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## 'Media freedom an opening for unity, stronger economy'

By Guardian Reporter

THE shift to broader media freedom in Tanzania is an opportunity to build a unified country with a strong economy, Netherlands Ambassador Wiebe de Boer (pictured) has declared.

Exchanging views with members of Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) at his office in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, he praised the move, saying that media organs should not be afraid to work with opposition parties.

Even the president has shown that there is no problem in doing that, the envoy noted, expressing huge satisfaction with President Samia Suluhu Hassan for repositioning the country's media organs on the political landscape.

The change of air and extended freedom was a salutary example, he said, urging media organs to shirk from being afraid to exercise their responsibilities freely.

"She has shown the way on how the media ought to be independent," he said, affirming that journalists should use the opportunity to boost overall freedom of expression.

He similarly remarked that the president has worked to unite the people especially in cooperating with opposition parties on various issues, affirming that this is something for which President Samia must be applauded.

"Her decision to participate at meetings



**And that is why immediately after she became president, she removed the ban placed on media outlets sidelined by the fifth phase government**

of opposition parties shows her great commitment to unite the country," he stated, equally commending TEF as a key media stakeholder for having shown solidarity in the fight for press freedom.

Nagging issues have to proceed slowly before success is attained, he said, while TEF chairman Deodatus Balile hailed the Netherlands embassy for being close to Tanzania's media organs.

He asserted that media organs expect to have a law that strengthens the media industry, not placing hurdles that can disable the entire industry.

"We have high hopes with the process for amending media legislation: he stated, noting that the president and the responsible ministerial authorities had shown the will to remove hurdles on press freedom.

"And that is why immediately after she became president, she removed the ban placed on media outlets sidelined by the fifth phase government," he said, citing the unchaining of Mwanahalisi, Mawio, Raia Mwema and Tanzania Daima newspapers as well as some online television channels.

# Treasury seeks new British financing, for SGR's fifth lot

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is seeking assistance from Britain for financing the construction of the fifth-phase of standard gauge railway (SGR) from Isaka to Mwanza.

A statement by the Treasury said that Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba aired the proposal in talks with Tim Reid, the managing director for UK Exports Finance (UKEF) as part of activities of a high level delegation of the Union and Zanzibar Exchequer authorities.

He hailed UKEF for supporting the upgrade of Pemba Airport to international status, along with construction of road infrastructure in the Isles, similarly asking the agency to look for possibility to support the vital railway link in the region.

Assisting in upgrading Pemba Airport will not only facilitate businesses in the Isles, but also improve people's lives through tourism and related activities as upon completion, the facility will open up Zanzibar to enable large aircrafts to land on Pemba Island.

"Improvement of the Pemba airport will not only stimulate economic growth in the Isles but also improve economic growth through employment, markets, tourism and many others," the minister underlined

Dr Juma Malik Akil, the Finance and Planning permanent secretary in the Zanzibar President's Office, said in his remarks that the people of Zanzibar have been waiting for the project to be implemented, along with building Unguja and Pemba roads.

This will improve lives in the islands through tourism and other economic activities, he said.

The UKEF director assured the delegation that the fund for the projects will be timely disbursed as the institution is committed to injecting resources into Tanzania's strategic projects tabled by the government, including in the water and energy sectors.

UKEF has invited investors in the UK to brief them on investment opportunities available in Tanzania especially in the agriculture sector. UK Export Finance covers the UK Export Credits Guarantee Department, officials said.

The minister told his host that the



Lt Col Selestine Masalamado (L), assistant director with the Disaster Management Department of the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), pictured in Malawi on Wednesday exchanging greetings with Roderick Mateuma, Malawi's Karonga district commissioner, before handing over humanitarian assistance the Tanzanian government has extended to Malawi for use by people recently hit by the deadly Cyclone Freddy. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Tanzanian statesmen cited in UN Water changemakers 2023 awards

By Guardian Correspondent, New York

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi and ex-Union President Jakaya Kikwete are among six current

and former Heads of State receiving the Presidential Global Changemakers Award for 2023.

A local online chronicle said yesterday that the awards were presented to the

leaders by President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana as part of proceedings at the ongoing UN Water Conference in New York, on the sidelines of the United Nations

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Fishermen at Busekera village in Musoma Rural constituency District affected by earlier this week's thunderstorm, including seeing their fishing boats worth millions of shillings irreparably damaged look on forlornly on Wednesday, with few indications of help coming their way any time soon. Other fishing bases similarly hit in the unprecedented incident, much like Busekera all on the shores of Lake Victoria, have been given as Bwai Kumsoma, Bwira and Kasoma. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## MP initiates fundraiser to assist fishing communities

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

MUSOMA Rural MP Prof Sospeter Muhongo has launched a fundraising campaign to assist fishermen and women in his constituency whose boats were vastly damaged by a hurricane at the start of the week.

The legislator told the media at midweek that the campaign is aimed at enabling the fishermen to survive while waiting for repairs on their vessels.

Heavy rain with strong winds early this week destroyed 211 boats and 62 nets used in the fishing of sardines in various areas of the Lake Victoria coastline in Musoma Rural District, Mara Region.

The rain adversely affected fishing activity at the Busekera Village fish port in the wake

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## Tanzanian statesmen cited in UN Water changemakers 2023 awards

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General Assembly.

The awards are presented for demonstrating high level political commitment and leadership for climate resilient water security in Africa, the UN Water agency stated.

Other sources had indicated earlier that this event marks the first United Nations conference on water since 1977, slated for March 22 to 24, which diplomats said was a watershed moment for the sustainable development community as a whole. "The UN 2023 Water Conference is about uniting the world in accelerating action towards achieving SDG 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030. The award has for the first time been presented to the six current and former Heads of State in recognition of their efforts to bring positive changes in the water sector in their respective countries," the conference secretariat declared.

African leaders who received the awards are the four co-chairs of the international high-level panel on water investments for Africa, namely Senegalese President Macky Sall, who is also the current chairman of the African Union, Namibian President Hage Geingob, Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte, and ex-president Jakaya Kikwete.

Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema and President Mwinyi received the award for local country leadership following the launch of the Zambia Water Investment Program and the Zanzibar Water Investment Program respectively.

During the conference, former president Kikwete represented the other three co-chairs of the panel, mobilizing for water investments in the continent. The panel seeks to develop actionable pathways for mobilizing \$30bn annually by 2030, for implementing the

continental Africa water investment programme (AIP) and closing the current water investment gap in Africa, put at \$11bn to \$19bn.

Statistics show that over 300m Africans do not have access to clean drinking water and over 700m live without access to safe sanitation.

Approximately \$50bn annually or \$40 per African each year is required to achieve water security and sustainable sanitation in Africa by 2030, the secretariat underlined.

The panel proposed that Heads of State and government, global business leaders establish cross-sectoral leadership at the highest level, with commitment to substantially increase public finances and investments for water security and sustainable sanitation, it said.

Governments need to track progress and enhance mutual accountability for results in the mobilization of water investments and in peer review mechanisms, the guidelines indicate.

This applies at all governance levels and leaders commit to allocating at least five percent of national budgets for water and sanitation, along with 0.5 percent of GDP per annum for sanitation and hygiene programmes.

The panel urged the mobilization of new sources of funding and innovative finance by supporting matchmaking. This needs to focus on climate resilient, blended public-private finance alongside gender transformative approaches, it emphasised.

It also seeks to strengthen institutional regulation for water investments; create incentives and penalties for increased water efficiency across multiple industries to lead water stewardship efforts, biodiversity and ecosystem protection, the water secretariat specifies.

## TOSCI's official seed certification standards in final approval stages

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

TANZANIA Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) in cooperation with seed industry stakeholders have developed seed certification standards for seed/seedlings/cuttings of tree, fruit and sugarcane crops that are currently on final approval by other authorities.

TOSCI's Director General, Dr Patrick Ngwediagi told this publication in an interview that once the standards in question are approved then the state-owned institute will immediately venture into the certification process of coffee, tea, sugarcane pawpaw, cashew and grape vine crops as the institute have registered varieties of these crops. Seed certification for avocado, mango, orange, cocoa, palm, apples and banana will start when characterization of the varieties of these crops is complete.

"We're working round the clock to ensure that all tree and fruit plant varieties for potential food as well as economic cash crops in the country are being professionally certified and registered," he said.

"While we're continuing with certification and registration of the tree, fruit and sugarcane crops, we have decided to embark on a vital exercise to train and register seed/seedlings/cuttings multipliers and sellers of tree, fruit and sugarcane crops from across the country," Dr Ngwediagi expressed.

He added that, TOSCI was working to assure all seed varieties being certified and registered in the country are of high quality, basically in terms of yields and resistance to diseases, adding: "Seed quality attributes are expressed in terms of germination, purity, vigor and seed health. During seed certification process crop varieties are tested based on those aspects."

However, the TOSCI Director General detailed that during variety registration, the institute normally

checks for value for cultivation and use (VCU) where a variety is tested for its adaptability, yield, diseases and drought tolerances or any other point of merit stated by the breeder/applicant.

In a further effort to help improve performance and standards of the seed sector across the country, Dr Ngwediagi communicated that the institute had implemented a special programme to capacitate the seed dealers across the country to deliver services in accordance with the Seed Act, 2003 and its regulations.

He noted that there were some dealers who marketed seeds that their germination validity had expired (of above 7 months), while others had embraced a negative tendency of opening seeds packages in order to re-measure and sell it in different quantities.

"After investigating and realizing over the said irregularities in seeds marketing, we had patriotically decided to take a sober initiative to educate the seed dealers so as assisting them to perform their business according to the Seeds Act and Regulations," he stated.

Moreover, he briefed that some of the seed traders have marketed seeds without official TOSCI labels or labels for the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

"As per the ruling regulations, all home-based produced seeds to be marketed must possess an official label from TOSCI, whereby those from outside the country must have OECD Seed Schemes labels," he detailed.

TOSCI was established under the Seed Act No. 18 of 2003 as a successor to the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Agency (TOSCA), which is a government entity under the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). TOSCI's headquarters is in Morogoro with four branches in Lake zone (Mwanza), Northern zone (Arusha), Southern Highland zone (Njombe) and Southern zone (Mtwara). TOSCI headquarters also caters for the central and eastern zone.



Tanzania People's Defence Forces vehicles transporting humanitarian assistance destined for Malawi pictured at the Kasumulu border post while heading for Blantyre. Photo: Guardian Correspondent Kastus Tegemeo

## Marburg virus kills 20 in Equatorial Guinea - WHO

By Agencies

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said yesterday that the death toll from the Marburg virus epidemic in Equatorial Guinea has risen to 20, with Malabo reporting six more deaths in 10 days.

The cases of this haemorrhagic fever, which is almost as deadly as Ebola, have spread from the province of Kie-Ntem, where it caused the first known deaths on 7 January, to Bata, the economic capital of this small central African country, which is partly an island and partly a continent.

This expansion "suggests wider transmission of the virus" and requires "intensified response efforts to avoid a large-scale epidemic and loss of life," WHO warned in a statement.

"Between 11 and 20 March, eight cases were confirmed, six of which died," the Equatoguinean government said on its website, without establishing a total toll since the beginning of the epidemic. The last official death toll was 11 on 28 February. "To date, there are 20 probable cases and 20 deaths," the WHO said, adding that the new cases are reported

in the provinces of Kié-Ntem, Litoral and Centro Sur, which all have international borders with Cameroon and Gabon.

The epidemic is now raging in three of the four mainland provinces, from the east to the Atlantic Ocean. Bata, the port on the Gulf of Guinea with a population of about 250,000, is "affected", according to the government.

The efforts of the authorities, aided by the WHO, to contain the virus in Kié-Ntem have therefore not been enough. "Additional WHO experts will be deployed in the coming days," the UN agency said, adding that it is also "helping Gabon and Cameroon to strengthen their preparedness and response to the epidemic."

## Treasury out to get new British financing, for SGR's fifth lot

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timely completion of the strategic 249-kilometer railway line is likely to stimulate economic growth in the country and in neighboring countries.

SGR completion will open business and investment doors between Tanzania and the neighbouring countries of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), he specified.



Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Capital Investments led by its chairman, Jerry Silaa (gesturing), have a word with Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) CEO Rogatus Mativila when the committee made an inspection tour of the Kabingo-Kasulu-Manyovu road project in Kigoma Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shukuru Senkoro

## MP initiates fundraiser to assist fishing communities

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of storms vastly damaging 137 boats and 29 fishnets, he said.

The hurricane hit boats at the Buira fishing port where 39 boats were destroyed, among whom 29 are repairable. A total of 15 fishnets were destroyed, he said.

At the Kasoma village fishing port 10 boats were vastly damaged, out of which nine can be repaired, with three fishnets also destroyed, he

said. The Bwari village fishing port faced the same situation as 25 boats were put to extensive damage, with 21 deemed to be repairable, while 15 fishnets were destroyed, he stated.

"It is not bad if we initiate our own fundraising and all contributions should be channeled to the Musoma district commissioner," he said.

Stellah Sylvester, the vice

chairperson for the fishing boats operators at Busekera, said the rain, accompanied by strong winds, hit the area on Sunday happened on Monday, March 20 at around three in the afternoon, only halting effectively in the morning of the following day.

The fishing community there has incurred huge losses, she said, noting that one boat takes up to 60 pieces of timber to build, with

current pricing of a piece of such timber sourced from Ukerewe stands at 7,500/-, with hardwood timber pieces fetch a hefty 35,000/- to 40,000/- a piece.

Dadi Ndege, the beach management unit (BMU) chairman at Busekera, said that village leaders and the district defence and security committee were pursuing efforts to assist the hurricane victims.





Small traders for long commonly operating from roadsides at Mbezi Mwisho in Ubungo District, Dar es Salaam, remove their kiosks yesterday to pave the way for the establishment of parking lots. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# WHO-mentored emergency responders graduate in Dar

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE first ever team of 132 Multisectoral emergency responders trained by the World Health Organisation (WHO) has graduated in Dar es Salaam yesterday ready for deployment anywhere in Africa.

The volunteers are from the ministries in charge of Agriculture, Livestock And Fishery, Home Affairs, Defense, Community Development, Women and Special Groups, and health as well as Prime Minister Office and health practitioners from various councils.

Speaking at the closing of Tanzania Training of African Volunteer's Health Corps on Strengthening And Utilizing Response Groups for Emergence (SURGE) in Dar es Salaam, the Minister for Health Ummu Mwalimu said the experts are ready to be deployable anywhere in the continent.

In her speech read by Prof Mohamed Janabi, the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) Executive Director, Mwalimu said the training has come at the right time as some countries in the continent seek for humanitarian assistance due to floods and catastrophes.

She said already five graduates have been dispatched to the Kagera region to support the emergence and response team to contain the Marburg virus disease (MVD) outbreak reported a few days ago.

Mwalimu said the five weeks training has equipped the participants with knowledge on how to handle emergencies

and responses issues during eruptions plus humanitarian crises and sexual exploitations.

The ministry boss said Tanzanians corps will now be registered in the WHO database and can be requested to support other countries when emergencies break out.

"Our experts are ready to be deployable within and outside the continent to serve in places with hazards, diseases epidemic, displacement and nutrition issues," she said.

"I call on all of you to grab the opportunities to be part of the corps in other countries on the continent," she added.

WHO Representative, Dr Zabulon Yoti said that the training was timely for countries like Tanzania to build the capacity of its emergency response team.

He said build capacity training was very important to have experts who can be deployable everywhere in the African continent.

Dr Yoti said currently, in the African region about 150 public health events/emergencies are reported every week with about 15-20 percent being humanitarian crises.

These humanitarian crises include civil war and climate-related events such as prolonged drought, destructive floods and cyclones. These are often complex emergencies which require Multisectoral approach including support for provision of essential health services and management of victims of gender based violence.

According to him, WHO will support nations to prevent catastrophe adding that it is about serving lives.

"WHO will continue working

with the government and other partners and stakeholders to build a strong, multidisciplinary workforce for health emergencies in the country. This includes support to teams that may be deployed to respond to emergencies within and outside the country.

"WHO is also committed to continue mobilizing resources to support the country to implement the rest of the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) flagship initiatives as captured in the Roadmap that was developed in December 2022," he said.

Having completed training, the 132 participants will now have joined a roster of more than 300 adding that Tanzania was the 9th country to conduct the training and an electronic database has been created and most of the participants already have credentials to the database.

The database will be used to record and manage training and deployments whenever they occur.

# Govt to pay 11.3bn/- compensation to residents of areas bordering KIA

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has officially resolved the longstanding land dispute involving residents of five villages bordering Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) after agreeing to pay them a total of 11.3bn/- compensation to move out of the area.

Out of the money, 7.3bn/- will be paid to the residents of Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region and 4.04bn/- to the residents of

Arumeru District, Arusha Region.

On Wednesday, Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Nurdin Babu said the residents have thanked President Samia for her love in addressing and finalizing the issue within a short time of her presidency.

The dispute area is more than 11.4 hectares, and the villages whose residents were in dispute with Kilimanjaro Airport Development Company (KADCO) will be paid compensation including Chemka,

Rundugai, Sanya Station, Tindigani and Mtakuja.

RC Babu said the area was strategically set aside by the government with a 99-year title deed.

He said from the evaluation conducted, it was found out that there were residents who invaded the airport area in violation of procedures, but in regard to the Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions' residents, they will all be paid compensation.

## KUPOTEA KWA HATI YA KUSAFIRIA



MANJALE LYAMUBU NKILOSUBI anatangaza kupotea kwa hati ya kusafiria yenye passport namba TAE297018 iliyotolewa mwaka 2020 PCO DAR ES SALAAM. Kwa jeyote atakaeleona atoe taarifa kituo chochote cha polisi. POLISI TAARIFA: GEI/GEI/RB/98707/2023

رمضان كريم  
Ramadhan Kareem



May the Rahmat of Almighty Allah shine upon you and your family always.





By Henry Mwangonde

# Humanitarian aid to neighbouring countries part of our foreign policy - Foreign ministry

THE ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday said the recent support that Tanzania has offered to countries hit by natural disasters was part of implementation of the foreign policy which directs offering support to allies facing challenges.

Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ambassador Mindi Kasiga said at a press conference yesterday that Tanzania's foreign policy is embedded in strengthened relations with neighbouring countries and the international community at large.

"The support we gave to Malawi and Turkey after the aftermath of natural disasters Cyclone Freddy and the earthquake was based on such pillars that whenever a friend faces challenges you move in to support," she said.

The ministry also gave a narration of the various diplomatic engagements which the minister in the docket Dr Stergomena Tax had in the past two weeks.

First, the minister went to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to attend the Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC) Ministerial committee which foretells the implementation of 150 projects namely the Songwe water basin, MSD drug supply and trade.

"While in DRC the minister also launched the royal tour where a business man who is a transporter offered to show the royal tour for

free in 50 buses which are cross border as well as translate the movie into French.

Mindi said while in Namibia, Tanzania signed an agreement on diplomacy, security and military cooperation through the Joint Cooperation Commission and opened a new embassy in Namibia which has been established recently.

The minister also went with the

president in South Africa where South Africans commended Tanzania for the role and support during the liberation struggle.

In Malawi Dr Tax went to hand over humanitarian support which was cash, materials equipment and military personnel to assist in rescue.

In Turkey Tanzania also handed support after the aftermath of an earthquake which hit the country

and killed many people.

On the coming of the US deputy president Mindi said this is a sign that the two countries have a long-standing relation which is unprecedented to have two powerful women sitting together.

"This sends a strong message to the world that Tanzania is open for business in which world leaders and investors are ready to come and invest," she said.



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Muslim faithful in Katavi Region hold a peaceful march yesterday to express their support of efforts by the government to end gender-based and other forms of violence, crime and indecency in society. Photo: Correspondent Neema Hussein



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

### USAID Heshimu Bahari Activity Request For Application Heshimu Bahari RFA 1/2023

USAID Heshimu Bahari is a five-year (2022-2027) project financed by USAID and implemented by Chemonics International and partners. The goal of the project is to strengthen the enabling environment and science-driven framework for sustainable marine protected areas (MPAs) and fisheries co-management in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, by Government, communities, and the private sector, through four integrated objectives:

1. Collaborative network of resilient MPAs and no-take replenishment zones (NTRZs) expanded.
2. Community co-management of MPAs/marine capture fisheries strengthened.
3. Private sector investment in MPAs and marine capture fisheries co-management expanded.
4. Integration of relevant science-to-MPA management improved.

#### Objective.

This announcement is a call for Request for Application (RFA) seeking to award a grant to an NGO, Civil Society Organization (CSOs) or Private firm to undertake a benthic ecological survey in nearshore waters along the northern coast of Tanzania Mainland. The objective of the activity is to generate systematic baseline data to incorporate into multi-parameter analysis for marine spatial planning to identify priority marine areas for protection and management.

#### Geography coverage and target.

The target area broadly covers the nine collaborative fisheries management areas (CFMAs) in nearshore waters of northern Tanzania Mainland, indicated by green-shaded areas. The area encompasses marine waters adjacent to Mkinga District, part of Tanga Municipality, Pangani District and Bagamoyo District, but excluding Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park (TACMP). The benthic ecological survey (BES) itself will be implemented between the high spring tide mark and the 50m sub-tidal depth contour within the above-mentioned areas.

#### Eligible Recipients:

- Applicants must be a registered company or non-governmental organization (NGO) formally constituted, recognized by and in good standing with appropriate authorities in the country in which the entity is registered, and compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations.
- Applicants may only submit one application per prime organization under this RFA.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate successful past performance in implementation of marine benthic and/or other marine ecological research in nearshore waters in Tanzania Mainland or Zanzibar.
- Applicants should assemble an implementation team with the following minimum requirements:
  - (i) A Team Leader with: (a) a Master's degree or PhD in marine science or related discipline; (b) significant demonstrable experience leading similar marine ecological research studies in Tanzania or similar nearshore marine environments in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO); (c) at least 10 years practical

in-water field experience in marine benthic surveys and/or other nearshore marine ecological research; (d) significant demonstrable experience in marine survey data handling and analysis, and (e) significant demonstrable experience writing high-quality technical reports for international donors or organizations or other international audience;

- (ii) Field Unit Leaders (one for each field/boat team) with (a) a bachelor's degree or higher in marine science or related discipline (b) significant demonstrable practical in-water field experience in marine benthic surveys and/or other nearshore marine ecological research; and (c) significant demonstrable experience in handheld GPS navigation and/or smartphone navigation applications.

- Applicants must display sound management in the form of financial, administrative, and technical policies and procedures and present a system of internal controls that safeguard assets; protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and support the achievement of program goals and objectives. USAID Heshimu Bahari will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant.

- For any grant award(s) resulting from this solicitation that is other than in-kind, equivalent to \$25,000 USD or more, and has no anticipated sub-awards, grantees will be required to provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) at the time of award. If the applicant already has a UEI number, it should be included in their application. Otherwise, applicants will be expected to get a UEI number before an award is made. USAID Heshimu Bahari will assist successful applicants with this process.

- Faith-based and community groups will receive equal opportunity for funding in accordance with the mandated guidelines laid out in ADS 303.3.28 except for faith-based organizations whose objectives are for discriminatory and religious purposes, and whose main objective of the grant is of a religious nature.

#### Funding:

Benthic ecological survey grants for entire area will be awarded up to the maximum of \$120,000 for the period of not more than seven (7) months

#### Application and Submission Information.

Interested agencies are invited to request for RFA through the mail address [HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com](mailto:HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com)

The deadline for submitting of Request for proposals is **Apr 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 5.00 p.m.** All interested agencies must submit their proposals in electronic version through [HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com](mailto:HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com) with subject clearly marked RFA 1/2023.

Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of Heshimu Bahari, nor does it commit Heshimu Bahari to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Further, Heshimu Bahari reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received and reserves the right to ask for further clarifications from the applicants.



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

### USAID Heshimu Bahari Activity Request For Application Heshimu Bahari RFA 2/2023

USAID Heshimu Bahari is a five-year (2022-2027) project financed by USAID and implemented by Chemonics International and partners. The goal of the project is to strengthen the enabling environment and science-driven framework for sustainable marine protected areas (MPAs) and fisheries co-management in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, by Government, communities, and the private sector, through four integrated objectives:

1. Collaborative network of resilient MPAs and no-take replenishment zones (NTRZs) expanded.
2. Community co-management of MPAs/marine capture fisheries strengthened.
3. Private sector investment in MPAs and marine capture fisheries co-management expanded.
4. Integration of relevant science-to-MPA management improved.

