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## National Pg 3 Pact to mechanise Tanzania's farming



## National Pg 4 DITF attracts over 3,000 participants



## National Pg 5 NEEC lauded on empowerment programme



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## Tour operators rejecting local currency use, on unfair terms

*The official said that someone who changes \$100,000 with the two authorised regulatory points takes about 40m/- "which is a huge amount"*

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TOUR operators in the northern regions have rejected regulatory changes where all payments are required to be conducted in Tanzanian shillings.

Fransisca Masika (pictured), the communication manager for the Tanzania Association Tour Operators (TATO) said that demanding that all payments be made in the local currency is costly.

"Today when we went into the system to pay for permits, we found that the exchange rate was too high," he said, pointing out at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) the going dollar rate was 3,000/- and at the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) the rate was quoted at 2,715/-.

TATO and other stakeholders took the position that there is need for further discussion on the matter, as otherwise the travel agents will be compelled to stop offering transport services if their demands are ignored, she stated.

In separate interviews, operators said if the responsible ministries do not listen to them, they will stop offering services for vehicles that carry tourists.

"During our discussions we have reached an agreement that we should cease some services including taking tourists to various national parks," she said, asserting that the reason is that they can't afford paying at those rates.

As the stakeholders were engaged in discussions, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister Angellah Kairuki phoned, affirming that the ministry was going to issue a directive on the exchange rate. The government is there to protect the sector, she had affirmed.

The official said that someone chang-

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# 'Abductions, ransom payments on the rise'



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi cuts the ribbon in South Pemba Region yesterday to launch Abdulla Mzee Hospital doctors' residential quarters. Others include China Consulate General in Zanzibar, Zhang Ming (4th-R), Zanzibar Government Chief Secretary Zena Ahmed Said (3rd-R) and Zanzibar Health minister Nassor Ahmed Mazrui (6th-R). Photo: Zanzibar State House

*Residents link it with suspension of fishing activities, say police not helpful*

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

CASES of abduction linked to people using vehicles and firearms in Kibirizi Ward and various other parts of Kigoma Region have started to raise fear among residents of the respective areas.

Philemon Makungu, the Kigoma regional police commander, has confirmed the incidents saying that police are executing an intense investigation.

He urged people to stop sending the ransom funds whenever the abductors demand payment as doing so fuels more kidnappings, bolstering the ranks of criminal gangs.

"We urged people to ensure that whenever they come across such a situation, they should report to the police for immediate measures to be taken," he said.

He also asked those who report to the police and received unpleasant treatment to record names of the police officers for the force to act upon them, after such incidents were ignored.

The incidents are reported to have surged since May, with kidnappers often spray the victims to make them sleep harder before stealing money and other properties.

Ramadhani Shabani (21), living at Bushabani Street at Kibirizi ward said that as one of the victims he was abducted by unknown people using a tinted black car.

On May 14 at around 21hrs while he was com-



**This so worrying, incidents like these are still occurring in the society and in our area**

ing from his grandma's place where he installed solar lamps at Buronge he was abducted by such people.

"I remember when I entered main road I saw a black car parked on the side of the road and before I approached it, strong lights faced me, making me lose control.

Three thugs came up and started to attack, hitting him with hand held gas tubes on the neck until he lost consciousness, he narrated.

He didn't know what went on until he woke up in a room, hearing the voices of a lot of people, with eyes strapped with a cloth.

The abductors then removed the cloth and demanded vital phone numbers of family members, after which they covered his face again.

He lost consciousness again and later found himself receiving treatment at the regional referral hospital of Maweni, his relatives telling him that he had been abducted for 11 days.

Most of the time the kidnappers gave him flour, maize bran and water.

Bilali Shaban, the brother's victim said the family was in fear after realising it was getting night and their relative had not returned home. They first called his grandmother who responded that he had left the place some hours earlier.

"We then rushed out to start seeking help from neighbours who joined us to search for our relative, we searched everywhere in police stations, hospital and health centres but we didn't find him," he said.

He explained that two days later at night, he

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## Street-side fuel stations raise fire outbreak fears

By Francis Kajubi

SCORES of urban dwellers are worried over public safety as fuel filling stations next to trade frames and residences on the back street increase each passing day.

In separate interviews, a section of Dar es Salaam residents expressed their irritation with the hectic pace of building fuel stations in practically all city suburbs.

A number of people with residential houses who don't wish to sell face a dilemma as to whether to stick to the place as they have nowhere to run, but to endure whatever the situation brings up, living next to fuel stations, walled on the sides and open on the street side.



**...every person living in Tanzania shall have a right to a clean, safe and healthy environment**

Some feel that it is not right to have fuel station businesses nestled within human settlements, as with Isaac Shilo, a Makumbusho-Buguruni commuter bus driver and resident of Keko Street in Temeke District.

"People residing in rented houses are forced to relocate from one neighbourhood to another fearing safety-related risk likely to be posed by the uptick of fuel stations in areas of congested human residence," he said.

Sophia Emmanuel, a Vingunguti Street resident in Ilala District wondered why the government was issuing licenses for establishment of fuel stations while on

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## 'EAC varying agriculture sector rules complicating investments'

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

EACH member country in the East African Community and in the wider context has its unique set of rules and regulations, making investment navigation a formidable enterprise, a diplomat has declared.

Bart Pauwels, the agricultural counsellor for Kenya and Tanzania in the local mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, made this observation at a round table discussion here on recent Budget measures, with key stakeholders

in the horticulture industry. While contributors cited key challenges faced by foreign companies operating here, they affirmed that Tanzania has obtained upwards of euro 8.4m from exporting high-quality horticultural seeds.

This performance was primarily facilitated by three Dutch seed producing firms, a situation that underscores the vital role of Dutch investors in bolstering Tanzania's burgeoning horticultural industry.

"Foreign companies often encounter challenges that are vastly different from

those they face at home," the diplomat noted, indicating that to address these issues, the Dutch government via its foreign missions makes efforts to smooth out business operations for companies operating outside.

"Our primary goals are to keep companies informed about relevant policies and to connect them with essential stakeholders," he stated, asserting that this approach facilitates easier business operations and promotes mutual growth. Local experts underscored the critical role of collabora-

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## Tour operators rejecting local currency use, on unfair terms

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ing \$100,000 with the two authorised regulatory points takes about 40m/- "which is a huge amount."

Tourism stakeholders are not opposed to the use of the local currency "but they are waiting to be given details where the sector was heading to," she further asserted.

Sanjey Pandit, a stakeholder in tourism sector, said they want the government to recognize the contribution of the stakeholders by mak-

ing changes while involving them.

"On such things, why don't we sit and agree early before the decision is made, to avoid getting into unnecessary conflicts since we have the goal of promoting and increasing the national income," he demanded.

Samuel Diah, another stakeholder, said they are united as members of the entire sector after this move as it came as a shock.

## 'Abductions, ransom payments on the rise'

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received a phone call from a new number three times but didn't take the call due to tiredness and when he woke up he found a strange message from the number.

"The message read that 'the person who you are looking for we have him, and if you want him alive send 2.5m/- or else we will kill him and take various body organs including kidney and liver,'" he said.

That morning he went to report the SMS to the police station where officers demanded 50,000/- for tracking the number but later didn't bring anything on the whereabouts of the abductors.

The abductors continued to send frightening SMS which the family also reported to the police but nothing came out of it.

"On May 24, the date the abductors gave us a deadline to pay the money, they called us and told us that we should get prepared for a tragedy if we fail to send the amount before the end of the day. We sat down as a family to ensure that we got the money and succeeded in sending 2,554,000/-," he narrated.

Then the following day the abductors called them to go and fetch their relative at Msimba village where there is a dump and they went fast and found him tied up with a string and his face covered with a cloth.

"We untied him and rushed to the central police station where we got a PF3 form before heading to the referral hospital where he was admitted.

"This so worrying, incidents like these are still occurring in the society and in our area," he said, with similar incidents narrated by other persons, including the case of Lilenga Lilenga (49), a Mwandiga fisherman who got lost on May 11, at the same Kibirizi ward.

Reporting the matter to the police similarly did not help, so the family

opted to announce it in media outlets and social media platforms.

Family members were still seeking help, urging the government to intervene in the matter and support search efforts to find the family member.

Joyce Christant, a resident of Gungu said that her 20-year-old daughter has also been missing, while police cooperation is abysmally low.

"My child was taken on May 14, this year at around 2.30 pm when unknown people arrived at a shop she was supervising and asked for water and when he took the water to them outside in the car she didn't come back," she said.

According to her, despite the abductors demanding 2.5m/- and the amount being sent to them, they didn't bring back her daughter.

Hamis Kalimwagu, the Butunga Street chairman, said abduction incidents were increasing in the area with thugs breaking houses to steal properties and livestock, as well as harm people.

The incidents are partly being fuelled by hardships due to the suspension of fishing activities in Lake Tanganyika, with crowds of young and often violent men having nothing to do.



**We untied him and rushed to the central police station where we got a PF3 form before heading to the referral hospital where he was admitted**

## 'EAC varying agriculture sector rules complicating investments'

**FROM PAGE 1**  
tion between governments and institutions in solving problems faced by foreign companies, by fostering strong relationships.

Regulatory bodies and investors can ensure sustained growth and innovation in various industries, they said, with PwC partner Joseph Lyimo sharing insights into recent tax law changes.

"The Tanzania 2024/2025 budget has introduced a significant reduction in the time required for VAT refunds, reducing it to just 30 days," he explained, elaborating that paying refunds within 30 days of submission of claims eases the business environment.

He said that TAHA has been a vocal proponent of this change, having highlighted since 2020 the difficulties faced by numerous horticultural companies struggling with unsettled VAT claims that have severely impacted their cash flow.

Additionally, the government has waived radiation fees and certificates for food crops exported to countries that do not require a radioactivity analysis certificate, he said.

Bob Shuma, CEO of the Tanzania Seeds Trade Association (TASTA), lauded efforts of the Arusha-based

firms, as a key participant in the national budget analysis and regulatory seminar to update Netherlands investors on tax issues and recent regulatory changes.

It was organized by the Tanzania Horticulture and Potato Seed Platform (THPSP), the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) and TASTA, where experts noted that the seed firms have provided up to 3,000 job openings.

These opportunities are predominantly for women and young girls engaged in production lines and sorting departments, the seed executive noted.

Available data shows that Dutch firms run 80 horticultural entities in the northern and southern highlands areas, forging 'empires' in horticultural export markets.

The labour-intensive industry has collectively generated nearly 24,000 jobs for local women and youth, bolstering community livelihoods and economic growth.

Overall, the infusion of Dutch expertise and capital into Tanzania's horticultural sector demonstrates a synergistic relationship, spurring substantial economic benefits and cementing the Netherlands' status as a cornerstone investor in this flourishing industry, the CEO added.



Manoj Verma (3rd-R, foreground), Chargé d'affaires at India's High Commission in Tanzania, Institute of Chartered Accounts of India (ICAI) Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) Chapter chairman Dharmendra Agrawal (2nd-R, foreground) and the High Commission's Second Secretary (Commerce), Narender Kumar (R, foreground), pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend taking part in an India Run for Viksit Bharat 2047 organised by the ICAI. The term 'Viksit Bharat' means 'Developed India', while Viksit Bharat 2047 represents the Indian government's vision to transform the country into a developed entity by its 100th independence in 2047. The four pillars of Viksit Bharat are Yuva (Youth), Garib (Poor), Mahila (Women) and Kisan (Farmers). Photo courtesy of Indian High Commission

## Street-side fuel stations raise fire outbreak fears

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the other hand it is campaigning for a shift to compressed natural gas (CNG) consumption for vehicles.

"In my opinion, the shift to clean energy sources for vehicles, to skip petroleum products is superficial as the government itself seems not to believe in it," she said.

Helen Josephat, a Salasala Street resident in Kinondoni District, said that she is suspicious of corruption being involved in acquiring permits for building fuel stations without adhering to environmental and land planning regulations.

Interviewed officials said that in most of the 184 district councils, in urban areas mainly, councils administer changes in land use permits from original residential housing development permits to fuel stations.

This shift to construction permits without prior consultation with the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) on pollution and

conservation related issues raise eyebrows, she stated.

Jamal Baruti, the NEMC manager for review of environmental and social impact assessment, said in a recent exclusive interview that land use and planning departments at urban district councils have plenty to do with it.

District officials have been consulting NEMC to verify plots for construction of fuel stations after they have already issued investors with change of land use permits and title deeds, he elaborated.

"Issuance of land to develop fuel stations without prior consultation of the authority is against the Environmental Impact Assessment and Audit Regulations (Amendment) 2018. It is also at variance with the Land Act No. 4 Cap 334 of 1999," he said.

The prevailing scenario is similarly contrary to Section 4(i) of the Environment Management Act No. 20 of 2004 which states that "every

person living in Tanzania shall have a right to a clean, safe and healthy environment," he elaborated.

It jeopardizes Section 6 of the Act which states that "every person living in Tanzania shall have a stake and duty to safeguard and enhance the environment and to inform the relevant authority of any activity and phenomenon that may affect the environment significantly."

He said that the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) has powers under the Act to issue Environment Impact Assessment Certificates for development of fuel station projects.

This is done after the investor has obtained the change of land use permit and title deed from the respective district council where the station is to be set up.

NEMC has the mandate to advise the minister on issuing such certificates in projects that lack commitments on environment and social

management plans, while its advice is not mandatory for the minister to accept it.

Issues of corruption surfaced late last year when on December 23 the minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development claimed to have been enticed to accept a bribe from an investor.

He was referring to a fuel business intended to be set up at a Mikocheni street where the required procedures by regulatory bodies on environmental issues had not been followed.

The minister is on record claiming that the businessman in question had promised him a 300m/- pay out if he refrained from questioning the construction of the petrol station near a well-built area.

The Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), when called, reserved comment on alleged corruption inducement raised by the Lands minister six months on.



Thomas Sanira, acting civil societies registrar in the Home Affairs ministry, addresses bishops and other members of the Free Anglican Church of Tanzania during the consecration of five diocesan bishops at a church in Dodoma's Ilazo Parish on Sunday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## S.Africa's Rainbow Chicken targets low-cost future after listing

**JOHANNESBURG**

SOUTH African poultry producer Rainbow Chicken (RBOJ), opens new tab focused on keeping its costs low as it begins life as a stand-alone company, CEO Marthinus Stander said on Monday.

Rainbow, one of South Africa's leading poultry firms, was spun off by parent company RCL Foods (RCLJ), opens new tab and listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange last Wednesday.

Its shares were trading at 4.50 rand by 1413 GMT on Monday, up from last week's IPO price of 2.85 rand.

"We're bringing volumes back and we have invested in feed milling, all in an effort to keep costs as low as possible," Stander told Reuters in an interview.

South Africa's poultry industry has over the past few years battled erratic electricity supplies, blamed on frequent breakdowns at the country's ageing coal-fired power plants, which disrupt operations and drive

costs up. The industry was also hit by the country's worst ever bird flu outbreak last year.

"You've got to find ways to survive, no matter what the environment throws at you, ours is to produce chicken and stay relevant to the consumer by keeping our prices low," Stander added.

He said Rainbow had obtained approval to use vaccines against avian flu, "but the rules and protocols to be able to vaccinate are not affordable or practical."

The company is working with the South African Poultry Association and the country's authorities to address biosecurity standards and monitoring protocols, which the industry considers to be stringent and costly.

Sam Mokorosi, head of origination deals at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, said spinning off Rainbow would allow the company to focus on its niche and to be "more nimble" to respond to market turns and opportunities.





Health minister Umyy Mwalimu cuts the ribbon in Dar es Salaam at the weekend to launch a portable container building serving as a glaucoma clinic at Temeke municipality's Khoja Shia Ithna-asheri Charitable Eye Centre. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Producers to close sugar gap by 2026

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Sugar Producers Association (TSPA) is expected to raise production to 528,000 tonnes and 663,000 tonnes by 2026, which will cater for the local demand by 100 percent and move away with importation.

Speaking at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Ambassador Ami Mpungwe, board chairperson for Kilombero Sugar Company said the total local production has reached 460,000 tonnes currently from the 226,000 in 2017 which is enough to cater for 90 percent of needs.

He said the local sugar gap decreased from 144,000 tonnes in 2017 to 30,000 tonnes in 2023 saying the plan is to reach up to 500,000 tonnes or 600,000 by the year 2026.

Ambassador Mpungwe said among the steps to address the gap was the importation of 4,500 tonnes during shortage.

"We were given license to import 5,000 tonnes from Brazil and we did so, therefore it is not true that we were given license and gave it to others," he said.

He said the association was concerned by allegations that the sugar sector in the country was inefficient, expressing discontent over the recent debate on the sugar sector saying they were sidelined as key stakeholders but also given several names which painted a negative picture.

He said the association's efforts to reach out to the government proved futile adding that decisions made on the sector side-lined them as key stakeholders.

"This matter is like we were arrested, prosecuted and sentenced without being heard," he said.

He added: "We are supposed to be protected as investors because we are competing with huge pro-

ducers including Brazil which produces 32 million tonnes."

Mpungwe said the association informed the government earlier that the forecast by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) was going to affect the production of sugar hence the need for early preparations.

He said in 2017, the association called for thorough regulation of the sector to control the influx of illegal sugar in the Tanzanian market.

He said even the handing of sugar importation rights to the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) was long overdue as it was supposed to be decided back then.

Mpungwe gave an example of Kilombero Sugar Company which has been in existence for 60 years saying it has been at the heart of sugar production in the country adding there was no way it can involve itself in cartels.

Hussein Sufian, Chief Executive Officer of Bagamoyo Sugar said that there are discussions which have been raised in recent discussions which do not paint a good picture to sugar producers and others.

He said there are seven sugar producers in the country where some are co-owned by the government and others are owned wholly by the private sector.

Sufian said the contribution of the sugar industry to the economic development of the country was not questionable, saying it was historical adding that in 2015 a new investment mood emerged where more capital was injected into the sector.

"We are expecting to produce all the sugar needed this year which is historical," he said.

He said the total investment for all the seven sugar producers has reached a 3.5trn/- mark with more investments being earmarked.

# Japanese firm to assist mechanised farming in Tanzania

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

THE Japanese multinational conglomerate-Honda has entered into agreement with one of the Tanzanian innovative firms, the Imara Technology of Arusha, for the production of farming machinery and equipment.

"Honda is usually synonymous with motorcycles and cars, but this time we want to help Africa, establish and achieve their dreams. This is why we have introduced the power products to empower local Farmers to become mechanized," explained the Honda Agriculture

Specialist, Mary Gould.

Gould said she was responsible for the Southern Africa Development Community Region covering Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

"We have a wide range of products. I know that most people when they hear about Honda the first thing they think about would be 'Piki-Piki,' but we don't only have motorcycles, but also a wide range of power products, such as water pumps, backpacks, sprayer generators and even tillers," added Gould.

"At Honda, we are not only interested in making profit but also trying to build the legacy of Soichiro

Honda, who believed in the power of Dreams. So we also want to help Africa, establish and achieve their dreams," she said.

Alfred Chengula, Director of Imara Technology said they have managed to export more than 1000 agricultural machinery to six countries including Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Burundi.

Meanwhile the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology has accomplished nearly 355 innovative projects with most of them being undertaken by young people in the country.

According to the Director General of Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH),

Dr Amos Nungu, the projects include innovations in research, technology developments and environment.

Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Omar Kipanga said Tanzania was working to empower farmers to simplify their trade and generate income through provision of loans, machinery and extension services, but especially technological development.

"I understand that Imara Technology is rapidly distributing farming technology to local growers and so far the firm has reached more than 2000 households in the course of this year alone," said the Minister.

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By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## DITF 2024 attracts over 3,000 participants from 26 countries

THE government has said that this year's Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) focuses on high technology, creativity, and the extensive use of artificial intelligence (AI).

Exaud Kigahe, Industry and Trade Deputy Minister unveiled this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking to journalists about the trade fair. This year's DITF is themed: "Tanzania: Your Best Destination for Business and Investment."

Kigahe said that this year, they expect the exhibition to bring a total of 3,846 participants of which 3,433 are local participants, 413 foreign (participants) companies, 3,286 local private sector compa-

nies, 8 Ministries, 4 Regions, 30 Councils, 105 public institutions, 26 foreign countries, and 353,201 visitors whereby a total 11,712 part-jobs is expected to be created.

He noted that last year there were 3,500 participants of which there were 3,233 local participants, 267 foreign participants, 19 foreign countries, 300,701 visitors, and created 11,687 temporary jobs.

"So far we have 26 countries that have confirmed to participate in this exhibi-

tion, those countries include South Korea, Turkey, India, Japan, Singapore, Syria, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Mozambique, Indonesia, Mauritius, Oman, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, Rwanda and Comoro.

Other countries such as Zambia, Ethiopia, Congo DRC, Ghana, China, Russia, Italy, Uganda, Kenya, and Zimbabwe, as such we expect to see their new technological innovations of various machines.

"These technologies are what Tanzanians need to establish large, medium, and small industries, so I ask our local businesses to use these opportunities to learn from them to increase production, and product quality as well as expand the scope of markets for their products," the deputy Minister stated.

Kigahe said that there will be various special events such as the special days for seven countries participating in the Exhibition,

which are China, Japan, South Korea, Iran, Egypt, Russia, and India and there will be a programme to celebrate their heritage.

He added that there will be programmes for face-to-face meetings, corporate days, which include various sectors that have been prepared in collaboration between the private sector and the public sector.

He pointed out that the meetings will include the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), Zanzibar Chamber of Commerce ZNCC and Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA).

Kigahe said that the goal of those meetings is to enable the Tanzanian business community to have access to foreign markets.


"I would like to use this opportunity to

invite all Tanzanians with entrepreneurial groups, companies, public and private institutions to participate in this exhibition as it is a very important platform to meet various stakeholders from within and outside the country to learn various technologies," the deputy minister emphasized.

He added that participants will get modern knowledge of the production, packaging, and distribution of products, access to domestic and foreign markets as well as employment.

He said that this year's theme aims to show the world that the government of the sixth phase under President Samia Suluhu Hassan, is ready and continues to create a friendly environment for local and foreign businessmen and investors to do business and invest in various production sectors including the industrial sector, agriculture, technology, investment and tourism.

