



ASA in drive to boost maize seeds

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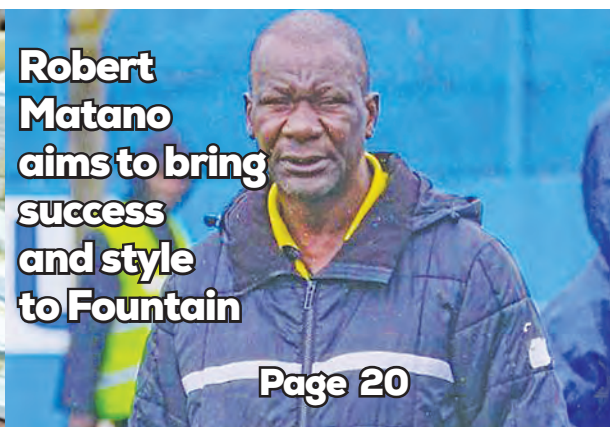
Land dispute simmers over investor, villagers in Bahi

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Come for your uncollected ID cards, Tanzanians urged

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Robert Matano aims to bring success and style to Fountain

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Mwinyi: Electoral commissions working to ensure polls fairness

By Guardian Reporter

THE responsible commissions have started to work to ensure fairness and transparency in the process to the general elections later this year, the government has assured.

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi made this declaration yesterday at the climax of events to mark 61 years of the Zanzibar Revolution at the Gombani Stadium in Pemba.

He urged residents to engage in the upcoming elections with intent to uphold the peace, underlining that the responsible commissions have started to work to ensure a harmonious process.

He appealed to political

leaders, religious groups and the public to maintain peace and unity as the nation prepares for the polls, noting that peace is crucial for achieving the country's development goals.

"We must ensure our country conducts a peaceful and fair election, before, during and after the process," he stated, affirming that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) have started to take measures to ensure that the process goes well.

The celebrations were attended by thousands of Zanzibaris and scores of resident and visiting Mainlanders, with various local and foreign dignitaries turning out for the colour-

ful occasion among them Union President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The event was charmed with festivities highlighting the Isles' optimism for the future, with Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, Zanzibar First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman, Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdullah among the high-profile leaders attending the final event.

In his relatively sparse remarks, President Mwinyi reflected on Zanzibar's significant transformation over the past years, hailing strong economic growth, increased investments and infrastructure development.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi waves to the audience at the climax of the weeklong events to mark 61 years of Zanzibar Revolution at Gombani Stadium in Chakechake, Pemba South Region yesterday. Left is President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Photo: State House

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SPORTS

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Kyle Walker has asked to leave Man City, says Guardiola

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Grizzlies score franchise-best 155 points, rout Raptors

'Immigration Dept mirrors Union, Z'bar cooperation'

By Guardian Reporter

COOPERATION is being fostered between the Union and Zanzibar governments in economic and social development, including close monitoring of immigration activity, the government has stated.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr Doto Biteko made the remarks over the weekend when laying foundation stone for an Immigration Department building at Micheweni in Pemba, as part of events to mark 61 years of the Zanzibar Revolution, reaching its peak yesterday.

He said Zanzibaris and those on the Mainland have every reason to be proud of the tremendous progress achieved over the six decades of the revolution.

Remarkable strides in delivering economic, political and social development have been made, owing to the visionary leadership of the founding fathers, Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume and Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, he said.

The construction of offices and accommodation for Immigration staff is clear demonstration of the commitment to improve working conditions, ensuring that officers are equipped to fulfil their duties effectively, he stated.

Salama Khatib, the Pemba North regional commissioner, praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for successful implementation of large-scale development projects. Zanzibaris steadily take pride in the benefits of the revolution, thus it is crucial for the public to stay informed and united in order to protect the security of the nation, the RC underlined.

Hamza Hassan Juma, the Policy, Coordination and House of Representatives state minister in the Second Vice-President's Office, said that ongoing development projects in Micheweni District have helped lift many residents out of poverty.

Improvements to the road and water infrastructure will create new employment opportunities contributing to economic growth, he said, urging the Immigration Department to think of residential plot for its staff as different from office spaces. This would enhance their privacy, he said.

Dr Anna Makakala, the Immigration Services commissioner-general, expressed satisfaction with major improvements in department's welfare and working conditions over the past few years.

Innocent Bashungwa, the Home Affairs minister, assured that the government is working to improve working conditions in the department. Officers need to be better equipped "to provide exceptional services to the public," he added.

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) director of medical services, Dr. John Rwegasha, has been appointed to head the medical services division at the African Union (AU) Commission. Dr. Rwegasha, who graduated at Makerere University in 1998, has worked with Muhimbili for 11 years. He was nominated for the position at the end of last year and is set to begin his new role early next month at the Addis Ababa head offices of the AUC. The staff and management at MNH held a farewell event for the nominee over the weekend, where Dr Rwegasha

counterpart, Evariste Ndayishimiye also turned up for the meeting, joining host President Yoweri Museveni, a noted advocate of intensification of regional trade in grain and other products.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa stood in for President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the meeting billed as the African Union (AU) extraordinary summit of Heads of State, intended to generate commitments for the continent's agricultural compact for the next ten years.

Delegates were expected to endorse the African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP 2026 - 2035), with leaders of delegations pledging to work on agricultural research and fostering collaboration with the private sector.

Tanzania expressed aspirations to become a vital component of food production in Africa, noting its efforts to reach objectives of the Malabo Declaration, in its demand that African nations allocate at least 10 percent of their annual budgets to agriculture.

His remarks received a boost from host President Museveni, who urged easing cross country trade in grain, praised Tanzania for producing high-quality rice in particular that is popular in

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MNH staff bid farewell to Dr John Rwegasha, shifting to Addis Ababa

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

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Premier in attendance as Museveni praises Tanzania's grain sector

FROM PAGE 1

Ugandan markets.

The premier said that Tanzania's agricultural strategy is focused on producing enough food to meet domestic needs and obtain an export surplus.

The high-level event was focused on adopting the Kampala Declaration, a roadmap designed to transform Africa's agri-food systems and address hunger, poverty and food insecurity through agriculture-led development.

"Our agriculture is no longer subsistence-based; it is now a thriving commercial sector," he said, while President Museveni urged African nations to compete on quality, highlighting Tanzania's rice as a prime example.

He described Tanzanian rice as superior quality and more affordable, encouraged participating countries to elevate agricultural production standards.

"At one point, they tried to stop me from importing rice from Tanzania, but I told them to focus on competing in producing quality products," the Ugandan leader explained.

Adding value to agricultural products before export is vital in order to boost productivity and create employment, particularly for the youth, he said.

President Museveni cited global coffee trade, affirming that in Uganda, a kilogramme of raw coffee is sold for two U.S. dollars, while the processed version fetches \$40 per kilogramme.

"We are losing jobs and revenue by selling unprocessed agricultural products. We must add value to our crops. It is discouraging to see African countries continue exporting raw materials; this must change," he declared.

Moussa Faki Mahamat, the chairman of the African Union Commis-

sion (AUC), underscored the need to involve young people in agriculture, while also developing strong strategies to ensure that African nations can achieve food security.

"Why does Africa still suffer from hunger when we have so much arable land? We must involve youth in agriculture because food security and nutrition are still pressing challenges. Too many of us still grapple with issues of food access and quality nutrition. We need to change," he stated.

Björg Sandkjaer, the Norwegian Development Cooperation minister representing the development partners, acknowledged that despite the progress made, challenges persist in reaching target populations.

The development partners will foster collaboration with African states to ensure the Kampala Declaration leads to lasting improvements in food security and nutrition across Africa, he said.

In a preliminary meeting, agriculture ministers endorsed the next phase of the African Agricultural Development Programme, focusing on integrated food production systems.

This demands improved infrastructure, education and health, to ease agriculture sector growth, where Tanzania suggested the need for a comprehensive approach to agriculture.

This is essential for food sovereignty, along with investments in agriculture tied to environmental sustainability, the premier noted.

Former president Jakaya Kikwete, Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe, Water minister Jumaa Aweso, also attended, along with Shamata Shaame Khamis, the Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock minister for Zanzibar, Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation deputy minister Dennis Londo and Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Alexander Mnyeti.



Iringa District Commissioner Kheri James (3rd R) hands over a poultry hatchery machine to George Longwa from Kilolo District on Saturday. A total of 25 youth received the equipment provided by Feed the Future Tanzania project to enhance agriculture and livestock production in Iringa Region. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

MNH staff bid farewell to Dr John Rwegasha, shifting to Addis Ababa

FROM PAGE 1

paid gratitude for the institution for enabling him to excel in the highly competitive recruitment process.

Candidates from seven African nations were considered, he said, while MNH executive director Prof. Mohamed Janabi, who is also presidential advisor on health and medical services, hailed the top MNH staffer for the nomination, wishing him success in his new functions.

He tasked him with effectively representing Tanzania while

advancing the health sector across Africa at the commission, where the seasoned gastroenterologist and hepatologist will be based.

He said Dr Rwegasha established a center for training and treating digestive and liver diseases at MNH in 2013 and served as its head until 2018.

He was then to lead the internal medicine department, overseeing eleven units, whereupon in October 2022 he became the medical services director, overseeing seven departments, he said.

His professional profile indi-

cates that he earned the bachelor's degree in medicine from Makerere University, now reclassified as a doctor of medicine qualification, a master's degree in medicine from Aga Khan University in Kenya, and a master's degree in science and leadership from Mzumbe University.

Additionally, he holds a diploma in health management from the University of Washington in the United States, along with several other professional qualifications from universities in the United Kingdom and South Africa.

Mwinyi: Electoral commissions are working to ensure elections fairness

FROM PAGE 1

He paid tribute to the founders of the revolution for their vital role in bringing about positive change, urging citizens to persistently honour their contributions.

The Zanzibar president's call for peace and security was a reminder of the importance of unity and mutual trust in shaping a prosperous future for both parts of the union, observers noted.

The president pointed at significant achievements, including maintaining peace, unity and solidarity as well as boosting the economy, pointing at durable peace and solidarity as monumental achievement during the six decades of the revolution.

He said the Isles economy grew by 5.1 percent in 2021, having descended to 1.3 percent during the 2020 pandemic year, while annual inflation had remained below 5.08 percent.

Increased registration of investment projects and improvements in social services, including education, health and infrastructure are also in evidence, while the development of infrastructure, business growth plus the strengthening of democracy and good governance are equally visible, he said.

Second Vice President Abdullah hailed President Mwinyi for efforts to transform the Isles, crediting President Samia with fostering national development through strategic projects.

The Revolution Day is the most important event in the Isles calendar, celebrated across a whole week with military parade at the climax, after cultural events and entertainment shows.

The Zanzibar Revolution early in 1964 overthrew the sultan of Zanzibar, a descendant of the Omani royal family which for more than a century had intermarried with local people.

The revolution involved some allied groups loyal to Afro-Shirazi Party leader Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume, who proclaimed the new People's Republic of Zanzibar, and instantly recognised by neighbouring Tanganyika and a number of communist states at the time.



Ushetu Constituency MP Emmanuel Cherehani (C), in discussion with leaders during a fundraising event for the construction of a girls' dormitory at Chona Secondary School in Ushetu, Kahama District at the weekend. On his left is Secondary Education Officer, Emmanuel Malima and on his right is CCM Chairman in Shinyanga Region, Mabalala Mlwa.

Development partners urge focus on reproductive health

By Guardian Reporter

DEVELOPMENT partners have urged for greater focus on reproductive health, adolescents, children and strategies to combat malnutrition, calling for the issues to be key pillars in the draft of the National Development Vision 2050.

Speaking at the partnership event for development stakeholders in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Deputy Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Melissa McNeil-Barrett, highlighted the pivotal role of health in achieving sustainable and

inclusive development.

She explained that population dynamics are closely linked to investments in youth health and education, which are crucial for fostering social and national development.

"It is vital to ensure that women have the opportunity to effectively plan their families, which helps reduce fertility rates and increases the chances of the next generation reaching their full potential," she said.

McNeil-Barrett also emphasised that investment in reproductive health and prevention of non-com-

municable diseases is essential for improving quality of life and ensuring the welfare of society at large.

She pointed out that 20 percent of maternal deaths occur among adolescents, stressing the need for urgent and decisive action to address and eliminate this issue.

Furthermore, she called for a particular focus on ensuring access to health information and services for adolescents, stating that this is crucial in preventing challenges such as unintended pregnancies and other reproductive health issues.

McNeil-Barrett also commended the government for its efforts in pre-

paring the draft vision, noting that it provides a strong foundation for addressing the social and economic challenges facing the nation, while urging further improvements in areas related to reproductive health, children, and adolescents.

Ronald Tran Ba Huy, World Food Programme (WFP) Country Director underscored the importance of the agriculture sector, social protection and strategies to reduce malnutrition as key areas for strengthening in the National Development Vision 2050.

He explained that the agriculture sector plays a significant role

in youth employment and regional economic growth.

"Tanzania is already a food basket for this region, but it has the potential to be an even greater one. WFP purchases many local products for its regional operations, so there is significant opportunity to expand this sector," Tran Ba Huy said.

He also stressed the need to incorporate disaster preparedness projects into development policies.

"We are not only talking about large-scale infrastructure but also social projects and preparedness for the challenges posed by climate change," he said.

Tran Ba Huy further highlighted the importance of strengthening social protection systems to effectively respond to emergencies, explaining that the systems should be equipped to address sudden challenges as part of broader development strategies.

One of the major challenges he identified was the high levels of malnutrition among children, noting that the issue hinders children from reaching their full potential.

"We are eager to collaborate with you to ensure that the issue of reducing malnutrition is prioritised in this vision," he said.

Residents get land ownership documents to check conflicts

By Guardian Correspondent, Ikungi

THE government has issued 762 Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) to residents of Ikungi District in Singida Region, aimed at reducing land disputes and empower women by addressing patriarchal barriers to land ownership.

The certificates were handed over by Minister for Lands, Housing, and Human Settlements Development, Deogratius Ndejemi, who emphasised their role in legally defining land boundaries and promoting economic stabilities.

“When people hear about the Ministry of Lands, they often associate it with disputes. Our mission is to ensure people live peacefully on their land,” he said.

Ndejemi pledged government efforts to secure funding for wider issuance of land ownership documents, viewing it as key to resolving land conflicts nationwide.

“We are going to survey all villages to implement proper land-use planning. We aim to change the perception of the ministry which synonymous with disputes,” he added.

Ikungi District Commissioner Thomas Apson highlighted limited understanding of land laws as a major

challenge contributing to conflicts and urged leaders to avoid exacerbating land disputes.

“The issuance of these certificates addresses such conflicts. We thank the ministry for providing supportive infrastructure aligned with land-use plans,” he said.

Justice Kijazi, Executive Director of Ikungi District Council, noted that cultural practices in the district often deny women land ownership rights.

“By 2020, only 5 percent of land in Ikungi District was owned by women,” he said.

Kijazi reported that 12 villages, including Kipumbwiko, Wibia, Puma, Samaka and Matongo, have benefited from land-use project supporting proper planning and resource allocation.



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Residents of Mlima Njiwa Village in Mbugani Ward of Chunya District, Mbeya Region, look at the carcasses of cattle belonging to a local herder. The animals were reportedly believed to have died after drinking water contaminated with toxic chemicals discharged from one of the gold processing plants on Saturday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

ASA inks contact with BBT-YIA youth to produce over 8,400 tonnes of maize seeds

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) has signed a contract with youth for the second phase Building a Better Tomorrow: Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) for production of maize seeds.

Under the agreement, the state-owned seed multiplication agency has tasked the

youth involved in the project to produce over 8,400 tonnes of C105 maize variety kernels.

Each youth participant is expected to produce high-yielding maize seeds on a 10-acre plot, with an expected harvest of two tonnes per acre.

As part of the second phase of the project in Dodoma Region, a total of 420 youth will produce maize seeds at Ndogoye farm in Chamwino District, covering 4,200 acres this

season.

Yesterday, the selected youth from various regions began arriving in Dodoma in preparation for the production process.

Expressing their expectations, the participants shared optimism that the initiative would not only boost food security in the country but also improve their livelihoods.

Daniel Buu, a young farmer from Babati District in Man-

yara Region, praised the government for the project, noting that it plays a significant role to empower youth economically.

Lumbo Yohana, another young farmer from Chamwino District in Dodoma Region, stated that the project offers a viable solution to the challenge of youth unemployment in the country.

“This project brings together youth from diverse social

and educational backgrounds under the same initiative, creating an opportunity to learn from each other about key agricultural production issues,” said Joseph Tito, a farmer from Mwanza Region.

During the first phase of the project in Dodoma, ASA entered into a contract with 260 youth to produce sunflower oil seeds at Chinangali II seed farm in Chamwino District.

Through the agreement, the

youth produced sunflower seeds (record variety) over a 300-acre plot.

The initiative, running from 2022 to 2030, was designed by the Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with key institutions to enhance youth engagement in agriculture for sustainable and improved livelihoods. The initiative focuses on training and mentoring youth through diverse programmes.

BBT-YIA project was formulated through a participatory approach, involving the government, private sector, development partners and other stakeholders. It is meant to contribute to achieving the Agenda 10/30, which aims to increase youth employment by one million and achieve 10 percent growth rate in agriculture sector by 2030.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) joins President of The United Republic of Tanzania Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan and the President of Zanzibar, Chairman of The Revolutionary Council, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi and All Tanzanians in Commemorating **61 YEARS OF ZANZIBAR REVOLUTION.**

www.tcra.go.tz



New partner appointment



KPMG East Africa is pleased to announce the appointment of **Fabiola Ssebuyoya** as a Tax Partner effective 1 January 2025. Fabiola will be based in KPMG in Tanzania.

Fabiola has over 13 years of professional experience. Throughout her career, she has gained an in-depth understanding of tax matters across various sectors, including extractive industries, telecommunications, manufacturing, financial services, and hospitality. She has advised on various high-profile M&A transactions and has deep experience in dispute resolution.

As a thought leader, Fabiola has participated in tax policy reforms on behalf of Business Associations in Tanzania and has published several articles on the adoption of best tax practices.

Fabiola holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting (Hons) from the University of Dar es Salaam and has completed an Advanced Course in Value Added Tax (NQF Level: 8) from the University of South Africa (UNISA). She is also a Certified Public Accountant in Tanzania (CPA(T)) and a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy Minister Dr. Doto Biteko (R) and Home Affairs Minister Innocent Bashungwa (2nd L) lay the foundation stone for the Immigration Office building in Micheweni District, Pemba, as part of celebrations to mark 61st anniversary of Zanzibar Revolution on Saturday. Photo: DPMO

Angry villagers protest takeover of school land 'unprocedurally'

By Guardian Correspondent, Bahi

RESIDENTS of Mayamaya Village in Bahi District, Dodoma Region, have protested takeover of 27-acre school plot given to an investor as compensation for building a secondary school for the village.

This has led to a tense dispute between the government, the investor and the villagers after the 27 acres of land belonging to Mayamaya Primary School were allocated without the villagers' endorsement.

Some residents of the village claimed here at the weekend that the land was taken without proper consultation and that it was not part of the agreement, urging law enforcers to intervene and investigate the matter.

At the weekend, residents gathered and removed new boundary beacons separating the school land from the area being taken by the investor whom they accused of using a bulldozer to destroy crops planted by pupils at the school.

Mayamaya Primary School, located near the residence of Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango, is one of the few schools with large areas, estimated to cover 55 acres which are being used for agricultural projects.

Iren Mwenda, Chairperson of Mayamaya Primary School committee, said that there was no information about the land being taken, and he was surprised to see an individual (the investor) bringing in a tractor

to destroy crops planted by pupils, with the investor claiming they had trespassed his land.

He explained that the land taken by the investor is on the roadside, and it is claimed that the investor intends to build a private school.

"A few individuals agreed to sell institutional land under the guise of building a secondary school. Meanwhile, in this ward, we have a secondary school where classrooms are not full. Worse, they schemed to transfer the former headmaster who was against the plan and that's how they succeeded," said Mwenda.



A few individuals agreed to sell institutional land under the guise of building a secondary school. Meanwhile, in this ward, we have a secondary school where classrooms are not full. Worse, they schemed to transfer the former headmaster who was against the plan and that's how they succeeded

Speaking about the construction of the secondary school, he said that from the start, residents were involved and contributed their labour after they were informed that a donor had volunteered to build them a school.

"However, we were not involved in public meetings and there was no explanation that the donor was taking the school's land as part of his costs," he added.

Regarding the ongoing dispute, acting Bahi District Commissioner Janeth Mayanja urged the reporter to seek clarification from Bahi District Executive Director as she was not very familiar with the issue.

Bahi District Executive Director Zainabu Mlawa acknowledged awareness of the dispute but explained that the investor was legally given the school land during a public meeting that discussed the intention to build a secondary school which would be handed over to the government. She confirmed that the project was still underway.

Former Bahi District Commissioner, Godwin Gondwe (currently Singida District Commissioner) had previously halted the construction of the secondary school due to what he termed violation of procedures.

Regarding procedures for allocating public land to private individuals, Mlawa said she was still following up if there had been any violations.



Dr John Rwegasha, Medical Services Director at Muhimbili National Hospital who has been appointed Director of Medical Services at the African Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, speaks during the farewell ceremony hosted by the MNH management AT weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

US returns \$50m 'illicit money' to Nigerian govt

ABUJA

CLOSE to \$53m (£43m) in alleged illicit funds recovered from Nigeria's former oil minister Diezani Alison-Madueke among others will be used to fund public services, the country's justice ministry says.

The money is being sent back to Nigeria from the US, whose authorities allege that Alison-Madueke enriched herself, and others, while leading Nigeria's state oil firm by awarding contracts in exchange for bribes.

The US alleged that the money was then used to buy a 65-metre super yacht called the Galactica Star plus multiple luxury properties in California and New York.

Alison-Madueke, 64, has always denied all allegations of wrongdoing. Her alleged ill-gotten

gains are also under scrutiny in the UK, where two years ago she was charged with bribery offences including gifts of Louis Vuitton luxury goods, payment of private school fees, and at least \$127,000 in cash.

A key figure in the administration of former President Goodluck Jonathan, she also served as the first female president of the oil exporters group Opec.

Her time as Nigeria's minister of petroleum resources began in 2010 and ended in 2015. She previously served as transport minister, and the minister for solid minerals and steel development.

The US Department of Justice announced in 2023 the final resolution of two civil cases on the forfeiture of assets that were reportedly laundered in and through the

US by Alison-Madueke and her associates.

On Friday, the US and Nigeria confirmed that the sum of \$52.88m would be repatriated to the West African nation.

This will be the first repatriation to Nigeria of assets outside the West African country linked to Alison-Madueke, the Reuters news agency reports.

Speaking at the formal signing ceremony in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi, said the return of the funds marks a significant step in the ongoing efforts to combat corruption.

Fagbemi said \$50m of the money will go through the World Bank to support rural electrification projects, and the remaining \$2.88m will be directed to the Interna-

tional Institute of Justice to strengthen the justice system and promote anti-corruption efforts.

Meanwhile the US Ambassador to Nigeria, Richard Mills, has emphasised the need for accountability as well as the careful monitoring of the returned funds.

"The ministry of justice must guarantee that these funds are used transparently and effectively to improve the lives of Nigerians," he said.

In November 2022, the US government repatriated to Nigeria, \$20.6m in assets allegedly stolen by former Nigerian military leader Gen Sani Abacha.

Five years ago, Washington transferred \$311.8m to the Nigerian government as part of a previous agreement to repatriate assets that traced back to the Abacha regime.



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Near Dock Yard
P.O. Box 105638, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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Fax : +255 22 2851640
Email: info@zamacargo.co.tz

Tender No: ZCL/ISO/2025

Date: 13th January, 2025

Deadline: 24th January 2025

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANT SERVICES TO SUPPORT ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFICATION FOR ZAMBIA CARGO AND LOGISTICS LIMITED.

1.0 Introduction

Zambia Cargo and Logistics Limited (ZCL) is a regional logistics service provider and wholly owned by the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) through the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) with terminals in Tanzania (Dar Es Salaam), Walvis Bay (Namibia) and operating centre in Ndola, Zambia.