#### Objectives.

This announcement is a call for Request for Application (RFA) is seeking to award a grant to an NGO, Civil Society Organization (CSOs) to undertake an artisanal fishing pattern mapping survey along the northern Tanzania Mainland coast. The objective of the activity is to generate systematic baseline data to incorporate into multi-parametric marine spatial analysis to identify priority marine areas for protection and management.

#### Geography coverage and target.

The overall target area covers the nine collaborative fisheries management areas (CFMAs) in nearshore waters of northern Tanzania Mainland. The area encompasses marine waters adjacent to Mkinga District, part of Tanga Municipality, Pangani District and Bagamoyo District, but excluding Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park (TACMP).

#### Eligible Recipients:

- Applicants must be a non-governmental organization (NGO) or CSO registered and formally constituted in Tanzania (both Mainland or Zanzibar), recognized by and in good standing with appropriate authorities, and compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations.
- Applicants may only submit one application per prime organization under this RFA.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate successful past performance in implementation of focus group-based social science surveys with coastal fishing communities in Tanzania Mainland or Zanzibar. Organizations having recent or ongoing project engagements on fisheries co-management with coastal communities in the target districts and CFMAs will have an advantage.
- Applicants may submit an application covering the whole target area, or covering specific districts only, depending on their area of engagement and interest. That said, collaborations between organizations which jointly cover the whole target area are encouraged.
- Applicants should assemble an implementation team with the following minimum requirements:
  - (i) A Team Leader with: (a) a Master's degree or PhD in social science, fisheries science or other relevant discipline; (b) at least 10 years' experience leading similar social science research studies in Tanzania; (c) significant, demonstrable experience undertaking research or other project facilitation in coastal fishing communities in Tanzania; (d) significant demonstrable experience writing high-quality technical reports for international donors or organizations or other international audience; (e) written and spoken fluency in

#### Kiswahili and English:

- (ii) Fisheries Specialist: (if team leader is not a fisheries specialist) with (a) a Masters' degree or higher in fisheries science or related discipline; (b) at least 10 years' experience in similar fisheries-related social science studies in Tanzania; (c) significant, demonstrable experience facilitating engagement with coastal fishing communities in Tanzania; (f) written and spoken fluency in Kiswahili and English;
- (iii) Facilitators: 2 to 4 other team members with significant, demonstrable experience working with coastal fishing communities in Tanzania. Depending on how focus groups will be organized, it is emphasized that information capture from focus groups during this assignment will require close facilitation, and might also call for concurrent groups to be working simultaneously.

- Applicants must display sound management in the form of financial, administrative, and technical policies and procedures and present a system of internal controls that safeguard assets; protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and support the achievement of program goals and objectives. USAID Heshimu Bahari will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant.

- For any grant award(s) resulting from this solicitation that is other than in-kind, equivalent to \$25,000 USD or more, and has no anticipated subawards, grantees will be required to provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) at the time of award. If the applicant already has a UEI number, it should be included in their application. Otherwise, applicants will be expected to get a UEI number before an award is made. USAID Heshimu Bahari will assist successful applicants with this process.

- The project will work with the successful grantee to draft a marking and branding plan which will be annexed to the grant agreement.

- Faith-based and community groups will receive equal opportunity for funding in accordance with the mandated guidelines laid out in ADS 303.3.28 except for faith-based organizations whose objectives are for discriminatory and religious purposes, and whose main objective of the grant is of a religious nature.

#### Funding:

Fisheries pattern mapping grant for entire area will be awarded up to the maximum of \$90,000 for the period of no more than four (4) months.

#### Application and Submission Information.

Interested agencies are invited to request for RFA through the mail address [HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com](mailto:HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com)

The deadline for submitting of Request for proposals is **Apr 24<sup>th</sup> 2023, 5.00 p.m.** All interested agencies must submit their proposals in electronic version through [HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com](mailto:HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com) with subject clearly marked RFA 2/2023

Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of Heshimu Bahari, nor does it commit Heshimu Bahari to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Further, Heshimu Bahari reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received and reserves the right to ask for further clarifications from the applicants.



## Government demands research in education sector

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE government has called upon researchers in the country to do research aligned to the country's priorities to become meaningful for timely implementation.

The event dubbed: 'Utafiti Elimu Tanzania 2023', is a partnership enterprise between the government, University of Dar es Salaam, Aga Khan Foundation, EdTech Hub, the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel (GEEAP) and the British Council.

Yusuph Singo who represented the Director of School Administration in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government said the government depends on research and academia to strengthen the education sector in the country hence the need to align it with national priorities.

"The government is investing heavily in the education sector and so having to hear recommendations in this period of school curriculum review will help

much on preparing children to become independent even after school", he explained.

The event themed "Teacher Workforce Planning and Management" organised by Utafiti Elimu Tanzania (UET)

"I am looking forward to hearing the evidence and recommendations from research colleagues during the sessions and also am interested to learn more from the research about the role of infrastructure in relation to climate and environment", he noted

James Proctor, Tanzania country lead EdTech Hub, said that the two days event has brought together senior individuals from a range of backgrounds to discuss how to address the existing gaps between evidence, policy, and practice on education research so as to give students with knowledge that is impactful.

"The quality of education depends on the quality of teachers, and effective teacher workforce planning and management is crucial to ensure a competent and motivated teaching

workforce," he said.

He further noted that UET is an evidence event exploring the education landscape in Tanzania and how research on interventions can support the sector.

He further noted that together they will enhance partners' understanding of innovative thinking and leading actors in the sector to create more effective interventions and sustainable, high impact initiatives, he said.

Faith Shayo, donor partner group chair and head of education sector UNESCO Tanzania office said that the gathering provides an opportunity for education stakeholders to come together and reflect on the state on education research in Tanzania.

"We are all aware that education is a fundamental right and essential element for personal and societal development and so in our efforts to provide quality education we must strive to ensure that all children have access to education and are provided with the necessary support to succeed in their academic pursuit", said Shayo.

## United Nations conference makes urgent appeal for better management of water

By Guardian Reporter

THE first major UN conference on water in 45 years got under way on Wednesday in New York with an urgent call to manage the precious resource.

In his speech, UN's secretary-general, António Guterres, stressed the importance of water as key to development.

Water is a human right – and a common development denominator to shape a better future. But water is in deep trouble.

"We've broken the water cycle, destroyed ecosystems and contaminated groundwater. Nearly three out of four natural disasters are linked to water. One in four people lives without safely managed water services or clean drinking water. And over 1.7 billion people lack basic sanitation," denounced António Guterres.

Ahead of the conference, the US ambassador at the UN announced that the

United States had pledged \$49 billion towards water security at home and around the world.

"A 2022 study by the University of California, Los Angeles, estimated that almost half of the world's population will suffer severe water stress by 2030. This is a crisis, one that affects people around the globe and one that demands concrete action. That's why I am proud to announce that the United States is committing \$49 billion toward equitable, climate resilient water and sanitation investments at home and around the globe. That significant number should demonstrate just how seriously we take water security", announced Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

On Tuesday the UN released the World Water Development Report 2023. Among its findings it says 26 percent of the world's population doesn't have access to safe drinking water and 46 percent lacks access to basic sanitation.



**BARRICK**  
NORTH MARA

### REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following:

#### Supply and Installation Vibrating Wire Piezometer (VWP) Instrumentation Unit for Packer Testing

##### Pre-qualification Criteria

Reference No.	Description	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1 NM014//2023	Packer testing and Vibrating Wire Piezometers Installation For Nyabigena Open Pit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicants to submit Company profile with proven experience in <b>Packer testing and Vibrating Wire Piezometers installation</b></li> <li>Applicants must have ability of deliver and install highly sensitive Vibrating Wire Piezometer Instruments with its readout with the following specification: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over range: 1.5*F. S</li> <li>Resolution: 0.025%F.S. minimum</li> <li>Accuracy: 0.1%F. S.</li> <li>Linearity: &lt;0.5% F.S.</li> <li>Operating Temperature: -20° to 80°</li> <li>Diaphragm Displacement :&lt;0.001 cc at FS</li> <li>Thermal Coefficient: &lt;0.025% F.S./°C</li> <li>Materials: Hermetically sealed stainless steel</li> <li>Frequency range 1400-3500hz</li> <li>Ranges(psi): 0-10000</li> </ol> </li> <li>Applicants must have ability of executing HQ Packer testing system capable of single and straddle testing.</li> <li>Information required to include a list of relevant projects undertaken in recent last 5 years. For each project provide: a description and relevance to the tendered project; project cost; and duration of the project.</li> <li>Completion certificates of previous projects with a reference list of Clients, the applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided.</li> <li>Applicant to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel to perform the task.</li> <li>Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, engineering capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and Regulations.</li> </ol>

##### Expression of interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to [nm.proposal@barrick.com](mailto:nm.proposal@barrick.com)

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective package reference no. (s) In the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of NMGM

##### Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI 30 March 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited



**BARRICK**  
NORTH MARA

### REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following:

#### DRILLING VIBRATING WIRE PIEZOMETER (VWP) AND DEWATERING BOREHOLES FOR NYABIGENA PIT WALLS

##### Pre-qualification Criteria

Reference No.	Description	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1 NM013/2023	Drill Vibrating Wire Piezometer And Dewatering Boreholes For Nyabigena Open Pit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicants to submit Company profile with proven experience in Drilling VWP and Dewatering Boreholes.</li> <li>Applicants must have ability to provide a Rig with capacity of drilling and to reaming up to 12inch diameter and installation of uniform size gravel pack (2-4mm), thorough borehole development.</li> <li>Applicants must have ability of executing Pumping and Recovery Test and for V-notch measurement for determining each aquifer yield during drilling progress.</li> <li>Applicants must have ability of executing casing, PVC liner installation and capping operation for the boreholes.</li> <li>Information required to include a list of relevant projects undertaken in recent last 5 years. For each project provide: a description and relevance to the tendered project; project cost; and duration of the project.</li> <li>Completion certificates of previous projects with a reference list of Clients, the applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided.</li> <li>Applicant to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel to perform the task.</li> <li>Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, engineering capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and Regulations</li> </ol>

##### Expression of interest

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##### Key Dates

- Last date to submit EO 30 March 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited



## Msomera to become Tanzania's demonstration village - minister

By Guardian Reporter

LANDS, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister Dr Angeline Mabula has said Msomera Village in Handeni District, Tanga Region will be a 'demonstration village' for other villages in the country for them to go and learn due to its better land use and good supervision.

Dr Mabula made the remarks on Wednesday when handing out title deeds to owners of land who shifted to the village from Ngorongoro in Arusha Region as part in the implementation of directives from Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

"We are going to make this village as a show case where people from other areas will come to learn on how it was planned for better land utilisation," she said.

According to the minister, people who were shifted to Msomera Village from Ngorongoro were not shifted through bad luck, but from the government's good intention to empowered individual Tanzanians.

Dr Mabula called on the residents of Msomera Village to avoid conflicts as it is the area which the government casts its glances and stressed that her ministry will not

tolerate seeing unplanned villages.

Meanwhile, the Director of the National Land Planning Commission, Prof Wakuru Magigi said for the first phase for the implementation of Msomera Village project, the government has constructed 503 houses and land plots secured at the area which were surveyed totaled 4,620.

According to Prof Magigi, there are also areas earmarked for various social services.

He added that every residential plot is of 2.5 acres, but also there are 5-acre farm plots distributed to the people who shift to the area.

Handeni District Commissioner, Albert Msando said when he came to the district following his appointment he found several conflicts smouldering in Msomera Village, especially those pitting locals and newcomers and added that his office took steps to go through various documents and cleared the conflicts.

*"We are going to make this village as a show case where people from other areas will come to learn on how it was planned for better land utilisation"*



Barrick Gold Corporation President and CEO Mark Bristow (L) pictured yesterday symbolically presenting an ambulance to Kahama district commissioner Mboni Mhita donated by the conglomerate to Bugarama Health Centre in Msalala District. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

BARRICK Gold Corporation has donated an ambulance to the Bugarama health center in Bugarama ward, Msalala District Council in Shinyanga Region in support of government efforts to improve provision of health services.

The vehicle (Toyota Land Cruiser hardtop vehicle) was handed over yesterday to Kahama District Commissioner, Mboni Mhita by President and Chief Executive Officer of the Barrick Gold Corporation, Mark Bristow.

Speaking during the handover ceremony held at the Bugarama

## Barrick provides ambulance for Bugarama health centre in Msalala District, Shinyanga

health center, Bristow said that Barrick is committed to the health and safety standards and therefore the donation is part of health and safety initiative on life-saving support to the community and is not part of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Bristow added that the company will continue to collaborate with the government to undertake various health services in the communities where it operates.

"With the CSR setting, we have made a significant contribution to improving health care in the community in Msalala Council. In 2022 only Barrick Bulyanhulu completed about 18 dispensaries in Msalala Council, which are estimated to serve more than 50,000 people. This year we are planning to complete the remaining 4 dispensaries and fence for the Bugarama health centre," said Bristow.

Kahama District Commissioner, Mboni Mhita thanked Barrick on the way it strives to implement various projects that affect the people while stressing that the government will continue to cooperate with investors in bringing development to the people.

"We thank Barrick for providing this ambulance car to the Bugarama health center. The vehicle will greatly help in solving the existing transport challenges to patients and

we promise to maintain and use it for its intended purposes. The car will increase the strength in the provision of health services," said Mhita.

She added: "Barrick has been a major stakeholder in Kahama District and they are implementing various projects that affect the people and this is due to the good cooperation that exists between the government and the company."

The Acting Director, Msalala

District Council, Leonard Mabula and the Bugarama Ward Councillor, Prisca Msoma commended Barrick for responding to their request for an ambulance, saying availability of the car will solve existing challenges at the health center that serves the community of Bugarama and neighbouring areas including Geita.

The medical in charge at Bugarama health center Dr Silas Kayanda and the chief medical officer of Msalala District Council, Dr Sisti Masha said they made a request for an ambulance from Barrick on January 25th, 2023 when Barrick President and CEO, Mark Bristow, visited the centre.



### CONSULTANCY SERVICE

#### Feasibility, design and installation of a Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) system

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES-USCCB (CRS)** was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to serve World War II survivors in Europe. Today, it is the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community. It provides support to impoverished and disadvantaged people in over 100 countries based solely on need, regardless of their race, religion, or ethnicity.

CRS has its headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, and in Tanzania, it has its main office in Dar es Salaam and sub-offices in Kigoma and Mbeya regions.

CRS aims to achieve a 50% reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030, this includes decreasing its greenhouse gas emissions across its operations and reducing energy consumption in support of our shared values of Care for Creation and Stewardship.

CRS Tanzania is looking for a consultant to determine the feasibility, design and installation of a Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) system in Dar es salaam office, particularly looking at the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and outline technical specifications and cost estimates, enabling CRS Tanzania to decide and pursue this as a viable renewable energy transition option.

The evaluation process will be conducted according to the CRS Procurement Policies and Procedures. Only shortlisted vendor will be selected based on submitted business profile which entail legal compliance, brochures, price list, experience in the market, financial health (provision of audited financial statements), description of similar assignments, technical competence (CVs of key staffs), warranty validity, after sale services and manufacturer's authorization added as an advantage.

#### Tender Documents:

The detailed invitation tender documents are available any time from March 24 to 27, 2023. Interested bidders are invited to pick-up a hard copy of the tender document at the CRS office or can request a soft copy. Requests for tender documents should be submitted on a company letterhead signed by Director/Manager of the company in hardcopy or via e-mail to Elizabeth Sendama at [elizabeth.sendama@crs.org](mailto:elizabeth.sendama@crs.org) with "Request for Tender Documents: "2023-CRS-03. Feasibility of design and installation of a Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) system" in the subject line.

The deadline for submission of the completed and sealed proposal application is **17hrs local time on April 7, 2023.**

### DAR ES SALAAM STOCK EXCHANGE PLC



### BOARD DIRECTORSHIP POSITIONS

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange PLC (DSE) is looking for persons with competence, knowledge and experience in financial markets, corporate governance practices, advocacy for policy development to serve in its Board of Directors as representatives of individuals' (minority) shareholders.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- To determine and maintain DSE's Vision, Mission, and Values;
- To develop, promote and monitor implementation of DSE strategic objectives and plans;
- To ensure compliance to good corporate governance practices and corporate code of conduct and ethics;
- To ensure accountability and compliance to laws by the DSE;
- To ensure that a comprehensive system of policies and procedures is in place and that appropriate governance structures exist to ensure the smooth, efficient and prudent stewardship of the Exchange;
- To maintain proper strategic oversight for DSE operations;
- To select, support and regularly review the performance of the Chief Executive and senior Management of the Exchange; and
- To maintain an effective Board performance.

#### Minimum Qualifications and Experience

##### An applicant should:

- be a holder of a degree in Business Administration, Law, ICT, Economics, Commerce, or equivalent qualifications coupled with business acumen;
- have at least 10 years' experience in financial markets;
- have proven track record in advocacy for policy development;
- have proven high moral and ethical character;
- have relevant experience in good corporate governance practices; and
- not have any criminal record or history of bankruptcy.

#### Mode of Application

##### Interested candidates are required to submit the following:

- An application letter detailing one's suitability for the position.
- A comprehensive Curriculum Vitae (CV).
- Certified copies of relevant certificates
- Two recent passport size photographs; and
- Certified copies of last two pages of passport or a copy of NIDA ID.

To the following address:  
**Secretary to the DSE Board of Directors**  
**P. O. Box 70081**  
**3rd Floor, Kambarage House, 6th Ufukoni Street**  
**Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**  
**E-mail: [info@dse.co.tz](mailto:info@dse.co.tz)**

Deadline for applications is on 11th April 2023 at 2.00 p.m. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.





Digna Isdory (L), a senior environment officer with Tembo Nickel, presents water pipes and accessories to Bugarama water committee chairman Venance Njojoi to help in the rehabilitation of Hembe water resources. The gesture was part of the Water Week commemoration held in Ngara District. Looking on are some members of the committee. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Pangani basin marks World Water Day planting trees

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Pangani Basin Water Board (PBWB) in collaboration with stakeholders has board on a tree planting exercise at water sources, as part of activities to mark the World Water Day.

The basin is also providing awareness education to the public on the importance of conserving the environment, water sources and catchment areas. The exercise includes placing of beacons at different water sources.

Speaking with this paper on Wednesday at Kindi Kati area, in Kibosho, Moshi Rural District, Kilimanjaro Region, PBWB Water Sources Eng. Suleiman Mdee said the beacons have been installed at the Kondelango natural water springs in Sango village, Kimochi ward, to avoid unnecessary boundary disputes with the villagers.

"We have joined the world to

mark international water day. PBWB carried out various activities including tree planting, creating awareness on environmental protection to students at different schools and members of the community," said Mdee.

Eng Mdee said the board also supports different water user's communities to establish tree nurseries within their areas and tree planting at catchment areas to enhance protection of the sources.

He said the board faces several challenges which include villagers' encroachment at water sources. He said some villagers conduct farming activities at water catchment areas, overgrazing, tree cutting and discharging of wastes in the rivers.

PBWB Environmental Officer, Evansia Marshay said the organisation has a total of 1,392 active water sources, calling upon villagers to protect and conserve the environment surrounding the sources for sustainable water

availability.

She said the Pangani River Basin Management Project (PRBMP) is generating technical information and participatory forums to strengthen integrated water resources management in the Pangani basin.

"PRBMP has four major components: environmental flow assessment, community participation in water resources management, climate change and groundwater assessment (to support the integrated water resource management and development plan)," he said.

Moshi Rural District Acting District Executive Director, Peter Tungu, Ward Councillor, Ally Badi and Sango Village Chairman, Menyiasumba Tenga commended the role played by the PBWB in creating awareness to the public on the importance of environmental protection particularly at water catchment areas.

## 24 journalists from across the globe to tour Tanzania's national parks this year

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TWENTY-FOUR journalists from across the world are expected to arrive in the country in May this year to visit Tanzania's national parks and promote them internationally.

The writers will visit national parks and game reserves located in Tanga, Morogoro, Iringa, Njombe, Lindi, Mbeya, Rukwa Kigoma, Kagera, Geita, Mara, Pemba, Zanzibar and Coast regions.

The statement was made yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the Coordinator of Awoke International Sports Tourism and Expo, Buchebuche Enousy, who said that after visiting national parks, journalists are expected to write about the beauty of Tanzania and all the tourist attractions.

He said they will be from various media outlets in the United States, India, Canada, Turkey, Israel, and Ghana.

As for mainland Tanzania, he said the writers will finish their

visit on May 28th, 2023 at the Serengeti national park and will go to Zanzibar and Pemba where they will stay for five days then travel back to their countries.

He said on March 27th there will be a launch of the Awoke International Sports Tourism and Expo in Arusha where there will be a conference to promote tourism within and outside the country.

"This programme is a continuation of the Royal Tour made by President Samia Suluhu Hassan last year and she has made a great effort to market the tourism sector whereas through the film, the industry has been revived and we are now receiving many tourists," he said.

He said the conference is an opportunity for Tanzanian companies to market their various services to visitors and establish contact with visitors.

"I would like to call on local organisations to sponsor the conference because it is an opportunity for them to promote

their businesses. We invite all the citizens to participate in this event which will be broadcasted live through various local and national media," he said.

He said they are expecting that after the launch of the institution and the conference, the number of tourists arriving in the country will double, thus boosting government coffers and individual's income.

He said they expect it to open various employment opportunities, business and tourism and non-tourism activities, increase investment opportunities in various sectors and promote various local attractions.

Enousy said that on May 23rd they will hold a major tourism conference in Mara Region where there will also be exhibitions.

He thanked the government through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism as well as other institutions such as the Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB) for their support during preparation of the events.

## TEN/MET launches 5-year strategic plan to augment efforts by govt to provide quality inclusive education

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Education Network (TEN/MET) has launched a five-Year Strategic Plan (2023 to 2027) that envisages complementing the government's efforts to provide quality inclusive education in the country.

Speaking during the launching event in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, TEN/MET national coordinator Wayoga said the strategic plan is also prepared in line with the government Planning framework which includes the National Five-Year Development Plan (2021/2022 - 2025/2026), the Tanzania Development Vision 2025, Global initiatives under Sustainable Development Goals and other government directives geared at ensuring that Tanzania is economically advantaged with the current global phase of the fourth industrial revolution.

In addition, the First Five-Year Strategic Plan has been informed by, among others, the Education and Training Policy (ETP) of 2014 and the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG No. 4 and 5. The strategy has also taken heed on consideration to the current ESDP 2023/27.

The event went along with the commemoration of the 23rd Anniversary TEN/MET and which attracted over 60 participants from the government, development partners, CSOs, the private sector, network's members and the media.

Wayoga said TEN/MET will make every effort to meet the five strategic objectives which include to coordinate education for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) influence decisions in the education system in Tanzania.

Other objectives are to strengthen TEN/MET systems and structures to carry its mandate, generate evidence-based best practices locally, regionally and globally to influence educational policy and practices and advocate for gender mainstreaming in the education system to secure equitable, inclusive and quality education for learners Tanzania.

TEN/MET will also advocate for the education system that embraces science, technology, and innovation

to meet the demands of the 4th industrial revolution.

The national coordinator said that the implementation of the strategic plan is expected to spend 20bn/- benefiting millions of school children in the country.

Ephraim Simbeye, the education quality controller from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology praised the coalition's impact in the education sector, citing the network's involvement in various initiatives that have helped to address a number of challenges in the sector.

He also challenged TEN/MET to increase their media presence and membership base, urging the network to advocate for good morals among students.

Simbeye expressed the ministry's eagerness to work with TEN/MET to ensure Tanzania has an education system that prepares learners for the 4th Industrial Revolution and the future of jobs.

He further confirmed the government's commitment to transforming education and achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 as ratified.

## TPHPA to equip workers with science and technology skills

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast

TANZANIA Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) is set to equip its workers with modern science and technology, so that they can have more knowledge on controlling crops' disruptors to facilitate trade food security and efficiency in traders and agricultural stakeholders.

Prof. Joseph Ndunguru, TPHPA acting director general made the pledge recently while he visited Tanzania Initiative for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPA) centre in Kibaha District, Coastal region.

Prof Ndunguru said: "It's high time for modern farming, using new technology to obtain great and quality yield as well as soil management." "Successful agricultural production needs new technology, we are going to see this happen in order to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery to farmers," he said.



He said the government has created a good environment for the services by building a modern laboratory which will diagnose a wide range of diseases.