He said that the official guest at the exhibition on the opening day is expected to be the President of Mozambique, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, and President Samia who is the patron of the international trade exhibition in Dar es Salaam and will also participate in the opening of the exhibition.



**International School of Tanganyika**  
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### SALE OF USED MOTOR VEHICLE

The International School of Tanganyika is selling a used motor vehicle as detailed below:

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Inspection can be done during office hours at UN Road campus, Upanga. Contact persons: Gaspar Kimario (mobile no. **0716 626201**) or Paulo Bigo (mobile number **0655 549816/0754 549816**)

**Offers in writing to be emailed to bids@istafrica.com latest by 3.00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, 2024**

The school reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.



Industry and Trade deputy minister Exaud Kigahe briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the ongoing 48th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## BISMILLAH RAHMAN RAHIM



The family of the Late Dr. Omar Ali Juma invites you for prayers in memory of the **LATE DR. OMAR ALI JUMA** which will be held on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2024** at **Ngazija Mosque, at 4:00p.m.**

Your presence will be highly appreciated.

All relatives and friends are invited.

May God rest his soul in Eternal Peace.

**Amen**

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF



... **CRISPIN S. E.** ...  
**MWANJIKA**

**SUNRISE: 14.02.1946 - SUNSET: 02.07.1999**

Though time has passed, today we remember a remarkable man who touched the lives of everyone who knew him. He was a devoted husband, a caring father, a beloved brother, and a cherished friend. His presence brought warmth, love, and wisdom into our lives, and his legacy continues to inspire us every day.

As we reflect on the 25 years since his passing, we find solace in the comforting words of the Bible. Isaiah 41:10 reminds us: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." In these words, we find reassurance that he is with God, upheld and protected.

Today, we remember him with love and gratitude. We celebrate his life, cherish the memories we have, and take comfort in knowing that his spirit is forever with us. May we honor his memory by living our lives with the same love, compassion, and dedication that he exemplified.

**REST IN ETERNAL PEACE. AMEN**



## NHC challenged to complete two mega real estate projects on time

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Parliamentary Standing Committee on Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism has asked the National Housing Corporation (NHC) to ensure that the Samia Housing Scheme and 71I projects in Kinondoni Municipal Council are completed on time.

Committee Chairman Timotheo Mnzava made the directive in Dar es Salaam yesterday after inspecting the mega real estate projects.

He said that the two projects are among strategic projects that should serve as President Samia Suluhu Hassan's legacy and therefore must be completed on time.

He said the government has released enough funds to push the ongoing projects, adding that there was no reason for the projects to stop or move slowly.

He commended the government for its decision to resume the construction of the projects, noting that this will contribute more in terms of revenue generation.

In the case of morocco square, the committee chairman said the structure was complete, calling on city residents to rent units.

Geoffrey Pinda, Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, promised to complete the projects on time. "The government has

allocated enough budget for the 2024/2025 financial year. Therefore, we shall ensure NHC completes the two projects on time as planned earlier," he said.

He said construction of residential and commercial buildings will change the lives of people in the city.

Pinda further called on the public to rent or procure new residential houses in the two projects constructed in the city.

Hamad Abdallah, NHC director general, said that the second phase of the Samia Housing Scheme will start any time after the first phase is completed by 100 percent.

Abdallah said that 100 percent of the apartments at Samia Housing Scheme and 71I apartments had been leased out to tenants while at Morocco squares over 71 percent of the residential apartments had been sold and 98 percent of shops and malls leased.

"The committee has made a big contribution to our success. At this juncture, I would like to thank the committee for its contribution to ensure the real estate sector thrives," he said.

The NHC's total assets had reached 5.14trn/- as per the Controller and Auditor General's report, growing at 12 percent annually for a period of three years consecutively since 2019.

## Initiatives to isolate women from chains of unpaid work

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

THE Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) in collaboration with the Relief to Development Society (REDESO) and Women Social Protection (WSP) have embarked on a special initiative aimed at isolating women from chains of unpaid work.

Titled: 'Scaling up innovations for reducing and redistributing women and girls unpaid care work in rural Tanzania', the project specifically aims to support the availability of water to rescue women from spending much time searching for water instead of using time income-generating activities.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during an inception meeting, ESRF Executive Director Prof Fortunata Makene said studies have confirmed that women especially in rural areas spend a lot of time in searching for water as it is an essential need for any human being.

Due to this, the project aims to address women's unpaid care works by scaling up rainwater harvesting technology to enable families to be able to have enough water and hence stimulate engagement of women in income-generating activities.

Makene said the project funded by a Canadian International Development Research Centre (CRDI- IDRC) is implemented in Kishapu District, Shinyanga Region as a pilot area which will include research to measure the efficacy of the measures applied to uplift the women. "The specific objectives of implementing this research assignment in Kishapu include: to increase the number of women benefiting from tested rainwater harvesting innovation, test and evaluate the effectiveness of participatory capacity building models, address negative cultural norms and enhance uptake for policy purposes," he said.

He said that to ensure the project brings the expected results, it has engaged policymakers at all levels from Local Government Authorities (LGAs), key ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), community leaders, and NGOs.

According to Prof. Makene, the expected outcomes from this project include reduced and redistributed unpaid care work, increased women's rights and economic participation, and improved income-generating activities.

REDESO's Chief Executive Officer Abeid Kasazi said: "We are going to establish rainwater harvesting systems to reduce the time for these women to walk long distances and instead walk between one and two kilometres."

He further noted that the scale-up will reach around 240 households, with six members from each household. "Each family member is going to consume 15 litres of water per day. That means each household is going to consume 90 litres of water a day.

He further noted that the project intends to benefit over 1200 people from five villages in Kishapu District. "We expect to construct 20 tanks, each tank with a capacity of 180,000 litres of water. A single tank will supply water to around 12 households where each household has six family members," he said.

Kasaizi said that according to the international standards of water consumption per day, they are confident each tank will be used for four months during the dry season.

Dr Flora Myamba, WSP Executive Director and Senior for Gender and Social Protection, said that to complement rainwater harvesting systems they are now training women entrepreneurship skills on how to do businesses that would generate income.

"The project will also train women on how to find jobs and how they can apply for jobs in various portals," she said.

The project also aims to engage males to address negative cultural norms that subject women and girls to unpaid work and disproportionately exclude them from labour market opportunities through the 'Bandeberhe' (couples) model.

The Bandeberhe adopted model, aims to educate and sensitize men and their female partners to become more aware of inequalities, reflect on the costs of rigid norms, and learn and practice new skills, particularly towards redistributing and reducing unpaid care work.

They are training males so that they can understand that women also are obliged to do economic activities that are beneficial to their entire families. They will both be trained in gender equality, financial literacy, entrepreneurial skills, and access to finance; e.g. low-interest loans and high-interest loans.

Furthermore, they will train them on how to access markets and linkages to those markets, strengthen development savings and credit groups, and provide continuous coaching and mentorship.

Dr Myamba said they would train young women and men on formal skills by linking trainees to formal employment opportunities.

For sustainability, local stakeholders will be trained through the training of trainers (ToTs) and will work with the team to deliver both interventions, similarly for the norm change.



Controller and Auditor General Charles Kichere (L) receives a copy of the Public Service Social Security Fund members' guide booklet from an officer with the fund at the PSSSF pavilion during a visit to the 48th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. Photo: Correspondent

## Farmers in Lindi sell 4,405 tonnes of sesame

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

FARMERS in Kilwa, Mtama and Lindi municipality councils in Lindi Region have sold a total of 4,405 tonnes of sesame in a second auction conducted through Tanzania Mercantile Exchange (TMX)-a transparent trading platform that allows farmers to witness real-time bidding by buyers.

The auction held at Njinjo Village in Kilwa District, saw sesame prices reach a high of 3,490/- and a low of 3,340 /-.

Speaking during the event, Goodluck Luhanjo, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Officer said Hazina and Ilulu warehouses in Mtama have led by having high prices.

Luhanjo said the successful

auction is a significant step forward in the government's commitment to agricultural reform and transparency, setting a precedent for other crops and regions in Tanzania.

He said farmers who showed up in the auction at Hazina warehouses witnessed their sesame totalling 510 tonnes being sold between 3450/- and 3482/-.

At Ilulu warehouse which had a total of 549 tonnes and 854,000 kilograms, sesame was sold between 3400/- and 3490/- per kilogramme.

Farmers at Bucco warehouse in Lindi Municipality with a total of 1,510 tonnes of sesame prices ranged between 3,400/- and 3,470/- per kilogramme and for the Nangukuru warehouse with 1,826,824 tonnes, prices ranged

between 3,340/- and 3440/-.

Hassani Mnumbe, Vice Chairman of the Lindi Mwambao Cooperative Union said many farmers have been satisfied with the prices.

"However, prices reached by buyers were due to the current prices in the global market as sesame and cashews are produced in various countries where he urged to ensure that they invest in production of quality produce," he said.

He said that with the current TMX system, farmers have more room to negotiate best prices of their produce thus witnessing productivity.

By allowing farmers to observe the bidding process directly, the platform not only ensures transparency but also empowers them by providing them with real-

time market data," he said.

However, some of the farmers, Juma Hemedi, Hemedi, Juma Yusufu, Mwanahawa Ismaili, Somowe Abdallah and Hamida Saidi expressed dissatisfaction with the prices saying that they have been forced to sell the produce as there is no way.

"Buyers have reached a very low price, we didn't expect this," Hemed said.

The TMX platform is part of Tanzania's broader Agenda 1030, an initiative to enhance market efficiency and ensure fair trading practices.

This initiative is expected to boost the confidence of sesame growers and traders by providing a reliable and transparent mechanism for pricing and selling their produce.



Construction of a classroom building at newly established Rukuba Island Secondary School in Musoma Rural constituency at initial stage, as captured yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## NEEC wins praises for executing better empowerment programme

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

WOMEN, youth, and special groups in Ruvuma Region have hailed the government through the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) for implementing the Strengthening the Economy with Mama Samia programme equipping them with vital business and entrepreneurship skills.

According to them, the programme has greatly helped empower many women, youth, and special groups with skills that have enabled them to utilise the available economic platforms to improve their livelihoods.

In separate interviews with this paper here, the beneficiaries applauded efforts taken to introduce the programme in the region where they have received training on entrepreneurship, business management and access to loans.

"The programme has come to liberate low-income women together with young people and special groups, we are happy and thankful for this initiative," said Sada Hassan, a resident of Mbinga district.

Hassan who owns a beauty salon said through the programme, she has acquired important skills that will greatly help her add value to all the services thus attracting more customers and increasing income.

"I have learned how to talk to customers, save money in a bank account as well as how to access loans," she added.

Sophia Mapunda, a resident of Ruanda Ward in Mbinga District noted that in the ward many people engage in agriculture growing maize, beans, tomatoes, vegetables, onions, and various crops.

"Although I am doing agriculture, also I own a small shop and sell

various products that bring me extra income, the empowerment programme that has been brought to us will help women's entrepreneurs to increase income," she explained.

She also appealed to the programme to identify other women, youth, and special groups in the ward to equip them with the skills, hence supporting them to get rid of poverty.

Glory Maganga, a food vendor in Songea congratulates the council for bringing the programme to the region which will encourage women to participate in entrepreneurship to improve income.

"I have received the programme with enthusiasm, as it is an initiative going to lift our lives, with education, we hope that we will be able to get loans that aim to lift us out of poverty, soft loans will foster women to economic

achievements," she said.

Beng'i Issa, NEEC Executive Secretary said businessmen, women as well as entrepreneurs should learn how to talk to customers to keep them.

"Reckless in taking good care of customers drives away clients and as a business person should know what the customer needs," she said adding: "It is also important for businesspeople to know tax laws and regulations through Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to facilitate voluntary tax payment for development," Beng'i said.

She also said that Songea municipality also needs to have an economic empowerment centre whereas Mbinga Municipality already has to enable businesspeople and the public, in general, to be able to get various information including how to start a business, access to loans, and crop prices.



## Build more drug rehab centres, DCEA advised

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

DRUG Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has been advised to increase centres for rehabilitating drug addicts, who are mostly youths.

Dr Eva Matiko Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) director of projects made the call here over the weekend during the commemorations of this year's World Drug Day that was held in Mwanza at national level.

She said that centers available in the country are not enough to help rehabilitate addicted youths and fight drug abuse, "that's why I'm asking DCEA and other stakeholders to build more centres to cater for the increasing demand."

Dr Matiko also encouraged all addicted young people to use the rehabilitation centres to get back to normal life, because "we need them in building the country."

Youths undergoing rehabilitation at the centres will be trained in modern livestock keeping, poultry farming and vehicle repairs, she said.

THPS implements a programme

called 'Afya Hatua project' funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) in Coast and Tanga regions by providing Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) and HIV comprehensive prevention, care and treatment services to those in need.

Afya Hatua project has been supporting local civil society organizations to help in identifying individuals in need of MAT services and enrol them in the programme.

It supports the government in its efforts to reach HIV epidemic control through supporting comprehensive facility and community-based HIV prevention, care, and treatment services in Kigoma, Coast and Shinyanga regions.

Dr Matiko said that they educate youths on the negative effects of using drugs and encourage them to sign up for MAT services in their respective areas.

Most youth engage in drug use through peer groups, therefore educating them about the negative impact on the practice can significantly help to solve the problem, she laminated.



Assistant Inspector of Police Majaliwa Kilowa, who is stationed in suburban Dar es Salaam's Chanika ward, pictured at the weekend dancing to a song alongside children and other people during rescheduled celebrations to mark International Day of the African Child organised by Tumanyile Relief Foundation. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

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## Zambia paves the way for AI innovation with strategic inventiveness

By Sylvia Duruson

ZAMBIA is taking significant steps to embrace the future of technology by developing a comprehensive Artificial Intelligence (AI) Framework.

Felix Mutati, the country's Minister of Science and Technology, recently announced that this initiative is already in progress, signaling Zambia's commitment to technological advancement.

Zambian government is collaborating with the Tony Blair Institute to formulate an AI Strategy. This partnership aims to leverage the institute's expertise in providing strategic advice to governments worldwide.

Simultaneously, Zambia is working alongside the European Union to craft a Startup Bill, further demonstrating its dedication to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

Recognizing the importance of a robust legal foundation for AI deployment, the government is actively revising the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act. This update is crucial in creating a secure environment for AI implementation while addressing potential risks and challenges.

Mutati shared these developments at the Future of AI in Africa Conference launch in Lusaka, highlighting Zambia's proactive approach to embracing emerging technologies.

The minister's announcement, made via social media, underscores the government's commitment to transparency and public engagement in this technological journey.

Earlier in May 2024, at the Copperbelt Agricultural Mining Industrial Networking Enterprise (CAMINEX) event in Kitwe, Mutati revealed that the government had completed drafting the AI strategy. This strategy aims to harness the benefits of cutting-edge technologies across various sectors. At that time, he anticipated the launch of the AI strategy in July 2024, setting a clear timeline for implementation.

In addition to the AI framework, Zambia is taking steps to regulate its Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector. The Technology and Science Minister announced plans to issue a Statutory Instrument (SI) to oversee ICT practitioners. This move aims to establish guidelines that will curb misconduct, promote ethical standards, and ensure best practices among professionals in the field.

Zambia's initiatives align with a growing trend across Africa, as nations recognize the potential of AI and seek to create supportive frameworks. Nigeria, for instance, has engaged 120 experts to develop a co-created framework for AI adoption, with its National AI Strategy securing \$3.5 million in seed funding from potential partners.

South Africa is also making strides in this direction, considering AI regulation and planning to establish an AI Expert Advisory Council. This council will play a crucial role in guiding the creation and implementation of AI-related policies and regulations in the country.

These developments across the continent reflect a growing recognition of AI's potential to drive economic growth, improve public services, and address various societal challenges. By developing comprehensive strategies and regulatory frameworks, African nations are positioning themselves to harness the benefits of AI while mitigating potential risks.

As Zambia moves forward with its AI framework and related initiatives, it sets an example for other nations in the region. The country's approach, combining international partnerships, local expertise, and a focus on both innovation and regulation, could serve as a model for balanced and responsible AI development in Africa.



# EAC achieves 100pc mobile penetration, beating Africa

By Special Correspondent

EAST African countries have achieved 100 percent mobile penetration at 199.7 million subscribers, ahead of Africa's 92 percent but short of the globe's 111 percent as of the close of last year.

Fresh data from the East African Communications Organisation (EACO) indicates that the regional penetration growth for the year ended last December outpaced both the average of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Africa region as well as the global average which moved 10 and four percentage points respectively.

In its regional sector report for 2023 published last week, EACO further indicated that the region's mobile internet subscriptions stood at 61 percent penetration with the annual internet traffic hitting 2.9 billion gigabytes.

The regional average for third-generation (3G) coverage rose from 71 percent to 78 percent with Kenya and Rwanda leading with almost universal coverage at 97 percent and 99 percent respectively. Fourth generation (4G) on the other hand, expanded its regional coverage from 52 percent to 62 percent where Kenya and Rwanda again led the way with close to or exceeding 97 percent.

At the same time, mobile data

prices in the region were found to have fallen significantly over the three years to last year, further accelerating the adoption of mobile services.

"The influx of low-cost smartphones from Chinese manufacturers has made mobile phones more accessible to a wider population. Increased competition among mobile network operators and government interventions have also driven down data costs, making internet access more affordable."

According to EACO, innovations such as Kenya's M-Pesa have partly contributed to the penetration growth due to their heavy reliance on mobile telephony services.

The report indicates that mobile money subscribers in the region stood at 128.7 million, reflecting a 64 percent penetration rate.

In Kenya, the latest Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) data shows that the total number of mobile phone devices connected to mobile networks stood at 65.7 million as of the end of March, translating to a 127.5 percent penetration rate.

During the three months to last March, Kenyans dumped the active use of 628,818 feature phones in favour of smartphones whose uptake grew by 886,884 gadgets within the same period.

# South Africa's Cyril President Ramaphosa announces cabinet

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa has included seven different parties in his Cabinet in an unprecedented power-sharing agreement in the continent's most industrialized country after the African National Congress lost its parliamentary majority in a milestone election result in late May.

Ramaphosa's announcement of the new Cabinet on Sunday night takes South Africa into uncharted political territory after 30 years of dominance by the ANC, which liberated the country from the white minority rule of apartheid in 1994 and had governed ever since.

The new multiparty Cabinet was the culmination of a month of tense and sometimes acrimonious negotiations between Ramaphosa's ANC and the Democratic Alliance, the white-led former main opposition party that has now agreed to share power with the ANC.

While the coalition is made up of 11 parties, including seven with Cabinet positions, the agreement largely rests on the ANC and the DA – the two biggest parties – putting aside their ideological differences and more than 20 years of being political foes to work together.

Here's a breakdown of the new coalition, which has the challenge of solving South Africa's deep socioeconomic problems.

ANC keeps most Cabinet positions. Ramaphosa reappointed Paul Mashatile of the ANC as his deputy president and also kept ANC officials in charge of the key ministries of finance, trade and industry, foreign affairs, defense and justice. The ANC, which won the largest share of the vote in the election with 40%, has 20 of the 32 Cabinet minister positions.

Keeping the foreign ministry under ANC leadership also is likely to mean a continuation of South Africa's overtly pro-Palestinian, anti-Israeli stance. The ANC is the driving force behind South Africa's highly sensitive case at the United Nations' top court accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza. South Africa is also set to play a significant role in foreign affairs when it takes over the presidency of the Group of 20 developed and developing nations next year.

### Concessions to the DA

Ramaphosa gave the DA six ministerial positions, including making DA leader John Steenhuisen the minister of agriculture. While the DA had pushed for the trade and industry portfolio as the second biggest party, it was given deputy minister posts in trade and industry

and finance, and those areas might be the sternest tests of whether the ANC and DA can work together.

The left-leaning ANC and the centrist DA are at odds over many economic policies, including the ANC's flagship Black Economic Empowerment affirmative action program that aims to advance opportunities for Black people in business. The ANC maintains it's necessary to right the wrongs of apartheid, but the DA has said it wants to scrap the policy and replace it with one in which race is not a decisive factor.

### Racial connotations

The coalition faces wider challenges regarding race with the ANC, the party that liberated South Africa from white minority rule, and the DA, viewed by some as focused on the interests of the country's white minority, which accounts for 7% of the population of 62 million. The DA has strongly denied that characterization and has support among many Black South Africans, but race remains a burning issue because of South Africa's history of brutal racial segregation under a white minority government.

Ramaphosa also made the leader of the Freedom Front Plus party part of his new Cabinet. It has its roots in former right-wing parties representing white interests, and while it has softened its stance considerably, that will be another test of whether South Africa can put race aside in the most politically diverse government it has ever had.

South Africa's third and fourth biggest parties have refused to join the coalition merely because of the inclusion of the white-led DA and Freedom Front Plus.

### Steep challenges

Both Ramaphosa and Steenhuisen have committed to work together, and the DA backed Ramaphosa for a second term in a vote in Parliament last month, a major first step in their new partnership. But the coalition government faces steep challenges. While South Africa positions itself as a leading voice for its continent and for the wider developing world, that is undermined by its problems.

South Africa has some of the world's highest rates of inequality and unemployment, which officially stands at 32% across the board and a dizzying 45% for young people between the ages of 15 and 34. It also has a desperately high violent crime rate and failing public services, epitomized by rolling nationwide electricity blackouts which reached record levels in 2023.

They were all reasons why South African voters turned away from the ANC in the May 29 election.



Prof Riziki Shemdoe (L), Permanent Secretary in the Livestock and Fisheries ministry, pictured at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro municipality presenting a certificate to one of 30 participants of training in veterinary issues and diseases animals spread to humans organised by the UN-FAO and sponsored by USAID. Photo: Correspondent Christine Haule

By Guardian Reporter

EDITORS of mainstream print and electronic media have welcomed the pledge of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) to cooperate with media so that the public remains abreast of what is taking place in the crude oil project.

EACOP on Saturday in Dar es Salaam organised a well-attended project familiarisation seminar for editors.

EACOP sent a four-member team for seminar facilitation led by the Head of Communication (Tanzania), Catherine Mbatia.

The dominant opinion was that it remains to be seen if EACOP will honour its word and that media houses hope there will be regular flow of information that is of value to the public from the giant project. The crude oil pipeline from Hoima District in Uganda will pass through eight regions in Tanzania ending at Chongoleani Peninsula near Tanga Port.

