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'Factories need in-built sewage, wastewater load storage, cycling'

Factory workers also need to have protective gear to protect them from inadvertent contact or odours of collected wastes to protect their health

By Guardian Reporter

FACTORY owners in the country have been urged to install industrial wastewater and sewage storage and treatment systems to prevent the same from flowing freely and pollute the environment and affect health of the people.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the Union and Environment state minister in the Vice President's Office (VPO), made this appeal yesterday

while on a working visit to inspect levels of compliance with environmental regulations at the Future Colourful factory, recycling scrap metal and plastic bags on the outskirts of the capital, Dodoma.

Asserting that the government recognises the vital role of investors in the economy, she emphasised the need to comply with environmental regulations while increasing productivity in various sectors of

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured in Beijing yesterday addressing a high-level meeting on industrial growth and modern agriculture in Africa at the ongoing (Sept 3 to 8) Heads of State and Government Summit of Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in progress in the Chinese capital. Photo: State House



Treasury unveils in-house stock unit

By Getrude Mbago

TREASURY experts say that the public needs to utilise the growing financial opportunities by investing in money market funds in order to expand their monetary base and improve livelihoods.

Dr Charles Mwangi (pictured), the Treasury commissioner for financial sector development, issued this appeal in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of the Inuka Money Market Fund at Treasury premises.

The fund is a mutual instrument that invests in short-term, best placed securities, designed to provide high liquidity with lower risk, capital stability while being geared at typically higher yields than various government bonds or Treasury bills, he stated.

The financial services industry has been growing as firms come up with innovative services that target scores of savers who can afford such instruments and see the difference in what is offered he said.

The money market fund is a new prod-

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TAHA aims high at 2024 Asia Fruit Logistica expo

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TANZANIA will seek to make the most of the Asian Fruit Logistica fair in Hong Kong, in its latest efforts to build connections with Chinese importers and explore new export opportunities.

Dr Jacqueline Mkindi, the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) chief executive officer (CEO) made this observation here yesterday when addressing journalists on dispatching a high-profile delegation to the trade fair.

The move comes on the heels of China's landmark decision to grant Tanzani-

In some instances, it is companies from an importing country that conduct the farming at the local level to ensure scrupulous adherence to sanitary yardsticks

an-grown avocados access to its expansive market, an approval that TAHA views as the dawn of a new era for local avocado exports.

She said that the Ministry of Agriculture had played a considerable role in securing this opening, with the vital contributions of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), as its backing was crucial in overcoming obstacles that hindered access to the key market.

She was especially grateful to Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe for leadership and acute negotiation skills that pushed

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Dr Ashatu Kijaji (2nd-R), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), has a feel of eco-friendly non-woven bags produced at Dodoma city's Future Colourful recycling plant. She toured the factory, which recycles waste bags and plastics into shoes and various other items, on Wednesday. Photo: VPO

'Drug resistance rising among ART users, having HIV'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A SIGNIFICANT section of people infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and using anti-HIV drugs show characteristics of antimicrobial resistance to the drugs they use.

Dr Doreen Kamori, a microbiology and immunology researcher at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) says that a study conducted there shows that 5.8 percent of the covered sample showed antimicrobial drug resistance.

In a presentation at the 11th MUHAS research dissemination symposium fielding local and foreign experts in Dar es Salaam yesterday, she said that the study was conducted in 22 regions in 2020, with Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya showing high HIV prevalence and concomitant drug resistance.

In the study, "HIV drug resistance in Tanzania: A call for strategic initiative," the top medic said that HIV remains a public health concern in most of Sub-Saharan Africa.

The prevalence of HIV among adults in the Mainland is estimated at 4.5 percent, corresponding to 1,548,000 adults living with HIV, she said, pointing at an increased uptake of antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Studies show an increase in the number of people living with HIV failing on the first and second-line ART regimes owing to drug resistance, she said, noting that studies show that people living with HIV on first-line ART increased from 23 percent in 2016 to 32.8 percent in 2021.

Prevalence of up to 13 percent of second-line treatment failure in both adults and children was noticed, she said, urging that the government and other stakeholders come up with initiatives to reduce the load as prevalence of drug resistance was on the rise.

Guidelines drawn up by the government for transit from first to second-line ART regimes need to go concurrently with testing of the viral load and a way to further improve, she stated.

Prof Emmanuel Balandya, the MUHAS

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Treasury unveils in-house stock unit

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uct aimed at individuals ready to invest at the local and regional level, within East Africa and in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the commissioner noted.

An individual can start with a minimum of 10,000/- to invest in the fund, he said, praising this cut off margin as affordable for anyone well educated about the importance of security investments.

He hailed Orbit Securities for the idea to create this innovative fund also geared at the regional money market, providing a wider scope for local investors to obtain big returns from calculated investments.

Stakeholders need to invest in awareness programmes to educate Tanzanians on innovative financial services as many fail to know anything about them despite information being available through mobile phones.

The government is keen on supporting the push for various initiatives aimed to boost financial inclusion and development at large, he

said, while Alfred Mkombi, the director of research, policy and planning at the Capital Market and Securities Authority (CMSA) said the minimal investment requirement makes it an appealing option for a wide range of investors.

The collective investment provides a platform for pooling resources, enabling investors to achieve a concentrated financial impact, he stated, affirming that investors seek growth opportunities, where the fund's affordable unit prices and diversified investment strategy promises greater yields eventually.

