



## MORAL



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## EDUCATION



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# Human rights team ready to take up cases of abductions

*"CHRAGG has realised the need to conduct special investigations on the matter following several reports by different stakeholders"*

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) is finalising arrangements to institute an investigation into cases of abductions and disappearances in upwards of 15 regions.

Judge Mathew Mwaimu, the CHRAGG chairman, said at a press conference here yesterday that the commission has re-

ceived numerous reports of disappearances from different sources, asking those with helpful information to make it available to the commission.

The wide ranging investigation will involve some 80 reported cases in 30 districts, with preparations more or less finalised for investigations to start, whereby investigators will be on the ground for

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Mwanza city residents line up yesterday to have their personal particulars in the national Permanent Voters' Register updated. It is an ongoing countrywide drive which, for Mwanza and Shinyanga regions, began this Wednesday and will continue for seven days. Photo courtesy of Independent National Electoral Commission



## EAC business forum, officers extol intra-trade

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

INTER trade among East African Community member states stands to thrive if the private sector in the region appeals to consumers to "Buy East African, Build East Africa."

Veronica Nduva (pictured), the EAC secretary general, issued this appeal here yesterday at a roundtable for chief executive officers of major companies grouped in the East African Business Council (EABC).

The EABC CEOs-Secretary General Round Table was organised under the theme, of boosting intra-EAC trade and investment by unlocking barriers and leveraging opportunities.

The roundtable was organised in partnership with the German investment agency GIZ operating in the zone, plus sponsorship by the Isuzu motor vehicle giant, the Tanzania Cigarette Co. (TTC) plc, Stanbic Bank, Groupe EIS-EKA based in Bujumbura and the Tanzania Breweries Ltd (TBL).

The secretariat administrator highlighted the significant strides made by the EAC, including the streamlining of clearance processes under the single customs territory arrangement.

The centralised platform is intended

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## TRA reaffirms professionalism, standards in revenue collection

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has assured taxpayers of its commitment to upholding high standards of professionalism in tax law enforcement and addressing grievances, including concerns related to the issuance of agency notices.

Yusuph Mwenda, the commissioner general, outlined procedural priorities at a large taxpayer's relationship meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday, seeking to find ways to balance maintaining revenue collection levels with addressing taxpayer

complaints.

He assured participants that they could expect professionalism and fairness from TRA officers, emphasizing that efforts would be made to curb victimization in tax collection.

The commissioner general, who was shifted from heading ZRA, the Zanzibar equivalent took office last month, succeeding Alphayo Kidata. He assumed the role amid a chaotic dialogue between Treasury and the business community, backed by a range of foreign envoys.

"We promise to provide the best ser-

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## ONE OF TANZANIA'S MANY 'UN Sung' NATURAL WONDERS...



Foreign tourists find time to admire and enjoy the natural beauty around the Materuni Waterfalls at Uru West ward's Materuni village in Moshi Rural District, Kilimanjaro Region, earlier this week. The waterfalls are widely acclaimed as among the most breathtaking natural wonders nestled in the lush landscapes of northern Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

## China, Tanzania experts scanning blue economy

*China has been in the lead for top 10 foreign investment sources from 1997 to 2024, with 1,360 projects valued at \$11.5bn*

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TANZANIA is seeking stronger collaboration with China in industrialisation and agriculture to foster the blue economy as it prepares its vision beyond 2025.

Prof Kitila Mkumbo, the Planning and Investment state minister in the President's Office, made this observation at a forum for shared development among Chinese and local economists in the commercial capital yesterday.

The initiative also comes as the two parties warm up for the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) scheduled September 4th-5th this year and the 60th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations.

He said China's dedication to investment in the country has been more practical than a diplomatic wish, with an enhanced commitment to invest in the agricultural and industrial sectors.

"With Chinese investors, we discuss opportunities and how to exploit them. Not too much about challenges and problems," he said, implying there is reduced scope for policy disputes with Chinese stakeholders, in which case China is industrializing Africa and Tanzania, a milestone for development efforts.

China has been there to provide critical strategic support when it was needed, and at present as Africa wants to industrialize, "the surest way to employ our young people, once again China is there," he stated.

A Chinese investor is putting up the largest industrial park in eastern Africa in

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**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PRE-QUALIFICATION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF CAR LIFTERS AND TYRE CHANGERS**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Geita Gold Mining Limited (“The Company”), a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti (“AGA”) is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5 km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of prequalifying Service Providers for Inspection and Repair of Car Lifters and Tyre Changers and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible applicants to submit Expressions of Interest for this service as detailed below.

**NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE. SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.**

Scope of Service:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01881	INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF CAR LIFTERS AND TYRE CHANGERS

**II. INFORMATION REQUIRED**

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>
Company Profile and Updated Organogram
Company Code of Conduct and Ethics
Copy of Current Business License
Copy of Certificate of Incorporation, the most recent BRELA search, and the latest BRELA application of annual return.
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VRN certificate
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association
Compliance with Mining Act-Approved Local Content Plan.
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION &amp; TERMS OF TRADE</b>
Applicants audited financial statements for the latest three years.
All bank statements of the Applicants active bank accounts for the past 6 months to date
<b>SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS</b>
OSHA Compliance Certificate
Copy of Workers' Compensation Fund Certificate
Environmental compliance certificate
Safety and Environmental policy
<b>OTHER POLICIES</b>
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labor
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment
Grievance Procedure
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Program
<b>PAST EXPERIENCE</b>
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients
<b>TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01881)</b>
Service warranty letter not less than 3 months
Reference PO's or invoices as evidence of experience on inspection and repair of car lifters and tyre changer.
Provide qualification certificates of Technicians/engineers who will perform inspection and repair of car lifters
Certificate of accreditation to do inspection & repair of lifting equipment including car lifters under national or international standards
<b>TOTAL</b>

III. Interested Applicants must quote “**GGME01881 – INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF CAR LIFTERS AND TYRE CHANGERS**” on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** for submission of Letters of Interest (“LOI”). Letters of Interest must indicate the Applicant's full name, contact details, and name of the principal contact.

IV. All LOIs and supporting documentation (in PDF format) must be submitted to the Company via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) without copying any individual from the Company. Submission must not be later than **8.30 AM (EAT) on the 6th September 2024**, (the “LOI” Submission Deadline”). EOI submissions should not exceed 150MB per email. In case the size of the email with attachments exceeds 150MB, applicants must split the submissions into multiple emails.

V. Shortlisted Applicants will be notified within forty-five (45) calendar days from the submission deadline. Applicants not contacted within the forty-five (45) calendar days should consider themselves unsuccessful.



Sophia Mjema (L), President Samia Suluhu Hassan's adviser on women's affairs, pictured with Manyara regional commissioner Queen Sendiga (2nd-L) at yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam of the Mama Samia Economic Strengthening Programme, which is implemented by the National Economic Empowerment Council. Second right is the council's executive secretary, Beng'i Issa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# China takes lead in Tanzania's registered investment projects

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA continues to see a rise in registered investment projects as it recorded 490 projects worth about \$4billion in the first seven months of this year, with China taking the lead.

The Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) said this in its latest data released on Tuesday.

According to the TIC, 490 investment projects were registered from January to July, with agriculture leading with the number of registered projects, creating 163,356 jobs in total, compared to 267 projects worth \$2.6billion registered during the similar period a year ago, with

39,230 jobs created.

The projects were on agriculture, construction of commercial buildings, energy, economic infrastructure, financial institutions, human resources, manufacturing, mining and petroleum, services, telecommunications, tourism and transportation, said the TIC.

China continued to lead in the top 10 foreign investment countries from 1997 to 2024, with 1,360 projects worth \$11.5 billion, creating 155,596 jobs. It was followed by the United Kingdom, the United States, Mauritius, India, Kenya, Vietnam, Australia, Egypt and Nigeria, according to the TIC.

Tausi Kida, permanent secretary in the President's Office responsible

for Planning and Investment once said that China remains one of leading sources of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Tanzania, which significantly contributes to the country's development.

Kida said the top five sectors for the projects were manufacturing, commercial building, agriculture, transportation and services.

Angelina Ngalula, chairperson of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) also said that Tanzania has made significant strides in improving investment climate, culminating in tangible achievements, including attraction of more than \$11billion in projects led by Chinese investments, creating more than 114,726 jobs.



## VACANCY

### HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER (DAR ES SALAAM)

**Job Summary:**

The HR Officer will oversee human resources functions, ensuring compliance with Labor laws and regulations, and administration support to the organization. This role involves managing HR policies, handling complex employee relations issues, and offering advice on various business matters.

The successful candidate will report to the Integrated Office Manager

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Develop and implement HR policies and procedures in alignment with legal requirements.
- Collaborate with the Finance Department to ensure employee information is accurate when issuing payroll.
- Manage recruitment, onboarding, training and employee performance management processes.
- Handle complex employee relations issues and provide solutions.
- Address staff grievances and assist in handling disciplinary issues.
- Ensure compliance with labor laws and regulations, including work & residence permits.
- Provide advice on employment contracts, company policies, and compliance issues.
- Oversee HR documentation and maintain accurate records.
- Conduct HR audits and recommend improvements.

**Requirements Knowledge And Experience**

- Bachelor's degree in Human Resources, or related field (Master's preferred).
- Minimum 5 years of experience in HR role, preferably in Mining Industry.
- Strong knowledge of labor laws and regulations.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to work effectively in a multicultural environment.
- Ability to handle confidential information with integrity.
- ability to work under pressure.
- Familiar with the recruitment of Mining industry workers.

**How to Apply**

Applicants are invited to send their resumes indicating the role title in the subject via mail [nyati@strandline.com.au](mailto:nyati@strandline.com.au)

Application closing time is **17:00 28 August 2024**.

**Note:** We are committed to provide equal employment opportunities based on capabilities and qualifications and we do not charge candidates.







Fatima Sullivan (C), the DHL Express regional director for southern and eastern Africa, has a word with the firm's manager for Tanzania, Humphrey Pule, during the CEOs breakfast roundtable hosted by firm in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Left is commercial manager Thierry Ayishashe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

### Over 600 youths receive certificates at Kizimkazi Festival for raft of skills

By Correspondent Halfan Chusi

A TOTAL of 607 youth have been awarded certificates in fishery, livestock keeping, tourism, agriculture, arts and crafts as well as Entrepreneurship University of Iringa (UoI) at the Kizimkazi Festival in Zanzibar. The eight-day festival which started on August 18 in Unguja South District has attracted a number of stakeholders who provided training to youth meant to improve their skills for employability. UoI Vice-Chancellor Prof Edward Hoseah awarded the certificates in his capacity as chief supervisor of the training. According to a statement released by UoI yesterday, the youth received their certificates on Tuesday when President Samia Suluhu Hassan graced the event. The statement said in addition to receiving certificates, the youth will continue to be supported and their progress assessed to monitor how effectively the Kizimkazi Festival benefits the society. The youth have also been promised further support if they require additional capital and

expertise in their fields. The advisory said the UoI has been a leader in providing entrepreneurial education and hands-on training in the Southern Highlands through its entrepreneurship centre which leads a programme called Team Academy. "This programme teaches youth business techniques, supports them to implement their innovative business ideas under the guidance of expert tutors," reads the statement. According to the advisory, the programme attracted youth from various areas who successfully turned their innovative ideas into real businesses. Dr Lilian Badi, UoI council chair, thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for being a dedicated leader who effectively participates in building the capacity of the people. The festival, which will go until Sunday, plays a significant role in attracting tourists to Zanzibar. "This programme teaches youth business techniques, supports them to implement their innovative business ideas under the guidance of expert tutors"

### Namibia to become Africa's biggest oil producer by 2035

WINDHOEK

NAMIBIA is on track to become one of Africa's leading oil producers by 2035, potentially producing more than half a million barrels of oil per day, an official said on Wednesday. This development could see the country displace Egypt from the top five oil producers on the continent, Ebson Uanguta, interim managing director of the National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR), said this while speaking at the Namibia Oil and Gas Conference in Windhoek, the country's capital. Uanguta revealed that recent discoveries in the Orange Basin have positioned Namibia as a significant new player in Africa's energy sector. "With four floating production storage and offloading units deployed by 2035, we could be producing more than half a million barrels per day of oil equivalent," he said. This level of production would place Namibia among Africa's top oil producers, alongside countries such as Nigeria, Angola, and Libya, he added. Currently, Egypt produces about 500,000 barrels per day, a figure Namibia could surpass if all planned projects reach their production peaks. The potential increase in output is driven by accelerated exploration and development activities and supported by advanced deep-water technologies, Uanguta said. These efforts are expected to boost Namibia's oil output and contribute to the country's economic growth. Uanguta added that NAMCOR remains optimistic about the sector's future, with more exploration and appraisal activities scheduled for 2024 and 2025.

### Chinese products spark rise in digital entrepreneurs in Kenya

NAIROBI

ELIJAH Mwandawire's eyes have been fixed on his mobile phone for the past 30 minutes, captivated by the plot line of the latest drama series on Chinese pay television company StarTimes. The 34-year-old businessman is a devoted subscriber to the streaming service, which allows him to watch both local shows and Kung fu movies on demand. His love for martial arts movies was ignited by his desire to remain fit, inspired by his favourite action star, Jackie Chan. Mwandawire's attention to the mobile screen is occasionally interrupted by a phone call from a client ordering a smart TV from his digital store, which operates through the Chinese e-commerce platform Kilimall, based in Nairobi. The father of two flips through his Vivo phone as he confirms an order from a customer and dispatches the device via a Dayun motorbike - both Chinese brands well-regarded in Kenya. Mwandawire joins a long list of Kenyans whose lives have been positively transformed thanks to products made in China that are now readily available locally. He said that his affinity for Chinese products began 10 years ago when he was laid off from his job as a sales representative at a leading telecom service provider. At that time, many smartphone brands were beyond his financial reach, but he found Chinese brands to be budget-friendly. His first mobile phone was a Tecno, purchased with savings he had accumulated from years of formal employment. "Ever since then, all my phones have been Chinese brands because they have all the latest features at an affordable pocket-friendly price," Mwandawire added. His smartphone not only helps him manage his e-commerce business but also keeps him connected with friends and family through various social media apps.

KCB BANK Tariff Guide. A detailed financial table listing services such as Statements, ATM VISA Debit Card, Credit Card Fees, Standing Order, Cheques, TT's International, Local to Transfers, A/C Closure, Other Services, and Salary Processing, with columns for TZS, USD/EURO, KES, and GBP.

Advertisement for KCB Bank featuring a Visa credit card and the slogan 'Pay conveniently with your KCB card - no extra fees!'. It includes contact information for Lulu Shikonyi and Juma Abdul, and social media icons for Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram.





# Innovating for sustainability: Local businesses lead charge towards a sustainable and net-zero future

By Henry Mwangonde

**T**HE logistics and supply chain sector is among the four priority climate change mitigation sectors that currently contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Tanzania.

The logistics and supply chain sector, including transportation, warehousing, and distribution, is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, particularly CO<sub>2</sub>. Reducing these emissions can significantly impact overall emissions.

Improving energy efficiency within the supply chain, such as better warehouse management, energy-efficient buildings, and equipment, contributes to lower energy consumption and, consequently, fewer emissions.

Tanzania's nationally determined contribution (NDC) commitment document notes that reducing emissions in these sectors will enable the country to embark on a low-emission growth pathway while achieving the desired sustainable development.

The sector can adopt greener transportation methods, such as rail over road, and incentivize the use of biofuels or electric trucks, reducing the carbon footprint associated with moving goods.

Globally, the logistics sector has also seen transformative shifts towards sustainable practices. These approaches prioritise the use of renewable energy sources, fuel-efficient transportation, and waste reduction.

Given its extensive reach and impact on almost every other industry, the logistics and supply chain sector has a significant opportunity and responsibility to contribute to global climate



Nikesh Mehta, CEO of Suhara

change mitigation efforts.

Key strategies include optimising routes, reducing empty miles, and integrating eco-friendly materials into packaging and transportation methods.

Adopting renewable energy sources is central to achieving a sustainable future in logistics. Technologies such as electric vehicles, solar-powered warehouses, and wind energy offer clean, abundant alternatives to traditional fossil fuels.

By reducing reliance on finite resources and cutting greenhouse gas emissions, these technologies help mit-

igate environmental degradation.

Tanzania, like many other countries, is grappling with the challenge of balancing economic growth with environmental responsibility.

In recent years, the country's carbon emissions have fluctuated but increased overall. As of 2020, Tanzania emitted 0.18 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita, a slight decrease from the previous year's 0.21 metric tons.

Although Tanzania contributed only 0.31 percent of global emissions in 2019, it has committed through its NDC to reducing GHG emissions economy-wide by 30 to 35 per cent relative to the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario by 2030.

This commitment means that Tanzania aims to lower its projected emissions by this percentage compared to what they would be if no additional climate action were taken.