Editor Mgaya Kingoba (HabariLeo) said facilitators

# Tanzania's media ready to team up with EACOP in its operations

gave useful clarification on the compensation issue, for example. "I think the seminar has been a useful gathering. It is a good start on cooperation in disseminating information to the public. We were exposed to various benefits people in the pipeline corridor will get. People have been compensated and I am witness to that. My relative, in Handeni District, has been compensated for his land and other properties," said.

He said the project has broad socio-economic benefits to Tanzanians and Ugandans, explaining that the project will spur money circulation in the two countries as thousands of people will get direct and indirect employment.

Editor Neville Meena (Brains Media) said the seminar was an eye opener, explaining that huge

preparatory work on the project has been done. Meena is a member of the Executive Committee of the Tanzania Editors Forum.

"At the level of project preparation a lot of good work has been done. It has been inclusive. They have done a good job, I would say. We have been empowered collectively in order to give right information to the people at different stages of project implementation," he said.

Editor Khamis Mkotya, (Channel Ten) said he gets disappointed when he reads or hears negative and misleading information on EACOP. The seminar has helped him get useful and detailed information on project implementation.

"Chemba is my home district. I know people have been accurately and justly compensated including my own relations. The seminar has been a useful capacity building

meeting. We shall be in a good position to report on the project in future," he said.

Editor Hafidh Kido, (Taifa Tanzania) said the seminar has helped participants understand the project better. "The seminar has put us in the right position to follow up implementation of the project, stage by stage. And it is good the project management has promised to give us information. This project is pro-poor people in Tanzania and Uganda; not the reverse. Tanzania and Uganda governments should be congratulated on what they have done so far," he said.

The seminar was also attended by owners of PR firms and social media platforms.

Mbatia pledged to give media houses full cooperation, saying EACOP considers media houses to be very important stakeholders.



Shangwe Ayo, opposition ACT-Wazalendo's Finance shadow deputy minister, makes remarks at a meeting in Dar es Salaam at the weekend on the government's scrapping of the 382/- in levy per kilo of compressed natural gas. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# UN report shows 2023 was worst year for children in armed conflict

By Special Correspondent

THE United Nations says 2023 marked the highest number of violations against children in nearly a decade.

Virginia Gamba, the UN's special representative for children told the Security Council that the UN has verified 32,990 grave violations

against 22,557 children in 2023.

Gamba said the violations included the killing and maiming of children, followed by recruitment and use, denial of humanitarian access and abduction.

The UN report shows that 5,301 children were killed and another 6,348 injured, marking a rise of 35 per cent over previous years.

The report also shows that the recruitment and use of children also surged during 2023 with 8,655 cases verified, of which some 15 percent were girls, who also bore the brunt of multiple violations while recruited or used.

Child abductions also continued at high levels, with 4,356 child victims verified in 2023, the report

says.

"Let me remind all warring parties, when they resort to armed force, in contradiction with the Charter of the United Nations, they cannot do so at the cost of the lives and wellbeing of children," Gamba said. "Let me be clear: there is no excuse for harming children during armed conflict."



## PPP medium-based urban renewal can readily uplift local contractors

HERE is now a call to experts at the Works ministry to formulate a supportive strategy for empowering local contractors into smoothly implementing projects assigned to them.

It comes from Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko, who made it as what one might describe as a Budget 'morning after' gesture - the occasion being a sector symposium.

In a sense, the gesture is part of a package of routine empowerment exercises which have contrasting bearings depending on the group targeted.

First is the group of those 'excluded' from the job market though this could be viewed as failure to get jobs because the need for workers is not growing in tandem with output in secondary schools, colleges and universities.

These are targeted simply to get a footing in the economy, with middle-income groups like contractors often complaining of secondary status.

Such groups are influential in society and can lead to a political backlash if they see that foreign companies have the best share of public works to a level they perceive as unjustified.

The government has to find ways of assuaging such feelings as part of policy meant to foster harmony, in which case the contractors/and service providers' symposium saw the Works ministry being asked to liaise with the Treasury in empowering local contractors with vital facilities.

It is not every formulation the leadership or other sectors of society make about the importance of this or that group in the economy that is totally reliable as a guide to clear comprehension of issues.

Local contractors, much like commercial sector stakeholders recently engaged in negotiations with the government, are important to feelings on how the particular

sector is run.

This applies even if it is not necessarily the most technically appropriate group to engage with especially in strategic projects. The problem is thus not their inclusion in strategic projects but availability of potentially profitable projects.

How far the possibility of widening or diversifying credit channels will solve the problem is not easy to say, as either side of the policy issue has its drawbacks.

Not providing local contractors with enough work to do may risk leading to disharmony, while genuine outreach has its problems in that it may not meet required standards in project design or execution.

Also, an overly open-arms policy could be perceived as a political initiative, which could cause challenges to authorities charged with supervision of implementation.

The difficulty about this credit master plan is that it will be hard to align credit facilities with actual contracts, as best practices require that one has a contract and then there is credit.

A major condition for a contract is ensuring quality in technical capacity and equipment along with a sound track record to back it up, meaning that the government would need to widen current PPP programmes to include the uplifting of inner-city roads.

This is talk on a project on the cards for major urban areas, where the government can look for an auxiliary multilateral facility for such works, paid for courtesy of road toll collections at city level, land price rises, etc.

There is little competition from foreign firms in local works, while standards are relatively easy to accommodate.

Local contractors need more of the medium-level works they commonly obtain. But while moving into strategic projects as well may not always yield good enough fruit, that should not be a no-go sphere.

## Data upgrade apps can fine-tune policies, agro-sector supervision

TECHNOLOGICAL progress targeting the most ordinary spheres of economic and social activity is so fast that hardly anyone can keep pace with it in regulatory or policy implementing agencies.

That is in part why we view the gesture by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to donate agro-systems data application as apt.

In what is increasingly being known as the age of information, UN specialised agencies have time and again conducted initiatives in that sphere, for the simple reason that information is the basis of doing anything in the right way.

This was once a simple matter of updating what public authorities knew of particular rural areas, accompanied by things like soil surveys, to know what could be planted best and where.

Marketable crops are being introduced in regions with altogether different traditions, just like the 1970s saw Dodoma venture into grape farming.

At first glance, one may not see so much in the farmer registration and agricultural information system, a rather easy project branding running as a 'hand-in-hand' initiative.

It is tailored to help in tackling duplicate services arising from the proliferation of multiple digital agricultural extension services.

UN experts say that this proliferation leads to making users set conflicting information, one result being that farmers are left unsure about best practices and inputs for a crop.

While Agriculture ministry ICT officials laid emphasis on digitalization efforts, the UN agency was talking of confusion being engendered in that sphere.

The key issue here is whether sorting it out is a matter of improved policy or 'aggregating', umbrella technology meant to lead to harmony.

An ICT official at the ministry was convinced that the deployment of new integrated ICT apps would streamline services, guaranteeing farmers consistent, accurate and reliable information.

How far accurate information will by itself 'greatly enhance efficiency and effectiveness of agricultural advice leading to better farming outcomes' is hard to predict.

Data streamlining apps must be tied to agro-sector policy clarity for farmers to plant and expect decent market prices. Traditional state-based crop purchasing diminishes the relevance of ICT use as it is often geared at exploiting opportunities. Such opportunities are provided by the market, chiefly with savvy brokers to always appealing to the government.

The Agriculture ministry needs to find solutions to local market needs which don't include barring markets from operating, as farmers need income from their crops.

UN agencies like FAO, the World Food Programme and even UNICEF need to be especially vigilant and see if they can come up with a modernisation programme where markets can work.

Unless this obtains, it will prove hard indeed turning the sector into a major employer again.

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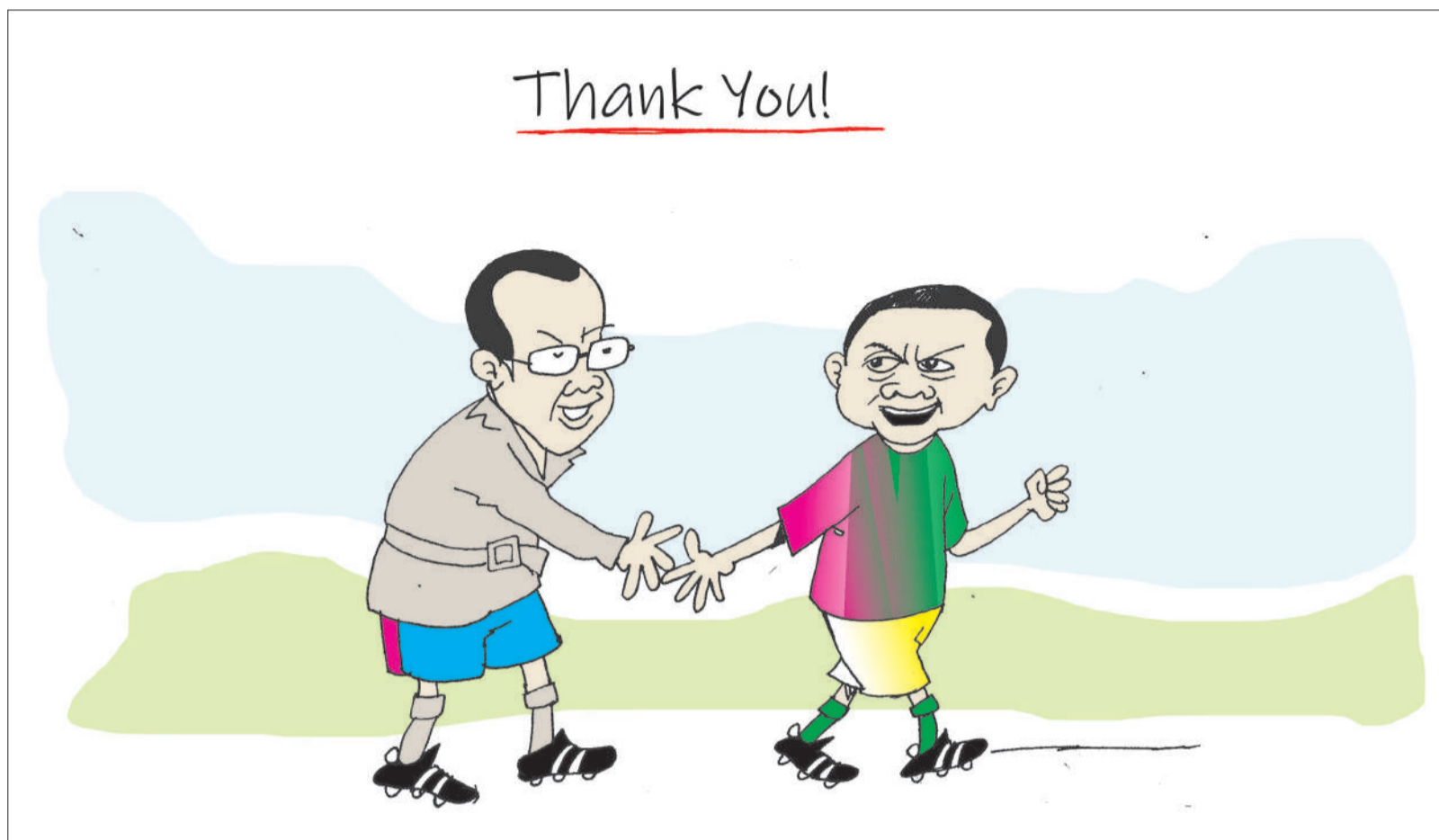
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## The defence of journalism and journalists is a social justice issue

By Mark Heywood

JOHN Pilger, one of the world's most pioneering social justice journalists, died in 2023. He once explained the importance of investigative journalism by saying: "Without it our sense of injustice would lose its vocabulary and people would not be armed with the information they need to fight it."

If you look at the history of journalism in South Africa, there can be no doubt that Pilger was right. From the earliest independent black newspapers in the 19th century, through apartheid and into the democratic era, journalism has been an unbroken thread linked to the quest for justice and equality.

The same can be said of the role of independent journalism internationally; as borne out by the cruel harassment and imprisonment of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, now a free man again after 14 years. But while Assange may be the most high-profile instance, journalists around the world risk their lives to expose injustice and reveal truth almost every day.

Journalism has always been a threat to power. But overall it has been able to resist these threats. However, in the words of Bob Dylan, "the times they are a-changin'".

But there's a newer and arguably more existential threat. In the last 10 years the internet and the digital media platforms it has made possible - at first thought to be a great leap forward for news gathering and dissemination, akin to the invention of the telephone or the television - have proved to be a double-edged sword for journalism. And more and more their abuse poses a threat that far outweighs their benefits.

Elite capture

In the early days of the internet and social media, there was a belief that these new technologies and platforms would accelerate journalism's trajectory and arc towards justice. But paradoxically, while they have undoubtedly increased the influence of media (something we must clearly distinguish from what we think of as 'the media') and been an invaluable tool for journalists, they have also weakened the power of journalism.

How have they managed this? I would identify the following trends:

- The reach and massification of readership/audience made possible by new digital technologies and platforms has generated huge financial resources for social media platforms and made their owners inordinately wealthy. They were capable of using



that wealth for or against social justice. They have chosen the latter.

- The supranationality of the platforms has largely allowed them to evade regulation, accountability and taxation.

- With this power they have abandoned the ethical principles and rules that self-govern journalism, which means that:

- They have no inhibitions about contesting meaning and even truth;

- Their platforms can be wielded consciously to protect injustice;

- Misinformation and disinformation can be used to polarise and divide people; and

- They have abandoned any pretence of impartiality and objectivity.

- They have also weaponised social media against more traditional forms of media and created a new universe of alternative rules-free media to contest rules-bound media.

The result has been that tech giants (like Google, Meta and Musk) have operated like an army to effect a pincer movement around the news media: first the online platforms draw away advertising and traditional revenues, with the effect of hollowing out traditional media and journalism by depriving it of revenue.

This creates "news deserts", especially among poorer communities that do not have resources to fill these deserts. Instead social media fill these deserts with information and "news" that is beyond the reach of traditional regulation, ethics and fact-checking etc. This is used to reshape public opinion.

Media extinction

In the USA this has been documented by writers like Ann Nelson, in her book Shadow Network - Media, money and the secret hub of the radical right (2019), which notes how:

"Since 2004, almost 1,800 US newspapers have disappeared altogether, and hundreds of communities have become 'news deserts', without a single local news

organisation ..."

According to another study, by the end of 2024 one-third of US newspapers will have disappeared since 2005.

But no part of the world, including South Africa, is escaping this onslaught. Only two weeks ago, News24 announced that it is planning to close the print versions of a number of its newspapers, costing up to 800 jobs.

In its submission to the Competition Commission's market inquiry, the Daily Maverick has called out the role of Meta, noting that:

"Platforms like Meta, through its subsidiaries Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, have become the largest enablers of [the phenomenon of disinformation and misinformation], taking a significant toll on society and newsrooms alike."

The Daily Maverick adds that: "Despite their substantial profits, these platforms have consistently shown reluctance to allocate adequate resources to combat this issue, exacerbating its impact. This is not without financial consequences and affects the viability of journalism ..."

"The end result is that in the last decade (perhaps dating from the Cambridge Analytica scandal in 2016) there has been a counter revolution against facts and truth, one that not only aims to normalise inequality and injustice, but to fragment and debilitate the progressive social movements (and political parties) that seek a fairer world.

"Its profound political consequences are captured by Filipino journalist and editor of Rappler, Maria Ressa, who in her book How to Stand Up to a Dictator points out that: "Without facts, you can't have truth. Without truth you can't have trust. Without all three, we have no shared reality and democracy as we know it - and all meaningful human endeavours - are dead."

An alliance for truth: digital justice is social justice

These changes to the media environment are profound. They

mean that social justice activists will now have to adopt better, bolder and more innovative strategies towards working with the media and journalism.

This obviously requires careful discussion. But some of the strategies and activities that could be pursued include human rights activists:

- Doing more to emphasise the connection between an independent and widely accessible media and the realisation of human rights; this means framing (and even litigating) access to independent media as a human rights and rule of law issue;

- Making alliances with journalists and working hand in hand to defend publications and journalists who are under attack from either the state and/or the private sector;

- Demanding that the state funds public broadcasters adequately and respects their independence;

- Filling the "news deserts" with access to independent and progressive media;

- Calling on governments and competition authorities to break up media monopolies and conglomerates;

- Building media literacy among activists and in the general public to counter disinformation and misinformation;

- Working with organisations like the Campaign on Digital Ethics that are demanding effective oversight and reasonable regulation of the digital space;

- Signing the Ten Point Plan to address the information crisis (Sign here); and

- Calling for criminalisation of creating and spreading disinformation that is dangerous to health and life, on the same basis that hate speech is criminalised.

Journalism and the news media are threatened by the new world disorder, at the very moment when it is most needed. The question is whether we will rally to defend the people who, in the past, have consistently used their trade to defend the defenceless. **DM**





**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST –  
PREQUALIFICATION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR PUBLIC  
RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT 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 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of prequalifying Service Providers for Public Relation and Communication Support Services and is, therefore, inviting eligible and interested Service Providers to submit Expressions of Interest as detailed below.

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

**Scope of Service:**

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01857	PROVISION OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT SERVICES

**II. INFORMATION REQUIRED**

**PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (MANDATORY)**

**COMMERCIAL**

- 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 VAT Registration Certificate
- NSSF Compliance Certificate
- Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association
- Compliance with Mining Act-Approved Local Content Plan.

**FINANCIAL POSITION AND TERMS OF TRADE**

- Applicants audited financial statements for the lates three years.
- Bank statements of the Applicants active bank accounts for the past 6 months.

**SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

- OSHA Compliance Certificate
- Environmental compliance Certificate
- Workers' compensation fund Certificate
- Safety and Environmental Policy

**OTHER POLICIES**

- 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 / Programme

**PAST EXPERIENCE**

- At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years
- Recommendation letter from previous clients

**TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01857)**

- Ability to provide campaign management services including event management, media management, digital media management and creative design input on large scale to positively impact the Company brand. Please attach CVs of key personnel
- Experience of undertaking similar works over the last 3 years. Please provide a profile showcasing the same
- Provide case studies to showcase ability to provide brand and reputation management services
- Showcase a list of works done to demonstrate social media management ability

III. Interested companies must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting **(GGME01857 - PROVISION OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT SERVICES)** as **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** for the submission of Letters of Interest (LOI). Letters of Interest must indicate 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** without copying any individual from the Company. Submission must not be later than **8.30 AM (EAT)** on **11<sup>th</sup> July 2024**. (the "EOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions must not exceed 150MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 150MB, applicants must split the submissions into multiple emails.

V. 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 must consider themselves unsuccessful.

**=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=**



**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST –  
PREQUALIFICATION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR THE PROVISION  
OF SKILLED LABOUR.**

**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 the provision of Skilled Labour services. It is, therefore, inviting eligible and interested applicants to submit Expressions of Interest as detailed below.

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

**Scope of Service:**

REFERENCE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
GGME01845	PROVISION OF SKILLED LABOUR

**II. INFORMATION REQUIRED**

**PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT**

**COMMERCIAL**

- 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 for annual return.
- Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VRN certificate
- Copy of company memorandum and article of association
- NSSF Compliance Certificate
- Compliance with Mining Act - Approved Local Content Plan.

**FINANCIAL POSITION AND TERMS OF TRADE**

- Applicants audited financial statements for the past three consecutive years.
- At least 1 reference from the applicant's bankers regarding the supplier's credit position. If any.
- All bank statements of the applicant's active bank accounts for the past 6 months to date

**SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

- OSHA Compliance Certificate
- Environmental compliance certificate
- Workers' compensation fund certificate
- Safety and Environmental policy

**OTHER POLICIES**

- Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure
- Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour
- Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment
- Grievance Procedure
- Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme

**PAST EXPERIENCE**

- 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

**TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01845)**

- At least five years of executing similar activities in Mining or another similar environment
- Possess technical skills for fabrication and maintenance of major processing plant equipment (Proof of qualifications and experience)
- Evidence of managing and supervising fabrication and maintenance of major processing plant and mining equipment e.g., previous orders, recommendation letter etc.
- Possession of tools and equipment for fabrication and maintenance of processing plant equipment. The list of equipment is powered welding machine, an Angle Grinder, a Magnetic Base Drill, an Electric Welding Machine, an Electric/Pneumatic Impact gun etc
- Should be a mechanical contractor registered with Contractor Registration Board (Tanzania) class 3 or above

III. Interested Applicants must quote **"GGME01845 - PROVISION OF SKILLED LABOUR"** as the subject of the email for submission of Letters of Interest ("LOI"). Letters of Interest must indicate 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** without copying any individual from the Company. Submission must not be later than **8.30 AM (EAT)** on **11<sup>th</sup> July 2024**. (the "EOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions must not exceed 150MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 150MB, applicants must split the submissions into multiple emails.

V. 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 must consider themselves unsuccessful.

**=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=**



# 'I recognised my sister in video of refugees captured in Sudan war'

By Tesfalem Araia & Netsanet Debessai,

**M**IHRET Gebru was recently watching with concern two viral videos on her phone which showed people from the Horn of Africa being beaten and assaulted by armed men in Sudan - and was then horrified to spot her sister among the captives.

"Instantly I was able to identify Luwam, who is wearing the orange scarf I know very well - and her shoes, which can be partly seen," she told the BBC.

The sisters are from Eritrea - and like many young people Luwam Gebru had fled the country's indefinite military conscription that they feel denies them a future.

She had ended up in neighbouring Ethiopia in 2019, where she had refugee status. But being a refugee can be like living a life in limbo - and many choose to make dangerous journeys in search of new lives and opportunities.

Ms Mihret said her 24-year-old sibling had decided to risk traversing the war zone of Sudan to reach Libya last year, several months after the conflict erupted.

Sudan descended into chaos in April 2023 when former allies - the army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) - began fighting each other for control of the country.

Many foreign nationals were hastily evacuated - but some refugees already in the country and recently arrived migrants like Ms Luwam found themselves treated with suspicion and taken as prisoners of war.

"We didn't hear her voice for almost a month," says Ms Mihret.

"She had called once from Sudan and told us: 'Don't worry I have arrived in Sudan safely and we might reach Libya this week.'"

Her younger sister sounded confident that the people smugglers she had entrusted with her life would not let her down.