Godfrey Malauri, the Orbit Securities chief executive officer, emphasised that Inuka Fund is designed to be inclusive, catering to high and low-income earners. Initial investment is set at 100 units each valued at 100/-, totalling 10,000/- which the firm believes will attract more people to join.

Apart from providing avenues for people to invest and grow, the fund encourages the savings culture hence stimulating economic development, he added.

'Drug resistance rising in users of ART, having HIV'

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acting vice chancellor, said that 90 percent those living with HIV thus using anti-HIV drugs and reported to have virologic failure show symptoms of drug resistance.

Prof Said Aboud, the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) director general, said that the symposium would enable the sharing of experience on how to handle drug resistance for people living with

HIV and on ARV.

"There is prevalence of drug resistance in people living with HIV and on ARV so action needs to be taken on the situation," he said, while MUHAS Deputy VC Prof Erasmo Mbugi said that the symposium shows the burden individuals and community bear on account of antimicrobial resistance encounter.

Without working on the problem the situation will lead to unnecessary healthcare burdens, he added.

'Factories need in-built sewage, wastewater load storage, cycling'

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the economy.

Factory operators should find better ways with sewage and wastewater by recycling flowing output so that it can be reused in industrial activity, also cutting down factory water bills in due course, she said.

In the visit Dr Kijaji noted that the cargo of waste that is used on raw materials was collected without being covered, telling the management that the factory needs to store the hazardous cargo in a better way by ensuring that it is covered.

She praised the management for collecting wastes and the recycling them while expressing worries that when it rains uncovered waste will indeed be wasted, not raw materials anymore.

Investors similarly need to hire environmental experts to work with them to make it easier to find convenient ways to carry out instructions regarding environmental care,

the minister noted.

Factory workers also need to have protective gear to protect them from inadvertent contact or odours of collected wastes to protect their health, she said.

She directed the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to provide the factory management with a control number so that they pay the fine they are required to pay due to violating the rule banning plastic bags previously.

Commending them for correcting the flaw and starting to produce alternative bags that are friendly to the environment, she was glad the factory was a positive addition n environmental sanitation by collecting waste and recycling it

Zakia Juma, the factory supervisor standing in for director Wang Dajing, promised to work on the minister's instructions, urging the government to maintain support for investors, with regular updates on environmental care.

China ready to give Africa billions in fresh financing, promises one million jobs

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has pledged \$51 billion in fresh financing to Africa, support for 30 infrastructure projects across the resource-rich continent, and promised to create at least one million jobs.

In a speech at a major China-Africa cooperation summit, President Xi promised delegates from more than 50 African nations that the \$19 trillion Chinese economy will unilaterally improve access to its market for African trade.

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Summit, held in Beijing this year, sets a three-year agenda for ties between the world's second-largest economy and the world's fastest-growing continent.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the summit, Xi said China is ready to launch 30 clean energy projects in Africa and also support the

continent's nuclear energy goals, helping address a power deficit that has long held back Africa's broader industrialisation objectives.

China is also prepared to carry out 30 infrastructure connectivity projects in Africa and put in place a China-Africa network featuring land-sea links and coordinated development, he said.

"We are ready to assist in the development of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and deepen logistics and financial cooperation for the benefit of trans-regional development in Africa," Xi added.

China would extend 360 billion yuan (\$50.72 billion) in financial assistance to African states, 210 billion of which would be disbursed through credit lines and at least 70 billion in fresh investment by Chinese companies, with smaller amounts in military aid and other projects, he said.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa congratulates Dr Gladness Selema (R) in Dodoma city yesterday shortly after the National Assembly elected her a Member of the East African Legislative Assembly. Left is her husband, Dereck Chitama. Photo: PMO

TAHA aims high at 2024 Asia Fruit Logistica expo

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the matter into a breakthrough.

"This historic development opens the doors for Tanzanian producers to tap into China's rapidly expanding avocado market, valued at an impressive \$150m," she said.

The ministry communicated the new market access adhesion to TAHA mid last month, a milestone in a journey that began in 2018 when TAHA first recognized the potential of the Chinese market, solicited government support to work through existing trade barriers.

TAHA officials say that China's rising appetite for avocados, driven by a growing health-conscious middle class, has transformed this once niche market into a significant player in the global fruit industry.

Despite being Africa's third-largest avocado producer, Tanzania had long grappled with export limitations, primarily due to the absence of a sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) agreement, they said.

The long-awaited resolution came during President Samia Suluhu Hassan's state visit to China in August last year, where the critical SPS agreement was reached, after which formal access was a matter of procedure on the viability of the protocols stated in the pact.

The TAHA delegation in the Asian Fruit Logistica fair has the mission of solidifying relationships with Chinese importers, retailers and industry stakeholders, expecting to lay the groundwork for a robust export initiative, the CEO noted.

Despite that expectations are high among Tanzanian avocado

producers, and even with excellent bilateral relations between the two countries, analysts see the length taken to obtain access assurance as an indication of intense contests for the Chinese market.

How far bilateral ties and multi-lateral connections will facilitate wider access to the market is still unsettled, as often importers and wholesalers wish for produce from syndicated companies, to avoid possible variations of standards to the discomfort of their customers.

The collaborative effort between Tanzanian authorities and international partners is but the first step, leading to a transformative phase for Tanzania's avocado industry towards effective syndication of producers by adherence to the sanitary protocols.