Government support is crucial for creating an environment that enables us to meet these ambitious targets. Regulatory frameworks and fiscal policies that address barriers to private investment in adaptation and resilience are necessary to enable private capital to actively contribute to financing national and local priorities.

A collaborative and coordinated approach to developing, financing, and executing priority adaptation investments, driven by national goals and investment plans, can help accelerate and scale up private investment to meet the needs of climate-vulnerable

communities and economies.

In Tanzania, businesses are increasingly adopting sustainable practices, contributing to the national effort to curb emissions and climate impact.

A prime example is Suhara, formerly known as Prime Fuels. The company is at the forefront of reducing carbon footprints through strategic technological upgrades and operational efficiencies in the logistics sector.

Nikesh Mehta, CEO of Suhara, highlighted the company's commitment to environmental sustainability saying: "We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and advancing our environmental sustainability efforts."

The company meticulously monitors fuel consumption and emissions and has integrated Mercedes-Benz trucks equipped with AdBlue technology into its fleet.

AdBlue, a clear, odorless liquid made from urea and demineralized water, plays a crucial role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The technology works by reacting with nitrogen oxides (NOx) in the exhaust system, converting them into harmless nitrogen and oxygen.

This process reduces NOx emissions by over 95 percent, significantly lowering harmful gases in the atmosphere.

Additionally, Suhara is transitioning from mineral oil to synthetic oil in its truck engines. Synthetic oil extends the oil drain interval from 18,000 km to

25,000 km, leading to fewer oil changes and reduced waste oil generation.

This shift not only decreases waste but also enhances engine performance and longevity.

Through these initiatives, Suhara exemplifies how logistics businesses can lead in reducing carbon footprints and promoting environmental stewardship. By integrating AdBlue technology and synthetic oil, the company is advancing towards a greener, more sustainable business model.

The logistics sector's role in mitigating climate change is increasingly evident. Both globally and locally, innovative practices and technologies are setting the stage for a sustainable future.

As businesses like Suhara continue to pioneer in environmental sustainability, they pave the way for broader industry adoption and a greener planet.

Such strategies resonate with the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania (CEOt) Business and Sustainability Agenda, which builds a business case showcasing how sustainable practices improve business performance.

Through the agenda, which is funded by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), businesses are working on cultivating sustainable practices by equipping leaders and stakeholders to adapt, mitigate, and transition to sustainable business operations.

# Fatal Shinyanga crash sparks immediate demand for sweeping road safety reforms

By Adonis Byemelwa

**I**N the quiet hours of August 19, 2024, the tragic reality of road safety hit home in Tanzania. As the sun cast its first light over Shinyanga Region, a devastating road accident unfolded, underscoring the ongoing dangers on the country's roads. A Happy Nation bus and an LBS Coaster minibus, both crucial links in the nation's transportation network, became involved in a catastrophic collision that claimed three lives and left 45 others injured.

The accident, which occurred in the notorious Savannah area of Shinyanga town, has once again spotlighted the urgent need for enhanced road safety measures. The Happy Nation bus was traveling from Mwanza to Dar es Salaam, while the LBS Coaster was en route from Mwanza to Tabora. The collision between these two vehicles has reignited concerns about road safety and the effectiveness of existing traffic regulations.

Emergency services and local authorities rushed to the scene, working tirelessly to assist the injured and manage the aftermath of the crash. The loss of life and the extent of injuries serve as a stark reminder of the pressing need for improvements in road infrastructure and driver behavior across the country. This latest tragedy emphasizes the critical need for ongoing efforts to enhance road safety and prevent such devastating accidents in the future.

Shinyanga District Commissioner, Advocate Julius Mtairo, provided details of the incident, stating, "The accident happened right here in Shinyanga Town, at the Savannah area, where two vehicles—a Coaster and the Happy Nation bus—both originating from Mwanza and passing through Shinyanga on their respective journeys, collided.

It appears both vehicles were speeding, and the bus driver seems to have been driving recklessly. He attempted to overtake another vehicle, saw an oncoming car, and swerved the Happy Nation bus back to the left, crashing into the Coaster. The Coaster lost control, veered into a ditch, and was severely damaged."

Preliminary reports indicate that the Coaster was carrying 48 passengers, potentially exceeding its capacity. So far, the accident has resulted in three fatalities—a man and two women—while 45 others are receiving medical treatment.

This tragic accident comes in the wake of rising public frustration over road safety in the region. Earlier in January 2024, enraged residents in Bugweto, Shinyanga Municipality, dismantled and dug up the tarmac on the main Shinyanga-Mwanza Road, demanding



On September 3, 2022, a Super Najmunisa bus heading to Mwanza from Dar es Salaam collided head-on with a truck in Ibadakuli, Shinyanga Region, killing five and injuring 56.

the installation of speed bumps at the Bugweto junction. The area has been notorious for frequent accidents, causing numerous deaths and injuries.

The incident of road destruction occurred just hours after these residents had blocked the Shinyanga-Mwanza highway following a tragic accident on January 31, 2024. In this accident, two cyclists were struck by a vehicle, resulting in the death of 25-year-old Daudi Kulwa Mwandu, a resident of Bugweto, and severe injuries to 33-year-old Athuman Mtairo Wambura, a resident of Tambukareli. Residents speaking to reporters expressed their frustration, claiming that many accidents on the road were due to speeding by drivers, leading to fatal accidents. On that particular morning alone, three accidents had already occurred, highlighting the urgent need for action.

The lack of speed control measures, such as speed bumps, and drivers' disregard for traffic safety rules, have been identified as major contributors to road accidents in the area. Following the road destruction, officers from the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) in Shinyanga were seen constructing speed bumps, while police beefed up security in the area to prevent further incidents.

Shinyanga Regional Police Commander, ACP Janeth Magomi, visited the scene and assured residents that road safety patrols would be intensified. Additionally, Shinyanga District Administrative Secretary, Said Kitinga, took swift action by directing the rel-

evant authorities to address the conundrum.

The deadly accident on August 19, 2024, is part of a broader pattern of road tragedies in Shinyanga. On August 28, 2020, five people perished instantly in Nyasamba village, Kishapu District, Shinyanga Region, after a small Toyota car from Dar es Salaam collided head-on with an NBS bus plying from Mwanza to Tabora.

The deceased were taken to Shinyanga Regional Hospital. ACP Deborah Magiligimba, then the Police Commander for Shinyanga, attributed the accident to speeding, noting that the small car was at fault for crossing into the oncoming lane.

Road accidents in Tanzania continue to expose serious issues with road infrastructure and driver behavior. Recent data from the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (Latra) reveals that speeding, reckless driving, and deteriorating road conditions are major contributors to the high accident rates. The absence of effective speed control measures, such as speed bumps, aggravates these problems.

Japhet Kabelege, Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) Quality Assurance Officer, highlighted driver fatigue as a significant factor in road accidents. At a training session for journalists organized by the Road Safety Journalists Association (TRSJNET) and the Mental Health Journalists Association (TAMHJO) on August 11, 2024, Kabelege reported that out of 15 road accidents investigated in the past month,

eight occurred in the early morning hours due to driver fatigue and reckless behavior.

One particularly tragic incident occurred on October 8, 2024, when a truck collided with a speeding motorcycle at the sharp corners of Kishoju Road, killing five people. Dr. Brighton Katabaro, a local resident and school owner, expressed grave concern about the frequent accidents at these sharp corners. "The corners of Kishoju Road are so sharp that we need road safety signs to alert drivers; otherwise, we will keep mourning," Dr. Katabaro said. He added that among the victims was a 30-year-old employee from his school, who was riding his motorcycle when the accident happened.

Minister for Work Innocent Bashungwa recently visited the area and assured road users that the government is committed to addressing the road safety issues. "We will do everything in our power to tackle the road carnage. Drivers must exercise extra caution while we work on installing proper road signs," Bashungwa stated. Despite these assurances, a more comprehensive approach is required to effectively address the road safety crisis.

LATRA is rolling out a new strategy to monitor driver behavior and enforce legal driving limits. This includes implementing advanced technology such as vehicle tracking systems and cameras on buses to monitor critical factors like passenger numbers and signs of driver fatigue. Japhet Kabelege noted that this technology aims to improve

overall safety by providing real-time data and ensuring compliance with safety regulations.

Tanzania can benefit from successful road safety strategies implemented in other African countries. Rwanda, for example, has significantly reduced road accidents through a combination of strict traffic enforcement, public awareness campaigns, and the installation of speed control measures. The Rwandan government has effectively utilized traffic cameras and speed bumps, along with rigorous enforcement of traffic laws, leading to a notable decline in road fatalities. Public education campaigns have also been crucial in changing driver behavior and promoting safer driving practices.

Similarly, South Africa has made substantial investments in road infrastructure and advanced traffic management systems. Efforts include constructing safer roads, installing traffic lights, and using technology to monitor and manage traffic flow. These measures have contributed to a significant reduction in road fatalities and improved overall road safety. South Africa's approach highlights the importance of integrating infrastructure improvements with stringent enforcement and public education.

In Tanzania, adopting similar strategies could have a transformative impact. Installing clear and visible warning signs, improving road design with speed bumps and guardrails, and widening roads for safer maneuvering around corners are essential steps. Additionally, using reflective paint and markers on road surfaces and implementing divided lanes for opposing traffic can further enhance safety.

The 2023 World Health Organization (WHO) Global Accident Report underscores the severe impact of road traffic crashes globally, with approximately 1.3 million deaths annually and millions more injured. The United Nations has set an ambitious goal of halving road traffic deaths and injuries by 2030. Tanzania must take decisive action to meet this target and address the road safety crisis effectively.

As the country grapples with ongoing road safety challenges, immediate and comprehensive reforms are necessary. Drawing from successful examples in Rwanda and South Africa, Tanzania must prioritize road safety by enforcing traffic laws, improving infrastructure, and increasing public awareness.

Implementing these measures will be crucial in preventing further tragedies and saving lives on Tanzania's roads. The recent incidents and ongoing safety concerns serve as a powerful reminder of the urgent need for effective solutions and dedicated efforts to ensure safer roads for all.



## INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PRE-QUALIFICATION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR THE INLAND LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

### i. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company"), a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti ("AGA") is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5 km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of pre-qualifying Service Providers for Inland Logistics and Transport Services and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible applicants to submit expressions of interest for these services as detailed below.

Inland Logistics and Transportation Services shall refer to the provision of suitably qualified personnel, skills, and equipment for Custom Clearance, Freight Forwarding, Warehousing and Transportation Services as and when required by the Company.

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01882	PRE-QUALIFICATION OF SERVICE PROVIDER FOR INLAND LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

**NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE. SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.**

### ii. EOI EVALUATION CRITERIA

A Pass/Fail methodology in which Technical Proposals are vetted for meeting the requirements mandatory to this solicitation exercise. Proposals that fail to fully meet these requirements will be disqualified.

### iii. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- Required licenses or authorization documentation to perform inland logistic and transportation services, e.g., registration with Land Transport Regulatory Authority of Tanzania (LATRA) and valid Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agency License
- Certification with Industry specific standards ICMI code for chemicals and Cyanide handling and transport (must be certified with the ICMI Cyanide Code) and registration with GCLA (Government Chemist Laboratory Agency) as a chemical transporter.
- ISO certified Quality Management System (QMS) (ISO 9001 certified) and Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001 Certification).
- Minimum experience of 5 years in provision of inland logistic and transportation services preferably to mining concessions.
- Truck engines must, as a minimum comply with the EURO VI standards that require emissions reduction technology (e.g., Ad Blue injection) to comply with the EU emission standards or equivalent.
- Truck drivers must have completed defensive driving training, emergency response training, first aid trainings and GCLA trainings in transportation and handling of chemicals.
- Evidence of compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content Plan approval letter from the Mining Commission.

### iv. REQUIREMENTS

TECHNICAL CRITERIA
Applicants must have minimum experience of 5 years with a proven track record in provision of inland logistics and transportation services preferably to mining companies inclusive of Customs Clearing and Freight Forwarding
Applicants must provide proof of ownership for trucks that meet the Company's requirements. The truck categories for delivering goods are 1MT, 3MT, 10MT, and 28MT. For reference, the number of trips made to the Company by each truck category in the last twelve (12) months are as follows: 1MT - 12 trips, 3MT - 228 trips, 10MT - 68 trips, and 28MT - 384 trips. Please note: All trucks must be owned by the applicants. Sub-contracting is not permitted.
Proof of fitting GPS (Global Positioning System) and GPRS (phone tracking for the transmission of data) technology to enable a range of driving and location parameters that can be monitored in real time for each vehicle and ability to provide daily reporting of key parameters including locations and ETA.
Proof of truck cabs being equipped with in-cab and front facing cameras monitoring driver behaviour in real time. Front facing cameras are mandatory tools for incident investigation.

Proof of ownership or rental agreement of adequate warehouse storage facilities in Dar Es Salaam and Mwanza, each equipped with camera surveillance. The required space within each warehouse must be approximately 400 square meters. The warehouses must be equipped with suitable material handling equipment to load and off-load cargo. The warehouses must be approved by GCLA to store chemicals.

Applicants must submit valid Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agency License.

Applicants must submit proof of registration with Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA).

Fleet minimum requirements:

At start of contract,

- o the average age of fleet to be 6 years or less.
- o no individual truck to be older than 8 years

Proof of truck engines to comply at minimum with the EURO VI standards with emission reducing technology (e.g. Ad Blue injection) to comply with the EU emission standards or equivalent

Proof of Certification with Industry specific standards ICMI code for chemicals and Cyanide handling and transport (must be certified with the ICMI Cyanide Code) and valid GCLA Certificate as chemicals transporter.

The vehicle must be equipped with a WABCO Electronic Braking System (EBS) for trucks with a capacity of 20 MT and above. Proof to be provided: Installation Certificate, Maintenance Records and Diagnostic Reports.

### SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

OSHA Compliance Certificate to operate in Tanzania as well as compliance to World International Standard for Occupational Health and Safety, Particularly ISO 45001 or OHSAS 18001 Certification.

Compliance to QMS notably ISO 9001 Certification

Compliance to EMS notably ISO 14001 Certification

Proven record of defensive driver training, emergency response training, first aid trainings provided by a 3rd party accredited training institute and GCLA trainings in transportation of chemicals.

Applicants must be able to provide a driver management plan that includes driver recruitment process and driver performance evaluation criteria.

An established driver mentor programme providing coaching, correcting, and advising good driving practices to improve road safety on routes used.

Applicants must exhibit internal Safety Policies and Procedures

A planned maintenance system in place in line with OEM's recommendation which shall be hourly, or kilometre based according to odometer unit of measure

### COMMERCIAL CRITERIA

Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by Mining Commission.

Company Profile

Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate

Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)

Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN

Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license

### FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE

Applicant's audited financial statements for the past three consecutive years.

The Applicant's bank statement that demonstrates the financial capability to execute the project or at least one reference from the applicant's bankers regarding the credit position.

- Interested applicants must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting "GGME01882 – INLAND LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES" on the subject of the email. Interested applicants must also provide full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the company, name of the principal contact and signed by an authorized representative.
- All LOIs and support documentation (in PDF format) must be submitted to the Company's Office via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) without copying any individual from the Company. Submission must not be later than **8.30 AM (EAT) on the 06<sup>th</sup> of September 2024.** (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions must not exceed 150MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 150MB, please split the submissions into multiple email.
- Shortlisted Candidates will be notified within forty-five (45) calendar days from the submission deadline. Candidates not contacted within the forty-five (45) calendar days should consider themselves unsuccessful.

## How worried should we be about mpox?

By James Gallagher

**T**HE rapid spread of mpox - what used to be called monkeypox - in parts of Africa has been declared a global emergency. A new form of the virus is at the heart of concerns, but there still remain huge unanswered questions.

Is it more contagious? We don't know. How deadly is it? We don't have the data. Is this going to be a pandemic?

"We have to avoid the trap of thinking this is going to be Covid all over again and we're going to have lockdowns - or that this will play out like mpox did in 2022," says Dr Jake Dunning, an mpox scientist and doctor who has treated mpox patients in the UK.

To assess the threat - despite the uncertainty - we first need to realise this is not one mpox outbreak, but three. They are all happening at the same time, but affecting different groups of people and behaving differently.

They are labelled by their "clade" - essentially which branch of the mpox virus family tree they come from.

Clade 1a is causing most of the infections in the west and north of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This is the outbreak that has been going on for more than a decade. It is spread mostly by eating infected wildlife known as bushmeat. Those who get sick can pass the virus onto people they come into close contact with and children have been particularly affected.

Clade 1b is the new branch of the mpox family and is causing the outbreaks in the east of the DRC and neighbouring countries. This is being spread along trucking routes with drivers having heterosexual sex with exploited sex workers, with infected people also passing it onto children through close contact.

Clade 2 is the mpox outbreak that went around the world in 2022 and again had a strong connection with sex, this time predominantly affecting gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men communities (98.6% were men in the UK) as well as their close contacts. This outbreak is not over.