But nothing was heard of her for another five months - until the videos appeared on social media in April.

BBC Verify's analysis of the footage suggests they were uploaded on 7 and 8 April.

A Sudanese army general refers to the 50 or so detainees on board a truck as "mercenaries from Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia".

They appear to have been captured fleeing fierce fighting around the al-Jaily oil refinery, north of the capital, Khartoum, which has been in the hands of the RSF and is used as a base in the area.

In one of the videos, an army officer says the captives are being transferred to the army's Wadi Seidna military base, which is also north of the capital.

There have been unsubstantiated reports that foreign fighters are being used by the RSF - which may explain the hostility to the group from the army officers.

Still photos of the group, including several with Ms Luwam in her orange scarf, show them crammed into a room in a warehouse.

Ms Mihret, who was also able to identify one of her neighbours from Eritrea among the group, said they have not been able to get any more information.

"We don't know much, we are told they are under the custody of the Sudanese authorities."

Other Eritreans have told the BBC they have relatives registered as refugees in Sudan who have gone missing and are reportedly being held by the Sudanese military.

Two of them left Eritrea together last year, arriving at a UN-run refugee camp in Kassala state in eastern Sudan in October.

Their families say that Yonatan Tesfaslassie, aged 17, and Edmon Kidane, 20, were then approached by smugglers.

Such traffickers, some of whom are alleged to be from the RSF, often target the young and newly arrived promising them a safe route out of Sudan for a fee.

Once en route they put pressure on them to ask relatives abroad to pay more money and then abandon them on the way.



Luwam Gebru said people smugglers were taking her across Sudan's war zone to Libya

In Mr Yonatan's and Mr Edmon's case, they were aiming for South Sudan when it seems they were abandoned by the smugglers and became separated.

It appears they had both made it to Wad Madani, in Gezira state, a city about 190km (118 miles) south of Khartoum that had been a safe-haven for many since the start of the war.

But in December it fell to RSF troops and more than 300,000 fled the area in the chaos.

That was the last time Mr Yonatan's family heard from him - when he said he was setting out with other migrants towards South Sudan.

His sister Winta Tesfaslassie later heard from those who managed to make it safely across the border that he may be among many migrants who were then ar-

rested in the army-held town of Rabek a little further south.

Some of them, they said, were taken to the nearby town of Sinjah and others possibly to the town of Sennar to be held by the army.

"The entire family is so worried and we have no idea what to do, we feel helpless. We want to know if he is safe, he is too young to go through such an ordeal and he has nothing to do with the war in Sudan," Ms Winta, who lives in the UK, told the BBC.

Mr Edmon's family also last heard from him when he was in Wad Madani - though it appears he was detained in the city several weeks before it fell to the RSF.

"We were told by a smuggler he was held by the Sudanese army," his sister Adiam Kidane, who is based in Angola,

told the BBC.

The smuggler was their only source of information "but later he stopped answering our calls", she said.

"We couldn't tell our mother for a long time but eventually we had to. She fainted the moment she heard we had no news of him. We are all in distress. We are constantly thinking what might have happened to him."

Some reports say more than 200 migrants of different nationalities had been detained at a military facility in Wad Madani before the RSF advance - information the BBC cannot independently confirm.

It has since been reported that the detainees were moved with the army when it withdrew from Wad Madani.

The UN refugee agency says it has re-

ceived similar reports about the detention by the army of asylum seekers and refugees. According to the UN, there are more than 147,000 Eritreans and around 70,000 Ethiopians in the country.

It told the BBC it was planning a verification mission to Sennar state, which includes the towns of Sinjah and Rabek, urging relatives of refugees who believe them to be in detention to report the information through the UNHCR Sudan's help page.

Likewise the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said those with a family member missing in Sudan should open a case via its hotline or offices in the country.

"Helping families who lost contact with their loved ones to trace them is one of our major priorities. But our ability to do this depends on the access we have and the volatile security situation," the ICRC told the BBC.

The Sudanese embassy in London did not respond to a BBC request for comment on the detentions of foreign nationals.

Despite international efforts to stop the fighting in which more than 15,000 people are believed to have been killed, the warring parties are unable to agree a ceasefire.

The three sisters who have spoken to the BBC about their missing siblings say it is an incredibly frustrating process to find out any information be it from the ICRC, UN or the military.

"Please help us, the UN, anyone... we are desperate," said Ms Winta.

"We appeal to the Sudanese authorities to please, please allow them to call us to hear their voices."

"We beg the army to release them, these are innocent young people who left their country with the hope of reaching a safe destination in South Sudan."



Luwam Gebru, in her orange scarf, was pictured with other foreigners in an image thought to be from April

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# S.Sudan says its 6m antelope make up world's largest land mammal migration, but poaching rising

JUBA

SEEN from the air, they ripple across the landscape – a river of antelope racing across the vast grasslands of South Sudan in what conservationists say is the world's largest land mammal migration.

The country's first comprehensive aerial wildlife survey, released Tuesday June 25, found about six million antelope.

The survey was conducted over a two-week period last year in two national parks and nearby areas.

It relied on spotters in airplanes, analysis of nearly 60,000 photos and tracking of more than a hundred collared animals over about 46,000 square miles (120,000 square kilometers).

The estimate from non-profit African Parks, which conducted the work along with the South Sudan government, far surpasses figures for other large migratory herds, such as the estimated 1.36 million wildebeests surveyed last year in the Serengeti region straddling Tanzania and Kenya.

But they warn the animals face a rising threat from commercial poaching, in a nation rife with weapons and without strong law enforcement.

"South Sudan is the largest, large mammal migration in the world, at this stage," says Larry McGillewie, a pilot working for African Parks.

"This is a large migration, which needs to be protected."

The migration stretches from east of the Nile in Badingilo and Boma national parks into neighboring Ethiopia – an area roughly the size of the U.S. state of Georgia.

It includes four main antelope, the white-eared kob – of which there are some 5 million – the tiang, the Mongalla gazelle and bohor reedbeek.

The survey says some animals have increased since a more limited one in 2010, including the white-eared kob.

But it describes a "catastrophic" decline of most non-migratory species in the last 40 years, such as the hippo, elephant and warthog.

Associated Press journalists flying over the stunning migration of thousands of antelope saw few giraffes and no elephants, lions or cheetahs.

Trying to protect the animals over such a vast terrain is challenging.

In recent years, new roads have increased people's access to markets, contributing to poaching.

Years of flooding have meant crop failures that have left some people with little choice but to hunt for food.

African Parks estimates some 30,000 animals were being killed each month between March and May this year.

"We kill the animals because the crops have failed," says Wilson Ubaa, a



resident in Lafon County.

"We don't kill them when the harvest is good."

The government hasn't made a priority of protecting wildlife.

Less than one percent of its current budget is allocated to the wildlife ministry, which said it has few cars to move rangers around to protect animals.

Villagers nestled in and around the parks told The AP they mostly hunted to feed their families or to barter for goods.

A newly paved road between Juba and Bor – the epicenter of the illegal commercial bushmeat trade – has made it easier for trucks to carry large quantities of animals.

Bor sits along the Nile, about 27 miles (45 kilometers) from Badingilo Park. In the dry season, animals coming closer to the town to drink are vulnerable to killing.

Officials at the wildlife ministry in Bor told AP the killing of animals had doubled in the last two years.

Even when those involved in the industry are caught, the consequences can be minor.

A few years ago, when wildlife rangers came to arrest animal seller Lina Garang, she says they let her go, instead telling her to conduct business more discreetly.

Thirty-eight-year-old Garang says her competition has only grown, with 15 new shops opening along her strip to buy and sell animals.

"There is high competition, and there are a lot of meat

sellers," she says.

"I don't have anything, my business has broken. How will we feed the children?"

Part of the challenge is that there is no national land management plan, so roads and infrastructure are built without initial discussions about where they are best placed.

The government has also allocated an oil concession to a South African company in the middle of Badingilo that spans nearly 90 percent of the park.

African Parks is trying to square modernizing the country with preserving the wildlife.

The organization has been criticized in the past for not engaging enough with communities and taking an overly militarized approach in some of the nearly two dozen areas it manages in Africa.

The group says its core strategy in South Sudan is focused on community relations and aligning the benefits of wildlife and economic development.

One plan is to create land conservancies that local communities would manage, with input from national authorities.

Meanwhile, African Parks has set up small hubs in several remote villages and is spreading messages of sustainable practices, such as not killing female or baby animals.

"The message now is hunting is not bad, that was the past message that we used, but too much hunting is bad, because it will destroy all the species," says David Liwaya,

a Lafon site officer working for African Parks.

"We need to engage them slowly, to understand about the conservation through that approach."

Hopes of tourism around the animals may take a while.

For now, there aren't hotels or roads to host people near the parks, and the only option is high-end trips for what one tour company official called a "high-risk" audience.

There's fighting between tribes and attacks by gunmen in the area, pilots told AP they've been shot at by people while flying overhead.

Locals trying to protect the wildlife say it's hard to shift people's mentality.

In the remote village of Otallo on the border with Ethiopia, young men have started buying motorbikes.

What had been an all-day trip on foot to cross the border to sell animals now takes just five hours, allowing them to double the number of animals they take and make multiple trips.

One of them, Charo Ochogi, says he'd rather be doing something else, but there are few options, and he's not worried about the animals disappearing.

"Here in this village, I have a motorcycle and my future plan is to transport bushmeat for commercial and other essential business activities," he says.

The migration is already being touted as a point of national pride by a country trying to move beyond its conflict-riddled past.

Billboards of the migration recently went up in the capital of Juba, and the government has aspirations that the animals may someday be a magnet for tourists says Peter Alberto, Undersecretary for the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism.

"So, you know, we'll try our best to demonstrate to the whole world that at least we are trying our best to make the wildlife in South Sudan known to the rest of the world."

South Sudan has six national parks and a dozen game reserves covering more than 13 percent of the terrain

# Chinese solar products popular among Kenyan citizens at expo

NAIROBI

EDWIN Kaleye keenly listened to presentations by sales representatives at the Dahai Solar booth during the ninth Solar Africa 2024 exhibition launched Wednesday in Nairobi, Kenya. As a high school teacher, he sought to purchase a solar home lighting solution for his rural home in eastern Kenya, which remains unconnected to the national electricity grid.

"I am looking for a reliable and affordable source of electricity to power my electric gadgets in my countryside house," Kaleye said. He expressed his admiration for Chinese solar technology, noting that it offers a viable alternative to electricity supplied by the national utility company.

With his rural home enjoying abundant sunshine year-round, Kaleye anticipated significant savings by

using solar power. For about 110,000 Kenyan shillings (about 850 U.S. dollars), he could acquire a complete solar lighting system, enabling him to enjoy modern electronics similar to those in the city.

More than 30 Chinese manufacturers dedicated to solar products participated in the three-day expo, showcasing innovations to convert sunshine into electric energy.

Another visitor, outdoor enthusiast Derick Mbeya, was impressed by the solutions at the Shenzhen GT Power-tank stand. The 31-year-old decided to purchase a portable solar battery solution for 740 dollars, ideal for his camping trips. Michael Long, sales manager for the Middle East and North Africa at Shenzhen Megarevo Technology, said his company has developed solar solutions customized for African climatic conditions.


"Through research, we have devel-

oped solar technologies with high energy yields even in low light conditions," he said.

Benson Mangela, who runs a small hospital in central Kenya, visited the exhibition to purchase a solar system that offers a stable energy supply throughout the year as his facility often experiences service interruptions due to regular power blackouts. Currently relying on a diesel generator during power cuts, he seeks to switch to solar to reduce operational costs. "I typically spend more than 8,000 Kenyan shillings per day on fuel for the generators, which also suffer from breakdowns due to heavy usage," he said.

Mangela decided to invest in a 200-kW solar system with batteries and inverters from Shenzhen Megarevo Technology, which promises a return on investment in less than three years.





Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

**Expression of Interest (EoI)**  
**For Ruvuma Landscape Beekeeping Capacity Building**  
**EoI No. 83468317**

GIZ is seeking an organization to capacitate the District Beekeeping Officers, TFS Beekeeping staff and leading beekeeping villages group representatives to act as ToTs on beekeeping activities for mitigation of HWC and for complementary economic activity in Ruvuma Landscape.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR RUVUMA LANDSCAPE BEEKEEPING CAPACITY BUILDING**

GIZ is a federally owned enterprise operating worldwide, assisting the German Government in achieving its policy objectives in the field of international cooperation. It offers demand-driven, tailor-made and effective services for sustainable development worldwide. In Tanzania and across the region GIZ supports the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the EAC in attaining their development goals. GIZ is looking for a training institution or organization with professional experience to conduct a **beekeeping capacity building for Ruvuma Landscape** (in the district of Liwale, Namtumbo and Tunduru) that encompasses six key areas:

- Facilitate and implement 01 Month Beekeeping Management ToTs, special focus on challenges, harvesting practices, beehive types, queen rearing and colony division practice, including Training Manual
- Facilitate DBOs and TFS to develop monitoring plans for every beekeeping group and district
- Facilitate and Implement Training on Kenyan Top Bar Beehives Construction for Carpenters, including Beehive construction manual
- Procurement and distribution of beekeeping tools/materials
- Coaching Sessions for ToTs on Beekeeping management progress activities
- Value addition, bee-products processing and marketing

Therefore, GIZ would like to request qualified organizations to send their Expression of Interest (EoI) as per below details. The organization selected will be responsible with design of training manuals, implement training in its training institution, implement coaching sessions (remotely and field visit to the three districts), distributes beekeeping equipment and support group with market linking and reporting to GIZ.

**OBLIGATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION**

- Development of Bilingual Beekeeping user training manual and Beekeeping user Audiovisual (video)
- Documentation of GIZ stipend and transportation and verification of participants during training
- Guiding 03 District to develop beekeeping monitoring action plans (Liwale, Namtumbo and Tunduru)
- Procure, distribute approved list of material and equipment as per ToR and documents all handover as per GIZ guidelines
- Implement monthly coaching session including field visit to Liwale, Namtumbo and Tunduru district and to project village during hive management (cleaning, harvesting and packaging).
- Link beekeeping groups with potential buyers (signed contract between buyers and beekeeping groups).
- Drafting of full written report with highlight on bee type, challenges, opportunities and strategies to optimize beekeeping potential in the district of Namtumbo, Liwale and Tunduru shared to GIZ
- Implement any part of responsibility as per the shared ToR.

**DETAILS OF DOCUMENTS & PREREQUISITES**

Your documents must show the following information:

1. A clear physical address and Contact address (Telephone number, email address, physical address).
2. Organizational profile, including Annual turnover and number of staff, together with a brief description of the organization experience in practical beekeeping management, monitoring, training and harvesting of beekeeping products.
3. Samples of previous beekeeping practical training that showcase professional experience of minimum of 5 years of practicing beekeeping management.
4. Must be able to physically travel to Ruvuma Landscape for field coaching session especially during the flowering and harvesting season characterized with extremely poor road condition.
5. Proof of previous experience with regional or international organizations/regional or international development actors
6. Sample CVs of experts, at minimum one expert per assignment.
7. Business registration Certificate in Tanzania if applicable
8. TIN / VAT Registration Certificate if applicable
9. Valid latest tax clearance certificate from Revenue Authority if Applicable

**Submission of EOI**  
 The information and documents specified above shall be submitted to GIZ in PDF format **on/ before 15.07.2024** to the following email address: **tz\_quotation@giz.de (tz underscore quotation at giz dot de)**

The subject line must be clearly marked as follows: **"83468317-Ruvuma Landscape Beekeeping Capacity Building"**

Please do not send technical or price offer or other documents not requested. Kindly note that complete tender documents will be sent to all organization that will be assessed as eligible by GIZ based on the information and documents submitted as specified above.

**"GIZ Reserves All rights"**



# Will Biden's green jobs policy help him win votes?

By Michelle Fleury

THE former "carpet capital of the world" is getting a multi-billion-dollar makeover.

Here in the rural Georgian town of Dalton, once known for its fabric floor coverings, a Korean company called Qcells is spending \$2.5bn (£2bn) to expand its solar panel factory, with another in the works.

It's a bold initiative that will create 2,500 quality jobs in the next 12 months, in an area where the average household income is roughly 27% below the national average. It is hoped the project will revitalise a corner of the US whose glory days seemed over.

And it's due in no small part to someone many of the residents of this Republican district would rather not credit - Joe Biden.

The president's landmark 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) - his signature green legislation - offered hundreds of billions of dollars in tax incentives, credits and loans to stimulate American manufacturing in clean energy.

The most ambitious climate legislation in US history has generated a tsunami of private sector investments, with big implications for the rest of the world. And Georgia - a state President Biden hopes is in play in this year's presidential election - has been a big beneficiary.

But with four months before the president goes head-to-head against Donald Trump, the billions of dollars of new investment in this key battleground state doesn't appear to have lifted the incumbent's support.

President Biden's pitch is that solving the climate problem is also good for jobs. Since the law was passed, more than 300,000 clean energy jobs have been created in the US, according to the advocacy group Climate Power.

And there's no doubt it's creating opportunities in places like Dalton. Here you see Bidenomics in action -



US President Joe Biden speaks during the grand opening ceremony for the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center, June 28, 2024, in New York. AP

Republican member in the Georgia House of Representatives. We met at Oakwood Café, the bustling diner he owns along with a string of other local businesses, including a pizza joint and a boutique hotel.

Mr Carpenter downplayed the potential impact on Qcells of manufacturing tax credits being rolled back. He doesn't think it would jeopardise the solar investments in his district.

But he adds that if clean energy investments were to become at risk "I'm sure we'll be speaking with the Trump team".

Our conversation ends with him saying it would be another feather in Dalton's cap if this carpet town could also lay claim to the title of "solar panel capital of the world".

But that belongs to China, which controls 80% of the world's solar panel supply chain.

For years China has been investing heavily in renewable energy, and is expected to spend a staggering \$675bn in 2024, according to an International Energy Agency (IEA) report. To compete, governments around the world have begun throwing hundreds of billions at the green industries of the future.

In the EU, investment in clean energy is set to increase to \$370bn in 2024, according to the IEA. The predicted figure for the US is \$315bn.

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai said last year that she hoped the US's increased spending on renewable energy would help address the "significant distortion" in the global economy caused by China.

The aim is also to deny China any more of an opening into the US renewables market.

And these massive green investments are being channelled by the Biden White House, very purposefully, into so-called red states - those that usually vote Republican. The hope is to create a manufacturing revival before November's presidential election.

For those who work in the Qcells' factory, the opportunity has been life-changing.

Robots patrol the shop floor where solar cells are being packaged into panels. That's where I meet Alan Rodriguez, dressed in a black polo shirt emblazoned with the Qcells' logo.

He traded work in a Dalton carpet mill for Qcells shortly after the solar panel maker opened its first site in 2019. Mr Rodriguez started in an entry level position, before learning advanced skills, and progressing to a spot on the engineering team.

The speed of advancement was something he never dreamed of when he worked in the flooring industry.

"For me it's been great," Mr Rodriguez says as he walks down the production line. "The jobs are much better, the environment. It's a clean facility."

President Biden is counting on people like Alan Rodriguez to help swing red states his way in November.

foreign and government money being used to fight climate change and build an economy from the middle out.

Scott Moskowitz, head of market strategy for Qcells, says that Georgia had been a great home since 2019, but that the IRA had been an "accelerant". Without it, he muses, the current expansion might not have happened at all.

"What our industry has seen, since the IRA has passed, is more investment in the past two years in solar and clean energy manufacturing than the previous 20 years," he says.

And yet that message isn't getting through or simply isn't resonating with locals - not even local Democrats. Jan Pourquoi, the spokesperson for the local Whitfield County Democratic Party, tells me: "In the business community, there is a resentment against that company [Qcells]."

Mr Pourquoi, a Belgian expat should know. He owns one of the small carpet firms in town. We spoke in his office, overlooking the factory floor where they turn flooring remnants into small rugs.

"The business community resents the fact that we have a company from South Korea coming in this area with government subsidies, while they themselves get nothing from the government," says Mr Pourquoi, who identified as a Republican before switching parties following Trump's election in 2016.

He tells me that local voters know little about the IRA law. "Nobody cares about clean energy, not around here. That is the type of stuff that I would call the 'latte liberals' care about in the big city."

Well, at least one person does, and that's Marjorie Taylor Greene, the firebrand Republican congressional representative for the district. She has touted Qcells' expansion, despite voting against the law that helped make it possible.

It's creating some awkward dynamics for Republicans. The IRA is in Donald Trump's sights.

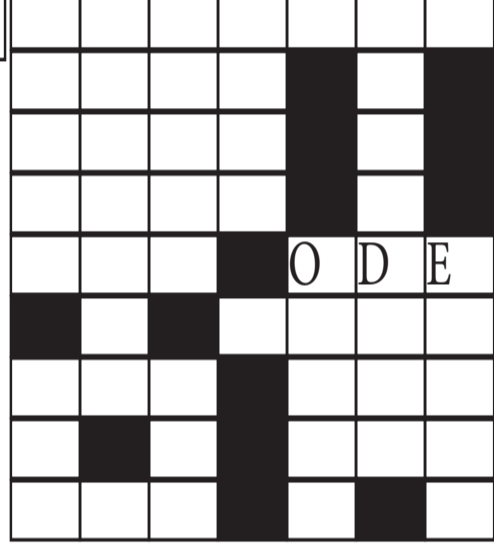
If Republican lawmakers win big in the Congressional elections that are also taking place on 5 November, then portions of President Biden's signature climate law could be repealed, threatening a clean energy boom happening in their communities across the US.

I sat down for coffee with Kasey Carpenter, Dalton's

## THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - 124

Crossword grid with numbers 1-14 and a vertical text on the left: 'By Felix Mlagezi: Phone: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezi@gmail.com @february2024'

- Across:
1 put roughly
6 French footballer
7 fit again
8 Intimidate
10 hillside
11 fuss or difficulty
13 a bird in Kiswahili
14 sullen and bad-tempered
Down:
1 sarabande
2 the sale of alcoholic drink for consumption elsewhere than at the place of sale
3 the sound produced
4 European Free Trade Association
5 the joint between the thigh and the lower leg
9 make someone free
11 relating to air
12 old-fashioned in a way that is intended to be attractively quaint



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.