In some instances, it is compa-

nies from an importing country that conduct the farming at the local level to ensure scrupulous adherence to sanitary yardsticks, officials said, citing the case of India.

During the state visit, negotiations led to the opening of the Chinese market after six years of TAHA's futile efforts, while the formal accession was announced weeks before President Samia touched down in Beijing for a summit of African leaders with the Chinese leadership, observers noted.

In its outer strategy, TAHA seeks to increase horticultural export value to \$2bn annually at the end of this decade, up from \$420m over the past year, an achievement that would facilitate vast employment opportunities for youth and women along the crop value chain, they added.



Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) chairperson Judge Jacobs Mwambegele (R) pictured in Zanzibar yesterday presiding over a meeting of the commission deliberating on progress in the ongoing updating of the national Permanent Voters' Register. Photo courtesy of INEC

Influx of mpox patients inundates health workers

KINSHASA

AT the Kavumu Health Centre, located in one of the hardest-hit regions by mpox, health workers are overwhelmed by the influx of patients.

Dr Erick Mashimango, the mpox focal point at the center, described the situation as dire. "We receive an average of 30 patients per day, but the numbers are increasing daily. We have reached a point where we are overwhelmed," he said.

The facility, which has set up temporary tents to accommodate the growing number of patients, is struggling to cope with the demand.

Inside the tents, families sit on the ground as health workers, clad in personal protective equipment (PPE), examine those showing symptoms of Mpox, a viral disease characterized by fever, rash, and, in severe cases, death.

The rapid spread of the disease has prompted the DRC's health authorities to collaborate with the Health Division of Epidemiological Surveillance to contain the outbreak. "We are working on establishing mechanisms to end these outbreaks, which are very dangerous in terms of the clinical signs we are observing," said Dr Mashimango.

The situation has taken a toll

on the health workers at Kavumu. "The medical team is working beyond their physical capacity. They are overwhelmed, and it is having an impact," Dr Mashimango noted.

There is a growing demand for vaccines among the affected communities. "People themselves are asking for vaccines, and it is now a concern. It would be desirable to have these vaccines urgently," said Dr Mashimango.

The WHO and other international health organizations are closely monitoring the situation, particularly as the disease has begun to spread to neighboring countries, raising

concerns of a wider regional outbreak.

Although outbreaks of Mpox have been reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for decades, the number of cases reported has been rising steadily in recent years.

There is currently a severe outbreak in DRC with more than 20,000 suspected cases and 632 deaths reported this year (data as of 01 September), and it spread to neighboring countries, which prompted the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General to declare a public health emergency of international concern on 14 August.



Katavi regional commissioner Mwanamvua Mrindoko (foreground, in red head-cloth) lends a hand in cleaning up maize earlier this week shortly before it was transported to the National Food Reserve Agency's regional office in Mpanda town for sale. Photo: Correspondent Mussa Mwangoka

By Correspondent Marc

Nkwame, Arusha

African court rejects Tabora resident's case against govt

THE African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights has dismissed the case which Dadu Sumano Kilagela had filed against the United Republic of Tanzania.

The applicant a Tanzanian citizen, brought a case before the Arusha-based Pan African Court, alleging that he had been wrongfully incarcerated at Uyui Central Prison in Tabora. Kilagela had been convicted of armed robbery and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Kilagela claimed that his rights were violated during the legal proceedings in courts. He argued that the state violated his rights under Articles 2, 3(2), 7(1)(a), and 7(1)(c) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights during the criminal proceedings in domestic courts.

The court, in line with Article 3 of the Protocol to the African Charter on

Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights first had to determine whether it had jurisdiction to hear the case.

The court noted that the respondent had raised an objection to the court's material jurisdiction, arguing that the case effectively sought to have the court sit as an appellate body to review matters of fact and law that had already been decided by its Court of Appeal.

In addressing this objection, the court reiterated its established position: when allegations of human rights violations involve the way domestic courts assessed evidence, including the final sentence, the court has the authority to assess whether the domestic proceedings were conducted in accordance with international human

rights instruments to which the respondent namely state is a party.

The court emphasized that while national courts handle evidentiary matters, its role is to ensure that domestic proceedings align with international human rights standards set out in the African Charter and other instruments ratified by the respondent state.

Accordingly, the court rejected the respondent state's objection and ruled that it had material jurisdiction to hear the case.

Although the respondent state did not challenge other aspects of the court's jurisdiction, the court still examined all aspects of its jurisdiction, as required by Rule 49(1) of its Rules. The court concluded that it had personal, temporal, and territorial jurisdiction to adjudicate the case.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Govt applauds USAID police, prison project

MINISTRY for Home Affairs Hamad Masauni has applauded the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Police and Prisons Project, saying it has helped reach 223,201 people with HIV/Aids services.

The project is a five-year activity implemented in 35 districts of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar meant to improve access, quality and strengthen HIV and TB prevention, care and treatment services in 64 supported health facilities.

In a speech read on his behalf during a stakeholder meeting in Dodoma yesterday by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ally Gugu, he noted that between August 2020 and July 2024 the project reached 223,201 people with HIV/Aids whereby 8,214 knew their HIV positive status and were linked with medical service providers.

He said during the same period, a total of 2,797 people were diagnosed with tuberculosis and initiated treatment at various health facilities.

"It is evident that USAID Police and Prisons Healthcare has highlighted the need to improve access to healthcare services to prisoners, police and prison

wardens, their families and the neighbouring communities around the 64 facilities" he said.