Truckers and sex workers

The World Health Organization labelled Clade 1b as one of the main reasons for it declaring a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. This strain has spread to countries previously unaffected by mpox - Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

It was first reported this year, but genetic analysis has traced its origins back to September 2023 in the gold-mining city of Kamituga, South Kivu Province, DRC.

"There is a sex industry in the mining city and it has rapidly spread out to border countries because of the massive movement of people," Leandre Murhula Masirika, a health department research coordinator, tells me from South Kivu.

He said paying for sex was the main way the virus was spreading, but it is then passed from parent-to-child or between children and had been linked to miscarriages.

The outbreak of this new Clade 1b offshoot looks markedly different to Clade 1a.

"It's really different because the rash is more severe, the disease seems to be going on for longer, but most of all this is really being driven by sexual transmission and person-to-person contact and we haven't seen any involvement with bushmeat at all," Prof Trudi Lang, from the University of Oxford, told me on Radio 4's Inside Health programme.

A key question is why? The answer is either evolution or opportunity.

The new strain does look genetically distinct, but as yet there is no compelling evidence those mutations have made the virus itself more contagious.

Getting into sex workers who have close contact with many other people would also put rocket boosters on an outbreak.

"Transmission through sexual networks occurs more rapidly, it doesn't necessarily mean that the virus itself is more transmissible," says Dr Rosamund Lewis, the World Health Organization's mpox lead.

The virus is not a textbook sexually transmitted infection. However, it is spread through close physical contact and sex obviously involves close contact.

There is also uncertainty around how deadly the current outbreaks are.

Not all deaths are being recorded as some people are seeking "traditional" rather than hospital medicine. And we have no idea how many people are being infected - some of whom may have mild or no symptoms.

"We just don't know how many cases there are and for me that is one of the most important unknowns," says Prof Lang.

History suggests Clade 1 outbreaks are more dangerous than Clade 2. In previous outbreaks up to 10% of people who got sick with Clade 1 mpox died. However, it is not clear how relevant that 10% figure is to the current outbreaks.

And death rates are about more than just the virus. Malnourishment, untreated HIV damaging the immune system or no access to hospital care would all drive up the death rate.

The World Health Organization says 3.6% of known mpox cases died for Clade 1a in 2024. It has no equivalent figure for the new Clade 1b.

Like the early days of HIV

More than 500 people have already died in the mpox outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of Congo this year. The threat posed to the country and its neighbours is clear.

"We have not been able to control the virus in South Kivu," says Leandre Murhula Masirika.

"We need a massive intervention to control this outbreak and to stop it."

Prof Lang, who is working with teams in DRC, draws comparisons with the early days of HIV. When I challenge her on this she says it's a phrase used "not very often and definitely not lightly".

She says: "That combination of young exploited sex workers, the families, the truckers and obviously the children around all of this who are the vulnerable first victims of this outbreak and this was exactly the same

# Investors' plea to President Samia over investment conditions

By Special Correspondent,

Morogoro

THE government has time and again been advised to review some of conditions imposed on investors so as to create more supportive for them. It has all along promised to do the needful, with various forms and levels of implementation following.

One such appeal was made to President Samia Suluhu Hassan recently in Morogoro Region by Serengeti Cigarette Company executive Ahmed Huwel, as the head of state toured the firm's newly built factory.

Huwel expressed the firm's appreciation for the support he said the government has been extending to them, saying the "massive expansion and overall investment" they have made would not have materialised had the government not chipped in.

He made an impassioned appeal to the government to continue addressing the challenges faced by Tanzanian investors, particularly with respect to the single borrower limits imposed by the Bank of Tanzania.

The appeal highlighted a critical issue relating to the experience local investors in Tanzania. The single borrower limit, which caps the amount local banks can lend to a single entity, often constrains local investors' ability to finance large-scale projects.

Huwel appealed to the president to consider reforms that would allow Tanzanian investors to borrow more domestically, ensuring that the profits generated by these investments remained in the country and contributed to its economic growth.

"Tobacco is grown in Tanzania, it is processed in Tanzania and the profits accrued from this investment will remain in Tanzania. I am Tanzanian. I don't want to go and borrow outside the country," he said.

His words resonated deeply with the government's emphasis on the need to empower local investors and enable them drive Tanzania's economic transformation from within.

The journey to this milestone by SCC has not been easy. Hussein Mohamed Bashe, Tanzania's Minister for Agriculture, acknowledged the challenges that had to be overcome to reach this point. He recounted the long battle that led to the success of today. He said all that began in 2022 when President Samia made a decisive move to support the tobacco industry.

Bashe praised Richard Sinamtwa, an employee of the previous owners of the tobacco processing factory before it was acquired by Mkwawa Leaf Tobacco, for his patriotism and dedication to the cause.

Bashe's tribute to Sinamtwa underscores the importance of having committed individuals who believe in the potential of Tanzania's agricultural sector. The success of SCC's expansion is not just a victory for the company but also a testament to the resilience and determination of those who have worked tirelessly to bring about positive change in the industry.

Looking ahead, SCC is poised to revolutionise the tobacco industry in Tanzania. By 2025, the company aims to process between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of its tobacco using sun-dried methods. This shift represents a significant reduction in the environmental impact of tobacco processing, aligning with global trends toward sustainability and responsible business practices.

President Samia's commitment to improving the investment environment in Tanzania has been instrumental in attracting both local and foreign investors to the country.

Her administration's focus on creating a business-friendly climate has led to a surge in industrial activity, with the number of factories in Tanzania increasing

from 62,000 to 80,000 since she took office. Among these are 166 large-scale factories, including SCC, which are driving the country's economic growth and creating jobs for Tanzanians.

SCC's efforts to adopt sun-dried tobacco technology and its commitment to environmental conservation are exemplary. By taking the lead in implementing sustainable practices, SCC is demonstrating that it is possible to achieve industrial growth without compromising the environment. The company's decision to engage in the actual farming of tobacco, which will be cured by the sun, further cements its role as a pioneer in environmentally friendly tobacco processing.

This proactive approach aligns perfectly with President Samia's vision of a modern, industrialized Tanzania. By supporting companies like SCC, the government is fostering a culture of innovation and sustainability that will benefit the country for generations to come.

The foundation stone laid by President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the SCC expansion site in Morogoro marks the beginning of a new era for Tanzania's tobacco industry. It is an era defined by environmental responsibility, economic growth, and the empowerment of local investors. As SCC moves forward with its plans to process a significant portion of its tobacco using sun-dried methods, it is setting a powerful example for other industries to follow.

The success of SCC's expansion is a testament to what can be achieved when the government and private sector work together towards a common goal. It is a reminder that with the right support and vision, Tanzania's industrial sector can achieve great things while preserving the environment for future generations. The story of SCC is not just about tobacco; it is about the promise of a brighter, more sustainable future for Tanzania.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan arrives at Serengeti Cigarette Company factory premises to lay the foundation stone for the SCC factory. On her left in safari suit is Ahmed Huwel, the owner of SCC and its sister companies, Mkwawa Leaf Tobacco and Mkwawa Leaf Processors Limited. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Deprived groups urged to use economic ventures in councils

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

WOMEN'S groups, youth, and special groups in Manyara Region have been told to take advantage of the "Strengthening the Economy with Mama Samia" programme as a stepping stone to register and entering into the database to receive support and benefit from opportunities provided by their councils.

Sophia Mjema, Presidential advisor on women's issues, children and special groups made the call here yesterday when speaking during the launch of the programme in Manyara Region, which is spearheaded by the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC).

She emphasized that these groups need to register to receive support that will enable them to seize business and entrepreneurship opportunities.

"I urge women to form their groups and then register so that you can benefit from the opportunities offered by your councils," she added, stating that the province has many opportunities and the key is to meet the criteria to utilize these opportunities to enhance business and entrepreneurship.

Mjema also urged the councils to ensure they provide work for these groups to foster business and entrepreneurship.

"Give them tasks such as catering for conferences, meetings, small-scale contracting, and road repairs because they will form contracting groups," Mjema stressed.

She said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan's government, through this council, aims to uplift these groups, with a major focus on helping them through their groups to enter the formal system and then provide them with available working tools in their councils.

Beng'I Issa, NEEC executive secretary



NEEC Executive Secretary, Beng'I Issa, speaks to women's groups, youth, and special groups in Manyara Region during the launch of the "Strengthening the Economy with Mama Samia" programme managed by the council. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

stated that the council is organized through this programme to ensure that training reaches these groups so they can advance their business and entrepreneurship activities.

"Manyara region has many economic opportunities; if utilized well, especially after receiving business

and entrepreneurship training, they will perform even better. Through this programme, in collaboration with their councils, they will be able to achieve their economic dreams," she said.

Manyara Regional Commissioner, Queen Sendiga, praised the council

for launching the programme in her province and pledged to work with these groups to ensure that the support provided by the programme succeeds in her region.

"In our region, we have welcomed the programme with open arms, and we will work to ensure its objec-

tives are achieved," she said, adding that the programme is a liberator for these groups; the key is for these groups and government employees to work closely together.

A Babati-based pastoralist Naye Colman Maso, said he raises modern cattle and even his neighbours engage in farming and livestock. He is happy to receive training from this programme as it has increased his work efficiency.

Clara Mali from Mamile Ward, Babati District, said she is a farmer and also runs a salon where she decorates brides, styles hair, and arranges flowers. She mentioned she has learned the importance of having a bank account and has also learned about various available opportunities.

"This program also aims to empower us with training and capital," she added, saying that youth and women are ready to utilize this opportunity to get training and capital to boost their businesses and entrepreneurship.

Afsa Mbisha, Babati District's nutritionist expressed gratitude to the council for bringing the programme, which provided entrepreneurship training including self-confidence, saving money in bank accounts, registering groups, and obtaining support.

PEACE AND SECURITY

# Maada Bio makes Africa's strong case for reforms of the UN Security Council

By Kingsley Ighobor

**I**N an exclusive interview, the Sierra Leonean President maintains that the Security Council's current configuration is out-dated and does not adequately serve Africa's interests.

At most international forums, including the annual UN General Assembly high-level debate, Sierra Leonean President Julius Maada Bio consistently highlights the injustices of the global system, particularly Africa's absence in the permanent category and underrepresentation in the non-permanent category of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

President Bio is the coordinator of the African Union Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on UNRC Reform, known as C-10, a role that provides him the platform to amplify his UNSC reform advocacy.

This year, he has been particularly vocal, as Sierra Leone currently holds a non-permanent seat on the Security Council and presides over the Council for the month of August.

For example, in his statement in the Security Council chambers on 12 August, President Bio emphasized the outdated nature of the current UNSC structure, which fails to recognize Africa's growing importance and contributions.

"The current structure of the Security Council reflects an outdated world order, an era that fails to recognize Africa's growing importance and contributions," he remarked.

In a subsequent interview with Africa Renewal, the president pointed out that the continent is home to 1.3 billion people and 54 of the 193 UN member states—a significant part of the global community.



President Julius Maada Bio of Sierra Leone chairs the Security Council meeting on international peace, pushing for Africa's rightful representation at the UN

"We cannot just be a territory for proxy wars. We know what our problems are, and we should have a say in how to solve them," he asserted, adding that more than 60 percent of the issues discussed in the Security Council pertain to Africa.

It is unjust for Africa to be sidelined in the 21st century, he argued. "I call on all African leaders and on all those who stand for justice and democracy around the world to fight this unfairness," he declared.

As the UN prepares to celebrate its 80th anniversary in 2025, President Bio asserts that the celebration would only be meaningful if the current configuration of the Council is reformed, reflecting the frustration of many African leaders who feel the continent's concerns are often overlooked.

Africa is demanding at least two permanent seats in the UN Security Council and two additional non-permanent seats, bringing the total number of non-permanent seats to five.

Additionally, Africa advocates for the abolition of the veto power. However, if the veto is retained, President Bio insists that it must be extended to all new permanent members as a matter of justice.

The President breaks down potential support for Africa's push for greater representation on the Security Council into two categories: support from within the continent and support from major global powers.

While support from within the continent comes naturally, he acknowledged the challenges posed by the P-5, (the five permanent members of the Security Council), who wield enormous power in the Council. "The main issue we have is the P-5. They are manning the gate. They have

to let us in."

Despite these challenges, the president is encouraged that they have recognized the fact that Africa has been treated unfairly.

He stressed: "There is a new spirit; the world has changed, and leaders have come and gone. What I'm trying to do is convince my colleagues in Africa and the world at large that the injustice done to Africa cannot be accepted."

The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, supports Africa's demands for UNSC reforms. "We cannot accept that the world's preeminent peace and security body lacks a permanent voice for a continent of well over a billion people – a young and rapidly growing population – making up 28 percent of the membership of the United Nations," Guterres said at the 12 August meeting. He added, "Nor can we accept that Africa's views are undervalued on questions of peace and security, both on the continent and around the world."

To ensure the Council's full credibility and legitimacy, he emphasized the importance of "heeding the longstanding calls from the UN General Assembly, various geographic groups – from the Arab Group to the Benelux,

Nordic, and CARICOM countries – and some permanent members of this Council itself, to correct this injustice."

"I call on all African leaders and on all those who stand for justice and democracy around the world to fight this unfairness," said Guterres.

Lessons from Sierra Leone's civil war – Sierra Leone's brutal civil war (1991-2002) may have shaped President Bio's views on conflict resolution and international diplomacy.

"After all the fighting, after all the destruction, we resolved our problems at the negotiating table," he reflected, emphasizing the importance of dialogue and consensus-building.

Drawing from Sierra Leone's experience, he envisions Africa playing an important role in global peace and security. "We have learned quite a lot – partnership, multilateralism, dialogue, and the need to build consensus."

"What we are bringing to the table within the UN Security Council is how we can be a bridge, how we can support multilateralism as a way for peace and security around the world."

Women's empowerment

Beyond global governance, Sierra Leone has adopted progressive gen-

der policies under President Bio's leadership. For example, the country passed a law mandating, among other provisions, that at least 30 percent of positions in both the private and public sectors, including in the cabinet, be held by women—a huge step toward gender equality.

Earlier this year, Sierra Leone also enacted a law banning child marriage.

"It would be wrong for us to talk about development if you keep more than half of your population in the kitchen or do not empower them enough to be part of the force that is going to change the nation," he declared.

Empowering women, he believes, begins with education. This focus on education is part of a broader strategy to transform Sierra Leone's human capital, which President Bio considers the nation's most valuable resource.

"When you talk about Sierra Leone, you think of diamonds, gold, and other natural resources. I have said to my nation, yes, these are precious minerals, but the most important resources we have in this country are the people."

Climate change As a leader of one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, President Bio highlighted Sierra Leone's challenges in handling increasingly severe weather patterns. "When it rains, it rains so heavily that it overwhelms the infrastructure. We've seen cars floating, we've seen houses swept away," he noted, drawing parallels with similar disasters in more developed nations.

In response, Sierra Leone has launched a nationwide climate action campaign focusing on reforestation, improving drainage systems, and educating the public on the importance of the environment.

"Combating climate change requires collective action, both locally and globally," he emphasized.

On the issue of capital flight from Africa, President Bio underscored his deep sense of pride in African identity and potential. He urged Africans to acquire knowledge and skills from the West and to bring back those lessons to build their societies back in Africa.

"Home is home. Nobody's going to fix that home. We [Africans] have to fix that home," he insisted.

**Room to Read**

Bi-Annual Fund Report of Room to Read (Non – Governmental Organisation) has been issued pursuant to Regulation 13 of the Non-Governmental Organisation Act

Room to Read Tanzania works in collaboration with local communities, and the government to scale efforts that ensure the best results in primary school literacy education are realised, through transforming the lives of thousands of Tanzanian children by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education and developing literacy skills and a habit of reading among primary school children. It works to safeguard girls' rights to quality education, supporting them to stay in school, improve their standard of living and contribute to national development.

The statement of sources of funds and uses of funds for bi-annual period from 01 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 are detailed below:

**Statement of income and expenditure for six months period from 01 January 2024 to 30 June 2024**

	01 January to 30 June 24
	TZS '000
<b>INCOME</b>	
Income from donors	3,074,925
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,074,925</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Staff costs	1,698,804
Program costs	955,611
Administrative costs	328,730
Travel costs	60,871
Equipment costs	30,910
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>3,074,925</b>

In preparation of the bi-annual statement of income and expenditure, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements of Room To Read Tanzania..