Zambia Cargo and Logistics Limited wishes to invite a qualified and experienced ISO 9001 consultant to support our Company in achieving ISO 9001:2015 certification by December 2025. The consultant will assist in the development, implementation, and maintenance of a Quality Management System (QMS) that aligns with ISO 9001 standards.

2. Scope of Work

Key Requirements:

1. Consultant's Expertise:

- Proven experience in guiding companies through ISO 9001 certification.
- Lead Auditor/Trainer certifications (ISO 9001:2015).
- Experience working with companies in Logistics.

2. Consulting Approach:

- Detailed gap analysis and action plan.
- Tailored ISO 9001 implementation strategy.
- Document preparation (policy, procedures, etc.).
- Staff training and awareness programs.

3. Project Timeline:

- Clear timeline with deliverables and milestones.
- Estimated certification date.

4. Post-Certification Support:

- Ongoing support for maintaining and improving the QMS.

5. Cost Structure:

- Detailed pricing, including all project phases.

6. References and Testimonials:

- Provide case studies or references from similar clients.

7. Eligibility Criteria:

Consultant must be registered in the Republic of Tanzania with proven experience in similar work. Consultant must attach the following documents;

- 7.1 Certificates of registration
- 7.2 Tax payer certificate (TIN)
- 7.3 Relevant licenses

8. Tender submission, the date suppose to be 24th January 2025.

All Tenders must be submitted in a sealed envelope to;

Procurement Unit
Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited
P.O.Box 105638
Dar es Salaam
TANZANIA

Tenders must be submitted not later than 24th January 2025, 10:00hrs. Late submissions will not be considered.

9. Tender Opening

Tender opening will be on 24th January 2025, 10:30hrs at Zambia Cargo and Logistics Limited.

For any inquiry please contact:

Email: james.kilasi@zamacargo.co.tz

A Member of the IDC Group of Companies



Tanzania has a unique history of unity and mutual understanding despite its diverse tribes and religious groups. The presence of the interfaith committee is key to ensuring this legacy continues

Norway praises Tanzania's Interfaith Peace Committee

By Correspondent Aisia Rweyemamu, Lindi

NORWEGIAN State Secretary Andreas Kravic has praised the Interfaith Committee in Tanzania for its exceptional work in promoting peace, unity, and tolerance among members of diverse communities.

Kravic expressed his appreciation during his visit here at the weekend, where he toured several projects implemented by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) in collaboration with the National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA).

He commended the interfaith initiative for fostering collaboration, mutual respect, and understanding despite religious differences.

"The efforts of the interfaith groups are critical, not just for Tanzania but for the entire world. We need these kinds of positive relationships where we respect and value each other despite our differences," Kravic said.

He further added: "This is significant because it demonstrates to everyone whether in Lindi, or beyond what can be achieved when people come together for dialogue, mutual understanding, and tolerance."

Kravic also visited Likotwa Primary School in Rasbula Ward, where he witnessed a school club dedicated to combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

At the school, the State Secretary expressed his gratitude for the initiative and commended the young students for their active role in addressing GBV.

"I am deeply impressed by the young children at this school, who have shown me how they can be agents of change when it comes to the issue of GBV," Kravic said.

Ester Ibrahim, a 14-year-old Standard Six pupil at Likotwa Primary School, shared how the GBV club had equipped her and her fellow pupils with essential knowledge on GBV and how to fight it. She explained that through the club, they have become ambassadors for change, advocating for gender equality.

Earlier, before his visit to Lindi, Kravic had held consultation meeting with officials from Tanzania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where the talks focused on their shared commitment to multilateralism and tackling global challenges such as climate change, poverty reduction, and sustainable energy production.

Kravic also noted the long-standing relationship between Norway and Tanzania, dating back to the country's independ-

ence.

He highlighted that many Norwegian companies are eager to collaborate with Tanzanian counterparts, particularly in the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) sector.

"We have a strong interest in supporting Tanzania's continued economic growth. We currently have many Norwegian companies eager to collaborate on projects, especially in the LNG sector," Kravic said.

He added that Norway, through its partnership with NCA, has contributed significantly to various development projects in Tanzania. "We are proud partners of NCA and we remain committed to supporting their efforts," he said.

Irene Chilewa, speaking about the interfaith work in Lindi, explained that the interfaith committee was established in 2014 during Tanzania's preparations for gas production, with the aim of raising awareness and mobilizing the community for development.

The committee has played a pivotal role in involving the local community in development activities, supporting economic initiatives, and providing educational awareness on GBV. Through these efforts, 23 groups have benefited from microfinance programs and drip irrigation projects.

Norwegian Ambassador to Tanzania, Tone Tinnes highlighted Tanzania's unique history of unity and dialogue across tribes and religious communities.

She described the interfaith committee as an important tool in maintaining these values.

"Tanzania has a unique history of unity and mutual understanding despite its diverse tribes and religious groups. The presence of the interfaith committee is key to ensuring this legacy continues," Ambassador Tinnes stated.

Berte Marie, NCA Tanzania's country director hailed Tanzania's approach to interfaith collaboration, noting that it has been central to their work.

She congratulated Tanzania for utilising the method, which has led to successes such as advocacy for universal health coverage and efforts to address the marriage age for girls.

Lindi District Commissioner, Victoria Mwanziva, expressed pride in the government's support for the work being done by NCA, recognising the organisation's role in building the skills and capacities of religious leaders and community members, empowering them socially and economically through various development projects.

DODOMA CHRISTIAN MEDICAL CENTER TRUST

P.O. Box 658
Imagi Hill - Ntyuka
DODOMATANZANIA



Phone: 0769 999912
Web: www.dcmct.or.tz
Fax 026 2321048

INVITATION FOR BIDS TENDER NO: DCMC 01/2025

Dodoma Christian Medical Centre (DCMC) is a hospital with a charitable status, operating with the scope to be a centre for Medical Excellence by delivering Specialist and Super Specialist Health Services with High Quality and Compassionate Care to the people of Central Tanzania and beyond. The hospital is located at Imagi Hill, Ntyuka 5 km from Dodoma Town, in Dodoma region.

DCMC Hospital is a Christian Health Ministry owned by the Trustees of Dodoma Christian Medical Center Trust (DCMCT). The DCMCT was registered with the Tanzanian government in 2003 as non-profit Organization. DCMCT is supported by the Tanzania Health Partnership, non-profit charitable organization in the state of Minnesota, 7520 Golden Valley Road, Minneapolis MN 55427 USA.

The Executive director of DCMCT now invites sealed tenders from eligible Suppliers to facilitate industrial Laundry Machine at DCMCT hospital.

Tendering will be conducted through open competitive tendering procedures through DCMCT guidelines and specified laws in Tanzania.

PARTICIPATION PROCEDURE:

Interested tenderers may purchase a complete set of tendering documents in and additional sets, by paying non-refundable fee of TZS 150,000/=. Payment should be made through DCMCT accounts as provided during purchase of this document through our main administrative office at DCMCT hospital.

PAYMENT METHODS

A/C NAME: DODOMA CHRISTIAN MEDICAL
A/C NUMBER: 015C696206500
BANK NAME: CRDB
BRANCH: KAMBARAGE

THE PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING TENDER DOCUMENTS.

Once the payment has been made to the bank, the Bidder should come to the procurement officer - Administration building to collect the documents, showing the bank payment receipt;

- The bidder must return the documents sealed in an envelope marked with the reference number of the RELEVANT TENDER and drop it in the Bid Box that will be at the Administrator office before January 25, 2025, at 4:30pm
- Late tenders, portion tender, tender submitted through post office, electronic tenders, tenders not opened and not read out in the public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- Bid requests should be brought directly to the procurement-administration office
- The Hospital will notify the successful Bidder in writing.
- Hospital is not forced to bid to the competitor who offered the lowest price.
- All tenders in one original plus two copies properly filled in and enclosed in plain envelopes must be physically delivered to the following address.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DCMCT HOSPITAL
P.O. Box 658
Imagi hill - Ntyuka
DODOMA, TANZANIA.

Please, also note that, DCMCT hospital is not bound to accept any lowest or highest bid and that, only successful tenders will be contacted.

APPLICANT CRITERIA:

- Be ready to provide services and installation of machine in the areas of the Hospital that will be assigned by the Hospital management
- He should have a business license related to the activity he will do.
- He should have documents/certificates from the authorities concerned with the service he provides. (TMDA, TRA, CITY, etc.).
- Should not be an Employee of DCMC Hospital
- He Should have technical proposal
- He Should have prising proposal

REQUIREMENTS OF THE INDUSTRIAL LAUNDRY MACHINE

No.	EQUIPMENT	SPECIFICATIONS
1	WASHER EXTRACTOR	Fully automatic, microcomputer-controller, freely programmable, 30 possible programmers, operator could set flexible. High quality stainless steel, good appearance, long life. Full suspension shock structure, low shake, low noise, combination of shock absorbers and springs for maximum absorption, need no excessive foundations. High quality inverter system, easily realize washing and extracting frequency stepless adjusting. Multiple sealing system, oil sealing, water sealing, stainless steel sealing. Built-out bearing lubrication, simple operation, convenient maintenance. Safety door interlock system, reduce fatigue, misuse and the risk. Capacity:100kg Supply Voltage: 380Vac/50Hz. Dimensions: L x W x H, (1750 x 1640 x 2132) mm. Drum volume: 930 L Drum speed (wash/hi extract):38/650 rpm Motor power: 7.5 kW Inverter power: 11kW Air pressure: 0.4-0.6 mpa
2	TUMBLE DRYER	Heating: electrical Drums are all in stainless steel, panels are in stainless steel or spray material, prevent the pollution of corrosion to fabric. Large door, easy loading and unloading, opens 180°, option: left or right opening. Optimal design of cooling fan, with the best heat dissipation, wind speed. Fully automatic computer control the temperature, temperature control devices, over-temperature protection device. Easy accessibility to the vital parts, easy service, quick replacement of the belt. Capacity: 70Kg Drum volume: 1130 L Motor power: 1.5kW Fan power: 1.5kW Heating power: 51kW Steam pressure: 0.4-0.6 mpa Supply Voltage: 380V - 410Vac, 50Hz. Dimensions: L x W x H, (1380 x 1590 x 2200) mm. Stainless steel roller, large diameter(φ800mm), surface is smooth. Variable frequency, variable speed, according to fabric, temperature, moisture, steam supply Frame and auxiliary, high-quality steel carbon structures, strong and durable. Pressure roll with guiding ribbons, superior ironing quality, Nomex ironing belts. Simple control with Start/Stop button. Sealed rotary joints, prevent leakage, safety and reliability, save energy.
3	ROLLER / Flat IRONER STEAM	Three-phase electrical system, overload protection, voltage and short circuit protection, emergency stop switch. The fence and travel switch in the input part, reduce fatigue, misuse and the risk. Max ironing width: 2500 mm Roller Diameter: 800 mm Number of Roller: 1pc Ironing speed: 0-6 m/min Motor Power : 1.5kW Inverter Power: 1.5 kW Max Iron Smooth Temperature: 230°C Supply Voltage: 380Vac - 410Vac, 50Hz. Dimensions: L x W x H (3470 x 1360 x 1240) mm.
4	ROCKER SUCTION VACUUM IRONING TABLE	Strong absorbability, dehumidify. Suitable for all kinds of fabrics. Has a pedal switch and round head, conveniently for operation. Tension: 15kg/m ² Steam Heating Iron, Dimension: w x d x h (1510 x 900 x 960)mm Supply Voltage: 220Vac - 250Vac, 50Hz.
5	STAINLESS STEEL TABLE PLAIN	Stainless Steel Table Plain Top with Stainless Steel legs for folding laundry. Wheel size: 4 inch Dimensions: L x W x H, (2500 x 700 x 850) mm.
6	LAUNDRY TROLLEY	Bearing weight: 250kg Plastic structures, firm and nice. Four noiseless castors create smooth and flexible movement. Easy operation and functional.
7	STEAM IRONER	Hand Held Steam bottle Iron. Operation temperature: 130+10°C Input steam pressure: 0.3- 0.4 mpa. Supply Voltage: 220Vac - 250Vac /50Hz.
8	ELECTRIC IRONER	2.2 Litre Steam Generator with iron. Heating power: 2.4 kW Steam pressure: 0.3 mpa Dimensions: L x W x H (500 x 250 x 350) mm. Supply Voltage: 220Vac - 250Vac, 50Hz.
9	BARRIER WASHER	Barrier washer extractor machine meets the requirement of gem-free, dust-free, anti-static washing needs. With the isolating type washing equipment and isolating wall, it divides the laundry room into two separate independent operating areas, "Clean" area and "Non-Clean" area. The auto-correction can be controlled by a switch automatically, this can ensure the door in the accurate position when loading and unloading. There is a slider for the lock, the slider can prevent the lock loosening with high strength and more safety. The panel, cylinder, drum are all high quality stainless steel, good appearance and long life. Capacity: 50Kg Motor power: 5.5 kW Rolling Container Dimension: φ880x1050 mm Steam heating hygienic barrier washer extractor with front loading and rear unloading Supply Voltage: 380Vac - 410Vac, 50Hz, Dimension: L x W x H(1720 x 1100 x 1820)mm
10	AIR COMPRESSOR	Silencer mode, Power: 4HP Air discharge capacity: 1.05 m ³ /min Air pressure: 0.9-1.2 mpa Cylinder diameter: φ100 mm Cylinder quantity: 3 pcs Tank size: 200L Supply Voltage: 220Vac - 250Vac, 50Hz Dimensions: L x W x H(1550 x 480 x 790)mm

NB. ALL bidders are welcome to come and visit the areas that will be involved in their activities on working days starting at 9:00 am.

Come for your uncollected ID cards, Tanzanians urged

By Correspondent Halfani

Chusi

THE government has urged people to collect their national identification cards (IDs) from the registration centres.

Deputy minister for Home Affairs, Daniel Sillo said in Dar es Salaam recently when he visited various ID cards centres.

He emphasised that citizens must follow the instructions and collect their cards in order to resolve the issue promptly.

He said that the government had allocated 42.5bn/- to ensure that individuals who have received their ID numbers are issued with national IDs.

He noted that the initiative has yielded positive results.

"Over 20 million ID cards have already been distributed to people, and those who have not yet collected their cards will be notified through their mobile phones where they can collect their cards and resolve the issue," Sillo said.

He added that during



"We have now implemented a system to send short messages-SMS notifications, and we expect that by the end of this month

his visit, he discovered that some citizens had registered multiple times using different names, which is causing difficulties in the verification process. He stressed that national IDs are crucial for national security, and it is essential to have accurate information for proper identification.

Sillo praised the efforts of the National Identification Authority (NIDA), for addressing the issue, as they cannot issue ID cards without verifying the information and ensuring it is correct.

He also urged citizens to avoid providing false information when applying for national IDs, emphasising that such motives would not help them in obtaining the cards.

NIDA Director General,

James Kaji explained that when a person turns 18, they should visit a registration centre to obtain their national IDs.

He noted that there has been a backlog of applications, especially when jobs or university admissions become available.

"We have now implemented a system to send short messages-SMS notifications, and we expect that by the end of this month, all ID cards will have been collected," Kaji said.

Kaji also discussed the issue of people who had been dismissed from their jobs for using fake names, stating that approximately 600,000 individuals had used fraudulent identities.

He urged them to stop complaining, as it is illegal to use false names.

"I receive many cases of people who were dismissed for using fake names, and now they want their true names. However, when they place their fingerprints, the name remains the same. I ask them to stop complaining because this is an offence," he said.



Dr. Dorothy Gwajima (L), Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Minister, inspects construction of new primary school classrooms at Langoni area in Ulyankulu, Tabora Region, during her official visit to the region at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Ministry calls for urgent completion of projects at Mikumi National Park

By Correspondent Ashton

Balaigwa, Morogoro

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has directed the completion of infrastructure projects under the Resilience Natural Resources

for Tourism Growth (REGROW) initiative at Mikumi National Park to benefit the nation and surrounding communities.

During an inspection, deputy minister Dunstan Kitandula reviewed projects including a modern

airstrip, visitor reception buildings, two gates, and guest lodges.

The minister emphasised the need for proper maintenance, noting the infrastructure would enhance tourism services, attract visitors, and boost revenue.

"This infrastructure is key to unlocking economic opportunities, particularly for communities around Mikumi National Park," Kitandula stated.

John Nyamhanga, Senior Assistant Commissioner for Conservation, noted that REGROW has

transformed Mikumi National Park's appearance, promising increased tourism activities and national revenue.

The REGROW project aims to improve tourism infrastructure, strengthen natural resource management, and attract investment in the sector.

Funded by the World Bank, the project has the objective of improving the management of natural protected areas and their ecosystems in the southern highlands of Tanzania and creating livelihood opportunities that enable

economic development and growth for the targeted communities.

The effects of climate change are being felt in the southern regions with the highlands particularly affected. Rising temperatures and rainfall

are increasingly unpredictable, and there have been changes in rainfall patterns, leading to severe droughts. The combination of these effects greatly affects ecosystems and the ecosystem services on which the livelihoods of the residents depend on.

Morogoro region to spend over 300bn/- on infrastructure works

By Correspondent Idda Mushi, Morogoro

Morogoro Region plans to spend over 329.56bn/- to construct 189.6 km of roads infrastructure.

During the 42nd regional roads board meeting, TANROADS regional manager En-

gineer Alinanuswe Kyamba outlined key projects, including Ubena Zomozi-Ngerengere-Kizuka Army Camp (11.6 km), Ifakara-Mbingu (62.5 km), Mbingu-Chita (37.5 km), Bigwa-Mvuha (78 km)

Efforts to repair infrastructure damaged by El Niño rains and Cyclone Hidaya are

ongoing, with 4.7bn/- spent on restoring roads and bridges.

The government has also allocated 37.8bn/-, funded by the World Bank, for bridge construction in Gairo District and additional funding for bridges in Mvomero District and Morogoro Municipality. The total cost

of these projects is estimated at 53.994bn/-.

Regional Commissioner Adam Malima urged TARURA to involve council members in project implementation for transparency and community support. He also called for installing surveillance cameras on high-risk roads to deter

reckless driving.

Morogoro Regional Police Commander SACP Alex Mkama supported the initiative but highlighted communication challenges in accident-prone areas like Iyovi in Kilosa District, advocating for better infrastructure to improve monitoring.

AfDB grants €80m to upgrade road infrastructure in Tunisia

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN Development Bank has provided a loan of over €80 million to upgrade road infrastructure in seven of the country's governorates

Completion of the project will improve user mobility on 188.9 kilometres of Tunisia's classified road network by reducing transport constraints linked to the narrow gauge and ageing of road surfaces in the country's seven governorates.

The African Development Bank has granted Tunisia a loan of €80.16 million to implement the next phase of the country's road improvement scheme.

The project for Phase 3 of the Road Infrastructure Modernisation Programme carries a total cost of €86.21 million euros and is being co-financed by the loan of €80.16 million from the Bank. This covers 92.98 percent of the total cost of the project with a supporting contribution of €6.05 million from the Tunisian government. The Bank's participation was approved by the Board of Directors on 9 December last year.


The plan aims to upgrade 188.9 km of classified roads in seven governorates: Kef, Kasserine, Sousse, Sfax, Kairouan, Siliana and Gafsa, where substantial economic potential remains unrealised due to transport constraints largely as a result of the poor condition of roads.

The Bank's intervention will help to improve the quality of Tunisia's road network and conditions for road users in the target areas. It will help to create an efficient and sustainable transport system, which can support growth and create favourable conditions for the movement of goods and people in and between Tunisia's regions.

The transport sector plays an important role in the Tunisian economy, accounting for about five percent of GDP and providing 160,000 jobs, directly and indirectly. The project, which will run from 2025 to 2030, is a continuation of two earlier phases of the Road Infrastructure Modernization Programme.

Solomon Quaynor, Bank Vice President with responsibility for the Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialisation, commented:

"Over the past 10 years, the African Development Bank has helped to renovate and modernize some 4,000 kilometres of roads and 104 kilometres of motorways, as well as creating various associated facilities in Tunisia. This work has greatly improved the level of service provided by the road network, making various routes more convenient by the installation of bridges, and facilitating access to regions and to their socio-economic potential."



MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY AND FISHERIES ZANZIBAR



61 YEARS OF ZANZIBAR REVOLUTION 1964 - 2025

Management and all Staff of **MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY AND FISHERIES ZANZIBAR** join His Excellency **Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi** President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and Her Excellency **Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan**, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania in Commemorating 61 years of the Zanzibar Revolution.



Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi
President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary council

CONTACTS
Zura Building, Ground Floor Maisara, Zanzibar
Phone: +255 24 2941195 / +255 24 2941197, Email address: info@blueeconomismz.go.tz



Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila, (front) leading other leaders at the weekend to clean various areas of the City of Dar es Salaam before the arrival of the African presidents at the energy conference which is expected to be held soon. Photo by Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Missenyi District sets aside 5bn/- for its market project

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast

MISSENYI District Council in Kagera Region is set to build a modern market centre for 5bn/-.

Council chairperson Projectus Tegamaisho unveiled this over the weekend during the council's. He said 1.7bn/- has already been secured for the project.

He also explained that the project is the market's economic potential for the community and district, urging residents to prepare for its implementation.

Shedrack Wellin Willilo, Executive Director of Stet International (T) Ltd., presented the feasibility study and market design to the councilors.

The market is envisioned as a modern hub for the East African region, featuring over 300 shops, restaurants, banks, bars, parking facilities, daladala (minibus) terminal, and essential infrastructure. It is expected to boost entrepreneurship, attract traders from across the region, and enhance local business

opportunities.

Tegamaisho instructed relevant experts to begin construction promptly, with a two-year timeline for completion. He also encouraged residents to increase local production and highlighted the successful poultry project in Kyenjebu, Bunazi, where chickens are sold for 30,000/- each.

The planned market will replace the current dilapidated structure at Bunazi centre, aiming to attract traders and bolster the local economy. Missenyi District is renowned for agricultural products such as coffee, bananas, maize, cassava, and sugarcane, and the new market is poised to improve livelihoods if business taxes remain fair.

The council plan aligns with the directive by the Home Affairs Minister Innocent Bashungwa, who in December instructed police and road agencies to remove improperly installed barriers that compromise road safety and hinder mobility.

Specialist doctors to offer free medical services for five days

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DAR ES SALAAM Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila has announced a five-day medical camp, featuring President Samia Suluhu Hassan's specialist doctors.

The camp will be held at Temeke Regional Referral Hospital starting today.

Chalamila made the announcement over the weekend during a press briefing, stating that the camp is expected to benefit hundreds of residents in Dar es Salaam.

The specialist services available during the camp will cover internal diseases, eye care, ENT (ears, nose, and throat), oral and dental care, women's and maternity services, pediatric care, surgery, orthopedics, mental health, dermatology, and more.

The RC added that the services will be provided by specialist doctors from various hospitals across Tanzania.

In addition to consultations, the camp will offer diagnostic services including CT scans, 4D ultrasounds, X-rays, gastrointestinal exams, and laboratory tests tailored to individual needs.

Chalamila emphasised that the camp is part of the government's initiative, through the Ministry of Health, to improve access to specialised health-care and ensure that every Tanzanian receives high-quality services at affordable cost.

"I encourage the residents of Dar es Salaam to take full advantage of this opportunity and seek consultations with specialist doctors available from morning to evening over the next five days," he said.

Sudan's new banknotes uplift war against rebels

KHARTOUM

THE Sudanese government's move to introduce new banknotes and compel people to open bank accounts has boosted bank deposit in turn supporting the army's war effort, finance minister Jibril Ibrahim said. The initiative, launched in December, explicitly aimed to make funds looted by the Rapid Support Forces worthless.

Critics say it has excluded millions from the financial system.

But Ibrahim says it has been a success.

"Exchanging banknotes has various goals, one of which is making sure that the stolen money which is accumulated by some entities has no value if it enters the banking system. If they attempted to do so, we will discover them because we ask about the sources of money if there are any suspicions. As a

result, it will no longer be effective after the exchange process deadline ends."

Unlike in previous currency exchanges, in order to receive new pound notes people have to deposit their old notes.


They are then allowed to withdraw limited amounts daily.

The RSF has called the move illegal and says it's one of the reasons it decided to form a parallel government.