The US President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) funds the USAID Police and Prisons Activity to support implementing comprehensive HIV and TB prevention, care and treatment services in 64 police and prisons health facilities in mainland and Zanzibar.

The activity is implemented by Tanzanian Health Promotion Support (THPS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs through the Police Medical Unit (PMU) and Prisons Health and Nutrition Unit (PHNU) which have the mandate to oversee health matters.

Speaking on behalf of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Camillus Wambura, DCP Lucas Mkondya thanked PEPFAR, USAID and THPS for the support and implementation of the project.

He said through the project, health service providers in both prison and police have been trained in different areas including prevention and treatment of the

diseases.

He said police are well prepared to ensure sustainability of services in the event of termination of the project's external funding.

"On behalf of IGP, I applaud the organizations for the project that has brought great benefit to our prisons and police," he said, adding that there is need to take the project to district and lower levels since it is only at regional levels.

George Anatory, TPHS Chief Operations Officer (COO) commended the government for the cooperation during implementation of the project, calling for the need for further collaboration to deal with other diseases, especially non-communicable ones.

He also acknowledged the poor infrastructure like X-ray, CT-Scan, among other equipment in most of the prisons and police health facilities.

"THPS is committed to collaborating with the relevant ministries to ensure the health status of Tanzanians is improved through provision of appropriate interventions and sustainable delivery of health services," he said.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF A LIQUIDATOR EAST AFRICAN SEED (T) LIMITED REG NO. 21623

Notice is hereby given that the Members of the above Company i.e. **EAST AFRICAN SEED (T) LIMITED** with Registration No. 21623 (the Company) have resolved to wind up the Company voluntarily and Mr. Florian Mutagwaba (Advocate) of PKF Advisory Limited, Girl Guides Building, 1st Floor, Tower B, Kibasila Road, Upanga P.O. Box 7323, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, has been appointed as a liquidator for the purpose of winding up the Company with effect from 06th August 2024.

The Public is Hereby notified Accordingly.

Any person who has claims against the Company is required within Thirty (30) days after the issuance of this notice to send to the liquidator, full particulars of any claim against the Company supported by appropriate documentation thereof. Claims which are not supported and substantiated shall be excluded from the benefits of any distribution to be made.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

Florian Mutagwaba,
PKF Advisory Limited, 1st Floor, Tower B, Girl Guides Building,
Kibasila Street-Upanga P.O. Box 7323,
Dar es Salaam.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF A LIQUIDATOR AGRISCOPE AFRICA LIMITED REG NO. 74830

Notice is hereby given that the Members of the above Company i.e. **AGRISCOPE AFRICA LIMITED** with Registration No. 74830 (the Company) have resolved to wind up the Company voluntarily and Mr. Florian Mutagwaba (Advocate) of PKF Advisory Limited, Girl Guides Building, 1st Floor, Tower B, Kibasila Road, Upanga P.O. Box 7323, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, has been appointed as a liquidator for the purpose of winding up the Company with effect from 06th August 2024.

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Florian Mutagwaba,
PKF Advisory Limited, 1st Floor, Tower B, Girl Guides Building,
Kibasila Street-Upanga P.O. Box 7323,
Dar es Salaam.



HAVEN OF PEACE ACADEMY

EXPERIENCED TEACHERS NEEDED TO SERVE AND TEACH AT AN INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HAVEN OF PEACE ACADEMY

Haven of Peace Academy (HOPAC) is a faith-based educational institution owned and operated by Haven of Peace Trust. HOPAC was founded in 1994 by children of missionaries and has evolved into a Christian international school with a diverse student population that includes children of missionaries and full-time Christian service workers, children of expats working in the non-profit and for-profit sectors, and children of Tanzanians working in the non-profit, for-profit, and public sectors. The school is located in Kunduchi at the junction of Salasala Road and Bagamoyo Road in Kinondoni Municipal in Dar es Salaam and is currently inviting applications for vacancies of competent, experienced, and qualified teachers.

The following position is open for the school year 2024/2025:

Whole School

- Assistant Principal for Academics

The Assistant Principal for Academics is a leadership position which reports to the Secondary Principal. The Assistant Principal oversees all matters relating to curriculum alignment, student achievement and growth data, and professional learning communities (PLCs) for middle and senior schools. The Assistant Principal also oversees internal and external exams and manages middle and senior school resources. Responsibilities include:

Educational

- To support the Secondary Principal in reviewing and evaluating the academic programs of middle and senior school with specific emphasis on curriculum alignment to Cambridge and school standards
- To prepare a master class schedule (timetable) and to assign staff and students to classes and other obligations, working in conjunction with the Primary Principal
- To manage the assessment, grading and the reporting standards and methods used by teachers in measuring student achievement
- To assist the Principal in monitoring student achievement, tracking their progress towards expected outcomes and identifying necessary steps for intervention and leading the intervention team
- To assist the Principal in overseeing the coordination of the extra-curricular activities programs of middle and senior schools

- To coordinate the selection and procurement of resources and supplies for the middle and senior schools
- To manage various routine activities throughout the year (rosters, weekly newsletter distribution, locker assignments, etc)
- To arrange for substitute teachers as needed