We, the undersigned management team, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements

Juvenalius Kuruletera  
Country Director

Joan Msumi  
Senior Accounting and Finance Manager

Room to Read Tanzania - Country Office, Mlimani City Office Park, Block 5, Ground Floor, Sam Nujoma Road Ubungu. P. O. Box 105459, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. +255 222 772 388 | tz.info@roomtoread.org | www.roomtoread.org

**THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 160 -**

10. the flesh of a calf, used as food 11. give an income

13. computer that randomly selects the prize-winning numbers of Premium Bonds

15. very; considerably

16. climbing vine with a woody stem and evergreen leaves

17. odour 19. a possessor

21. a wealthy businessman

23. a donkey

24. native of Uganda

**DOWN:**

1. bird of the pigeon family

2. extending upwards

3. what is meant by words

4. make more entertaining

5. the length of time that a person existed

6. the richest man in Africa

7. increased 12. Nigerian people

14. a reddish-brown form of the jaguarundi 18. natives of modern Rome 19. Muscat is her Capital city 20. singular past of be 22. a hot drink

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

NEW WAVE	GUARDIAN	PEA
DUST	TITLE	GRESS
GHARA	ORACLE	FEU
PET	LACE	OSLO
LI	SHIRT	AFRICA

Yesterday's solution

SAGA	GRADE	MOOD	B
UGANDA	S	N	OPERATOR
NARCOSIS	C		
GIARDIN	O	APRIL	R
UNGROUND	D	N	NOSE LEAF
R	B	M	E
ASS	A	M	R
A	A	S	E
C	L	I	C
A	A	S	E
C	L	I	C

# SMART BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES RESHAPE GLOBAL PROPERTY MARKET

By Steven Thomas

Smart buildings, also known as intelligent or automated buildings, are not a thing of the distant future anymore.

They are rapidly becoming the new standard in construction and building management, leveraging advanced technologies to enhance efficiency, comfort, and sustainability.

A smart building is a structure that uses automated processes to automatically control the building's operations such as heating, ventilation, air conditioning, lighting, security, and other systems.

According to the research report, "Global Smart Buildings Market Outlook, 2029" published by Bonafide Research, the market is anticipated to cross US\$165 Billion by 2029, increasing from US\$91.19 Billion in 2023. The market is expected to grow with 10.80 percent CAGR by 2024-29.

Intelligent climate control, personalized lighting, and optimal indoor air quality create a healthier and more comfortable environment for occupants.

By adapting to individual preferences and behavior patterns, smart buildings promote productivity and satisfaction.

Through data-driven insights and automated control, smart buildings minimize energy waste and reduce operational costs. By optimizing resource usage and



harnessing renewable energy sources, these structures contribute to sustainability goals and carbon footprint reduction.

While the initial investment in smart building technology may be substantial, the long-term benefits outweigh the costs.

Energy savings, reduced maintenance expenses, and increased property value result in a favorable return on investment for building owners and stakeholders. Smart buildings play a crucial role in creating resilient and sustainable cities.

By reducing energy consumption, mitigating environmental impact, and promoting efficient land use, these structures contribute to a more livable and eco-friendly urban environment.

Smart building systems are inherently scalable and adaptable, allowing for seamless integration with existing infrastructure and future upgrades.

Whether retrofitting existing buildings or designing new constructions, the modular nature of smart technology facilitates customization and evolution over time.

The surge in the adoption of smart buildings in multiple regions is driven by the growing need for better utilization of the building (and building premises) and the need for better resource management in urban environments.

The solution segment is estimated to have gained the largest market share in 2023, while services segment is likely to grow at the fastest rate during the forecast period.

Smart building solutions use IoT technology, which enable efficient and economical use of resources, such as IoT sensors, analytics software, a user interface, and a means of connectivity.

This helps create a safe and comfortable environment for end users. In addition, it uses a range of technology, such as sensors and actuators, to gather activity data on various aspects within the building, which helps

analyze and utilize operation more efficiently.

For instance, Shanghai's New Development Bank (NDB) implemented intelligent building solutions to monitor indoor lighting, electric curtains, and windows and witnessed more than 15 percent energy savings.

In today's rapidly evolving urban landscape, characterized by intricate networks of buildings, infrastructure, and technology, ensuring the safety and security of occupants and assets has become an imperative for building owners, operators, and occupants alike.

The rise of smart buildings has introduced a plethora of opportunities to address these challenges, offering integrated solutions that leverage cutting-edge technologies to detect, deter, and respond to a wide array of threats in real-time.

One of the key drivers behind the leadership of safety and security management in the smart buildings market is the multifaceted nature of the risks facing modern built environments.

Physical intrusions, unauthorized access, vandalism, natural disasters, and cyber threats are just a few examples of the diverse array of hazards that buildings must contend with on a daily basis.

Smart building technologies provide a holistic approach to managing these risks, integrating

a range of sensors, surveillance cameras, access control systems, and data analytics tools to create a comprehensive security ecosystem.

Implementation services have emerged as a dominant force in the Smart Buildings Market due to the intricate nature of deploying and integrating smart building solutions within diverse built environments. Unlike off-the-shelf products that can be readily deployed, smart building solutions often require extensive customization, integration, and optimization to meet the unique needs and specifications of each building.

This complexity stems from the diverse array of technologies involved, including sensors, IoT devices, automation systems, software platforms, and connectivity infrastructure, which must be seamlessly integrated to deliver the desired outcomes.

Additionally, smart building deployments may involve retrofitting existing buildings with new technologies, coordinating with multiple stakeholders, and navigating regulatory requirements and industry standards.

Implementation services play a critical role in guiding building owners, operators, and developers through every stage of the deployment process, from initial planning and design to installation, configuration, and commissioning.

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## China's sluggish property market hits world miners

BEIJING

Major global mining stocks have underperformed in the past three months due to a sharp decline in iron ore and copper prices, as China's weak demand is likely to persist.

The mining sector has experienced a downturn since May due to falling prices of industrial metals and critical minerals. The trajectory of mining stocks is often positively correlated with the price movements of their major products, with copper and iron ore being the primary outputs of these large miners.

Over the past three months, major European mining stocks, including Rio Tinto, Glencore, Anglo American, and BHP, have all fallen by 13 percent to 18 percent, while copper and iron ore prices have slumped by 17 percent and 16 percent, respectively.

China's sluggish demand, driven by its ongoing property market crisis, was the primary factor behind this decline.

Iron ore hits a 20-month low. The price of iron ore cargoes with a 62 percent iron content fell to \$88 (€79) per metric ton as of 16 August, the lowest level since November 2022.

Despite a slight weekly rebound to just under \$100 as of Wednesday, the downtrend may persist due to ongoing weak demand in

China. Iron ore is a critical mineral used in the production of steel, which has been significantly impacted by the property crisis in the world's second-largest economy.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics of China, new home prices in 70 cities dropped by 4.9% year-on-year in July, following a 4.5 percent decline in the previous month.

The housing price downturn has persisted for 13 consecutive months, despite China's stimulus efforts, such as cutting mortgage rates and reducing down payments.

Several steel manufacturers in China have cut production, with some undertaking maintenance amid falling prices and widening negative profit margins. Consequently, China's crude steel output declined for the second consecutive month in July.

In July, Rio Tinto, the world's largest iron ore producer, reported first-half underlying earnings that fell to their lowest level in three years due to slumping iron ore prices.

CEO Jakob Stausholm said: "Our experience with China is that if things are going less well, then the Chinese have a quite impressive ability to also manage the economy."

However, the latest data may indicate that China's efforts to bolster the economy have yet to take

effect. This could place further pressure on the global mining sector.

According to a report in the Financial Times, the sharp decline in iron ore prices has wiped approximately \$100 billion (€90 billion) off the market capitalisation of the big four miners, including BHP, Rio Tinto, Vale, and Fortescue.

Copper price retreats significantly

Another major product of the big miners, copper, has seen its price sharply decline, with copper futures on Comex slumping 17 percent over the past three months after reaching an all-time high in May.

Weak Chinese demand played a key role in driving down the prices of base metals, as China is the largest copper consumer, accounting for more than a quarter of global demand. The largest copper purchaser, State Grid Corp. of China, has slowed its copper wire orders this year, which may have contributed to the price decline.

Recent economic data has also indicated faltering progress in China's economic recovery. The country's industrial output grew by 5.1 percent year-on-year in July, marking the slowest rate in four months, alongside the third consecutive month of contraction in manufacturing activity and disappointing export figures for the same month.

Additionally, global market turmoil at the beginning of August has further contributed to the downturn in copper prices, as fears of a US recession mounted amid weaker economic data. Copper prices plunged to their lowest level in five months early this month, accompanied by a sharp decline in mining stocks due to a panic-driven sell-off.



## Schneider Electric eyes Africa's emerging data centre market

LAGOS

Schneider Electric, an energy equipment and solutions provider, has identified an ideal opportunity emerging from the rising demand for data centre facilities in Africa.

According to the company, this demand is being driven by increasing Internet penetration and a growing digital economy, which is laying the groundwork for East and West Africa to emerge as pivotal hubs in the market.

This is creating an opportunity for Schneider Electric to offer support to partners and resellers within the region through a twofold approach aimed at engaging directly with end-user data centres and driving sales opportunities through channel partners, simultaneously fostering demand.

"Schneider Electric is a channel-driven business, with about 70 percent of our order fulfilment done through the channel," commented Rohan de Beer, end user sales director - Anglophone Africa at Schneider Electric.

"The growth in the African data centre space is therefore an opportunity for our partners to up-skill themselves and strengthen their relationships with the local data centre end users. Connectiv-

ity on the content is growing massively, the economy is becoming a bit more stable overall, so this provides the environment for our resellers and distributors to further grow these data centre opportunities for themselves."

Previously, the company has relied entirely on external channels to develop its prospects on the market, de Beer explained. However, this can result in missed opportunities and having to share the market with competitors.

"With the two-pronged approach, we can get closer to the end user for two reasons - to influence the technology and innovation at an earlier stage in the life-cycle of a project and then to also improve our share of the wallet at the customer base," he explained. "Obviously, we would then take these opportunities and share them with our channel and fulfil them through the channel."

"So, it's a direct cut of the pie, but it's still fulfilled through the channel. We are not going to increase our direct business, that's not the idea. The idea is to increase our share in the wallet while fulfilling orders through the channel and this approach seems to be working great."

Power to partners

At the same time, Schneider Electric is also undertaking specific initiatives to empower its channel partners with the skills and competencies necessary for commissioning cutting-edge solutions in the data centre market.

"There are a couple of things that we are doing," de Beer added. "Firstly, this is where our channel programme that we revised and relaunched this year plays a big role. So, partners who want to participate in this influx of business can register on the partner portal and get free access to online training from a sales perspective and the pre-sales solutions side. This includes all our technical tools, videos and training."

"Secondly, we also drive instructor-led solutions and design training sessions through the Anglophone cluster. We have so far completed East, West and South in the first half of the year. That is purely focused on technical training solutions for our channel partner and our distributors."

He adds that the next step will be to drive focused end user and channel executive roundtables and customer events to further help the channel and end users gain the requisite skills.



## AFDB PARTNERS TO ENHANCE COMOROS' PORT CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Rotterdam

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is collaborating with the African Development Bank (AfDB) under the African Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP) to support the Union of Comoros in developing and enhancing the resilience of its maritime infrastructure.

The Comoros Maritime Corridor Development and Regional Trade Facilitation Project, aims to boost the country's port capacities, fostering regional trade and ensuring long-term sustainability in the face of climate change.

Comoros, a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) located in the Indian Ocean, faces unique challenges due to its geographic isolation, economic constraints, and heightened vulnerability to climate hazards such as earthquakes, cyclones, floods and tsunamis.

The nation's economy, heavily reliant on maritime trade, fisheries, agriculture, and tourism, needs resilient infrastructure to sustain its growth and integration into broader continental trade networks.

The \$247.58 million project supported by the AfDB and other international partners including the European Investment Bank, the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and the Agence



Française de Développement, will develop and upgrade the port infrastructure across the three Comorian islands: Grande Comore, Mohéli, and Anjouan.

By increasing port capacity and productivity, this initiative will facilitate the transition of Comoros from a trade zone of 1 million people to a market con-

ected with over 1.2 billion people across the African continent.

GCA's involvement is pivotal in ensuring that these developments are not only infrastructurally sound but also climate-resilient.

GCA is providing technical support to conduct comprehensive climate risk assessments

and stress tests for the Moroni port (Grande Comore), Boingoma port (Mohéli), and Mutsumudu port (Anjouan). This includes a detailed climate hazard assessment, vulnerability analysis, and the identification of adaptation strategies to protect these critical trade hubs.

"Our collaboration with the

African Development Bank under the African Adaptation Acceleration Program marks a significant step towards securing the future of Comoros' maritime infrastructure," said Professor Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of the Global Center on Adaptation. "Through AAP, we are not merely addressing the immedi-

ate needs of expanding port capacity but are also laying the foundation for long-term resilience in the face of escalating climate risks. This project exemplifies our commitment to ensuring that the people of Comoros can thrive in a connected and climate-secure future. By fortifying these vital economic arteries, we are empowering Comoros to emerge as a resilient hub of regional trade and a model for adaptation in Small Island Developing States globally."

The project also includes capacity building through GCA's Climate Resilient Infrastructure Masterclass, designed to equip institutional stakeholders with the knowledge and skills to manage and maintain resilient infrastructure. This ensures that local authorities and project implementers are well-prepared to make informed decisions regarding adaptation strategies.

With an implementation period from 2024 to 2029, the project is expected to directly benefit approximately 800,000 people, including over 50 percent women and youth under 30, by securing jobs, enhancing trade opportunities, and fostering economic growth.

This initiative is a critical step towards the realization of the Comoros government's Plan Comores Émergent, which emphasizes the importance of a blue economy, focusing on fisheries, coastal tourism, and safe maritime transportation as drivers of national development.



## Construction work begins on Ghana's US \$12bn fuel hub

ACCRA

The first phase of Ghana's Petroleum Hub Project was kickstarted by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Ado (pictured) breaking the ground at a commemorative ceremony in Nawule, Western Region

The project carries an estimated total cost of US\$12bn and is being delivered in order to elevate the West African country's standing as a key player in the continent's energy landscape and address its power challenges.

Developed in three independent phases, the hub is set to include a 300,000 barrels per day refinery, a petrochemical plant, and extensive storage and port facilities.

When operational, it is expected to create approximately 780,000 direct and indirect jobs, help to stabilise the national currency, and stimulate local economic development.

"Today is a very good day for our homeland, Ghana," remarked the President. "This project promises to be a cornerstone of our nation's development, ensuring that all Ghanaian homes and industries have access to reliable, affordable, and environmentally sustainable energy."

He continued by underscoring the strategic importance of the project, before adding that the new facility would not compete with existing refineries in the region, but rather complement them. He also highlighted the environmental considerations taken into the project design, including green buffers to support local fauna and flora.

TCP-UIC Consortium will lead the first phase of the project. This comprises several international partners and has been chosen for its technical expertise and financial capacity to deliver on the project's timelines.

The progression of the initiative is expected to lead to the establishment of the Jomoro Petroleum Hub Development Corporation (JPHDC).

## Construction firm demerger signals possible exiting from S.Africa market

JOHANNESBURG

Construction, engineering and contract mining group Aveng has outlined plans to split its Australian and South African operations into two separate and independent entities.

This demerger, which will be executed through a series of yet-to-be-determined transactions, reflects the company's strategic decision to streamline its operations and hints at the company's intention to realign its focus away from the African market.

As part of the proposed split, Aveng will retain its South African contract mining business Moolmans, while the Australian infrastructure construction and engineering subsidiary McConnell Dowell will assume control of construction company Built Environs.

As a result of this demerger, McConnell Dowell will no longer be a subsidiary of Aveng but will instead become an independent entity. It is expected to seek a listing on the ASX and potentially also the JSE.

Moolmans, on the other hand, will remain under Aveng's ownership for the time being but with a focus on exploring alternative ownership structures. This includes the potential introduction of broad-based black economic empowerment capital, aligning with South Africa's economic transformation goals as laid out in the Mining Charter III.

Aveng CFO Adrian Macartney also indicated to Engineering News & Mining Weekly that an outright sale of Moolmans is a possibility, indicating a willingness by Aveng to reassess its commitment to the South African market if the



price is right.

Another indication that Aveng is seeking to reduce its involvement in South Africa is the company's decision to change its financial reporting currency from rand to Australian dollar.

To oversee the implementation of the demerger, Aveng has engaged financial services firm Macquarie Capital.

During the company's financial results presentation on August 20, Aveng CEO Scott Cummins emphasised that McConnell Dowell and Moolmans operate in distinct markets with different business characteristics and value propositions.

According to Cummins, this divergence is what has prompted the decision to pursue separate operating and growth strategies, which will allow each business to better access appropriate capital markets and support their respective investment requirements.

"This will support and enhance the prospects of both entities for all stakeholders by enabling the two entities to access the most attractive capital to pursue their separate strategies," he said.

He also acknowledged the varying levels of investor interest in the two businesses.

"There are investors out there that are very interested in McConnell Dowell and Built Environs, as well as in the markets and industries they operate in. And there are investors interested in contract mining and where Moolmans works.

"But getting the two together, there's a lot less interest. So, by creating more of a pure play for each of the entities, we believe we can unlock their strategic long-term profitable growth potential," he explained.