Prof Ndunguru further commended Ministry of Agriculture, through TANIPA, for building a

modern laboratory to test and control fungicides for consumers' safety as well as credibility in domestic and international trade.

The authority aims at reducing high uses of synthetic pesticides by using environmentally friendly technology.

Mohamed Njaku, TANIPA supervisor said: "The centre is proud of fighting cassava mealybug using wasp family of Apoanagyrus lopezi, Cassava green mites by using wasp family of Typhlodromallus aripo, Water hyacinth control by using beetles, and Spiralling Whitefly by using wasp Encarsia dispersa and Encarsia guadeloupe."

### REQUEST FOR TENDER

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#### Supplying, Installation, Commissioning and Training for IBIS ArcSAR Radar

**Pre-qualification Criteria**

Reference No.	Description	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	NM015/2023 <b>Supplying, Installation, Commissioning and Training For IBIS ArcSAR Radar at Nyabigena Open Pit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Applicants to submit Company profile with proven experience in Supplying, installation, and commissioning radar with <b>IBIS ArcSAR technology capable to provide 360° horizontal coverage.</b></li> <li>ii. Supplied Radar must have Leverage widest and longest range of 2,500m, and a short scan time (360° in 4 minutes) as well as a GNSS for auto-geocoding capabilities.</li> <li>iii. Supplied radar must be based on Synthetic Aperture Technology with ability to automatically generate a DTM surface and provide a standard 3D visualization.</li> <li>iv. Information required to include a list of relevant projects undertaken in recent last 5 years. For each project provide: a description and relevance to the tendered project; project cost; and duration of the project.</li> <li>v. Completion certificates of previous projects with a reference list of Clients, the applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided.</li> <li>vi. Applicant to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel to perform the task.</li> <li>vii. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, engineering capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and Regulations.</li> </ul>

**Expression of interest**  
If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to [nm.proposal@barrick.com](mailto:nm.proposal@barrick.com)

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective package reference no. (s) In the subject line of the email.

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**Key Dates**

- Last date to submit EO **30 March 2023**

**North Mara Gold Mine Limited**



FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2023

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Change in direction of political wind should add meaning to the economy

ONE could safely say that political parties are back in the saddle in the country and they have promised to keep their activities tied to policy discussion for clarity among voters rather than interminable disputes on the legitimacy of the state.

With that, there is a topic they need to broach more earnestly and fully. Not that it is the only one, as politicians are more likely to sniff some scandal and let everything drop by the wayside to prove what may just be a false allegation.

While that is part of accountability, actual policy debate is what nurtures democracy, while experience shows that pursuing instability leads to fatigue with democracy as such.

Thus the main political parties could tell the public what they feel about national budgeting formats, whether we should pursue classical budgeting where there is a keen preoccupation with development expenditure, or just make that an auxiliary.

The problem is that, generally, what is fronted to the public is development expenditure or achievements thereof, while in private what is energetically pursued is recurrent expenditure.

Development expenditure is usually a matter of leadership particularly at high levels, while group demands peak recurrent expenditure.

The Treasury has recently unveiled expenditure layouts for the next financial year, the main part being a change in the ratio of the two aspects, recurrent expenditure now rising to 70 per cent.

It is a sort of New Deal for those in the civil service as relates to higher levels of employment, and gradually more relaxed internal expenditure outlooks. There is a renewed effort at recruitment as sectors like health and education, not to speak of the police or other, have acute shortages.

A prior supposedly academic question can be posed, if a country

ought to have the same balance of recurrent and development expenditure when it is very poor, and when it is less poor even if it isn't quite middle income.

History is a bit inconsistent on the issue as it also depends on attitudes of those in office, where austere leadership focuses on development expenditure as it translates into tangible benefits for large numbers of people while recurrent expenditure has a less direct popular impact.

New civil servants ease the work for those employed, but at times it is only an efficiency trade-off involved, with people happier that they will do much less work.

Another fairly academic way of looking at the issue is happiness levels under the two modes of expenditure, where at some time most bars and fast food joints see massive numbers of customers.

In contrast, major city roads may turn into rivers or ponds when it rains, and once there is a change of guard the new top leadership overturns the pattern of expenditure.

Recurrent expenditure is then brought down noticeably while development expenditure is raised rather steeply.

That this mode of expenditure best suits the public is easy to take note of in relation to abolishing fees in secondary schools, putting up more schools and health centres, improving regional and district roads to tarmac level, building flyovers and crucial bridges, etc.

This can continue for as long as convenient or practicable, with recurrent expenditure rising, in part thanks to levies added to keep the tempo on development projects.

All this has a direct bearing on how the pace of implementing new projects runs, and it may not be as systematic as would be expected. And hence the need to see how budgeting modes can help make things move better and more rewardingly.

trade in charcoal more or less entirely. Some institutions need certain levels of energy in cooking, say, in military camps, boarding schools and colleges as well as even for individual families. All these could use modified coal dust mixed with plant or wood waste. The clean energy predisposition hinders coal mixture rollout, while tree felling is the crucial issue.

Another aspect is that some interests see modified coal as interfering with absorbing the whole population into gas, however long it would take for the "operation" to be completed.

There is a risk of slow rollout of energy transition and continued use of charcoal for lack of coordination and oversight on crucial components.

Using our massive coal reserves needs to be part of the transition package to curb tree felling; families will gradually skip unclean coal mixtures for gas when incomes rise.

Using gas is too familiar to be a matter of raising awareness as refilling a gas cylinder, even if it is already available in a household, needs up to 25,000/-.

Many poor families especially in the rural areas can hardly find that kind of money each week. Instead, they buy expensive charcoal in bits so they accommodate the cost, even if it is more expensive in total sums.

When they transit to coal mixture, we save trees and they spend less, whereas gas shift will take a decade at the earliest. A two-step transition for the majority, first to coal mixtures and replacing tree cutting with more plastic furniture by more recycling would help.

The transition can't just focus on awareness relating to gas use as a long-lasting solution, while coal reserves are idle or are merely exported in some quantities, and tree felling continues unabated. But the struggle must continue.

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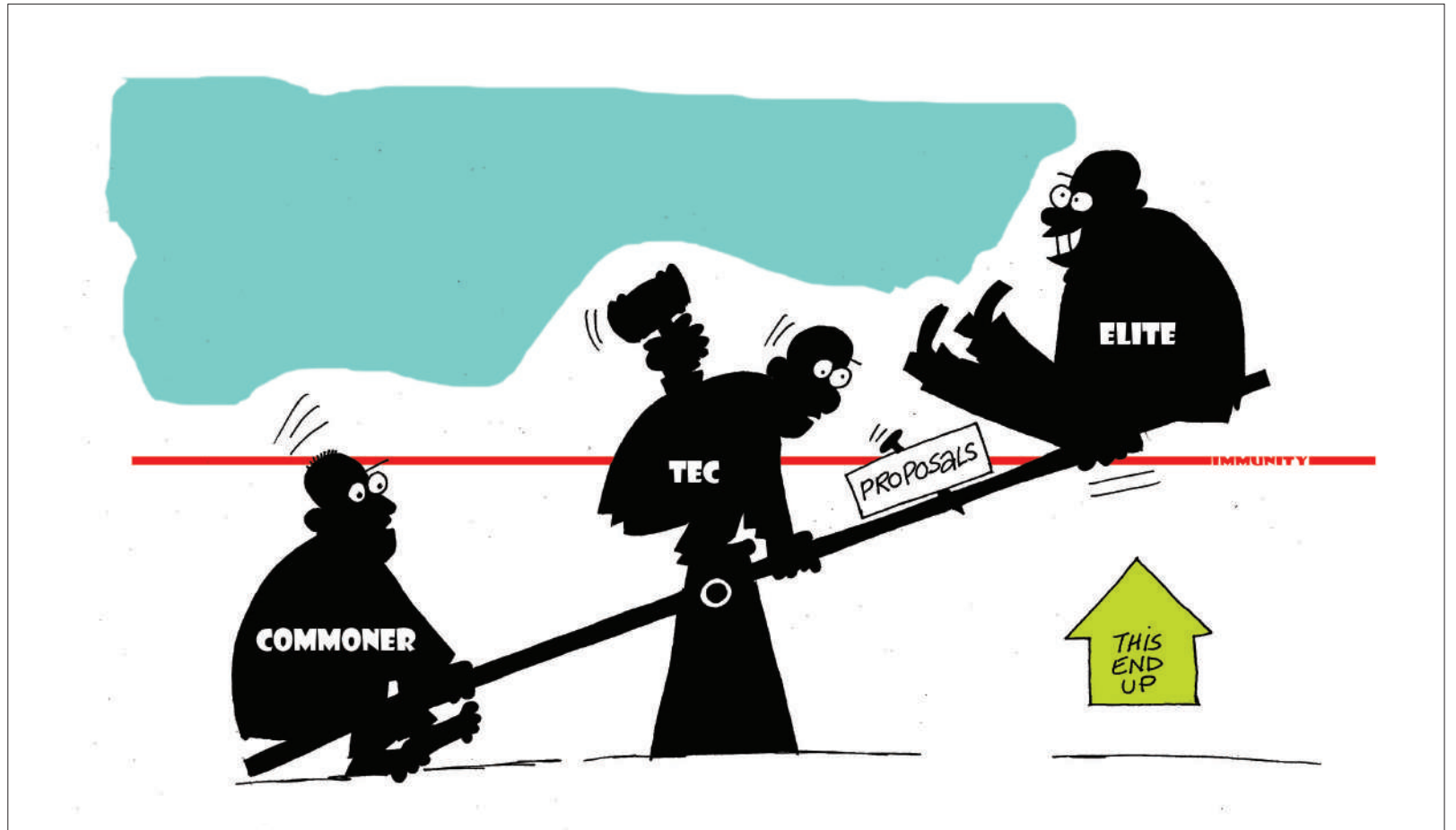
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## Geologists learn from Chernobyl, the worst nuke disaster in history

By Denis Fougerouse

THIRTY-SEVEN years ago, on April 26 1986, the reactor of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the then Soviet Union suffered a catastrophic meltdown.

In the weeks that followed, the deadly event drove hundreds of thousands of people to relocate from the surrounding area, which is still a deserted "exclusion zone" today.

The Chernobyl nuclear accident was caused by an unfortunate cocktail of human error and flawed reactor design. It was the worst nuclear disaster in history, releasing more than 400 times as much radioactive material as the early August 1945 atomic bomb in Hiroshima, Japan.

An uncontrollable chain reaction inside the reactor caused a sharp increase in temperature that ultimately resulted in the fusion of the fuel rods, a steam explosion and a fire. The melted fuel rods pooled temporarily at the bottom of the reactor chamber before making their way into the deeper levels of the power plant.

This hellish molten soup has proved an unexpected source of insight for geologists like me. In new research published in *American Mineralogist*, my colleagues and I show that tiny zircons formed at Chernobyl change our understanding of how these crystals behave - and what they tell us about Earth's past.

Molten reactor material is called corium, and it's a serious contender for the most dangerous substance on

## Collaboration, investments pivotal in driving sustainable energy in Africa - Sahara Group

By Special Correspondents

AFRICA requires enabling energy policies, effective regulatory frameworks, investments, and collaboration to meet soaring energy needs across the continent, Sahara Group executive director Wale Ajibade has said.

Addressing top energy operators, regulators, and government functionaries at the 2023 African Refiners and Distributors Association (ARDA) Week in Cape Town, Ajibade said the current level of global investments on renewable energy was inadequate to enable Africa embrace more alternative energy sources.

Ajibade, who made a presentation on "Meeting Africa's Growing Energy Requirements in the Evolving Global Landscape", said adequate policies are vital for African countries to address foreign investors' concerns and limit investment risks exposures.

"Over the past two decades, global investment in renewable energy has grown rapidly. Yet less than three per cent of these investments come to Africa. Africa continues to receive only a small portion of the total global investment in renewable energy," he said.

Earth.

Nearby radiation exposure to corium can kill within minutes - but that is not all. Corium is extremely hot and generates its own heat from radioactivity. It's very difficult to cool it down.

The corium at Chernobyl reached 2,600, almost twice as hot as the surface temperature of the space shuttle during atmosphere re-entry or half the temperature at the surface of the sun. For comparison, the temperature of natural lava from volcanoes ranges from 500 to 1,000.

Corium is so hot that it eats everything in its way. It can dissolve steel, sand and concrete, and it transforms water into radioactive steam almost instantly. The corium created at Chernobyl eventually solidified into a lump known as the 'elephant's foot'.

At Chernobyl, it was estimated 1,500 tons of corium was generated, flowing like lava and eating its way through meters of concrete in the basement of the power plant.

A second, even more devastating explosion was only just avoided by pumping the water used to extinguish the fire from the basement levels. Ultimately, the corium incorporated enough foreign building materials that it could not generate enough heat to keep its liquid state, and solidified into a lump that looks like the foot of an elephant.

Uranium fuel rods are made of enriched uranium oxide, clad in zirconium alloy. Corium dissolved sand and concrete, which have a high

silicon composition.

Zirconium, silicon and oxygen: all these ingredients were present in the Chernobyl melt to crystallise zircons (ZrSiO) about the width of a human hair.

Geologists and Earth scientists love zircon because studying it can reveal the age when rocks formed and what geological process formed them. It is also very resilient to harsh geological conditions and is stable for billions of years.

Zircons sampled from the solidified corium at Chernobyl are special because we know a lot about the conditions in which they formed and their history.

In many ways they can be considered analogous to controlled experiments, but from an extremely dangerous setting that cannot be reproduced safely in a laboratory environment. On the contrary, zircons from natural rocks have long, convoluted histories that are hard to untangle.

Surprisingly, the zircons from Chernobyl displayed features called "re-equilibration textures", which are also found in many natural zircons. Until now, these features have been attributed to the action of water dissolving the mineral.

A zircon crystal from the Chernobyl melt shows surprising 're-equilibration textures' that geologists had previously assumed were created by contact with water. However, the Chernobyl melt contained little or no water. This tells us that the features were created by the melt directly, that is, without the influence of water.

## \*The Conversation

bringing energy to life responsibly."

"As we gradually transition to renewable energy, the conditions for solar power literally shine as bright as the sun on this continent. The potential for wind energy blows through our continent ceaselessly. Africa has amongst the largest untapped potential for hydropower development in the world and, as we all know, we have just begun to scratch the surface of natural gas," added Ajibade.

He further noted that some countries on the continent are already promoting several policies and regulations to ramp up capacity for renewables in Africa.

"Case in point - solar power: Nigeria's photovoltaic power potential makes solar energy very feasible for both investors and consumers. Sahara Group is currently harnessing this potential through the implementation of large-scale and mini-grid solar projects," Ajibade stated.

On the growing importance of gas as a transition fuel, he said Africa was already witnessing remarkable progress in this regard.

"There was a time when it was unfathomable that an African company would order and build the first ever African-owned LPG vessels as well as lift gas in Africa and supply to counterparts in Africa. I'm proud to say that Sahara's

The zircons from Chernobyl taught geologists that zircons are not as resilient as previously thought - and this should be considered when studying complex rocks.

Studying the aftermath of nuclear incidents is a kind of detective work called nuclear forensics. It's not just useful for geologists.

Nuclear power plant reactor meltdowns have happened only three times in history: at Chernobyl, at Three Mile Island in the US in 1979, and at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi in 2011.

Modern nuclear power reactors have incorporated more safety features to avoid another Chernobyl disaster.

Using extremely complex instrumentation, it is possible to measure the exact composition of uranium and other radioactive elements found at the site of an incident.

By measuring the proportion of the isotopes of uranium and plutonium, information about the type of fuel used in the reactor can be determined.

This is not only useful for understanding accidents and improving safety. Answering questions about the kind of fuel in use can help us draw many other conclusions as well, including the causes of the accident and how to mitigate them.

Nuclear forensics is also helpful in controlling nuclear facilities overseen by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), promoting the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

\*The Conversation

vessels MT Africa Gas, MT Sahara Gas and MT SAPET, to name but a few, have lifted African gas and supplied it within the continent of Africa," he said.

According to Ajibade, meeting Africa's growing energy needs will also require a "just transition" fuelled by developing and maximising the potential of African crude oil production in a "more sustainable manner".

"Oil will continue to be an important source of energy but needs to be cleaner to meet global standards," he said, adding: "We must ensure the sustainable development of our hydrocarbon resources while reducing methane emissions and flaring to achieve energy security and sustainability at the same time."

He said the increase in the use of CCUS (Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage) technology presents an opportunity for the industry to be fully exploited for reliability, environmental sustainability and Africa's GDP expansion.

CCUS is a technology that can capture and make effective use of the high concentrations of the carbon dioxide emitted by industrial activities. Consequently, it has a decisive role to play in decarbonisation and in addressing the challenges of global climate change generally.



# Legal status and enforceability of memoranda of understanding

THESE are different legal positions in various jurisdictions regarding legal status of memoranda of understanding entered between parties. It is one of the important legal documents which normally signed by parties as initial document before entering into subsequent agreements.

Enforceability of this legal document differs from country to country. Now, this article intends to examine its legal status in Tanzania so that anyone who uses that document can be aware of its legal status, implication and possible consequences.

## What is a Memorandum of Understanding?

Memorandum of Understanding commonly referred as MoU is a formal document that describes issues mutually acceptable between the parties with an intention to enter into certain transactions in the future. It is the legal document which express understanding reached between the parties on certain terms and conditions with the view of moving forward on agreeable transaction. It is also known as document of intent.

Relevance of a Memorandum of Understanding Practically, there are many reasons as to why most businesspeople pre-

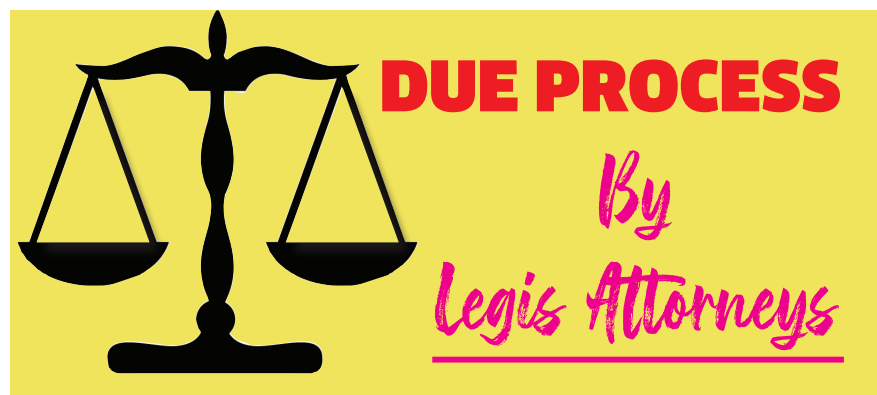
fer to use MoU in their formal transactions before signing final agreements. However, for the purposes of this article, the most important is because it provides preliminary understanding details or terms and conditions agreeable between the parties with the aim of entering into the agreement in the future upon fulfillment of the terms and conditions agreeable. Also, it allows each party to clearly state their objectives and what they expect from one another.

## General legal view of MoU

MoU in its nature falls under the category of 'an agreement'. However, one of the paramount ingredients which make the agreement to be legally enforceable is availability of the doctrine of 'intention of the parties to create legal relation'. There is no direct provision in the Law of Contract, Cap 345 R.E 2019, which deals with above paramount doctrine.

It is our firm opinion that legislature left it open purposely so that the court can judiciously exercise its power to establish circumstances through facts presented to it and see whether parties really intended to enter into legal relations or not.

The aforementioned doctrine of intention to



create legal relationship has its foundation from case law. One of the landmark case law in this aspect is the case of Carhill vs Carbollic Smoke Ball Company (1893) 1 QB 256.

The court held that compliance with the terms available in the advertisement issued to the public was sufficient indication that parties intended to enter into legally binding terms of contract. There also the case of Balfour vs Balfour (1919) 2 KB 571 which was arrangement between wife and husband on family matters. The court held that despite availability of consideration but the arrangement lacked intention to create legal relation therefore it could not be enforceable.

Through case law, it is very clear that availability of circumstances in any understanding between the parties to create legal relation, then it is sufficient to be enforceable or depict that parties mutually intended to enter into legal relationship, so memorandum of understanding

inclusive.

## Legal status of MoU in other jurisdictions

Despite other common law countries recognizing the above doctrine as one of the ingredients of commercial transactions, it is expressly clear that MoU is not legally binding. In South Africa, in the case of The Free State Provincial Government and others vs Firechem Free State (Pty) Ltd (2000) ZASCA 28, it was observed by court as follows:

That an agreement that parties would negotiate to conclude another agreement is not enforceable because the absolute discretion vested in the parties to agree or disagree.

The above position was also further followed in the case of Southern Port Developments (Pty) Ltd vs Transnet Limited (2004) O.L 13030 (SCA).

In Indian Laws, MoU is only enforceable if it fulfills all the three essentials available in Section 10 of the In-

dian Contract Act, 1872. In the case of Jai Beverages Pvt Ltd vs State of Jammu and Kashmir and Ors AIR 2006(4) SCJ 401, it was ruled by Supreme Court of India that MoU can be regarded as a legally enforceable contract if it is in a formal way and the parties profit from functioning in compliance with the provision specified in the MoU.

Further, the Supreme Court of India, in the case of State of Orissa and others vs Titagar Paper Mills Company Ltd. and another 1985 AIR 1293, 1985 SCR (3) 26 laid down that:

"It is true that the nomenclature and description given to a contract are not determinative of the real nature of the document or of the transaction thereunder. These, however, have to be determined from all the terms and MoU clause of the document and all the rights and results flowing there from and not by picking and choosing certain clauses."

## Legal status of MoU in Tanzania

We are not far from Indian position. MoU is legally enforceable in Tanzania provided there is "consensus ad idem" in that transaction whereby one party makes an offer or proposal and the other party accepts it. The above legal position is well expanded

in section 10 of the law of contract Act, Cap 345 R.E 2019. To emphasize here, there must be meeting of the minds in doing lawful transaction. That is intention of the parties to create legal relation.

In one of the landmark cases, Civil Appeal No. 104 of 2011 between M/S Mwananchi Engineering and Construction Corporation Ltd vs Silvano Copetti. In this case, the issue of whether MoU can be enforceable or not was discussed extensively. It was ruled that the court is required to look into contents of the document itself on what terms and conditions the parties agreed and its compliance thereto rather than concentrating on mere definition of what amounts to MoU. The Court held as follows:

"On a close reading of the entire MoU, it plainly discloses an offer and acceptance, the concurrence of intention in the two parties to be bound by it, and consideration. It was sufficiently proved that money consideration had indeed passed. The appellant was given possession of the properties in February, 2004. Nothing in the MoU suggests that the parties had contemplated negotiating a subsequent agreement in order to be bound by the sale agreement.

## Way forward on legal status of the MoU in Tanzania

We are of firm opinion that MoU is legally enforceable in Tanzania provided parties to that agreement had an intention to create legal relationship after complying with section 10 of the law of Contract. Courts of law are required to go through the document itself as mere heading or title of the document cannot deprive the documents of its real nature.

Therefore, it is very important to consult your lawyer when you intend to enter into MoU so that the same can be prepared in accordance with the law if you wish to make it to be legally enforceable.

Note: the material and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. One should not rely upon the same as the basis of making legal decision. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case.

Send questions by email to [info@legisattorneys.co.tz](mailto:info@legisattorneys.co.tz) or postal address to Managing Partner, Legis Attorneys, P.O. Box 3750, DSM. You can visit [www.legisattorneys.co.tz](http://www.legisattorneys.co.tz)

## SPECIAL REPORT

# Govt resorts to water users, guards to protect the priceless Rufiji basin



Upendo Lugalla (left), Social Welfare Officer at Rufiji Basin Water Board receives briefing from Idrisa Nyahove, Secretary of Lower Mbarali Water Users Association in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region, recently on how illegal water use has affected the area. Photo/ Francis Kajubi.

Lupalama River and by extension the Great Ruaha River," he said.

He added that protection of streams helps guarantee sustainability of the Rufiji River basin which, apart from supporting JNHPP, feeds three hydro-power dams namely Mtera (80 megawatts), Kidatu (205 megawatts) and Kihansi (180 megawatts). The three dams produce 66 per cent of electricity in Tanzania.

Marcus further noted that the Lupalama water users association was formed early last year after the recommendation of the Rufiji Basin Water Board (RBWB).

Upendo Lugalla, a Social Welfare Officer with RBWB said that the association was established as per Section 80 of the Water Resources Management Act No. II, 2009.