- DETER
RAIMENT
ISNIK
VEER
RWANDESE
DRIVERS
EASE
TINE
EMIR
REK: ODE
OVER: STY
ESE: REC
RAM: SIR
YAM:
OVERT
ERECT

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with words: THE M E B DRECKY, A N A R C O A I D E E, N O R M S O R O O D S A, Z A B E A M E T S E O L, A N G A G O U I, N E T E A S U N D E C K, I N D I A N U S A S U E, A C N R M A T E, D I O I O M A I F I V E N S

RADIO One RAJIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Includes a weekly program schedule from Monday to Sunday with various time slots and program names.





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Coast councillors urged to prioritise productivity, leadership

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# Life insurers record fluctuating investment returns

By Guardian Reporter

**L**IFE insurers' solvency ratio declined to 42.9 percent during the year ended in December 2023, compared to 46.8 percent recorded in 2022 due to fluctuation of investment returns.

The Financial Stability Report 2023 by Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has however, noted that the recorded rate remained above regulatory requirement of 8 percent.

According to the report, the decline of investment among life insurers were observed on investment in real estate, which went down to 15.3 percent in 2023 compared with 19 percent recorded in 2022, as well as investment in government debt instruments, which slightly decreased to 28.3 percent from 28.8 percent respectively.

However, fire insurance, although experiencing a slight uptick in premiums from 177.7m/- to 182.5m/-, observed a slight decrease in market share from 19.9 per cent to 18.7 per cent, signalling a relative decline in significance within the market.

The financial soundness data by the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) show change in capital and reserves by life insurers went down to 10 last year from 120 in 2022, while return on investment remained flat at 5 percent.

The report shows solvency ratio for general insurer slightly gained to 67.6 percent compared to 66.7 percent, higher than statutory requirement of 25 percent.

General insurers' investment in government debt instruments went up to 31 percent in 2023 compared to 29.4 percent in 2022, while investment in bank deposits decreased slightly to 45.7 percent to 46.7 percent respectively.

Generally, the central bank report shows the insurance subsector has shown robust growth, resilience, and expansion.

The total assets have increased from 1,697.0bn/- to 1,870.8bn/-, indicating a growth of 12.1 per cent.

"This growth suggests that the insurance subsector has accumulated more assets, including investments, reserves, and other holdings, signifying a positive expansion of its financial base," says the central bank report.

The total liabilities have increased from 1,006.5bn/- to 1,128.7bn/-, marking a 10.2 per cent rise, which indicates that the insurance subsector has taken on more financial obligations over the years due to increased policy payouts.

Retention ratio for general insurance increased to 53.3 from 49.4 percent in 2022 while on the hand life insurance retained 83.3 percent in 2023 compared to 85.7 percent recorded in 2022.

Both insurance categories maintained retention ratios within the regulatory threshold, which highlights the subsector's commitment to balanced risk ex-



posure and strengthen market stability against unforeseen financial challenges.

The actuarial provisions to capital slightly decreased to 85.5 percent in 2023 from 86.7 percent in 2022 but remained within the maximum threshold of 250 percent, which reflect prudent risk management practices.

The total net worth has increased from 690.5bn/- to 742.2bn/-, indicating a growth of 7.5 percent. The subsector total investment increased by 12.7 percent from 1,169.7bn/- to 1,318.5bn/-.

This growth suggests that the companies' financial positions have strengthened over

the year, as their assets have grown more than their liabilities.

The total gross premiums written, combining general and life insurance, increased by 8.9 percent to 1,238.5bn/- while premium written for general insurance increased by 8.8 percent to 974.0bn/-.

This suggests an increased demand for general insurance products due to various factors such as economic growth, increased insurance awareness, a sound business environment, and the introduction of new regulations.

This overall growth in premiums indicates a positive market trend for the insurance subsec-

tor in Tanzania.

Similarly, Gross premiums written for life insurance increased by 9.2 percent to 264.5bn/-, which suggests a similar trend of increased demand for life insurance products driven by factors such as market demand and awareness provided by the TIRA.

The report says the insurance subsector experienced growth, benefiting from the usage of bank assurance and digital platforms.

The insurance subsector continues to register growth following the application of digital insurance platforms and bancassurance.

The contribution of the insurance digital platform and bancassurance was mainly on stimulating new products in the market, new channels of business, expansion of outreach and enhanced access to insurance services to inaccessible regions in rural areas.

As a result, the motor insurance class witnessed a substantial rise in premiums from 287.2m/- to 339.8m/-, reflecting heightened business activity, and its market share increased from 32.1 per cent to 34.9 per cent, indicating its growing importance.

Similarly, health insurance premiums surged from 139.3m/- to 161.5m/-, accompanied by an increase in market share from 15.6 per cent to 16.6 per cent, underlining its expanding role in the market

# Incentives spur investments of filling stations in rural areas

By Francis Kajubi

THE number of filling stations in rural areas dramatically increased during the last twelve months, thanks to the incentives by the government.

Dr Doto Biteko, Energy Minister, said in the National Assembly recently that the filling stations business has seen a boom in rural areas in the space of the past twelve months.

The minister who doubles as the Deputy Prime Minister said that licensed filling stations in rural areas had increased to 434 as of March this year up from 287 licensed stations in March 2023, a growth of 51.22 percent.

"The government shall continue allocating reasonable investments in the energy sector particularly the petroleum subsector for the intention of enabling rural residents to have easy access to petroleum products at low costs as it is to their counterparts in urban areas," said Dr Biteko.

Dr Biteko said that in the 2023/24 financial year the government had allocated funds through the Rural Energy Agency (REA) for lending the business community interested in establishing small-scale rural filling stations to bring the service even closer to people.

With regard to small-scale filling stations loans to rural investors, on August 19, 2023, Engineer Hassan Saidy, REA Director General, when addressing a press conference in Dodoma capital city, said that the government had in the financial year 2023/24 allocated 12bn/- for the Agency to extend low interest loans to small scale petroleum products dealers in rural areas for them to invest in small-scale filling stations.

According to him, businessmen in the filling stations sector with operations in rural areas bear an opportunity of borrowing between 50m/- and 75m/- with an annual interest rate of five percent.

He said the Agency under the Energy ministry had resolved to issue loans for the construction of small-scale fuel stations in rural areas for several reasons, including the fact that fuels are not easily accessible in remote areas of the country.

"Access to diesel and petrol in the villages is a real struggle for final consumers. Small-scale dealers buy fuels in gallons from urban areas which are usually in one liter for less than 3,200/- but they



A small-scale filling station in rural Morogoro region. File Photo.

resale for 5,000/- and above," he said.

He said in that case, people in rural areas in need of diesel and petrol are incurring spiraling costs than their urban counterparts contrary to the regulator's cap prices.

"People in rural areas are subjected to low income generation but they deserve the same rights to affordable energy services like their urban counterparts," he said.

He said the interest rates of loans by commercial banks for investment in rural filling stations are high and small businesses cannot afford them alongside the need for collateral.

Saidy asserted that another reason for the Agency to extend the loans is to protect the safety of people's lives and their property.

He said that storing gallons filled with petrol and diesel in residential houses is dangerous for the traders' themselves and the people around their neighborhoods in case of fire outbreaks.

"The loans will be issued through TIB Development Bank while we are considering how to engage other banks to reach more borrowers," he said.

According to him, the loans are extended to investors in villages with shortage of filling stations to avoid the congestion which is dangerous for the conservation of the environment, people's health and the safety of their property.

"The targeted rural filling stations must have a capacity to store a minimum of 5,000 liters and be built in an area of not less than 400 square meters. Other loan obligations shall apply as usual," said Saidy.

He said the deadline for submitting the online applications was August 25, 2023.

When asked by this journalist how many applications the Agency received, how many have been approved and how much has been loaned to businesses until June 30, 2024, Saidy said that the Agency will issue an official statement on the matter soon.

"We will issue a public statement about the amount disbursed and the number of beneficiaries reached when we are done with the compiling of the details," said Saidy.

Nsubi Bukuku, Msalato Ward Councillor in Dodoma city said that onsite trips by ministers and deputy minister in inspection of development projects will benefit owners of filling stations in rural areas.

He said that though the majority of government vehicles get the service from filling stations owned by specific Oil Marketing Companies, there are vehicles that will be getting the same service in rural filling stations.

"Most of ministers and deputy ministers' official trips to rural areas are accompanied by many public servants. You

may find a convoy of up to 25 cars accompanying their trips. These cars are likely to contribute to sales by rural filling stations," said Bukuku.

Commenting about the mushrooming of filling stations in urban areas Bukuku said that the government's intervention in extending subsidies in case of fuel scarcity has created confidence in the filling stations business community as they are ensured of government's intervention in whatever unexpected market crisis.

"You can remember that during the fuel crisis in 2022 the government had intervened with a 100bn/- subsidy with effect June 1, 2022 so that to harmonize access and bring down fuel prices," he said.

This journalist has established that increase in importation of Bajaj motorcycles and Boxer motorcycles have posed double impacts: mushrooming of filling stations in urban areas and employment generation for the youths.

Tito Luvanda (19) a Bajaj motorcycle rider at Mbezi Shule commuter bus stand said that the business is even more profitable compared to three years ago.

With the prevalence of online hail-ride services, Luvanda earns between 60,000/- and 80,000/- on a daily basis by plying passengers to Mbezi Mwisho commuter bus stop.

"Passengers pay 1,000/- from here to Goba center while a passage going to Mbezi Mwisho pays 2,000/- The business is booming regardless of the increase in the number of online hail rides," said Luvanda.

According to him, he normally spends 10,000/- on fuel on a daily basis working from 6am to around 11pm at night.

"There are 40 Bajaj drivers who are allowed to operate from this destination. We have formed a union to which we pay 2,000/- monthly membership subscription fee. However, we pay 500/- to the founder of this Bajaj stop per every route," said Luvanda.

The standard seven leaver is supposed to collect 35,000/- for his boss on a daily basis on weekdays and 25,000/- on weekends. He earns a 200,000/- monthly salary from his employer.

Hamza Dogo (20) a Bajaj motorcycle rider at Mbezi Mwisho commuter bus stop said that diesel and fuel went down in June 2024 thus benefiting riders even more than the preceding month.

This journalist has established from the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) monthly cap price that petroleum products final consumer purchasing prices slightly went down in June, the decrease which Dogo felt too.

According to the cap prize released by the Authority on June 5, 2024, a liter of petrol was sold at 3,261/- down from 3,314/- in May 2024, a decrease of 1.5 percent.

Price for a liter of diesel went down by 2.62 percent to 3,112/- from 3,196/- the preceding month.

EWURA noted in its statement that the drop of petrol and diesel prices in June 2024 was attributed to a decrease in world oil prices (Free on Board-FOB) by an average of 11.82 percent for petrol and 7.77 percent for diesel.



## Importance of understanding your customer

IN this article, we'll take a look at some outstanding ways popular brands are leveraging common social media platforms to inspire popular campaigns that you may have heard of around the world.

Before we dive into a few practical examples, let's take a moment to discuss how one can track the results of your social efforts. Simply by looking at the effectiveness of your social media marketing one can measure your sweat (KPIs) or key performance indicators to determine how successful the campaign was. Some KPIs you may consider include: Reach which is the number of people who saw your post, Impressions the number of times your post was seen, Engagement how many likes, shares, comments, etc., you received. Conversions through button clicks, follows, forms filled out, etc.

The ones you use to measure success will depend on your goals. For example, if your goal is to increase awareness, you will want to examine your reach and impressions statistics. If you're trying to generate leads, you probably will want to focus primarily on conversions. Each brand is different, which means they will not only measure success differently but will also vary in which platforms are most effective for your digital marketing efforts.

With this in mind, I've broken down two social cause campaigns as an inspiration. So, with no further ado, let's review.

Brands like Netflix have a strong position in the market and a huge marketing budget to execute the most sensational campaign ideas. But that does not mean simpler ads don't work. Take the Black Mirror Season 6 campaign from Netflix, for example.



### DIGITAL MARKETING Alley Mtatya

It shows that even big brands take the road to simplicity sometimes.

Brands like Netflix have a strong position in the market and a huge marketing budget to execute the most sensational campaign ideas. But that does not mean simpler ads don't work. Take the Black Mirror Season 6 campaign from Netflix, for example. It shows that even big brands take the road to simplicity sometimes.

Passion for Candy Met Passion for Branding and Growth Marketing. As South Africa's leading candy brand, Amajoya doesn't do things just any way. Since 2010, they have been creating the kind of joy that touches hearts and minds the way other candy can't.

Amajoya explored how their branding and growth marketing tactics could bring joy to the lives of more people. Amajoya looked at exploring how their branding and growth marketing tactics could bring joy to the lives of many people. Their agency team came up with the idea to launch a digital competition that prompted users to share what joy really meant to them. In doing so, they could stand the chance of winning their share of R20 000 in cash. The kind of prize that could really make a difference to their lives in the present.

The videos and content shared focused

on numerous everyday moments that are made better by enjoying or sharing an Amajoya candy or toffee. It gave consumers the chance to be creative with what brings them joy, while allowing Amajoya to learn more about their audience so they can better connect their products to the kind of joy their customers were looking for.

The #MyKindOfJoy campaign inspired user generated content across Facebook and Instagram. Showing how Amajoya candies brought their joy to life.

The leading brand video that spearheaded the campaign was watched by nearly 500,000 users during the month when the competition was active.

Entries rolled in to stand the chance of winning a cash prize. The campaign generated brand awareness, establishing a strong in-store brand presence while encouraging social media platform growth far beyond what we could have imagined.

Why Did It Work? This campaign managed to tap into an extremely relevant and widely loved product that brought joy to life. It exposed the previous Amajoya branding with a new one which showed their willingness to want to understand their customers.

## It's time to rethink public spending

By Nikhil Sanghani



A key political battleground for the Conservative and Labour parties ahead of the UK general election is how they will balance the books. The near-term focus on fiscal sustainability is necessary in the UK and much of the world. But the current discourse overlooks the looming cost of longer-term fiscal issues, such as tackling climate change and ageing populations. Having better metrics to bring such long-term problems into the present may help to prompt more decisive action now.

There is a clear need for governments across the world to get their houses in order. The International Monetary Fund projects that public debt as a share of gross domestic product will continue to escalate in advanced and emerging economies in the coming years, raising questions about the sustainability of public finances. The discourse among many politicians in the UK and across Europe is how to improve fiscal positions in the near term.

However, the focus on budget balancing now risks missing the bigger picture. Demands on public spending will grow in the coming decades on areas such as climate resilience, greening infrastructure and providing healthcare and pensions to ageing populations. The risk is that kicking these issues into the long grass may lead to more disruptive fiscal and social consequences further down the line.

A working paper by Adrien Bilal and Diego Känzig finds that 'a 1°C rise in global temperature causes global GDP to persistently decline, with a peak loss at 12%' - suggesting that inadequate public spending on climate mitigation or preparedness will have stark long-run costs.

A reset is needed

Against this backdrop, Mark MacDonald, global public finance management lead at EY, told OMFIF 'I believe that we're facing a situation where there is a requirement for a much more fundamental reset in our thinking' on public spending. This view runs throughout this year's collaboration between OMFIF and EY on the 'Future of public money'.

The research project aims to outline how public money could be better allocated through more effective institutions, data and technology. It is being informed by discussions with a panel of public sector experts with experience across government, international organisations, academia and the private sector, and will be supplemented by analytical research and case studies. This will culminate in a report due to be released in October.

One of the key points that has emerged from the expert panel discussions is the intertemporal challenge of fiscal policy: how to address long-term spending commitments in the short term. Political cycles were one reason cited for overlooking long-term issues. Moreover, there is a lack of measurement, reporting and standards to bring issues such as climate change and demographics to the forefront of policy-makers' minds today.

This was mentioned by Carolyn Bordeaux, senior visiting scholar at the University of Georgia and former member of the US House of Representatives, in a podcast conversation with OMFIF. She emphasised the need to 'develop present value metrics... about these long-term costs and risks that we face'.

Bordeaux provided a clear example where reporting and data have helped to shape decision making. 'The Governmental Accounting Standards Board changed its accounting standards to require state and local governments to build in deferred maintenance into their... financial statements... That deficit started to show up in much more dramatic ways to people, it became present for them.'

A similar process could be used to bake in future sustainability or demographic-related costs into fiscal positions now. Analysis on this front would not be straightforward though there are existing examples. The UK's Office for Budget Responsibility outlined in its 2021 fiscal risks report that 'The fiscal impact of achieving net zero in the early action scenario adds 21 per cent of GDP to public sector net debt in 2050-51'. Worse still, delayed action would increase net debt by 44% over this time.

The European Commission's 2024 ageing report assesses the cost of ageing populations on spending for pensions, healthcare, long-term care and education. It highlights that 'For the EU as a whole, the cost of ageing is expected to increase by 1.2 [percentage points], from 24.4% of GDP in 2022 to 25.6% in 2070'. This baseline assessment is based on relatively upbeat economic assumptions and there is significant divergence between countries. A more unfavourable scenario shows a 2.7pp of GDP increase in spending.

While such analysis may be imperfect, it offers a window into the type of long-term costs that could be standardised, reported and scrutinised within government balance sheets today. Incorporating the present value of future climate-related or demographic costs would worsen existing fiscal positions and add to concerns over the state of public finances globally. Crucially, though, it would help to provide a more holistic assessment of current and future economic and social conditions.

This would be a first step to informing the improved allocation of public funds - not only to improve outcomes tomorrow but for the years, or perhaps decades, to come.

**Nikhil Sanghani (pictured) is Managing Director of OMFIF's Economic and Monetary Policy Institute.**

## East Africa investment forum to attract more investors

By Guardian Correspondent

A large business forum 'East Africa Investment Forum', which is expected to be held from September 12 to 13 in Dar es Salaam and will attract investors from six countries.

The Forum will be coordinated by Tanzania Fintech Association (TAFINA) and is set to transform the fintech landscape of East Africa.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam, The TAFINA's Chairperson, Cynthia Ponera, said that the forum will be organized in collaboration with leading fintech associations from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, The Democratic Republic of Congo and the host, Tanzania.

'We are very excited to host this upcoming East Africa Investment Forum. The key theme of this forum is "Invest & Partner: Leave No One Behind". We hope that, this forum will aspire meaningful conversations and strategic collaboration, partnerships and investments within East Africa's Fintech ecosystem,' said Cynthia.

Also say that, the East Africa

Investment Forum 2024 is a two day event poised to be a pivotal gathering for key stakeholders in the fintech sector.

It aims to explore and discuss the dynamic and rapidly evolving financial technology landscape within East Africa. Focusing on innovation, investment and collaboration, the forum seeks to facilitate meaningful dialogue, encourage strategic partnerships, and attract significant investments to the region.

On her side, Selcom Tanzania's head of Marketing, Shumbana Walwa, said they are proud to join forces with TAFINA for the forum and they will provide a seamless and hassle free payment gateway for everyone planning to attend the forum.

The objective of the East African Fintech Investment Forum is to facilitate collaboration, foster innovation, and showcase investment opportunities within the rapidly evolving fintech sector in East Africa.

## Climate implications of implementing AfCFTA



By Guardian Correspondent

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is the largest free trade area in the world, connecting 55 countries, covering about 1.3 billion people and accounting for a combined GDP of around US\$3 trillion.

The AfCFTA is one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, the African Union's long-term development strategy for transforming the continent into a global powerhouse.

The idea to create a continent-wide free trade area first emerged as a proposal in 2012 and was signed by 44 countries at a summit of the African Union in Kigali, Rwanda, on 21 March 2018.

The agreement officially entered into force in May 2019, with trading under the agreement commencing in January 2021.

The AfCFTA is expected to bring significant economic and development benefits to the continent. However, in the current era of decarbonisation, understanding its impact on emissions and climate change is of utmost importance. While some experts contend the AfCFTA provides a solution for decarbonisation in Africa, others argue otherwise.

In this regard, the objective of this study is to examine the impact of the AfCFTA implementation on carbon emissions in Africa using CGE modeling.

Climate Change in Africa

Africa occupies a unique position among global regions with respect to climate change. It is the least responsible for the phenomenon, yet the most vulnerable to it. Economies on the continent today contribute only about

3.78 percent to greenhouse gas emissions, while the economies of the United States and the European Union make up about 14 percent and 9 percent of global emissions, respectively.

On a per capita basis, the average person in the United States or the United Arab Emirates generates more than ten times the amount of fossil fuel emissions, and the average person in the European Union more than five times, as the average person in Africa.

In 2022, per capita emissions generated by African nations were 1.09 TCO<sub>2</sub> (tons of carbon dioxide), significantly lower than 15.17 TCO<sub>2</sub> generated by the United States, 6.17 TCO<sub>2</sub> by the European Union and 25.83 TCO<sub>2</sub> by the United Arab Emirates. Despite their low contribution to emissions, African countries are among the hardest hit and the least resilient against the impacts of climate change. Africa is geographically prone to adverse climate events.

It is the most vulnerable region in the world to droughts and the second most vulnerable to flood events.

In Africa, temperatures are rising faster than anywhere else in the world and, by the end of the 21st century, could rise by as much as 6°C.

At the same time, widespread poverty and the low level of economic development in many African countries mean that the ability of governments to respond to climate shocks is low, further intensifying the vulnerability of the continent (M Ibrahim Foundation, 2023).

Economic, Social and Development Challenges

In addition to addressing challenges posed by climate change, Africa must continue prioritizing development and socio-economic welfare. Thirty-three of the 46 least developed countries (LDCs) in the world are in Africa. While African countries make up more than 17 percent of global population, they contribute less than 3 percent to global GDP, about 3 percent to global trade, and less than 2 percent to global manufacturing output.

Economic growth among African nations is expected to increase to 3.5 percent in 2024 from 3.2 percent in 2023 (International Monetary Fund, 2024).

Yet countries on the continent continue to face high rates of inflation, burdens of debt, and borrowing costs for development financing, amid geopolitical instability, infrastructure inadequacy, growing poverty, and food

insecurity.

Inflation in Africa was high in 2023, with the regional average of 18.2 percent (International Monetary Fund 2024), leading to a significant increase in living costs.

While inflation is expected to slow in most countries in the year ahead, it is expected to continue to remain in double digits in countries such as Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

Food insecurity rose sharply in the continent in 2023, and it is estimated that 13 percent of the continent's population (160 million people) suffer from acute food insecurity.