Students and Parents

- To be aware of the educational, physical, social, spiritual and psychological needs of the students and to develop plans for meeting these needs
- To maintain complete records on all students
- To lead data analysis including maintaining tracking mechanisms of student growth and achievement.
- To ensure the efficient administration of internal and external examinations and
- To provide opportunities for parents to meet and consult with secondary schools about their children's education (Back-to-school nights, Parent/Teacher/Student Consultations, informal gatherings, etc.)
- To maintain accurate records of student attendance

Other

- To work toward a resolution of all problems-both routine and unique-as they arise and to keep the Secondary Principal informed of general problems of the secondary school
- To assist in the coordination of Service Emphasis Week (together with the Service Learning coordinator and Primary School Principal)
- To complete Quality Assurance documentation and sit on the Accreditation team for curriculum domain
- To perform other duties as assigned by the Secondary Principal

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in education/teaching or PGDE
- Three years teaching experience
- Experience with Cambridge International curriculum preferred
- Minimum of three years teaching experience, preferably in a multicultural setting
- Fluent in English, the medium of instruction
- Committed Christian

If you are confident that you match the above criteria, please send your **Application letter and CV only** through nics.org to arrive on or before 24th September 2024. NOTE: Applications sent to personnel@hopac.sc.tz will not be considered.



Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla opens the Seventh Women Leadership Conference 2024 in Zanzibar on Wednesday. It was organised by the Tanzania Association of Women Certified Accountants. Photo: ZSVP

By Guardian Reporter, Longido

Makala: Dirty aspirants who require 'cleaning' should forget nomination

CCM secretary for ideology, publicity and training Amos Makala has said that the party seeks candidates whose reputations are impeccable but not those with issues that require extra "cleaning".

He stressed that the ideal candidate should be someone whose name is immediately accepted by the people.

Makala made the remarks yesterday here during a meeting with CCM leaders from grassroots to regional levels, discussing strategies for the upcoming local government elections.

He stated that CCM's success is not achieved through deceit but through fairness and effective implementation of its manifesto which serves as a testament to its credibility. Makala also said that

the party aims to secure 12 million voters and urged members to continue mobilising the public to register for the local government elections.

"I assure you that CCM will nominate candidates with impeccable records. I have instructed party leaders to prioritise this to ensure we select individuals who are accountable to the people," he said.

Makala further warned that those who do not read the village income and expenditure reports have no place in the upcoming election.

"We must elect chairpersons who are free from issues. We do not want candidates who require cleaning with a sponge and soap. We want

those who, when presented to the public, are accepted without hesitation," he said.

He further urged citizens to choose candidates who can bring hope to the party and the nation.

Makala also underlined the party's goal of achieving a decisive and respectful victory in the local government elections scheduled for November 27 this year as well as in the General Election next year.

"The second purpose of this visit is to focus on the local government elections. The aim of a political party is to attain power. No party is formed with a constitution stating that its purpose is to take people to heaven—that is the role of religious leaders," he said.

Over 60,000 traders to be reached in economic empowerment efforts

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa,

Mbeya

MORE than 60,000 traders across the country are set to be registered in a formal digital system and economically empowered through a programme dubbed 'Strengthening the Economy with Mama Samia'.

Bang'i Issa, executive secretary of the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) made the statement in Mbeya city yesterday during a working meeting with government leaders aimed at introducing the programme at the regional level.

The meeting included NEEC leaders from Mbeya Region, district secretaries, district council directors and traders from various areas in the region.

Issa explained that the programme is designed to economically empower special groups, particularly youth, women, the elderly and people with disabilities involved in production groups within their localities.

"We are meeting with you leaders because you are the overseers of this programme at the grassroots level. The government cannot uplift individual citizens economically and that is why it has established this programme that targets empowering citizens in groups," she said.

She further noted that the programme has already been introduced in 13 regions across the country, with Mbeya being the 14th. After concluding in Mbeya, the programme will be rolled out in other regions.

Several leaders at the meeting expressed their gratitude for the new programme, stating that it will significantly enhance the economy, particularly for traders.

Neema Kisanga, NEEC chairperson for Mbeya Region, remarked that many citizens, especially women, have been striving to engage in various businesses to improve their economic situations but often face challenges due to a lack of capital.

She noted that the programme will provide access to capital, enabling them to run their businesses more effectively and improve their financial status. Additionally, beneficiaries will

receive training on managing their activities.

"When you visit women in different neighbourhoods, you find they have excellent business ideas but lack capital to realise them. We are grateful that the President for launching this programme," Kisanga said.

Lodrick Mpogolo, Mbeya Regional Administrative Secretary, instructed all district council directors in the region to oversee the establishment of citizen economic empowerment centres in their areas to bring services closer to the people.

He emphasised that, according to the programme's guidelines, the centres must be situated near citizens' production areas.

Mpogolo also mentioned that each district in the region has its own priorities, and the programme will support citizens based on the primary production activities in their area.

For example, Chunya District focuses on gold mining, Mbarali District on rice farming, Kyela District on cocoa production, Mbeya District on pyrethrum cultivation, Rungwe District on banana farming, and Mbeya City on business and processing.



We are meeting with you leaders because you are the overseers of this programme at the grassroots level. The government cannot uplift individual citizens economically and that is why it has established this programme that targets empowering citizens in groups

'World pumps out 57m tonnes of plastic pollution per year'

By Special Correspondent

A NEW study by the University of Leeds, published in the journal *Nature* on Wednesday, has found that the world creates 57 million tonnes of plastic pollution every year.

It spreads from the deepest oceans to the highest mountaintop to the inside of people's bodies, and more than two-thirds of it comes from the Global South.

