's second appearance at the competition. The team debuted in 2010 in South Africa, where they were eliminated in the group stage without advancing. Now, with improved preparation and a cohesive squad, Tanzania has the opportunity to make a stronger impression on the continental stage.

The WAFCON finals will feature 12 teams divided into four groups. The top two teams from each group will automatically advance to the quarter-finals, while two third-placed teams with the best records will join them, making the group stage fiercely competitive.

Group C is arguably one of the toughest in the tournament, with South Africa as the favourites, Ghana bringing historical experience, and Mali as dark horses. Tanzania, while viewed as underdogs, has the potential to challenge for a spot in the knockout stages.

South Africa enters as the reigning champions, having won their maiden title at the 2022 WAFCON in Morocco. They defeated hosts Morocco 2-1 in a thrilling final. They boast one of the most experienced squads in the tournament. Their ability to maintain high-tempo football and tactical discipline makes them the team to beat in Group C.

Historically, Ghana is one of the more successful teams in WAFCON history, finishing as runners-up three times (1998, 2002, and 2006) and taking third place three times (1991, 1995, and 2016).

However, their recent performances have been underwhelming, failing to qualify for the 2022 edition. Key players like Jacqueline Owusu (Real Sociedad) have struggled for form and playing time, raising questions about the team's current strength.

Mali's best WAFCON performance came in 2018 when they reached the semi-finals and finished fourth. Despite having participated in seven editions, they lack consistency on the big stage.

Tanzania recently held Mali to a 2-2 draw in a friendly match, demonstrating that the gap between



Twiga Stars squad.

the teams may not be as wide as expected.

Mali's squad features several players from the Moroccan league, including Aicha Samake (Sports Casablanca), Fanta Konate, and Aichata Sangare.

Tanzania's national team, affectionately called Twiga Stars, is seen as underdogs in Group C. However, their resilience and improving performances in recent years suggest they can compete effectively.

The team will rely on the experience of players and their tactical cohesion under coach Bakari Shime to navigate the group stage. With two teams from Group C having the potential to advance as the best third-placed sides, Tanzania's chances of progression hinge on achieving favorable results against Ghana and Mali, while limiting damage against South Africa.

Hosts Morocco headline the Group A, which also includes Senegal, DR Congo, and Zambia.

Morocco, runners-up in 2022, will be aiming to leverage home advantage. Zambia, who secured third place in the last tournament, are also strong contenders.

Senegal reached the quarter-finals in 2022, while DR Congo, returning after missing the last two editions, has a promising squad with players from TP Mazembe's women's team, who recently impressed in the CAF Women's Champions League.

Group B features the record 11-time champions Nigeria, alongside Tunisia, Algeria, and Botswana. Nigeria remains the most dominant force in WAFCON history, but their loss in the

semi-finals to Morocco in 2022 showed vulnerabilities.

Tunisia and Botswana reached the quarter-finals in 2022, while Algeria is looking to return to form after missing the last edition.

One of the significant stakes in the 2024 WAFCON is qualification for the FIFA Women's World Cup. The top four teams in the tournament automatically earn spots in the global competition, while two additional teams can qualify via intercontinental playoffs.

For Tanzania, advancing to the knockout stage would bring them closer to achieving this historic milestone.

While South Africa looms as the toughest opponent in Group C, Tanzania's fixtures against Ghana and Mali are crucial. The team's recent draw against Mali in a friendly demonstrates their ability to compete with more seasoned sides. The key will be capitalizing on scoring opportunities while maintaining defensive discipline.

Preparation will also play a vital role. Early training camps, international friendlies, and tactical fine-tuning could give Twiga Stars the edge they need to advance.

As Tanzania embarks on this exciting journey, the odds may seem stacked against them, but the team has shown resilience and potential.

Success in this tournament would not only mark a significant milestone for Tanzanian women's football but could also inspire the next generation of players.

With the right mindset and preparation, Twiga Stars could make history in Morocco.

## TPA crowned 2024 SHIMMUTA champions in Tanga



Deputy Minister of State, Office of the President (Planning and Investment), Stanislaus Nyongo (2nd-L) hands over the victory trophy to Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) men's football team captain, Mathias Lyon, during the SHIMMUTA Games closing ceremony in Tanga, where TPA emerged overall champions. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MWENDAPOLE

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) have been crowned the overall champions of the 2024 SHIMMUTA Games, held in Tanga.

The tournament concluded with TPA teams dominating across multiple sports, marking their second consecutive year as overall champions.