The demerger announcement came towards the conclusion of Aveng's year-

end results presentation, where a clear distinction between the performance of the Australian and South African business units was evident.

The Australasian market, where McConnell Dowell and Built Environs operate, was described as robust and profitable, with steady demand for infrastructure projects. In contrast, the South African contract mining market, where Moolmans is active, was characterised as constrained, with ongoing challenges related to infrastructure and logistics impacting on operations.

McConnell Dowell contributed about 78 percent of Aveng's total revenue, generating about A\$2.4-billion for the 12 months to June 30 - a 23 percent increase in revenue for the infrastructure business, up from A\$2-billion the previous year.

Most of this revenue was derived from projects in Australia and New Zealand, with about 11% coming from Southeast Asia. Notably, 98 percent of the work in McConnell Dowell's portfolio was reported as profitable.

Built Environs, Aveng's commercial building unit, accounted for about 13 percent of the group's total revenue, with work-in-hand valued at about A\$443-million by the end of the financial year.

Of this, about one-third of the work was based in New Zealand, with the remainder in Australia, where all ongoing projects were reported as profitable. Built Environs saw an 83 percent increase in revenue to A\$419-million, compared with A\$229-million in the previous financial year ending June 30, 2023.

## Lagos state targets real estate tokenisation to boost revenue

LAGOS

Nigeria's Lagos state plans to tokenize real estate to enable more retail investors to purchase property and boost the state revenues.

The state's ambitious plans were revealed by local media outlets and are expected to be laid out at the Eko Revenue Summit 2024, which kicks off on September 25.

Lagos is Nigeria's wealthiest state and it is the country's economic nerve center. It's home to 21 million residents, a number that's expected to double by 2050. This rapidly growing demand has pushed the value of the state's residential real estate sector to 173 trillion (US\$11 billion), while the commercial sector stands at \$630 million.

Tokenization has emerged as one of the solutions to Lagos' real estate de-

mand. Nigeria's Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology will lead a 16-month process to enable the state to tokenize property, allowing retail investors an opportunity to get involved. The ministry will work with other partners in the real estate and technology sector on the project, whose budget stands at 500 million (\$314,000).

One key benefit of Lagos' real estate tokenization is fractionalization, where

expensive properties are broken down into smaller shares that retail investors can afford. This raises financial inclusion, reduces risk and offers portfolio diversification for the investors. For the property owner, it presents an easy way to raise money without having to sell the entire property.

Overall, tokenization would also stamp out the rampant corruption in Nigeria's real estate. Corrupt government officials frequently collude with real estate firms to falsify documents and alter records, stealing billions from Nigerian investors.

With the tokens recorded on an immutable and tamper-proof blockchain, the real owners could prove their ownership easily.

## CONSTRUCTION

Globally, the adoption of ICT solutions has improved economic conditions, societal norms, individual situations, and individual and organisational effectiveness. Organisations and people can increase performance, productivity, and flexibility in the delivery of services by utilizing ICT solutions.

Rapid advancements and changes in information and communication technology (ICT) have an impact on the infrastructure, services, and solutions that are related to it. The need for individuals, commercial, and governmental organisations to embrace ICT growth has grown as a result of its advancement in order to enhance productivity and improve efficiency in their businesses and services.

Given the significance of information technology services for both consumers and businesses, new technologies lead to an increase in the sophistication of cyberattacks since they present new threats and exploits. Cybersecurity is a major concern for companies of all sizes due to the rising trend of cybercrime. The use of new-sophisticated ICT facilities and solution for individuals and organisations require the

## THE ROLE OF ICT IN STIMULATING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

best understand of information security implementation techniques otherwise organisations and individuals are put at risk of reputation, customer trust and economic loss.

Research has indicated a dramatic increase in cyber security attacks against individuals and organisations worldwide in recent years. Attackers use sensitive data that can be compromised from people, employees' devices, or an organisation's information infrastructure. This data can be used to seriously hurt organisations and the stakeholders they serve. In order to ensure that their information assets are adequately protected against cyber security risks, individuals and organisations are encouraged to take the appropriate steps to handle information security. Additionally, they must be prepared on a regular basis.

Information is a vital resource

By Ibrahim Sultan

Cyber Security Consultant.



that must be protected in every organisation and by every individual by taking into account the best information security components, including availability, confidentiality, and integrity. Organisations and individuals employ many technological strategies, including as multi-factor authentication, firewalls, anti-spam software, and password management, to safeguard their information. Nevertheless, these methods by themselves are insufficient to put informa-

tion security control in place. Information security challenges cannot be addressed by security defensive technologies alone; additional security aspects, such as the impact of organisational, technological, and human variables, must be taken into account. Furthermore, the entire organisation bears responsibility for safeguarding its information assets, not only information technology or security personnel. Because hackers are always looking for new ways to

exploit information technology systems, both individuals and organisations need to continuously upgrade their information security procedures. The greatest techniques are required by both individuals and organisations to reduce risks, weaknesses, and threats to information security of the information assets.

**What actions should the nation take to ensuring online safety?**

The importance of the Internet in daily life cannot be disputed. Nearly every individual and organisation depend on ICT and network solutions. Systems and ICT devices must therefore be safeguarded and secured. The task of integrating information security into daily operations faces both individuals and organisations. Because information is always being transferred from one location to another,

information security has become a vital aspect of our daily lives.

Firstly, information security should be implemented with consideration for the role that human behavior plays in it. Organisations and individuals should concentrate on user behavior, viewing it as a success or failure based on what employees or individuals do or do not do in terms of information security.

Last but not least, since more people and organisations are using ICT to boost output, effectiveness, and efficiency in the provision of services, information security must be strengthened on a national level. In order to tackle the nationwide cybersecurity issue, we must plan cybersecurity awareness campaigns that educate the public, educators, business community, and government officials about potential risks they may face online and their respective roles in fostering a safer cyberspace. This program will foster the idea that cybersecurity is "a shared responsibility" and enable individuals and organisations to adopt safer and more secure online habits, thereby contributing to a greater national awareness of cyber risks.

**Ibrahim Sultan (pictured) is a cyber security consultant. He can be reached through email address: sultibra@gmail.com**

## SHANGHAI

China has disbursed only a fraction of a flagship central bank fund designed to rescue property developers, as authorities struggle to cut a vast stock of unsold homes and end a prolonged real estate slump.

Beijing unveiled a plan in May for the People's Bank of China and state banks to mobilise up to Rmb500bn (\$70bn) in lending to support local government enterprises to buy up unsold property. Local governments would then lease the property as social housing.

But the latest figures from the PBoC show that banks have lent only Rmb24.7bn under the scheme, prompting the central bank this month to promise to "accelerate" the programme. "The implementation has been one of the bottlenecks," said Lisheng Wang, China economist at Goldman Sachs, as banks, local governments and others struggle to agree on property pricing.

The slow take-up comes as policymakers have struggled to stabilise the real estate sector, undermining household confidence in a country where property accounts for most of people's wealth, according to analysts.

Beijing's policy responses have emphasised market-based lending through the financial system, but they have run into a challenging economic backdrop. Credit demand has slumped, with new renminbi loans to the real economy turning negative for the first time since 2005 in July.

New home sales by area were about half the level of three years ago on a rolling 12-month basis as of June, and

## China's \$70bn property rescue plan now limps off starting line



construction starts were down two-thirds from their peak in early 2021 despite multiple property support measures, according to Chen Long, founder of research group Plenum.

The market originally greeted the relending programme with enthusiasm, saying the policy of intervening in the market by supporting local

government purchases of unsold housing was a step in the right direction.

The potential market of unsold housing is immense. Goldman Sachs has estimated that China's new housing inventory could be up to 30 times average monthly sales. To reach the 2018 average of nine months' worth of monthly sales, the government would need to

spend Rmb77tn, buying housing inventory at 50 per cent of market prices, Goldman said.

Under the relending programme, the PBoC committed to providing up to Rmb300bn in funds, which banks can use to support up to 60 per cent of the principal of their loans, meaning it could generate a total of Rmb500bn in lending. The central bank said this

month in its monetary report for the second quarter that only Rmb12.1bn of its own fund had been drawn as of the end of June, while total loans outstanding were Rmb24.7bn.

But according to Capital Economics, part of this total had already been committed under an earlier pilot programme that started in February 2023 and was later merged with the May relending scheme, meaning the amount of lending the new scheme had generated was even lower.

"The sums being deployed so far are still too small to make a meaningful difference to overall housing demand and developer finances," said Zichun Huang and Julian Evans-Pritchard at Capital Economics.

Similar targeted lending programmes for the property market and other sectors have suffered slow adoption, raising questions about the effectiveness of Beijing's stimulus policies.

Analysts said one of the problems was that the relending scheme relied on the assumption that rental yields would be high enough to justify the outlay for state banks. Authorities have stressed that institutions must "make their own decisions and bear their own risks".

"My sense is that the credit risks are still too high for banks," said Larry Hu, chief China economist at Macquarie. He added that "local [state-owned enterprises] may also lack the incentive" given low rental yields.

## Young agri-preneurs to get a boost in Ghana

## ACCRA

AGRA's Youth Entrepreneurship for the Future of Agriculture (YEFFA) program, in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, will be expanding into Ghana.

This announcement was made at the National Youth Convening 2024 held recently, at the Alisa Hotel North Ridge in Accra.

The convening made possible through a collaboration between AGRA and Ghana's National Youth Authority was themed "Unlocking Youth Potential for Sustainable Development: Bridging the Gap, Accelerating Success".

The gathering brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and young Ghanaians to chart a course for a more prosperous and inclusive future. The conference also marked the Youth and Food Systems Transformation convening, organized under the YEFFA program.

The YEFFA Program, a five-year initiative, is now expand-



AGRA's Ghana Country Director Dr. Betty Annan speaks during her speech at the National Youth Convening 2024 in Accra

ing into Ghana following its successful launch in Malawi and Tanzania. The program aims to empower over 1.5 million young Africans to secure dignified and fulfilling work in the sector.

Youth in Ghana will receive support to increase access to resources like land and credit, knowledge of sustainable agricultural practices, and grants for their agri-business ventures.

Ghana's youth population is poised to lead the nation's path towards sustainable development, with the National Youth

Convening serving as a springboard for action.

Dr. Betty Annan, Country Director for AGRA Ghana, emphasized the immense potential of Ghana's youth. "We at AGRA Ghana are incredibly enthusiastic about the role young people can play in transforming our nation's agricultural sector."

With over 60 percent of its population under the age of thirty-five, Ghana boasts a youthful, talented, and innovative demographic. The National Youth Conference recognized

this potential and the challenges young Ghanaians face, such as limited access to resources, training, and engagement platforms.

The conference aimed to bridge these gaps by fostering dialogues on peacebuilding, social cohesion, digital transformation, innovation, entrepreneurship, market access, agricultural productivity, financial inclusion, youth participation in governance, and job creation.

"The National Youth Convening and the expansion of the YEFFA program in Ghana are crucial steps towards empowering the youth to become the future leaders of Ghana's agriculture," noted Dr. Annan.

These forums represent a powerful commitment to Ghana's youth. By equipping them with the tools and opportunities they need to succeed, Ghana can unlock its full potential for sustainable development and economic prosperity.

"We are confident that the Convening and the YEFFA program will be a game-changer

for young Ghanaians in agriculture," said CEO of the National Youth Agency Mr. Pious Enam Hadzide expressing optimism for the initiative's expansion into the country.

"We urge that the youth be actively involved in policy development. Instead of making decisions for us, include us in the formulation process so that we can contribute our own ideas. Moreover, the policies developed should be communicated in local languages to ensure broader understanding and impact," remarked Francisca Nana Ama Asiedu, CEO of Naaf-KOK Enterprises a youth representative during the convening.

Dr. Betty Annan emphasized the importance of empowering young agri-preneurs, stating, "Empowering young agri-preneurs is essential for a thriving agricultural sector and a 'food-secured' future for Ghana representing significant steps towards empowering young people and driving sustainable development."

## Egypt's ministry sets fixed land prices, extends building licences

## CAIRO

Egypt's Minister of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities Sherif El-Shorbagy has approved several new measures aimed at supporting the real estate sector, including establishing fixed land prices and extending operating licenses for administrative buildings.

The decisions were made in response to demands from the Real Estate Development Chamber at the Federation of Egyptian Industries, following a series of correspondences and meetings with Chamber Chairperson Tarek Shoukry.

Shoukry stated that the new decisions include directives from the Minister of Housing to establish a fixed price for land at the start of the offering. Previously, a system was in place where an initial price was set at the beginning of the offering, and the final price was determined upon contract completion. This uncertainty posed investment risks as developers had to account for unknown land prices in their project feasibility studies.

"The fixed price system will end the debate over the existence of two different land prices," Shoukry said.

Shoukry added that the Minister of Housing has approved the registration of both developed and undeveloped land for projects that have reached 80 percent completion.

This decision provides a financial boost for developers by allowing them to register the entire project, helping to absorb some of the impacts experienced by companies in recent times and supporting developers in the swift completion of their projects.

The Chamber previously secured approval from the Ministry of Housing a year ago to consider 80 percent of the project completion as fully completed.

Shoukry also noted that the Minister of Housing has agreed to extend the issuance of operating licenses for administrative buildings to every 5 years instead of annually while maintaining annual reviews by the Civil Defense. This change reduces procedures and burdens on developers compared to the previous annual licensing process.

The Chamber expressed its gratitude for the Minister of Housing's earlier approval to fix the interest rate at 15 percent on land instalments for one year, from May 2024 to May 2025.

## WORLD

## Minnesota Governor Tim Walz accepts VP nomination at Democratic National Convention

CHICAGO

US Minnesota Governor Tim Walz officially accepted the Democratic Party's vice presidential nomination at the Democratic National Convention (DNC) held here on Wednesday night.

"It's the honor of my life to accept your nomination for vice-president of the United States," Walz said in a speech on the third day of the party's national convention scheduled for Aug 19 to 22.

Walz, a former public school teacher, high school football coach, veteran, and six-term US House Representative, was elected governor of Minnesota in 2018 and re-elected in 2022.

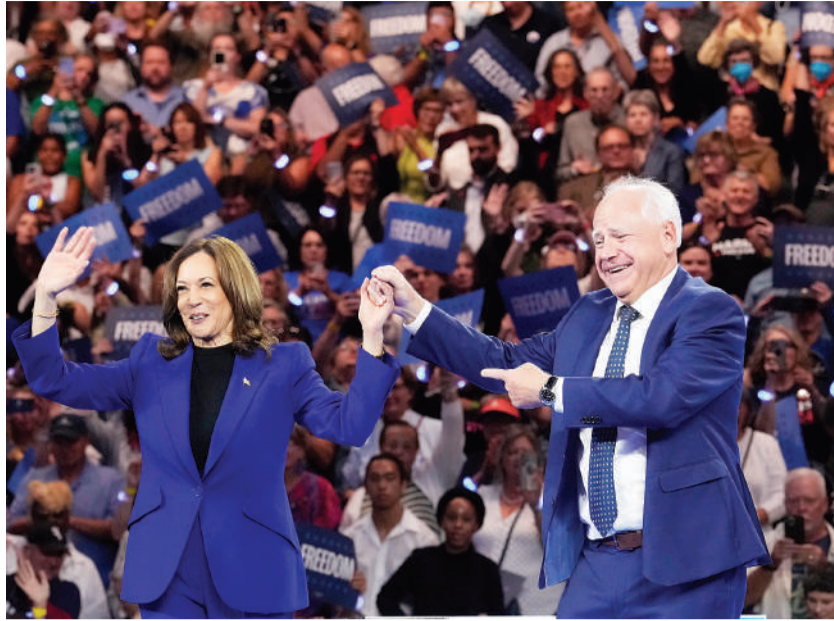
Former US President Bill Clinton, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries gave prime-time speeches. Influential talk show host Oprah Winfrey made a surprise appearance at the convention and delivered a powerful speech.

On Tuesday night, former President Barack Obama, former First Lady Michelle Obama, and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff gave prime-time speeches.

On the opening day of the DNC, both former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and United Auto Workers President Sean Fain gave prime-time speeches. President Joe Biden, greeted by an enthusiastic crowd of delegates, closed the night of the first day by delivering a nearly hourlong keynote speech.

On Monday, thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators marched near the ven-



Democratic presidential nominee Vice-President Kamala Harris and running mate Minnesota Governor Tim Walz appear at the Fiserv Forum during a campaign rally in Milwaukee, Tuesday, Aug 20, 2024. AP

ue to express their dissatisfaction with the Biden administration's Israel policy, with at least four being arrested after breaching a security fence although the vast majority of the demonstration proceeded peacefully.

On Tuesday night, dozens of people were arrested after clashing with police during an unauthorized protest outside the Israeli Consulate in downtown Chicago. Vice-President Kamala Harris, who has already won enough delegates to become the Democratic presidential nominee in a virtual roll call vote earlier this month, is expected to officially accept the Democratic Party's presiden-

tial nomination on Thursday night.