Critics say that has rendered millions of people's savings worthless in RSF-controlled areas and deepened Sudan's divide.

In Port Sudan, some residents have protested over the new banknotes.

Traders say the process has dampened sales as many people still lack identification papers needed to open a bank account while more lack smart phones for online transfers.



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
REGULATORY AUTHORITY
(EWURA)

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Issued under Section 19 of the EWURA Act, Cap. 414)


Notice is hereby issued to the public that the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has received an application for a Provisional Electricity Generation License from Tanzania Tooku Garments Company Ltd. EWURA invites the public to provide comments or objections to the application. Details of the Applicant, plant and the type of license applied are given hereunder: -

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Name and Address of the Applicant	Tanzania Tooku Garments Company Limited P. O. Box 12112, Ubungo, Dar es salaam.
Location of Plant	Plot No. 22 & 23 Makuburi, Ubungo, Dar es salaam.
Details of Shareholders	Ji Yao, P.O Box 12112, Dar es Salaam, 100%
Description of the Facility	Solar Power Plant with an installed capacity of 3 MW. Electricity generated shall be for own-use.
Type and Duration of the Licence	Provisional Electricity Generation License Own Use for a duration of Five (5) Years

Any person with comment or objection may submit in writing to EWURA within twenty-one (21) days from the date of this notice. The application documents can be viewed upon written request.

Issued by: -
Director General
06 January 2025

Jengo la EWURA, 3 Mtaa wa EWURA, 41104 Tambukareli, S.L.P. 2857, Dodoma, Tanzania
Simu: +255 26 2329002 - 4 • Nukushi: +255 26 2329005 • Barua Pepe: info@ewura.go.tz



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
REGULATORY AUTHORITY
(EWURA)

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Issued under section 126 of the Petroleum Act, 2015 and Rule 6(1) of the Petroleum (Natural Gas) (Transmission and Distribution Activities Rules, GN No. 176 of 2018)

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that, EWURA has received an application from **Tanzania Petroleum Development Cooperation (TPDC)** seeking **Construction Approval** for the construction of a natural gas supply line of about 155m from the existing Ubungo - Mikocheni Natural Gas Distribution pipeline. The proposed pipeline will cross Sam Nujoma Road to connect the CNG Mother Station for TAQA Dalbit Tanzania Limited at Ubungo Municipality, Dar Es Salaam Region.


Any person who wishes to make any representations should do so in writing and submit to EWURA within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of the notice and the comments and representations shall be considered by the Authority in deciding on the application.

All representations or objections should be addressed to the address below.

EWURA House, 3 EWURA Street, 41104 Tambukareli
P.O Box 2857, Dodoma
Tel: +255-26 2329003-3; Fax: +255-26 2329005;
Toll-Free 0800110030
Email: info@ewura.go.tz Website: www.ewura.go.tz

Issued by:
Director General
EWURA

Jengo la EWURA, 3 Mtaa wa EWURA, 41104 Tambukareli, S.L.P. 2857, Dodoma, Tanzania
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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
REGULATORY AUTHORITY
(EWURA)

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Issued under Section 126 of the Petroleum Act, Cap. 392 and Rule 4 (1&2b)) of the Petroleum (Natural Gas) (Transmission and Distribution Activities) Rules, 2018

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that, EWURA has received an application from Pan African Energy Tanzania Limited seeking **Construction Approval** for the construction of eight hundred seventy (870) meter natural gas distribution line from existing Natural Gas Distribution Line along Nyerere Road to Victoria Service Station located within Kipawa/Vingunguti Industrial Area Junction, Plot No.112, along Nyerere Road, Ilala Municipality, Dar es Salaam Region.


Any person who wishes to make any representations should do so in writing and submit to EWURA within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of the notice and the comments and representations shall be considered by the Authority in deciding on the application.

All representations or objections should be addressed to the address below.

EWURA House, 3 EWURA Street, 41104 Tambukareli
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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
REGULATORY AUTHORITY
(EWURA)

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Issued under Section 19 of the EWURA Act, Cap. 414)

Notice is hereby issued to the public that the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has received an application for a Provisional Electricity Generation License from Luponde Hydro Ltd. EWURA invites the public to provide comments or objections to the application. Details of the Applicant, plant and the type of license applied are given hereunder: -

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Name and Address of the Applicant	Luponde Hydro Ltd, P. O. Box 555, Mufindi, Iringa.
Location of Plant	Plot No. 43868 - MBYLR, Uliwa, Njombe Urban area
Details of Shareholders	1. Rift Valley Energy Tanzania Ltd, Po Box 555, Mafinga, Iringa, 99.9% 2. Meridiam Africa Investments 2 4 Place de L'Opera, 75002, Paris, France, 0.1%
Description of the Facility	The power plant will possess a hydro turbine with an installed capacity of 2 MW. Water is a source of fuel for Manufacturing.
Type and Duration of the Licence	Provisional Electricity Generation License for Three (3) Years

Any person with comment or objection may submit in writing to EWURA within twenty-one (21) days from the date of this notice. The application documents can be viewed upon written request.

Issued by: -
Director General
03 January 2025

Jengo la EWURA, 3 Mtaa wa EWURA, 41104 Tambukareli, S.L.P. 2857, Dodoma, Tanzania
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MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2025

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

Current modality of investment attraction closing in on its nadir

HERE is something abundantly familiar with expressions that the government has set a target of enlisting 1,500 investment projects worth \$15bn/- by December this year. Listening to Minister for Planning and Investment Prof Kitila Mkumbo, the key issue is to improve business environment, with some key steps being infrastructure development in special economic zones. The SEZ initiative dates back to over 20 years ago, and global conditions have shifted from realities of that period. It is unclear if policy has been updated.

Officials are for instance bent on the Bagamoyo Special Economic Zone, seen as a complement to the standard gauge railway in the focus on transit trade and a regional investment outlook generally. Yet these projections need to be recast in a situation where new corridors are being opened in the region, with the Angola-Zambia railway likely to take some of the shine from current projections on the central corridor. It seems the Tazara railway as an extension of that infrastructure layout, where an online write-up says the planned Lobito spur extends to Zambia and stops at Chingola, about 180km from the Tazara terminus at New Kapiri Mposhi. It is a comprehensive plan.

The spur links with existing Zambia Railways (ZR) facilities, thus the Lobito-Dar es Salaam Railway becomes an amalgam for the unified use of the facility, described as a planned narrow gauge railway line that connects the Angolan port city of Lobito to the Tanzanian port city of Dar es Salaam. What this implies is that the port of Dar es Salaam and indeed Tanzania as a whole is one among investment focus points, as the region and global realities change.

One aspect to the planning on for-

eign investment flows is the issue of the targeted market, in the fact that the setting and planning modality as well as the targeted infrastructure looks too similar to projections dating back to the first years of the past decade. It was a take up of export oriented growth strategies that were useful for South East Asia in the 1970s and 1980s while Africa was largely crushed by inward looking, public sector dominated economies. This outlook is only partially valid for produce that the US and Western markets - as well as South Asia and the Far East to an extent - need from us. Regional exports are likely to be limited, where our strength is in grain; market mechanisms are being replaced by state exports.

There are also two components of the planning outlook that aren't easy to reconcile, except perhaps in terms of project numbers rather than their values. The minister said the government is keen on promoting domestic investment, wishing that 50 percent of all investment projects arise from within the country. Nor is the effort to enhance capacity at regional administrative secretariats to improve the investment environment totally helpful as the key element is taxes, centrally controlled, and local governments are routinely pushed to seek out internal revenue sources, often a user nuisance.

The point here is that the planners aren't apparently distinguishing between optimal strategies for local market investment and export markets, nor indeed distinguish between regional markets and inter-continental outlets. As the key targeted area is manufacturing, here it needs that a growing local market be envisaged rather than exports as most countries seek to optimize investments in industries for local needs.

CHRAGG concern vital; killings not part of drug enforcement law

INCIDENTS where law enforcement is being linked with the deaths of individuals under arrest are being heard again, and as in the past, an effort is being made by the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) both on the Mainland and in Zanzibar make to delve into the situation. As a state agency, the commission has the task of training the light on what really happened, and then to provide a legal case for institutional action. It can't act on other state agencies but it can help in building up collective will to act, as state agencies can't impose own laws.

The matter at hand is the need for investigating recent deaths of two individuals in Pemba North Region, where the Zanzibar wing of the commission has expressed sorrow over their deaths, both male, one aged 75 and the other 28. The deaths were reported as having taken place last month, to which the commission said in a statement towards the end of last week that the deaths constitute a violation of the right to life as outlined in Article 14 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (1977) and Section 13(2) of the Zanzibar Constitution (1984). Clearly, law organs know all of this?

What some hardline officials in some law enforcement agencies may not realise is why it is important to uphold, not undermine, efforts of the Zanzibar and Union authorities to enhance security, peace and the safety of people and their properties. Some people don't realise that in conducting shocking wrongdoing, they remove faith in

public institutions among a section of the public. Routine contempt for the 'small people' gives some officials the belief that everything will always remain the same, whereas wisdom says peace is nurtured...

The basic facts that push investigations on the basis of the statement are fairly well known, that the two were initially taken by officers of the Zanzibar Drug Control Authority alive and well, on suspicion of involvement in bicycle theft and cannabis use. Surprisingly, they were dead the following day, which the commission says the deaths constitute inhuman treatment, a clear constitutional violation. The murders represent a breach of the right to freedom and the right to live as a free person, equally reprehensible as constitutional breaches.

As the murders violate the principle of good governance, particularly the rule of law, the commission expressed its commitment to conducting an investigation into the sordid incident, as part of efforts to uphold good governance and the rule of law.

The lingering question is the level of sympathy that public institutions, law enforcement agencies in particular, will have on these efforts; they look over the shoulder and notice plenty of approval for hardline techniques. Then death follows as an unfortunate outcome of methods that the law allows, what the Law of Evidence (1967) described as 'confession to a policeman,' by whatever methods that will be used. At times it is evident witness elimination occurs when enforcers see it fit to do so.

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Nigeria opposes use of foreign mercenaries to battle banditry

BySpecial Correspondent

THE Nigerian government, yesterday, ruled out the possibility of engaging foreign mercenaries in the fight against insurgency, banditry, and other security challenges facing the country.

The government said it did not believe such foreign forces held out any hope of solving the myriad security problems different parts of the country had been contending with.

It, however, indicated interest in working with China to domesticate production of military equipment to avoid delays involved in the procurement of the equipment from foreign countries.

President Bola Tinubu made the comments recently while receiving the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi, at State House, Abuja.

A release issued by the president's Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, said Tinubu called on the government of the People's Republic of China to increase the \$2 billion currency swap agreement between Nigeria and China to enhance trade between the two countries.

He said increasing the level of currency swap would speed up infrastructure development in Nigeria and deepen the strategic bilateral relations.

The president also called for an upward review of the \$50 billion aid package for Africa, which China's President Xi Jinping announced last year.

China and Nigeria recently renewed their currency swap agreement, valued at 15 billion yuan (approximately \$2 billion), to enhance trade and investment.

"We still demand more in the area of currency swap. The level you have approved as a government for Nigeria is inadequate considering our programme. If you can increase that, it will be well appreciated. Our bond should grow stronger and become unbreakable," he said.

Regarding the \$50 billion pledged by the Chinese government to support Africa, the Nigerian president stated that the continent's infrastructural needs would require more commitment. He urged a review of the amount to reflect the continent's reality.

Tinubu told the visiting minister, "I am happy you are part of China's highest decision-making body. We will want you to use your position to influence improved project funding."

"First, I say yes to the \$50 billion support, and thank you for contributing to African growth. The infrastructural needs of Africa are greater than that, and we want to move as rapidly as our other counterparts."

"All share your vision of rapid development. Africa values the relationship with China, and we seek deeper collaboration for infrastructural development."

While calling on China to support Nigeria's bid for Permanent Seat in the United Nations Security Council, the president said, "You are a member of the UN Security Council. We want you to use your influence to ensure Nigeria secures the seat."

Tinubu thanked Jinping for his warm reception during his visit to China last year, and said Africa, particularly Nigeria, was prepared to meet development goals and contribute counterpart project funding.

According to Nigerian president, "We are ready to move and reach the various developmental goals. Due to our deliberation, we signed many MOUs and planned many action programmes."

"My visit during FOCAC was a good experience. We signed several comprehensive MOUs during the visit. We planned several programmes of action."

"As a result of that deliberation, I made sure that immediately after I returned, I appointed one of the best brains available to coordinate Nigeria-China relations, Mr Joseph Tegbe. He will work to actualise various MOUs and promote a greater understanding of developmental pro-

grammes.

"It is good that you came at such a critical time. My visit to China was a good experience. Once again, accept my sympathy for the earthquake in Tibet. It was a natural disaster that nobody expected. We commend your government for the rapid reaction to protect lives."

Foreign affairs minister, Yusuf Tuggar, said while briefing newsmen at State House, in company with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, that private military companies, no matter where they were coming from, were not the solution to Nigeria's security challenges.

Tuggar said, "Private military companies, as far as we are concerned, it doesn't matter whether they're from north, south, east, west. We don't think it is going to provide the panacea. But when you work with us, then we're able to lead others in solving the problem."

"Also, we want to work with countries like China in domesticating production of military equipment, both kinetic and non-kinetic. This is what we're looking for, so that we don't have to go out looking to procure because of the delays and so many rules and regulations, we need to be able to produce locally."

"Nigeria has consistently proved effective in leading other countries in our region, and I would even say, on the continent at large, in addressing challenges to peace and security, and we do this whenever we partner other countries and have their support, including major powers that are outside of our region, outside of Africa, and we appreciate that sort of approach."

"And this is why we work well with countries like China. Where we have a problem is whenever Nigeria is left out of such arrangements, it becomes more challenging."

"It's not just a one-off thing. It's not a fluke. It is because of Nigeria's place and position on the continent and in our region, and that's why we take a firm

stand and say, let us work together towards solving our problems by ourselves. Let us shun this idea of allowing others to come in to solve our problems for us."

The minister added, "Nigeria is a very responsible country working with the constitution, and that's why, and we've never had any expansionist tendencies, which is why others repose so much confidence in us and in our leadership."

"We will continue to work with countries such as China in addressing these challenges and rely on countries such as China, also, to work with us towards ensuring that private military companies' outside interference remains outside."

Welcoming the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tuggar said the visit was building on the gains of the Forum on China, Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) that took place in September 2024 and, importantly, Tinubu's state visit to China, which was widely adjudged very successful.

He said the Chinese minister's discussion with Tinubu centred on mutual economic and political interests, and the Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) that were signed in numerous areas, like energy, communications, agriculture, finance, transportation, infrastructure and petrochemicals.

In his speech, Yi thanked Tinubu for appointing a Director General and Global Liaison on Nigeria-China Strategic Partnership, to oversee the implementation of the MOUs for the rapid development of the Nigerian economy.

"I would like to thank Nigeria for abiding by the One-China principle, and we will continue to support Nigeria in achieving the Renewed Hope Agenda, countering terrorism and ensuring regional security," he said.

Yi said Chinese investments in the country would focus on employment generation and infrastructure development. He added that the Chinese National Development Bank had started funding some development projects.

Yi said the Chinese government would support an African country in the UN Security Council, saying, "It was a historical injustice by the world that should be corrected."

"We stand with Africa, and we will not support a country that invades another country."

The foreign minister said China would welcome Nigeria's membership in the BRICS and participation in the global development mechanism.

He also said China fully supported Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), for a second term in office.

The minister lauded Tinubu for his visionary leadership and consistency in projecting Africa's needs, which required China's support.

He stated, "You brought Renewed Hope to the people of Nigeria. Your economy has sustained sound momentum, and Nigeria's global influence has steadily increased."

"Nigeria has played an important role in upholding regional peace and has become an important force for African stability."

"We congratulate Nigeria on its achievements and believe that, under your leadership, Nigeria will realise greater achievements."

During his interaction with Tuggar, Yi, who spoke through an interpreter, said through the strategic planning of Jinping and Tinubu, China-Nigeria relations had achieved three major outcomes.

Yi stated, "First, we have achieved a new leap in the characterisation of our relations, our two presidents jointly announced the elevation of China-Nigeria relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership."

"Second, we have worked together to establish a new platform. The first plenary session of the Intergovernmental Committee between China and Nigeria has been successfully held, contributing to the elevation in quality of our cooperation."

"Third, our cooperation at the international arena has reached new heights. Our two sides have coordinated closely in international and regional affairs and worked together for the collective rise, development and vitalisation of the Global South."

Transforming education: Pre-Form One tuition as a tool for inclusive and collaborative learning

By Adonis Byemelwa

DURING December school holidays, many students transitioning from primary to secondary school in Tanzania engage in pre-Form One tuition. This practice prepares them for the academic challenges ahead, with some students mastering topics their peers will only encounter in the classroom.

These students often arrive at secondary school confident and eager, raising hands quickly and answering questions with ease. Their enthusiasm, however, can sometimes create a gap between them and their classmates, especially those encountering these subjects for the first time.

Teachers play a pivotal role in nurturing such potential. Recognizing and rewarding effort, rather than stifling curiosity, is crucial. Encouraging these students positively, while maintaining balance, helps foster a healthy learning environment. Teachers should motivate advanced learners without alienating others, creating a classroom dynamic where every student thrives.

Education is a two-way process where teachers stimulate learning rather than simply delivering information. In today's tech-driven world, students often have access to extensive knowledge through the internet.

It's not uncommon for them to encounter information beyond the teacher's lesson plan. This requires educators to embrace humility and adaptability, facilitating discussions that value diverse viewpoints.

Challenges arise when students who attend tuition feel overconfident. They might struggle to remain attentive during lessons, comparing classroom content with what they've already learned outside school.

This can disrupt learning dynamics and undermine discipline. To address this, teachers must balance nurturing student potential while instilling the value of patience and respect for the classroom structure.

A modern educator should not act as the sole authority in the learning space. Instead, they should encourage open dialogue and collaborative knowledge-building. Rather than a preacher delivering rigid truths, a teacher should inspire students to explore, question, and grow.

However, in many schools and colleges, the reality differs. Students who excel or think critically often face resistance. Dismissive remarks like, "You think you know it all because of tuition?" or "Wait until the exam; you'll see," can crush a student's enthusiasm. These comments, far from constructive, often force students to suppress their curiosity and conform to rote learning patterns.

The issue is not confined to lower education levels. At universities, some lecturers penalize students for deviating from rigid academic conventions, even when their alternative approaches are valid.

This stifles innovation and reduces academic work to mechanical repetition. Thesis writing, for instance, often prioritizes adherence to format over original thought, discouraging exploration and creativity.

The role of teachers becomes crucial in this context. They must foster an environment where the more advanced students feel encouraged without alienating or demotivating others.

Lev Vygotsky's idea of the Zone of Proximal Development highlights how learning thrives through collaboration between students and teachers. His approach involves allowing students to share their understanding, explore areas they wish to learn more about and reflect on

what they've gained. A classroom where ideas are exchanged freely rather than dictated becomes a space where every student benefits.

This method echoes Paulo Freire's belief that teaching should involve dialogue rather than hierarchy. Freire's approach could transform learning environments in Tanzanian schools, where resources are often limited.

Instead of teachers dictating facts, they could encourage students to work in groups, debate ideas, and share their experiences. In rural areas, where teachers frequently face large class sizes and limited teaching aids, such practices are already taking root.

A teacher in Kigoma, for instance, encouraged students to split into teams to solve math problems when only a single textbook was available. The students debated solutions and arrived at answers collectively, showing that collaboration can flourish even in resource-strapped conditions.

John Dewey's philosophy reinforces this idea, emphasizing that education should stem from experience. Practical learning, particularly in underprivileged schools, bridges the gap created by resource shortages.

A teacher in Mwanza led a Biology lesson by exploring nearby plants with her students, encouraging them to observe and hypothesize about their characteristics. This approach not only made the lesson more engaging but also allowed students to connect classroom theories to real-world observations.

Jean Lave and Etienne Wenger's concept of "communities of practice" similarly underscores the value of shared learning. When students collaborate, they learn not just from their teacher but also from each other's insights.

In one Dar es Salaam classroom, students with varying levels of understanding worked together to decode Shakespearean passages, combining interpretations and building a collective understanding. Such activities highlight how mutual support deepens learning, particularly when resources like books are scarce.

Sugata Mitra's groundbreaking experiments further underline the power of curiosity-driven learning. His "Hole in the Wall" project demonstrated how children could teach themselves and each other when given access to even minimal resources.

In a Tanzanian school outside Dodoma, where only a single computer was available, a teacher applied Mitra's principles by letting students take turns exploring its functions. Through trial, and error, and shared discovery, they gained skills far beyond what the teacher initially anticipated, exemplifying how curiosity fuels education.

Yet, challenges remain. Students who attend tuition classes often face criticism rather than encouragement. Teachers, either out of frustration or a desire to maintain control, may dismiss their enthusiasm. Phrases like, "You only know this because of tuition," or "Stop being disruptive," are common, stifling the confidence of students eager to engage.

This problem extends to universities, where rigid adherence to academic norms can discourage creativity. Students report being penalized not for inaccuracy but for presenting ideas in ways that deviate from their lecturers' preferences. This system of suppressing originality and prioritizing conformity undermines education's role in nurturing critical thinking and innovation.

Nelson Mandela's famous declaration that "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" rings true only when students are encouraged to think inde-



A modern educator should not act as the sole authority in the learning space

pendently and contribute meaningfully.

Tanzanian classrooms, whether in urban centers or remote villages, can become spaces for shared knowledge

and mutual respect. This means moving away from the traditional lecture model, where teachers dominate the conversation, and toward a more inclusive, dialogic ap-

proach.

In a bustling Arusha classroom with more than fifty students and limited textbooks, a teacher implemented this strategy.

Dividing students into small groups, she assigned each topic to research and present. Using their environment and existing knowledge, students crafted presentations and de-

bated ideas. The result was a dynamic exchange that not only boosted engagement but also deepened understanding, proving that collaborative teaching can overcome resource barriers.

The success of these methods depends on teachers' willingness to see themselves as facilitators rather than sole authorities. A student in Tanga recounted how a teacher's simple question—"Why do you think this answer is correct?"—sparked a classroom discussion that reshaped his understanding of Physics. Encouraging students to justify their answers and explore alternative explanations transforms classrooms into spaces of mutual growth.

Vygotsky, Freire, Dewey, Lave, Wenger, and Mitra all offer insights into making education more interactive and empowering. These ideas are not theoretical luxuries but practical necessities for Tanzania's under-resourced schools.

ZPC: The Gateway to Trade and Economic Growth in Zanzibar

Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) is the authority responsible for managing, developing, and operating ports and maritime services in Zanzibar. Located at the heart of East Africa, Zanzibar's ports play a critical role in facilitating international trade, regional integration, and economic growth.

ZPC oversees all aspects of port activities, including cargo handling, transportation logistics, customs procedures, and infrastructure development. As a key stakeholder in the region's maritime sector, ZPC strives to ensure efficient and secure port services, supporting commerce in Zanzibar, Tanzania, and beyond.

Equipped with modern facilities and skilled personnel, the corporation is committed to enhancing operational efficiency, streamlining trade flows, and positioning Zanzibar as a competitive hub for maritime trade in the Indian Ocean region.

Celebrating 61 Years of Zanzibar's Revolution

As Zanzibar celebrates its 61st Revolution Anniversary, ZPC proudly reflects on its significant achievements, driven by government investment, international collaboration, and the dedication of its workforce. The port has remained a vital pillar of Zanzibar's economy, fostering trade, investment, and sustainable development.

In honor of this milestone, ZPC's Director General, Akif Ali Khamis, highlighted major

accomplishments, including the construction of Shumba Mjini Port in Micheweni District, Pemba. Hamis noted that the foundation stone ceremony, held on 8 January year, was officiated by the Second Vice President of Zanzibar, Honorable Hemed Suleiman Abdullah.

According to Khamis, the construction of this port aligns with the implementation of the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) manifesto, aiming to strengthen transportation and logistics infrastructure in Zanzibar.

"Shumba Mjini Port is expected to be a significant economic catalyst for Pemba Island, facilitating the transport of goods and services while unlocking greater opportunities for trade and investment," said Khamis.