In terms of poverty out of the 11 billion people in the world classified as poor, about 38 percent live in Africa. The number of people in the continent living in extreme poverty increased from 36 percent of the population in 2022 to around 38 percent, or 462 million people, in 2023.

High debt burden exacerbates the continent's difficulty to financing development projects and adding to the region's economic challenges.

In 2023, Africa's external debt was estimated at US\$1.13 trillion and the average debt to GDP ratio was about 36 percent.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) projects that in 2024, average debt service payments for African countries will be equivalent to about 12 percent of GDP.

**This article was extracted from Africa Trade Report 2024 by Africa Export-Import Bank**



# Women champs drive TASAF's mangrove regeneration project

By Julieth Mkireri, Bagamoyo

IN Kondo Village, Bagamoyo District, a remarkable environmental transformation unfolds as 29 out of 31 beneficiaries of TASAF's household preservation initiative enthusiastically participate in planting over 200,000 mangroves across marine zones burdened by human activity.

Juma Amani, the project specialist leading the team composed primarily of female participants, 75 percent to be exact, reported that an impressive 12-acre expanse has been successfully populated with newly planted mangroves.

Amani expressed deep concern over mounting ecological degradation affecting the local environment, resulting in diminishing fish stocks and adversely impacting livelihoods reliant upon marine resources, particularly seafood and prawn harvesting operations.

By means of their restorative actions, a ripple effect ensued; neighboring regions observed and subsequently adopted comparable practices, spurring widespread mangrove cultivation efforts in similarly afflicted environments experiencing detrimental consequences due to anthropogenic pressures.

Roseline Kimaro, Coastal regional coordinator of TASAF, shared her observations of markedly enhanced aquatic conditions attributable to recent large-scale mangrove replanting endeavors.

Before initiating the restoration project, she noted rampant deforestation contributing to dwindling fish populations. Conversely, since the mangrove rehabilitation, a gradual recovery process appears underway, evinced by returning fish species vital to sustaining the local ecosystem.

Haika Shayo, Director of TASAF's Coordination department, lauded the admirable contributions of participating beneficiaries responsible for implementing essential mangrove conservation measures. Their efforts protect against soil erosion while simultaneously safeguarding critical marine habitats and associated resources from further decline.

Echoing these views, Jafary Athuman, the village chairman, detailed the motivations driving inhabitants toward adopting sustainable conservation tactics.

Faced with unequivocal evidence of faltering environmental integrity, like the progressive disappearance of indispensable fish spawning sites and startling rises in adjacent water levels, residents perceived an urgent obligation to take immediate action, advocating ardently for environmental sustainability and natural balance.

Mwanaheri Maulid, a recipient of TASAF's support, expressed heartfelt appreciation for empowering his family to rise above impoverished circumstances.

Through consistent subsistence pro-



visions, Maulid revealed significant strides in pursuing educational opportunities for his offspring alongside launching profitable ventures capable of self-generating income for the once struggling household.

Visiting representatives hailing from both TASAF and affiliated development organizations embarked on routine monitoring missions throughout Bagamoyo District. They meticulously assessed active participants engaged in sustained efforts via TASAF's alleviation initiatives.

Additionally, follow-ups with previously enrolled recipients now transitioned beyond the scheme's parameters allowed evaluators to confirm lasting ameliorations directly linked to successful interventions.

Meanwhile, Regina Masatya (49), a resident of Mapinga, Bagamoyo District, has urged the beneficiaries included in the Program to save poor households to use the subsidy properly to get rid of poverty.

Regina said the Community Development Fund (TASAF) has been giving grants to the beneficiaries but some of them are misusing them and thus continue to remain in the Program for a long time without changing their economic status.

Regina is one of the beneficiaries of the program to save poor families who have already graduated from the program and is now engaged in the cultivation of potatoes and rice in Mapinga ward.

She asked for TASAF to provide her with a generator for irrigated agriculture.

The beneficiary of the program who started receiving TASAF grants since 2014, graduated this year from the Program, after managing to improve her status of living.

Post-program completion, Regina received a generous grant of 500,000/- courtesy of TASAF. With strategic investment, she leased six fertile acres prime for potato and rice production, expanding agribusiness interests initiated amidst her tenure as a participant.

Beaming with gratitude, Regina gratefully reflected, "My indebtedness to TASAF lies in its instrumental role in elevating me and my offspring above abject penury; today, armed with bolstered resolve, I invest in education and aspire greater heights, recently acquiring

land earmarked for future residential edifice."

Confronting lingering obstacles, she said electricity constraint is hampering summer-time farm endeavors.

Amid calls encouraging conscientious decision-making among presentees, Regina beseeched optimal capitalization of prospects presented through the program to ignite sweeping transformational shifts and foster lasting independence.

Paralleling Regina's narrative, fellow Tupendane Group associate, Mwanahawa Hassan, expressed profound gratitude to the government for providing avenues to transcend familial destitution through TASAF's remedial intervention. She elucidated, "Our collective unity yielded formation of the Tupendane Group - a testament to the transformative prowess inherent in cooperative synergies catalyzed by TASAF's far-reaching vision."

As proud custodians, members profit immensely from municipal credit facilities whilst maintaining ownership of a lucrative boat operation generating approximately 550,000/- monthly.

Disbanding formal ties post-intervention phase, groups like Tupendane carry forward core learning and nurtured businesses independently.

Empowered entrepreneurship continues unabated, delivering persistent dividends even after severing official bonds forged under TASAF's guiding auspices.

Inspiring attendees during her address, Haika Shayo - Director of TASAF's Coordination wing emphasized the paramount significance of sustainability.

Leveraging experience gleaned from years supporting marginalized communities, she urged fidelity to prescribed guidance and holistic consideration essential for realizing durable impacts.

During her tour of Bagamoyo district supervisory mission, Haika Shayo, representing TASAF's Director General; assembled company executives and distinguished development liaison officers.

Collaboratively, they examined intricate details of active project site proceedings, allowing firsthand observation and informed evaluation.

# Coast councillors urged to prioritise productivity, effective leadership

By Julieth Mkireri, Chalinze

THE Coast Region Commissioner, Abubakar Kunenge (pictured) has urged councils in the region to move beyond merely receiving clean audits and to focus on generating new sources of income and addressing the needs of their constituents.

Speaking at a special council meeting in Chalinze over the weekend, Kunenge commended the councils for their past successes but emphasized the need to strive for continuous improvement and impactful results.

Kunenge noted that with the growing population comes an increased demand for services and resources, requiring councils to be innovative and proactive in securing additional revenue streams.

He encouraged them to view their role not just as tax collectors, but as agents of change who can significantly improve the quality of life for the communities they serve.

Effective leadership and transparency were identified as key factors in achieving these goals. The commissioner stressed the importance of ensuring alignment between financial reports and actual implementation on the ground.

By prioritizing problem-solving and tangible outcomes, leaders can inspire trust and confidence among the public.

"Over an extended period, the councils within our region have consistently achieved clean audit opinions - a situation that may have become customary. However, complacency ought not to set in; rather, emphasis should shift towards maximizing the productivity of available resources," Kunenge

stated.

Furthermore, he underscored the ever-growing demands posed by escalating populations, asserting, "You must continually position yourselves as frontrunners in sourcing supplementary revenues, dedicated to tackling the evolving challenges faced by the populace."

Encouraging further progress saying: "Indeed, positive transformations are apparent, yet there remains untapped potential for advancement. Exceeding collection targets is commendable, but we must zoom out from such particulars and consider the broader picture - namely, how effectively these collections translate into meaningful developments and responses to popular concerns."

Finally, Kunenge explored deeper into principles of efficient governance, he highlighted the necessity of strong leadership, urging, "Prioritize effectiveness; let records on paper mirror real-world improvements, solving problems and ultimately enhancing

Rashid Mchatta, serving as Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), offered praise to the councils regarding their clean audit achievements and surpassed collection targets. Nevertheless, he delivered a directive aimed at resolving queries initially raised by the Office of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG).

Hassan Mwinikondo, chairman of the Chalinze Council, made a firm commitment during the gathering to augment revenue sources continuously. This ongoing effort aims to secure sufficient funding for developmental initiatives led by the Council, demonstrating a dedication to community growth and prosperity.



# Dr Biteko stresses need for training of young contractors

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

LOCAL contractors have been advised to train young contractors to enable them benefit from construction business, improve their skills and become competencies on how to provide safe and decent construction work.

Dr Doto Biteko, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy (pictured) made the call on Friday last week when speaking to contractors, graduates, financial institutions, the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA)'s management, architects, engineering consultants, and insurance firms and other professionals who attended two-days symposium for contractors and allied services providers.

The event was organized by Tanzania United Contractors and Allied Services Association (TUCASA) with funding from different stakeholders engaged in construction industry and financial institutions.

"To start with, give them small projects to build and share expertise you have because we want to have skilled contractors who will ensure that the construction projects that will be performed in the country meet quality standards and specifications and can also scale-up their construction activities in other countries," he said

Dr. Biteko was representing President



Samia Suluhu Hassan at the symposium.

Elaborating on delayed payment of contractors on construction projects, he called upon all clients and government to make sure that both local and foreign contractors who will construct different projects within the country are paid on time to help them to deliver better quality work and meeting deadlines.

Late payments make small- and medium-sized construction companies to suffer and it poses serious problems for the contractor's cash flow, disruptions of their work schedule, abandonment of the project, low quality works, delaying in project progress and affects their productivity.

Regarding the government construction projects, he said the government will make sure all payments will be paid on time, and will create a more con-

ducive environment for local contractors to grow.

"We have heard all the recommendations and advises about what you need; the government will work on them to ensure local contractors are operating their construction work," he said

"As government we are ready to support you because Tanzanians are happy and very interested to see the better results as we want to see contractors are building or constructing road or building that has high standards and meet specifications in their localities," he said

Elaborating on construction projects funds, he warned local contractors on misuse of funds allocated for construction projects as in turn is affecting them and later on construct substandard roads and buildings.

"Use the allocated funds for the intended goals to enable you earn more construction tenders," he said,

Minister for Transport Innocent Bashungwa added that the ministry of Transport in collaboration is collaborating with the Engineers Registration Board (ERB) and TUCASA to introduce Labour-based Construction Programme to equip graduate engineers to improve their skills.

So far, 12,772 graduate engineers have benefited from the programme and 3,317 are still studying the course.

# Banking counters stimulate DSE indices during quarter's opening

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) indices started in a high note during the opening day of the third quarter of this year, driven by the increase of share prices among local and cross listed banks counters.

The market report shows all share index (DSE) closed at 4,512.59 points an increase of 37.48 points recorded during the last day of the last quarter, while Tanzania Share Index (TSI) closed at 2,030.03 points, an increase of 13.06 points.

Finance and Investment Index (BI), the major driver for the increase of overall indices closed at 5,329.67 points an increase of 124.17 points, respectively.

The increase of the indices resulted from appreciation of NMB Bank and KCB Bank counters share prices, which closed at 5,400/- and 450/- on Monday respectively, an increase of 3.17 percent and 3.85 percent, respectively.

A total turnover of 199.7m/- was recorded during the opening of the quarter, following the transactions of 221,344 shares traded in 357 deals.

Top movers were CRDB Bank counter, which recorded the transactions of 161,120 shares valued 88.4m/- traded at a price ranging from 510/- to 520/- per share in 199 deals, followed by NMB Bank counter, which recorded the transaction of 16,558 shares valued 89.4m/- transacted at a price of 5,400/- per share in 12 deals.

According to the report, other top movers were Afriprise counter was third top mover after recording the transaction of 14,863 shares valued 3m/- traded at a price ranging from 205/- and 210/- per share in 49 deals, and NICO, which transacted 14,548 shares valued 11.6m/- traded at a price ranging from 790/- and 800/- per share in 46 deals.

Other active counters were Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCC), Tatepa, Vodacom Tanzania, Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL), Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL), Mwalimu Commercial Bank (MCB), Maendeleo Bank Plc (MBP), self-listed DSE and DCB Commercial Bank.



## WORLD



EAM S. Jaishankar meets Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in Doha on Sunday. ANI

## Jaishankar meets Qatar PM to strengthen New Delhi-Doha ties, discuss regional issues

DOHA

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met with Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, in Doha and the two held talks on strengthening bilateral ties across various sectors and addressing key regional challenges.

During his day-long official visit, Jaishankar conveyed warm greetings and wishes from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to The Amir, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Prime Minister Al Thani.

He underscored the robust nature of the India-Qatar relationship, emphasizing cooperation in political, trade, investment, energy, technology, culture, and people-to-people exchanges.

"We reviewed our bilateral relationship focusing on political, trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people to people ties," said Jaishankar in a post on X.

The discussions also delved into regional and global issues of mutual concern. Jaishankar expressed appreciation for the in-

sights shared by Prime Minister Al Thani on the Gaza situation, reflecting the depth of dialogue between the two nations on pressing international matters.

"Exchanged views on regional and global issues. Appreciate his sharing insights on the Gaza situation," Jaishankar's post also said.

Looking forward, Jaishankar expressed optimism for further enhancing India-Qatar relations and continuing a constructive dialogue on areas of mutual interest.

"Look forward to the further enhancement of India-Qatar relations and continued dialogue on issues of mutual interest," he added.

"India and Qatar share historic and friendly relations marked by regular exchange of high-level visits. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Qatar on 14-15 February 2024 and held discussions with Qatar's Amir H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani," the MEA said in a release earlier.

Jaishankar's visit to the Gulf nation will enable both sides to review various aspects of bilateral relations including political, trade, investment, energy, security, cultural, and people-to-people as well as the regional and international issues of mutual interest.

ANI

## S.African president announces lineup of coalition govt

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the lineup of his new national executive cabinet Sunday, comprising ministers from various political parties that form the Government of National Unity (GNU).

Ramaphosa (pictured) finally made the long-awaited announcement after protracted negotiations that nearly collapsed when the main opposition party within the GNU demanded additional ministerial positions.

The announcement came more than a week after Ramaphosa's inauguration on June 19 for his second presidential term. His re-election came with a reduced majority, forcing his party, the African National Congress, to share power for the first time in three decades. This led to the formation of the GNU with 10 opposition parties such as the Democratic Alliance (DA), Inkatha Freedom Party, Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, among others. In his late-night televised

national address, Ramaphosa declared that the economy and the stability of the government would be of top concern to the new cabinet.

"The incoming government will prioritize rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and the creation of a more just society by tackling poverty and inequality," said the president. The DA, which garnered over 21 percent in the recent elections, was allocated six cabinet posts.

The party's leader John Steenhuisen, 48, was appointed minister of agriculture. Some minor parties also saw their leaders receive cabinet posts.



## Atmosphere in UN Security Council very hostile towards Russia – Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE atmosphere in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is very anti-Russia, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday.

Asked at a news briefing whether Russia would be able to bring objectivity to the work of the UN Security Council during its one-month chairmanship, Peskov said: "This will certainly be very difficult to do in four weeks, given the extremely



confrontational atmosphere [towards Russia] in the Security Council."

Russia began its one-month presidency of the United Na-

tions Security Council (UNSC) on July 1. The last time the country coordinated the work of the global body's key department was in April 2023.

Russia convenes its first UNSC meeting on Monday to approve the agenda of the Security Council for the coming month. After that, Russia's envoy to the UN Vasily Nebenzya will hold a press conference, then brief the United Nations General Assembly behind closed doors.

Agencies

## French President Macron likely to lose big as far-right Marine Le Pen leads in parliamentary elections first round

PARIS

FRANCE'S far-right National Rally (RN) party has taken the lead in the first round of French parliamentary elections, leaving President Emmanuel Macron's party falling to the third place, according to the initial projections, reported CNN.

The initial estimates by IPSOS put the far-right alliance, headed by the National Rally (RN), in first with 34 per cent of the vote, ahead of the left-wing alliance in second with 28.1 per cent, while Macron's party trails in a distant third with 20.3 per cent.

Further, the projections suggested that after the second round of voting next Sunday, the RN would win between 230 and 280 seats in the 577-seat National Assembly, falling short of the 289 required for an absolute majority, as reported by CNN.

The left-wing alliance, the recently-formed New Popular Front (NFP), would have between 125 and 165 seats, while Macron's Ensemble and its allies would have between 70 and 100.

The projection meant that the RN from which Le Pen has sought to sweep out the racism and anti-semitism that proliferated under the decades-long leadership of her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen - is closer to power than it has ever been before, ahead of the second round of voting next Sunday.

Moreover, the RN election party in the northern town of Henin Beaumont celebrated following the announcement of results, CNN reported.

The voting commenced at 8 am local time (2 am ET) on Sunday, marking the start of the process to elect the 577 members of the National Assembly.

This election, scheduled three years ahead of the regular term, follows a significant setback for Macron's Renaissance party in the recent European Parliament elections, where the RN emerged victorious.

Responding swiftly to this defeat, Macron opted for the snap election, the first in France since 1997, acknowledging the electorate's message, as reported by CNN.

Regardless of the election's outcome, Macron has committed to serving until the next presidential election in 2027.

ANI

## Top Democrats rule out replacing Biden

WASHINGTON

TOP Democrats on Sunday ruled out the possibility of replacing President Joe Biden as the Democratic nominee after a feeble debate performance and called on party members to focus instead on the consequences of a second Donald Trump presidency.

After days of hand-wringing about Biden's poor night on stage debating Trump, Democratic leaders firmly rejected calls for their party to choose a younger presidential candidate for the Nov 5 election.

Biden, 81, meanwhile, was huddling with family members at the Camp David presidential retreat on Sunday.

The New York Times cited people close to the situation as saying that Biden's family were urging him to stay in the race and keep fighting. The paper said some members of his clan privately expressed exasperation at how his staff prepared him for Thursday night's event.

A drumbeat of calls for Biden to step aside has continued since Thursday and a post-debate CBS poll showed a 10-point jump in the number of Democrats who believe Biden should not be running for president, but this was "nothing more than a setup for a comeback."

"So the moment that we're in right now is a comeback moment," he told MSNBC.

Senator Chris Coons of Delaware, a leading Biden surrogate, told ABC's This Week program Biden needed to stay in the race to ensure Trump's



US President Joe Biden (2nd-R) and first lady Jill Biden (R) arrive on Marine One with granddaughters Natalie Biden, from left, and Finnegan Biden, at East Hampton Airport, on Saturday, in East Hampton, New York. AP

of retirement is now necessary for President Biden."

**Democratic leaders rejected this.**

"Absolutely not," responded Georgia Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock, one of several Democrats seen as a possible replacement for Biden.

"Bad debates happen," he told NBC's Meet the Press program. "The question is, 'Who has Donald Trump ever shown up for other than himself and people like himself?' I'm with Joe Biden, and it's our assignment to make sure that he gets over the finish line come November."

House of Representatives Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries, who could become speaker next year if his party can take control of the House in November, acknowledged that Biden had suffered a setback, but this was "nothing more than a setup for a comeback."

"So the moment that we're in right now is a comeback moment," he told MSNBC.

Senator Chris Coons of Delaware, a leading Biden surrogate, told ABC's This Week program Biden needed to stay in the race to ensure Trump's

defeat.

"I think he's the only Democrat who can beat Donald Trump," Coons said.

Raskin sounds less certain

With Democratic leaders rallying around him, it will be up to Biden to decide whether he wants to end his re-election bid.

But other Democrats held open the possibility of choosing a different presidential candidate.

Representative Jamie Raskin, a prominent Democrat in Congress, told MSNBC that "very honest and serious and rigorous conversations" were taking place within the party.

"Whether he's the candidate or someone else is the candidate, he's going to be the keynote speaker at our convention. He will be the figure that we rally around to move forward," Raskin said.

During the debate, a hoarse-sounding Biden delivered a shaky, halting performance in which he stumbled over his words on several occasions. Some Democrats later said privately that the showing could prove to be a disqualifying factor.

Agencies

## African countries urged to accelerate AfCFTA implementation

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN countries need to deliver action plans and national strategies to accelerate the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and economic integration among them, experts have said.

The call was made on Saturday at the "National Consultation Forum on the Development of Ethiopia's AfCFTA Implementation Strategy" held in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

Speaking at the event, Stephen Karingi, director of Regional Integration and Trade Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), said that the practical implementation of the AfCFTA has a potential to foster industrialization, job creation and investment in Africa.

"I feel proud to report that 36 African coun-

tries and three regional economic communities (RECs) have developed and launched their AfCFTA implementation strategies," said Karingi, urging the remaining 19 African countries to deliver national strategies to accelerate the implementation of the AfCFTA.

He said the implementation of the AfCFTA is progressing well with an ambitious target set to achieve tariff linearization for 97 per cent of trade across the continent.

Karingi, however, noted that infrastructure deficiencies, inadequate transportation networks and border facilities remain to have been challenges, impeding the swift implementation of the AfCFTA.

Beyene Petros, director general of the Ethiopian Policy Studies Institute, said since the entry into force of the AfCFTA in 2019, there has been important progress. A total of 47 member states

of the African Union (AU) have so far ratified it since 2019.

"This agreement forms the largest free trade area in the world, comprising 55 countries with a combined gross domestic product of 3.4 trillion U.S. dollars and connecting 1.3 billion people across the continent," said Petros, quoting the World Bank.

He called on African countries to avoid the tradition of reluctance in the field of economic integration and come up with action plans to create a single large market for African goods and services.

The World Bank estimates that the AfCFTA will lift 30 million people out of extreme poverty by 2035, create real income growth of around 450 million U.S. dollars and increase exports within the continent by 81 percent.

Xinhua

## A precise, legal strike on 'Taiwan independence' separatists

BEIJING

WITH a set of judicial guidelines targeting diehard "Taiwan independence" separatists, China on Friday revealed a new weapon, precise and legal, to defend its national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The guidelines on imposing criminal punishments on diehard "Taiwan independence" separatists for conducting or inciting secession were jointly issued by the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, and the ministries of public security, state security, and justice and took effect upon release.

The guidelines can be regarded as a refinement and supplement to the country's Anti-Secession Law. By clarifying the criminal nature of "Taiwan independence" separatist acts, their criminal liabilities, and the procedure to impose penalties, it draws the bottom line and facilitates law enforcement.

In the long run, it will undoubtedly play an effective role in advancing reunification across the Taiwan Strait.