The Deputy Minister of State, Office of the President (Planning and Investment), Stanislaus Nyongo, officially closed the competition and presented the awards.

TPA's basketball team clinched their fourth consecutive SHIMMUTA title by defeating NSSF in the final with a decisive 57-45 scoreline.

The TPA netball team continued their winning streak, securing their fourth straight championship by overcoming TMDA with a 53-43 victory in the finals.

Both the men's and women's football teams from TPA emerged winners in their categories. The women's team defeated TPDC, while the men's team triumphed over TBS in the finals. Both teams extended their championship streaks to

three consecutive years.

In athletics, TPA excelled in the 200-meter race, earning gold, while the senior team bagged silver in the 100-meter event.

Celine Simon showcased TPA's versatility by securing third place in the traditional game of 'draft.'

With outstanding performances across these events, TPA emerged as the overall winner of the 2024 SHIMMUTA Games, repeating their 2023 triumph in Dodoma.

This year's competition featured 96 teams from both public and private institutions.



## Salah selfish for contract comments - Carragher

MOHAMED Salah is "selfish" for publicly expressing his disappointment at Liverpool's failure to offer him a new contract, says former Reds defender Jamie Carragher.

Salah, whose current deal expires at the end of the season, told reporters after Sunday's win at Southampton that he is "probably more out than in" and has yet to be offered fresh terms.

The 32-year-old is Liverpool's top scorer this season with 12 goals in all competitions and scored twice against the Saints to move the club eight points clear at the top of the Premier League.

"I must say I am very disappointed with Mo Salah," Carragher told Sky Sports' Monday Night Football. "Liverpool have Real Madrid mid-week [in the Champions League] and Man City at the weekend. That's the story right now."

He added: "If he keeps putting comments out, his agent puts out cryptic messages, that is selfish. That is thinking about themselves and not the football club."

Liverpool have not publicly commented on Salah's remarks, but a club source told BBC Sport that contact between Liverpool and Salah's agent, Ramy Abbas Issa, is ongoing and has been positive.

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live's Monday Night Club, Chris Sutton said Salah's decision to approach reporters in the mixed zone to talk about his future suggests he wants to stay at Anfield.

"It wasn't one of those where Mo Salah was asked to talk, he actually made an approach and wanted to speak to a couple of press guys to

get things off his chest," said the former Blackburn and Chelsea striker. "So in that respect it says to me that he wants to stay."

The Athletic's Rory Smith added: "It strikes me that he is making it very clear to the Liverpool fans that he wants to stay and that if he doesn't end up staying that it's not really a lack of intent on his part."

"The problem will be his age. Liverpool will be looking at the vast data set you have of footballers over the last 20, 30 years, which suggests that at some point in your mid-30s your performances do dip. They will wonder whether it is worth committing £300,000 a week or so to a player who might only have another year at this level."

"Or maybe he will have another two years at this level? Or another five or six? That's the gamble Liverpool have to take."

As well as Salah, defender Trent Alexander-Arnold and club captain Virgil van Dijk are also out of contract at the end of the season.

"The most important thing for Liverpool Football Club this season isn't the future of Mo Salah, Virgil van Dijk and Trent Alexander-Arnold," added Carragher. "The most important thing is Liverpool winning the Premier League."

"I hope they don't feel like this club would fall apart if they left. Steven Gerrard left the club and the next manager won the Premier League. Graeme Souness left and Liverpool won the Double."

"Salah, would we miss him? Of course we would. But Liverpool will move on."

**BBC**

## West Ham win at Newcastle to ease pressure on Lopetegui

### NEWCASTLE, ENGLAND

WEST Ham United eased the pressure on new manager Julen Lopetegui with a surprise 2-0 victory away to in-form Newcastle United in the Premier League on Monday.

Thomas Soucek gave West Ham the lead in the 10th minute with a header and the visitors reached halftime still in front despite the hosts having a succession of good chances.

Newcastle began the second half on top but were rocked on their heels when Aaron Wan-Bissaka broke forward to fire West Ham's second after 53 minutes – his first goal for the club.

West Ham grew in confidence and thoroughly deserved their best victory of what has been a disappointing season so far under Spaniard Lopetegui. They remain 14th place with 15 points while Newcastle are in 10th place with 18 points.

Former Spain and Real Madrid manager Lopetegui's style of play has struggled to win over West Ham's fans and two poor performances before the international break left his side only three points above the relegation zone.