The construction aims to enhance port services through modern infrastructure that supports efficient cargo handling, reducing transportation costs and boosting the competitiveness of Pemba's products in local and international markets.

Driving Economic Growth Through Infrastructure The Zanzibar government has demonstrated its commitment to advancing the transportation sector by constructing new ports and upgrading existing ones. This strategy is intended to stimulate economic growth and improve citizens' livelihoods. The Shumba Mjini Port project marks a critical step in this direction, promising substantial benefits for the residents of Pemba and Zanzibar as a whole.

Khamis also highlighted the government's prioritization of port development as the main gateway for trade. Significant steps include the expansion of Malindi Port, the construction of smaller ports in Mkoani and Wete, and improvements in container storage systems to enhance efficiency.

Facilitating Trade and Investment

ZPC has been instrumental in boosting trade and the economy of Zanzibar by serving as a vital link between the islands and international markets. The export of agricultural products such as cloves, seaweed, and spices has significantly contributed to the national income.

"Moreover, ZPC has become a gateway for importing a wide range of goods, including construction materials, vehicles, and daily essentials, benefiting Zanzibar's residents and promoting investment. Enhanced port services have attracted both local and international investors," Khamis added.

Innovations and Modernization

ZPC has successfully upgraded customer services by implementing modern port management systems to enhance efficiency and provide 24-hour services, reducing customer waiting times.

The corporation has also embraced technological innovation, introducing electronic systems for cargo tracking and payment processes, which have minimized bureaucracy and increased

transparency.

Global Partnerships

In collaboration with international entities, ZPC has secured agreements to improve port infrastructure and services, attracting foreign investment. One notable partnership is with France-based AGL, which has contributed to port management and modernization, significantly boosting efficiency.

Workforce Development

ZPC has invested in staff training to equip its workforce with the skills needed to handle new technologies and deliver better customer service. These training programs have enhanced employee skills and morale, improving overall performance. As Zanzibar continues to celebrate its revolutionary history, ZPC remains steadfast in its mission to support economic growth and foster sustainable development through strategic port management and modernization.



Director General of the Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC), Akif Ali Khamis



ZANZIBAR PORTS CORPORATION (ZPC)



ZANZIBAR REVOLUTION

Board of Directors, management and all staff of the Zanzibar Ports Corporation join His Excellency **Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi** the President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council in Commemorating 61 years of the Zanzibar Revolution



His Excellency **Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi**
The President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary

"PORT FOR BLUE ECONOMY FOR ZANZIBAR PROGRESS."

By Special Correspondents

AIKO Ohno dives down in the cool waters off Japan's Ise-Shima National Park, scanning the rocky seabed for urchins and turban shells. Three meters deep, she swims with ease without an oxygen tank, using just her goggles, fins, a weight belt and a sukari, a mesh net that's attached to a floating ring.

"I just love the sea and being in the water," she says after resurfacing.

Ohno is an ama diver, or a "sea woman" as they are known in Japan. For centuries, these traditional fisherwomen have lived off the riches of the waters around the Ise-Shima region, collecting seafood to sell at the market.

"We coexist with nature – not catching too much, and being conscious of protecting it. It's a tradition that's been passed down for thousands of years," says Ohno, who moved here nine years ago from Tokyo to be an ama diver.

Today, the Pacific Ocean is a little choppy – the remnants of a late-season typhoon – so Ohno and her crew of freedivers don't stay in the water for long. But they don't need to – within 10 minutes their nets begin to fill.

Age is no barrier here. At 46, Ohno is one of the youngest in her group – the oldest diving today is 74.

Once a thriving industry, only about 2,000 ama divers remain in Japan now, according to estimates. Most of them are found in this idyllic region.

"The older divers still come here every day with a smile on their faces. I've learned that maybe that's what gives them what we call ikigai, or a reason to live," says Ohno.

"Nowadays, very few of the amas' daughters become divers themselves, so I will likely be the only one in my generation to take over. But it's something I love."

Here in Ise-Shima, you can meet some of these living legends. Across the region, a handful of amagoya, or diver huts, dot remote beaches, with some allowing visitors to learn about the ama culture and taste their latest catch.

Found on the eastern tip of Mie prefecture, Ise-Shima is a region where ancient traditions, spirituality and the great outdoors collide. Where lush mountains make way for sprawling coastlines, protected inlets and remote islands. And



Japan's last 'Ama' sea women

'Sea women' and holy falls: Exploring one of Japan's most stunning secrets

where life moves at a slower pace – just how the locals like it.

Far from the buzz of major centers like Tokyo and Osaka, which are experiencing record visitor numbers, Ise-Shima is relatively untouched.

Though this place has been a popular pilgrimage destination for locals for centuries, when it comes to international tourism it remains one of Japan's best-kept secrets.

Pilgrimage to the 'soul of Japan' Since the Edo period (between 1603 and 1868), pilgrims have come to this region to visit Japan's most sacred Shinto shrine.

Ise Jingu is the ancient epicenter of Shinto spirituality. Made up of 125 shrines, this sprawling complex is home to the Naiku and Geko shrines – known as the soul of Japan.

Each year, millions of visitors come to pray to the sun deity,

Amaterasu Omikami, and to soak up the area's natural beauty. Here, centuries-old Japanese cedars and cypress trees tower over the structures. Visiting this serene place of worship, located in Ise City, is considered a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many in Japan.

Ise Jingu is also the gateway to the vast Ise-Shima National Park.

Stretching 55,500 hectares in size from the mountains to the sea – or about the size of France – this region's access to nature makes it a perfect location to enjoy an outdoor escape.

An ancient waterfall meditation ritual

About a 30-minute drive from Ise Jingu, nestled in the lush mountains of Toba, sits the sacred Shirataki Falls.

Here, visitors can experience a centuries-old Buddhist ritual called

takigyo, or waterfall meditation, which involves sitting under the rushing flows to help cleanse the body and spirit.

"This area has been a place of nature worship for 1,300 years, where people purify themselves with the water," says Shigeki Matsumoto, the Shirataki Daimyojin Shrine Association's chairman, as he walks with us through the forest.

"The practice is said to wash away distractions and help you to find a positive manner in your life."

But the ritual is not for the faint-hearted or cold adverse. The Shirataki Daimyojin Shrine Association leads travelers to experience the full power of the frigid waters cascading off the mountain year-round, even in the depths of winter.

The exhilarating practice requires self-control and mindfulness, testing your body and mind, as CNN senior correspondent Will Ripley found

out. Travelers can warm up afterward in one of the many forest saunas downstream from the falls.

Those interested in giving it a try should book in advance with the Shirataki Daimyojin Shrine Association.

Get the heart pumping

An array of outdoor activities can be enjoyed in the Ise-Shima region, from hiking and cycling tours to ziplining and even skydiving.

One of the best ways to explore the area is on four wheels.

In the south of the national park, near Minamiise Town, lies a labyrinth of off-road trails just waiting to be explored by ATV.

Kosuke Nakanishi is a local Ise guide who has spent years taking guests off the beaten path on these buggies.

He takes us whizzing through

If people have intuitive knowledge of the values of different body parts, might this knowledge underpin laws about bodily damage across cultures and historical eras?

To test this hypothesis, we conducted a study involving 614 people from the United States and India. The participants read descriptions of various body parts, such as "one arm," "one foot," "the nose," "one eye" and "one molar tooth." We chose these body parts because they were featured in legal codes from five different cultures and historical periods that we studied: the Law of Æthelberht from Kent, England, in 600 C.E., the Guta lag from Gotland, Sweden, in 1220 C.E., and modern workers' compensation laws from the United States, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates.

Participants answered one question about each body part they were shown. We asked them how difficult it would be for them to function in daily life if they lost various body parts in an accident. Others we asked to imagine themselves as lawmakers and determine how much compensation an employee should receive if that person lost various body parts in a workplace accident. Still others we asked to estimate how angry another person would feel if the participant damaged various parts of the other's body. While these questions differ, they all rely on assessing the value of different body parts.

To determine whether untutored intuitions underpin laws, we didn't include people who had college training in medicine or law.

Then we analyzed whether the participants' intuitions matched the compensations established by law.

Our findings were striking. The values placed on body parts

by both laypeople and lawmakers were largely consistent. The more highly American laypeople tended to value a given body part, the more valuable this body part seemed also to Indian laypeople, to American, Korean and Emirati lawmakers, to King Æthelberht and to the authors of the Guta lag.

For example, laypeople and lawmakers across cultures and over centuries generally agree that the index finger is more valuable than the ring finger, and that one eye is more valuable than one ear.

But do people value body parts accurately, in a way that corresponds with their actual functionality? There are some hints that, yes, they do. For example, laypeople and lawmakers regard the loss of a single part as less severe than the loss of multiples of that part.

In addition, laypeople and lawmakers regard the loss of a part as less severe than the loss of the whole; the loss of a thumb is less severe than the loss of a hand, and the loss of a hand is less severe than the loss of an arm.

Additional evidence of accuracy can be gleaned from ancient laws. For example, linguist Lisi Oliver notes that in Barbarian Europe, "wounds that may cause permanent incapacitation or disability are fined higher than those which may eventually heal."

Although people generally agree in valuing some body parts more than others, some sensible differences may arise. For instance, sight would be more important for someone making a living as a hunter than as a shaman. The local environment and culture might also play a role. For example, upper body strength could be particularly important in violent areas, where one needs to defend oneself against attacks. These differences remain to be investigated.

Whether it be from a humble restaurant serving the daily catch to haute cuisine venues offering a little taste of luxury, there's no shortage of places to enjoy fresh seafood.

Perched on the edge of Ise-Shima National Park, Ran is a restaurant in the Oyado The Earth hotel serving guests a taste of the region as well as panoramic views of the Pacific.

Head chef Mototsugu Yamakawa specializes in Kaiseki, a meticulous style of dining that reflects the seasons of Japan.

For almost two decades he has prided himself on serving the freshest seafood from the peninsula, and sources produce from the ama divers when possible.

The restaurant's menu changes seasonally, with chef Yamakawa and his team creating edible art. Their current star dish? Black abalone stir-fried with kohlrabi.

"Japanese cuisine is a visual feast to be enjoyed with the eyes and a sense of the season. That's the best part of our cuisine," says the chef. "We want to offer our customers delicious food from here. The freshness is different when cooking with seafood straight from the sea, so it gives it a totally different flavor. As long as I'm here, I want to carry on protecting the ama tradition and nature."

But that's what makes this place so special. Travelers are rewarded with a different side of Japan – one of adventure, ancient traditions and endless beauty.

An eye for an eye: People agree on values of body parts across cultures and periods

By Special Correspondents

THE Bible's lex talionis – "Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot" (Exodus 21:24-27) – has captured the human imagination for millennia. This idea of fairness has been a model for ensuring justice when bodily harm is inflicted.

Thanks to the work of linguists, historians, archaeologists and anthropologists, researchers know a lot about how different body parts are appraised in societies both small and large, from ancient times to the present day.

But where did such laws originate?

According to one school of thought, laws are cultural constructions – meaning they vary across cultures and historical periods, adapting to local customs and social practices. By this logic, laws about bodily damage would differ substantially between cultures.

Our new study explored a different possibility – that laws about bodily damage are rooted in something universal about human nature: shared intuitions about the value of body parts.

Do people across cultures and throughout history agree on which body parts are more or less valuable? Until now, no one had systematically tested whether body parts are valued similarly across space, time and levels of legal expertise – that is, among laypeople versus lawmakers.

We are psychologists who



These values seem due more to shared intuitions than local customs or social practices.

study evaluative processes and social interactions. In previous research, we have identified regularities in how people evaluate different wrongful actions, personal characteristics, friends and foods. The body is perhaps a person's most valuable asset, and in this study we analyzed how people value its different parts. We investigated links between intuitions about the value of body parts and laws about bodily damage.

How critical is a body part or its function?

We began with a simple observation: Different body parts and functions have different effects on the odds that a person will survive and thrive. Life without a toe is a nuisance. But life without a head is impossible. Might people intuitively understand that different body parts have different values?

Knowing the value of body parts gives you an edge. For example, if you or a loved one has suffered multiple injuries, you could treat the most valuable body part

first, or allocate a greater share of limited resources to its treatment.

This knowledge could also play a role in negotiations when one person has injured another. When person A injures person B, B or B's family can claim compensation from A or A's family. This practice appears around the world: among the Mesopotamians, the Chinese during the Tang dynasty, the Enga of Papua New Guinea, the Nuer of Sudan, the Montenegrins and many others. The Anglo-Saxon word "wergild," meaning "man price," now designates in general the practice of paying for body parts.

But how much compensation is fair? Claiming too little leads to loss, while claiming too much risks retaliation. To walk the fine line between the two, victims would claim compensation in Goldilocks fashion: just right, based on the consensus value that victims, offenders and third parties in the community attach to the body part in question.

This Goldilocks principle is readily apparent in the exact proportionality of the lex talionis – "eye for eye, tooth for tooth." Other legal codes dictate precise values of different body parts but do so in money or other goods. For example, the Code of Ur-Nammu, written 4,100 years ago in ancient Nippur, present-day Iraq, states that a man must pay 40 shekels of silver if he cuts off another man's nose, but only 2 shekels if he knocks out another man's tooth.

Testing the idea across cultures and time

BEIJING

FOR 35 consecutive years, China's foreign ministers have made Africa the destination of their first overseas visit of the year, underscoring the deep, lasting and continually evolving friendship between China and Africa.

This gesture, with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi just concluding a four-nation Africa tour, speaks volumes about the profound bond between China and Africa, a relationship not defined by geography or culture, but by the enduring spirit of true friendship and common pursuit of modernization.

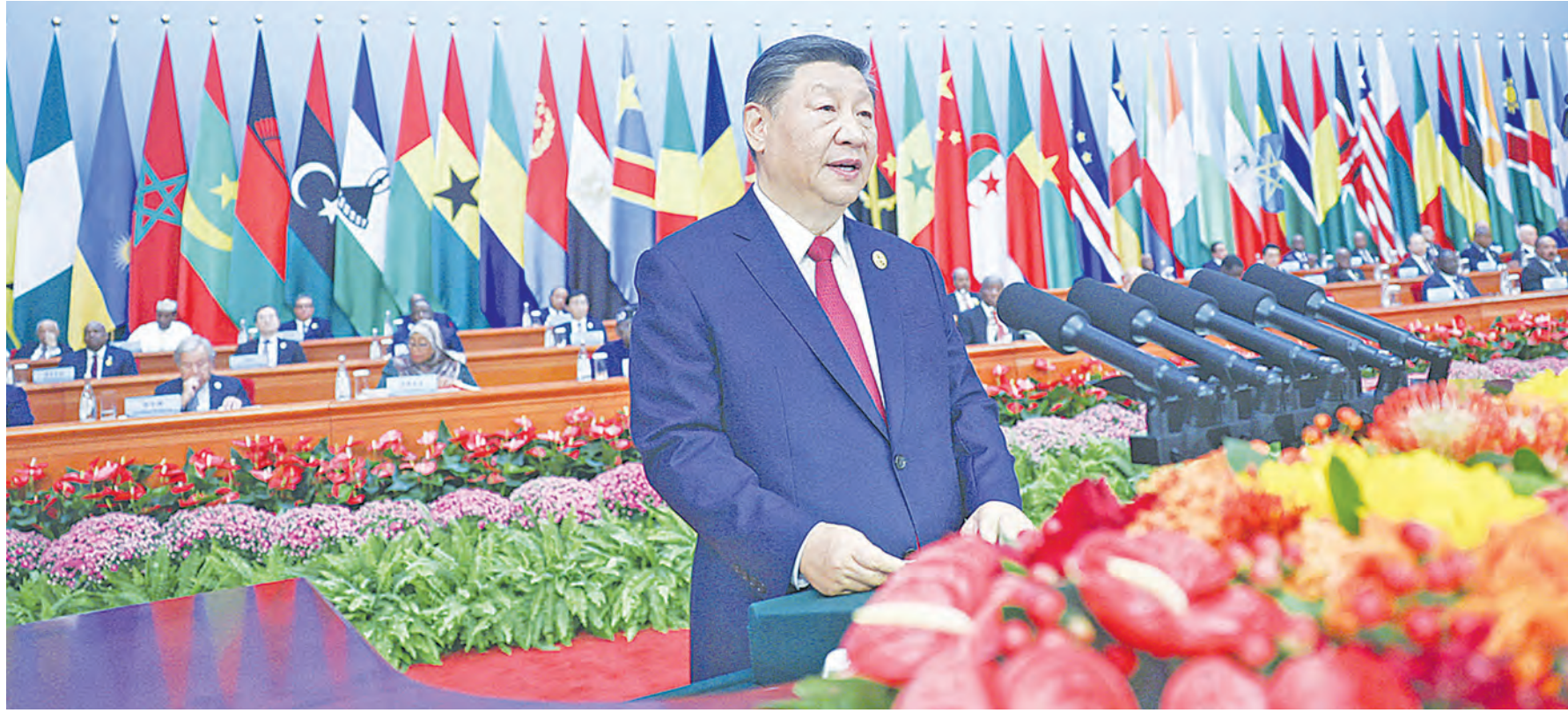
This strong friendship thrives on unwavering support and mutual respect for each other's core interests. Over 50 years ago, African nations championed the return of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, showcasing this enduring bond through their steadfast adherence to the one-China principle and resolute support of China's key concerns.

Meanwhile, China has steadfastly advocated for Africa on the global stage, being the first to support the African Union's membership in the G20. This not only elevates Africa's global stature but also amplifies the Global South's voice on vital issues like climate change, global health, poverty and trade reform.

How deep the China-Africa friendship runs is most clearly reflected in the tangible outcomes of their cooperation. Since its inception in 2000, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has been instrumental in driving Africa's development and improving the well-being of its people. It stands as a hallmark of China-Africa unity, a symbol of South-South cooperation and a leading example for international partnerships with the continent.

Over the past 25 years, Chinese

Enduring China-Africa bond drives shared prosperity and modernisation



President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China



I want to become an ambassador in the future and learn more about Chinese language and culture.

companies have helped African countries build or upgrade more than 10,000 km of railways, nearly 100,000 km of highways, 1,000 bridges, 100 ports and 66,000 km of power transmission and distribution lines, all of which have created arteries of connectivity across the African continent.

Beyond infrastructure, China is also working with Africa to drive the continent's green transition through investments in hydropower, wind power and

solar energy, and address key challenges in agricultural technology and food security.

Over the past decade, China has set up 24 agricultural technology demonstration centers in Africa and popularized more than 300 advanced agricultural technologies, which have increased local crop yields by an average of 30 to 60 percent, benefiting more than 1 million farmers in African countries.

Economic ties between the two sides continue to flourish.

Chinese direct investment, totaling over 40 billion U.S. dollars by the end of 2023, has positioned China as a key foreign investor in Africa.

Since Dec. 1, 2024, China has granted all least developed countries with which it has diplomatic relations, including 33 African countries, zero-tariff treatment on 100 percent of their product categories, exemplifying China's commitment to shared growth.

These initiatives have not

only boosted Africa's infrastructure, technology and industrial growth, but also enhanced local communities' access to education, healthcare and energy, supporting Africa's efforts in such critical areas as poverty reduction, climate change response and economic diversification.

The true friendship is also exemplified by their shared pursuit of modernization. The FOCAC Beijing Summit in 2024 marked a pivotal moment. At

the summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed that bilateral relations between China and all African countries having diplomatic ties with China be elevated to the level of strategic relations.

Xi also proposed that the overall characterization of China-Africa relations be elevated to an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era.

To realize the vision of modernization, Xi proposed 10 partnership actions to be implemented in the next three years, which cover areas such as mutual learning among civilizations, trade prosperity, industrial chain cooperation and connectivity.

As China strengthens its cooperation with African nations, the focus remains on creating long-term and win-win outcomes that align with the development goals of both sides. This enduring commitment is poised to drive further progress and cooperation in the years ahead.

In a world marred by power politics and hegemony, the significance of the China-Africa partnership becomes even clearer. It stands as a beacon of equality, common development and shared prosperity.

As the two sides embark on the journey of modernization together, they not only demonstrate the power of collaboration but also inspire the world to unite in the pursuit of prosperity, justice and peace for all.

AU adopts landmark 10-year strategy for agricultural growth, food security

KAMPALA

AFRICAN nations have adopted a new strategy to advance agricultural development and food systems, a key source of livelihood for the continent's population.

The 10-year strategy and action plan to implement the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), along with a consensus document titled the Kampala Declaration, were announced on Saturday at the conclusion of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on CAADP in Kampala, the capital of Uganda.

Under the new framework, African countries committed to intensify sustainable food production by increasing

They also agreed to boost investment and financing in the agricultural sector, aiming to raise 100 billion U.S. dollars in public and private investments by 2035.

To achieve these goals, African countries urge collective commitment from governments, parliaments, food producers, the private sector and civil society to translate decisions into tangible re-

sults.

"Together, we can transform Africa's agri-food system into a sustainable and inclusive future," the Declaration said.

CAADP was established in 2003 to end hunger and fight poverty. At its inception, African countries pledged to allocate 10 percent of their national budgets to agriculture, with a focus on increasing investment in the sector.

Speaking earlier at the summit on Saturday, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni urged African nations to embrace commercial agriculture and value addition as a pathway to economic prosperity.

"Fully commercialize agriculture to achieve food security and homestead income by undertaking agricultural enterprises. For families with four acres or less, adopt an intensive agriculture strategy. For families with larger landholdings, use an extensive agriculture approach," Museveni said.

The three-day summit brought together over 2,000 delegates, including agricultural experts, ministers and

heads of state from more than 40 AU members, to discuss the continent's challenges and future in the agricultural sector.

CAADP is an Agenda 2063 continental initiative that aims to help African countries eliminate hunger and reduce poverty by raising economic growth through agriculture-led development.

Through CAADP, African governments agreed to allocate at least 10% of national budgets to agriculture and rural development, and to achieve agricultural growth rates of at least 6% per annum. Underlying these investment commitments are targets for reducing poverty and malnutrition, increasing productivity and farm incomes, and improving the sustainability of agricultural production and use of natural resources.

CAADP also supports countries to enhance resilience to climate variability through development of disaster preparedness policies and strategies, early warning response systems and social safety nets.



Tatu City: Kenya's model for African urbanisation

NAIROBI

TURNING into Tatu City, on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya's capital, feels like stepping into another world.

Even the country's most reckless drivers seem to change. They slow down, stop littering, and obey traffic rules – thanks to pervasive surveillance cameras and strict penalties for speeding and waste disposal.

For the 5,000 people who have already moved into Tatu, a "start-up city" that welcomed its first residents four years ago, the unwavering enforcement of these rules is part of the city's appeal.

Digital content creator Valerie Akoko, who moved here two years ago, says, "I have never seen Tatu City dirty."

"The rules require the estate to be cleaned regularly. In my two years here, there has never been an accident, no cases where a resident or guest ran over a child or anyone else. Because there are rules."

Spanning 5,000 acres, Tatu City aims to live up to its name: a privately owned city designed to eventually house 250,000 residents.

Already, it's home to 88 businesses employing 15,000 peo-

ple, including CCI Global, which operates a 5,000-seat call centre, and Zhende Medical, a Chinese medical supply manufacturer.

"If you look at the infrastructure, the utilities, the security controls – it's one of the best," says Sylvester Njuguna, who lives in Tatu and owns a restaurant there.

The Burns Brothers Inc., an entertainment company, is currently constructing a venue in Tatu City.

"We believe that this location will become a second Nairobi. We're ahead of the curve here," says Will Dos Santos, Head of Operations at The Burns Brothers Inc. "We know that economic development will spread around us, so from a business perspective, it makes perfect sense for us to be here."

Tatu is not alone in its ambitions. Similar new-city projects are popping up worldwide, but in sub-Saharan Africa, proponents of these ventures hope they can address the continent's unique urbanization challenge. While urban growth has historically driven poverty reduction elsewhere, Africa has largely been an exception.

Typically, urbanization leads to higher productivity, rising

wages, growing exports, and overall national wealth. However, in Africa, urbanization has not sparked this kind of economic transformation.

Africa's urban population is set to increase by 900 million by 2050, according to the United Nations, which is more than the combined urban populations of Europe and North America today.