She said the association's role is helping ensure that there are no human activities

within 60 metres from where small rivers that feed the Rufiji River basin pass.

The association also chips in when it comes to resolving conflicts related to water resources allocation and ensuring proper use of permits extended to water users by the RBWB.

"So far, a total of 42 water user associations have been formed. The target is having 120 associations by 2025 along the whole Rufiji basin," said Lugalla.

According to her, the board is in the process of filing at least 30 environmental pollution cases against illegal water users.

Florence Mahay, Director of RBWB said that in protecting small rivers and core water catchment areas for the Rufiji basin, the board is set to recruit 50 guards from SUMA JKT in the 2023/2024 financial year.

"Of the 50 guards, 30 will be deployed to the Great Ruaha water catchment areas while the rest will be deployed along river Kilombero," said Mahay.

He said the key role of the board is to identify all water resources available along the basin, water allocation among users and preservation of water sources along the basin.

According to him, the basin was formed as per the Integrated Water Resources Management Act 1981 which was gazetted in 1987, leading to the formulation of the Pangani Water River Basin in 1991 followed by the Rufiji basin in 1993.

The Act was replaced by the Water Resources Management Act No II, 2009 and its 2022 amendments. Mahay said the Rufiji basin contributes a maximum of 18 per cent of the country's gross domestic product through agri-

culture, livestock, energy and tourism activities permitted along the basin.

He said 62 per cent of tea produced in the country is from the farms located within the basin alongside 40 per cent of sugarcane. Also, nearly 75 per cent of the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor in Tanzania (SAGCOT) is within the Rufiji basin.

Gallus Ndunguru, water resources engineer at RBWB said that the board is mandated with issuance of permits to water users granted through water user associations. RBWB permits are issued under Section 43 of the Water Resources Management Act No II, 2009.

Ndunguru said along the Rufiji basin there are 384 water sources, including feeder rivers, 55 of which are demarcated with beacons to deter people from carrying out human activities within the

space of 60 metres from the water source.

"There are 3,782 water users along the Rufiji basin especially in the Usangu valley of which 1,777 have no permits of using water resources," he said.

"Most of these illegal users engage in drip irrigation farming and livestock keeping especially in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region."

Ally Diwani, hydrologist at RBWB said the board issues four kinds of permits to legitimate users namely water use permit, drilling permit, water discharge and easement permit.

He said the Rufiji water basin covers 183,791 square kilometers, accounting for a whopping 46 per cent of Tanzania's irrigated farms. The basin has 31 billion cubic metres of water on the surface and 9 billion cubic metres underground.

Diwani said the basin has four sub basins namely the Great Ruaha which contributes 15 per cent of annual water runoff, Kilombero (62 per cent), Luwegu (18 per cent) and Lower Rufiji five per cent.

"However, Great Ruaha forms 47 per cent of the total basin's drainage area with 85,554 square kilometers," he said.

"It is followed by Kilombero 40,330 square kilometers (22 per cent), Lower Rufiji 32,619 square kilometers (18 per cent) and Luwegu 25,288 square kilometers (14 per cent)."

Continues on Page 10

By Francis Kajubi, Iringa

JUSTIN Simango (37), resident of Malota village in Iringa Region remembers sometimes in September 2021 when Lupalama River which used to flow through the village full to the banks towards the Great Ruaha River began drying up due to illegal irrigation and livestock grazing within the protected 60 metres of the river.

Simango who was born and raised in Malota village, says that to reverse the trend, Masaka reservoir was constructed in May last year to support irrigation and livestock grazing as a way of protecting and sustaining Lupalama River.

He serves as Lupalama River Water Users Association (WUA) secretary, and says that irrigation and pastoralism by non-registered water users in the nearby Igangidung'u and Makongati villages has dramatically reduced the volume and flow of Lupalama River waters.

The association is formed by three villages namely Malota, Sadani and Kaning'ombe hence the acronym Masaka.

The 60-kilometre Lupalama River is, ordinarily, perennial -flowing from Igangidung'u village and passes through Makongati, Kaning'ombe, Malota, Sadani and Lupalama villages. The six villages have a total population of 12,000 inhabitants according to the August 2022 National Population and Housing Census.

"The association's major role is sensitising people living along the Lupalama River on the sustainable use of water resources as well as supporting environment protection initiatives," Simango said in a recent interview.

He said the water reservoir was expected to guarantee protection of Lupalama River which flows into the Great Ruaha River by ensuring sustainability of the Rufiji basin water resources, part of the backbone of the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP) being implemented in the said basin.

According to Idrisa Nyahove, secretary of Lower Mbarali Water Users Association, known by its Kiswahili acronym JUWAMBACHI, people have been invading the protected river basin despite the fact that there are beacons clearly demarcating the area.

Mathew Marcus, councillor for Makota ward (comprising of Malota, Makongati and Kaning'ombe villages), said the reservoir located in Malota village covers 219,712 square metres and has a capacity of 439,803 cubic metres. The annual demand for the 12,000 residents of the six villages which Lupalama River traverses stands at 213,426 cubic metres.

According to Marcus, 1.7bn/- was spent on construction of the reservoir - which was between May and November 2022. The reservoir serves three main purposes: irrigation, livestock and household consumption.

"Having this reservoir in place means a lot for the protection and sustainability of the





## Invitation for Initial Selection Works (Design and Build)

### MULTINATIONAL TANZANIA – BURUNDI – DRC CONGO SGR PROJECT PHASE I

### [THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TANZANIA/BURUNDI (UVINZA – MUSONGATI – GITEGA) SGR SECTION]

TENDER NO.: PA/154/HQ/AFDB/202-23/W/01

### FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS FOR AN ELECTRIFIED STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY (SGR) UNDER DESIGN AND BUILD ARRANGEMENT

<b>Employer:</b>	Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC)
<b>Project:</b>	The Multinational Tanzania – Burundi – DRC Congo SGR Project Phase I [The Construction of the Tanzania / Burundi (Uvinza – Musongati – Gitega SGR) Section]
<b>Contract title:</b>	Design and Construction of an Electrified Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) under Design and Build (D&B) under the Multinational Tanzania – Burundi – DRC Congo SGR Project Phase I [The Construction of the Tanzania / Burundi (Uvinza – Musongati – Gitega SGR) Section]
<b>Countries:</b>	Tanzania and Burundi

- The Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Burundi have applied for financing from the African Development Bank toward the cost of The Construction of the Tanzania/Burundi (Uvinza – Musongati – Gitega) SGR Section which is the Phase I of the Tanzania – Burundi – DR Congo SGR project and intends to apply part of the proceeds from the loans to make payments under the contract for works for Construction of a Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) under Design and Build Arrangement.
- The Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Burundi have entered into a bilateral agreement and appointed the Tanzania Railways Corporation as the Implementing Agency for this Multinational Project.
- The works for which this Invitation for Initial Selection applies and included under this project are Design and Construction of Works for an electrified Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) under Design and Build Arrangement.
- The scope of works will be the design and construction of about 282 KM of an electrified Standard Gauge Railway line from Uvinza in Tanzania (off the Tabora – Kigoma SGR line), across the international border along Malagarasi river to Musongati and onwards to Gitega (both in Burundi).
- The two Governments of Tanzania and Burundi have entered into a bilateral agreement to implement this multinational project as a single project within Tanzania and Burundi territories. The Employer is looking engage a single Works Contractor (and a single supervising consultant) for the whole project. However, for purposes of administration, the project is divided into two (2) Lots: Lot 1 consist of the 156KM Tanzania Section to be implemented in one package, and Lot 2 consists of the 126 KM Burundi section to be implemented in 2 packages as described below.
- The project is divided as follows:
  - Lot 1:** Tanzania section from Uvinza to Malagarasi border (156 KM) to be implemented as one package.
  - Lot 2:** Burundi section from Malagarasi to Musongati and Gitega (126KM) to be implemented in two packages
    - Lot 2-Package A:** Malagarasi – Musongati (80KM) Section.
    - Lot 2-Package B:** Musongati – Gitega (46KM) Section.
- On behalf of two Governments of Tanzania and Burundi, TRC a government entity formed under Railways Act No. 10 of 2017 and incorporated in the United Republic of Tanzania under the Companies Act No.10 of 2017 will facilitate all procurement on behalf of parties. TRC is wholly owned by the Government of United Republic of Tanzania and is under the Ministry of Works and Transport. The major responsibilities of TRC as provided in the Act are principally, to develop, promote and manage the railway infrastructure assets in Tanzania Mainland.
- TRC in collaboration with ARTF (Burundi Corporation in charge of Railways) intends to construct an approximately 282 route-kilometre Railway line between Uvinza and Gitega via Musongati in Burundi and other railway facilities enroute to Standard Gauge, based on American Railway Engineering Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA) and UIC standards. The project will be implemented for period of five (5) years.
- The Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) as the Implementing Agency for this project intends to initially select Applicants for Contract No. PA/154/AFDB/2022-23/W/01 for Design and Build Contract of an Electrified Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) Line under Design and Build (D&B) Arrangement as describe above.
- The works involves the Design and Build of New Railway line consisting of Earthworks, Elevated Structure, Culverts, Tunnels, Viaduct, Permanent way, Stations, Buildings and Shops, Fencing of the line, Signaling & Telecommunications, IT systems and Electrification Systems of the standard gauge (1,435 mm) railway line from Uvinza-Musongati-Gitega. The RAMS

(Reliability, Availability, Maintainability, and Safety) is the basic requirement for infrastructure and all systems under this Project. Furthermore, design and construction shall comply with national and international guidelines on environmental and social safeguards.

- Interested Contractors must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the works as follows:

#### Experience in Detailed design

- Minimum of five (5) Projects for 10 years of experience in the detail design of UIC Standard gauge Railway track
- Minimum of five (5) Project for 10 years of experience in detailed design of Heavy Railway Civil Works such as Tracks, Tunnels, Viaducts, Flyovers, Bridges, etc.
- Minimum of Five (5) Project for 10 years of experience in Railway tracks design (Light Rail and/or Heavy Rail).
- Minimum 5 years of experience in railway Stations design (Light Rail and/or Heavy Rail)
- Minimum of Five (5) Project for 10 years of experience in design of Signaling and Telecommunication systems i.e., ERTMS Projects
- Minimum of Five (5) Project for 10 years of experience in design of Electrification Railway systems (Light Rail and/or Heavy Rails)
- Experience within the last 5 years on the detailed design of a Single Railway line Project with a Capital cost of at least US\$ 1,000 million.

#### Experience in Construction

- Minimum of three (3) Projects for 10 years of experience in Construction of Heavy Railway Civil Works such as tracks, tunnels, viaducts, flyovers, bridges, etc.
- Minimum of two (2) Projects for 10 years of experience in Electrified Rail track and railway station Construction
- Minimum of two (2) Projects for 10 years of experience in Construction and Installation of Electrification Railway systems (Light Rail and/or Heavy Rails)
- Minimum of two (2) Projects for Previous Experience in SGR Project adopting ERTMS systems.
- Minimum of 5 years cumulative experience on Construction works of Minimum Capital cost of US\$1.0 billion in Africa or other developing countries with a similar environment

#### Financial Capacity

- Minimum average turnover in the last 5 years on detailed design services of US\$ 20 million
- Minimum average construction turnover in the last 5 years of US\$ 1.0 billion

It is expected that the Request for Proposals will be made in May, 2023.

- Initial Selection will be conducted through the procedures as specified in the African Development Bank's Procurement Framework Dated October, 2015, available at [www.afdb.org](http://www.afdb.org).
- Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) at the address below during office hours from 900hours to 1630hours. A complete set of Initial Selection documents in English may be purchased by interested Applicants on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 250 US\$ or its equivalent in Tanzania Shillings (TZS). The method of payment will be through Banker's Cheque Or Cash Payable to Director General, Tanzania Railways Corporation. The document in both editable and not editable form will be sent to Applicant by email after effecting payment.
- Applications for Initial Selection should be submitted in clearly marked envelopes and delivered to the address below by 15th May, 2023 before or at 1030hours a TRC Headquarter Conference Room.
- Late submission of tenders shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- TRC is not bound to accept any tender submitted and non-compliance of the above stated conditions shall automatically disqualify the Bid proposal.

Attn: Director General Office  
Masanja K. Kadogosa, Director General  
P.O Box 76959, Sokoine Drive/Railway Street  
+255, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Tel: +255 22 2112695  
Facsimile (fax): +255 22 2116525; +255 22 2127404  
E-mail: [dg@trc.co.tz](mailto:dg@trc.co.tz); [pmu@trc.co.tz](mailto:pmu@trc.co.tz)  
Website: [www.trc.co.tz](http://www.trc.co.tz)

## Water users, guards to protect Rufiji basin

From page 9

Diwani added that the sub basins pass through 11 different regions where the Rufiji basin covers.

Sylvester Myalla, head of finance unit at RBWB said on economic benefits, the board generated 1.7bn/- last year from annual water user permit fees and expects to earn 2.4bn/- from the same sources this year.

However, the board targets to earn 9.1bn/- from project proposals to independent donors. The board is allocated an average of 8bn/- on an annual basis for projects and recurrent expenditure.

"Fees for water use are the heart of our own source revenues. For example, a water user pays 61,200/- as an application fee for the permit to secure 15,768 cubic metres on flat rate and 100,000/- on volumetric rate," he said.

Myalla said that hotels, lodges, motels, guest houses and bars pay 255,000/- for 15,768 cubic metres a year on flat rate and 300,000/- on volumetric rate.

Small scale irrigation projects in the basin pay 61,000/- flat rate and 150,000/- volumetric for 31,536 cubic metres. Large scale irrigation projects pay 250,000/- flat rate and 500,000/- volumetric rate for 583,416 cubic metres a year.

Livestock keepers pay 61,200/- on flat rate and 300,000/- on volumetric rate for 31,536 cubic metres a year while horticulture projects pay 255,000/- and 500,000/- for 31,536 cubic metres.

Dr Thomas Bwana Assistant Director in charge of environment in the Vice President's Office said that proper management of water catchment and feeder rivers is crucial for the sustainability of water resources in the Rufiji basin.

"Water for irrigation farming and livestock keeping should be used responsibly especially in these times of climate change," he said.

"My office is organizing a number of programmes to sensitize people residing along rivers and water catchment areas on responsible water consumption."

Research by the Sokoine University of Agriculture dubbed 'Rising irrigation Productivity and Releasing Water for Intersectional Needs (RIPARWIN) 2002-2006 shows that water consumed by paddy irrigation in the country is higher than the proposed required amount.

The findings state that only two hyromodules are needed in the paddy field to grow the food crop. The two hyromodules are equivalent to the height of two centimeters from the paddy field surface.

"To the contrary, most irrigation farmers fill their paddy fields with 20 hyromodules. This leads to 18 hyromodules wasted to evaporation," reads part of the research findings.

The National Environmental Management Act No 20, 2004 Section 6 states that "Every person living in Tanzania shall have a stake and a duty to safeguard and enhance the environment and to inform the relevant authority of any activity and phenomenon that may affect the environment significantly."

On the other hand, the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) emphasizes on countries to ensure access to water and sanitation for all by 2030.

"Poor management, over extraction of groundwater have exacerbated water stress. Countries are facing growing challenges linked to degraded water-related ecosystems," reads part of the UN goal.

The Performance audit report on the management of conservation and protection of wetland ecosystems in Tanzania, 2020/21 by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) states that uncontrolled human activities such as commercial farming, teak plantation, animal grazing and development of urban settlements have been the key drivers of the reduction of wetland coverage in the country.

"For example, for Kilombero Valley Ramsar Site (KVRS) alone, the wetland ecosystem has been reduced from 7,950 square kilometers to 2,193 square kilometers, an equivalent of 72 per cent in the period of 20 years," reads the CAG report.

The report adds that the reduction in wetland coverage is likely to have an impact on the decrease in water volume.

Article 27(1) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania 1977 states that "Every person has the duty to protect the natural resources of the United Republic, the property of the state authority, all property collectively owned by the people."

The Government Notice No 64 issued February 2023 prohibits human activities in the four sub basins of the Rufiji basin.

During the inaugural event to fill JNHPP dam last December, President Samia Suluhu Hassan urged the Rufiji Basin Water Board to stop issuing permits for water use until the dam is fully filled with the intended 34 billion cubic metres.

"I urge residents along the Rufiji basin not to engage in activities that put at risk the sustainability of water sources that feed the basin," she said.

Kilombero district commissioner Dunstan Kyobya said his office is already taking stern legal measures against encroachers of water catchment areas feeding the Kilombero sub basin.

"A total of 201 cattle which were found grazing along the basin have been seized so far in protection of the Kilombero wetland," he said.

He added that in 2022/23 financial year, the district allocated 60bn/- for funding clean and safe water projects.

Kyobya said access to clean and safe water for the district stands at 73 per cent.

Jumaa Aweso, Minister for Water said Tanzania's water resource availability is estimated at 126 billion cubic metres of which 105 billion cubic metres are on the surface while 21 billion cubic metres are found underground.





### Vacancy- Extension Officer

Njombe Outgrowers Services Company Ltd (NOSC) is a company incorporated in November 2014 with the sole purpose of improving the livelihoods of the smallholder tea farmers in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania. NOSC offers a range of support services to the farmers including the provision of essential inputs such as fertilizer, herbicides and seedlings, agronomy support, green leaf transport and logistics, green leaf plucking services and technical advisory services to farmers. NOSC's target is to develop 2,500 Ha of smallholder tea targeting 3,000 smallholder farmers that will supply a smallholder tea factory.

NOSC is seeking to recruit a qualified, detail oriented and self-motivated individual to take up the role of Extension Officer. Based in Njombe and reporting to the Tea Operations Manager, the role shall have the following key responsibilities:

#### Role Purpose Statement/Key Objective

To provide tea extension services to farmers within the designated tea growing areas. This will include training farmers on good agronomy practices for purposes of increasing tea production and improving quality for better revenues.

#### Main Responsibilities/Key Accountabilities

- Recruit out growers/farmers and ensure interested farmers are accurately registered.
- Conduct sensitization meetings with farmers and utilize the session to provide critical information regarding the program as and when required.
- Train and provide technical advice on tea agronomy aspects and best practices to farmers in their respective tea growing areas e.g. on planting, aftercare maintenance, fertilizer applications, plucking of quality leaves, disease and pest control.
- Supervise plucking standards of the assigned farms to ensure yield of tea and quality meet the required levels as laid down by the General Manager.
- Prepare and submit to the Tea Operations Manager accurate reports on yield and leaf quality against allocated KPI's.
- To supervise in collaboration with logistics workers, the weighing and correct recording of Green leaf delivered by farmers.
- Ensure that the plucked Green leaf are timely delivered to/collected from collection points.
- Act as the liaison between the farmers and the company and escalate to the operations Manager any arising problems/complaints related to Tea growing.
- Conducting field visits to collect and compile pre-season information regarding demands for inputs from farmers in his/her mandate area.
- Assist the Tea Operations Manager with the supervision of distribution of inputs to farmers and their application as per the number of verified bushes.
- Participate in mother bush selection and preparation of cuttings.
- Assist farmers with new tea planting and infilling as well as aftercare maintenance so as to achieve targets as may be agreed upon on an annual basis.
- Assist smallholders farmers comply with Rain Forest Alliance Certification principles and criteria.
- Prepare and present field reports as may be required.
- Perform any other duty as may be assigned by the Tea Operations Manager or General Manager from time to time.

#### Qualifications, Skills and Experience

- A minimum of a Diploma in Agriculture, Agronomy, Horticulture, or other related agricultural studies.
- At least two years' experience in the relevant field e.g. providing Tea extension services.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to speak Kiswahili. English is an added advantage.
- Good organization skills with the ability to complete assigned tasks within set deadlines.
- Results oriented.

#### Job Application procedure

All interested and qualified candidates are invited to send their detailed CV with copies of relevant testimonials (certificates) to:

#### General Manager

**Njombe Outgrowers Services Company Limited,**  
Lunyanywi B Street Plot No. 7, Block A  
P. O. Box 252, Njombe,  
Tanzania  
Email Applications: [info@nosc.co.tz](mailto:info@nosc.co.tz)

The deadline for submitting applications is close of business **29<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

*Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.*



### Vacancy- Logistics Clerk

Njombe Outgrowers Services Company Ltd (NOSC) is a company incorporated in November 2014 with the sole purpose of improving the livelihoods of the smallholder tea farmers in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania. NOSC offers a range of support services to the farmers including the provision of essential inputs such as fertilizer, herbicides and seedlings, agronomy support, green leaf transport and logistics, green leaf plucking services and technical advisory services to farmers. NOSC's target is to develop 2500 Ha of smallholder tea targeting 3,000 smallholder farmers that will supply a smallholder tea factory.

NOSC is seeking to recruit a qualified and experienced, detail oriented and self-motivated individual to take up the role of Logistics Clerk. Based in Njombe and reporting to the Logistics Manager, the role shall have the following key responsibilities.

#### Key responsibilities

- Under the supervision of Logistics Manager and in liaison with Finance and Administration office, handle and document tea farmers green supplies, green leaf production, green leaf quality performance data and fleet management data using Excel sheets, Octagon Easy Way Weighing System, Harvest IT ERP and company ERP.
- Assist the Logistics Manager in organizing a healthy fleet, assist in organizing and supervision of green leaf clerks, drivers, tractor operators and turn boys with good focus on accuracy, efficiency, cost and time management.
- Assist the Logistics Manager with farmers green leaf supplies, fleet management, crop production and green leaf quality data handling and analysis.
- In liaison with leaf clerks and the factory leaf reception unit assist on optimizing leaf transport schedule, field leaf quality assessment, weightment, loading and separation, transport and factory delivery.
- Complete daily documentation of green leaf collection and factory deliveries, weighing scales records, tractor job order sheets, vehicle spares as well as service control sheets.
- In liaison with leaf clerks prepare daily, weekly and monthly crop production KPIs performance reports.
- Record and update all fleet data such as services, repairs, spares and damages.
- Assist with vehicles daily logbook control such as activity allocation, fuel and mileage control.
- Assist in supervision of leaf clerks, drivers and turn boys while ensuring compliance to health and safety issues and other company policies.
- As an integral part of the team, ensure that farmers are highly regarded and receive exceptional service throughout the green leaf collection process as well as input supplies.
- Perform other duties as may be assigned by Tea Operations Manager, Finance and Administration offices.

#### Knowledge and Skills

- Certificate in Agriculture, Business Management, and Administration or related fields.
- At least five years' working experience in handling farm management, smallholder's tea farmer's data.
- Strong computer knowledge and analytical skills (Ms Excel and word).
- Strong management and administrative skills with the ability to supervise and manage people from different cultural back grounds.
- Must be resilient and willing to work additional hours and in offsite locations.

#### Job Application procedure

All interested and qualified candidates are invited to send their detailed CV with copies of relevant testimonials (certificates) to:

#### General Manager,

**Njombe Outgrowers Services Company Limited,**  
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P. O. Box 252, Njombe,  
Tanzania  
Email Applications: [info@nosc.co.tz](mailto:info@nosc.co.tz)

The deadline for submitting applications is close of business **29<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

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### VACANCY -TEA OPERATIONS MANAGER

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NOSC is seeking to recruit a qualified, detail oriented and self-motivated individual to take up the role of Tea Operations Manager. Based in Njombe and reporting to the General Manager, the role shall have the following key responsibilities:

#### Role Purpose Statement/Key Objective:

Under the direction of the General Manager and with safety, efficiency and customer service a priority, the Tea Operations Manager is accountable for the provision of technical and extension services provision to smallholder farmers, establishment and management of tea nurseries, tea field development with new farmers, smallholder farmers training and management of sustainability standards while ensuring efficient and effective professional services are provided to smallholder tea farmers to guarantee increased productivity, quality and farmer returns.

#### Main Responsibilities/ Key Accountabilities

##### Operational Responsibilities - 85%

- Oversee smallholders' farms management with the aim of improving productivity and, ensuring quality standards are met as per agreed company annual budget.
- Ensure smallholders farms expansion and production are conducted as per agreed quality and annual plan targets, as per sole services provider on planting materials, fertilizer rates and types and agronomic best practices.
- Make sure all smallholder farmers are certified and have signed an agreement with sustainable agriculture network standards that focus on the protection of natural environmental, social, and economic conditions of smallholder farmers and communities as well as improving farmer's income and livelihood.
- Establish and manage cost effective tea seedlings nurseries as per agreed nurseries budgets.
- Adequately manage the tea supply value chain activities in the fields to assure tea farmers of professional services based on farmers' production, productivity, quality, market competitiveness, and trading.
- Develop annual agricultural input requirements (Seedlings, herbicides & fertilizers) for smallholder farmers and the distribution calendar plan.
- Provide professional backstopping to fields management staff, ensuring challenges met on the ground are identified and managed in a timely manner.
- Develop proposals on key emerging innovations that will lead to improvement of production and quality and present these to the General Manager for assessment and deliberation.
- Develop quarterly staff KPIs review (Monitoring and

evaluation), focusing on project implementation against targets, challenges, and future mitigating measures.