Some media reports suggested Lopetegui was two games from losing his job but the his side responded with an energetic display and clinical display to send the away fans home happy.

"I said we needed a performance before the game and I said we needed to go out and show it and I think we did that," West Ham captain Jarrod Bowen said.

"Newcastle always score at home so to keep a clean sheet and score twice. We had to be brave. I think this was more like the level that it takes to play for this club. I think this is a really big turning point in the season."

Had Newcastle not had an early goal by Alexander Isak ruled out for offside, it could have been a tough night for West Ham.

But shortly afterwards, Soucek was left completely unmarked in a crowded penalty area to plant a header into the goal from a corner and West Ham were immediately galvanised.

Newcastle, who had won three successive games in all competitions, should have levelled with Sean Longstaff heading a decent chance straight at West Ham keeper Lukasz Fabianski and Lewis Hall driving a shot across the face of the goal.

While Isak volleyed a chance just wide after great work by Bruno Guimaraes, West Ham's second goal took the sting completely out of the hosts. Wan-Bissaka made a powerful run forward from deep and was played in on goal by Bowen's astute pass before placing his shot past Nick Pope and in off the post.

Newcastle failed to muster much of a response as they missed the chance to move into sixth place.

"We were the dominant team at halftime and the game would have been very different if we had equalised in the first half," Newcastle manager Eddie Howe said.

**REUTERS**

## Toney promises to give his all for Al-Ahli after Asian Champions League double

IVAN Toney has vowed to build on his two-goal showing for Al-Ahli in the Asian Champions League Elite on Monday as the former Brentford striker looks to overcome an inconsistent start to life with the Saudi Pro League side.

Toney came off the bench to score twice in four minutes in Al-Ahli's 2-1 win over Al-Ain as the Saudi side secured their place in the knockout rounds of the continental championship.

The goals were Toney's first in five appearances in the competition and come after the 28-year-old spent the last two league games out of coach Matthias Jaissle's starting line-up.

"The promise is that I want to give my all in every game," said Toney, who joined Al-Ahli in August for a reported 40 million pounds (\$50 million) and has scored six times in 14 matches in all competitions since his move.

"It's not been the best start by myself but I know that, I understand that. I understand the pressure on my shoulders. I've been there before and I've got through it and I'm sure I'll do that this time."

**REUTERS**

# 'As open as it has ever been' - is this the tightest Premier League?

BY ANDY CRYER

"THE Premier League is as open as it has ever been."

After helping West Ham to a stunning 2-0 win at Newcastle on Monday, Jarrod Bowen's words summed up England's top flight perfectly.

Before the match, the Hammers were being talked about as in a relegation fight. Now they are just eight points off second place and eyeing Europe.

Apart from runaway leaders Liverpool, the race for Europe in the Premier League has never been tighter.

There is just one point separating second to fifth - the smallest the gap has ever been at this stage of the season. The previous low after 12 matches was two points, which had only happened three other times.

Looking further down the table and the gap between second to 10th is just five points, which is the joint lowest after 12 matches. It has happened only twice previously.

The gap between second to West Ham in 14th is just eight points - which has been matched only once previously - although the Hammers are now four points clear of the bottom six.

Former Arsenal winger Theo Walcott told Sky Sports: "Everyone is beating everyone. You just can't predict any results now. The league is more unpredictable than ever."

Ex-Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher added: "That win has created a group of six at the bottom and maybe three of those six will now go."

"That was a bad one for Newcastle. A win and they would have been right in the mix. There are so many teams so close together, who will be looking at those European places."

"How many teams qualify for Europe?



Just one point separates Manchester City in second and Brighton in fifth [Getty Images]

English clubs are guaranteed four places in the Champions League next season but will be hopeful of gaining an extra spot, given to two countries with the strongest performances in this season's European competitions.

There will be then two English teams in the Europa League next campaign. One place given to the fifth or sixth-placed teams - depending on how many teams qualify for the Champions League - and one for the winner of the FA Cup. That place will revert to the league though if the FA Cup winner has already qualified for Europe.

The winners of the Carabao Cup would then qualify for the Europa Conference League but, again if they have already secured a place in Europe, that spot would be for the next highest-ranked team in the Premier League.

As you can see there is plenty to play for.

"Why is Premier League so tight? How long is a piece of string? It is one of those questions that feels impossible to answer definitively but one thing you can say is a lot of teams have been inconsistent."

Between second to 12th, Manchester City, Arsenal, Brighton, Fulham and Newcastle are the only sides who have won back-to-back games more than once all season, while nine of them have at some point gone three games without a win.