As Democrats gather for the convention, former President Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, has been holding campaign rallies in multiple states this week, including key swing states Michigan and North Carolina.

In the key swing states that could decide the results of the election, the race between the two remains tight. According to the latest poll data compiled by Real Clear Politics, Harris leads Trump by 1.0 percentage points in Wisconsin and by 2.0 percentage points in Michigan. In Pennsylvania, Harris trails by 0.2 percentage points. **Agencies**

## Bill Clinton endorses Kamala Harris at Democratic convention, calls her 'president of joy'

CHICAGO

IN his Democratic National Convention (DNC) speech on Wednesday (local time), former US President Bill Clinton expressed his support for the Democratic nominee for the upcoming Presidential election, Kamala Harris, and urged Americans to vote for the "president of joy" for the White House.

Clinton (pictured) said that Harris' Presidential candidacy represents the country, as he narrated the crowd her life story during his convention speech.

"From a man who once had the honour to be called in this convention, a man from Hope, we need Kamala Harris - the president of joy - to lead us...So, I'll be doing my part. You do yours," he said during his convention speech on Wednesday night.

Clinton, who was the 42nd President of the United States further said that he now wants America to be "more inclusive, more future-focused."

"Just think what a burden it's been on us to get up day after day after day after day, buried in meaningless hot rhetoric when there are so many opportunities out there, so many problems that need to be solved - I want that. And that's the America Kamala Harris will lead," Clinton said during his speech.



The former president also cited a few instances, stating that Harris spearheaded the charge for reproductive rights while serving as president and that she had "fought for kids her whole life" as a prosecutor.

Clinton also cited Harris's proposal to address the issue of affordable housing and lower the cost of owning.

Last week, Harris released her housing plan, which included incentives to develop affordable rental housing as well as tax breaks for builders who build starter houses for first-time buyers and first-time homeowners up to a USD 25,000 down payment, reported to CNN.

"She's gained an invaluable amount of experience as vice president advancing our values and interests around the

world," he said.

Clinton further went all guns blazing at Donald Trump, who is eyeing the White House from the Republican Party and said that all he does is just talk about himself all the time.

Praising Harris, he said, "Kamala Harris is the only candidate in this race who has the vision, the experience, the temperament, the will, and yes, the sheer joy, to get something done. I mean, look, what does her opponent do with his voice? He mostly talks about himself. So, the next time you hear him, don't count the lies, count the Ts."

As he further went on to criticize the former president's "vendettas, his vengeance, his complaints, his conspiracies," Clinton added, "He is like the tenors opening up before he goes on stage, like I did, by saying, 'me, me, me, me, me.' When Kamala Harris is president, every day will begin with you, you, you, you."

The highly critical speech of Clinton on Trump, as he vowed his staunch support to Kamala Harris did not just end there.

He also made a joke at the age of Republican presidential contender Donald Trump, saying "Two days ago, I turned 78, the oldest man in my family for four generations. And the only personal vani-

ty I want to assert is I'm still younger than Donald Trump."

Addressing the Democratic National Convention, Clinton said that Americans have a "clear choice" between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris in November, according to CNN.

He said, "In 2024, we gotta pretty clear choice, it seems to me," Clinton said. "Kamala Harris, for the people, and the other guy, who has proved even more than the first go-around that he's about me, myself and I."

"Kamala Harris will work to solve our problems, seize our opportunities, ease our fears, and make sure every single American, however they vote, has a chance to chase their dreams," he added.

The Democratic National Convention (DNC) kicked off in Chicago on Monday, one month after Republicans held their convention in Milwaukee. The theme of the convention is "For the People, For Our Future."

Harris is the first Asian American woman and woman of colour to head a significant party ticket. Earlier last month, a virtual vote officially recognised the vice president as the Democratic party nominee. After Biden withdrew from the contest and backed her, the party came together in support of her. **ANI**

## Uganda drills 74 wells successfully ahead of first oil production

KAMPALA

UGANDA said 74 oil wells in its two production areas in the country's western and northern regions have been successfully drilled ahead of commercial production slated for next year.

Ruth Nankabirwa, minister of energy and mineral development, told journalists on Wednesday during a press conference in the Uganda capital of Kampala that the 74 wells had been drilled at Tilenga and Kingfisher production areas.

In 2022, a Final Investment Decision was announced by joint venture partners TotalEnergies E&P Uganda, China National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC) Uganda Limited, and

Uganda National Oil Company to undertake various upstream projects on behalf of the government of Uganda.

The projects include Tilenga and Kingfisher production areas, and the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) to transport crude oil to the East African coast in Tanzania, and the Uganda Refinery Project.

At the Tilenga project, Nankabirwa said, "Sixty-three out of the planned 426 wells have been successfully completed, with positive hydrocarbon shows in the targeted reservoirs."

"Drilling activities have so far focused on six of the 31 well pads that will host 426 producer and injector wells for the Tilenga project. All

three rigs designated for drilling are operational, and a total of 63 wells have been drilled as of Aug. 16, 2024," the minister added.

In addition, she said, seven other well pads are over 85 percent complete and ready to receive a rig. According to the minister, civil works at the Tilenga Industrial Area, which is supposed to host the central processing facility, a drilling support base, a construction camp, and other facilities, are 99.7 percent complete.

At the Kingfisher Oil field operated by CNOOC Uganda Limited, nine of the 11 wells required for First Oil had been successfully drilled.

"The development plan (at Kingfisher) includes a central processing facility with a capacity of 40,000

barrels per day and the drilling of 31 wells across four well pads," the minister said.

In January 2023, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni launched the drilling of oil for commercial production at the Kingfisher Oil Field. The minister also said China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering and the EACOP construction contractor "had begun civil works at the pump stations and main camp and pipe yard sites in both Uganda and Tanzania."

The EACOP runs 1,443 km from Hoima District in western Uganda to the Tanga Port in Tanzania. Uganda in 2006 discovered 6.5 billion barrels of oil, of which 1.4 billion barrels are commercially viable, according to the ministry. **ANI**

## IAEA chief may visit Kursk nuclear power plant early next week - Russian diplomat

VIENNA

THE International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi may visit the Kursk nuclear power plant (NPP) in southwestern Russia early next week, Russia's Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based international organizations Mikhail Ulyanov said.

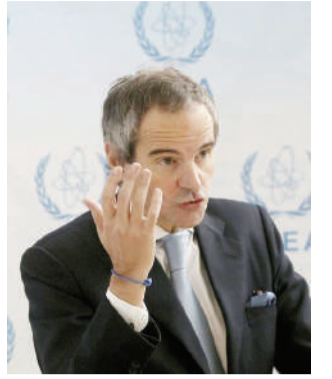
"The IAEA director general has publicly stated his intentions to visit the Kursk NPP next week. I presume that the visit is more likely to take place early next week rather than in the weekend," the Russian diplomat wrote on Telegram.

Earlier, the Russian foreign ministry's official spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, said Grossi's visit to the Kursk nuclear power plant in late August was in the works.

Grossi had a phone conversation with the CEO of Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom, Alexey Likhachev, on August 17.

It was their second conversation this month, with the first one taking place on August 9. Following the discussions, Likhachev invited Grossi to visit the Kursk NPP and the adjacent town of Kurchatov as soon as possible to see for himself the situation around the nuclear facility. Grossi accepted the invitation.

On August 9, Russia notified the IAEA about the situation around the Kursk NPP amid Ukraine's incursion into Russia's borderland Kursk Region. It said that fragments of downed missiles had been reportedly found in the facility's territory.



## Resurgent Africa, rising India strengthen South-South Cooperation: VP Jagdeep

NEW DELHI

VICE President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday emphasised the significance of India-Africa cooperation at the 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Dhankhar stated that a resurgent Africa and a rising India can strengthen South-South Cooperation in areas like clean technology, climate-resilient agriculture, maritime security, connectivity, and green economy.

He noted that the India-Africa growth partnership contributes to global rebalancing, leading to greater peace and harmony.

Dhankhar said the India-Africa growth partnership is contributing to the global rebalancing that leads to greater global peace and harmony. He reiterated that Africa is always a top priority for India and that the bilateral partnership is designed to be mutually beneficial in the true spirit of India being a 'Vishwabandhu'.

He highlighted Africa's natural resources and demographic advantages, making it an attractive destination for investments and partnerships.

Referring to Africa's rich natural resources endowment and its demographic advantage, Dhankhar stated that the region is emerging as a highly attractive destination for investments and partnerships. In this regard, India will stay committed to partnering Africa in its quest for value addition in its industrial sectors through innovative solutions.

Highlighting India's progress in the realm of digital infrastructure in the delivery of public services, Dhankhar said the Indian experience and expertise in this area would be of great relevance to Africa.

Prosper Bazombanza, Vice President of the Republic of Burundi said India-Africa partnerships in areas like pharmaceuticals, science and technology, ICT, and renewable energy sector have helped African countries to improve their participation in the global value chains. He welcomed Indian investments in Burundi.

Muhammad BS Jallow, the Vice-President of Republic of The Gambia highlighted the potential for joint ventures between India and The Gambia in sectors like agriculture, healthcare, technology, and renewable energy.

Jeremiah Kpan Koung, the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, said the trade agreement signed between India and Liberia helped bilateral trade to grow to the level of USD 325 million. Hailing India's progress in the agriculture sector, he sought assistance in helping Liberia in skills and technological advancements to enhance local production.

Marie Cyril Eddy Boissezon, the Vice President of the Republic of Mauritius, underscored the "time-tested relationship" between India and Mauritius and added that the trade agreement signed between the two countries on April 1, 2021 has helped augment bilateral trade and investments. **ANI**

## Industry insiders criticise EU's planned tariffs on imported Chinese EVs

BRUSSELS

THE European Union's planned tariffs on electric vehicles (EVs) imported from China have drawn criticism from industry insiders, who warned that the protectionist measures could exacerbate trade tensions between the two sides and send a negative signal to global cooperation and green development.

The European Commission released on Tuesday its draft decision to impose definitive countervailing duties on imports of EVs from China, rang-

ing from 17 percent to 36.3 percent, which is subject to approval by EU member states at the end of this month. The move came after the commission imposed provisional additional tariffs on Chinese EV makers in July, following its anti-subsidy probe on Chinese EVs launched in October 2023.

The China Chamber of Commerce to the EU (CCCEU) strongly criticized the EU's protectionist stance, expressing "deep dissatisfaction."

The Brussels-based business group argued there is insufficient evidence to prove that

Chinese EVs cause substantial material injury to the EU market, noting the allegation of "threat of injury" used by the EU to justify imposing these trade measures is "contrary to fair trade principles and unacceptable to the industry."

The tariffs are "not based on proven facts," but on assertions to justify them, said Ferdinand Dudenhofer, director of the Center for Automotive Research in Bochum, Germany.

"The European Commission's unfair use of trade tools to hinder free trade in elec-

tric vehicles, along with this protectionist approach, will ultimately weaken the resilience of the European electric vehicle industry, disrupt the level playing field, and undermine the EU's own green transition," the CCCEU said in a statement.

"Moreover, it will exacerbate trade tensions between China and the EU, sending a profoundly negative signal to global cooperation and green development," it added. Echoing these concerns, Hrvoje Prpic, president of the Croatian EV Drivers Association,

said the EU tariffs on Chinese EVs are "not helpful" and "not beneficial" for European manufacturers who are struggling to keep pace with the rapidly developing EV industry.

Prpic noted it is the European consumers who would bear the cost as the tariffs would make the Chinese EVs much more expensive. "The end users are the ones who will have to eventually pay for it," he said, adding that it is "definitely not good" for the whole European market.

The CCCEU urged the EU to promote free trade, respect

globalization, and support the global green transition by canceling the countervailing duties on Chinese-manufactured EVs.

"This action would encourage mutual benefit, strengthen the collaborative development of the automotive industry chain between China and Europe, and boost green trade.

It would also contribute meaningfully to global efforts to combat climate change," the CCCEU said. China's Ministry of Commerce also condemned the EU's tariffs on Tuesday, stating that the country would

take all necessary measures to protect the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises.

The ministry emphasized that more than 10 rounds of technical consultations have been held since late June, urging the EU to take practical steps to prevent the escalation of trade disputes.

Earlier this month, China filed an appeal with the World Trade Organization, challenging the EU's imposition of provisional additional tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles.

Xinhua



## BRI, African Union's Agenda 2063 in synergy, forum told

CHINA is ready to promote synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the development strategies of African countries, experts said at a Sino-African forum on Wednesday.

The forum also delved into the fostering of win-win cooperation and supporting the modernization of African nations.

The development strategies of African countries, focusing on areas such as infrastructure development, knowledge sharing, industrialization and sustainable growth, were also discussed at the 6th Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation and China-Africa Think Tank High-Level Dialogue.

The BRI was proposed by China in 2013 to chart new areas for international cooperation, while Agenda 2063, adopted by the African Union in January 2015, set out a series of goals related to the development of greater prosperity in Africa.

Paul Frimpong, executive director of Africa-China Center for Policy and Advisory, said Africa is a continent that is rich in natural resources, and breaking its "infrastructure gap" has the potential to unlock the continent's economic transformation.

"The BRI seeks to build connectivity", Frimpong said. "We believe that if we seek to build a continent, we want to unlock the potential of the African continent to bring that kind of transformation that we want."

"We need to invest in our infrastructure, and that is what BRI seeks to do."

Projects such as an upstream and downstream integrated project in Chad and a natural gas processing plant in Tanzania serve as BRI flagship ventures, said Lu Ruquan, president of China National



People take part in a protest against the assassination of Hamas Politburo Chief Ismail Haniyeh in the West Bank city of Hebron, July 31, 2024. Xinhua

Petroleum Corp's Economics and Technology Research Institute.

The BRI and Agenda 2063 "have the potential to have a significant global impact", said Alpha Mohamed Jalloh, director of the China Africa Institute at the University of Makeni in Sierra Leone.

"Investment is key," he said. "China's investments in African countries are expanding in various sectors, including agriculture, mining and manufacturing. This investment is aligned with Agenda

2063. It focuses on industrialization and economic diversification."

Yu Yunquan, president of the Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies, called for the strengthening of collaborative research, enhancement of knowledge sharing, expansion of cultural exchanges, and promotion of people-to-people connectivity to better align the development goals of China and Africa and promote modernization.

"The rules of the game are changing,"

said Rana Mohamed Abd El Aal Mazid, associate professor of political science at Suez Canal University in Egypt.

"The political game is changing. It is no longer a zero-sum game."

"Chinese tools are totally different from Western tools. African countries have come to use the Chinese political and economic system as a role model. And this is a very important point to be taken into consideration."

Xinhua

## Li: China ready to join Russia for cooperation in emerging areas

MOSCOW

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang said here Wednesday that while consolidating cooperation in traditional areas, China is willing to work with Russia to explore cooperation in emerging areas.

Li made the remarks when meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin after he co-chaired the 29th regular meeting between Chinese and Russian heads of government with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

Li conveyed Chinese President Xi Jinping's cordial greetings and best wishes to President Putin. He said that the two heads of state have met twice this year, drawing a new blueprint and injecting strong momentum into further deepening bilateral relations and cooperation, especially at the historical juncture of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Russia.

The steady development of China-Russia relations not only serves the fundamental interests of the two countries and two



Chinese Premier Li Qiang (right) meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Aug 21, 2024. XINHUA

peoples, but also contributes to regional and world peace, stability and prosperity, Li noted, expressing China's willingness to work with Russia to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, maintain the sound momentum of the development of bilateral relations, expand all-round mutually beneficial cooperation and achieve more practical results.

Li pointed out that the current round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is deepening, which implies huge development opportunities.

China is ready to further highlight the role of scientific, technological and industrial innovation in powering bilateral cooperation with Russia, to constantly foster new economic growth points, he added.

The two sides should continue to deepen cultural, tourism, education, youth and sub-national exchanges and cooperation to promote mutual understanding between the two peoples and pass on the cause of China-Russia friendship from generation to generation, Li said.

Against the backdrop of accelerating

changes in the world unseen in a century, China is ready to work with Russia to further strengthen multilateral coordination, deepen mutual trust and cooperation with developing countries, firmly promote a multi-polar world and economic globalization, and better safeguard its legitimate rights and interests and basic norms governing international relations.

Putin asked Li to convey his cordial greetings and best wishes to President Xi. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Russia and China, which is a memorable year in the history of the development of bilateral relations, Putin said.

Noting that Russian and Chinese heads of government held their annual meeting this morning, during which they had in-depth exchanges on economy, trade, people-to-people and cultural cooperation and signed a series of cooperation documents, Putin said this is a strong implementation of the important consensus reached between President Xi and him and has yielded fruitful results.