- Develop and manage farmers training needs and training schedules that focus on agronomic and sustainability issues implemented and using different approaches like FFS and T&V.

##### Management Responsibilities - 15%

- Participate in developing rolling budgets, monitoring and managing any assigned budget and ensuring costs remain within agreed limits.
- Advise the General Manager on short and long term strategies to be adopted for the successful deliver on the Njombe Programme Vision.
- Mentor and build capacity of all Field staff, setting SMART targets and key performance indicators (KPI's), conducting staff appraisals and monitoring their motivation.
- Engage the Government at village and ward levels to ensure their understanding and buy in of the Njombe project vision, mission, goals, objectives, and annual targets.
- Participate in the strategic planning and management of the project's agreed annual targets and ensure farmers services adhered on improving farmers' income and livelihood.
- Advise the General manager on the day to day field operations activities and report on all fields operations performances as well as advising on the way forward.

#### Qualifications, Skills and Experience

- At least a degree in agriculture or related field.
- At least five years or more in senior management coordination level with specific experience in extension services and technical tea farming experience with smallholder farmers.
- At least five years' experience in a senior management coordination role with specific experience in providing extension services and tea farming technical advice to smallholder tea farmers.
- Excellent analytical, problem solving and organizational skills.
- Demonstrable ability to lead and manage staff.
- Strong team player with outstanding communication skills.
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision whilst tracking multiple processes and/or deliverables.
- Ability to effectively prioritize tasks in a fast moving environment.

#### Job Application procedure

All interested and qualified candidates are invited to send their detailed CV with copies of relevant testimonials (certificates) to:

#### General Manager,

**Njombe Outgrowers Services Company Limited,**  
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Tanzania

Email Applications: [info@nosc.co.tz](mailto:info@nosc.co.tz)

The deadline for submitting applications is close of business **29<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

*Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.*



### Social Development, Social Risk Management and Safeguards Consultants

The World Bank's Social Sustainability and Inclusion Global Practice (SSI) is recruiting Short Term Consultants (STCs) as **Social Development, Social Risk Management and Safeguards Consultants**. The positions are national STCs covering Tanzania under the SAES2 Unit which handles social development, social risk management, social safeguards, social inclusion and social sustainability in the country's portfolio. The consultants will address the day-to-day social development and social risk management and safeguards aspects of projects in preparation and under supervision/monitoring using appropriate knowledge of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework - ESF.

#### Duties and responsibilities

Working under the guidance of the Senior Social Development the STCs will assist SSI to provide continuous and timely support to the Tanzania Portfolio on social risk management and social inclusion and sustainability with a focus on ensuring compliance with the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and integrating the social development elements into projects. Consultants will support both project design, preparation and implementation. Specific tasks will include:

- Technical advice to the client;
- Review and input to various project preparation and implementation documents;
- Participate in missions and input to Mission Aide Memoires;
- Social Risk Rating and Social Performance Rating of projects, Tracking Social Performance;
- Review of various social safeguard related documents (including ESMFs, ESAs/ESMPs, RPFs, RAPs, SEPs, LMPs, GRMs);
- Review social compliance in bidding documents;
- Prepare ESSAs for PFR operations, organize and participate in ESSA stakeholder consultations and validations;
- Supervise and monitor projects through field visits, timely identification of social risks and provision of mitigation measures and where required provision of on spot guidance on social screening and due diligence;
- Train project implementation teams and any other support as requested on behalf of the Bank.

#### Selection Criteria

Any successful candidate should be a holder of at least a master's degree or its equivalent in Sociology, Social Studies, Social Development, Development Studies, Community Development or similar/relevant social sciences field with at least 5 years or more of demonstrated experience in social development, social risk management and safeguard compliance. Consultants should be familiar with the Bank's Environment and Social Framework. Ability to work in teams essential, and especially cooperation with Task Team Leaders, government officials and partner organizations.

#### Duration of Assignment

The consultants will each work for 150 days within the period **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. The contract is subject to renewal based on business needs and performance.

#### How to Apply

To apply follow the link <https://wbgeconsult2.worldbank.org/wbgec/index.html> (Business Opportunities) Selection Number SSITZ1. **DO NOT CREATE A LOGIN OR LOGIN USING ANY USERNAME OR PASSWORD**. Applications must have a cover letter and a CV detailing academic qualifications, experience and description of similar assignments performed. Note that this is not a request for financial and/or technical proposals. Consultants shall be selected in accordance with World Bank procedures. The World Bank Group is committed to achieving diversity in terms of gender, nationality, culture and educational background. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview. Closing date is **15<sup>th</sup> April 2023**



BY FRANCIS KOKUTSE

# Cash transfers, poverty alleviation curb mental health issues - study

**P**OVERTY alleviation policies, especially cash transfers, will not only improve the poor condition of the beneficiaries but can also play a role in strengthening the psychological health of people as well as improve the mental health of those living in poverty in low- and middle-income countries (LMICS), including Africa, a new study has said.

An example of these poverty alleviation programmes is the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), under Ghana's ministry of gender, children and social protection for extremely poor and vulnerable households. This is made up of orphaned children, persons with severe disabilities without productive capacity as well as elderly persons who are 65 and above.

The aim is to improve, among other things, basic household con-



Governments in low- and middle-income countries are encouraged to take note of a new study that finds cash transfers help with mental health of those living in poverty. Credit: Annie Spratt/Unsplash

being in which an individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community." And in Africa, StrongMinds Uganda says "despite the high prevalence of mental illnesses across the continent, mental health remains under prioritized in many African countries."

The study, "Do cash transfers alleviate common mental disorders in low- and middle-income countries? A systematic review and meta-analysis," published in PLOS One journal on February 22, 2023, said their "findings lend weight to the hypothesis that poverty alleviation can play a role in strengthening psychological health of people living in poverty in Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICS)."

It said their "analysis shows that providing populations living in poverty with cash transfers leads to improvements of depression and anxiety disorders. However, these benefits may not be sustained once the financial support ends," the authors said.

Nigerian-born associate professor in psychiatry living in the US, Andrews O Newton, said the recent Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) decision that has denied a lot of people access to cash could lead to depression. "Depression

is the commonest form of mental illness. However, most people do not know because sufferers are not seen outside. The chronic stress caused by governmental policies makes it more severe, and one terrible consequence is suicide," Newton said. The CBN has since been legally obliged to delay its deadlines to redesign the currency.

He said, "Extreme poverty dehumanizes," adding that such a situation is likely to lead to "feeling sad and empty, poor concentration, lack of drive and motivation, poor sleep as well as lack of energy."

The study focused on people living in poverty, who are recipients of cash transfers, and participants in inactive control groups, who received no transfers or were enrolled at a later stage, served as a comparison group. Active control groups receiving alternative interventions were not included, as this makes a causal inference about the effects of the transfers difficult.

They included conditional and unconditional cash transfer programmes (CTPs) targeted at households living in poverty in LMICS but did not apply an absolute low-income/poverty threshold, relying only on the relative threshold for grant eligibility applied by the organizations administering the transfers.

"Our findings have important implications for policymakers in Africa as

they show that providing cash transfers to people living in poverty not only improves poverty indicators and school attendance, for example, but also meaningfully impacts depression and anxiety outcomes of beneficiaries. This is especially true for unconditional cash transfers," Wollburg said.

She said they analyzed cash transfer programs that were specifically targeted to low-income and/or deprived households as indicated by, e.g., low monthly household expenditure and consumption, inability to meet basic needs, food insecurity, low educational attainment and high HIV risk.

Esenam Abra Drah, a mental health advocate in the Ghanaian capital, Accra, said, "from personal experience if you don't have money, it can be frustrating." Esenam understands this because she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in August 2015 at the time she was studying Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Linguistics at the University of Ghana.

Currently serving as an executive member of Psychosocial Africa, a grassroots mental health support group set up by, and for people with lived experience of mental illness, Drah admitted as the study showed that her situation affected her schoolwork though she was able to graduate.

The study cautioned that policies aiming to address the poverty-mental health cycle should consider unconditional, longer-term support to populations living in poverty.

IPS UN Bureau Report

## NOSC

### Vacancy- Logistics Manager

Njombe Out growers Services Company Ltd (NOSC) is a company incorporated in November 2014 with the sole purpose of improving the livelihoods of the smallholder tea farmers in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania. NOSC offers a range of support services to the farmers including the provision of essential inputs such as fertilizer, herbicides and seedlings, agronomy support, green leaf transport and logistics, green leaf plucking services and technical advisory services to farmers. NOSC's target is to develop 2500 Ha of smallholder tea targeting 3,000 smallholder farmers that will supply a smallholder tea factory.

NOSC is seeking to recruit a qualified, detail oriented and self-motivated individual to take up the role of Logistics Manager. Based in Njombe and reporting to the General Manager, the role shall have the following key responsibilities:

#### Role Purpose Statement/Key Objective:

Under the direction of the General Manager and with safety, efficiency and customer service a priority, the Logistics Manager is accountable to facilitate the receiving and storing, moving and transport of Agricultural input supplies, stock and materials, ensuring leaf quality standard, effectively managing the timely flow of green leaf from the field to the factories as well as coordinating the tractor services offered to farmers and for internal benefit of NOSC.

#### Key Accountabilities

##### Logistics Management - 70%

##### Fleet Management

- In liaison with General Manager and finance office, develop a fleet management and replacement plan.
- Record and update all fleet data such as services, overhauls repair required, spares and damages.
- Ensure proper management of the vehicles including monitoring and co-ordination of quality right from the field to the factory.
- Complete documentation such as green leaf deliveries, weighing scales records lists, Tractor job order sheets, Vehicle spares as well as service control sheets, ordering levels stocks, Drivers discipline and compliance in line with the traffic rules and regulations.
- Coordinate tractor ploughing, harrowing and transportation services, review of the vehicles and scales and ensure maintenance of schedules both manually and with computer programs in liaison with other service providers key to it as well as the technical staff in the field.

##### Green Leaf Transportation and Distribution

- Plan and co-ordinate transportation of green leaf and manage the timely flow of farmers leaf haulage and agricultural inputs as per production trends as well as managing tractor services to farmers and for internal organizational needs.
- While adhering to policies, procedures and regulatory requirements, facilitate the quality receipt of green leaf from the farmers' fields through the designated collection centers. This would include organizing a healthy fleet, organizing green leaf clerks, drivers, operators as well as mechanics to their best with good focus on accuracy, efficiency and time management.
- Adhere to tea green leaf sourcing procedures and regulatory-compliance procedures
- Complete the daily green leaf collection logs in conjunction with the leaf collection clerks.
- Dispatch inputs fertilizer, chemicals and seedling as per direction of the technical staff without affecting the core business that is green leaf collection.
- Document and escalate any issue that you feel would have a negative impact on green leaf logistics.

##### Customer Service and General Management - 30%

##### Customer Relationship Management

- Provide and maintain good customer service and solve customer problems as they arise.
- As an integral part of the team, ensure that farmers are highly regarded and receive exceptional service throughout the green leaf collection process as well as input supplies. This shall also include addressing problems in consultation with the General Manager and technical staff for smooth haulage of quality green leaf.
- Ensure minimum loss in transit and maximum inputs utility, quality service rendered by tractor operators to farmers through daily route allocation using log books as well as proper fuel and input usage.

##### General Management Responsibilities

- Comply with laws, regulations and standards as per the Tea Board of Tanzania act and accompanying regulations. Local, national as well as international where applicable.
- Develop constructive and cooperative working relationships with those on your team, as well as cross-functionally.
- Complete safety reports in relation to health and safety issues.
- Assist with training of new employees.

##### Qualifications, Skills and Experience

- A minimum of Bachelor degree in Agriculture, Economics, IT, Logistics, Fleet management or related fields.
- At least two (2) years of experience in a farm oriented or related enterprise coordinating transport logistics preferably with smallholder farmers in tea industry and management of leaf quality.
- Excellent organization skills with the ability to concurrently manage multiple tasks within set deadlines.
- Results oriented.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Computer literate.
- Ability to speak Kiswahili. English is an added advantage.

##### Job Application procedure

All interested and qualified candidates are invited to send their detailed CV with copies of relevant testimonials (certificates) to:

**General Manager**  
**Njombe Outgrowers Services Company Limited,**  
**Lunyanywi B Street Plot No. 7, Block A**  
**P. O. Box 252, Njombe,**  
**Tanzania**  
**Email Applications: info@nosc.co.tz**

The deadline for submitting applications is close of business **29<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

**Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

sumption, and nutrition among children below two years of age and the aged. It is also intended to increase access to health care services among children below five years of age.

The study found more than 20,000 Africans, out of 26,794 people receiving these cash transfers under poverty alleviation programmes in six countries across Africa, admitted that this financial assistance does have some effect on their mental health.

A co-author of the study, Clara Wollburg, affiliated with the department of social policy and intervention, University of Oxford, Oxford, told IPS, "13 out of the 17 studies were conducted in Sub-Saharan Africa. Of those studies, four were located in Malawi, four in Kenya, two in South Africa, and one each in Zambia, Mali, and Uganda."

The World Health Organization defines mental health as "a state of well-

## Burkina Faso: Home to almost half of the closed schools in Central and West Africa

BY MARINE OLIVESI

**O**VER a million children in Burkina Faso are currently affected by school closures with 6,134 academic institutions shut as of February 2023, an increase of over 40 per cent since the end of the last school year.

Nearly one out of four schools country-wide are now out of service due to rampant insecurity and violence, which has forced close to two million people into displacement.

On the eve of the high-level conference on Education in Emergencies, organised by the European Commission and the United Nations Children's Fund in Brussels, the Norwegian Refugee Council together with the Education Cluster in Burkina Faso and the FONGIH, two umbrella entities representing 87 national and international organisations operating in the country, called for increased access to education for children left behind, whether they are internally displaced or live in enclaved areas.

"Only about a quarter of the children driven out-of-school have been given new classrooms. The majority are left without access to education, robbing them of their childhood and of their chance to become independent adults and citizens," said Hassane Hamadou, NRC's country director in Burki-

na Faso.

"The longer this situation drags on, the graver it becomes, the harder it will be to reverse this trend and protect their futures. The authorities in Burkina Faso as well as humanitarian and development organisations must urgently renew their efforts to stop this educational hemorrhage."

Out of eight schools, only two are operational in the blockaded town of Pama in the East region, one of the three regions with the highest number of school closures along with Sahel and Boucle du Mouhoun. Six teachers and a few volunteers are currently serving over 1,000 children in Pama.

"For those of us who are still here, it's a very personal decision to stay," explained a teacher. "Education is a universal right, so we feel it's our duty to carry on. But fear doesn't go away easily. Often, we have to stop classes because we hear gunshots here or there."

Threats loom large, and conditions are tough, but we can and must overcome challenges to assist children who never wished to be put in this situation."

Over 31,000 teachers have been affected by the education crisis nationwide, of which about 6,300 have been redeployed so far in schools hosting large numbers of internally displaced students. The

reopening or relocation of around 300 schools since January marks a welcome step in the right direction.

However, it is now crucial to increase the use of "double shifts approach" in operating schools, to set-up more classrooms wherever possible, and to accelerate the reassignment of teachers to new sites in displacement areas.

This crisis has disproportionately impacted girls. A study conducted by Plan International revealed that girls are 2.5 times more at risk of being driven out of schools than boys in a crisis situation. Meanwhile, ongoing efforts to help teachers meet the growing psychosocial needs of students often traumatized by displacement and conflict must be sustained and increased nationwide.

"Insecurity is a big part of why so many schools close, but food insecurity in the Sahel and East regions is also a driver of school dropouts," said Tin Tua's director, Yembuani Yves Ouoba. "Guaranteeing that schools and non-formal education centers provide meals and children are being fed are effective ways of keeping them in the system."

"We are witnessing an accelerating assault on education. Teachers are threatened and parents are frightened. Children are paying the heaviest price. When a child is not

at school, he is more at risk of being exploited, being a victim of violence and trafficking, or even being recruited by armed groups," said the Representative of UNICEF in Burkina Faso, Sandra Latouf.

"We welcome the effective partnership and collaboration with the Ministry of National Education, Literacy, and Promotion of National Languages, which is strengthening access to education in challenging contexts. We must act now to not lose the next generation and renew efforts to strengthen emergency and alternative education solutions."

Parties to the conflict must do more to protect school infrastructures from attacks and not occupy academic buildings. We welcome the upcoming inter-ministerial order to set up national and regional committees in charge of the implementation of the Safe School Declaration and hope they help make schools safe for all Burkinabè children.

At the end of February 2023, 6,134 schools were closed in Burkina Faso, a 44% increase since May 2022 (4,258). This represents 24% of all academic structures in the country. (Source: Ministry of Education's statistical monthly report on Education in Emergencies from February 28, 2023)

IPS UN Bureau



# NARCO TO SET RANCHING BLOCKS OF GLOBAL INVESTMENT STANDARDS

By Correspondent  
 Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

**T**HE National Ranching Company (NARCO) is working to develop and set the needed international ranching blocks investment standards to serve as potential stockyards among local and foreign stakeholders who wish to extend investment into the economic sector.

Currently, NARCO is finalising legal processes to revoke contracts of more than 31 local investors who had entered into contracts to lease various ranching blocks but have failed to develop the potential ranches fruitfully.

Prof Peter Msoffe, NARCO's Director General told The Guardian in an exclusive interview that the move also tar-

gets to help the general development of the country's vital economic sector.

"We're very committed and determined to ensure all investors who wish to venture into contracts with us are making fruitful use of the leased ranching blocks," he said.

Prof Msoffe detailed that all investors who wish to venture into the sector will be required to prove their financial muscle (investment capital) but also, to submit their business plans as well as their experiences in handling such business, among others.

"We will no longer accept every investor, but we will be scrutinizing them with a vigilant eye to determine if they hold the needed potential and experience to handle the blocks," he insisted.

Among the key prerequisites that the appli-

cant will necessarily be required to possess, according to him, include creativity and capability to develop and implement helpful strategies for the general management and improvement of the ranching blocks, and proven ability over environmental conservation.

"They must also demonstrate maturity and high commitment to abide by the regulations that have been set by the government pertaining to ranching blocks handling," he stated.

He said NARCO is currently working to finalize needed legal processes to revoke licenses of the 31 laxity local investors that have so far proved failure to perform as per the set regulations and standards.

The Don added that, being part to abide with the needed procedures pertaining

to revoking the licenses, the company had to dispatch the concern to the Attorney General.

"Legal procedures require us to first seek for the Attorney General's wisdom before venturing into processes to terminate the contract of any investors in order to avert causing the government any loss," he expressed.

He said the Attorney General has already instructed them on sober ways to revoke the licenses, saying they were now working over the necessary directives.

"We're at a good stage, and we are looking forward to soon embark on a vital exercise to revoke the licenses," he explained, adding that the investors in the category have primarily failed to improve the ranching blocks in different manners," he said.



NARCO director general, Prof Peter Msoffe

## ASA embarks on 15billion/- irrigation scheme project at its three seed farms

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

THE Tanzania Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) has embarked on the vital works for the installation of modern irrigation infrastructures at its seed multiplication farms in Morogoro, Arusha and Tabora regions.

The on-going project expected to gobble up to 15bn/- upon its practical completion focuses on enabling the state-owned Seed Agency to stand a professional side to produce improved seeds varieties for different crops throughout the year.

Speaking during an event to inaugurate the project for the installation of the facilities at the Kilimi Seed farm in Nzega, Tabora Region, Chief Executive Officer for ASA, Dr. Sophia Kashenge observed that the development will enable the Agency to double seeds production at the vast farm.

She noted that, absence of such facilities at the Tabora -based farm was crippling seeds production efforts.

"For instance, in this cropping season alone, a total of more than 150 acres of maize have dried out at this farm due to prolonged dry spell, which is a great loss to our side," she unveiled.

Through the on-going project, Dr. Kashenge informed that the Agency will install state-of-the-art irrigation facilities at its three key farms, including the Kilimi farm in Tabora (400h), Msimba farm in Morogoro (200h) as well as the Arusha -based Ngaramtoni farm which attracts a total of 200 hectares.

"As per the set schedule, we're expecting that the involved contractors will complete the project's first phase by May this year, which will cover a total of 210 hectares, and immediately venture into irrigation trials before continuing with the second phase," she detailed.

Dr. Kashenge hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for injecting the Agency with a friendly budget for enabling it to install Irrigation schemes at its seed farms.

Speaking for her part during the event, Tabora Regional Commissioners (RC), Ambassador Dr. Batilda Buriani, said the development was demonstrating the high commitments that the sixth phase government embraces in elevating the agriculture sector, especially in making sure the farmers are timely supplied with enough, but improved seeds.

She added that the government in the region will stand at forefront to protect the irrigation facilities at the farm in order to ensure the farm produces intended seeds.

"All citizens residing at the vicinity of this farm must cooperate closely with ASA to protect it from any encroachment, but must also stand ready to tap and benefit from diverse working opportunities that will likely crop up at the farm," she urged.



Tabora regional commissioner Batilda Buriani (C) cuts ribbon to launch works for the installation of irrigation infrastructure at the ASA's Kilimi seed farm in Nzega District. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

## Comorian envoy: Tariffs on imported Tanzania goods are more prohibitive

Property Watch Correspondent

COMORIAN traders do not import many goods from Tanzania because of high taxes, Comorian Ambassador, Dr. Ahamada Mohamed, told the Acting President of the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) Swallah Said Swallah, here yesterday.

The envoy called for regular meetings between the TCCIA and its Comorian counterpart to sort out problems and challenges that impede trade between the two countries. Comorians, he said, want to import goods from Tanzania because of proximity but high taxes are an impediment.

"Comoro and Tanzania are very close and friendly neighbours. However, our

trader prefers buying cement from Pakistan simply because tariffs on Tanzanian goods are prohibitive. I suggest the TCCIA and our Chamber should meet and sort out these problems and challenges," Dr Mohamed suggested, praising the efforts being taken by the government towards promoting Tanzania's socio-economic development.

Swallah assured the envoy that TCCIA will do everything in its power to remove obstacles standing in the way of trade growth between the two countries. He welcomed the envoy's suggestion but added that TCCIA is largely satisfied with the trade trend between the two countries, especially since 2017.

"The statistic at hand shows a good trade trend. In 2017

Tanzania exported to Comoro goods worth 3.5 US million dollars. Exports rose to 6.6 million US dollars by end of 2021. To us this is very good trade trend," he said.

The Acting TCCIA President said, their chamber calls for establishment of a Joint Partnership Commission between Tanzania and Comoro because, he said, the commission will go through all the problems and challenges and suggest solutions.

TCCIA also wants to see symposia on trade between Tanzania and Comoro revived, Swallah said, explaining that the meetings were being held between Zanzibar and Comoro and that they were important in promoting trade between the two neighbors.

## Winners of Vodacom programme vow to equip smallholder farmers

Property Watch Correspondent

WINNERS of Vodacom Tanzania's Digital Accelerator programme have pledged to use innovative technological solutions to address challenges facing smallholder farmers in undertaking their day-to-day activities.

Some of the winners of Vodacom Digital Accelerator, Isabella Fernandes, the Executive Director and Founder of Bizy Tech made the pledge in Dar es Salaam over the weekend.

"The technological solutions are important and will help smallholder farmers to access formal financial services and improve their incomes through robust marketing systems," he said.

He added: "I am very happy to be the first winner of the Vodacom Digital Accelerator programme as it will be a great help in improving the company's efficiency and reaching more Tanzanians throughout the country."

Through the USSD technology system, the BaNDO Agriculture service connects farmers easily with a wide range of services including access to training and advice from agricultural experts on best practices during cultivation and after harvest.

This training helps farmers produce better crops that meet market criteria, increase income and reduce post-harvest losses.

"This service also provides loan guarantees to financial institutions that lend to small and medium businesses, while providing them, along with other buyers, a market and certainty of sources of agricultural products," she said.