Many of the teams we would be expecting to be challenging for a Champions League place have underperformed this season.

Manchester City, Arsenal, Tottenham, Aston Villa, Newcastle and Manchester United all have fewer points at this stage than they did last campaign.

Aston Villa, in the Champions League this season, have one win in seven but are still only four points off second. Chelsea, in third, have two wins in six, and fourth-placed Arsenal have one in five. Manchester City have lost their past three and remain second.

Meanwhile, it would be fair to argue that Brighton, Nottingham Forest and Fulham are overachieving compared with many people's expectations, with their points tally significantly better than at this stage last season.

Just five teams have won three matches in a row - Liverpool, Manchester City, Chelsea, Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest.

As we enter the busiest period of the season, there will be a lot of teams still fancying their chances of making a push for Europe.

**BBC**

## For Pep Guardiola, there is only one solution to ending Manchester City's crisis

BY RICHARD JOLLY

MANY an adjective has been applied to Pep Guardiola's all-conquering Manchester City over the years. Chaotic, it is safe to say, has not been one of them. Until Kevin De Bruyne started recounting the scenes around the Etihad Campus of late.

"I would say it's been a bit chaotic," said the vice-captain. "I've seen so many people pass around the medical area: sports science, who's playing, who's not playing. There's been people who shouldn't be playing but they did anyway, even with an injury."

There have been people who have played badly. The names and faces have been the same but they have not been City; not as we have known them. Lacking control, losing when they used to win, being on the receiving end of 4-1 and 4-0 scorelines.

They are no strangers to 100 per cent records. Now they have the wrong sort: five defeats in their last five games. It is safe to say Guardiola will not win November's manager-of-the-month award; not when he is the lone manager without a Premier League point in it.

City's last chance of salvaging something from a dreadful month comes against Feyenoord in the Champions League. "Right now, every opponent is tough for us," shrugged Guardiola. "It doesn't matter which we are going to play."

This is a new experience for him. He was defiant and defensive, loyal as well as philosophical. "This too shall pass," he said. If it will, too, and perhaps at home to Feyenoord on Tuesday, there is a broader question about whether City can recapture past glories. And that, in turn, reflects the levels they reached.

They are still, as Guardiola noted, second in the Premier League; the 2023 winners are 10th in the Champions League, although three victories from their next four European games should send them directly into the last 16.

But Guardiola conceded: "Are we



ready to win the Premier League? No. We have to win one game and after win the next one." They need that first victory before they can contemplate a lengthy winning run. For just the second time in his reign, they might not be champions.

"By our standards, it will be a bad season," said Guardiola. "We come from there [top] so we can only go down if we lose. It is nice. I think we deserve some patience when we lose games. It will not be a big mess. You are defending a legacy, tradition, success and that is so difficult to handle."

That legacy makes City's slide so remarkable. Guardiola seemed immune to such collapses. There were reasons to feel they may not have happened until after he left. He could have protected his own legacy by walking away; any subsequent difficulties would have been

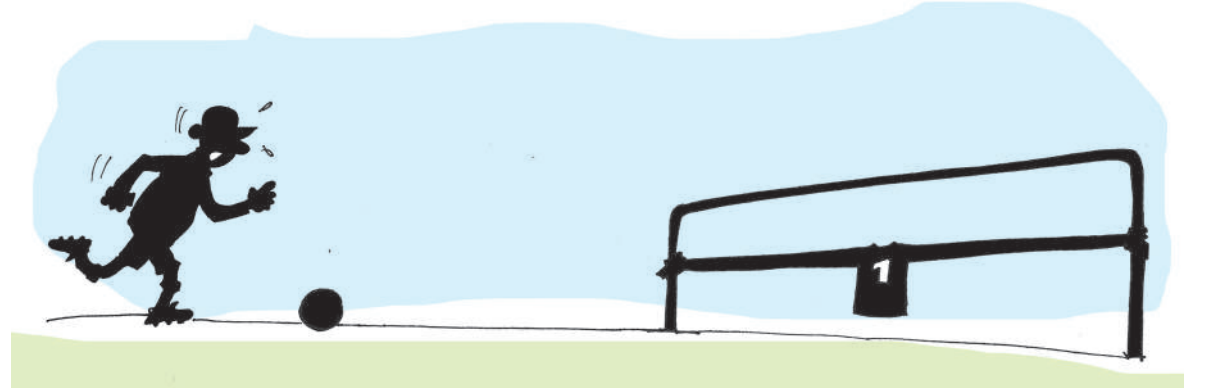
attributed to his successor.