But unlike other regions, sub-Saharan Africa is urbanizing while still relatively poor, compounded by weak property rights and political tensions.

Still, the idea of building new cities, equipped with modern infrastructure, is compelling. The Charter Cities Institute, a Washington-based non-profit, argues that if done correctly, such projects could spur economic growth, create jobs, and lift millions out of poverty.

Tatu City is viewed as a model for this vision.

However, building new cities is a daunting challenge. Many projects have failed. Angola's Quilamba city, which began construction in 2002, stands out as the most successful so far, with a population of over 130,000. Built by CITIC, a state-owned Chinese company, Qui-

lamba is now managed by the Angolan government.

Several other new city projects – from Zanzibar to Zambia – are underway, with experts estimating that a handful have a good chance of success. Of these, Tatu is the furthest along, already home to 26,400 residents, workers, and students.

Tatu City's development may offer insights into what makes a new city thrive.

Experts agree that private sector involvement is essential in African urbanization, given the fiscal constraints of many African governments.

Rendeavour, the private company behind Tatu City, has the resources to drive the project forward. However, relying solely on the private sector can lead to problems, including increased inequality. For example, at Eko Atlantic, a new city near Lagos, the average property price is \$415,000, which is beyond the reach of most Nigerians.

In contrast, a one-bedroom apartment in Tatu City costs \$45,500 – still out of reach for many Kenyans, but attainable for some in the emerging middle class. Kenya's per capita GDP was \$1,961 in 2023, according to the World Bank.

The development collaborates with Kenya's government, which has designated Tatu City as a special economic zone. This gives companies located there access to tax benefits and other incentives, making it an example of a successful public-private partnership.



Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni speaks during the conclusion of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) in Kampala, Uganda on January 11, 2025. African nations on Saturday adopted a new strategy to advance agricultural development and food systems, a key source of livelihood for the continent's population.

Creating safe homes: Adoption and its role in children's, country development



By Guardian Correspondent

ADOPTION is a process of providing orphaned children with stable, loving families, to give them the opportunity to grow and thrive in a friendly, loving and caring environment.

It is the right of every child to live in a safe, nurturing and loving environment. Marzia Golden Manor is an institution that is involved in the care, management and welfare of orphans and vulnerable children at its centre in Dar es Salaam Region. Marzia Golden Manor is registered with the government and operates in close collaboration with the social welfare office.

Apart from raising children, the Marzia Golden Manor centre has a responsibility to promote their emotional and psychological well-being.

In addition, Aaliyah Haji, a student at IST School in Dar es Salaam who conducted this research, which is based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, demonstrates the power of changing lives through family upbringing and the positive impact of adoption on children and the families that receive them.

Adoption in Tanzania is guided by national laws and policies that emphasize the importance of family-based care rather than institutional care.

The Tanzanian Children Act of 2009 outlines the rights of children and emphasizes that, wherever possible, children should be raised by their families of origin.

However, the reality is different, especially for abandoned children or those whose families lack the economic capacity to raise them in a supportive environment.

The right adoption has the power to transform the lives of orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children. By joining the right families who have gone through a rigorous adoption process and are loving, it provides children with a family, security, and love that will lead to better emotional and psychological well-being and development.

According to a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report, family care provides children with the resilience they need to thrive.

The adoption process in Tanzania reflects a growing understanding of the importance of building strong family relationships and connecting children to safe and supportive homes.

Through this process, children gain not only a stable environment but also the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

Providing safe homes for orphaned, abandoned, and vulnerable children is essential because every child has the right to a safe and nurturing environment, as recognized by international frameworks like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. A stable home ensures that their fundamental needs—shelter, food, education, and healthcare—are met.

Orphaned or abandoned children often experience trauma, a safe and caring home offers them emotional stability and helps in healing from past experiences. A secure environment protects children from abuse, exploitation and neglect, enabling them to grow in a healthy way.

Growing up in a stable environment helps children learn values, social norms, and the

skills needed to integrate into society as responsible and productive individuals.

Safe homes empower children to realize their potential, contributing positively to their communities and society. When these children thrive, they become adults who can give back, reducing societal burdens in the long term.

Marzia Golden Manor's place

Marzia Golden Manor has a serious responsibility to raise children who are at their facility, but they also have a greater responsibility to oversee the adoption process for children who pass through this facility.

The researcher explained that while interviewing quoted Ali Dewji, Manager of Marzia: "The centre's goal is not only to provide children with food and shelter, but also to promote emotional and psychological well-being so that they are ready for adoption and can connect with their new families."

Marzia works closely with the government through social welfare offices to ensure that children are given suitable families to take care of them.

Success stories

In her research, Aaliyah Haji explained that initially, Nadia (Name changed to protect the child) was afraid of joining her new family, but eventually through a long process under the supervision of Marzia, Nadia and her adoptive mother managed to build a good relationship and to this day they live in peace and great love.

Aaliyah Haji explained that her mother Nadia later decided to take in and adopt two more children from Marzia after Nadia. "Her journey wasn't just about finding a family; it was about finding a place where she would feel loved and wanted. Marzia's services were essential to her transition into her new family," says Anisa Nasser, Marzia's manager.

The student, in his research, said that positive developments in this new family show that Marzia's efforts and procedures to prepare children for adoption are working and successful, said Nadia's mother.

"Nadia adapted quickly, as she was prepared by Marzia to understand about adoption. All the children call me 'mama' and look at me as their biological mother. The love and nurturing made", she stated.



By Alexandre Almeida

OUR body isn't just human – it's home to trillions of microorganisms found in or on us. In fact, there are more microbes in our gut than there are stars in the Milky Way. These microbes are essential for human health, but scientists are still figuring out exactly what they do and how they help.

In a new study, published in Nature Microbiology, my colleagues and I explored how certain gut bacteria can protect us from harmful ones – a group known as Enterobacteriaceae. These bacteria include species such as Escherichia coli (E. coli). This is normally harmless in small amounts but can cause infections and other health problems if it grows too much.

We found that our gut environment – shaped by things like diet

Fibre may help protect your gut from overgrowth of harmful bugs

– plays a big role in keeping potentially harmful bacteria in check.

To reach this conclusion, we analysed over 12,000 stool samples from people in 45 countries. Using DNA sequencing technologies, we were able to identify and quantify the microbes detected in each sample. We found that the gut microbiome composition of people with Enterobacteriaceae was fundamentally different from those without.

By analysing these microbes and their genes, we could accurately predict (about 80% of the time) whether someone had Enterobacteriaceae in their gut. This showed us that the types of bacteria in our gut are closely tied to whether harmful species can take over.

Digging further we discovered two groups of bacteria: those that thrived alongside Enterobacteriaceae (so-called "co-colonisers") and

those that were rarely found together ("co-excluders").

One type of co-excluder bacteria, called Faecalibacterium, stood out as particularly important. It produces chemicals called short-chain fatty acids by breaking down a variety of fibres in our diet. This in turn can stop harmful bacteria like Enterobacteriaceae from growing.

The presence of these fatty acids was one of the strongest signals we observed between co-excluders and co-

colonisers. They have also been previously implicated in a wide range of health benefits, such as reduced inflammation and improved gut function.

Another intriguing observation from our study was that co-colonisers (bacteria that live alongside Enterobacteriaceae) were more adaptable. They had diverse abilities to break down different nutrients and were able to survive in environments that also suit Entero-

bacteriaceae.

This was especially surprising as previous studies in mice have argued that bacteria that eat the same types of foods and nutrients would have a hard time living together in the gut.

This again pointed to the fact that the gut environmental conditions (nutrients, pH, oxygen level) are the main factors that determine whether a person is going to be colonised or not by Enterobacteriaceae in their gut.

More effective than probiotics

Our findings could lead to new ways to prevent and treat infections without antibiotics. For example, instead of killing harmful bacteria directly

(which can also harm good bacteria), we could boost the co-excluders or create diets that support their growth.

This strategy may be more effective than taking probiotics directly, as new bacteria added to the intestinal tract have been previously shown to only live for a limited period in the gut. We could also target specific pathways that harmful bacteria use to survive, making them less of a threat.

While our research provides new and important insights, there's still a lot to learn. Many regions, including parts of South America and Africa, are underrepresented in microbiome studies. This limits our understanding of how gut bacteria vary across different populations.

Also, while our study highlights important patterns and interactions, we don't yet fully understand the causes and mechanisms behind these relationships.

Future research will integrate additional tools, such as metabolomics (studying chemicals microbes produce) and transcriptomics (studying how genes are activated), to create a clearer picture of how the gut ecosystem works for our health benefit.

In addition, the next steps should focus on designing studies to test whether specific types of diets (for instance, high fibre v low fibre) affect the incidence of potentially harmful bacteria and other diseases in the long term. By better understanding how microbes interact and communicate in our gut, we can develop more precise, non-antibiotic therapies to protect against infections in the future.

BUSINESS

Central bank governor hails importance of capital markets

Ethiopia inaugurates securities exchange to liberalise the economy

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA has officially launched the country's securities exchange (ESX) at an event officiated by Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed on Friday last week.

The exchange, established by the country's sovereign wealth fund, Ethiopia Investment Holdings (EIH) in partnership with the Ministry of Finance with support from FSD Africa and FSD Ethiopia, marks a historic milestone in Ethiopia's economic development.

Licensed by the Ethiopian Capital Market Authority in December 2024 to operate as a Securities Exchange and Over the Counter (OTC) market, ESX is set to revolutionise the nation's capital markets.

By providing equitable access to capital and enhancing liquidity, it aims to support private sector growth in Ethiopia, the second most populous country in Africa and one of the fastest growing economies globally, with projected GDP growth of 6.5 in 2025.

For decades Ethiopia's financial sector has lacked a strong mechanism for equitable access to capital and liquidity for the private sector.

In particular, the lack of an inter-bank trading platform has meant banks could not effectively lend to one another.

This resulted in high interest rates to borrowers and significant inefficiencies in bank liquidity management which has in turn constrained businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The new exchange is already addressing this challenge. An inter-bank trading platform, which is

part of the exchange, is optimising liquidity and improving credit flow in the banking system.

Since its pilot in late October 2024, the platform has facilitated trades exceeding ETB 135 billion (USD 1.1 billion), demonstrating robust uptake by the banking sector.

By enhancing price transparency and reducing transaction costs, the platform is already improving credit accessibility for businesses, enabling them to grow, innovate, and drive economic activity.

ESX's state-of-the-art multi-asset Electronic Trading Platform, which is integrated with a modern Central Securities Depository for post-trade settlement and clearing, will also support more efficient issuance and trading of financial instruments such as Equities, Treasury Bills and Bonds, Corporate Bonds, Commercial Papers, Repos, and Derivatives. This is expected to attract both domestic and international investors, further strengthening Ethiopia's financial markets.

ESX CEO Tilahun Esmail Kassahun was optimistic that the new bourse would inject dynamism in the economy and deepen especially the debt market to the benefit of all actors in the ecosystem.

"We see the new securities exchange as a multi-faceted financial infrastructure, providing multiple markets and variety of products, catering for different types of issuers and investors. The Fixed income market will provide a platform to list and trade debt instruments including treasury bills and bonds, corporate bonds and Shariah compliant securities such as Sukuk Bonds," said Kassahun.



By Francis Kajubi

THE Bank of Tanzania's (BoT) governor Emmanuel Tutuba (pictured) has hailed the importance of capital markets in stimulating economic development in realizing the successful digital economy.

He made the remarks on Friday in Dar es Salaam when he graced the closing of DCB Commercial Bank Plc right issue share sale at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) which was opened in November last year.

Tutuba said capital markets accelerate businesses to expand, develop innovations, and contribute to job creation.

The listing of the bank's right issue shares has been successful and received a great response from shareholders and shows the confidence that investors have in the bank and its journey of transformation.

"The bank has successfully increased its capital from 15bn/- to 25.7bn/- . The financial sector has made great strides in development over the years, and the bank has been an important part of this journey;

He explained that the bank has long been recognized for empowering low-income communities to access capital through affordable loans to bridge the gap between people who are not served by the formal banking system.

"I am interested in the initiatives that the bank has taken in line with national development priorities, including empowering women entrepreneurs, market traders, and special groups through innovative credit products," he said.

He said initiatives like these contribute significantly to reducing poverty and enabling communities to achieve the goals that

are part of the nation's economic agenda. "Your growth journey reflects your strong commitment to create opportunities for individuals, small businesses, and organizations to access financial services, thus improving lives and contributing to the prosperity of the national economy," said Tutuba.

Sabasaba Moshingi, DCB Chief Executive Officer said that listing of the right issue was part of the bank's five-year strategic plan 2024 - 2028 aimed at raising the bank's capital base. He said in 2023 the bank recorded a loss of 4.6bn/- before tax. Through the

good leadership of the bank's board and management and employees, the bank has been able to come out of losses and earn a profit before tax of 317mn/- in 2024.

"The loans we issued have grown from 128mn/- in the first quarter to 131mn/- in the fourth quarter. Customer deposits have increased from 154bn/- in the first quarter. Reducing NPLs from 6.9bn/- in the first quarter to 4.7bn/- in the fourth quarter of the year," said Moshingi.

For his part, DCB Board of Directors Chairperson Zawadia Nanyaro said that in order for the financial sector to stand firm, capital development is an important thing where the bank listed the right issues on November 11, 2024, with the objectives of increasing the capital by 10.74bn/- .

"The sale of rights issues was officially closed on December 6, 2024 and it has been of great success and met the goals by 100 percent, thus fulfilling the bank's ambition to increase the capital from the 15bn/- we had to 25.7bn/-," said Nanyaro.

Nanyaro said that the results after the sale of rights issues are going to bring economic productivity to shareholders and Tanzanians in general.

After raising capital, the bank aims to grow businesses and provide SMEs with capital to grow their businesses.



Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed rings the bell to officially inaugurate the Ethiopia Securities Exchange (ESX).

Dollar clings on to gains ahead of US jobs data

SINGAPORE

A global sell-off in bonds has dominated markets this week, fuelled by fears of a pick-up in inflation, as well as uncertainty over tariffs under the incoming US administration led by Donald Trump.

The dollar looked set to log a sixth straight week of outperformance against other currencies on Friday, underpinned by elevated bond yields and expectations of another strong set of US job numbers, while sterling continued to slide.

A global sell-off in bonds has dominated markets this week, fuelled by fears of a pick-up in inflation, as well as uncertainty over tariffs under the incoming US administration led by

Donald Trump.

This has boosted the dollar, and cast a shadow over other currencies, which have recorded steep losses against the greenback.

US 10-year Treasury yields remained elevated on Friday. The yields have climbed around 10 basis points this week to 4.69 percent.

Currency markets were relatively subdued on Friday, ahead of key US non-farm payrolls data, which investors will watch to confirm their view that US rates could stay higher for longer.

"We think the balance of risks is tilted to the upside for the dollar today, as robust job figures could prompt markets to price out a March cut and poten-

tially push the first fully-priced move beyond June," said Francesco Pesole, ING forex strategist.

The pound continued to slide, and was last at \$1.2303.

The dollar has gained 1 percent this week on the pound, which was battered to a 14-month low on Thursday in tandem with a selloff in gilts and concern about British government finances.

"What makes the current situation particularly noteworthy is that higher interest rates normally help strengthen the currency, so the fact we're seeing the pound weaken even as gilt yields rise goes to demonstrate how nervous investors are right now," Deutsche Bank analysts

said in a note.

The dollar also gained 0.45 percent on the yen this week.

The yen strengthened briefly on Friday to 157.62 per dollar, but was last flat around 158.12 per dollar.

Prospects of sustained wage gains in Japan and the boost to import costs from a weak yen have heightened attention within the central bank to rising inflationary pressures that may lead to an upgrade in its price forecast this month, sources said.

In the euro zone, the single currency was flat on the day as well as on the week at \$1.0299, but was not trading far from the two-year low of \$1.0224 it hit last week.

A significant number

of foreign exchange forecasters expect the euro to reach parity with the dollar in 2025, a Reuters poll showed this week.

This left the dollar index set for a sixth consecutive weekly gain, its longest run since an 11-week streak in 2023.

The index was last flat at 109.15, set for a 0.2 percent weekly rise.

US non-farm payrolls data is expected to show the economy added 160,000 jobs in December on top of the 227,000 in November, with unemployment holding at 4.2 percent.

Anything stronger would add to the case for fewer Federal Reserve rate cuts and may set off another round of selling in jittery bond markets.

UN projects stagnation of global growth in 2025

NEW YORK

GLOBAL economic growth is projected to remain at 2.8 per cent in 2025, unchanged from this past year, according to a UN flagship report released late last week.

The World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2025 report shows that despite withstanding a series of mutually reinforcing shocks, global economic growth has stagnated and remains below the pre-pandemic annual average of 3.2 per cent.

The report produced by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), highlights the enduring impact of weak investment, sluggish productivity, and high debt levels on global economic performance.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in his foreword, called for decisive action to address these challenges.

"Countries cannot ignore these perils. In our interconnected economy, shocks on one side of the world push up prices on the other. Every country is affected and must be part of the solution," he stated.

The United States is expected to experience a slowdown in 2025 as labour markets soften and consumer spending settles down, the report projects.

Meanwhile, despite easing inflation and resilient labour markets, Europe's economic recovery remains constrained due to recurring challenges

such as weak productivity growth and an ageing population.

In East Asia, the economy is projected to sustain relatively strong growth, supported by robust private consumption and stable performance in China.

On the other hand, South Asia is poised to remain the fastest-growing region, driven by India's continued economic expansion.

In Africa, modest improvements in growth are anticipated, thanks to recoveries in major economies including Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa. Although conflicts, rising debt-servicing costs and climate-related challenges weigh heavily on the region's prospects.

Overall, global trade is forecast to expand by 3.2 per cent in 2025, driven by strong exports from Asia and a rebound in services trade.

Moreover, inflation is projected to ease globally, declining to 3.4 per cent, providing some relief to businesses and households.

Food inflation remains a pressing issue in many developing countries.

Nevertheless, many developing countries are expected to face persistent inflationary pressures, with one in five experiencing double-digit rates. High debt burdens and limited access to international financing will continue to hinder recovery.

Food inflation remains a pressing issue, with

nearly half of developing countries experiencing rates above five per cent.

This has deepened food insecurity, particularly in low-income nations already grappling with extreme weather events, conflicts and economic instability.

The report warns that persistent food inflation, coupled with slow economic growth, could push millions further into poverty.

Growing industrial demand for critical minerals, such as lithium and cobalt, presents both opportunities and risks.

For resource-rich developing countries, these minerals offer potential for growth, job creation and increased revenues to accelerate progress

towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

However, the report warns that poor governance, unsafe labour practices and environmental degradation could undermine long-term benefits and exacerbate inequalities.

Calling for comprehensive policies to ensure sustainable extraction and equitable benefit-sharing, DESA chief Li Junhua emphasised: "Critical minerals have immense potential to accelerate sustainable development, but only if managed responsibly."

The report concludes with a call for bold multi-lateral action to address interconnected global crises, including debt,



UN Secretary-General António Guterres

inequality and climate change.

Governments are urged to focus on investments in

clean energy, infrastructure and critical social sectors such as health and education.

Uganda to maintain theme for upcoming financial year budget

KAMPALA

THE Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development has announced that it will maintain the theme for the coming financial year's budget as "Full Monetization of Uganda's Economy through Commercial Agriculture, Industrialization, Expanding and Broadening Services, Digital Transformation, and Market Access."

In a statement, the ministry revealed that the budget's objective is to strengthen the economic growth drivers necessary to restore the economy to the medium-term growth path.

These efforts are aimed at significantly expanding Uganda's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with a target to increase it tenfold from the current \$53 billion to \$500 billion by 2040. Additionally, the government plans to double GDP to \$100 billion by the financial year 2029/30.

The upcoming budget emphasizes the need for commercial agriculture, industrialization, and expanding the services sector.

Digital transformation and improved market access also feature prominently



The EAC third largest economy is planning to expand the size of the economy from about currently USD50 billion to USD500 billion by 2040.

as critical components of the government's strategy to achieve economic growth and modernization.

The Ministry highlighted that achieving these objectives requires focusing on strengthening the drivers of economic growth and ensuring the full monetization of Uganda's economy.

This includes creating an enabling environment for private sector investment, increasing agricultural productivity, and expanding industrial and service sectors.

The budget theme and its objectives are in line with the goals of the Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV), which

seeks to "Achieve higher household incomes, full monetization of the economy, and employment for sustainable socio-economic transformation."

NDPIV prioritizes initiatives that directly contribute to improving household incomes and creating employment opportunities, which are central to

socio-economic transformation.

By aligning the budget with NDPIV, the government aims to drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth, ensuring benefits are felt across all segments of society.

The ministry reaffirmed its commitment to realizing Uganda's Vision 2040,

which aims to transform Uganda into a modern and prosperous country.

By focusing on GDP expansion and economic diversification, the government is laying the groundwork for achieving this ambitious vision.

Uganda's economic outlook for 2025 is positive, with some projecting growth of up to 7.1 percent, driven by the start of oil exports and improved net trade.

According to KPMG, domestic revenue in financial year 2024/25, is estimated at Ushs 31.982 trillion; about 14.2 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The government plans to collect Ushs 29.67 trillion as tax revenue in the next financial year 2024/25.

The budget for the current financial year is aimed at achieving the following broad objective to expand the size of the economy from about current USD 50 billion to USD 500 billion by 2040.

Over the medium term, growth is projected to significantly accelerate to 10.8 percent in FY26 as oil production starts, and later return to around 6 percent as the oil production plateaus. Growth will also be driven by a recovery in tourism.

California homeowners' insurance market tested as fires rage

Claire Boston

RAGING wildfires in Southern California are an early, high-stakes test of new regulations designed to shore up the state's spiraling homeowners insurance market.

Rules that aim to lure insurers back to the fire-prone state were finalized by the state's insurance commissioner in December and take effect this month.

The regulations allow the companies to consider climate change risks when setting rates. Over time, insurers will also have to increase their coverage offerings to high-risk areas.

The changes are an effort to align California's insurance rules closer with other states and stem a statewide crisis that's deepened as climate change increases the frequency and intensity of wildfires and other natural disasters.

That's on grim display now as five wildfires have burned through 29,000 acres across Los Angeles and surrounding areas gripped by a months-long drought.

Nearly 180,000 people remain under evacuation orders, and the fires already rank as the most destructive in the city's history.

"It's unprecedented, and it's unbelievable how many fires we actually have going on," Karl Susman, president of Susman Insurance Services, told Yahoo Finance on Wednesday. "There are literally fires in almost every corner of Southern California."

January isn't typical wildfire season in the state, but a drier climate has extended the risks into the colder months. The blazes have ripped through wealthy neighborhoods of Los Angeles, including Pacific Palisades where the median home price is \$3.5 million.

Insurers will likely be on the hook for a large percentage of what's lost.

Facing mounting losses from paying out California claims, insurance giants, including Allstate, State Farm, and Farmers, have either pulled out of the state entirely in recent years or limited the new policies they'll write. The exodus left millions of residents scrambling to find alternative coverage in a shrinking market.

It also prompted the new rules taking effect this month, which, in addition to allowing underwriters to account for climate change risks, also let insurance companies pass on the cost of reinsurance to consumers.

That's the insurance that insurers buy to spread their own risk. All other states already allow reinsurance costs to be reflected in consumers' premiums.

Because the new regulations mean many Californians will see higher premiums, they have drawn ire from some consumer groups. But experts say such increases are needed as the planet warms and natural disasters mount.

Many insurers still believe it's possible to do business in the state, at the right price, said David Russell, a professor of insurance and finance at California State University, Northridge. The latest fires could send premiums even higher, he added.

"They believe that wildfires are insurable," Russell said. "Before, they weren't able to charge what it took."

Insurers have largely supported the changes, which Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara heralded as "a historic moment for California," in a statement last month. Farmers said it would resume offering certain types of coverage in the state, and Allstate has also suggested it would return.

The blaze started on Tuesday last week partly due to gusts from the Santa Ana winds.

Nigeria experts call for reforms in oil, gas

LAGOS

EXPERTS and stakeholders in the oil and gas and policymakers have called for urgent reforms in Nigeria's oil and gas sector to increase economic growth.