Russia is willing to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation with China, expand cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and step up communication and coordination within BRICS and other multilateral mechanisms, so as to push for greater development of the Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era, said Putin. **Agencies**

## Botswana launches Learning Passport to modernize education sector

GABORONE

BOTSWANA on Wednesday launched the Learning Passport, an innovative online platform that aims to bridge the learning gap and transform the education sector in the southern African country.

Addressing delegates and students of Mogoditshane Senior Secondary School in the national capital of Gaborone, Douglas Letsholathebe, minister of education and skills development, said the program was developed by the ministry in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Microsoft to address the country's challenges of lack of equitable access to education, particularly the use of information and communications technology as a platform for learning, especially in remote areas.

"The Botswana Learning Passport is a ground-breaking initiative aimed at providing accessible and quality education to all children and those in disadvantaged communities around the country," said Letsholathebe.

According to Letsholathebe, the system can hold and provide content for all curriculum subjects, including e-library services, revision materials, and learner performance tracking. It will supplement traditional classroom learning and empower students to take charge of their education, allowing them to learn at their own pace and on their own time.

Joan Matji, UNICEF representative to Botswana and the Southern African Development Community, said the Learning Passport will help bridge the digital divide by providing equitable learning opportunities to all children, regardless of their geographical location or socioeconomic background.

"We recognize the importance of scaling up our activities, which will include cascading training to other school levels and developing more content for junior and primary schools. This will enable us to extend our impact and reach a broader population," said Matji. **Xinhua**



**The Botswana Learning Passport is a ground-breaking initiative aimed at providing accessible and quality education to all children and those in disadvantaged communities around the country**

## Conflicts in Ukraine, West Asia matter of deep concern, India believes no problem can be solved in battlefield: PM Modi

WARSAW

THE ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia are a matter of deep concern and India firmly believes that no problem can be solved on the battlefield, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday while noting that the loss of innocent lives in any crisis has become the biggest challenge for the entire humanity.

Addressing a press meet with Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk, PM Modi (pictured) said India supports dialogue and diplomacy for the early restoration of peace and stability and is ready to provide all possible cooperation along with its friendly countries.

"The ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia are a matter of deep concern for all of us. India firmly believes that no problem can be

solved on the battlefield. The loss of innocent lives in any crisis has become the biggest challenge for the entire humanity. We support dialogue and diplomacy for the early restoration of peace and stability. For this, India is ready to provide all possible cooperation along with its friendly countries," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister reached Poland on Wednesday in the first leg of his two-nation visit. He will go to Ukraine from Poland. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has lasted for almost two-and-a-half years.

The Prime Minister said that Poland will assume presidency of the European Union in January 2025. "I am confident that your support will strengthen the relations between India and the EU," he said.



He said Poland has a very old and rich tradition of Indology and Sanskrit and a strong foundation of strong bilateral relations has been laid by the deep interest in Indian civilization and languages.

The Prime Minister said that close cooperation in the field of defence is a symbol of

deep mutual trust between the two countries.

"Mutual cooperation in this area will be made a priority. Innovation and talent are the identity of the youth power of both our countries."

He said a Social Security Agreement has been agreed upon between the two sides for the welfare of the skilled

workforce and to promote mobility.

"India and Poland are also moving forward in close coordination on the international platform. We both agree that reforms in the United Nations and international institutions are the need of the hour to face global challenges."

He also spoke of the challenge of terrorism and said climate change is a matter of common priority for the two countries. "We will work for a green future by combining our capabilities," he said.

PM Modi said India and Poland are celebrating the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic relations and have decided to convert the relationship into a strategic partnership.

"Relations between India and Poland are based on shared values like democracy and rule of law. Today, we

have identified several initiatives to give a new direction to the relations. As two democratic countries, the exchange of views between our parliaments should be encouraged. Work will be done to connect the private sector to broaden economic cooperation. Poland has world leaders in the field of food processing. We want Polish companies to be associated with the mega food park being built in India," he said.

PM Modi said that rapid urbanization in India is opening up new opportunities for cooperation in areas such as water treatment, solid waste management and urban infrastructure.

"Clean coal technology, green, hydrogen, renewable energy and Artificial Intelligence are also our common priorities. We invite Polish companies to join Make in

India and Make for the World. India has achieved many milestones in areas such as Fintech, Pharma and Space. We will be happy to share our experience with Poland in these areas," he said.

PM Modi also thanked PM Tusk for giving him "a warm welcome" in Warsaw.

"You have been a friend of India for a long time and you have a huge contribution to enhancing the relationship between India and Poland. Today after 45 years, an Indian Prime Minister has visited Poland. I got this opportunity at the beginning of my third term. I want to thank the government and the people of Poland for this. People of India can never forget the help you have extended in rescuing Indian students during the Ukraine conflict in 2022," PM Modi said.

ANI

WHO calls for action to provide vaccines to children, protect adolescent girls from cervical cancer

NEW DELHI

THE World Health Organization on Wednesday called on countries in the Southeast Asia region to accelerate action to protect all children with life-saving vaccines being offered under the childhood immunization programme, focusing on those who have missed all or some vaccine doses and protecting all adolescent girls from cervical cancer.

"We should aim for a 'big catch-up' to vaccinate all zero dose and partially vaccinated children, and restore immunization progress lost during the pandemic; protect all adolescent girls from cervical cancer and accelerate efforts to eliminate Measles and Rubella from WHO South-East Asia by 2026," said Saima Wazed, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia, in her inaugural address to the 15th Meeting of the WHO South-East Asia Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (SEAR-ITAG) said.

The Regional Director acknowledged and thanked all experts, national programme managers, immunization champions, partners including the vaccinators and community workers, and the communities themselves, on the expanded immunization programme completing 50 years this year.

"We can proudly say, in the last 50 years, together, immunization programmes have helped hundreds of millions of people in our Region live healthier, longer, more productive, and prosperous lives," the Regional Director said.

"Today, the South-East Asia Region continues to be free of wild poliovirus transmission and has maintained the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus as a public health problem. Five countries have eliminated measles and rubella, and six have controlled hepatitis B through immunization. Seven countries consistently reach over 90 per cent of children with three doses of diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus (DTP3) vaccines," she said.

However, the region missed the target to eliminate measles and rubella by 2023. The WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage data released last month shows slow progress and no meaningful change in childhood immunization coverage last year compared to 2022, and coverage is yet to be restored to the pre-pandemic 2019 levels.

ANI



## Yanga reject Wydad Casablanca's bid for Clement Mzize

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans President Hersi Said has confirmed that the club turned down an offer from Wydad Casablanca for their star striker Clement Mzize during the off-season, underscoring the player's importance to their ongoing project.

Mzize (pictured), who emerged as the top scorer in last season's Federation Cup with five goals, has been instrumental for both Young Africans and the Tanzania national team under coach Hemed Suleiman. His impressive performances have solidified his position as a key player, showcasing his versatility on the wings and his goal-scoring prowess.

Wydad Casablanca initially offered \$100,000 for the 20-year-old striker, with reports indicating they were willing to increase their bid to \$400,000. However, Young Africans decided to retain Mzize, emphasizing his significance to the club's future ambitions.

President Said revealed that Wydad Casablanca head coach Rulani Mokwena personally contacted him while the Jangwani-based side was in South Africa for a pre-season match against TS Galaxy to discuss Mzize's potential transfer.

The club believes Mzize's value will increase significantly over the next two seasons, potentially reaching

\$1,000,000.

Said expressed confidence in Mzize's development, stating: "Mzize, a current Tanzania national team member, possesses the potential to become Tanzania's talisman at the 2027 AFCON. We're dedicated to honing his skills, and his progress is evident daily."

"As a club, we want him to be ready to break straight into the starting eleven when he eventually moves to another team. Recently, he has scored in back-to-back games, which is the kind of progress we want to see from him."

"We also have offers for other players, but we cannot be a selling club. We want to compete in Africa, and that's why we cannot let our players leave while we have a project to fulfill," Said added.

A product of the Young Africans youth academy, Mzize has been a valuable member of the senior team for three seasons. His introduction to the first team came under coach Nasreddine Nabi, who recognized his potential early on.

This season, Mzize has continued to impress, scoring twice in three matches, including a crucial goal against Azam FC in the Community Shield final and another against Vital'O FC in the CAF Champions League preliminary round.

## Mwana FA now thrills Zanzibar fans at NMB Day Singeli Night

By Guardian Correspondent

DEPUTY Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports, Hamis Mwinjuma, popularly known as Mwana FA, captivated the audience at the NMB Day Singeli Night.

The event was part of the Kizimkazi Festival, where he performed for 10 minutes and addressed the crowd for five.

The Singeli Night marked the conclusion of NMB Day, a special occasion dedicated to unveiling projects implemented by NMB during the Kizimkazi Festival on Wednesday.

A key highlight was the handover of a preparatory school to President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, followed by a sports bonanza.

The event showcased an exciting lineup of Singeli artists from both Mainland and Zanzibar, with the guest of honor being Zanzibar's Minister of Youth, Culture, and Sports, Tabia Maulid Mwita.

Preceding him was Deputy Minister Mwinjuma, 'Mwana FA'.

Renowned Hip Hop artist and former East Coast Team member Mwana FA took the stage at 9:45 PM. He commenced with a brief speech



Deputy Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports, Hamis Mwinjuma, also known as Mwana FA, performs during the NMB Day Singeli Night at the Kizimkazi festival. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

before succumbing to fans' requests to perform. He kicked off with his popular tracks 'Habari Ndio Hiyo' and 'Unanijua Unanisikia'.

Following a few verses of 'Unanijua Unanisikia', Mwana FA delivered a verse from his collaboration 'Mfalme' with G Nako, then transitioned to an impressive Singeli freestyle, culminating with 'Sio kwa Ubaya', a track he performed with Harmonize.

After his electrifying 10-minute performance, Mwana

FA expressed gratitude to the singers who contributed to the night's celebrations and encouraged them to elevate Singeli to the status of Tanzania's official music genre.

"I am grateful to Minister Tabia for choosing to accompany me here. I also thank our presidents, Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan and Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, for their tireless efforts in promoting Tanzanian arts, a mission that artists must also advocate for," said Mwana FA.

Earlier during the day, a

sports bonanza took place at the venue, where the village of Kizimkazi Dimbani emerged as overall champions, clinching four out of six possible trophies.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office for Labour, Youth, Employment, and Persons with Disabilities, Ridihiwan Kikwete, presented the trophies to the bonanza winners, who competed in Card games, 'Bao la Kete', coconut peeling and grating, and tug of war.



Jubilee Life Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Limited CEO Helena Mzena (4th R), Don Bosco Troncatti captain Nadia Samir (2nd R), Don Bosco basketball teams patron Father Joachim Sivali, (4th L) accompanied by some players and officials showcasing jerseys, basketballs, First Aid Kit and whistles donated by the company to support Don Bosco Oysterbay basketball teams. The event took place in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

## Company donates sports equipment to Don Bosco Oysterbay basketball teams

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

JUBILEE Life Insurance has taken a significant step in supporting the youth and sports sector by donating sports equipment to the Don Bosco Oysterbay basketball teams.

The donation benefits two teams: Don Bosco Oratory for boys and Don Bosco Troncatti for girls.

During the handover event in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, Jubilee Life Insurance Corpora-

tion of Tanzania Limited's CEO, Helena Mzena, emphasized that this sponsorship is part of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, aimed at helping young people achieve their goals.

"Jubilee Life Insurance's new initiative reflects our commitment to going beyond the traditional role of insurance. We're not just providing services; we're offering valuable insights that help people make

informed decisions for their health and financial well-being.

"Today's initiative to sponsor Don Bosco Oratory and Don Bosco Troncatti basketball teams is a testament to our dedication to supporting youth in reaching their aspirations," said Mzena.

Father Joachim Sivali, the teams' patron, expressed gratitude for Jubilee Life Insurance's support, recognizing its impact on transforming young lives.

"Sports is a cornerstone of good health. We must continue to support our youth so they can thrive when empowered," he added.

Stanslaus Zuberi, chairman of Don Bosco Oratory, praised the initiative and highlighted the importance of the sponsorship.

"We pledge to be the best ambassadors for our teams and Don Bosco as a whole as we work towards achieving our goals," he stated.



BetPawa's East Africa Regional Marketing Manager, Borah Ndanyungu (2nd R), cuts the ribbon for the completed water project for the residents of Makiwaru Village in Siha District, Sanya Juu, Kilimanjaro region. The project was completed through the BetPawa Dream Maker program, which resulted from a request submitted by the village's resident Eric Salema. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Betting firm solves water challenges in Siha District

By Guardian Correspondent

THE residents of Makiwaru Village in Siha District, Sanya Juu, Kilimanjaro Region, have reason to smile after getting a clean and safe water well project.

Facilitated by betting firm, BetPawa, the project has been described as a redeemer to hundreds of villagers in the district.

Eric Salema, a farmer and livestock keeper in the village said: "We're happy to see the project comes to reality as in the past women and girls were trekking long distances to access the precious liquid in the area."

He lauded the firm for making the project a reality and eliminating water woes in the village, that can make women engage in other

economic activities as the key service is in their doors.

"Sometimes our livestock die due to lack of water. If we get water, it will help us grow vegetables and raise livestock without issues," said Salema.

Adela Kimaro also stated that having water in their village relieves them from a long-time problem they have been suffering with.

Borah Ndanyungu, the firm's East Africa regional marketing manager, said that the idea to drill water in the village came after being requested to establish the project through their programme titled: "Dream Maker".

According to Ndanyungu, one of the Makiwaru villagers, Salema requested the firm to execute the project

through BetPawa's Dream Maker programme, which aims to help people realize their dreams and aspirations that benefit them and the communities around them as part of giving back to society.

"So, we acted upon the request," Ndanyungu said, praising Salema for recognizing the water shortage problem faced by the residents of Makiwaru Village.

Ndanyungu said that this project was chosen as part of the programme, and the company spent 24.4m/- to complete it.

She mentioned that Makiwaru Village had been facing water shortages that led to the loss of livestock, while women had to travel long distances to access the service, which had been a

burden to them.

"We are pleased that he dared to submit his dream and recognized a better social and economic future for his people through sustainable water access. BetPawa is proud to work with Salema to accomplish this project," said Ndanyungu.

She added that the well, which is 90 metres deep, can serve 10,000 residents. The project includes an electric pump that will facilitate the distribution of water to the area's residents.

Ndanyungu said that the Makiwaru project was one of 20 dreams implemented as part of the second season of the project. Dream Maker was launched in 2021 and has so far received over 15,000 applications.

## Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer retires from international soccer and will focus on Bayern

MUNICH

GERMANY goalkeeper Manuel Neuer said Wednesday he is retiring from the national team after 15 years and 124 games. He is staying in club soccer with Bayern Munich.

The 38-year-old Neuer made his debut for Germany in 2009 and won the World Cup in 2014. His last game for the national team was the 2-1 extra-time loss to eventual champion Spain in the quarterfinals as Germany hosted Euro 2024.

Neuer said he was "tempted" by the prospect of staying on for the 2026 World Cup but decided against it after speaking with family and friends. That could open the door for Barcelona's Marc-André ter Stegen, who has played for Germany 40 times but never at a major tournament, to take over as starting goalkeeper.

"I feel very good physically and obviously would have been very tempted by the 2026 World Cup in the U.S.A., Canada and Mexico. At the same time I am convinced that now is the right time to take this step and to concentrate fully on FC Bayern Munich in the future," Neuer said in a statement.

Neuer is the second leading player in the German team to retire from international soccer this week after midfielder Ilkay Gündogan, who captained the team at Euro 2024. He cited fatigue and the pressures of a busy club and international schedule in his statement Monday.

Forward Thomas Müller retired from the national team last month, and midfielder Toni Kroos retired from all soccer when Germany exited Euro 2024.

Coch Julian Nagelsmann had already indicated he would look to refresh the German team, which had the highest average age of any squad at Euro 2024, with an eye on the 2026 World Cup. Germany's next games are in the Nations League at home to Hungary on Sept. 7 and away at the Netherlands three days later.

At his peak, Neuer helped to change what it meant to be a modern goalkeeper, with his emphasis on playing higher up the field and taking on a key role in starting attacks.

AP

## Brazil police close investigation into Man Utd's Antony

SAO PAULO

A BRAZILIAN police investigation into allegations of domestic abuse by Manchester United winger Antony has concluded without any charges being brought, but prosecutors could still look into the claims.

The 24-year-old, who has denied wrongdoing, remains the subject of a Greater Manchester Police investigation.

Allegations of domestic abuse were made against Antony by three women in September last year, though he has not been arrested or charged in either Brazil or the UK and denies the allegations.

A statement from the player's lawyers said: "The defence of player Antony Matheus dos Santos, in light of the news published by the press this Tuesday (20 August 2024), hereby confirms that the police investigation opened at the fifth Women's Defense Precinct of Sao Paulo, of the Civil Police, was closed without any police indictment.

"The defence has always believed that the investigations, that run under confidentiality, would prove Antony's innocence."