When City struggled in his debut season in England, the mitigating factor was that many of the players were not his signings, or attuned to or suitable for his methods. Now it is his seemingly superb side: until a few weeks ago, unbeaten in 32 league games, until a few days ago, undefeated in 52 home matches.

"Tell me one team in the world that cannot drop a little bit after being beyond exceptional over many years," said Guardiola. "I want to defend what we have done because I know these guys but I never blame one player. They are not stupid, they know exactly our reality but there are a lot of minimal factors that make a difference."

He referenced injuries, missed chances, the saves of opposing goalkeepers like Tottenham's Guglielmo Vicario. He refuted the idea his team were too old.

**Gwiji** by David Chikoko





# SPORT

'As open as it has ever been' - is this the tightest Premier League?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Simba's African quest begins with Angolan challenge

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe



SIMBA will get their CAF Confederation Cup group stage campaign underway with a home fixture against Angolan side Bravos do Maquis at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium this afternoon.

The Msimbazi Reds were demoted to the second tier of African football on account of their third-placed NBC Premier League finish last term, however this is familiar territory as they participated in the same competition three years ago.

Simba have made an impressive start to the 2024/25 campaign, which is something that should create plenty of confidence in the group heading into this match.

Head coach Fadlu Davids (pictured) has got his team playing high-quality attacking football so far, with no other team in the Premier League having scored more goals than Simba, which is something that could prove to be a major advantage for them heading into this fixture.

Last season, Simba managed to navigate their way out of a tricky CAF Champions League group, however, they ended up being knocked out in the next round by eventual champions Al Ahly.

That gives Davids' team plenty of scope to improve upon this time around, but first they will need to progress from Group A, which also features Constantine and CS Sfaxien from Algeria and Tunisia respectively.

Addressing the media at yesterday's pre-match press conference, the Simba boss passionately insisted that he was confident about his squad's preparations and prospects for the game.

"I think our preparations have gone well. We have just come off from travelling to Mwanza. We had four days to prepare. Of course, prior to the FIFA international break we were already thinking about Bravo because that was our next match until the Pamba game came into question where our focus changed," he said.

Jean Charles Ahoua, who arrived from Ivorian side Stella Club in July, will be determined to transfer his impressive form onto the continental stage after netting five goals across and four assists in ten league games with Simba.

Bravos do Maquis, meanwhile, are competing in the group stage of the CAF Confederation Cup for the first time in their history, so this encounter will be a huge moment for the Angolan outfit.

They played out a goalless draw with Academica do Lobito on Saturday in the Angolan Girabola league. That result followed another stalemate with Lunda Sul, meaning the visitors head into this showdown on a three-game winless run.

The attacking side of their game is a cause for concern which was in their last five games when they managed to score just two goals.

Despite their lack of goals across those two matches the team have had no problem defending their net, keeping clean sheets three times across their last four fixtures.

“

*I think our preparations have gone well. We have just come off from travelling to Mwanza. We had four days to prepare. Of course, prior to the FIFA international break we were already thinking about Bravo because that was our next match until the Pamba game came into question where our focus changed*

### Confident Simba welcome Bravos do Maquis for group stage thriller

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club will kick off their CAF Confederation Cup group stage campaign today against Angola's Bravos do Maquis.

The match, set for 4:00 PM at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, promises an intense encounter with fans eagerly anticipating the action.

Simba enter this critical fixture in exceptional form, riding high on a five-match winning streak across all competitions.

Their recent victories include triumphs over Tanzania Prisons (1-0), Namungo (3-0), Mashujaa FC (1-0), KMC (4-0), and Pamba Jiji (1-0). This run has showcased a resolute defense and an efficient attack, boosting the team's confidence as they aim to make a strong statement on the continental stage.

Head coach Fadlu Davids expressed optimism about his team's readiness during a pre-match press conference.

"So far, I feel confident that we're ready. We're excited to be part of a challenging group and recognize that we're up against a strong team in this opening match. For our fans and the club, it's crucial to start on a positive note. We anticipate a tough yet thrilling encounter and hope to deliver a performance worthy of a packed Benjamin Mkapa Stadium," he said.

Davids emphasized the importance of perfecting set pieces and refining attacking movements during the final training sessions.

Simba's preparations received a boost with the return of key players from injury. Midfielder Yusuph Kagoma, who had been sidelined since the October 19 match against archrivals Young Africans, is fully recovered and has been actively participating in training sessions at the Mo Arena in Bunju.