Researchers used AI to model waste management in more than 50,000 municipalities around the world.

This allowed the team to predict how much waste was generated globally and what happens to it.

The researchers examined plastic that goes into the open environment, not plastic that is taken to landfills or is properly burned.

They said that for 15 percent of the world's population, governments fail to collect and dispose of waste.

This is a big reason why Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa produce the most plastic pollution, with Nigeria's Lagos emitting the most of any city.

The other biggest plastic polluting cities are New Delhi in India, Angola's capital, Luanda, Karachi in Pakistan, and Egypt's Al Qahirah.

Nigeria is also one of two African countries in the top 10, sitting at number two, with the Democratic Republic of Congo at number 10.

According to the study's data, the top eight nations are responsible for more than half of the globe's plastic

pollution.

Lead researcher, Dr Costas Velis, from Leeds' School of Civil Engineering said the world needs to start focusing more on tackling uncollected waste.

"We shouldn't put the blame, any blame, on the Global South, and we shouldn't praise ourselves about what we do in the Global North in any way," he said.

Velis said it was just a lack of resources and ability of governments to provide the necessary services to citizens.

Researchers say the study shows that access to waste collection should be seen as a basic necessity, and a vital aspect of sanitation, alongside water, and sewerage services.

The United Nations projects that plastics production is likely to rise from about 440 million tonnes a year to more than 1,200 million tonnes, saying "our planet is choking in plastic."



We shouldn't put the blame, any blame, on the Global South, and we shouldn't praise ourselves about what we do in the Global North in any way



Mbeya district administrative secretary Mariam Msengi (R) presents a voluntary health insurance scheme card to members of a Sangabuye ward family on Wednesday. It was a goodwill gesture from SOS Children's Village Tanzania, an NGO, to over 360 people from poor households. Photo: Vitus Audax

Facelift of three major ports on Lake Victoria set to close next September

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

THE expansion of three main ports on Lake Victoria is now scheduled to be completed by 15th September next year after reaching various stages of progress, it has been confirmed.

Speaking to journalists here yesterday, Erasto Lugenge, manager

for Lake Victoria ports, reported that as of yesterday, Mwanza North Port was at 38.8 percent, Kemono was 73 percent and Bukoba 63 percent.

Lugenge noted that according to the contract, the extension work at Mwanza North Port is set to be completed by 3rd November this year, at Kemono by 28th September, and at Bukoba by 9th September.

He attributed the delays to changes in the design of MV Mwanza Hapa Kazi TU! which also required modifications to fit the designs at the ports.

The extension work, which began on 3rd May this year, aims to provide sufficient space for the MV Mwanza Hapa Kazi TU! to dock at the ports.

Lugenge mentioned that the vessel is expected to dock at Mwanza

North Port starting November. He emphasised that the government through Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA), is committed to ensuring timely completion of the strategic projects to drive development.

"People should be patient during this period of port infrastructure improvement as they will benefit more in terms of transport and business once the work is complete," he said.



Chunya District Council acting director Cuthbert Mwinuka (5th-L) lends a hand in feeding sand and stones into a grinding machine at a gold mine at Itumbi village in Matudasi ward while on a recent inspection tour of the activities of small-scale miners. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

World Bank, AFD give Uganda aid of \$600m

KAMPALA

THE World Bank and French Development Agency (AFD) have given Uganda more than \$600 million to fund infrastructure development and manage waste in Kampala, officials have said.

Ugandans have complained about waste management and the poor state of the roads in Kampala, which suffers chronic underfunding from the central government.

Last month a garbage landslide at a landfill site on Kampala's outskirts

buried houses as residents slept, killing at least 35 people.

A total of \$566 million worth in funding, much of it credit, will come from the World Bank, and \$42.7 million will be provided by AFD, the statements said.

"Rapid urban expansion has exposed significant gaps in infrastructure" the World Bank said.

Last year, the World Bank said it would stop lending to Uganda after the east African country passed a harsh anti-gay law.

In the aftermath of the Kiteezi

landfill disaster, which has sent shockwaves through Uganda's waste management system, many in Kampala are left questioning how and where the city's waste will be handled and disposed of.

The incident has sparked a broader discussion about the future of waste management in the country, particularly in Kampala, where 600 tonnes of waste are generated daily. This has prompted both private sector players and government officials to rethink waste management strategies, recognizing the significant societal

and economic benefits of improved practices.

The Kiteezi landfill garbage slide, which resulted in over 35 deaths and left 28 people still missing as excavation efforts continue, underscores the urgent need for more appropriate waste management measures in Uganda. The disaster has highlighted the risks associated with the current garbage dumping model and the necessity of moving towards safer and more sustainable practices to prevent similar tragedies in the future.



A Mwenge stretch of Dar es Salaam's traditionally busy Bagamoyo Road popularly known as ITV under floodwaters yesterday afternoon following an unseasonable downpour. Photo: John Badi

Manyoni leads in HWC, jumbos roaming most

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

MANYONI District in Singida Region has been named the most affected with Human-Wildlife Conflicts (HWC) with elephants entering villages more than other animals.

This was said yesterday by Conservation Officer of Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) Isaac Chamba when making a presentation on how the authority manages conflicts between animals and humans.

He was speaking at the beginning of a two-day conference organized by Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) for editors in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

The training discussed progress of a project implemented by the government on mitigation of HWC in Tanzania funded by the Germany's Ministry of Economic Development through German International Development Agency (GIZ).