They made the at a one-day symposium themed "Nigeria Petroleum Industry: The Way Forward," organised by Classmasters in collaboration with other partners.

The symposium focused on addressing the social, economic, and environmental challenges affecting the sector central to Nigeria's economy for nearly seven decades.

Speaking to journalists at the sideline interview of the symposium, the Managing Director of Classmasters Limited, publishers of Development Agenda Magazine, Paddy Ezeala, called for collaboration and innovative solutions to tackle the oil and gas sector challenges.

He said, "We aim to ensure that all stakeholders



understand the complexities of this industry and collaboratively create a path forward that meets global standards.

"This industry is vital to our economy and national identity. For decades, we have failed to harness its potential fully. There is an urgent need for reforms and a unified strategy."

"The Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) was a significant

topic of discussion. Attendees advocated for amendments to address the diverse interests of stakeholders, including environmentalists, host communities, local operators, and international firms.

"No document is flawless, but this symposium aims to generate actionable recommendations to drive meaningful pro-

gress."

Ezeala explained the event's distinctiveness and strong support from key industry players, including NNPC Limited (NNPCL).

"Unlike previous gatherings, the outcomes of this symposium will not be ignored. As an environmentalist, I strongly advocate for mandatory environmental responsibility

from all oil companies," he added.

Participants expressed optimism about producing a comprehensive and actionable document to address critical issues such as energy transition, environmental sustainability, and socioeconomic challenges in the oil and gas industry.

For his part, Dr Oshita Oshita, the Executive Director of the Ubuntu Centre for Africa Peacebuilding and Development (UCAP), highlighted the growing security challenges in oil-producing areas.

"The Niger Delta faces evolving security threats that are deeply tied to the dynamics of oil production. Many underlying factors do not make it to the public domain but significantly impact the security landscape," he remarked.

Oshita also underscored the link between Nigeria's dependence on oil, often called the "Dutch disease," and the neglect of oil-bearing communities.

Retail chain Choppies exits Zimbabwe

HARARE

REGIONAL supermarket chain Choppies has exited the Zimbabwean market, citing the hostile economic environment in the Southern African country, characterised by currency instability and the collapse of formal businesses.

Choppies, founded in Botswana and with stores in four southern African countries, entered Zimbabwe's retail market in 2013. It also has operations in Zambia and Namibia.

Choppies exited Kenya in 2020 after its business routinely ran at a loss.

In Zimbabwe, it bought

stores from businessman Raj Modi, who is now Zimbabwe's Industry and Commerce deputy minister. But Choppies said the Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) currency introduced in April 2024 has been unstable, making the business environment unfriendly.

Modi, through his SaiMart, has since retaken a portion of Choppies' 30-store network for an undisclosed amount.

In a notice to suppliers on the transition, Choppies said: "Kindly note that business operations will continue as normal. All local staff and management have been moved to

SaiMart." Modi said the Choppies' business model would not change in Zimbabwe and they were expecting to expand their footprint. "As SaiMart, we are committed to providing affordable products and making shopping convenient for our customers," he said.

"This acquisition is a strategic step toward achieving that goal." Choppies first announced its intention to leave Zimbabwe in November 2024, citing the country's exchange rate policies that have driven customers away from formal retailers to informal traders. "In Zimbabwe,

over the last two years, there has been a significant shift to the informal sector, leaving the formal retail sector to battle a reduction of up to 30 percent in footfall and having to compete with the informal sector," Choppies said at the time.

The announcement came a month after Zimbabwe's top retailers warned that most of them faced collapse because of the government's insistence on the use of an exchange rate that they deemed overvalued and a threat to competitiveness.

In April 2024, Zimbabwe launched its new gold-

backed currency ZiG to replace the local unit that had lost almost 80 percent of its value in a couple of months.

Formal businesses are required to set prices based on the official exchange rate of 25.2 to the US dollar, which sells for as much as 40 ZiG on the more widely used parallel market.

The Retailers Association of Zimbabwe (RAZ), which represents most of the country's biggest retail chains, said the overvalued exchange rate made their products more expensive than those in shops.



BRICS expansion into payment systems poses threat to dominance of US dollar

By Chris Crowe

THE recent expansion and shifting objectives of the BRICS bloc suggest an escalating rivalry between its members and Western liberal economies - and a potential threat to the status of the US dollar within international trade.

BRICS - originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, but expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - met for its 16th summit in Kazan, Russia, in October.

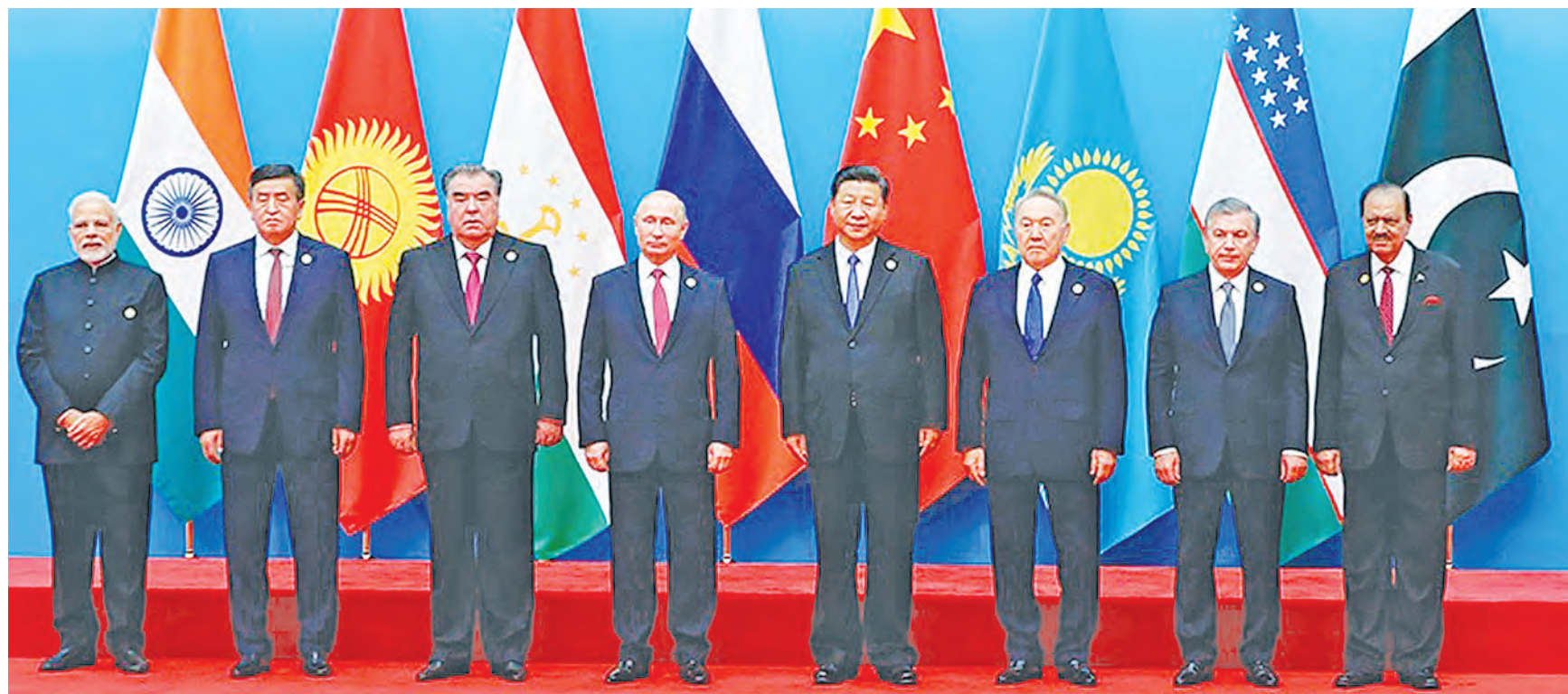
The summit showed that Russian President Vladimir Putin is far from isolated, despite the West's efforts in supporting Ukraine militarily and intensifying sanctions against Russia.

The summit also looked to advance the BRICS Pay initiative, a direct challenge to the SWIFT international payments network. SWIFT is the global standard for bank transactions, which are largely in US dollars.

BRICS - formed in response to the global muscle of the Group of Seven (G7) countries - now represents around 45 per cent of the world's population and 35 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP), based on purchasing power parity. The G7, meanwhile, only accounts for ten per cent of the global population and 30 per cent of GDP. This data suggests that the G7's influence on global economic affairs could weaken.

The BRICS bloc previously sought reform of multilateral financial institutions, particularly the International Monetary Fund, but its purpose has shifted. 'BRICS once represented a reformist group seeking to participate in existing institutions, rather than creating new institutions or international organisations,' says Carol Monteiro de Carvalho, Member of the IBA International Trade and Customs Law Committee Advisory Board.

Now, with oil-producing states joining the bloc, BRICS has even more weight if it acts collectively and puts aside individual political and commercial interests - for example, the US remains China's pri-



mary trading partner.

BRICS itself is seeing increasing trade volumes, though this can be ascribed to the commercial and political trading power of China. While China is a major trading partner for Brazil, India, Russia and South Africa, the economic connections aren't necessarily as strong among the other founding members. 'Trade flows between Brazil and South Africa, as well as between Brazil and Russia, remain relatively small and focused on specific sectors, such as fertilisers,' explains Monteiro de Carvalho, who's also a partner at Rio de Janeiro-based Monteiro & Weiss Trade.

BRICS Pay was a major focus at the Kazan conference. As proposed, the decentralised scheme would allow BRICS countries to trade with each other without converting to US dollars by utilising blockchain technology and tokens, effectively circumventing the SWIFT network.

The exclusion of several Russian banks from SWIFT following the country's invasion of Ukraine has fuelled the Kremlin's ambitions to create an alternative financial system. BRICS Pay is promoted as a means of reducing costs, enhancing efficiency and potentially shielding countries from sanctions

imposed by the West.

Ramesh Vaidyanathan, former Co-Chair of the IBA Asia Pacific Regional Forum, believes that BRICS Pay could have a transformational impact on world trade. 'It marks a significant step towards a multipolar global economy, reducing the dominance of the US dollar and creating a more balanced trade environment for developing nations,' says Vaidyanathan, who's Managing Partner at Mumbai-based firm BTG Advaya. 'It could also spark increased competition between Western and Eastern economic models, with long-term geopolitical implications.'

Yet, in practice it may be tough for BRICS to de-dollarise and ex-

change dollar reserves for a currency that's not as strong and stable. 'In my mind, there are issues between those countries that make up the BRICS community,' says Michael Diaz, Global Managing Partner of Diaz, Reus & Targ, who's based in Miami. 'I don't believe that they will settle on a unified currency, because they all have national security concerns. They could move to digital bitcoin, but because of the individualised interests of those countries, I don't see it as a risk to the US dollar.'

The extent to which BRICS members look to deepen intra-organisation relationships at the expense of those outside the bloc could result in a further retreat from the glo-

balisation movement. 'The very cohesion of BRICS ultimately favours a more fragmented international trade profile into competing blocs,' says Monteiro de Carvalho.

Global banks, accountants and law firms have primarily emerged from Western liberal economies, particularly the US and UK, but now find themselves with limited access to the largest economies within BRICS - Brazil, China, India and Russia.

Given the polarisation and competition between the G7 and BRICS, this could encourage more protectionist tendencies, but globalisation won't be dismantled. While China is a central member of the BRICS, its globalised stance services its com-

mercial interests. 'Within BRICS, China acts as a globalising agent, with its initiatives primarily aimed at opening markets for its products and companies. In the global context, this stance contrasts with countries that have adopted more protectionist measures,' says Monteiro de Carvalho. 'It is also important for companies to understand that the trade policies of each BRICS country will not necessarily be dictated by the bloc at this time.'

Brazil will assume the presidency of BRICS in 2025 and is expected to push for greater cooperation between its members. Whether this will mean greater polarisation between BRICS states and Western liberal economies is unclear, but it'll certainly heighten tensions.

Any state that chooses to align itself with Iran and Russia - and perhaps to a lesser degree, China - has a greater prospect of facing scrutiny and potentially penalties from the US and its allies. Under the incoming Trump administration in the US, Diaz predicts an escalation of tariffs to protect the dollar, possibly alongside further sanctions. 'We expect to see a spike in sanctions, compliance and white-collar criminal investigations directed at political leaders that the US perceives as bad actors,' he says.

It all feeds into the narrative of the G7 versus BRICS, though given the well-established trading relationships between members of both organisations, the situation is complicated. Vaidyanathan believes that the apparent unity within BRICS - and the bloc's recent expansion - shouldn't be ignored. 'The BRICS group is making a concerted effort to coordinate their policies, which may eventually translate into a reduction in the dominance of the US dollar as the currency of choice for global trade and foreign exchange reserves, the use of SWIFT as a global trade platform and that of Western economies in technological leadership,' he says.

Sudan now distributes rice donated by China

KHARTOUM

SUDAN has launched the distribution of 1,250 tonnes of rice donated by China to districts across the country.

The rice was shipped to Port Sudan, the capital of eastern Sudan's Red Sea State, last month to support humanitarian response in the war-torn country.

Sudanese government officials and representatives of the Chinese Embassy in Sudan attended the launching ceremony in Port Sudan.

In an address to reporters at the ceremony, Salwa Adam Benya, Sudan's humanitarian aid commissioner, expressed profound appreciation on behalf of the Sudanese government and people for China's supportive stance towards Sudan.

Benya hailed China as "a friendly country, which has provided and continues to provide substantial assistance to Sudan." The official said the emergency food aid from China would be allocated to all states, including those in the Darfur region, stressing the Sudanese government's commitment to facilitating aid delivery across the country.

She emphasized that the Sudanese side hopes to expand and consolidate its friendly cooperation with China in the process of restoring stability and rebuilding the country.

For his part, Zhang Xianghua, charge d'affaires at the Chinese embassy, expressed hope that this donation of rice would significantly contribute to alleviating the difficulties faced by the Sudanese people.

At the ceremony, Zhang announced that a new batch of Chinese aid would arrive soon, noting over the past year, China has sent to Sudan health and epidemic prevention supplies, including mosquito nets, insecticides, and materials for water purification, in addition to disaster relief items such as tents and blankets. Describing the strategic partnership between China and Sudan as "strong," Zhang reiterated China's firm support for peace and development in Sudan, saying the Chinese government is highly concerned about Sudan's humanitarian situation and will continue to provide assistance to the best of its ability.

According to official statistics, 28.9 million people in Sudan need humanitarian assistance due to an ongoing conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces since mid-April 2023.

In a report released last month, the UN estimated that more than 24.6 million people -- half of Sudan's population -- would likely face high levels of acute food insecurity as of May 2025.



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM



ITV

MONDAY 13 JAN

5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Laws of love rpt
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	ITV Top Ten rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Jungu Kuu
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Mjue Zaidi
13:40	Art and Lifestyle
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Art and Lifestyle
14:10	Maji Kilimanjaro
14:20	Soap rpt: Haikufuma
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	Music: The Base
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Doc: Beyond Narrative
18:30	DW: Afrimaxx
19:00	Afya ya Jamii
19:30	Soap: Laws of love
20:00	Habari
21:05	Dakika 45
22:00	Bundesliga
22:15	Mapishi
22:30	Soap: Uzalo
22:50	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot
23:00	Jiji Iletu
23:30	Music: The Base

00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

TUESDAY 14 JAN

5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Laws of love
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Jagina
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Afya ya jamii
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Igizo: Bongo DSM rpt
13:20	Shikabamba
13:50	Usafiri wako
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Usafiri wako
14:20	Igizo rpt: Haikufuma
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	Music: The Base
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Makala
18:55	Kipindi maalum: Tume ya Uchaguzi
19:30	Soap: Laws of love
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
21:35	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot
21:50	Chetu ni chetu
22:30	Soap: Uzalo
23:00	Jiji Iletu
23:30	Music: The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera

WEDNESDAY 15 JAN

5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha kishindo
9:30	Soap: Laws of love
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Jungu Kuu rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Mjue zaidi
11:40	Igizo: Bongo DSM
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Bundesliga
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:40	Mapishi
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	Music: The Base
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative
18:30	DW Afrimaxx
19:00	Jarida la wanawake
19:30	Soap: Laws of love
20:00	Habari
21:05	Aibu Yako
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
21:20	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco
21:50	Ripoti maalum
22:25	Soap: Uzalo
22:50	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot
23:00	Jiji Iletu
23:30	Music: The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera

CAPITAL TV

MON 13 JAN

06:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt
10:00	Meza Huru Rpt
11:30	Business edition
12:00	Out and About
12:30	Our earth Rpt
13:00	Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon
14:00	Ripoti maalum
14:45	Sports Gazette
15:15	Culinary delight rpt
16:00	Tomorrow Today
16:30	Eco@Africa
17:00	Dw News Africa rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	The Décor rpt
19:30	Special Pgm : Culinary Tourism rpt
20:00	Innovation Rpt
20:45	The Monday Agenda
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Kipima Joto
00:00	Al Jazeera

TUES 14 JAN

06:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt
10:00	Meza Huru Rpt
11:30	Monday agenda rpt
12:15	Spots gazette
12:45	Filler doc
13:00	Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon Rpt
14:00	Business Edition Rpt
14:30	Ingood Shape
15:00	Out & About Extra

15:30	Bundesliga Kick off
16:00	Culinary Delights Rpt
16:30	Capchat rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Innovation
19:30	Our Earth
20:45	Telenovela: In Love With Ramon ep#117
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Out & About Extra rpt
22:30	Eco@Africa
23:00	Al Jazeera

WED 15 JAN

06:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt
10:00	Meza Huru Rpt
11:30	Tomorrow Today rpt
12:00	Dw News Africa rpt
12:30	Our Earth
13:00	Telenovela In Love With Ramon rpt
14:00	Capchat
15:00	Out& About rpt
15:30	Special Pgm : Culinary Tourism rpt
16:00	Business Edition Rpt
16:30	Culinary delight rpt
17:00	Innovation rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Sports Gazette
19:30	Chetu ni chetu
20:00	Monday Agenda Rpt
20:45	Telenovela: In Love With Ramon ep#
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Dakika 45:
22:45	The Décor
23:15	Al Jazeera

WORLD

WHO: 14,700 confirmed mpox cases reported in 2024 in Africa

KINSHASA

ABOUT 14,700 confirmed mpox cases, including 66 deaths, were reported in 20 African countries from January 2024 to Jan 5, 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Saturday.

The confirmed cases represent only a subset of suspected cases, the WHO said. It previously said that a significant number of suspected mpox cases remain untested and "thus never get confirmed" in countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) due to limited diagnostic capacity.

The ongoing outbreak is being driven by

multiple clades of the virus, including the Clade 1b variant, which is predominantly spreading in the DRC and neighboring countries, the WHO said in its latest report.

Imported travel-related cases caused by the Clade 1b variant and secondary transmission from these cases have also been detected outside Africa. The WHO reported that these imported cases were primarily among adults who traveled during their incubation periods or with early symptoms, with diagnoses made upon their arrival in other countries. The new variant, first detected in South Kivu, an eastern province of the DRC, is estimated to have emerged around mid-September 2023, according to

a previous WHO report.

The travel-related mpox cases highlight the challenges posed by varying surveillance capabilities and reporting practices across countries. Limited resources and restricted access to diagnostic testing can result in underreporting or delays in detection, the WHO warned. It urged member states to sustain and strengthen mpox surveillance to improve case detection and reporting.

In mid-August 2024, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared the ongoing mpox

outbreak in Africa a public health emergency of continental security. Shortly afterward, the WHO also declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern, activating its highest level of global alert for the disease for the second time in two years. Mpox, also known as monkeypox, was first identified in laboratory monkeys in 1958. It is a rare viral disease that typically spreads through body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials. The infection usually causes fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes. **Xinhua**



A clinician prepares a syringe with the mpox vaccine during the launch of the vaccination campaign at the General Hospital of Goma, on Oct 5, 2024. AFP

Switzerland ready to serve as host for Putin-Trump meeting on Ukraine

GENEVA

SWITZERLAND is ready to serve as a host to a possible meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President-elect Donald Trump on the settlement of the Ukrainian conflict, if such request emerges, Swiss daily Le Temps reported on Sunday.

"Following the Burgenstock summit, Ukraine, Russia and the United States were regularly informed of our readiness to support any diplomatic efforts regarding the peace settlement," the Swiss daily stated citing Nicolas Bideau, a spokesman for the Swiss Foreign Ministry, as saying.

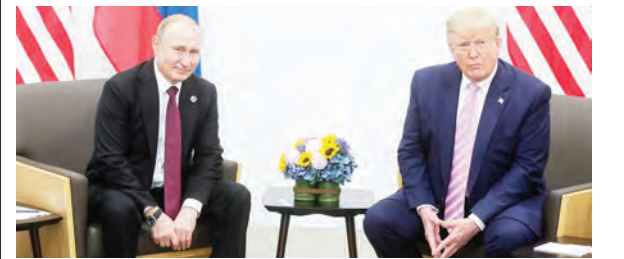
The daily added that the Swiss authorities would not be taking the initiative regarding this issue. According to Le Temps, the confederation is just one of the countries on the list that are ready to host the meeting of the Russian and US leaders.

On January 10, US President-elect Donald Trump announced that preparations for a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin were underway. According to Trump, it was necessary to put an end to the Ukrainian conflict. Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said later that the Russian president was ready to meet with Trump without any preconditions.

Burgenstock Forum

The Kiev-initiated forum on Ukraine was held in Burgenstock, Switzerland on June 15-16, 2024. Armenia, Bahrain, Brazil, Colombia, the Holy See, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Mexico, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates did not sign the summit communiqué. Russia was not invited. Most UN delegates did not attend either.

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova dismissed the conference as a total failure as she argued that "get-togethers" like this do nothing to bring a lasting peace.



Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President-elect Donald Trump

Russian Foreign Ministry notes US hypocrisy in regard to California wildfires

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, commenting on reports that hundreds of prisoners have been mobilized to extinguish fires in the US state of California, pointed to the hypocrisy of the United States.

Earlier, The Washington Post, citing the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, reported that the state authorities had sent 395 prisoners to fight forest fires. The newspaper noted that most of them were persons who had committed minor crimes.

On her Telegram channel, Zakharova pointed out that in recent years, US officials have repeatedly criticized China for allegedly using forced labor, particularly in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The diplomat noted that in 2023, Washington restricted imports of products from several Chinese companies in an attempt to exclude goods allegedly produced with the help of Uygur forced labor from the US supply chain. "This raises a logical question: will Congress draft a bill imposing sanctions on California authorities, private companies, and ordinary Americans for using prison labor to put out fires?" she wondered. "We are so sick of this hypocrisy!" Zakharova added.

Wildfires began to spread across Los Angeles County on January 7. According to meteorologists, dry and windy weather was the cause of the rapid spread of the fires. Evacuation notices were sent to nearly 180,000 residents. The fire has destroyed more than 12,300 structures in the region, with damage estimated in the tens of billions of dollars.

Greenland's leaders reject Trump's renewed bid to acquire territory

OSLO

POLITICAL leaders across Greenland have unequivocally rejected US President-elect Donald Trump's renewed interest in acquiring the Danish territory, emphasizing their commitment to greater self-determination and firmly opposing the idea of becoming part of the United States (US).

All five parties in Greenland's parliament, Inatsisartut, have dismissed Trump's recent statements suggesting Greenland could be transferred to US control for strategic purposes, Danish broadcaster DR reported on Saturday.

"I do not want to be part of the United States, as Trump suggests," said Mariane Paviassen, spokesperson for the ruling Inuit Ataqatigut (IA) party. "I want an independent Greenland."

Erik Jensen, chairman of the Siumut party and Greenland's finance minister, reiterated the island's aspiration for self-gov-



A plane carrying Donald Trump Jr. lands in Nuuk, Greenland, Jan 7, 2025. (PHOTO / AP)

ernance. "We should not be transferred to the United States or any other country," he said.

Jens-Frederik Nielsen, leader of the Demokraatit party, shared similar sentiments, expressing openness to stronger

cooperation with the US but firmly rejecting the idea of US annexation.

Aqquq Jerimiassen, head of the Atassut party, also voiced opposition to Trump's proposal, highlighting Greenland's existing relationship with Denmark. "We

should maintain good relations with the US, but Greenland should not become part of the US, either now or in the future," he said.