Kagoma's return adds a creative spark to Simba's attacking options.

Midfielder Joshua Mutale, who sustained an injury during Zambia's national team training for the AFCON qualifiers, has also rejoined the squad after successful treatment.

Mutale's availability is expected to add depth and versatility to Simba's midfield.

Additionally, Abdurazack Hamza, who made a second-half appearance in Simba's recent 1-0 win over Pamba Jiji, is now fully fit and ready for selection.

Both Kagoma and Hamza, who have not started a match since October 19, are primed to make meaningful contributions in today's clash.

Simba face a challenging opponent in Bravos do Maquis, a team renowned for their physicality and disciplined approach. The Angolan side is expected to test Simba's tactical and technical abilities in what promises to be an enthralling contest.

Simba, however, bring a rich history in continental competitions and will be looking to leverage their experience, home advantage, and the fervent support of their fans to secure a positive result.

Drawn into a competitive group which also involve Constantine and CS Sfaxien from Algeria and Tunisia respectively, Simba will aim to start their campaign strongly and set the tone for the remaining matches.

A win today would not only boost morale but also solidify their ambitions of advancing to the knockout stages.

As the clock ticks closer to kick-off, all eyes will be on Simba's performance in what could be a defining moment in their quest for continental glory.

“

*So far, I feel confident that we're ready. We're excited to be part of a challenging group and recognize that we're up against a strong team in this opening match. For our fans and the club, it's crucial to start on a positive note. We anticipate a tough yet thrilling encounter and hope to deliver a performance worthy of a*

## Al Hilal sink Yanga 2-0 in CAF Champions League showdown

By Guardian Correspondent

TWO second-half goals secured Al Hilal a crucial 2-0 victory over Young Africans (Yanga) in their CAF Champions League Group A encounter yesterday at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The Sudanese giants broke the deadlock in the 62nd minute when Adama Coulibaly maneuvered past Ibrahim Bacca inside the 16-yard box and slotted the ball through goalkeeper Djigui Diarra's legs.

Al Hilal sealed their victory in the 89th minute with a stunning counter-attack. Substitute Yassir Moazmir sprinted 65 meters to clinically finish past Diarra, putting the game beyond Young Africans' reach.

The defeat marked Young Africans' third consecutive loss across all competitions, following their back-to-back NBC Premier League losses to Azam FC (1-0) and Tabora United (3-0) before the international break.

Young Africans had early chances to take control of the game. In the 8th minute, Prince Dube nearly scored after a brilliant through pass from Stephano Aziz Ki, but Al Hilal's goalkeeper Issa Fofana made a critical intervention.

Al Hilal threatened in the 34th minute when M. Abderahman's shot went wide, while Fofana produced a superb save in the 40th minute, punching away Aziz Ki's free kick from 30 meters.

The second half saw Young Africans pushing hard for an equalizer. Aziz Ki's header in the 55th minute, following a cross from Nickson Kibabage, was saved by Fofana.

The closest Young Africans came to scoring was in the 76th minute when substitute Kenneth Musonda's effort was denied by the crossbar.

This result added to the woes of newly appointed head coach Sead Ramovic. The former TS Galaxy tactician, who took charge during the international break, witnessed a baptism of fire in his first game with the reigning Premier League champions.

Ramovic inherited a team reeling from poor form under his predecessor Miguel Gamondi.

The loss highlighted the scale of the challenge ahead for the Serbian coach as he seeks to stabilize



Young Africans attacking midfielder Stephano Aziz Ki pictured yesterday negotiating his way past an Al Hilal defender during their CAF Champions League Group A match held at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

Young Africans' campaign domestically and continentally.

The defeat also brought back bitter memories for Young Africans fans, as Al Hilal eliminated their team from the CAF Champions League three years ago.

With three losses on the trot, Young Africans must regroup quickly as they look to salvage their season.

The team faces a tough road ahead in both the domestic league and the Champi-

ons League.

In another Group A's match held yesterday in Kinshasa, TP Mazembe and MC Alger ended in a goalless draw.

#### Young Africans' Starting XI:

Djigui Diarra, Kouassi Yao, Nickson Kibabage, Dickson Job (captain), Ibrahim Hamad Bacca, Duke Abuye, Maxi Nzegeli, Mudhathir Yahya, Prince Dube, Stephano Aziz Ki, Pacome Azouzoua.

### Flexibles by David Chikoko