This move came against a backdrop of escalating tensions across the Strait triggered by repeated separatist attempts made by those advocating "Taiwan independence," particularly since the island's new leader Lai Ching-te, who holds a stubborn separatist stance, took office in May.

This judicial document surely serves as a blow to Lai

and his fellow separatists. It allows Chinese courts to bring diehard "Taiwan independence" separatists to trials in absentia. In the most severe cases, a convict may receive death sentence.

It also acts as a warning and deterrent to external forces who would not keep their hands off affairs related to Taiwan. Those who are found to have colluded with any foreign or overseas institution, organization or individual in conducting or

inciting secession, would be given a harsher punishment.

Despite being a stern action against separatists, the document draws a clear line between a few stubborn separatists and the rest of Taiwan people. Under the influence of the "Taiwan independence" ideology and due to political differences between the two sides, some in Taiwan may have a misguided understanding of their identities and the nature of cross-Strait relations.

They are given chances to free themselves from misunderstandings and be aware of the harmfulness and danger of separatist activities.

For over 70 years, although the two sides of the Strait have yet to achieve complete reunification, China's sovereignty and territorial integrity have never been divided.

The historical facts and the legal ground for the facts that both sides of the Strait belong to one country and

people on both sides of the Strait belong to the Chinese nation have never changed and will not change.

A peaceful and prosperous future for people on both sides of the Strait hangs on a strong and reunified nation. In order to facilitate reunification, separatists must face criminal prosecution.

High hopes are placed on people of Taiwan to have a clear mind, weigh the pros and cons, and stand on the right side of history. Xinhua



## India's strategic role in the SCO: Enhancing Eurasian ties and influence

NEW DELHI

INDIA took the helm of two significant international groupings: the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the G20. On July 4, 2023, the country hosted the 22nd Summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State in a virtual format, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi (pictured).

This event marked India's first time leading the SCO, emphasising its ambition to strengthen ties with the five Central Asian countries.

India's chairmanship of the SCO occurred during a period of global upheaval, marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. These events have disrupted established international political norms, presenting India with a unique opportunity to guide discussions on critical issues affecting Eurasian politics and beyond.

Strengthening relations with Central Asia, a region of significant geostrategic importance and part of India's 'extended neighborhood,' was a primary objective for Indian policymakers.

Through the SCO, India aimed to foster multilateral cooperation with the Central Asian republics, enhance connectivity,

boost trade relations, and promote regional security.

India became a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in 2017 during the annual SCO Heads of State summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, alongside Pakistan. Prior to this, India held Observer Status at the SCO since 2005.

Recognizing the organization's potential, India initiated the process for full membership in 2015 at the Ufa Summit in Russia. This move aligned with India's renewed global engagement efforts following Prime Minister Modi's assumption of office in 2014, alongside a strategic push to strengthen ties with the Central Asian region, which had previously been of secondary importance to Indian foreign policy.

Additional motivations for India joining the SCO included enhancing connectivity between Central and South Asia, promoting energy security, and countering terrorism and illegal narcotics trade.

The Eurasian region would have become a hotbed of ethnic strife, regime changes, and radicalism without this organization. Smaller Central Asian states require assistance from external powers to maintain internal stability and counter external influences.



They face existential threats from major regional powers and radical influences in neighboring areas. Notably, the SCO has established a geopolitical balance, aligning the interests of major powers in Central Asia. However, it has also limited Western influence in Eurasia.

In summary, the SCO has contributed in three key ways: fostering political stability in Central Asia, harmonizing the interests of major powers in the region, and curbing the spread of terrorism, separatism, and radicalism.

India's entry into the SCO in 2017 has

significantly altered the organization's dynamics. The SCO can no longer be labeled as a coalition of authoritarian states with an anti-Western agenda. Russia and the Central Asian states supported India's inclusion, viewing it as a benevolent stabilizer and a potential regional investor. However, there are serious concerns about how the ongoing Sino-Indian and Pakistan-India border conflicts might affect the organization. Additionally, Beijing and Moscow will need to allow New Delhi more influence as it becomes increasingly active and involved in the region.

Currently, as a new member, India does not aggressively push its own agenda, focusing instead on collaborative developmental goals and avoiding confrontation. Nonetheless, as India's engagement in Central Asia deepens, its role within the SCO is expected to evolve.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) remains highly significant for India for several reasons. First, it aligns well with India's broader strategy of multi-alignment, complementing its participation in other groups like BRICS and reinforcing its policy of maintaining diverse international partnerships.

ANI

## Russian army liberates Spornoye, Novoaleksandrovka in Donetsk People's Republic

MOSCOW

THE Russian army has liberated Spornoye and Novoaleksandrovka in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), the Russian Defense Ministry reported.

"Units of Battlegroup South have liberated the settlement of Spornoye in the Donetsk People's Republic as a result of active actions. <...> Units of Battlegroup Center have liberated the settlement of Novoaleksandrovka as a result of successful actions," the report said.

Russia's army has hit a railway train carrying arms, military equipment and troops of Ukraine's 117th brigade during unloading, the Defense Ministry reported.

"Operational-tactical aviation, drones, missile forces and artillery of groups of the Russian armed forces hit during unloading a railway train carrying arms, military equipment and troops of Ukraine's 117th brigade, as well as the enemy's troops and military equipment in 127 regions," the report said.

Units of the Russian army's Battlegroup Center repelled five counterattacks by the Ukrainian military in the past 24 hours, the ministry noted.

"Over the past 24 hours five counterattacks by assault groups of the 24th, 31st, 41st mechanized and 68th jaeger brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces were repelled," according to the report.

The Ukrainian army lost up to 370 troops in the Russian Battlegroup Center's responsibility area, the ministry said.

"The enemy's losses amounted up to 370 troops, eight cars, a US-manufactured 155mm M777 howitzer, a 152mm 2 65 Msta-B howitzer, two 122mm D-30 howitzers, two 100mm Rapira anti-tank guns and a US-made AN/TPQ-36 counterbattery radar," the report said.

The units of Russia's Battlegroup Center improved their tactical position and hit the formations of four brigades of the Ukrainian army and a brigade of Ukraine's national guard over the past 24 hours, the Defense Ministry reported.

"Units of Battlegroup Center <...> have improved the tactical position, inflicted damage on formations of the 23rd, 47th mechanized, 95th air assault, 59th infantry brigades of the Ukrainian army and the 2nd brigade of the national guard in areas of the settlements of Toretsk, Kirovo, Mikhailovka, Novgorodskoye, Volchye, Shevchenko, Sokol, Vishnyovoye of the Donetsk People's Republic," the report said.

The Ukrainian army lost up to 285 troops, a tank and a Grad multiple rocket launcher, as well as an armament depot, in 24 hours as a result of actions by Russia's Battlegroup North, the ministry said.

"Units of Battlegroup North have inflicted damage on troops and equipment of the 41st mechanized, 57th mechanized infantry, 71st infantry brigades of the Ukrainian army, the 34th marine brigade, the 125th, 127th territorial defense brigades and the 13th national guard brigade near the settlements of Neskuchnoye, Staritsa, Vesyoloye, Ternovaya, Zhovtnevoye, Volchansk and Liptsy of the Kharkov Region," according to the ministry.

The enemy lost up to 285 troops, a tank, five cars, a US-manufactured 155mm 109 Paladin howitzer, two US-made 155mm 777 howitzers, a 152mm D-20 weapon, a 100mm MT-12 Rapira anti-tank gun and a BM-21 Grad multiple rocket launcher, the ministry noted, adding that an armament depot of the 57th mechanized infantry brigade of the Ukrainian army has also been destroyed.

Russia's Battlegroup West delivered defeat on brigades of the Ukrainian army and Azov (outlawed in Russia) and repelled two counterattacks, with the enemy having lost up to 515 troops, the Defense Ministry reported.

Agencies

## Xi Story: Self-reform, CPC's new answer to 'rise and fall question'

BEIJING

IN cave-dwellings on the Loess Plateau, desks, maps, ink, kerosene lamps and other items are kept the way they were used in the Yan'an period (1935-1948) of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Less than a week after the conclusion of the 20th CPC National Congress in 2022, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, led the members of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau to the old revolutionary base in Shaanxi Province, northwest China.

They were attracted to a yellowing photograph showing Mao Zedong welcoming acclaimed educationist Huang Yanpei to Yan'an at a local airport on the wall of Mao's cave residence in Yangjialing, where a well-known "cave-dwelling conversation" happened.

The conversation was mainly about how to escape the historical cycle of government's rise and fall. Mao had offered the first answer -- placing the government under the supervision of the people.

This well-known conversation has been repeatedly invoked by

Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, as a warning of the complicated and long-term risks faced by the governing CPC, and he offered the second answer -- carrying out self-reform of the Party.

When he assumed the Party's top post in 2012, China had already risen to be the world's second-largest economy and the Party had over 80 million members.

Xi was keenly aware of the increasingly grave dangers facing the whole Party, as noted in a document from the 18th CPC National Congress, including a lack of motivation, incompetence, the risk of being out of touch with the people, and corruption.

Less than 20 days after assuming the Party's top position, Xi spearheaded the formulation of the central Party leadership's eight-point decision on improving conduct. This move effectively put an end to undesirable practices, such as excessive banqueting and extravagant spending.

Shortly after this initiative, an unprecedented fight against corruption, which Xi said was "the most significant threat" to the long-term governance of the



Party, was launched, targeting literally every sector and striking at both high-profile "tigers" and low-ranking "flies."

Xi has emphasized the importance of anti-corruption institutional building. Concrete efforts have been made in this regard since 2012, including the issuing of the Code of Conduct for Intraparty Political Life under New Circumstances and the promulgation of the Supervision Law. He had famously said that "power must be kept in the cage of systemic checks" and "transparency is the best precaution against corruption."

In short, he likens self-reform

to "using a surgical knife to eliminate the Party's ailments." "The Party is great not because it never makes mistakes, but because it always owns up to its errors and has the courage to confront problems and reform itself," Xi once said.

Xi leads the Party by example through his actions. During a visit to Guangdong, he insisted on not imposing traffic controls that could disturb the public. In an inspection trip to Hebei's Fuping County, he stayed in a 16-square-meter room, and in Shaanxi's Liangjiahe Village, he paid for New Year's gifts for local villagers out of his own pocket.

Xinhua

## War-battered Sudanese white-collar workers struggle to live on side jobs

KHARTOUM

THE ongoing war in Sudan has shattered technology, health, education, and other public or private services employing numerous skillful professionals.

Sudan has been embroiled in a deadly conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces since mid-April 2023, which has claimed more than 16,650 lives, according to the Sudan situation re-

port updated by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in late June.

The war also paralyzed the entire national economy and left many firms bankrupt and public institutions closed, these professionals had to enter the highly volatile market of manual labor or become self-employed. In the Karari locality of Omdurman city, north of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, a large shelter area for those fleeing war, former info-tech worker

Bakri Merghani now sells clothing and accessories.

Before the war, the 41-year-old man served for a prestigious accounting IT company with a large salary in Khartoum. "Soon the war broke out, my company had completely stopped, and I had to flee to northern Omdurman, where I opened a small clothing store," he told Xinhua, adding the business was bad.

"In many days there are no customers, and sometimes in an en-

tire week, we sell things for about 5,000 Sudanese pounds (about 2.77 U.S. dollars in the parallel market)," Merghani said.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the war raised the unemployment rate in Sudan from 32.14 percent in 2022 to 47.2 percent in 2024, while a study by the American Food Policy Institute predicted Sudan to lose 5 million jobs due to the war. Tariq Shuaib, 56, a government employee before the war, now runs

a herbal medicine shop. "After the war broke out, we were looted, lost our jobs, and became without an income source," Shuaib told Xinhua, while preparing herbal solutions and other ingredients.

"Life under war is very difficult and there is no money," said the bread-earner of a family of five, noting that his remedies have served as a popular alternative to many patients who failed to get their prescribed drugs due to "scarcity and high prices."

## China issues judicial guidelines on imposing criminal punishment on diehard 'Taiwan independence' separatists

CHINESE authorities on Friday issued a set of guidelines on imposing criminal punishments on diehard "Taiwan independence" separatists for conducting or inciting secession, allowing a trial in absentia in relevant cases.

The guidelines, jointly issued by the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, and the ministries of public security, state security and justice, will take effect upon release.

The document, based on the Anti-Secession Law, the Criminal Law and the Criminal Procedure Law, provides more specific rules concerning conviction and sentencing in the event of such crimes, as well as relevant procedures, serving as guidance for the judiciary in handling relevant cases.

It spells out clearly defined circumstances in which a

very few diehard "Taiwan independence" separatists, through acts such as organizing, plotting or carrying out schemes of "de jure independence," or seeking independence by relying on foreign support or by force, should be held criminally responsible. Also, it stipulates that those who are found to have colluded with any foreign or overseas institution, organization or individual in committing such crimes should be given a harsher punishment.

According to Article 6 of the document, those who commit the crime of splitting the state may be sentenced to death if the crime causes particularly grave harm to the state and the people or if the circumstances are particularly serious.

The guidelines further stress the principles of bal-



A nurse holds up a used vial of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine at a sports complex used as a vaccination area in Marikina City, Metro Manila, Philippines 2 March 2021.

ancing clemency, severity and proportionality in judicial procedures, saying that if diehard "Taiwan independence" separatists voluntarily drop their "Taiwan independence" stance, stop conduct-

ing separatist activities and take measures to mitigate or undo the harm or prevent the spread of the damage, they may have their cases dismissed or be exempted from prosecution.

According to the guidelines, relevant proceedings must be carried out following due process without prejudice to the litigation rights of the suspects or defendants, such as their right to defense

and right to appeal.

The document also makes it clear that for diehard "Taiwan independence" elements, a trial in absentia may be applied.

The document urges all relevant authorities to give full play to their functions, severely punish the diehard "Taiwan independence" elements for conducting or inciting secession, and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

Commenting on the release of the guidelines, Chen Binhua, spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, pointed out that it is a common practice for countries around the world to use criminal justice measures to punish criminals who conduct secession and safeguard the core interests of the state.

As clearly said in the title to the text of the guidelines, the criminal justice measures are aimed at a small number of diehard individuals who engage in or incite secession activities, and do not target the majority of Taiwan compatriots, said Chen at a press conference.

Identifying "Taiwan independence" as the biggest source of danger and harm to the interests of the people in Taiwan, he said that only by severely punishing acts of secession, can the compatriots in Taiwan enjoy the dividends of peaceful development across the Taiwan Straits and live a peaceful and stable life.

It is advised that the diehard individuals of "Taiwan independence" recognize the situation as soon as possible and quickly rectify their ways, said Chen.

Xinhua



# SPORT



Cam Davis celebrates winning the Rocket Mortgage Classic golf tournament at Detroit Country Club, on Sunday, June 30, 2024, in Detroit. AP Photo

## Cam Davis wins Rocket Mortgage Classic for 2nd time after Akshay Bhatia 3-putts 18th hole

DETROIT

CAM Davis was preparing for a playoff when Akshay Bhatia's 4-foot putt started left, went right, touched the edge of the cup and rolled away.

Joy and pain.

Davis won the Rocket Mortgage Classic for the second time, closing with a 2-under 70 on Sunday that gave him a one-shot victory when Bhatia three-putted from 32 feet on the final hole.

"I wouldn't wish what happened to Akshay on anyone," Davis said. "But I've done a lot of grinding to kind of get myself out of a hole and just all of a sudden to do that, it's pretty good."

Davis, who won his only other PGA Tour title three years ago at Detroit Golf Club, had not finished better than 38th in sixth starts since he tied for 12th at the Masters in April, his best result of the season.

"I started working with a hypnotherapist a few weeks ago just to take another angle into trying to get myself sorted out," he said. "I saw a little bit of a spark last week, but nothing to show this (was) coming."

"This is crazy."

The 29-year-old Australian pulled into a tie with Bhatia with a birdie on the par-5 17th hole.

That proved to be enough when the left-handed Bhatia, who uses a long putter, watched his short par attempt on the 18th miss low and right for his first three-putt of the week.

"Just a little bit of nerves, honestly," Bhatia said. "I'm human."

Davis finished at 18-under 270 on a day of missed opportunities for the final pairing of Bhatia and Aaron Rai, each of whom shot an even-par 72. Davis Thompson (68) and Min Woo Lee (69) also finished one shot back.

Davis, who entered the tournament ranked 67th in the world, became the first two-time winner of the event since its debut on the PGA Tour schedule in 2019.

"It's just nice to know that I can get my hands on another trophy," he said.

AP

The 22-year-old Bhatia was seeking his third PGA Tour title and second this year after leading or sharing the lead after each of the first three rounds. He was coming off a fifth-place finish at the Travelers Championship, where he was in the final group that was disrupted by climate protesters storming the 18th green.

"I know how to close a golf tournament. I've done it before," Bhatia said. "Just today wasn't my day."

Cameron Young shot 73 and plummeted to sixth place with two bogeys over the last three holes.

The pressure to win for the first time on tour may have gotten the best of Young, who has been a runner-up seven times, on the par-5 14th when his drive traveled 254 yards into the rough way left of the fairway.

With the ball in flight, Young pushed his driver into the tee box and broke the shaft. He was unable to replace it for the rest of the round.

Davis surged into a tie for the lead with three birdies in a five-hole stretch on the front nine.

Earlier in the afternoon, there were signs that it might not be Bhatia's day.

Rai, who shared the second- and third-round lead with Bhatia, went ahead on the first hole after hitting his approach from 142 yards to 5 feet for birdie.

Bhatia fell two shots back on the par-4 third hole, where his approach settled in thick rough. He only advanced his chip 9 feet, leading to bogey.

Bhatia responded with a 31-foot birdie putt on the par-5 fourth, the first of just two birdies on the day. He was 17 under through three rounds, but the missed putt will be the lasting memory of his week.

"It's a very tough situation to be in for him and for someone to be the benefactor of that is a bit of a weird situation to be in," Davis said. "At the same time, just so much relief because it has been a long time since I've come out on top."

"I'm going to make sure I start enjoying it and really appreciating it."

## SPORTS

## Our current Olympic preparations at glacial pace could cost us dearly



Tanzania national women's football team, Twiga Stars. Photo: Courtesy of Twiga Stars

By Lloyd Ellipokea

WHILE not wishing to frustratingly sound like a broken record, this writer would still like to revisit the sorry state of our Olympic preparations, which should give us justifiable cause for huge concern.

Indeed, with the multi-event Olympic Games set to begin in Paris in late July, the fact that our preparations for the quadrennial sporting spectacle are proceeding at an extremely sluggish speed should really set the alarm bells ringing among all sports-obsessed Tanzanians.

What makes this crucial matter all the more infuriating is that other countries in Africa and the world at-large treat preparations for the Olympic Games with the utter seriousness that they deserve.

In fact, there are loads of sports-playing countries which begin readying themselves for the Summer Games almost immediately after the curtain falls down on the Olympics.

In sharp contrast, though, we as Tanzanians seem to have a penchant for dragging our feet and engaging in last-gasp preparations for sporting championships of enormous magnitude like the Olympics.

Worryingly, one wonders whether our athletes will be able to claim a few medals given our grossly sub-par preparations for this year's Paris Olympics.

Speaking of preparations, it is hugely

encouraging to note that our national women's football team, the Twiga Stars, have already started their preparations for the 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) despite the fact that the elite championship has been pushed back to next year.

Indeed, due to congestion on CAF's football calendar, the immensely treasured 2024 WAFCON competition will now excitingly take place next year in the host country Morocco.

Regarding our preparations for this consequential football competition, the Twiga Stars entered into camp yesterday in a bid to intensely train for two upcoming football friendlies against Botswana and Tunisia.

The two friendly football clashes will hopefully test the Twiga Stars to the hilt, which ought to reveal frailties in the team that require strengthening.

It is also hoped that the Twiga Stars will play more friendlies in the months to come as that is the only cast-iron guarantee of a stellar outing on African women's football's most prestigious stage.

Let us maintain this preparations theme and ponder on the prospects of local football's juggernauts in CAF's Inter-Club football championships next season.

Indeed, next season Young Africans SC and Azam FC will be our flag-bearers in the ultra-competitive CAF Champions League while Simba SC and Coastal Union will represent our country in continental football's second

tier CAF Confederations Cup.

To be frank, many avid football enthusiasts will be expecting big things from the aforementioned quartet of local football clubs in the coming season's CAF's Inter-Club competitions.

Our football fans' elevated expectations can be attributed to the utterly remarkable progress demonstrated by Simba and Young Africans in CAF's Inter-Club Championships in recent seasons.

For instance, both Simba and Young Africans advanced to the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League last season where they unfortunately caved in to more formidable opponents.

And, in the season before last, Young Africans embarked on a fabulous run all the way to the CAF Confederations Cup final where they tragically suffered an unbelievably narrow defeat on the away goals rule.

In light of this recent track-record of football excellence, it is unsurprising then that football legends in the country are calling upon Young Africans, Azam, Simba and Coastal Union to begin early preparations for CAF's Inter-Club championships next season as doing so undeniably heightens their chances of achieving admirable football feats.

One hopes then that our fantastic quartet of football clubs, who will be trying their damndest to make headway on the African football landscape next season, will heed the call made by our all-time football greats.

## Kengold FC set sights on retaining core players for top-flight debut

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DESPITE facing competition from other teams, Kengold FC are committed to keeping the majority of their players who powered them to promotion to the Premier League next season.

The club's chief executive officer, Kenneth Mwambungu, emphasized their intention to retain their core players, even with interest from top teams vying for their signatures.

The Mbeya-based outfit clinched the Championship League title with 70 points. The squad had ended their campaign with 51 goals scored and 18 goals conceded from 29 games while drawing seven games, losing two, and getting 21 wins.

The newly promoted side is also the winner of the second-tier soccer showpiece, the Championship League, edging out second-placed Pamba FC by three points. Both teams secured automatic promotion.

City rivals Mbeya Kwanza finished third in the Championship League, while Biashara United ended up fourth.

Biashara defeated Mbeya Kwanza in the promotion playoffs but ultimately fell short

against Tabora United in the final relegation/promotion matchup, losing 2-1 on aggregate.

To strengthen their side, KenGold have hired former Coastal Union head coach Fikiri Elias who replaced Jumanne Chale.