Chamba said that the incidents of conflicts between animals and humans were 997 in 2018, but they have increased rapidly to reach 3,496 incidents last year, adding that many of the incidents have involved attacks by elephants.

He said statistics for the year 2023/24 show that Manyoni District had 410 incidents, Nachingwea 312 incidents, Liwale (260, Tunduru 218, Busega 214, Rufiji 202, Bunda 158, Liwale II and Chamwino III incidents.

He said elephants contributed to 80 percent of the conflicts followed by lions 6 percent, hippopotamus 5 percent, rhinos 4 percent, crocodiles 3 percent and hyenas 2 percent.

He mentioned invasion and destruction of wildlife corridors for human activities such as agriculture as one of the leading causes of HWC in the country.

He said another reason is lack of a better land use plan whereby some people invade and live in protected areas.

"There are times when livestock invade reserves. Normally, wild animals do not get along with domesticated ones because the latter are treated with different types of drugs," he said.

"Therefore, when wild animals encounter the smell of medicine, they find it a nuisance and move from their areas and find themselves in areas where people live and that is how conflicts begin."

He mentioned another reason as climate change such as severe droughts or floods that cause animals to move from their natural habitat.

Executive Director of JET Dr John Chikomo said Tanzania has prepared a National Strategy for the Management of Conflicts between Humans and Wildlife (NHWCMS 2020-2024).

He said the strategy aims to improve the lives of people and wildlife and protect the rights of communities to develop and prosper through conservation.

Dr Chikomo said the project dubbed 'Reducing Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Tanzania' aims to improve the capacity of key stakeholders who are responsible for managing and resolving HWC.

He said the project is implemented by various stakeholders, adding that beneficiaries are rural residents located in the south of the Nyerere National Park and the Selous Game Reserve in the following districts: Liwale (Lindi Region), Namtumbo and Tunduru (Ruvuma Region).

"There are times when livestock invade reserves. Normally, wild animals do not get along with domesticated ones because the latter are treated with different types of drugs"

By Augusta Njoji, Dodoma

Govt launches customer service centre for complaints reception

THE Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs yesterday launched Customer Service Centre to enable members of the public to submit complaints without incurring costs associated with travelling.

At the launch ceremony, Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs Prof Palamagamba Kabudi explained that people previously had to incur significant expenses to travel long distances to submit complaints at the ministry's offices in Dodoma.

He noted that Samia Legal Aid campaign which has since reached Dodoma, Manyara, Singida, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Ruvuma and Njombe regions inspired the establishment of the centre.

However, he added that the

centre is a continuation of the campaign, which will soon expand to the remaining regions of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

"This centre reflects the 4Rs of President Samia's philosophy. Through these principles, the ministry aims to facilitate conflict resolution, provide legal education and offer legal assistance," he said.

He highlighted that the centre allows citizens to submit their concerns via phone number 0262160360.

"This service benefits those who cannot afford travel expenses, allowing them to lodge complaints

by phone. The centre will address the issues without requiring a physical visit to the ministry," he said.

Prof. Kabudi reported that from February to 31st August 2024, 499 complaints had been registered, with 410—equivalent to 82 percent—resolved fully, and 89 at various stages of resolution.

He noted that the centre underscores the government's commitment to using technological solutions to effectively reach and assist citizens.

"The ministry plans to extend service hours to 24/7. I would like

to thank our development partner FCDO for its support in establishing this centre in collaboration with the government," he said.

He urged media to continue raising public awareness about the centre to ensure citizens submit their complaints for resolution.

Earlier, Jane Lyimo, Director of Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights Department at the ministry, explained that the centre is part of broader efforts to combat corruption through a programme implemented by the ministry and overseen by the Office of the President and funded by the UK government.

Experts, officials set to promote healthcare service in East Africa

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

EXPERTS and officials have met in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss ways to promote access to healthcare in East Africa.

The three-day Medic East Africa Exhibition has brought together more than 8,000 visitors, 200 exhibitors, as well as senior government officials, hospital managers and medical manufacturers from over 30 countries to explore ways to expand innovations in the region's healthcare sector.

Mary Muriuki, principal secretary in the Ministry of Health, said that most East African countries face mounting health challenges because they have yet to achieve the African Union target of spending at least 15 percent of their national budget on health expenditures.

"This conference provides

a platform for stakeholders to develop innovative measures to mobilize funds from both private and public sources in order to promote access to healthcare in the region," Muriuki said.

She added that Kenya is prioritising expanding access to

healthcare through technologies such as mobile applications to reach remote villages and informal urban settlements.

Abubakar Hassan Abubakar, principal secretary in the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, said that Kenya has already implemented fiscal and regulatory incentives to promote private sector investments in the health sector.

Many East African countries face challenges in financing the health sector due to rapidly growing populations, which increase demand for health services, Abubakar said.

Patrick Alibu, president of the Uganda Medical Laboratory Technology Association, urged the region to achieve universal healthcare access through the use of health insurance, especially for rural populations and low-income urban residents.