Pele Broberg, leader of the opposition Naleraq party, said Greenland is not a commodity to be traded. "Trump's statements simply show how much he desires Greenland," he said.

Greenland's Prime Minister Mute Egede, speaking in Copenhagen on Friday, reaffirmed that the people of the mineral-rich Arctic territory do not wish to become Americans.

Greenland, the world's largest island with a population of around 60,000, was a Danish colony until 1953, when it became an integral part of Denmark, granting Greenlanders Danish citizenship. In 1979, Greenland achieved home rule, gaining greater self-governance while Denmark retained authority over foreign and defense policy.

EAM Jaishankar to represent India at swearing-in ceremony of Donald Trump

NEW DELHI

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent the Indian government at the swearing-in ceremony of US President-elect Donald Trump as the 47th US President.

He is set to attend the swearing-in ceremony at the invitation of the Trump-Vance Inaugural Committee, according to a Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) press release. During the visit, Jaishankar will also have meetings with representatives of the incoming administration, as well as some other dignitaries visiting the US on that occasion.

In a press release, MEA (pictured) said,

"On the invitation of the Trump-Vance Inaugural Committee, External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr S Jaishankar will represent the Government of India at the Swearing-In Ceremony of President-Elect Donald J. Trump as the 47th President of the United States of America."

The ceremonial event is set to take place on January 20, approximately two weeks after Trump's electoral college win was certified by the US Congress.

Earlier on January 6, Trump's election victory was certified ahead of his inauguration with no objections from any lawmakers as the tally of states was announced on the House floor. Donald Trump won 312 electoral votes while



Harris got 226 votes, a total that was confirmed during the certification on Monday, marking the final step in the election process before Trump returns back to the White House on January 20.

Republican lawmakers gave a standing

ovation in the chamber when Harris announced Trump's victory was certified, The Hill reported. A bipartisan standing ovation broke out in the House Chamber after Harris announced that the joint session of Congress was dissolved.

The event lasted for around 30 minutes before Kamala Harris gavelled it out. US Vice President Kamala Harris presided over the process and the proceedings went off without a hitch. Several lawmakers helped in the counting, including Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Deb Fischer and Representatives - Bryan Steil and Joe Morelle. Vice President-elect JD Vance was also present in the chamber during the count. **ANI**

Agricultural innovators contributing to China's comprehensive rural revitalisation

In the tranquil winter of Huangyangjian village, Zhanmao neighborhood, Putuo district, Zhoushan, east China's Zhejiang province, the aroma of roasted rice wafts through the air at the "rabbit market."

Everything at the market exudes the unique charm, such as traditional mud stoves, clay teapots and bamboo chairs commonly found in the countryside.

The "rabbit market" was launched by local resident Xia Ziyu in 2022 upon her return home from working out-of-town. The market specializes in discovering, enhancing, and selling local farm produce.

"Guanyin rice is a specialty of Zhoushan. We have adopted rice roasting technique from Yunnan province to make tea with it," Xia said, while skillfully stirring the rice, attracting many tourists.

Currently, Xia's team consists of 21 people, mainly engaged in the commercialization of agricultural products and brand development, and supporting 200 pioneers in rural

specialty products in livestream commerce. In 2023, Xia was honored as a national young pioneer for rural revitalization.

In Zhejiang province, tens of thousands of agricultural innovators have gone into villages and become a significant driving force for comprehensive rural revitalization.

Agricultural innovators, or farming entrepreneurs, are individuals below the age of 45 who take charge as leaders or stakeholders of farmer cooperatives, agricultural enterprises, family farms, or other agricultural production and operation entities.

The village of Taipingshan in Shangyu district, Shaoxing, Zhejiang province boasts a long history. In 2022, Shangyu native Chen Liefeng, who was running a business in Shanghai, visited the village for the first time and discovered its beautiful scenery, but noticed the absence of agritainment and rural guesthouses.

After researching ancient books, he found that the village has a long history of producing Polygonatum,



An agricultural innovator sells bonsai via livestream in a greenhouse in Jindong district, Jinhua, east China's Zhejiang province, Dec. 9 2024. (Photo by Yang Meiqing/ People's Daily Online)

also known as Solomon's seal. Chen then signed a cooperation agreement with Taipingshan village and became a farming entrepreneur there. The village contributed its unused forest resources as equity, accounting for 60 percent.

Unlike artificially cultivated Polygonatum, the Polygonatum in Taipingshan is grown using a "natural growth" method, where villagers

scatter the seeds in the high mountain forests without using pesticides or fertilizers, allowing them to grow naturally in the wild.

Currently, there are more than 450,000 plants thriving after Polygonatum seeds were sown on over 1,000 mu (66.67 hectares) of mountain forests in the village.

"We are not pursuing temporary 'internet fame.' We sow the seeds on

hundreds of mu of land each year. When they become high-quality Polygonatum, we will achieve sustainable harvesting, which will be the long-term wealth of the village," Chen said confidently.

With the development of the Polygonatum industry, the number of visitors and tourists has been increasing, and the village now boasts rural guesthouses, tea houses, and dining establishments.

Zhejiang province has launched a project to nurture 100,000 agricultural innovators, providing support in terms of funding, land, technology, and more.

In 2024, Zhejiang has initiated the construction of 100 modern farming entrepreneur parks and 500 bases for the common development of farming entrepreneurs, offering a one-stop service including project incubation and skills enhancement, and promoting an entrepreneurship mechanism involving experts, farming entrepreneur teams and farmers.

"With the government's support,

we have successfully established a bamboo weaving workshop. In collaboration with schools, we are actively promoting intangible cultural heritage on campuses. Additionally, we have set up display counters at airports and five-star hotels, leading to a surge in orders," said Ye Shangjie, a bamboo weaving inheritor born in the 1990s, in an intangible cultural heritage exhibition hall in Xijiang ancient village in Yinzhou district, Ningbo.

Rural revitalization hinges on talent. Zhejiang province has set a target to cultivate 100,000 agricultural innovators by 2025, who will help 1 million farmers increase their income.

The province has already nurtured 300 outstanding rural talents, 4,600 leaders in rural industrial revitalization, 81,000 agricultural innovators, and 275,000 "new farmers." This robust and dynamic rural talent pool is vital in driving comprehensive rural revitalization.

People's Daily

China says stands ready to promote global climate governance with Africa

ABUJA

CHINA is willing to work with Africa to promote global climate governance, uphold the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, and urge developed countries to acknowledge their historical responsibilities, fulfill their obligations and provide financial, technological, and capacity-building support to developing nations, particularly those in Africa, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Friday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks during an interview with Chinese media following his visits to Namibia, the Republic of the Congo, Chad and Nigeria.

Africa is one of the regions most severely affected by climate change, facing frequent challenges such as droughts, floods and food shortages, Wang said, noting that addressing climate change and deepening agricultural cooperation are key priorities in China-Africa cooperation to promote modernization.

Both sides have agreed to fully implement initiatives, such as jointly advancing eco-friendly modernization, the Partnership Action for Green Development and the Partnership Action for Agriculture and Livelihoods that were proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in Beijing last year, Wang said.

These initiatives reflect China's commitment as a responsible major country and em-



The photo taken on Nov 22, 2021 shows wind turbines of the De Aar wind power project in De Aar, South Africa. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

body the shared commitment to building a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future, he noted.

China has prioritized eco-environmental conservation and green development, supplying more than 70 percent of the world's wind power equipment and 80 percent of global photovoltaic components, Wang said, adding that China's successful practices provide valuable insights for Africa's green energy transition.

For instance, the installed capacity of photovoltaic power plants jointly built by China and Africa totaled over 1.5 gigawatts, he said.

China is committed to working hand in hand with African partners to advance the Partnership Action for Green Development, implement clean energy projects proposed at the FOCAC Beijing Summit, and promote the "Africa Solar Belt" program, helping Africa embark on a path of green and low-carbon development, Wang said.

In agricultural cooperation, the Chinese foreign minister highlighted five key areas that China will focus on, including food security, poverty reduction, capacity building, trade facilitation and partner networks, to accelerate the implementation of the FOCAC Beijing Summit outcomes in agriculture.

With less than nine percent of the world's arable land, China successfully feeds about 20 percent of the global population, Wang said, adding that he believes Africa can also achieve food security and ensure the continent's food supply remains firmly in the hands of its own people. *Xinhua*

Growing BRICS shows power shift

AS 2025 gets underway, BRICS has continued its expansion, with Indonesia formally joining as its newest full member and eight other nations becoming partner countries. This demonstrates the group's growing vitality and strengthened representation, influence, and appeal on the global stage, experts said.

The move, regarded as a milestone in BRICS history, was also seen as signaling a gradual shift in world power dynamics, as the grouping continues to attract Global South nations.

Originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, the group now accounts for nearly half of the planet's population, over a third of the global economy, and more than half of the world's economic growth.

Southeast Asia's largest economy and the world's fourth-most populous nation, Indonesia is the first Southeast Asian country to join BRICS as a full member since the group opened the door to expansion in 2023. Meanwhile, the new BRICS partner states include Malaysia and Thailand.

Last year, BRICS admitted several new members, including Egypt, Ethiopia and Iran, while more than 30 nations have formally applied to join.

Indonesia's foreign ministry said on Jan 7 that Jakarta sees its membership as a strategic step to improve the collaboration and cooperation with other developing nations, as well as a commitment to strengthening multilateral cooperation to create a global structure that is more inclusive and fairer.

As BRICS enters a new era of greater cooperation, China has on multiple occasions expressed its readiness to work with the BRICS family to embrace the spirit of openness, inclusiveness, and win-win cooperation.

"The future holds tremendous promise for greater BRICS cooperation," Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told a daily news briefing on Jan 7.

At the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, last October, President Xi Jinping called for high-quality development of BRICS cooperation, calling on BRICS members to build the multilateral mechanism into a major venue of solidarity and cooperation for the Global South and a vanguard of global governance reform.

The Chinese leader presented a broad vision at the summit for BRICS countries to stay committed to peace, innovation, green development, justice, and closer people-to-people exchanges, in a bid to help BRICS, the leading echelon of the Global South, play a bigger role in building a shared future for humanity.

Wang Youming, director of the Department for Developing Countries Studies at the China Institute of International Studies, said that in light of the rise of the Global South, China has called for advancing the process of expanding BRICS membership and establishing a partner country mechanism to enhance the representation and voice of developing nations in global governance, foster greater democracy in international relations, and promote a multipolar world.

The expansion of BRICS to Southeast Asia for the first time also means that the influence and voice of the BRICS countries in international and regional affairs have been enhanced, Wang added.

Zhu Jiejun, a professor at Fudan University's School of International Relations and Public Affairs, highlighted that BRICS' adoption of a new governance model – characterized by equal cooperation, mutual respect, collective decision-making, and policy coordination – has enhanced its attractiveness.

He cited the New Development Bank, the first multilateral development bank established entirely by emerging economies and developing nations.

"Unlike the World Bank, the NDB ensures equality by granting all founding member states equal voting rights, with no country holding veto power. This institutional framework guarantees fairness, mutual benefit, and respect among its members," Zhu said.

Official data showed that since its inception in 2015, the NDB has financed over 100 projects, with total loans reaching approximately \$35 billion.

BRICS countries endowed with abundant natural resources, advanced manufacturing, vast markets, and technological advantages have transcended the outdated concept of "winner takes all" and embraced a model of complementary strengths, said Liu Ying, a research fellow at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University of China.

She added that BRICS has become a major force in opposing protectionism while expanding the global economic pie.

Economist Alexey Salychuk hailed China in an earlier interview for championing innovation and green development to boost growth among the BRICS family. He mentioned China's success in producing electric vehicles, lithium batteries, and photovoltaic products, calling them "the backbone of the green transition of the world economy".

China announced in October the establishment of several key institutions, including a BRICS Digital Ecosystem Cooperation Network, and welcomed active participation from all interested parties to drive the high-quality upgrading of BRICS cooperation.

Lan Qingxin, director of the University of International Business and Economics' BRICS Research Center, said, "The open and inclusive nature of BRICS cooperation continues to attract more countries to join, especially amid intensified strategic competition among major powers and escalating regional conflicts."

On critical issues such as geopolitical crises, an enlarged BRICS has played a leading role in amplifying the voices of Global South countries in advocating for fairness and justice, Lan said. *Agencies*

Catastrophic wildfires rage in Los Angeles, causing massive losses

LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES County is grappling with one of the most destructive wildfire crises in its history, as flames fueled by powerful winds and prolonged dry conditions have ravaged the most populous county in the U.S. state of California.

Since the blazes erupted on Tuesday, more than 36,000 acres have been scorched, over 10,000 structures destroyed, and at least 11 lives lost.

Preliminary estimates place the economic losses from the wildfires between \$2 billion and \$7 billion U.S. dollars, exceeding the devastation caused by California's 2018 wildfires. At least six wildfires are still burning across Los Angeles County, according to CNN.

The Palisades Fire in Pacific Palisades, a wealthy neighborhood on the coast, is the largest and most devastating among the active fires. Driven by winds reaching 80 miles per hour, the fire rapidly spread across the region, engulfing homes, businesses and natural landmarks. Simultaneously, the Eaton Fire erupted near Altadena in the far north, further stretching firefighting resources.

The flames have so far displaced 180,000 people as fierce winds threatened to spread the embers farther still. U.S. President Joe Biden on Friday compared Los Angeles to a "war scene" as multiple major wildfires continued to engulf neighborhoods around the city.

Michael, an accountant from Altadena, evacuated just moments before his spacious home was engulfed in flames as firefighters struggled to contain the blaze. "It's like living



A school bus destroyed by the blaze is seen in Altadena, Los Angeles County, California, the United States, on Friday. *Xinhua*

through Armageddon," he told *Xinhua*.

"We've lost everything – everything but each other." Dorothy, a longtime resident of the Palisades, also lost the home she had lived in for 40 years, along with the homes of all her neighbors. "The whole area is wiped out. It's a nightmare," she told *Xinhua*.

"I'm a retired school administrator, and most of us bought our homes decades ago when they were affordable. Now, even if there were homes left to buy, who can afford that?" To make matters worse, false evacuation alerts were issued across Los Angeles County this week, causing widespread panic. People around the region continued receiving erroneous evacuation alerts into Friday afternoon.

County emergency management officials suggested that disruptions to cellphone towers caused by the wildfires may have contributed to the issue.

The alerts were intended to notify residents of the West Hills neighborhood, threatened by the rapidly spreading Kenneth Fire. However, the messages were broadcast countywide on Thurs-

day night and, for some, again on Friday morning.

The failure has raised concerns among public safety officials about the potential for public mistrust in future alerts. They worry that repeated false alarms could incite unnecessary panic or, worse, lead residents to disregard critical warnings during emergencies.

It is unclear what ignited the fires ravaging Southern California, and investigators may need months to determine a definitive answer. However, energy industry experts suggest keeping power lines active during arid and windy conditions may have contributed to the fires' rapid spread.

Utility equipment, including power lines, has been linked to several major fires in recent years, such as the 2018 Camp Fire in California, which claimed 85 lives and destroyed the town of Paradise. Similar incidents include the 2023 wildfire in Maui, Hawaii, and a 2020 fire near Oregon's coast.

A troubling revelation in the wake of the current fires is that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the largest municipal utility in the country, does not have a program to proactively

shut off power in urban areas amid heightened fire risk. By contrast, California's other power providers have implemented such measures for years.

The department's latest wildfire mitigation plan shows it lacks other fire-risk reduction strategies commonly used by other utility companies in California. For example, unlike its neighboring utilities, it has not established a network of cameras and weather stations to monitor wind speeds and other risk drivers.

As wildfires seem more like a certainty than a risk in California, many losses will not be insured. JPMorgan suggests that only 20 billion dollars of economic damage will be covered.

The wildfires are likely to highlight deep flaws in California's struggling insurance market, where companies have increasingly withdrawn from providing home insurance in the state. In March 2024, State Farm, California's largest insurer, canceled 30,000 home insurance policies, citing the escalating risk of wildfire losses.

As wildfires raged, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced on Friday that he was ordering an independent review to investigate why firefighters ran out of water early in their response efforts.

Describing the situation as "deeply troubling," Newsom emphasized the need for answers as the state grapples with one of its worst wildfire disasters. Roughly 20 percent of hydrants across the city went dry as crews battled blazes, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said. Meanwhile, President-elect Donald Trump launched a series of attacks against Newsom, criticizing the governor's forest management policies and calling for his resignation.

Xinhua

China adjusts tariffs to boost imports of high-quality products

STARTING from Jan. 1, 2025, provisional import tariffs, lower than the most-favored-nation rates, have been applied to 935 Chinese commodities as part of an annual tariff adjustment plan recently issued by the Customs Tariff Commission of China's State Council.

Experts said that lower provisional tariffs have been implemented for some raw materials, drugs, equipment, and components. Besides, China has adjusted the import tariff rates and items on certain goods in an effort to boost imports of high-quality products, expand Chinese domestic demand, advance high-level opening up, and promote high-quality development.

The tariff adjustments were implemented in three aspects. First, to foster new quality productive forces through scientific and technological innovation, cycloolefin polymers,

ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers, and automatic transmissions for special-purpose vehicles such as fire trucks and repair vehicles can enjoy lower import tariffs.

Second, to enhance people's well-being, China has cut tariffs on sodium zirconium cyclosilicate, viral vectors for CAR-T tumor therapy, and nickel-titanium alloy wires for surgical implants.

Third, to promote green and low-carbon development, ethane and some recycled copper and aluminium raw materials also see their import tariffs reduced.

According to Fan Min, deputy head of the information and market department of China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Federation, ethane, cycloolefin polymers, and ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers are important basic materials for China's petrochemical industry. The tariff cuts can

promote the application of green and low-carbon manufacturing processes and drive the development of high-tech, and high-performance products in downstream industries, Fan added.

Demonstrating China's commitment to high-level opening up

The tariff adjustments also demonstrate China's sense of responsibility as a major trading nation under the current international economic situation.

In 2025, China will continue to offer zero-tariff treatment on 100 percent of tariff lines to the 43 least developed countries (LDCs) with which it has diplomatic relations in a bid to support their development and foster mutual benefits.

At the same time, China will continue to apply preferential tariff rates to certain products from Bangladesh, Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar in ac-

cordance with the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement and its exchange of notes with ASEAN member states.

"Starting Dec. 1, 2024, China has given all the LDCs with which it has diplomatic relations zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines. In 2025, China will continue to implement this unilateral opening-up policy," said Cui Fan, professor with the University of International Business and Economics.

At the same time, conventional tariff rates are applied to certain products from 34 countries and regions under 24 free trade and preferential trade arrangements in 2025, up from 30 countries and regions under 20 free trade and preferential trade arrangements as compared to the 2024 tariff adjustment plan. These changes signify an expanding "circle of friends" in China's foreign trade, Cui

noted.

As the first annual tariff adjustment plan after the adoption of the law on customs duties, this plan represents China's commitment to steadily expanding institutional opening up, unilaterally opening its doors wider to LDCs, and expanding the globally-oriented network of high-standard free trade areas. It also demonstrates China's proactive efforts to promote high-quality development via high-level opening up, said Cui.

"China has adopted a flexible and targeted approach in tariff adjustment. It has reduced provisional import tariffs on key equipment and components, drugs, medical equipment, and energy products. Besides, the country has also adjusted or eliminated provisional import tariffs on products for which it has a certain level of production capacity and competitiveness," said Gao

Lingyun, a researcher with the Institute of World Economics and Politics under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Gao noted that these adjustment measures are contributing to China's efforts to expand opening up and promote industrial upgrading.

Supporting measures keep unfolding in different regions

Relevant departments in China have introduced a range of supporting measures. For instance, on Dec. 29, 2024, China's General Administration of Customs announced a new round of 16 measures to promote the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta and boost imports of high-quality products.

One measure involves working with local governments to push forward the pilot program for a "white list" of imported materials for biopharmaceuticals

research and development in the region to support regional synergy.

Another measure is to set up a pilot program in Yiwu, east China's Zhejiang province, for a positive list management system of imported daily consumer goods.

Additionally, a collaborative mechanism is underway to facilitate grain imports in the region, which will link entry ports, transit ports, and destination customs to enable information sharing, mutual assistance in law enforcement, and mutual recognition of results.

Experts noted that as China continuously expands voluntary opening up and creates more favorable conditions for high-quality imported products, more and more foreign market players are expected to benefit from its growing import demand.

People's Daily

Ja Morant's late heroics help Grizzlies top Timberwolves

By Field Level Media

Ja Morant made back-to-back baskets in the final minute to lift the Memphis Grizzlies to a 127-125 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Saturday night in Minneapolis.

Morant finished with 12 points on just 5-for-19 shooting but came up when it mattered most for Memphis, which won the opener of a four-game road trip. Jaren Jackson Jr. led the Grizzlies with 33 points and eight rebounds, and Desmond Bane scored 21 points.

Donte DiVincenzo scored 27 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead the Timberwolves, whose three-game winning streak ended. Jaden McDaniels finished with 21 points, Naz Reid added 19 points off the bench and Julius Randle had 18 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

The Grizzlies trailed 125-121 after Rudy Gobert made a layup for the Timberwolves with 1:41 to play. That proved to be Minnesota's final points.

Jackson Jr. made a pair of free throws to cut the deficit to 125-123 with 1:32 remaining.

Morant took charge from that point forward. He made a driving layup to even the score at 125-all with 54 seconds to go.

Randle lost the ball on the next possession as Jackson Jr. got credit for the steal. Moments later, Morant capitalized with a floating jump shot to give Memphis a 127-125 advantage with 18.1 seconds left.

The Timberwolves had a pair of chances to grab the lead in the final moments. Anthony Edwards missed a 3-pointer with 7.1 seconds to go, but DiVincenzo grabbed the offensive rebound and the team called a timeout for another chance to tie or win the game.

Edwards got another chance for a 3-pointer, but his shot missed again and the buzzer sounded to secure the Grizzlies' comeback victory.



Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards (5) shoots a three-point shot over Memphis Grizzlies forward Brandon Clarke (15) in the second half at Target Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, on Saturday. Agencies

Memphis outscored Minnesota 28-22 in the fourth quarter. The Timberwolves finished the third quarter with a 103-99 lead.

Minnesota held on to a 65-64 lead at the half.

DiVincenzo scored 16 points before the break, including a 3-pointer off an assist from Edwards with 1:59 left in the first half. That gave the Timberwolves a 60-56 advantage.

Jackson Jr. scored the final four points of the first half to pull the Grizzlies within one.

Meanwhile, Tyler Herro made seven 3-pointers and recorded 32 points, five rebounds and five assists to lead the Miami Heat to a 119-98 victory over the host Portland Trail Blazers on Saturday night.

Nikola Jovic added sea-

son highs of 21 points and eight rebounds as the Heat won their third consecutive game, all on the road. Haywood Highsmith added 14 points and matched his career high of five steals, Bam Adebayo had 13 points, 11 boards and six assists and Terry Rozier and Jaime Jaquez Jr. each had 11 points for Miami.

Anfernee Simons had 28 points thanks in large part

to seven 3-pointers and Shaedon Sharpe added 22 points for Portland, which lost for the fifth time in seven games. Deni Avdija added 15 points and 12 rebounds, and Kris Murray had 10 points.

Saturday's game was the fifth of Jimmy Butler's seven-game suspension from the Heat for "conduct detrimental to the team."

Miami connected on 47.8 percent of its shots from the floor and was 19-for-44 from 3-point range.

The Trail Blazers made 37.9 percent of their attempts overall, including 13 of 45 from behind the arc.

Portland trailed by 18 at halftime but started the third quarter with a 16-2 run to move within four.

Portland later trailed 70-67 after a 3-pointer by Simons with 6:59 left in the third, but Miami got the lead back to 10 on Herro's 3-pointer with 2:35 left. The Heat led 94-83 entering the final stanza.

Highsmith's dunk pushed Miami's lead to 17, 100-83, with 9:45 remaining in the game. However, the Trail Blazers rattled off the next 10 points to move within seven.