According to Mwambungu, KenGold will retain most of their current players under Elias' leadership. The team also plans to add a few new signings to bolster their squad.

"Our recruitment drive is still ongoing as we aim to bolster our squad for a strong showing in the Premier League next season. We had a great run in the Championship League, and we understand the step up in competition requires a top-notch team."

"Unlike some newly promoted teams, we will be keeping the core of our squad that earned us promotion to the Tanzania Mainland Premier League. We believe in the players who got us here, and while we can't predict the future, we are confident they will form a strong foundation for our success in the top league," said Mwambungu.

The club is yet to reveal their new signings for next season with few experienced names, including free custodian Deogratius Munishi, linked to the Mbeya-based side.



Youth soccer players pictured recently during a training session at the Jakaya Kikwete grounds in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA



## Jude Bellingham scored a wonder goal at Euro 2024 and then turned to a speech by Theodore Roosevelt

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany

AS one of the most exciting soccer players in the world, Jude Bellingham's wonder goal against Slovakia on Sunday was what many have come to expect from the England star.

His decision to mark the occasion by referring to a speech by former U.S. president Theodore Roosevelt, however, seemed a less likely move from someone who only celebrated his 21st birthday on Saturday.

Bellingham's overhead kick in the fifth minute of stoppage time rescued England after it had trailed Slovakia 1-0 in the round of 16 at the European Championship. It sent the game into extra time and Harry Kane sealed a 2-1 win, meaning England will play Switzerland in the quarterfinals on Saturday.

Bellingham later posted part of a speech by Roosevelt on his Instagram channel, likely in response to the fierce criticism the England team has received at Euro 2024.

The excerpt of the speech, commonly known as "The Man in the Arena" begins with the statement

"It is not the critic who counts" and goes on to say "The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena."

England's players have been booed by fans during the Euros because of the team's unconvincing performances in Germany. Former national team captain and now BBC presenter Gary Lineker used an expletive on his podcast when delivering stinging criticism of the performances.

Playing for "England is an enjoyable feeling, but it's also a lot of pressure here," Bellingham said. "People talk a lot of rubbish and you know it's nice, when you deliver, you can give them a little bit back."

"Football and being on the pitch, scoring a goal and celebrating is a release and it was maybe a message to a few people."

The full speech by Roosevelt, which was entitled "Citizenship in a Republic," and was given at the Sorbonne in Paris in 1910.

Under his post, Bellingham wrote: "So proud of the boys tonight, we live to fight another day."

AP

## Fearless Georgia departs Euro 2024 but leaves behind plenty of highlights

COLOGNE, Germany

KHVICHA Kvaratskhelia found himself in space on the halfway line and spotted Spain goalkeeper Unai Simón out of position. Why not take a shot?

The Napoli winger's effort bounced just wide of the post this time, but it was so nearly spectacular and showed an ambitious Georgia team that seemed to have no fear of failure at Euro 2024.

The lowest-ranked team in the tournament lost 4-1 to Spain in the round of 16 on Sunday, but it went down fighting after taking the lead early on. Any sadness from the loss will fade as players appreciate just what they achieved, Georgia coach Willy Sagnol predicted.

"I'm sure in some days we will realize what we have done and I think happiness is going to come back very quickly," Sagnol said.

Before the tournament began, Sagnol just wanted his team to gain experience on its debut in such a major competition as an independent nation. Results were secondary.

Then Georgia pulled off one of the biggest shocks in tournament history by beating Portugal 2-0. Suddenly it was in the knockout stages and the players were promised a \$10.7 million bonus from a politically connected billionaire back home. Another bonus was on offer for beating Spain.

"Believe," read a giant banner at the Georgian end of the stadium, just like in fictional coach Ted Lasso's locker room. Georgia did, and it leaves behind quite the Euro 2024 highlight reel.

In its opening 3-1 loss against Turkey, Georgia scored off an elaborate passing move. In its 1-1 draw with the Czech Republic, Georgia nearly won but missed a crucial shot on the last kick of the game. The shock win over Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal was built on audacious dribbling in the midfield and goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili hurling himself at the ball for crucial saves.

Where Georgia goes from here is unclear. Sagnol deflected a question about whether he might stay for the qualifying campaign for the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

"Sometimes you have to take the time to sit and look at what you have done and I think we can sit in peace and quiet, everyone, and look at the last year," he said.

"Now it's the end of a journey but I'm sure the next one will be also very exciting."

AP

## Slovakia didn't take its loss to England so well at Euro 2024 as coach lashes out and captain cries

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany

THEIR captain was reduced to tears. Their coach clashed with an England player and took aim at the referee.

Slovakia didn't take its heartbreaking exit from the European Championship so well on Sunday.

"We needed 30 seconds and could celebrate, but that's soccer, I'm speechless," Slovakia captain Milan Škriniar said after his team conceded a stoppage-time equalizer to England and then lost 2-1 after extra time.

The pain was etched over Škriniar's face and it was easy to understand why. Slovakia was so close to reaching the quarterfinals of a major tournament for the first time since becoming an independent state in 1993 and from taking down another huge soccer nation at Euro 2024 in the process, having already beaten Belgium in the group stage.

Ivan Schranz's 25th-minute strike put the 45th-ranked Slovaks ahead against England and it needed arguably the goal of the tournament – an overhead kick by Jude Bellingham in the fifth minute of additional time – to breach a defense that hadn't until that point allowed a shot on target.

"They scored a goal from a player who is valued at 100 million euros. This was a team worth 1.5 billion (euros). You concede just half a meter and you will get punished," Slovakia coach Francesco Calzona said. "So I don't want to blame anyone."

That, though, didn't stop Slovakia's Italian coach from having a pop at England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford for time-wasting and the referee for "always coming to our bench and never going to (England's) bench."

Indeed, Calzona went on the field seemingly to remonstrate with the match officials when he was involved in a confrontation with England midfielder Declan Rice.

Some pushing ensued and Rice was seen shouting at Calzona. "Rice was supposed to go to the referees and say goodbye and leave. I wanted to speak to the referees," Calzona said.

AP

# With England survival at stake, Jude Bellingham creates one of the great moments of Euro 2024

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany

JUDE Bellingham needed to produce something special to keep England at Euro 2024.

Right on cue, Bellingham's spectacular overhead kick in the fifth of six added minutes sent Sunday's game into extra time, and Harry Kane sealed a 2-1 win that keeps alive England's hopes of a first major trophy since 1966.

England was seconds away from slumping to one of the biggest upsets in the history of the European Championship when trailing 1-0 to Slovakia deep into stoppage time in the round of 16.

"I think it was 30 or 20 seconds until we were out of the European Championship," Bellingham said. "It's hard to deny that it was one of the most important moments of my career so far."

He's had a few.

The midfielder, who turned 21 on Saturday, has just completed a stunning debut season at Real Madrid, winning the Champions League and the Spanish title.

At such a young age, he is already one of England's most important players and delivered a moment of magic when all hope seemed lost.

"His world is different to pretty much every other 21-year-old in the world... what he can provide are these moments where he grabs things by the scruff of the neck and his character and his personality creates moments that can change a big game," said England manager Gareth Southgate, who admitted he thought a tired-looking Bellingham was "out on his feet" 15 minutes before the end of regulation time.

England – one of the pre-tournament favorites and runner-up at the last Euros – trailed to 45th-ranked Slovakia after Ivan Schranz's 25th-



England's Jude Bellingham, right, scores his side's first goal with an overhead kick against Slovakia at the Euro 2024 in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, Sunday, June 30, 2024. AP Photo

minute goal.

With the clock running down, Bellingham's time came.

Kyle Walker launched a long throw from the right. Marc Guehi leapt to flick the ball on.

Bellingham was in the box and had to readjust his body to execute a perfect overhead kick, sending the ball into the bottom corner to leave Slovakia goalkeeper Martin Dubravka stuck on his line as he watched it nestle into the back of the net.

Some England fans had already left the stadium. Those inside erupted.

"I had a funny feeling the game wasn't dead and I know that sounds ridiculous. We were pushing and probing," Southgate said.

Bellingham's goal was England's

first shot on target in the match.

It didn't have to wait long for its second as Kane headed home to score his seventh goal in his last seven knockout games at major tournaments. It was also a record-extending 65th for his country.

England will play Switzerland in the quarterfinals in Duesseldorf on Saturday.

But for so long it looked like being a humbling exit for Southgate's team – bringing back memories of its elimination at the hands of Iceland at Euro 2016. "It's knockout football and anything is possible," Southgate said.

England had faced fierce criticism for its performances in the group stage and boos rang around the stadium in the first half as frustration grew

among its fans following Schranz's strike.

It needed to improve in the second half. Phil Foden had a goal ruled out by VAR, Kane headed wide from close range and Declan Rice hit the post in the 81st.

Slovakia had already produced a shock by beating No.3-ranked Belgium in the group stage and it looked like doing it again against the No. 5-ranked team in the world.

That was until Bellingham struck. "They scored a goal from a player who is valued at 100 million euros. This was a team worth 1.5 billion (euros). You concede just half a meter and you will get punished," Slovakia coach Francesco Calzona said.

AP

## Spain pass a new test in familiar style to make Euro 2024 statement

By Karl Matchett

TWO sides who could scarcely have more different tactical ideas and playing styles. Two sides who have polar opposite histories, in international footballing terms, too.

Georgia's men's side had never been to a major international tournament before this summer, let alone scored a goal or won a game. Or even, if we can entertain such fanciful notions, of reaching the knockout stage. Spain won the European Championship as recently as 2012, reached the semis last time out and were world champions only 14 years ago.

Football heritage and history isn't only made up of the men's Euros and World Cup, though, so the true contextual national gap is even wider: Georgia's women have never been to a tournament either, whereas La Roja are the reigning world and Women's Nations League champions. There is quite simply an enormous gap between the two, a chasm so large in football terms that it almost defies explanation.

But for 21 minutes at Euro 2024, there was an almighty shock on. For 21 awe-inspiring minutes, an incredible dream received the most raucous, sensational backing from the stands and one of the very biggest of favourites were truly, visibly shaken.

There's another difference between the two nations though, and this one ultimately played to Spain's advantage: while Georgia's approach is heavily emotional, feeding on the frenzied support and the insatiable excitement at launching anything as mundane as a counterattack, Spain's players are more assured and expectant, comfortable in the knowledge that the game is long and they can control most of it. That comes from experience. That comes from time at the top.

Most of all, that comes from winning.

Rodri, as he has so often, played the part of chief rescuer, though Nico Williams was the true star of the show. Five minutes on from giving his teammates a double-handed "calma, calma" sermon – while in possession, no less – Spain's defensive midfielder



Nico Williams celebrates after scoring Spain's third. Agencies

took the ball on the edge of the Georgia box and planted a shot so far into the bottom corner of the net that even the excellent Giorgi Mamardashvili couldn't reach it, an equaliser six minutes before the break.

Spain needed that; while they had absolutely dominated right from kick-off, the previous 10 minutes had grown more strained, more frantic, going to ground more easily in search of cheap wins and looking around in frustration at each other when yet another 60-yard counterattack somehow left them two-vs-two at the back.

That was a direct result of the opener, Robin Le Normand the unfortunate defender who bundled into his own net under pressure, meaning Georgia led the tie after 19 per cent

possession and precisely zero shots. It was also the first time Spain had conceded at Euro 2024, and therefore the first time they have had to come from behind.

Turkey might just be a nose in front in tournament terms for wilder and noisier fans, but Georgia added a whole lot of cumulative decibels to their tally in Cologne: non-stop pre-match, rousing at kick-off, explosive every time they had reason to cheer their team on thereafter, and plenty of times when they really didn't.

The Georgian fans might scream loudest when Khvicha Kvaratskhelia gets on the ball, but in this game as in their previous ones, Georges Mikautadze was often the best out-

let, the most daring and dangerous runner, the forward with the eye for a pass as well as for a gap in the defence.

Even so, the No 7 almost had the entire stadium on their feet to applaud him minutes after the restart, Kvaratskhelia dancing past two challenges and shooting from fully 50 yards with Unai Simón out of his goal, missing the post by only a whisker.

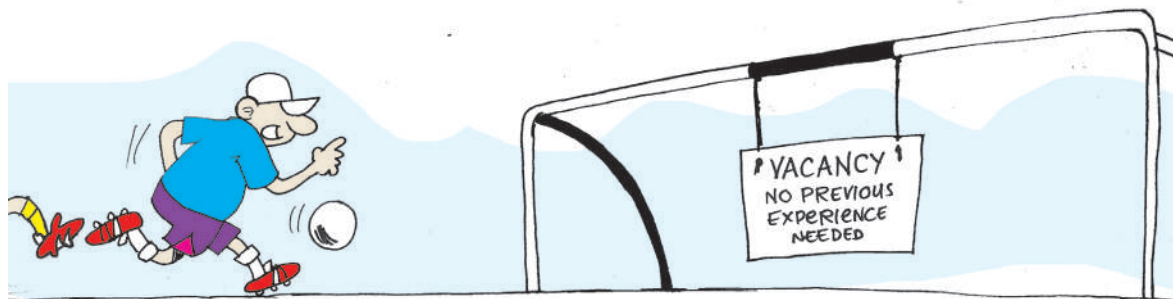
It did miss, though – and within minutes it was 2-1 in the other direction. Lamine Yamal had looked a little off-kilter in the first half, perhaps the still-16-year-old just slightly unnerved for once by either occasion or atmosphere, but he certainly didn't hide and soon showed his class.

First, his free-kick was brilliantly parried away by the overworked Mamardashvili. Then the winger was found again by another sweeping pass, tucked in on his left foot and delivered the perfect cross to the far post, with Fabian Ruiz given the task of nodding in from close range. Even then the Georgia No 1 almost stopped it, but it would only have been delaying the inevitable at this point.

Spain sensed their moment, and pressed the advantage. Dani Olmo came on and almost buried a low strike soon after. Yamal missed a sitter, after a defensive lapse. Georgia made subs to keep the energy and intent up, but forays forward were ever-more infrequent by the time they passed the hour mark and cost them once they had to start to overcommit.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**With England survival at stake, Jude Bellingham creates one of the great moments of Euro 2024**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

**Dutch seek to reignite 'will to win' against Euros underdogs Romania**

MUNICH

NETHERLANDS captain Virgil van Dijk has called upon his side to rediscover their "will to win" ahead of today's Euro 2024 last 16 meeting with Romania.

Despite boasting a talented squad, the Netherlands have so far struggled in the tournament.

Drawn in Group D alongside heavyweights France and Ralf Rangnick's impressive Austria, the Netherlands finished just ahead of a lacklustre Poland and qualified as one of the four best third-placed sides.

Van Dijk, in particular, was the target of criticism from former Dutch midfielder Rafael van der Vaart who slammed his "disgraceful performance" against Austria in the Netherlands' final group game. "I want him to show some passion," said the former Oranje playmaker.

Still considered among the best defenders in the world, 32-year-old Van Dijk was at fault for Austria's decisive third goal in the 3-2 win which sent the Alpine nation through as group winners.

"I know I can do better and it should be better," admitted Van Dijk, but the Dutch captain was far from alone in bearing responsibility for the loss, with Memphis Depay and Donyell Malen missing several chances.

In the last 16, the Netherlands will face Romania, who surprisingly topped the closely-contested Group E thanks largely to their opening round 3-0 thumping of Ukraine, while they drew and lost their remaining matches.

**'Harsh words'**

The Dutch will need to improve should they wish to reach the quarter-finals of the Euros for the first time since 2008, let alone emulate the 1988 Oranje side and win a European Championship on German soil.

With a win, a loss and a draw from three games, the Dutch have come under fire -- criticism which Van Dijk "completely understands".

"Things overall can and should be better," the Liverpool defender said after a 3-2 defeat to Austria, adding "maybe we've been overestimating ourselves".

But of particular concern was Van Dijk's assessment of the team's attitude at the tournament.

"A lot had to be said and we had to analyse a lot.

"It was not the tactics where things went wrong. It was mainly the will to win, so we have talked about that -- and with harsh words," added Van Dijk.

With a population less than a fifth the size of neighbouring Germany, the Netherlands may struggle to consistently compete among the European elite, but a knock on their desire is a damning assessment for the proud football nation.

AFP



Ukonga Secondary School volleyball team player Hasssan Jadi (R) is pictured spiking the ball when the team took on Kiwalani Secondary School team in Dar es Salaam recently in a match for selecting the regional team which will participate in the national inter-secondary schools (UMISSETA) games. PHOTO: JUMANNE JUMA

**Uganda emerges winner of Africa Women's Cup 2024 as Kenya braces to host next event**

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AFTER two inspiring sporting days in Arusha, Ugandan players were crowned the overall winners of the maiden Africa Women's Cup 2024, beating other eight participating countries.

The Ugandan women's team took the trophy after thrashing the host country Tanzania, a whopping 6-1 during the final match played on Sunday, the last day of June 2024.

The Africa Women's Cup, organized by the Homeless World Cup, was held at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) grounds in the Kijenge ward of Arusha.

It is a special kind of soccer played in cubicles and featuring just eight players, four on each side of the game.

The Future Stars Academy (FSA) of Arusha coordinated the Women's Soccer Cup 2024 season events.

On the other hand, Kenya will get to host the follow-up season of the Africa Women's Cup to be held in Nairobi around this time next year.

As for the 2024 season matches in Tanzania, the organizers described the feat here to have been a wonderful active weekend, colored by energetic and vocal crowds.

They revealed that all the eight teams that were competing in the Africa Women's Cup did themselves and their respective countries proud.

"This is just the beginning of the Homeless World Cup's newest tournament as the Foundation looks to grow the women's game in Africa and globally, supporting those who need it the most," said James McMeekin, the chief operating officer for the Homeless World Cup Foundation.

He pointed out that football has the power to change lives and also bring joy, unity and smiles to the faces of those playing and those watching.

"The first Africa Women's Cup targets to protect vulnerable women from exploitation," stated McMeekin.

The Arusha Regional Football Association chairman, Zakayo Mjema, said this type of soccer is new in that it is played on smaller grounds featuring fewer players.

"We need to emulate this kind of football and introduce it to our schools and encourage girls to participate," said Mjema.

As for the local hosts, the Future Stars Academy expressed gratitude and appreciation to everyone who played a part in making the first Africa Women's Cup 2024 in Tanzania a huge success.

The FSA director, Alfred Itaeli, said the Women's Cup was the first such event to ever take place on the continent and that Tanzania has been honored to host the inaugural tournament.

Countries that participated in the Africa Women's Cup 2024 include the host Tanzania, the winners Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

“

The first Africa Women's Cup targets to protect vulnerable women from exploitation

## Clatous Chama to Yanga: A good move for all parties

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

CLATOUS Chama has enjoyed a hugely successful career with Simba. The Zambian international attacking midfielder won almost everything during his six years with the Msimbazi Street-based side.

Chama has won the Premier League title three times, the Federation Cup two times, and the Community Shield four times. He also won the Player of the Year award for the 2019/20 season.

He also guided Simba to three CAF Champions League quarter-final appearances and will be forever remembered for scoring late crucial goals against Nkana Red Devils and AS Vita that sent Simba to the group stage and quarter-final of the CAF Champions League in the 2018/19 season.

Last season, Chama scored seven goals in the Premier League and created six goals for his teammates. In the Champions League and African Football, he had a total of six goal involvements, so Chama was a key player at times for both Robertinho and Abelhak Benchikha.

Chama's contract expired on June 30th and he was immediately announced as a Young Africans player the following day. So, why has Simba decided to let him go to their major rivals?

Though there was no hint of Chama being unhappy at Simba or that he was going to turn down the offer of a new contract if it met his demands, the general consensus is that Simba needs a new man for the future as far as the number 10 position is concerned.

This could be the reason why the club might have been slow to meet Chama's demand. Perhaps the hierarchy at the club decided they want to use the funds that would be taken up by offering Chama a new deal to invest elsewhere in the squad.

Indicative of his influence is that Simba will have a big hole with his exit in terms of creativity. Replacing that number of goal involvements is likely to be tough. He will be missed, but as Simba have proven in the past, they can replace stars with players that are just as good, if not better.

It is true a post-Chama might be tough at the start but it is an opportunity for a fresh start. It is time to build the team around someone who has his best years ahead.



Clatous Chama completes his move to Young Africans. Agencies

As for Young Africans, they will never enjoy Chama's talent in the way Simba did but they are getting a proven player who can deliver goals and assists. He improves their squad depth.

Having Chama even on the bench is a nice headache for coach Miguel Gamondi. Gamondi will be hoping the ability and experience of Chama can help them to retain the league title and make a deep run in the CAF Champions League.

With the addition of Chama, Young Africans have three creative talents to terrorise opposition defences. Chama may not be able to start in every game like he did at Simba, but when he is on the pitch, Young Africans fans can expect the Zambian maestro to create goals.

Chama is a player who is used to winning titles and he has tasted league success in Tanzania and Zambia. He knows what it takes to win and he has a total of five league titles to his name, two of which came during his time in Zambia with Zesco United.

Young Africans would also gain not only from his talent but what he'd bring off the field; marketing, merchandise and glamour. Chama is one of the very few bonafide stars

on and off the pitch in the Premier League.

For Chama, he gets to enjoy a final windfall in his career. Chama perfected the art of squeezing Simba balls in almost every transfer window. This time for one reason or another, Simba said enough is enough.

Luckily for Chama, Young Africans, who have always salivated for his signature since his arrival in Tanzania back in 2018, were to embrace him.

Chama has committed to a one-season deal with the option of an extra year, and will reportedly earn \$13,000 per month in wages with Young Africans. It is a nice paycheck for a player turning 34 years in the next 12 months.

As a business transaction, this deal is a very good move for Chama. He has already won regardless of how his stay at Young Africans turns out in the end. He has banked good money moving from a club that he was loved by supporters to one that has fantasised for him for so long.

In addition, Chama knows he is leaving at the right time despite the nature of his exit. When the dust has settled and emotions put aside, he will be considered a club legend for what he has done at Msimbazi Street.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV TUESDAY**

**MJADALA**

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**MJADALA**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Mpera Mpera  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
13:55 Dandao Za Michezo  
14:00 5SPORTS (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dandao Za Michezo  
17:00 SSELERT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kali Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 MJADALA  
21:30 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shapping process.

**eastafrika 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