Since its launch in 2020, Kilimo BaNDO has registered more than 2.87 million small farmers and helped more than 129,035 small and medium businesses in the cultivation of different crops such as corn, soybeans, cashews, sun-

flowers, cassava, rice, and adding value in the cultivation of vegetables and fruits.

This service creates a value chain system that connects stakeholders from the farm to the home, including input producers, produce buyers, and financial service providers.

Vodacom Tanzania has invested in bringing solutions to farmers through the M-Kulima digital service, a system that connects all stakeholders in the agricultural sector.

M-Kulima facilitates communication and transactions between companies, governments, or farmers at any time.

This service works by collecting all the necessary information such as residential area, farm size and crops.

Philip Besiimire, Vodacom Tanzania managing director said: "The unique thing that has made me happy is to see that a woman has emerged as the first winner."

"Yet the founders and partners of these companies are mostly men. Let me use this opportunity to appeal to the government and stakeholders to look into the possibility of having this type of programme specifically for women," he said.

"This will encourage more women founders but will also increase opportunities for women to be in high positions in the leadership system in these companies."

In addition, there should also be special platforms for the disabled to demonstrate their abilities to increase inclusion at all levels of society."

This information is important as it is used to provide crop and climate advice. A farmer can access this system and get information about the best agricultural products at the current time, tillage, pests, and harvest.



# At Chloride Exide, bosses work with staff on the factory floor

NAIROBI

A few months into his tenure as managing director, an old factory worker asked to see the boss. Guy Jack ushered the man into his office.

He must have been acting in a way that displeased the old man who went on to fearlessly relay what Jack terms as the most profound lesson he's learned to date.

"Everybody knows who the boss is. You don't have to behave like it," the old man said. From then hence, Mr Jack's approach to management changed.

Jack, a third-generation Kenyan, pursued a motor vehicle engineering course in the United Kingdom before coming back home for good.

Aged only 25, he was placed at the helm of Thomas White Batteries, a new acquisition by the Associated Battery Manufacturers (ABM) franchise.

"I was thrown in at the deep end," he admits of his inexperience. He'd never seen a balance sheet or a profit and loss statement before taking the corner office.

In 1994 when he joined, the company was producing 300 batteries a month. He saw the growth potential and within a year and a half, this number had risen to over 2,000 units.

Today, the capacity is 1.5 million battery units a year, a figure he says they come pretty close to meeting.

The company he runs is largely known for its operations as Chloride Exide, a distributor of automotive batteries whose other core business is the installation of solar energy.

At the parent company's

(ABM) premises on Kampala Road, Jack, now the Group CEO steers a ship of 480 people.

"I know four hundred of them on a first-name basis," he says of his relationship with the team. He asks about their families. "People leave places because of bosses, very rarely about remuneration," he adds.

One of the things they've always been good at, he says, is involving everyone in the company's strategy - top to bottom.

Everyone has a say in what the business is trying to do, how it will be done and their role in the overall plan.

On his move to the Head Office, Mr Jack came in with a different culture. For instance, he did away with the head tables at corporate functions. "You have one table and everyone sits there," he says.

Once every quarter, every non-operations worker has to work in the factory for four hours - physical work. Mr Jack says the effects of this practice have been incredible.

"It teaches people the business," he says and that's on top of getting to interact and know his staff and them him.

On the line, while giggling in fits, the staff plots and makes a battery with the cells the wrong way around to see if the newcomers including the boss will notice. He catches the mistake every time. Or so he says.

In his estimation, ABM spends Sh87,000 per person per year on staff training and that's with a total of 970 personnel in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Threats to the business

In 2022, the company was within three weeks of shutting down operations when



Workers at the Associated Battery Manufacturers East Africa Limited (ABM) during the launch of the very first locally manufactured maintenance-free car batteries in Kenya and the East African region.

the Kenyan government placed a moratorium on the trade in scrap metal advised by the run-away criminality in scrap metal dealings.

With 90 percent of batteries made from recycled lead, this had a big dent in operations. ABM resorted to importing pure lead from Tanzania and The Democratic Republic of Congo.

Thousands of jobs were in dire straits before the moratorium was lifted.

Jack also doesn't see the advent of the electric car as an imminent threat to his business. "The reality is, when the world switches off the last combustible engine, Africa has eight years."

He further doesn't see lithium as a viable replacement for his lead batteries. Lead is 99.9 percent recyclable as opposed to its much more expensive alternative, not to mention lithium's detriment to the environment. He's currently sitting pretty.

Operations

Fifty percent of ABM's business is in exports. Their products are shipped and trucked all over East and Central Africa, further down to Malawi, Zim-

babwe, Zambia, Mauritius, Mozambique and Madagascar.

They have further made forays into the West African market, seeing their products in Ghana under the Free Trade Agreement. At home, Chloride Exide enjoys 60 percent of the market, a lion's share.

Twenty-nine years ago, Chloride Exide moved into the solar power trade and has since grown the division into a multi-million-dollar business.

Jack further reveals that up to Sh2 million of his monthly power bill is catered for by their rooftop programme.

R & D

In a stroke of genius, ABM sold a 25 percent stake of the company to Metair Investments, a South African partner who owns battery plants in South Africa, Turkey and Romania.

"We share a synergy of technology and have access to some of the best research and development," Jack says of the symbiotic relationship.

He goes on to extol the in-house talent at ABM as some of the best in the world and boasts of the most advanced battery plant in Africa in terms of "tech-

nology and equipment."

Guy the Man

Almost thirty years on, Jack says he is still hungry and counts himself very lucky to hold the position he does. Each day presents a new challenge.

Also read: Man proves naysayers wrong by conquering peak of Mt Kenya on 77th birthday

"Today, I'll meet guys in the factory...on Friday, I'll be at an awards ceremony or a golf event in Kisumu!" he says.

Outside the office, Mr Jack enjoys flying having acquired his pilot's license in 2017. He has a four-seater plane he uses for both work and play.

He used to be a martial artist but when age caught up, he moved to shooting and has done this at the highest level, representing Kenya in international events.

Parting Shot

"There's a perception that you have to be extremely highly educated. That couldn't be further from the truth!" Jack says of the prevailing societal attitudes towards the achievement of success.

He says, "We recruit for attitude and develop the skill."

## NCC's helpdesk at Abuja airport moves telecom solution even closer to travellers

LAGOS

TELECOM services consumers around Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Abuja who are having issues with their service providers can now access help from the Nigerian Communications Commission, NCC in the airport.

This is as the Commission has established a help desk known as Telecom Consumer Assistance, Resolution and Enquires, TELCARE, Centre in the airport.

The TELCARE center was unveiled recently as one of the series of events by NCC to mark the 2023 International Consumers Rights Day.

The Chairman, Board of Commissioners of NCC, Prof. Adeolu Akande, who unveiled the initiative, said the launch of the TELCARE, is the beginning of the helpdesk project expected to adorn some airports and other similar public locations across the country.

He said: "The platform would serve as an additional channel for consumers to make enquiries on consumer issues, allowing the Commission to provide advocacy on consumer concerns as well as create awareness regarding Commission's activities.

"It is one of NCC's strategies for expanding the channels of engagement with telecom consumers.

"The project is a deliberate effort by the Commission to amplify its commitment to promoting the interest of consumers using various engagement strategies and initiatives to protect, inform, and educate telecom consumers."

He also expressed gratitude to the Management of the Federal Airport Authority Nigeria, FAAN for its support in ensuring the successful establishment of a TELCARE Desk at the airport.

He noted that the Commission, under the leadership of its Executive Vice Chairman, Prof. Umar Danbatta, has continued to re-engineer its strategies and structures to make them more effective to engage critical stakeholders to address unfair practices including but not limit.

Also, the Regional General Manager, FAAN, Kabir Mohammed, said that the Management of FAAN was delighted to partner with the NCC on the initiative, as the passengers and airport users will have the opportunity to resolve issues bothering them while in transit.

Mohammed also noted that the first-hand interface with consumers would not only expedite the feedback mechanism in addressing telecom consumer issues but also curb unfair practices within the system and further bridge any communication gap between the consumers and its regulators.

NCC's Head, Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ayanbanji Ojo, speaking through the Head, Consumer Protection and Advocacy at NCC, Clem Omife, expressed optimism about the expected success of the initiative.

Ojo noted that many consumers transiting at the airport are already taking advantage of the Desk even before the launch of the TELCARE Desk, to make enquiries or lodge complaints.

"This is a pilot project, and the Commission will ensure that the TELCARE Desk is established in more strategic locations around the nation. We believe that through adequate education, information sharing, and the provision of layers of channels for complaints and redress, we can safeguard the interest of telecom consumers and innovatively promote the prospect of more excellent consumer experience," Ojo said.

# Laptrust out to weigh bids for its property fund shares

NAIROBI

INVESTORS interested in buying into property fund Laptrust Imara I-Reit will have to negotiate a price acceptable to pension scheme Laptrust which currently owns nearly all the units (shares) in the newly listed entity.

The unique arrangement, a departure from the norm where shares trade transparently and freely after original shareholders sell a part of their stakes, has been approved by regulators and will remain in place for three years.

Laptrust Imara made an opening trade of 250,000 units at Sh20 apiece on Wednesday, valuing the transaction at Sh5 million which meets the minimum investment size for the real estate trust. An unnamed pension fund bought the units.

"Customers will approach us and we will agree on price and then they buy until the market is more understand-

ing of this product and that's why we are taking our time," Laptrust CEO Hosea Kili said.

The pension fund is expected to open up the Reit as a regularized mainstream listing after a three-year window allowing the commencement of normal automated trading.

Even so, participants in the trading of Imara I-Reits will be limited to persons qualifying as professional investors, restricting participation to high-net-worth individuals and institutions such as pension firms and insurers.

NSE-listed Ilam Fahari I-Reit which trades like an ordinary stock is the only property fund to embrace retail/small investors having set a minimum investment amount of Sh20,000 when it listed in November 2015.

Investors can now invest as low as Sh650 to buy 100 units of Ilam Fahari in the open market. NSE's chief executive



Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) chairman Kiprono Kitonyo at the Nairobi Securities Exchange grounds on Wednesday during the bell ringing ceremony, to officiate the listing of Laptrust Imara I-Reit.

Geoffrey Odundo says the bourse will be accommodative to differently structured funds with the view of growing the Reit's space.

"We expect to see more Reits coming through but we are yet to register any applications. Structures will come in any form but we want to make it as flexible as possible for the listings to come as we want to have a critical mass of Reits," he said.

The Laptrust Imara I-Reit has 346,231,413 units with the Sh20 per unit price being based on the net asset value of the scheme at the time of listing.

Properties held under the fund include CPF MetroPark, CPF House, Pension Towers and Freedom Heights Mall.

The Reit is the first to be listed by a pension fund on the Nairobi Securities Exchange.

The investment vehicle closely

resembles the Acorn Student Accommodation I-Reit by the profile of the investor and the minimum capital required.

While the Acorn property fund is not listed on the NSE, the investment vehicle trades on the over-the-counter market in transactions with a minimum of Sh5 million per trade.

Laptrust is the first pension fund to list a Reit and it is expected to be followed at the NSE with more fund managers expected to replicate the move.

November last year the pension scheme had locked out retail investors from its newly created real estate investment trust by setting a minimum investment of Sh5 million for each party that may want to buy into the property fund in the future.

Laptrust has received the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) approval to package its real estate assets into a fund called Laptrust Imara I-Reit and which will be listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange.

The properties that will be held under Imara include CPF Metro Park, CPF House, Pension Towers, Freedom Heights Mall and Service Plot, Man Apartment and Nova Eldoret.

"The Laptrust Imara I-Reit will be listed as a close-ended fund at Sh20 per unit (share) based on the net asset value of the scheme as at the time of listing, with a total of 346,231,413 units," the regulator said in a statement.

"The valuation of the I-Reit, at the listing, will thus be Sh6.9 billion. The units may only be transferred to persons who qualify as professional investors and at a minimum trade size of Sh5 million."

A closed-end fund's shares are traded on the exchange but no new units will be created and no new money will flow into the investment vehicle.



## CONSTRUCTION

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## APP HASN'T SHARED US DATA WITH GOVT OF CHINA, SAYS TIKTOK CHIEF

LAGOS

**T**HE chief executive officer of TikTok, Shou Zi Chew has said the controversial popular Chinese-owned video-sharing app has never shared the United States data with the authorities in China.

Shou said this ahead of his testimony before the House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee on Thursday.

TikTok's chief will tell lawmakers who will be hearing on behalf of more than 150 million American users that the app never has, and would never, share US user data with the Chinese government amid growing national security concerns, Reuters said.

"TikTok has never shared, or received a request to share, US user data with the Chinese government. Nor would TikTok honour such a request if one were ever made," Shou posted this as part of his written testimony posted on Tuesday.

He added that TikTok's parent company ByteDance is not owned



or controlled by any government or state entity.

"Let me state this unequivocally: ByteDance is not an agent of China or any other country," Shou will tell the committee.

TikTok's critics fear that its US user data could be passed on to China's government by the app and stimulated mounting pressure to ban the app by US lawmakers.

Last week, TikTok said the President Joe Biden administration demanded that its Chinese owners deprive their stake in the

app or it could face a US ban.

"Bans are only appropriate when there are no alternatives. But we do have an alternative," Shou's testimony said.

TikTok has said it has spent more than \$1.5 billion on what it termed rigorous data security efforts under the name "Project Texas" and has tried to convince lawmakers and the Biden administration to support the plan.

The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), a robust national security body, had unanimously rec-

ommended in 2020 that ByteDance separate TikTok.

Under pressure from then-President Trump, ByteDance in late 2020 unsuccessfully sought to finalize a deal with Walmart and Oracle to shift TikTok's US assets into a new entity and Trump then lost court battles seeking to ban TikTok.

"Oracle has already begun inspecting TikTok's source code and will have unprecedented access to the related algorithms and data models," Shou's testimony said.

Shou said when the process is complete "all protected US data will be under the protection of US law and under the control of the US-led security team. Under this structure, there is no way for the Chinese government to access it or compel access to it."

The company said it had started this month to delete US user-protected data in data centres in Virginia and Singapore after it began routing new US data to the Oracle Cloud last year. Shou's testimony said it expects this process to be completed later this year.

Shou's testimony said 60% of ByteDance is owned by global institutional investors including Blackrock, General Atlantic, and Sequoia, about 20% by the company's founders, and about 20% owned by its employees "including thousands of Americans."

TikTok said on Monday that more than 150 million people in the United States use TikTok on a monthly basis after saying in 2020 that 100 million Americans used the app. Shou's testimony says the average user today is an adult well past college age.

"While users in the United States represent 10% of our global community, their voice accounts for 25% of the total views around the world," Shou's testimony said.

**ICT ministry starts campaign for stronger digital governance site**

KIGALI

IN today's digital age, the importance of robust digital governance cannot be overstated. As governments and organizations grapple with managing vast amounts of data, there is an urgent need for a clear and comprehensive framework for national data governance.

To strengthen Rwanda's progress, the Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT) has partnered with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) to organize a capacity development workshop focused on digital government and national data governance framework.

The workshop, which began on March 22 at Kigali Convention Center and will continue until March 23, has brought together local and international stakeholders from government and private institutions in the ICT sector.

According to Gordon Kalema, Director General in Charge of Digital Transformation at MINICT, the workshop is focusing on three critical areas: the digital infrastructure development index, the online service index, and the data governance framework.

The digital infrastructure development index looks at how infrastructure can be developed in the country to enhance ICT and innovation, while the online service index examines how policies can be implemented to ensure that all services are issued online. The data governance framework focuses on developing data infrastructure in a way that ensures security and privacy for citizens.

Kalema emphasized that the workshop aims to build capacity for both government and private institutions and to share best practices from other countries through expert facilitators.

"The three areas of focus for the workshop are already being implemented in Rwanda. The government has invested in 4G infrastructure and has set up a new broadband policy that prioritizes developing infrastructure for quality and affordable internet access for all citizens," Kalema said, adding that most services are now available online through Irembo, and the government is aiming to put all remaining services online by 2024.

He also mentioned that Rwanda has implemented data privacy and protection laws, which will be discussed during the workshop to explore effective implementation strategies.

Other topics for discussion include smartphone penetration, digital literacy as well as local content development in a way that is more effective.

Leila Rwagasana, Director of Partnerships at Irembo, added that the workshop will help disseminate knowledge to their agents and improve their platform's services.

She said they aim to increase digital literacy and train their staff and users to add more services and innovations, mobilizing those with internet-connected devices to help others.

## KCCA daringly rolls out 1bn/- floodlights project

KAMPALA

The euphoric ambience at St Mary's Stadium-Kitende last Saturday night as Vipers held Raja Casablanca to a 1-all draw in the Caf Champions League was one to behold.

A game of little significance to Vipers's Group C progression bid had fans throng Kitende in droves - each jovially taking in the moment.

Night matches are singular occurrences in Ugandan football. Most fans treated it as a weekend outing - merrymaking and chatting away into the night whilst enjoying drinks and eats.

KCCA might have borrowed a leaf from that thrilling spectacle and now wants to tap from the corporate base since their MTN Omondi Stadium-Lugogo is premised at the heat of Kampala City.

Already four gigantic lamp stands have been erected in the four corners at Lugogo with about six bulbs each and according to the



The new floodlights at the MTN Omondi Stadium in Lugogo.

club administrator and operations manager Moses Kaddu, it is still work in progress that they want to wind up before April 1, when KCCA hosts Maroons.

"Our target is being ready for the Maroons game. In the meantime, we are going to play two test matches with StarTimes Uganda Premier league sides to test the light patterns. We intend to have about 600 to 700 lux mandated for the local

matches," said Kaddu.

According to Kaddu, the floodlights deal is catered for and installed by shirt sponsors CHIINT Electronics that joined KCCA for a three-year partnership in October last year.

CHIINT is a Chinese company dealing in provision of smart energy solutions, covering an integrated whole industry chain of power generation, storage, transmission, substation, distribution,

sales, and consumption.

"We are not contributing a penny but we believe that CHIINT will invest about Shs1bn to install the floodlights. This is an expensive venture not for the faint hearted. Our stadium is under construction so we can't host international matches but upon completion, expect an assemblage of modernised floodlights," Kaddu added.

They plan to have 48 bulbs distributed on the

four lamps and an extra two bulbs stationed near the both stands to balance visibility.

Although sufficient for UPL standards, the floodlights project fades in comparison with that at Kitende which enables a capacity of 1200 lux lighting, was imported from Germany, was inspected by FIFA contractors Rabo Sport Company and is valued at Shs2bn.

We are targeting

corporates - Muhoozi

Anisha Muhoozi, the affable club CEO, reveals that the full package from CHIINT will be completed with a standby generator, an uninterruptible power source (UPS) and a brand new transformer to avoid power cuts during matches.

"We aim to host all the remaining league matches at home in order to tap into the office workers and those that are always stuck in traffic gridlock. Our research has shown that fans are willing to watch midweek matches more compared to weekend action," Muhoozi said.

The 13-time league kings, leading the table with 35 points from 16 matches, will host Maroons, UPDF, SC Villa, Onduparaka and Bul at Lugogo in the remaining 12 matches.

In the long run, the club wants to return to the continent with players that have exposure in night football and also 'introduce Ugandan stars to the benefit of using less energy whilst playing night matches as the North Africans have made it a norm.'

According to Muhoozi, the first phase of the stadium construction, estimated to cost Shs10bn upon completion, is scheduled to end towards the end of next year and immediately the second phase will commence.

## Liberia gets \$3.9million ADF grant to modernise its payments infrastructure

MONROVIA

THE African Development Fund (ADF) has approved \$3.9 million grant to finance the upgrade of Liberia's payments infrastructure and systems.

The project's primary objective is to strengthen the payments ecosystem in Liberia for increased efficiency and to foster growth and innovation.

It targets the automated cheque processing and automated clearing house and real-time gross settlement systems, which ADF says, form the backbone of payments processing in the country's financial sector.

Also, the project will see the upgrade of the Central Bank of Liberia's main data centre and disaster recovery



sites as well as support initiatives to drive financial inclusion.

The ADF funding comes at a time Liberia's financial sector is suffering from a number of challenges including inadequate ICT and last mile reach infrastructure

Existing payments infrastructure was deployed in 2016 with help from the African Development Bank, and has served the country for the last six years, but require urgent upgrading, says the ADF.

Moreover, ADF says the pro-

ject is expected to "maximise potential to strengthen the financial sector, build financial stability, bridge the financial inclusion gap and facilitate integration in the region."

According to the ADF, the planned project will also directly impact the roll-out of

the proposed National Electronic Payments Switch (NEPS) system targeted at the retail market where the greatest exclusion occurs.

It says: "With the NEPS project approved by the World Bank in 2022 and its implementation underway, the proposed project is critical to efforts to improve financial inclusion in Liberia, currently standing at 44.2% (Findex 2021), and reach to disenfranchised populations including youth, women, smallholder farmers, micro small and medium enterprises, and other rural populations."

Implementation of the new project will commence in June 2023 and will be executed by the Central Bank of Liberia working together with banking and non-banking institutions.

"The modernisation of Liberia's payments infrastructure and systems to improve payments efficiency will not only strengthen the formal financial sector, but contribute to greater financial stability and improved private sector development," says Benedict Kanu, African Development Bank country manager for Liberia.



## WORLD

## Indian court orders Rahul Gandhi to 2 years in jail for Modi remark

AHMEDABAD, India

A court in India found opposition leader Rahul Gandhi guilty of defamation yesterday for a speech he made in 2019 in which he referred to thieves as having the surname Modi, and sentenced him to two years in prison.

Gandhi, a senior leader of the Congress party and the scion of the Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty, will appeal against the order in a higher court, his party said. The judgment was passed by a court in the city of Surat, located in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat.

An adviser to the federal government, Kanchan Gupta, said Gandhi, a member of the lower house of parliament, could face immediate disqualification as a member of parliament following the conviction in line with a 2013 order of the country's highest court.

"The court has found Rahul Gandhi's comment to be defamatory," said Ketan

Reshamwala, an advocate for complainant Purnesh Modi, a Gujarat lawmaker from the prime minister's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "He has been sentenced to two years in jail."

Gandhi was present at the Surat court, which gave him bail immediately and suspended the sentence for a month.

In the speech ahead of the last general election in 2019, Gandhi referred to the prime minister and two fugitive Indian businessmen, all with the Modi surname, while talking about alleged high-level corruption in the country.

Yesterday, Gandhi told the court that his comment was not against any community.

Gandhi's party said the case against him was brought by a "cowardly and dictatorial" BJP government because he was "exposing their dark deeds".

"The Modi government is a victim of political bankruptcy," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Twitter. "We



India's Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi speaks at a public meeting amid heavy snowfall as he concludes the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' march in Srinagar on Jan 30, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

will appeal in the higher court."

Gupta, a senior adviser to the federal Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, said that Gandhi faced immediate disqualification as a lawmaker.

"In a democracy, nobody, absolutely nobody is above the law," Gupta said on Twitter. "All are equal. The law, therefore, equally applies to Rahul Gandhi."

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said the party had "all legal recourse available to us and we will use them".

"Hopefully, the law of the land will prevail," she said.

Gandhi, one of Modi's main rivals ahead of the 2024 general election, won support from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) that rules Delhi and two of whose top leaders are in jail on what they call trumped-up charges.

"A conspiracy is being hatched to eliminate non-BJP leaders and parties by prosecuting them," AAP chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wrote on Twitter.

"We have differences with the Congress, but it is not right to implicate Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case like this. It is the job of the public and the opposition to ask questions. We respect the court but disagree with the decision."

Gandhi's once-dominant Congress controls less than 10 percent of the elected seats in parliament's lower house and lost badly to the BJP in the last two general elections.

Modi remains India's most popular politician by a substantial margin and is widely expected to win a third victory at the next general election in 2024.

## Israel ratifies law limiting conditions for a Netanyahu ouster

JERUSALEM



ISRAEL ratified a law yesterday limiting the circumstances in which a prime minister can be removed, despite worries voiced by a government jurist that it may be meant to shield the incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu from any fallout from his corruption trials.

The amended definition for the "incapacity" of national leaders is among legislative measures by the religious-nationalist coalition that have tipped Israel into crisis, with the opposition arguing that judicial independence is in peril.

The coalition says the overhaul is aimed at pushing back against Supreme Court over-reach and restoring balance among branches of government.

By a 61-to-47 final vote, the Knesset approved the bill under which prime ministers can be deemed unfit - and compelled to step aside - either if they or three-quarters of cabinet ministers declare them so on physical or psychological grounds.