Herro then answered with a 3-pointer and Adebayo added a dunk, giving Miami a 105-93 lead with 3:59 to go. Portland's Donovan Clingan was later called for a flagrant 1 foul, and Herro sank all three ensuing free throws to extend the lead to 15.

Jaquez added a layup to cap a 10-0 spurt as the Heat took a 110-93 lead with 3:16 remaining and cruised to the finish.

Herro scored 18 first-half points, and the Heat led 66-48 at the break. Avdija scored 13 points in the half for Portland.

Highsmith had nine points in the opening quarter to help Miami grab a 29-23 lead. He later drained a 3-pointer to give the Heat a 57-42 advantage with 3:05 left in the first half.

Herro later buried consecutive treys to push the lead to 20 in the final minute of the half.

REUTERS

Andreeva hopes chicken, rice and parmesan is recipe for Melbourne success

MELBOURNE

PRE-MATCH rituals have given Mirra Andreeva plenty of food for thought ahead of the Australian Open, with the Russian teenager hoping her choice of chicken and rice with parmesan cheese on top can fuel her to glory at the Melbourne Park major.

The 17-year-old is a dark horse at the year's first Grand Slam after a strong 2024 season in which she reached the semi-finals of the French Open, stunning world number one Aryna Sabalenka along the way.

Seeded 14th in Melbourne, Andreeva dished out a 6-3 6-3 win over Czech Marie Bouzkova in the opening round yesterday before explaining her "complicated" food habits at tournaments.

"If I start the tournament eating chicken and rice I can't change after. I can't take pasta or I can't take anything else. I'll always take chicken and rice," she told reporters.

"I have a pretty special thing. I like to eat rice with a bit of parmesan cheese on top. I don't know. I have never seen anyone doing that, but I really like it."

"Since the start of the tournament, if I start like this, I've got to continue like this. Even if I'm tired, I have no choice, but I have to eat it."

Andreeva said her coach, former Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez, had tried to help her break the rigid rituals at the start of the season before she too got caught up in the superstitions.

"In Brisbane, I won my first match, and she was doing the recovery shake for me and she spilled the powder all over the players desk," said Andreeva.

"Since then she was coming there after each match I won and spilling the powder. I didn't know about this. So the girl from the players desk told me, and I was like, 'Okay but you told me we stop this and you do it by yourself'."

"So I guess the moment to stop it isn't here yet. We're going to continue. Maybe next year we'll try to avoid it."

Andreeva takes on Magda Linette or Moyuka Uchijima in the second round.

Meanwhile, Jessica Pegula feels the decision to give herself an extra week to recover from a nagging knee injury has paid off as the American heads into the Australian Open on the back of a run to the final of the tune-up tournament in Adelaide.

Pegula sustained the injury in the WTA's Asian swing of tournaments after her run to the U.S. Open final and had been managing it until being forced to pull out of her final round robin match at the season finale in Saudi Arabia two months ago.

"In Saudi Arabia, I'm not sure if playing on that indoor surface can be tricky sometimes on the body. It really flared up," she told reporters at Melbourne Park yesterday.

The seventh seed, who begins her Melbourne Park campaign against local teenager Maya Joint today, said the injury had not totally cleared up in the off-season and she decided to skip the Brisbane International.

However, after starting the season a week later than planned Pegula is making up for lost time and showed some of her best form at last week's Adelaide International, where she lost 6-3 4-6 6-1 to compatriot Madison Keys in Saturday's final.

"I would have loved to try and play Brisbane probably, but it just didn't work out just as far as getting enough training in before flying over here. I wanted to make sure physically I felt, like, ready to go," Pegula added.

"I just needed that extra week. But I guess it worked out perfectly in hindsight. Maybe if I had lost early in Adelaide I wouldn't be saying that, but luckily it worked out."

Pegula, whose parents own the NFL's Buffalo Bills, said she may tune into the team's Wild Card game against the Denver Broncos early on Monday morning Australian time.

"It's on, what, like 5 a.m. here? I probably won't be up that early. Maybe catch the second half of it," she said.

"I think they have a great chance to win this game. I don't know, just makes me nervous. It's like a slam. You never really know what's going to happen."

REUTERS

Dead by the end': Nishikori hangs tough in winning return to Australian Open

MELBOURNE

A SEEMINGLY endless battle with injuries kept Kei Nishikori from the Australian Open for four years but yesterday the Japanese trailblazer returned to win a five-set marathon and reach the second round.

Pushed to the brink by Thiago Monteiro, Nishikori came back from two sets down and saved two match points in a 4-6 6-7(4) 7-5 6-2 6-3 win over the Brazilian journeyman at Margaret Court Arena.

"Really tough one. I almost forgot he had two match points," Nishikori said after the four-hour, six-minute slog.

"I almost gave up (on) match point."

"He was playing very good in the first and second. He was on a roll."

"He deserved to win today but somehow I fought through."

A four-times quarter-finalist at Melbourne Park, Nishikori's previous appearance at the tournament was in 2021 when he was bundled out of the first round by Spain's Pablo Carreña Busta.

The ensuing years have been tough, with injuries seeing him tumble out of the top 100.

It has been a humbling fall for a former top-five player who remains the only man from an Asian country to reach a Grand Slam final following his run to the 2014 U.S. Open decider.

But under Swedish coach Thomas Johansson, the 2002 Australian Open winner, things have been on the up.

He soared back into the

top 100 with a runner-up finish at the Hong Kong Open a week ago, his first ATP final since Brisbane in 2019.

Yesterday, an upper leg strain hampered Monteiro as the match wore on but there was plenty to like about the Japanese veteran's game.

He conjured the old magic with a string of breathtaking forehand winners from the baseline, leaving pockets of Japanese fans delighted.

"It was incredible. It was so much fun on the court even though I was dead by the end," said Nishikori, who next faces either Australian Christopher O'Connell or 12th-seeded American Tommy Paul.

"All the support really helped me to fight



Japan's Kei Nishikori reacts during his Australian Open first round match against Brazil's Thiago Monteiro at Melbourne Park, in Melbourne, Australia yesterday. REUTERS



Russia's Mirra Andreeva in action during her Australian Open first round match against Czech Republic's Marie Bouzkova at Melbourne Park, in Melbourne, Australia yesterday. REUTERS

Bayern's Kompany unhappy with missed chances after 1-0 win at Gladbach

MOENCHENGLADBACH, Germany

LEADERS Bayern Munich should have scored several more goals in their 1-0 Bundesliga win at Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday to kill off the game much earlier, said coach Vincent Kompany.

Bayern had a bagful of chances, including for Thomas Mueller and Leon Goretzka, in the first half with some 70% possession but had to wait until the 68th minute to break the deadlock courtesy of top scorer Harry Kane's penalty.

"It is a very difficult away game and we were just back from holidays," Kompany told a press conference. "If you had the chances we had today you would want to score two or three goals to kill off the game. We never did that."

The Bavarians had lost five of their previous nine away games at Gladbach, more than against any other team in the same period, but on Saturday the hosts were toothless, especially in the first half. Gladbach did not have a single effort towards goal in a one-sided opening half but Bayern's players were repeatedly denied by keeper Moritz Nicolas.

Nicolas also pulled off a double save late in the game to stop Alphonso Davies' shot and Serge Gnabry's header.

"But what I liked was the attitude and mentality to keep fighting," Kompany said. "In the final 10 minutes things could still happen but we kept our cool."

"We could again have scored a few more goals but the concentration of the team was really good."

Bayern are in top spot on 39 points, with champions Leverkusen in second place on 35 after Friday's 3-2 win at Borussia Dortmund.

REUTERS

Kvaratskhelia wants to leave Napoli, Antonio Conte says

ROME

NAPOLI forward Khvicha Kvaratskhelia wants to leave the Serie A club immediately, manager Antonio Conte said on Saturday.

Kvaratskhelia's current deal runs until 2027, the 23-year-old having joined Napoli in July 2022 and helped his side secure their first Scudetto in 33 years that season.

The Georgia international had been ruled out of Napoli's Serie A home clash against Hellas Verona later yesterday.

"Kvaratskhelia has asked to leave the club", Conte told reporters. "I spoke to Khvicha and he confirmed his plan to leave the club immediately."

Kvaratskhelia has been linked with Liverpool and Paris St Germain in the January transfer window.

He and Victor Osimhen, who moved to Galatasaray on loan last year, scored a combined 38 league goals in Napoli's title-winning season. Kvaratskhelia was also named player of the season by Serie A in 2023.

"Personally I feel very disappointed because I spent six months trying to make Kvara feel at the centre of the project, working with him and also working with the club for six months on the renewal," Conte said.

"It's something that's still too fresh. I'm focused on the Verona (game). It's not the sales or purchases that matter but rather the game. No evaluations have been made because Kvara is still a Napoli player today, we'll see on the 31st."

"The situation is being monitored, but it's right to leave it up to the club and the player. I did what I had to do. If anything, I did too much."

Napoli lead Serie A with 44 points from 19 games, with Kvaratskhelia having scored five goals and contributed three assists in 17 league matches this season.

"We are talking about an important player," Conte added. "A player who was already due to leave in the summer. I also wanted to have technical certainties."

"Quality is needed in addition to the work I demanded, as well as the confirmation of certain players, including Khvicha, and he wasn't the only one (who asked to leave)."

"Today I have to take a step back. I can't keep those who want to leave tied up in chains. I did that in the summer and had six months to convince all the parties to find a solution."

The Naples side signed Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku from Chelsea for 30 million pounds (\$36.61 million) in the close-season and he is their top scorer with seven league goals. They also brought in midfielder Scott McTominay from Manchester United for 30.5 million euros (\$31.24 million).

(\$1 = 0.8194 pounds)
(\$1 = 0.9762 euros)

REUTERS

Guardiola plays down 4-1 win over West Ham, saying squad needs improvement



LONDON

MANCHESTER City captain Kyle Walker has asked to leave the club, manager Pep Guardiola confirmed after their 8-0 thrashing of Salford City in the FA Cup on Saturday.

Walker (pictured) was left out of Guardiola's squad for the third round tie with the Spanish man-

ager saying the right back had asked to "explore options abroad".

The England international was linked with a move to German giants Bayern Munich after City clinched the treble in 2023.

"Two days ago, Kyle asked to explore the options to play abroad and end his career. And for that reason, I preferred playing other players,"

Guardiola said.

"He asked two years ago after the treble, Bayern Munich wanted him but the offer was not good enough."

The 34-year-old Walker joined City from Tottenham Hotspur in a deal worth around 50 million pounds (\$61.02 million) in 2017.

He has made 319 appearances for City, helping the club win 17

trophies, including six Premier League titles and their first Champions League.

"We cannot understand the success we have had these years without Kyle. It's impossible," Guardiola added.

"I still am pretty convinced that there's no-one in our job that doesn't want to be where they are who can perform and be exactly what they want to

AC Milan forwards need to be more selfish, says coach after Cagliari draw



AC Milan's Theo Hernandez in action with Cagliari's Nadir Zortea during their Serie A match at San Siro, in Milan, Italy on January 11, 2025. REUTERS

MILAN, Italy

AC Milan coach Sergio Conceicao said his forwards needed to be more selfish in front of goal after his two-game winning streak since taking over was halted by a disappointing 1-1 home draw against lowly Cagliari in Serie A on Saturday.

Cagliari shocked Milan with a quickfire equaliser in the 55th minute through defender Nadir Zortea, four minutes after Alvaro Morata broke the deadlock for Milan from close range on the Portuguese manager's Serie A debut.

"I expected much more at all levels," Conceicao told Sky Sport.

"I've been a coach for

13 years, and comparing the quality of this group to what we did, it was the weakest first half since I've started coaching.

"We lacked rhythm, quality... and we weren't that good and intelligent on this level."

Milan created 24 chances, 11 of them on target, but could not convert until Morata scrambled home a rebound 10 minutes into the second half.

"My feeling is that (Milan forwards) are altruistic," Conceicao said. "That's fine, I like a player like that. But there are moments when they have to be more selfish."

"In front of goal you have to be selfish, a winger has to go one on one with the opponent. We look for a

difficult (solution) sometimes and I don't like that, football is simple."

Asked whether the team needed more rules and discipline, the Milan coach admitted he liked to have things well-organised.

"It's my way of doing

things for many years," he said.

"It's not that I come here and I have to do it by force. For me it's the simple things: schedules, training, being involved in the work day by day."

"If I got here halfway

be.

"He asked to explore, it doesn't mean it's going to happen because you never know the situation."

"I respect him a lot because I'm more than grateful since he has been many years for us. He's been important for the national team and important for our team."

Walker has seen his playing time reduced this season, making just nine Premier League starts, with local media suggesting Saudi Arabia could be his next destination.

Meanwhile, Liverpool manager Arne Slot complimented fourth-tier Accrington Stanley for posing a challenge to the Premier League leaders despite losing 4-0 in Saturday's FA Cup third round clash.

Accrington, with only just over 21% of possession, tried hard to hold off Liverpool but were left licking their wounds as the home attack found their mark after initial misses.

"They are not afraid to press high, they're not afraid to play one-v-one, but then you wonder, will they do this at Anfield as well? But they definitely did. They were not afraid," Slot told a post-match press conference.

The Dutchman made eight changes to the Liverpool starting lineup that he fielded in Wednesday's 1-0 League Cup semi-final first leg loss at Tottenham Hotspur.

"For us it was all about the players that haven't played that much yet, to give them playing time," he said.

The coach also handed a debut to 16-year-old Rio Ngumoha, who became the youngest Liverpool player to start a competitive match or make an FA Cup appearance for the club.

"Every time (Ngumoha) comes to train with us we see what his qualities are. He can dominate one-v-one situations, he's very quick on his feet, he can change direction really fast," Slot said.

"The fans liked what they saw, you could feel this in the stadium ... special day for him, making a debut, win. He will sleep well tonight."

Accrington boss John Doolan said he liked the opening 20 minutes of the match, but wished his side had a bit of luck.

"We will lick our wounds and go again. I couldn't be prouder of the players, fans and staff," Doolan told the BBC.

"It was massive and a big ask from us. When you give world-class players two yards, they can do what they do."

Accrington, 19th in League Two, are five points above the relegation zone.

Liverpool will next face Nottingham Forest in the Premier League on Tuesday.

(\$1 = 0.8194 pounds)

REUTERS

through the season it's because something wasn't right, and we have to take full responsibility. If we are strict and demanding outside the game then we will be strict and demanding in the game too."

Milan travel to 16th-placed Como on Tuesday before visiting Juventus next Saturday.

They then will look to extend their four-game winning run in the Champions League when they host Girona on Jan. 22.

Meanwhile, Juventus coach Thiago Motta lamented his side's performance in Saturday's 1-1 draw at Torino, stressing that there have been "too many draws" after taking the lead in their recent games.

Juventus are unbeaten in their Serie A campaign but have drawn more than any other side in the league, enduring a 12th stalemate in 19 games after Nikola Vlasic cancelled out Juve's early opener by Kenan Yildiz.

"We started well, but after taking the lead we dropped too deep, allowing them to create chances. We could have been more aggressive or avoided letting them reach that dangerous area," Motta told reporters.

"We can do better from the point of view of aggressiveness. We didn't finish in the right way to win the game. In the locker room we talked about this situation."

"Definitely too many draws, especially after leading games. With a young squad and some injuries. Never an excuse, we've lost only two matches in all competitions."

A depleted Juventus travelled to city rivals Torino without striker Dusan Vlahovic, sidelined with a muscle issue, on top of injuries to key players such as forward Arkadiusz Milik. However, the Italian manager was pleased as Douglas Luiz returned to the starting eleven after recovering from muscle issues.

"He played very well, I'm very happy with his performance," he said of the Brazilian midfielder.

"We need as many fit players in the squad as possible. Right now (left back Andrea) Cambiaso I have to thank him because he is on painkillers so he can give us a hand."

Juventus, fifth in the standings on 33 points, visit second-placed Atalanta on Tuesday before they host AC Milan next Saturday.

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Kvaratskhelia wants to leave Napoli, Conte says

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Matano aims to bring success and style to Fountain Gate

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KENYAN coach Robert Matano has promised Fountain Gate FC fans and management improved results and performances following his recent appointment as head coach.

This move comes shortly after his departure from FKF Premier League side Sofapaka in Kenya.

The veteran tactician (pictured), renowned for his strategic acumen and decorated coaching career, officially joined the Tanzanian club under undisclosed contract terms.

Matano replaces former coach Mohamed Muya, who was dismissed on December 29 last year after a crushing 5-0 defeat to Young Africans in the Premier League.

The 60-year-old coach, who famously guided Sofapaka to their first-ever Premier League title in 2009, had rejoined the Kenyan club at the start of the 2024/25 season.

Despite his short tenure, Matano left a significant mark, with Sofapaka currently sitting seventh in the league standings with 21 points from 15 matches.

Speaking after his arrival, Matano expressed gratitude and determination, acknowledging the competitive nature of the Tanzanian Mainland Premier League.

"When you mention some of the best leagues, you cannot fail to mention the Tanzanian league. I am happy with the opportunity I have gotten here because it is an honour for me," he said.

"I have had positive discussions with my leaders, so let's wait and see what will happen this season."

Matano's move to Fountain Gate signals a growing interest in opportunities beyond Kenyan borders.

Last year, he was in talks with Coastal Union in Tanzania but ultimately declined the offer. While he refrained from elaborating on the reasons, Matano emphasized his focus on his new role at Fountain Gate.

With five Premier League titles and multiple Coach of the Year accolades, including awards in 2009 and 2021, Matano has earned a reputation as one of East Africa's most respected football minds.

His six-year tenure at Tusker FC, where he led the club to league triumphs, remains a standout achievement in his illustrious career.

Matano's appointment marks the end of his second stint at Sofapaka, where he initially made history by securing the club's maiden league title in 2009.

His return this season provided fans a reminder of his pedigree and ability to deliver results.

While Sofapaka now face the challenge of finding a suitable successor, Matano's focus is firmly on his new task at Fountain Gate FC.

"This league has its challenges, but with hard work and discipline, I believe we can achieve great things," he added.

As Matano embarks on this new chapter, his enduring influence on East African football remains undeniable, solidifying his status as a coaching legend in the region.



Stars coach Morocco targets CHAN glory as Tanzania gears up for historic tournament



By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA national football team (Taifa Stars) head coach, Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman, has expressed his ambition to win the African Nations Championship (CHAN), which Tanzania will co-host with Kenya and Uganda from February 1-28, this year.

This eighth edition marks a historic first for CAF, as it will be the first time the tournament is jointly hosted by three nations.

Teams will compete for a substantial prize, with CAF having previously announced a 32% increase in the total prize money for the CHAN Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda 2024, bringing it to USD 10.4 million.

Coach Morocco (pictured) will be closely following the draw for the CAF African Nations Championship (CHAN) 2024, which will take place at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 20:00 local time.

The tournament will feature 18 qualified teams, including African football powerhouses such as reigning champions Senegal, who

edged 2022 hosts Algeria in the final in Algiers three years ago to lift the title for the first time.

The coach explained that his strategy involves using the CHAN tournament as a valuable opportunity to prepare for the AFCON tournament later in December.

However, he emphasized that winning the CHAN tour-

namment is a key objective.

"First, we have already qualified for AFCON. For me, we need to forget that for a while as we make long-term calculations starting from here, and those calculations need to start in this upcoming CHAN tournament because AFCON is in December next year.

"The CHAN tournament

will be held here in the country, and we will be the hosts. To be honest, we want to give Tanzanians a gift. My intention and that of my fellow coaches is to keep this trophy here in the country.

"A good advantage we have is that many of the players who were in the squad that was seeking a place to play in AFCON are players who play

here at home. This is an advantage for us," he said.

Morocco referenced Tanzania's past CHAN record, which has consistently ended in group-stage elimination, stressing the need to change this narrative and reach the quarter-finals.

"Our participation in these CHAN finals has never been good; we have always been eliminated in the early stages. We want to change this perception and progress further. We need to work.

"If we get good preparations before CHAN, with sufficient time for a training camp and with the players we have at the moment, we can achieve something," he said.

He added: "We have already started initial preparations in strategic planning, and things are progressing. We are looking at what kind of players we will need. I believe we will do well."

The presence of numerous players from Simba SC and Young Africans in CAF inter-club competitions has provided coach Morocco with a prime opportunity to scout talent for his CHAN squad.

His scouting efforts included watching players compete in the Mafinduzi Cup, where Zanzibar reached the final against Kenya, while Tanzania exited in the group stage.

This has broadened the coach's selection pool for the CHAN tournament.

Azam FC begin preparations for second round with new signings

By Correspondents Nassir Nchimbi & Seth Mapoli

WITH the Premier League on a two-month hiatus until March 1st due to Tanzania hosting the CHAN tournament, Azam FC head coach Rachid Taoussi has resumed training to build early chemistry within his squad, which includes new signings.

Taoussi emphasized the importance of bringing the players back early to ensure his plans for the league's second round, starting March 1, are on track.

Azam have bolstered their attacking options with two new signings: 19-year-old Tanzanian talent Zidane Sereri (pictured) from Dodoma Jiji, who has signed a five-and-a-half-year deal, and Ivorian left back and central defender Zouzou Landry from AFAD Djekanou of Ivory Coast Ligue 1.

Azam, currently third in the league behind leaders Simba and second-placed Young Africans, returned to their training camp at the Azam Complex on Monday to begin preparations for the final stretch of the season.

"The players were already in competitive form, so giving them two months without playing competitive matches or training together is a challenge for us as the technical bench. It will give us a lot of work to get them back to competitive form," said Taoussi, who is from Morocco.

"Our plan is to be a competitive team. We have a lot of work to do to ensure we recover the points we dropped and are able to achieve our goals. We are building them to be better than they are now," he added.

Taoussi said he will ensure he builds the team, including securing friendly matches to provide practi-



cal training.

"For us as coaches, the two-month league break means we will have the responsibility of redesigning training programs and ensuring the players remain in top physical and mental condition," said Taoussi, who took over the team from Youssouf Dabo.

"There is pressure for results when we return as it is the final round. The great expectations of the leaders and fans are good results, so if I had agreed to let the players continue staying at home, I would have had a hard time monitoring their progress," he concluded.

He said he believes that by staying close to them [the players], he can build them tactically and mentally before the league resumes.

Azam, who qualified for the CAF Champions League preliminary stage this season after finishing second in the 2023-2024 season, have collected 39 points from 16 matches this season, from 11 wins, three draws, and two losses.

Formerly under Dabo, Azam were eliminated in the first round in a 2-1 aggregate against APR after losing 2-0 away in the second leg.

Young Africans are above Azam with 39 points from 15 matches, while Simba lead with 40 points so far.

Meanwhile, as Azam intensify their preparations for the resumption of the Premier League, reports suggest the club's Senegalese left-back, Cheikh Sidibe, may soon depart before the transfer window closes.

Sources indicate that Sidibe, who has previously been called up to the Senegal national team, is in advanced stages of negotiating an exit from Azam.

Speculation links him to a potential move to DR Congo's AS Vita Club, a transfer reportedly endorsed by Vita's head coach, Youssouf Dabo, who previously coached Azam FC.

It is said that Dabo has instructed the club's management to finalize Sidibe's registration promptly.

An insider at Azam revealed that the club's leadership recently held a meeting and resolved to part ways with the defender. The decision comes amid ongoing efforts to bolster the squad with new international signings.

"The management has reached the decision to release Sidibe due to various reasons that I cannot

disclose. However, discussions are ongoing with players from different countries to strengthen the team," the source stated.

Sidibe joined Azam from Senegalese outfit Teungueth FC and was a key player during Dabo's tenure before the coach left for AS Vita.

Following Dabo's exit, Moroccan tactician Taoussi took over as Azam's head coach. Under Taoussi, Sidibe has seen reduced playing time, with Paschal Msindo often preferred at left-back.

In addition to Sidibe's situation, concerns have emerged regarding Azam's Guinean forward, Gibril Sillah. The player has reportedly received an offer from AS Vita as well, although Azam's leadership is still in talks with him to explore the possibility of retaining his services.

When reached for comment on Sidibe's rumoured departure, Azam FC's head of information, Thabit Zakaria, also known as "Zaka Zakazi," dismissed the reports.

"I don't know anything about that. You know there's a lot of information on the internet, but there is nothing like that happening within the club," he stated briefly.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



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