Officials have told BBC News Brasil that although the police investigation has concluded without an indictment, the case has not been dropped because the prosecutor's office is still reviewing it and can decide to make another independent investigation.

Antony became Manchester United's second-most expensive signing when he joined from Ajax for £82m in September 2022.

During the international break in September 2023, Brazilian news outlet UOL published allegations made by Antony's ex-partner Gabriela Cavallin, which he denies.

Further assault allegations followed when Rayssa de Freitas and Ingrid Lana each claimed Antony assaulted them in 2022, which he also denies.

Greater Manchester Police became involved as one of the allegations was said to have taken place at a Manchester hotel.

United responded by saying they took the allegations "seriously" and granted Antony leave with full pay to deal with the allegations on 10 September.

He resumed training from 29 September having spoken to Greater Manchester Police voluntarily and returned to action in early October.

However, his club manager Erik ten Hag said in January that the matter had affected the player's form.

BBC

# Leverkusen's league: 2024/25 Bundesliga starts with Bayern Munich in unaccustomed role of challenger

BERLIN

FOR the first time in 12 years, Bayern Munich is not the defending champion going into a new Bundesliga season.

Bayer Leverkusen stayed undefeated last season to snap Bayern's 11-year reign as German champion and completed a domestic double by winning the German Cup to underscore its credentials as the country's best team.

The question is how long Xabi Alonso's team can keep its remarkable run going - Leverkusen defeated Stuttgart on penalties to win the German Supercup on Saturday, when there was little sign of any easing off or drop in intensity.

How will a wounded Bayern team react and can it reassert its status as Germany's No. 1?

And what about the other contenders who will hope to build on their achievements last season?

Runner-up Stuttgart finished ahead of Bayern on 73 points - its best-ever total - and saw a host of its players graduate to the German national team for the European Championship.

Leipzig finished fourth thanks in part to Dutch forward Xavi Simons - who's staying another year after rebutting interest from Bayern - and Borussia Dortmund hit the reset button after a disappointing fifth place



FILE - Leverkusen's head coach Xabi Alonso celebrates with the trophy as his team won the German Bundesliga, after the German Bundesliga soccer match between Bayer Leverkusen and FC Augsburg at the BayArena in Leverkusen, Germany, May 18, 2024. (AP Photo)

finish in the Bundesliga. Edin Terzi's team reached the Champions League final, showing it can compete at the highest levels. His successor, Nuri Sahin, is tasked with improving Dortmund's domestic standing.

Here are five things to know before Leverkusen starts its title defense at Borussia Mönchengladbach on Friday:

"Leverkusen the team to beat

Repeating its success is the biggest challenge for Leverkusen. Xabi Alonso's team played 53 competitive games last season and only lost one - 3-0 to Atalanta in the Europa League final. The Champions League will provide a tougher challenge this season, potentially with knock-on

effects in the Bundesliga. Summer transfer activity has been relatively quiet with much of the focus on defender Jonathan Tah's transfer to Bayern. The player wants to go with just a year left on his contract, but Bayern and Leverkusen are yet to reach final agreement on a fee.

"Bayern re-booted

Vincent Kompany was eventually appointed Bayern coach in the summer to replace Thomas Tuchel, who had a fraught season after taking over from Julian Nagelsmann the season before. Continuity is an issue at the Bavarian powerhouse, which has endured upheaval at boardroom level in recent years. Powerbroker Uli Hoeneß still maintains

considerable influence, part of the reason Tuchel's tenure did not go to plan. A summer shakeup of the squad was expected, but so far only Portugal midfielder João Palhinha, French winger Michael Olise and Japanese defender Hiroki Ito have arrived. Defenders Matthijs de Ligt and Nonsair Mazraoui have re-joined Erik ten Hag at Manchester United. Bayern was chasing Rennes attacker Desiré Doué but the 19-year-old has reportedly opted to join Paris Saint-Germain instead.

"Stuttgart starring

Like Leverkusen, Stuttgart exceeded expectations last season under coach Sebastian Hoeneß, the nephew of the Bayern powerbroker. Stutt-

gart, which survived a relegation playoff the season before, finished second, a point ahead of Bayern in the Bundesliga. But top-scorer Serhou Guirassy and defender Waldmar Anton have left for Dortmund, and defender Hiroki Ito has joined Bayern. Stuttgart was able to sign Germany forward Deniz Undav on a permanent basis from Brighton and Hove after his outstanding season on loan. Undav scored 18 goals in 30 Bundesliga appearances. The question is how he will do without Guirassy at his side.

"Dortmund's fresh start

Dortmund had been Bayern's main challenger in recent seasons, but inconsistency has been a consistent issue and

last season's fifth-place finish was a more accurate reflection of where the team stands than its remarkable run to the Champions League final. Veterans Mats Hummels and Marco Reus departed over the summer, as did Germany forward Niclas Füllkrug after just one season. New signings Pascal Groß, Waldeemar Anton, Yan Couto and Maximilian Beier all made their debuts in the 4-1 win over Phönix Lübeck in the German Cup on Saturday. Dortmund will need to wait before Guinea star Serhou Guirassy can play after he arrived from Stuttgart with an injury.

"Newcomers

St. Pauli returns after a 13-year absence after winning Germany's second division. Coach Fabian Hürzeler has since departed for Brighton and Hove and was replaced by Alexander Blessin, who was at Belgian team Union Saint-Gilloise. St. Pauli is traditionally a left-wing club and will bring more politics to the Bundesliga terraces.

Holstein Kiel, which finished runner-up in the second division, is making its Bundesliga debut. It's the 58th club to take part since the league's formation in 1963, and the first from the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein.

Cologne and Darmstadt were relegated and have already started in the second division.

AP

## 'We don't have to choose between babies and football'

By Emma Sanders

AC Milan captain Christy Grimshaw says players "now don't have to make a choice" between being a mother or a footballer after the club introduced a ground-breaking maternity policy.

The Italian giants have become the first club in Europe to guarantee contract renewals for players who become pregnant in the final year of their deals.

Players will also receive help with childcare and expenses for their children and a companion.

"The choice of being a mother or a player is one that definitely, in the past, a lot of women have had to make," Scotland international Grimshaw told BBC Sport.

"To be granted this opportunity feels extra special. You might be in the last year of your contract and feel a little scared about becoming a mother. It's taking that choice away from us. We can feel comfortable.

"Becoming a mother as a woman is a beautiful thing. I'm hoping this is the start of something special in women's football and women's sport."

The policy from AC Milan was led by head of women's football Elisabet Spina and comes amid a push for improved rights for players across the game, with Fifa launching new standards to protect pregnant female footballers in May.



AC Milan women finished sixth in Serie A in 2023-24. Agencies

"As a huge club, we have the responsibility to try to develop women's football. That's why every year we invest in a dedicated project," Spina told BBC Sport.

"I hope this project in particular can help not only women's football improve, but women's sport and female professionals."

"We are happy to be the first"

Spina said it was important to be proactive on women's health and provide resources for the future generation at AC Milan.

She hopes their maternity policy will act as a "model" to other clubs and set a precedent within women's sport.

"We want to contribute and try to change the culture," she added.

"It is late in a way, but we are happy to be the first that thinks of something like this and to try to change things.

"We started from the point that we didn't want

in women's football and also men's football," said Spina.

"I think the men's game gives us the opportunity to grow but now we can give something back to women's football.

"We should always have a mix and that is the best choice. It's why we have other women inside main roles at AC Milan."

"I'd like to see a change in mindset"

Spina believes the impact of the policy will not truly be felt until a member of the playing squad at AC Milan becomes pregnant.

However, Grimshaw says people are looking at the club as "being serious with equality and inclusivity" and she is proud to represent AC Milan.

"It's not only on the outside, it feels really good on the inside. It's a really proud moment,"

she added.

"Women should never be put off about being a mother. It's really special and it should always feel that way."

As well as encouraging others to follow suit in regulations, Grimshaw thinks the next step should be about changing the perception of motherhood in women's football.

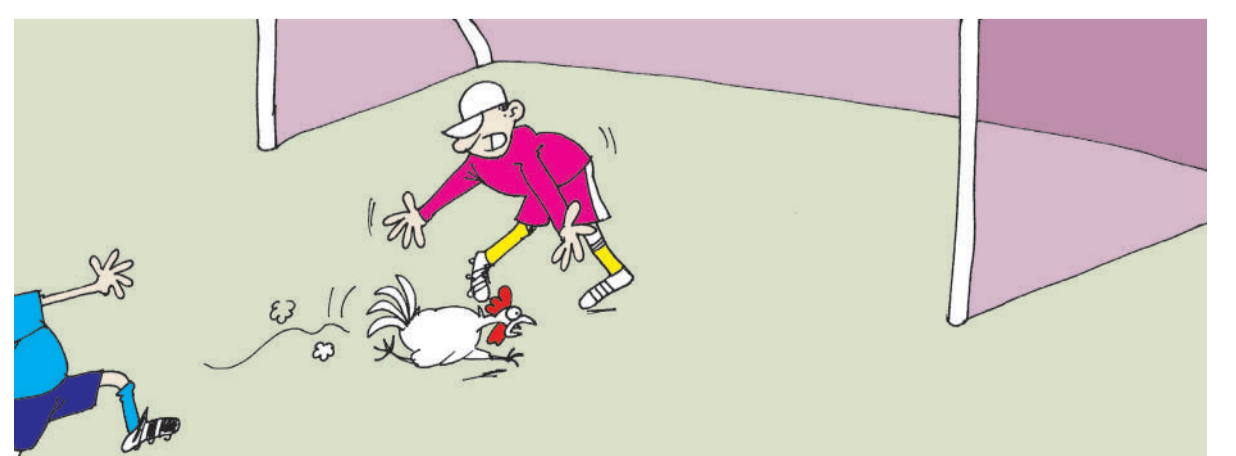
"A policy like this enables us to come back and perform [after giving birth]. I'd like to see a change in mindset," said Grimshaw.

"We can have a baby, come back and be as strong as we were before, compete in major events - and not just in women's football but every sport.

"Hopefully that can change. It's a step-by-step process. We are growing every day. But it's an exciting time for all of us."

BBC

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Leverkusen's league: Bundesliga starts with Bayern Munich in unaccustomed role of challenger

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## Vital'O coach urges caution ahead of second leg showdown with Yanga



By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

VITAL'O head coach Parris Sahabo has issued a stern warning to his players as they prepare for the second leg of their CAF Champions League preliminary stage tie against Young Africans.

After suffering a 4-0 defeat in the first leg, Sahabo (pictured) emphasized the importance of focus and execution in the upcoming match.

The match, originally set to be played at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, has been relocated to the Azam Complex due to ongoing renovations at the National Stadium.

The aggregate winner be-

tween Young Africans and Vital'O FC will advance to face either SC Villa of Uganda or Ethiopia's Commercial Bank in the next round. The victor of the second preliminary round will secure a place in the lucrative group stages of Africa's premier

club competition, set to take place between October and December 2024.

Despite the daunting task ahead, Sahabo remains optimistic. After several training sessions at KMC Stadium, he expressed confidence in his team's ability to turn things

around.

"Young Africans are a formidable team, but we've identified their strengths and weaknesses, as well as our own. My players are determined to rectify the mistakes made in the first leg and showcase their true potential," Sahabo stated.

He acknowledged the challenges but stressed that his team has overcome adversity before.

"We've faced significant deficits in the past and managed to turn things around. Confidence is key, and we believe that with the right mindset, we can achieve a positive result," he added.

Vital'O, who recently secured the Burundi Primus Premier League title with 72 points from 30 matches, have a rich history with a record 21 league titles to their name.

The club, back in the spotlight after their last league triumph in the 2015/2016 season, withdrew from the CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup to focus on their CAF Champions League prepara-

tions. Their off-season run was unbeaten, raising hopes for a strong performance in the continental competition.

However, overturning a four-goal deficit will require a near-perfect performance from Sahabo's squad. His unwavering belief in his players might provide the motivation needed to stage a remarkable comeback.

Meanwhile, hosts Young Africans are aiming to qualify for the CAF Champions League group stage back-to-back for the first time in their history.

Their dominant 4-0 victory in the first leg at the Azam Complex last week showcased their potential, with new signings Prince Dube and Clatous Chama making an immediate impact, alongside goals from Clement Mzize and Stephane Aziz Ki.

As Young Africans look ahead to the next phase of the competition, their commanding performance against Vital'O underscores their ambitions for a deep run in this season's CAF Champions League.

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Zole Kuntu  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
14:00 SKONGA (r)  
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Akili & Me  
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
16:00 Zole Kuntu  
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kall Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 SPORTS  
22:00 Zole Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

**eastafrica RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Mashujaa out to build on opening-day victory as they host Tanzania Prisons

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MASHUJAA FC will host Tanzania Prisons at the Lake Tanganyika Stadium today in what promises to be an intriguing contest between two sides eager to establish their form early in the Premier League season.

This match holds significant importance as both teams look to gain momentum in the early stages of the campaign.

Mashujaa FC kicked off their season with a 1-0 home victory over Dodoma Jiji last weekend, with new signing Chrispin Ngushi scoring the only goal in the first half. This win temporarily propelled them to the top of the Premier League table.

With the support of a passionate home crowd, Mashujaa will be aiming to capitalize on their familiar surroundings and secure back-to-back victories. The team carries a four-game winning streak into today's clash, having finished the previous campaign with consecutive league wins.

Mashujaa have managed to score at least one goal in each of their last four league outings, fueling their optimism of finding the back of the net again this afternoon.

Head coach Abdallah Mohamed reported a clean bill of health for his squad and expressed confidence in their ability to secure another victory.

"The lads are in a good fighting spirit. We have fixed the mistakes that appeared in the previous league game. It is our belief that every player who gets a chance to play will give us positive results," Mohamed said.

On the other hand, Tanzania Prisons were left frustrated after failing to capitalize on their second-half dominance in a 0-0 draw against newly-promoted Pamba Jiji at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza.

The draw extended their winless streak to eleven league matches, dating back to last season.

Prisons have struggled on the road, remaining without an away Premier League victory since their surprising 2-1 win over Simba in March.

They have lost two and drawn six of their last eight away matches.

Last season, the two teams produced away victories in their league encounters. Prisons triumphed 2-1 at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in December, while the return game at Sokoine Stadium in May was won 2-0 by Mashujaa.

As both teams prepare to face off today, Mashujaa will be looking to continue their strong start to the season, while Tanzania Prisons will be desperate to end their winless streak and turn their fortunes around.

## Azam eye CAF Champions League group stage spot ahead of crucial APR FC clash

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC, through their club officials, has reaffirmed the team's unwavering determination to secure a place in the group stage of the CAF Champions League as they prepare for the second leg of their preliminary round against APR FC.

The match, set to be played tomorrow at Amahoro National Stadium in Kigali, follows Azam FC's narrow 1-0 victory in the first leg at home.

Azam were expected to leave yesterday to acclimate the Kigali atmosphere as well as put training drills and tactics for the match.

The club's spokesman Hashim Ibwe emphasized the players' awareness of the high stakes ahead of the crucial second leg and expressed hope for support from APR's rivals, Rayon Sports, on Saturday.

"To acclimate ourselves to the environment, we planned to arrive in Rwanda two days before the match. Last month, we played against Rayon Sports, and now we're eager to face a different challenge against APR in the CAF Champions League.

"As one of Rwanda's most popular teams, APR present a formidable opponent. We were proud to show our support for Rayon Sports by attending their concert on August 8, and we hope they'll cheer us on in this match," Ibwe stated.

Ibwe highlighted the team's steadfast commitment and belief in their ability to overcome the challenges posed by APR FC. While the



Azam Football Club squad.

preliminary round is often viewed as a warm-up, Azam FC consider their early participation in the competition as providing a significant advantage.

"Our team is fully committed to giving our all in this match. While many see the preliminary round as a warm-up for the real competition, we believe our early participation gives us an edge.

"Since the first match, our players have felt the high expectations from our fans, team management, and club owners. This serves as a powerful re-

minder of what is at stake and motivates them to fight with 100% dedication for the badge," Ibwe added.

Azam FC are expected to field their traditional 4-4-2 formation, with a midfield quartet featuring Adolf Mtsingwa, Franck Tiesse, James Akaminko, and Feisal Salum. This midfield unit will face a stern test against APR's dynamic duo, Yussif Dauda and Bosco Ruboneka.

Azam FC head coach Youssouph Dabo anticipates that APR will adopt an attacking approach due to their cur-

rent deficit. However, this aggressive style could open up opportunities for Azam FC to exploit weaknesses in the opposition's defense and capitalize on any mistakes.

This marks Azam FC's second appearance in the CAF Champions League preliminary stage since their historic 2014/2015 campaign, which culminated in a championship title.

The winner of this tie will advance to face either Zanzibar's JKU or Pyramids FC, who hold a commanding 6-0 lead from the first leg of their match.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

HOW DO YOU SAY, 'I'M VERY DISAPPOINTED'!

YOU HAVE JUST SAID IT!