The stipulations fleshed out a quasi-constitutional "basic law" that provides the government with guidance in the event of a non-functioning prime minister - but which previously lacked details on circumstances that may give rise to such situations.

According to the non-partisan Israel Democracy Institute, the rule had earlier left Netanyahu vulnerable to a possible assertion of his incapacity by Attorney-General Gali Baharav-Miara, should she perceive an attempt by him to halt his three court cases.

The new law precludes this, IDI senior researcher Amir Fuchs said - while adding that he had considered such a finding by Baharav-Miara to be an unlikely "extreme case".

Netanyahu denies all charges against him, and has cast the trials as a politicised bid to force him from office.

Baharav-Miara - who was appointed by the former, centrist Israeli government - said last month that Netanyahu must stay out of his coalition's push for a judicial overhaul because of what she deemed a conflict of interest arising from his trials.

Baharav-Miara's deputy, Gil Limon, voiced misgivings over the incapacity bill during a Knesset review session on Tuesday.

"What we see before our eyes is a cluster of legislation elements that are most troubling and are being advanced at great speed," Limon said, according to an official transcript.

"They have the potential to serve the personal interests of a man regarding the outcomes of legal proceedings he is facing."

## FAO secures 27m USD to scale up humanitarian support in eastern Africa

NAIROBI

THE Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on Wednesday welcomed 26.9 million U.S. dollars to provide access to food and other basic goods and services in eastern Africa.

The FAO said the funds from Germany will also be used in protecting and restoring productive livelihoods in drought-affected communities in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan.

"The new funding represents a significant contribution to mitigating the impacts of drought on food security and livelihoods by increasing immediate food access in rural communities, safeguarding and restoring livelihoods, and rapidly enabling self-reliance," the FAO said in a statement reaching Xinhua here.

It said the intervention seeks to reach almost 1 million of the most vulnerable people in inaccessible and hard-to-reach rural areas, cutting across all impacted livelihoods.

Given the crops have failed, animals die, and populations are displaced across the region, the crippling drought is driving high levels of acute food insecurity across eastern Africa, with more than 22 million people in southern Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia in need of urgent humanitarian food assistance as of March, according to the UN food agency.

It said this figure includes 2.6 million people in Emergency in Kenya and Somalia and more than 96,000 people in Catastrophe in Somalia. According to the FAO, Ethiopia will receive 7.54 million dollars, Kenya 7 million dollars, Somalia 8.08 million dollars, and Sudan 4.31 million dollars.

The UN food agency is helping farmers across eastern Africa not just to respond to the effects of climate change, but to proactively adapt to the impacts of the climate crisis, particularly to frequent droughts, by adopting climate-smart farming practices.

## Boris Johnson says 'I did not lie' over lockdown parties

LONDON

A combative Boris Johnson fought for his political career on Wednesday, as the former British prime minister said "hand on heart" he did not lie to parliament over COVID-19 lockdown parties at a hearing with lawmakers.

Parliament's Committee of Privileges is investigating whether Johnson, who was ousted from Downing Street in September, intentionally or recklessly misled the House of Commons in a series of statements, where he said no rules were broken in the gatherings.

If the committee finds Johnson deliberately misled lawmakers, then he could be suspended. Any suspension longer than 10 days could prompt an election to remove him from his parliamentary seat and end his political career.

The former leader, who con-

sidered an audacious bid for a second stint as prime minister last year, launched a lengthy defense at the hearing, saying statements he made to parliament had been done in good faith.

"I'm here to say to you, hand on heart, that I did not lie to the House," said Johnson, who has accused the committee of bias. "When those statements were made, they were made in good faith and on the basis of what I honestly knew and believed at the time."

The so-called partygate scandal contributed to the ultimate downfall of Johnson, after months of reports that he, alongside other senior government figures, had been present at alcohol-fuelled gatherings in Downing Street during 2020 and 2021 when much of the rest of Britain was forced to stay at home.

Johnson was fined by police



for attending an event to celebrate his birthday in Downing Street in June 2020, making him the first prime minister found to have broken the law while in office. Some 126 fines were issued over the gatherings.

The outcry and repeated accusations of lying over the parties and allegations that a Conservative lawmaker had drunkenly groped two men eventually prompted the resignations of most of his top team of government ministers,

including the current prime minister, Rishi Sunak, who was among those fined.

## Thanking Staff

Harriet Harman, the chair of the committee, said it would consider the evidence Johnson had given and may take further evidence in due course. It is expected to report its findings later in the year.

She stressed the importance of ministers telling the truth, saying this went to the heart of the way Britain's parliamentary system functions.

At the start of the hearing, Johnson was made to swear an oath to tell the truth on a bible before giving his evidence.

He said the inquiry had not found any evidence he deliberately misled parliament and said he was banned by the committee from publishing a "large number of extracts" he relied on in his defense. Asked about

events in May, November, and December 2020 when he was pictured talking to colleagues who were drinking, Johnson said some meetings were "essential" to the functioning of government. He said his presence at events was necessary to thank staff for their hard work.

"People who say that we were partying in lockdown simply do not know what they are talking about," he said, crossly.

He said he was "shocked" to be fined and "amazed" by the number of other fines issued.

"I think what happened basically, was that on a few evenings, events did simply go on for too long and I can't apologize for that enough," he said.

Britain had one of the highest coronavirus death tolls in the world with more than 175,000 deaths by the time Johnson said he would step down as prime minister.

Agencies

## Medvedev says diplomacy doesn't always work, special op was right move

MOSCOW

THERE are situations where agreements are counterproductive and one needs to take steps like launching a special military operation, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said in an interview with Russian media outlets, including TASS, and users of the VKontakte social media network.

"In my view, it makes no sense to negotiate in certain situations. One must ignore it, and in some cases make decisions like the one that was made on February 24 last year because agreements can be counterproductive in certain cases," Medvedev pointed out, when asked if Moscow needed to

make agreements with the countries that failed to see Kiev's crimes.

According to him, Moscow tried for decades to convey some simple things to the West. "Guys, the Soviet Union collapsed.

Yes, it's sad but that is what happened, both because of the Soviet leadership's incompetent policy and your external interference.

The country fell apart but ties did not, and the people remained the same. How do you imagine that? Ukraine becoming part of NATO?" he said, clarifying Russia's message.

Meanwhile, Ukraine "had its own nuclear weapons complex," Medvedev went on to say.

As a result, Russia would get a neigh-



bor "who is not only a member of an unfriendly bloc but also plans to produce nuclear weapons," he noted. "I would like to point out that Ukraine's leader spoke about this shortly before the start of the operation, in late 2021. So do you want us to put up with

it? Particularly in a situation where we have a dispute over Crimea because we consider it part of our land and they regard it as their territory. So imagine them joining NATO and launching a large-scale operation against our country under NATO's umbrella - we cannot accept this," Medvedev stressed.

The politician stressed that Russia had proposed a draft agreement on security guarantees to Western countries.

"They responded 'no,'" Medvedev said. In his opinion, "the current ramifications are much more complicated than they would have been" had the document been signed last December.

Agencies

## Diversified tourism products stimulate new demands in China

CHINA'S tourism consumption is turning diversified and personalized. Various tourism services are hitting the Chinese market, such as cultural tours, medical tours, sports travel and ski vacation.

According to statistics released by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, every Chinese traveled more than four times annually on average between 2016 and 2020.

A plan for the development of tourism during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) responded to tourists' diversified and personalized consumption demands, calling for new scenarios and models of tourism consumption.

Integrating tourism with culture

is an important way to improve the development quality of the tourism sector.

Recently, relevant departments jointly issued a notice that proposes to promote integrating the country's cultural and tourism industries wider and on a higher level, encouraging efforts to integrate intangible cultural heritages or relevant elements into tourist sites.

Local authorities have also enhanced efforts to merge the two sectors, so as to launch tourism services that better meet tourists' demands.

Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu province, is a city that offers a rich and diverse cultural experience. The city, with a strategy to introduce

intangible cultural heritages to tourist sites, has infused fine traditions and culture placed in the museums or hidden in the neighborhood into all links of the tourism industry, including dining, hospitality, transportation, shopping, and entertainment.

In the Confucius Temple-Qinhuai River scenic belt of the city, an experience center is built, where intangible cultural heritage perfectly blends with modernity.

A museum of local food opens to the public in the city, and visitors can learn to make Nanjing salted duck, a famous local dish, in a demonstration restaurant nearby.

Besides, small exhibitions for intangible cultural heritages also attracted

attention in scenic spots across the city.

As the Internet, big data, artificial intelligence and other new technologies are widely applied, intelligent tourism that's digitalized and internet-based is becoming a new engine driving the high-quality development of the industry, creating new scenarios of tourism consumption.

Some scenic areas, through digitalization, have improved their reservation, tourist flow monitoring, smart parking and other services, so as to ensure orderly visiting and better tourists' experiences. Some have developed digital experience products, such as electronic maps,

to enrich tourists experiences.

Cities in east China's Shandong province are employing 5G, virtual reality and other frontier technologies to integrate industrial factors and public service resources, in an effort to build a one-stop information service platform.

Suzhou in Jiangsu province is advancing an intelligent program that enables tourists to obtain tourism information via an online platform, such as the introduction of tourist sites and ticket discounts.

The platform will include more information, such as the culture of Suzhou, as well as the history and features of tourist sites, to give tourists a better experience, said Shi Feng, an official with the Suzhou Municipal Bureau

of Culture, Radio, Television and Tourism.

The tourism industry is seeing a closer relationship with sports events, camping, technology and other fields in the process of improving the supply system of tourism products. Such integrated development not only creates new growth drivers, but also leads to new consumption scenarios and business forms in the tourism market.

Last year, relevant departments issued guidance on tourism to encourage interactive development between tourism and outdoor sports, camping and other businesses.

People's Daily



## Muted opposition: UK PM wins N. Ireland vote in parliament

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak won the backing of parliament on Wednesday for a key element of a reworked post-Brexit deal on Northern Ireland despite opposition from the province's biggest unionist party and some of his lawmakers.

Sunak (pictured) has tried to end years of wrangling over Brexit by revisiting one of the trickiest parts of the negotiations - to ensure smooth trade to Northern Ireland without creating a hard border with Britain or with European Union-member Ireland.

He agreed with the EU to introduce the "Stormont brake", aimed at offering Northern Ireland more control over whether to accept any new EU laws, as part of the so-called Windsor Framework of measures.

But in Wednesday's vote in the lower house of parliament, those he most wanted to win over - Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), some Conservative eurosceptics in the European Research Group (ERG) and his two predecessors, Boris Johnson and Liz Truss - rebelled by voting against the brake.

Despite the opposition, Sunak won the vote by 515 to 29, managing to contain the size of the rebellion but with a substantial number of Conservatives abstaining. Opposition parties voted in support of the brake.

Sunak's ministers welcomed the vote.

"I welcome parliament voting today to support the Windsor Framework," Britain's Northern Ireland minister Chris Heaton-Harris said on Twitter.

"This measure lies at the very heart of the Windsor Framework which offers the best deal for Northern Ireland, safeguarding its place in the Union and addressing the democratic deficit."

The brake enables Britain to prevent new EU laws applying to goods in Northern Ireland if asked to do so by a third of lawmakers in the province's devolved legislature.

The ERG has described the measure as "practically useless" and the DUP complains that it does not apply to existing EU law.

### 'Brake with no brake pads'

The new agreement was hammered out by Sunak, in office since October, after Johnson's former government threatened to renege on the original deal it had struck with the EU.

A hard border risked endangering the Good Friday Agreement which largely ended three decades of armed conflict in Northern Ireland involving militants seeking a united Ireland, "loyalists" wanting to remain part of the United Kingdom, and British security forces.

The United States has said that any threats to the agreement could hurt the possibility of a US-British trade.

Sunak hailed securing the deal last month as a "decisive breakthrough" but by alienating the DUP he has failed in restoring the power-sharing government in Northern Ireland.

The DUP, at odds with opinion polls suggesting 45 percent of voters in the province support the framework versus 17 percent opposed, has said the brake does little to ease its concerns over the post-Brexit trading arrangements, saying it did not deal with the fundamental issue - the imposition of EU law.

DUP leader Jeffrey Donaldson told parliament his party could not return to Northern Ireland's power-sharing government "at this stage".

Earlier, the ERG's chairman Mark Francois told reporters the group had recommended to its members to vote against the government to show their discontent over what he called an "oversold" agreement that was a "brake with no brake pads".



UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations on Wednesday called for game-changing action when world leaders, businesses, youth and other stakeholders gathered at the three-day UN 2023 Water Conference to address the global water crisis.

"This is more than a conference on water. It is a conference on today's world seen from the perspective of its most important resource," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in his opening remarks.

The conference runs through Friday. "This conference must represent a quantum leap in the capacity of member states and the international community to recognize and act upon the vital importance of water to our world's sustainability and as a tool to foster peace and international co-operation," Guterres said.

Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is the most basic human need for health and well-being, and a declared human right. But some 2 billion people around the world still lack access to safe drinking water.

More people have access to mobile phones than toilets and sanitation, with 80 percent of wastewater discharged untreated into the environment.

More than 90 percent of disasters are water-related, with climate change adding to the pressure. And humanity's demand for water keeps growing, with pressure on freshwater projected to increase by more than 40 percent by 2050, according to the world body.

Despite these challenges, a breakthrough to "a water-secure planet" is still possible. But urgent action is needed now.

With this at the top of their minds, world leaders, together with over 6,000 registered civil society, business leaders, young people, and experts are attending the conference to present innovative solutions and bold commitments to accelerate transformational change for water, the world body said in a press release.

"We have today a global water crisis. To put it bluntly: the three forms of water disasters have created a human disaster. Too much water takes lives, too little water hinders dignified

## UN calls for game-changing action on global water crisis



Men extract water from a well at the village of El Gel, 8 kilometers from the town of K'elafo, Ethiopia, on Jan 12, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

human development, too dirty a water threatens our health and the nature we are part of," UN General Assembly President Csaba Korosi told the opening session of the conference.

"The solution is in our hands ... A cooperative water-secure future starts with political will, economic intelligence, and cultural tolerance and acceptance," he said. "It must be both a change of mind and heart," Korosi said. "We need to be bold. We can agree on gamechangers."

"During this conference, we want to get the water wheel spinning," stated Willem-Alexander, king of the Netherlands, in his opening statement. "We won't rest until water is given the place it rightly deserves on global agendas and policy programs. We will bring all our commitments, pledges and actions together in a Water Action Agenda."

The key outcome of the UN 2023 Water Conference will be the Water Action Agenda, a collection of commitments from member states and other stakeholders that aims to present game-changing solutions to accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goal 6, which aims at achieving safe water and adequate sanitation for all.

To date, more than 500 commitments have been registered from governments, UN agencies, business leaders and civil society, ranging from targeting open data sources and improving education around water, to scaling effective water management practices and mobilizing funds to drive action towards water, according to the United Nations. Co-hosted by the Netherlands and Tajikistan, the conference

is, as the United Nations puts it, "a once-in-a-generation opportunity" to advance the Water Action Agenda that seeks to deliver the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In addition to the plenary sessions, there will be five interactive dialogues: Water for Health; Water for Sustainable Development; Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment; Water for Cooperation and Water Action Decade.

Four high-level special events and more than 500 side events will also be occurring during the conference. "We need to think about how we value water."

We must consider both the role and impact of water in driving sustainable economic and social development, urban development, environmental protection, and peace.

A close look at the water-energy-food nexus is also critical," said UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Li Junhua in his address at the opening session.

## Macron stands firm on pension bill as protests escalate

PARIS

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday said a deeply unpopular new law that raises the retirement age was necessary and would enter into force by the end of the year.

Saying he had "no regrets," he however added that he wanted to improve a fraught relationship with labor unions and involve them more in future reforms, on topics including retraining for those in painful jobs.

"Do you think I enjoy doing this (pension) reform? No," Macron (pictured) said in an interview with TF1 and France 2 TV. "But there are not a hundred ways to balance the accounts ... this reform is necessary."

Until the government pushed the pension bill through without a vote, the protests against a bill extending the retirement age by two years to 64 had gathered huge, peaceful crowds in rallies organized by unions.

But since the government's decision to skip a vote in parliament last week, spontaneous protests in Paris and elsewhere have seen rubbish bins and barricades set ablaze every night amid scuffles with police.

Protesters on Wednesday also blocked train stations in the southern cities of Nice and Toulouse.

This, alongside with rolling strikes that affect oil depots, public transport and garbage collection, represent the most serious challenge to the centrist president's authority since the "Yellow Vest" revolt four years ago.

### Macron decries violence

Labor unions have announced another nationwide day of strikes and demonstrations on Thursday.

"We don't want this law and we'll fight until it is withdrawn," pensioner Jacques Borensztein said at a rally on Tuesday in Paris.

Macron said what he called "extreme violence" was not acceptable, while he respected the right to peaceful protests.

"We'll make sure a life that is as normal as possible can resume in the face of the few that block things," he said.

Neither a government reshuffle nor snap elections are on the cards, but rather an attempt to regain the initiative with measures to better involve citizens and unions in decision-making, political leaders in Macron's camp have said.

While the opposition has called for Macron to fire his prime minister Elisabeth Borne, who has been at the forefront of the pension reform, Macron backed her in the interview and said that he had tasked her with further widening the majority.

Macron's camp lost its majority in the lower house of parliament in elections last year.

"She (Borne) has my trust to lead this government team" and build a legislative program to have "fewer laws, shorter, clearer texts", and "continue to widen this majority as much as it can"

Polls show a wide majority of French are opposed to the pension legislation, as well as the government's decision to push the bill through parliament last week without a vote.

But Macron said he would stand firm.

"Between the short-term polls and the general interest of the country, I choose the general interest... we will not tolerate any misbehaviour," he said. "We have no right to standstill or immobility," he said.



## Chinese courier industry sees rapid improvement in service capability

INTERNATIONAL shipping of big live animals is one of the most difficult businesses in non-regular logistics. It is an important indicator for a logistics firm's competitiveness. Only a few transnational shipping corporations are able to complete such missions.

Recently, Japan-born giant panda Xiang Xiang returned to China on an airplane of Chinese express delivery services provider SF Express, which marked the first time for a Chinese express delivery firm to transport a big live animal between two countries. It also indicated that the industry's service capability and overall strength have reached a whole-new level.

This was not the first time for the Chinese courier industry to make a surprise.

Last August, the Qingdao Liuting International Airport in east China's Shandong province was closed and the new Qingdao Jiaodong International Airport put into operation. The move was assisted by courier enterprises, too. SF Express almost "shipped" a whole airport, from gigantic facilities to insect specimens.

So far, the shipment of aero-engines, landing gear, airfoils and other parts has become a regular business of Chinese courier firm YTO Express, which makes the company a "logistics manager" for many airlines.

The progress made by the courier industry is also felt by individual Chinese consumers. Agricultural products that need to be delivered in a very short period of time, such as waxberries, strawberries, lychee, Chinese mitten crabs and flowers, are now massively shipped with high efficiency and low loss. Consumers are able to enjoy commodities from across the world without stepping out of their houses.

The progress has led to new opportunities.



Trucks are seen in a logistics park in Jiyuan, central China's Henan province, Jan. 29, 2023. (Photo by Li Peixian/People's Daily Online)

Previously, courier enterprises were engaged in fierce competition in the shipment of e-commerce commodities as the courier industry's growth slowed, and even started a "price war" that made the competition destructive.

Thanks to the enhanced service capability of the industry, more and more manufacturing enterprises are coming to courier companies today.

For instance, ZTO Express has reached cooperation with Foton Daimler Automotive, a joint venture between Chinese carmaker Foton and Daimler, which means the Chinese courier giant will provide whole-process supply chain services for the automaker. Besides, JD Logistics, the logistics arm of e-commerce platform JD.com has become a "storage planner" of Wafangdian Bearing Company Limited.

From offering after-sale logistics services to providing "mobile warehouses," and to becoming integrated warehousing and distribution services providers, express delivery enterprises are turning into supply chain services providers and building new growth engines.

The courier sector is an important part of the service industry. Its growth not only benefits itself, but also is conducive to the development and supply-demand circulation of other industries.

On the production end, the courier sector's remarkable service capability is helping lower the logistics and warehousing cost for manufacturing enterprises.

At the same time, as one of the few industries that are fully digitalized, the courier sector is also connecting sales and stock databases for manufacturing enterprises for better digital transformation.

On the consumption end, the upgraded logistics services have created new market demands and thus contributed to the expansion of domestic demand.

For instance, the retail price of fresh flowers had always been high because of the commodity's fragility, short preservation and inconvenient transportation. Thanks to the breakthroughs made by courier companies in packaging and transportation, fresh flowers from Yunnan province, a major producer in southwest China, can now reach all major Chinese cities within 24 hours. This has made possible online sales of fresh flowers. According to statistics, between 2015 and the end of 2021, the e-commerce market for fresh flowers had grown to nearly 90 billion yuan (\$13.05 billion).

The courier industry is like a bridge between the supply and consumption ends. If the bridge becomes wider and more flat, the match between supply and demand will be more efficient.

It is believed that as the Chinese courier industry continues to improve its service capability, it will further increase the efficiency of the manufacturing sector, better drive demand with supply and contribute to a virtuous circle of China's national economy.





Uganda's Cranes and Yanga midfielder, Khalid Aucho. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

## Yanga midfielder joins Uganda's camp for 2023 AFCON Qualifiers

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

UGANDA's senior national soccer side 'Cranes' camp in Egypt has been boosted by the arrival of combative midfielder, Khalid Aucho, who arrived on Wednesday.

Aucho, who plays for NBC Premier League club, Yanga, was the last player to join the Uganda team's base at Mercure Hotel in Ismailia following the arrival of the other players on Sunday.

The defensive midfielder arrived in Egypt on Wednesday morning and his arrival brought the total of players in camp to 26, preparing for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers' tie against Tanzania's Taifa Stars.

It should be noted that Cranes' final squad had 27 players but goalkeeper Sadat Anaku pulled out after sustaining an injury while turning out for his Scottish Premier League club, Dundee United.

Aucho indicated he is ready to offer full commitment and work with the rest of the players to deliver success.

"I'm happy to find everyone in camp geared towards the forthcoming games against Tanzania," the performer stated.

The midfielder noted: "Definitely derbies are never easy but we all know our target and are ready to offer everything in our means as players."

Uganda will lock horns with Tan-

zania in the Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers' Group F clash at Suez Canal Authority Stadium today before the two teams face off again four days later in Dar es Salaam.

The two squads' doubleheader takes place with Uganda languishing at bottom of Group F of the AFCON Qualifiers with a single point.

### Cranes' squad:

**Goalkeepers:** Alionzi Nafian (URA FC, Uganda), Charles Lukwago (St. George, Ethiopia), and Salim Magoola (Richards Bay FC, South Africa).

**Defenders:** Rogers Torach (Vipers SC, Uganda), James Penz Begisa (URA FC, Uganda), Livingstone Mulondo (Vipers SC, Uganda), Halidi Lwaliwa (FK Bregalnica, North Macedonia), Kenneth Semakula (SC Villa, Uganda), Gavin Kizito (Al Ittihad Alexandria SC, Egypt), Abdu Aziz Kayondo (CD Leganes, Spain), Timothy Awany (SC Ironi Ashdod, Israel).

**Midfielders:** Siraje Ssentamu (Vipers SC, Uganda), Allan Okello (KCCA FC, Uganda), Rogers Mugisha (UPDF FC, Uganda), Khalid Aucho (Yanga SC, Tanzania), Bobosi Byaruhanga (Austin FC, USA), Steven Sserwadda (New York Red Bull II, USA), Isma Mugulusi (Makedonikos FC, Greece), Farouk Miya (Caykur Rizespor, Turkey)

## Doumbia needs time to adapt before making his debut at Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

RUMOURS have it that Yanga's new signing, Malian central defender Mamadou Doumbia, has asked to leave the Tanzanian outfit.

Doumbia was roped in during the mini-transfer period shortly after playing for Mali in the 2022 African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals that took place in Algeria from January 13-February 4 2023.

Much as making a much-publicized arrival at the Jangwani Street club, Doumbia has yet to make his debut for his new club in either the 2022/23 NBC Premier League or the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage.

The footballer has only played for Yanga when the club came up against a Championship League outfit, Tabora's Rhino Rangers, in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) Round of 32's tie played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on January 29.

The duel, which had Doumbia being introduced in place of Ibrahim Abdallah in the second half, ended with Yanga garnering a comprehensive 7-0 win over Rhino Rangers to sail through to the showdown's last 16's round.

The allegations reveal that the 28-year-old defender, former Stade Malien footballer, is not happy with the lack of opportunity to play since he arrived during the NBC Premier League mini-transfer window.

I know that all players in the world want to be on the pitch and are not happy when they are left on the bench.

From Real Madrid's midfielder Eden Hazard to Tanzania's Simba SC defender Erasto Nyoni, no player enjoys being out of the pitch for any reason.

There is, as a result, nothing new for Doumbia to be hurt by not having game time at Yanga.

Doumbia may be either fighting for the chance to play in the club or the squad's head coach does not want to change the defensive partner-



Yanga's Malian defender Mamadou Doumbia.

ship of his club.

It is possible that the Malian central defender is not happy with staying on the bench at Yanga but I hardly think he has reached the stage of seeking his way out of the club.

First, how long has Doumbia been with Yanga since he made his way into the country?

He has not completed two months, and how many matches has Yanga played since he arrived? They are almost 10 clashes.

In a foreign team, a foreign league, and a foreign country with a foreign language, a footballer needs time to get used to the environment.

I am sure Doumbia is aware of this and even before he landed in the country the experience must have been in his thoughts.

A person cannot count on experiencing an easy environment away from home, for that matter, asking to leave after just two months is a move that can hardly be contemplated by him.

Doumbia will moreover be aware that it is not easy for a footballer to directly make it into the first team of an outfit he has joined in the middle of the season, particularly at a time such an outfit is doing well.

of their respective countries to look for greener pastures elsewhere.

They are not hurt a lot by the environment they find themselves in because they are fighters.

A person should ask himself/herself how Nigerian defensive midfielder Victor Akpan, who joined Simba SC at the end of last year and was later roped in by Ihefu SC in the mini-transfer period, traveled from Nigeria to first play in the Zanzibar Premier League.

How many local players who missed a place in Mainland Tanzania teams could have the audacity to play in Zanzibar but are not in the Isles yet?

I hardly know Doumbia in person but his history tells me he once left Mali to play in the lower leagues in Morocco as a youth footballer.

It is this kind of courage that he needs in Yanga to fight for a chance to put himself in an environment that will ensure the footballer rakes in more cash.

I am sure that at Yanga he earns double the money he used to receive in his home country and that is why he agreed to come to Tanzania.

He needed to move on to earn the money for the next six or seven years when he turns 34 years old.

The beauty of Tanzania is that soccer players who have done well in the past do not miss a club to play for unless they decide to opt out of the sport.

For Doumbia to achieve success, the center-half should be on the pitch right now and do well for Yanga.

I am not worried about his competence considering I watched him prove his worth for Mali in the 2022 CHAN finals.

He is a solid defender that Yanga needs, for that matter, the footballer needs to mature and adapt to the environment soon.

Doumbia ought to ensure he either gets a nod ahead of Congolese defender/midfielder, Yannick Bangala, or Dickson Job in Yanga's backline or make the head coach settle for rotation.

It is not an extremely easy task but it is possible. Do any local football fanatics remember when Congolese fullback, Joyce Lomalisa, arrived at Yanga?

## Simba SC targets progression to 2022/23 CAF Champions League semi-finals

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC Board of Directors Chairman, Salim Abdallah, has expressed a desire to ensure the side books a place in the semi-finals of this season's CAF Champions League.

The side secured qualification for the last eight of the premier continental tournament following a resounding 7-0 victory over Guinea's Horoya Athletic Club in a Group C clash held at the former's home turf last week.

The Tanzanian squad, therefore, has made it to the quarterfinals of CAF inter-club tournaments on four occasions in six years.

Abdallah disclosed that sailing through to the semi-finals is one of his club's goals and emphasized that they are gearing towards reaching the stage they have been dreaming of for many years.

Simba SC is now sitting second in the Group C of the competition with nine points, trailing group leader, Morocco's Raja Club Athletic (13 points), which has equally progressed to the quarterfinals.

Third-placed Horoya Athletic Club has collected four points

followed by Uganda's Vipers SC placed last with two points, with each team having honoured five matches.

Abdallah said Simba SC's goals are out to make sure the club turns into a threat, competently coming up against other prominent outfits in Africa.

The Simba SC leader noted: "We were in a big test to make sure we see Simba SC advance to the quarterfinals, this was successful and we were very disappointed that we lost the first two games but the journey continues now and we can focus on the semi-finals goal."

Abdallah added: "Despite qualifying for the last eight, our strategy is to make Simba SC competitive as is the case with an outfit like Raja Casablanca which has shown quality in the continent."

The official revealed: "We have learned something from them, we moreover have a game against them to complete the schedule for Group Stage."

Abdallah stated: "We want to have a good and competitive team playing in Africa and beyond the borders of this continent."

"We have begun building a club

that will have no rival at the local level and turns into one of the strongest teams in Africa," the official added.

Simba SC will play the last Group C fixture away to Raja Club Athletic in a match that will be played at Mohammed V Stadium in Morocco on April 1.

The Msimbazi Street club will lock horns with Raja Club Athletic with the former reeling from a humiliating 3-0 loss to the latter in the first tie in Dar es Salaam on February 18.

With the showdown's quarterfinals secured, Simba SC is likely to meet Mamelodi Sundowns, Esperance Tunis, or Wydad Athletic Club in the quarterfinals.

Simba SC moreover will face Mbeya's Ihefu SC in the quarterfinals of this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) early next month.

In the 2022/23 NBC Premier League, chances for Simba SC to clinch the silverware might be fading with six games to go.

The club is sitting second on the log with 57 points after honouring 24 games while the league leader Yanga has collected 65 points.



Simba Queens' footballers jubilate after the outfit's attacker, Jentrix Shikangwa, had scored a goal in this season's Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League duel against Yanga Princess that took place at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. The clash ended in 1-1 draw. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA



## Credit Suisse collapse leaves sports sponsorships in limbo

BY ROBIN MILLARD

THE takeover of Swiss bank Credit Suisse leaves many sports stars, teams and tournaments with a big question mark hanging over their lucrative sponsorship deals.

The Swiss national football team, the country's top football division, tennis great Roger Federer, golf star Sergio Garcia and Zurich's new stadium were all sponsored by the bank, which is being taken over by Swiss rival UBS.

The deal was hastily arranged on Sunday after Credit Suisse's share price plunged.

Golf and equestrian events also relied on Credit Suisse money, as did the Swiss Sport Aid Foundation, which backs talented young athletes in minority sports.

"Our sponsorships reflect our passion for excellence, sustainability, and partnership," Credit Suisse boasts.

The Neue Zürcher Zeitung newspaper said that no matter how much Credit Suisse got embroiled in scandals or rejigged its strategies, "the bank has always been a reliable partner for sports".

"For the time being, we will continue our corresponding commitments unchanged," a Credit Suisse spokesman told AFP.

But UBS, which has its own portfolio of sports sponsorships focusing on Formula One, athletics and ice hockey, may not necessarily continue with the deals.

- Football focus -

Credit Suisse has been the main sponsor of the Swiss Football Association (SFA) governing body since 1993.

The men's national team, ranked 12th in the world, has enjoyed some of its best years since the bank came on board.

Having only appeared at one World Cup between 1966 and 2006, Switzerland have qualified for the last five World Cups, reaching the last 16 in four of those tournaments.

The contract runs until June 30 next year. It is worth around five million Swiss francs (\$5.4 million) per year, according to Blick newspaper.

The Credit Suisse logo will stay on the national teams' training jackets and jerseys for as long as the bank exists, SFA spokesman Adrian Arnold said ahead of Saturday's Euro 2024 qualifier against Belarus.

"We had good discussions with our contacts at Credit Suisse, who assured us that the existing contracts would be honoured," Arnold said.

"We would like the partnership to continue thereafter, in whatever form."

Credit Suisse is also the main sponsor of Switzerland's bid to host the 2025 women's European Championships, and the takeover comes shortly before the hosting decision is due on April 4.

The bank is the title sponsor of the Super League, Switzerland's 10-team top football division, including well-known clubs like Young Boys, Grasshopper, FC Zurich and FC Basel.

Blick said the contract runs until 2025 and is worth around eight million Swiss francs (\$8.7 million) per season.

Money goes into every club as well as the tournament, with the bank's name appearing on all team strips and on advertising boards around the stadiums.

In 2019, the bank won the naming rights for a proposed new football stadium in Zurich, where Grasshopper and FC Zurich are expected to play.

But the planned "Credit Suisse Arena" has faced delays. It was due to open in mid-2022, but little progress has been made and its future now seems even more uncertain.

- Close ties to Federer -

Federer is by far the biggest name associated with Credit Suisse.

Although Switzerland's greatest sports star retired in September, he remains a brand ambassador for Credit Suisse.

The bank was on board for his transition into a post-tennis career, saying: "We look forward to many more years together".

Federer has a host of other sponsors he can fall back on, including Rolex, Lindt, Mercedes-Benz and Moët et Chandon.

Credit Suisse also sponsors the Federer-instigated Laver Cup, which features six top men's tennis players from Europe against six from the rest of the world, captained by Björn Borg and John McEnroe.

The Laver Cup did not respond when contacted by AFP.

- Sponsors leave, others arrive -

In golf, Credit Suisse sponsored the European Masters golf tournament in Crans-Montana and Spanish former world number two Garcia, who won the 2017 Masters.

European Masters tournament director Yves Mitzas said the contract runs until the 2024 tournament so the event is not at risk.

"There is no reason to panic," he told the Tribune de Geneve newspaper.

"That's the business of sport: sponsors leave, others arrive."

In equestrianism, Credit Suisse is a main sponsor of the Concours Hippique International de Geneve and White Turf in St. Moritz, a glitzy exclusive event featuring horse racing on a frozen lake.

AFP



Old Trafford

# Manchester United sale would accelerate review of Uefa's dual-ownership rules

JAMES DUCKER

DISCUSSIONS about potential changes to Uefa's rules governing dual ownership are likely to accelerate should Sheikh Jassim's Qatari bid or Sir Jim Ratcliffe successfully buy Manchester United, Telegraph Sport understands.

Aleksander Ceferin, the president of European football's governing body, revealed this month that it was considering amending its regulations to allow clubs with the same owner to play in the Champions League simultaneously. At present, such a scenario is prohibited.

The two leading offers for United are from owners with links to clubs in Ligue 1, France's top division.

Ratcliffe's Ineos Group owns Nice, in addition to the Swiss club Lausanne-Sport. The bid by Sheikh Jassim, the chairman of Qatar Islamic Bank and the son of the former Qatari Prime Minister, has raised concerns about links to the Qatar-owned Paris Saint-Germain, despite insistence he is funding the deal from his own private wealth.

Dual ownership is not currently on the agenda at the next meeting of Uefa's executive committee in Lisbon on April 4 or the Uefa congress the next day.

But club sources have indicated that it is likely to become a topic of serious discussion in the game's corridors of power should United be sold before the end of the season and the thorny issue comes in for much greater scrutiny given the parties bidding for the club.

If Uefa's executive committee voted to implement changes to the existing rules for next season, they would need to happen before qualifying for next season's Champions League gets underway in late June.

Qualifying for the Europa Conference League is due to commence in July and the following month for the Europa League. Various groups across Europe are believed to have been applying pressure on Uefa for the current rules to be reviewed.

Ceferin said in an interview with Gary Neville for his The Overlap YouTube channel that Uefa was "not thinking about Manchester United only" and that they have had "five or six owners of clubs who want to buy another club".

Uefa would likely first consult with the European Club Association (ECA) before they got to a point where the executive committee met to discuss the pros and cons of any changes. The ECA's chairman is Nasser Al-Khelaifi, the PSG president.

"The options are that it stays like that or that we allow them to play in the same competition," Ceferin told Neville. "I'm not sure yet."

"We have to speak about these regulations and see what to do about it. There is more and more interest in multi-club ownership. We shouldn't just say no for the investments for multi-club ownership, but we have to see what kind of rules we set in that case, because the rules have to be strict."

Sources close to Sheikh Jassim have dismissed suggestions his bid is effectively a state project ultimately funded by the Qatar Investment Authority, the gulf nation's sovereign wealth fund estimated to have more than £370 billion of assets and which already helps to back PSG through its subsidiary, Qatar Sports Investment (QSI).

No details have yet been provided about the specific source or scale of Sheikh Jassim's wealth but sources close to his bid have expressed some surprise at the focus on Qatar given the multi-club ownership that exists across Europe.

That includes Ratcliffe, whose Nice side are currently seventh in Ligue 1. Lausanne-Sport are third in the Swiss Challenge League, the country's second tier. Another Briton, Tony Bloom, owns Brighton and the Belgian club, Royale Union Saint-Gilloise, both of whom could qualify for Europe next season.

The Red Bull ownership group were famously able to convince a Uefa panel of club fi-

nance experts in 2017 that they had created enough separation between Leipzig and Salzburg to allow both to compete in the same European competition. The two clubs competed in the Champions League this season.

"If Qatar owns Paris Saint-Germain how can it buy Manchester United?"

Although Sheikh Jassim is said to be financing his bid via private wealth, his close family links to Qatar's ruling elite have raised questions about the source of funds. For years, his father had controlled the purse strings at the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), the £370 billion fund which helps to back Paris Saint-Germain through its subsidiary Qatar Sports Investment (QSI).

However, his bid group has repeatedly claimed the funding for the club is independent of the QIA. Aides last week told United they are confident they will not fall foul of rules prohibiting clubs with the same owner playing in the same competition.

Even if state funding was proven, Uefa president Aleksander Ceferin may be willing to turn the other cheek. He said this month that European football's governing body was considering a rule change that would allow clubs with the same owner to play in the Champions League simultaneously.

"How would their regime differ from the Glazers?"

After scolding Manchester City for years over their Abu Dhabi ownership, some fans remain uncomfortable with the prospect of Mid-

dle East funding. Many others, however, are salivating at the prospect of a debt-free regime, more transfer backing and redevelopment promises - regardless of the source.

The end of the Glazers means the end of leveraged debt on the club. A total commitment - including purchase price - is estimated at £7 billion under the Qataris' vision.

At the heart of the bid is a promise to end long-standing uncertainty over how the club would finance a new stadium and training ground, the two of which could cost up to £2 billion. United have appointed master planners for both projects but they are effectively on hold while the club awaits clarity over ownership. United had been favouring redevelopment and

expansion of their existing Old Trafford stadium although that is currently being estimated to be an eight-year project.

Whether a new stadium, built on land adjoining Old Trafford that the club mostly owns, would be more appealing for a new owner remains to be seen. The club have vowed to keep consulting closely with supporters on what is likely to be a hugely emotive issue.

The Nine Two Foundation has pledged in a press release that it will "invest in the football teams, the training centre, the stadium and wider infrastructure, the fan experience and the communities the club supports".

"Who will be in charge should a Qatari takeover go through?"

Sheikh Jassim Bin Hamad Al Thani, 40,

would be expected to be the club's chairman, with aides insisting he is working independently of his father, Qatar's former prime minister. Key roles would also be assured for Shahzad Shahbaz, now president of the Nine Two Foundation which would run the club, and possibly Sheikh Jassim's senior personal advisor Fady Backhos.

Shahbaz has long been associated with Sheikh Jassim, the chairman of Qatar Islamic Bank. He was also a key advisor to the sheikh at Al Mirqab Capital, which manages the family's portfolio of investments in Qatar. After a stint with the National Bank of Dubai, Shahbaz moved to Qatar in 2008 to become CEO of investment firm QInvest, whose chairman was Sheikh Jassim.

Shahbaz is also a former executive at Bank of America which may explain why Sam Powers, a global head at the bank, and Yasir Shah, the managing director there, were also at Old Trafford and Carrington on Thursday. Backhos, meanwhile, would likely have a legal role in the potential running of the foundation. He is senior legal, corporate and investment advisor at Al Mirqab.

"Why is there a summer deadline?"

Even though the Glazers have yet to choose a bidder to enter into exclusive talks, dealmakers insist a sale can be done within a strict end-of-April target.

One man who would welcome a swift resolution to the takeover process and clarity over the future ownership of the club is manager Erik ten

Hag. The Dutchman has done an outstanding job in his first 10 months in charge at Old Trafford, leading United to third in the Premier League table, Carabao Cup glory, an FA Cup semi-final against Brighton at Wembley and a place in the last eight of the Europa League.

Yet Ten Hag knows that there is a lot of work still to do and has placed great importance on the summer window and his hopes of significantly strengthening a squad that remains short of world-class players in several positions.

Ten Hag's hands were tied in the January transfer window and he is desperate to avoid a situation where a protracted takeover saga potentially compromises plans for the summer. United also have several key players, including Marcus Rashford and Luke Shaw, approaching the final year of their contracts and there will be a growing urgency to resolve those situations before too long.

"What's happened to Sir Jim Ratcliffe's offer?"

The British billionaire and main rival to Qatar should not be ruled out despite the Qataris' confidence. The owner of Ineos, the petrochemicals giant, was in talks with his inner circle on Tuesday night and a second bid was said to still be expected by the 9pm deadline.

However, with dealmakers optimistic the Qataris will now meet the Glazers' £5 billion-plus asking price, Ratcliffe, in contrast, has this week played down the prospect of overpaying.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Man United sale would accelerate review of Uefa's dual-ownership rules

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Taifa Stars' new head coach Adel Amrouche. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

## How Taifa Stars could line up to confront Uganda

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AFTER a crushing 2-0 home loss to Algeria, which followed the promising 1-1 away draw with Niger in the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers, this is where the campaign starts getting serious for coach Adel Amrouche and Tanzania.

The AFCON 2023 Qualifiers' match day three and four against Uganda promises to be the sternest test of Tanzania's credentials as it bids to secure a place in Africa's biggest football spectacle for the third time in its history.

Today, Taifa Stars, who currently occupy the third spot in Group F of qualifiers, will be entertained by a bruised Uganda side, Cranes.

Uganda is also looking for its first victory of the qualifiers following its loss to Algeria which was followed by a share of the spoils with Niger.

Uganda will host its game against Tanzania in Egypt. Failure to have an approved stadium that fits international standards meant CAF forced Uganda to host their home games in Egypt.

The Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) opted for Suez Canal Authority Stadium in Ismailia, Egypt for the Match Day Three encounter before the two teams face off again four days later in Dar es Salaam.

The back-to-back games represent Amrouche with his first challenge since his appointment. Amrouche is well aware Uganda has been a familiar thorn in Taifa Stars' record.

Amrouche has some decisions to make over who makes his starting XI for the tie. Should he maintain the same backline that played the last two games against Libya and Uganda?

What attacking blend is best suited to cause Uganda problems in defense?

Amrouche and his technical bench have assembled a good mix of youth and experience for the task, and should - hopefully - deploy the right resources on game day.

The Belgo-Algerian knows this is not the right time to experiment so he is likely to stick with familiar faces in the starting lineup.

Between the posts, there is no doubting Aishi Manula's role in this one. Beno Kakolanya is second to Manula at Simba SC while Metacha Mnata has hardly played this year since moving from Singida Big Stars to Young Africans, alias Yanga.

In the fullback positions, the performances of David Luhende and Kibwana Shomari against Uganda and Libya make them worthy of repeat selection.

Dickson Job and Bakari Mwanjeto are first-choice central defenders, but Ibrahim Abdallah 'Bacca' presented a strong case in his first international game for Yanga last Sunday.

The Zanzibar-born central defender was preferred ahead of Job by Yanga's head coach Nasreddine Nabi in the club's 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup's Group D home clash against US Monastir.

Himid Mao, Mzamiru Yassin, Feisal Salum, and Novatus Dismas among others are options in midfield. The first objective for Tanzania is to control the midfield so either Mao or Mzamiru start alongside Feisal and Novatus Dismas.

The strength lies in what this team can do going forward, so the squad ought to maximize that rather than preach caution by going for two attack-minded midfielders.

All three midfielders will need to drop to cover the spaces behind Tanzania's full-backs when things get sticky.

# Tanzania, Uganda battle for ascendancy in 2023 AFCON Qualifiers Group F



Players making Tanzania's senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, chat with their coaches after a training session in Egypt on Tuesday when shaping up for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers' Group F tie against Uganda that takes place in Ismailia today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, faces an uphill battle when the squad takes on Uganda in a Group F clash of 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers at the Suez Canal Authority Stadium in Ismailia in Egypt this afternoon, with kick-off slated for 5 pm.

This match is a home fixture for Uganda's Cranes but is played in Egypt because of a lack of an approved venue in the East African country. Both teams are yet to win a game in two rounds of fixtures.

Neither Taifa Stars nor Uganda's Cranes qualified for the last AFCON finals hosted by Cameroon last year, meaning a place in the 2023 AFCON finals is a major priority for both.

Taifa Stars are still stinging from their last competitive outing - a 3-0 defeat to Uganda

in Kampala in August 2022 that denied the former a chance to make it to the 2022 CHAN finals played in Algeria early this year.

While Uganda has had Serbian Milutin Sredojevi, simply known as 'Micho', in charge of their team for the last three years, Tanzania will see this match as the start of a new era under the tutelage of Adel Amrouche.

The Belgo-Algerian coach is starting his spell in charge of Taifa Stars and immediately faces a huge challenge in overseeing an attempted return to the

AFCON.

The teams' most recent meeting came in an international friendly, with Tanzania claiming a 1-0 win - thanks to Simon Msuva's first-half strike in Benghazi in October last year.

Yet Amrouche and Taifa Stars would be foolish to expect a repeat - certainly not without some serious hard work and the odd slice of luck.

And this Uganda team is far improved from the one Tanzania faced in the friendly and CHAN qualifiers, with the addition

of several overseas-based professionals and the experienced legs of Emmanuel Okwi, Joseph Ochaya, Farouk Miya, and Jamal Salim.

Uganda's Cranes come into this match on the back of a disappointing 2022 CHAN campaign.

Having picked up a point in a 0-0 draw with DR Congo in their opening fixture and a 1-0 win over eventual champions Senegal, Micho's troops did not prove their worth in their last group match against Ivory Coast and fell

apart in the final moments to lose 3-1.

In head-to-head stats, Uganda has generally bossed Tanzania in international football, with the Cranes claiming four victories compared to just one for Taifa Stars in the last five official meetings.

The other matchday three fixture in Group F will see big guns, Algeria, host Niger at Nelson Mandela Stadium in Algiers.

Algeria topped Group F with six points from victories in ties against Uganda and Tanzania.

## Company announces 500m/- sponsorship for Simba SC junior side

By Guardian Correspondent

MOBIAD Africa Tanzania Limited, an innovative mobile advertising company in the country, has announced its entry into soccer promotion as the main sponsor of Simba Sports Club's youth team for two years.

The company has pumped in a sponsorship totaling 500,000,000/- for the youth squad.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the MobiAd Africa Tanzania Limited Chief Executive Officer, Lumisho Sikoni, said the company is passionate about sports and recognizes the importance of investing in the youths.

He said: "As a responsible resident company, we are committed to supporting the development of young people in Tanzania and helping them reach their full potential."

Sikoni pointed out: "The sponsorship will provide much-needed resources for the youth team, including equipment, coaching, and other expenses associated with running a successful youth sports program."

The CEO also said MobiAd Africa Tanzania Limited hopes the sponsorship will inspire young people to pursue their passion for sports and help them develop skills that will serve them well in all areas of their lives.

"We are thrilled to be able to



MobiAd Africa Tanzania Limited's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Lumisho Sikoni (2nd R), hands over a dummy cheque of 500m/- to Simba SC's CEO, Iman Kajula (2nd L), when the innovative mobile advertising company announced a two-year sponsorship for the club's junior side in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are Simba SC Chairman of Board of Directors, Salim Abdallah (L), and MobiAd's Acting Chairman, Nobert Leon. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

support the local youth team at Simba Sports Club with this sponsorship," the CEO noted. Sikoni disclosed: "We believe that sports can transform lives and bring communities together. By investing in the youths, we are investing in the future of our country,

and we are excited to partner with one of the biggest clubs in Africa, Simba Sports Club, our very own, to realize this future.' The future is here!"

He said the company is committed to positively impacting Tanzania through Simba Sports Club, adding

this sponsorship is just one way that the company is fulfilling such a commitment.

He added that the company believes that by working with Simba Sports Club, it can create a brighter future for all.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

IF A LIE IS REPEATED OFTEN IT BECOMES ~~TRUTH~~ POLITICS