Many East African countries face challenges in financing the health sector due to rapidly growing populations, which increase demand for health services



Kinondoni district commissioner Saad Mtambule pictured in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday speaking at a meeting called to discuss progress in the implementation of development projects in the district. Left is the district's CCM chairman, Shaweji Mkumbula, and right is Kinondoni municipal mayor Songoro Mnyonge. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



MINISTRY OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government of Tanzania through Act No. 8 of 2003 (The Fair Competition Act) established an independent Tribunal known as the Fair Competition Tribunal (FCT). The Tribunal is a specialized quasi-judicial body with cross-disciplinary expertise in law, economics, commerce and public administration whose core function is to hear and determine appeals involving competition and economic regulatory issues. Therefore, the Tribunal has jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals that arise from orders and decisions of the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) and Regulatory Authorities namely the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA), the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) and the Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA). In addition, the Tribunal also hears and determines appeals from orders and decisions of the Chief Inspector of the Merchandise Marks in respect of counterfeit products.

The Tribunal consists of a Chairman and six other Members who work on part-time basis. The Chairman and six Members are all appointed by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. The President appoints the Chairman from amongst the Judges of the High Court after consultation with the Chief Justice. He also appoints six other Members after consultation with the Attorney General from candidates nominated by the Nomination Committee. The duties of the Chairman and Members of the Tribunal are to hear and determine appeals that arise from orders and decisions of the Fair Competition Commission and Regulatory Authorities referred to above.

Save for the Chairman, the term of service of the Members of the Tribunal expired on 16th June, 2024 after serving for three years.

In view of the above, applications are invited from suitably qualified Tanzanian to fill the above six vacant posts of "Members of the Fair Competition Tribunal" who will serve on part-time basis for a period of three years. Applicants must have knowledge and experience of not less than ten (10) years in the field of law, economics, commerce, industry or public administration. In addition, applicants must have Masters Degree in the relevant field. Knowledge of or experience in competition law and competition economics will be an added advantage.

Mode of Application:

Application letter with Curriculum Vitae (CV) including e-mail address (if any) and mobile phone number, together with certified copies of academic certificates and names and contacts of two referees should be addressed to the undersigned sealed and sent by registered mail to reach him on or before 13th September, 2024 at 03:30 pm.

**Chairman
Nomination Committee
Fair Competition Tribunal
1st Floor, Roads Fund Building
Njedengwa Investment Area
P.O. Box 1699
DODOMA.**

Mbamba Bay Port expected to boost business between Tanzania, Malawi

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

CONSTRUCTION of the \$1bn/- Mbamba Bay Port in Ruvuma Region is poised to ease transportation of goods between Tanzania and Malawi, thereby foster economic growth between the two countries.

In a recent interview, Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Col. Ahmed Abbas Ahmed highlighted the substantial progress made in enhancing economic diplomacy with neighbouring countries, including Malawi.

"The port is set to become a crucial link between Tanzania and Malawi. Once operational, it will facilitate easy interaction between the people of Malawi and Ruvuma Region, making travel between Malawi and Tanzania via this route much more convenient," he stated.

Col. Ahmed noted that the port's operation would bring significant economic benefits to both countries.

"Tanzania has numerous products in high demand in Malawi such as coal. Currently, if Malawi wishes to import coal from Tanzania, the lack of a functional port complicates the process," he said.

He added that the completion and efficient operation of the port will enhance logistics chain for cargo transport, with the Ndumbi Port handling passenger and freight transport to Malawi.

"Both ports will be connected by a tarmacked road. Mbambay Port will be linked by a road and Ndumbi Port will be connected once the Kitai-Amni-Makolo-Ruanda-Ndumbi road is completed," he said.

For the 2023/2024 season, the

region produced 29,109 tonnes of cashew nuts while for the 2024/2025 season, the target is 55,730 tonnes.

"We commend the decision to ensure that cashew nuts from Ruvuma and Mtwara regions are exported through Mtwara Port," Col. Ahmed said.

The move has preserved the quality and value of cashew nuts in the global market by eliminating adulteration that occurred during transportation to Dar es Salaam Port.

"Previously, it was easy for unscrupulous traders to introduce substandard or contaminated cashew nuts during transit which affected the quality and market value of our cashew nuts," he said.

Additionally, the decision has reduced the cost of transporting cashew nuts from Tunduru and Namtumbo districts.

"Instead of transporting cashew nuts over long distances to Dar es Salaam Port, they are now routed through Mtwara Port, significantly reducing transport costs," he said.



We commend the decision to ensure that cashew nuts from Ruvuma and Mtwara regions are exported through Mtwara Port

FAO Tanzania supports companies to access avocado market in China

By Guardian Reporter

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA) has supported the first three Tanzanian companies to secure market and export avocados to China.

Mdili Katemani, manager of plant health compliance and trade facilitation at TPHPA, said in a statement yesterday that this highlights the government's efforts and the dedication of all parties involved in the achievement.

He thanked FAO for the close support which has brought hope to the traders with many more to benefit in the future days.

"FAO provided close guidance to TPHPA to meet the stringent procedures required by the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) to secure the market while enabling companies to follow and meet the criteria to export the fruits to the Asian country," he said.

He said the support was provided under the 'Strengthening Plant Health in Tanzania for Enhanced Food Safety' (STREPHIT) project, which aims to enhance access to safe and high-quality agricultural produce for both national and international markets.

"We have successfully completed the procedures required by the Chinese market, allowing farmers and growers to export three varieties of fresh avocados—Hass, Fuerte and Pinkertons—to China," said Katemani, who also serves as the STREPHIT national project coordinator.

He noted that for local producers to export avocados to China, they must register with GACC through TPHPA. Additionally, production farms, pack-houses, and fumigation companies must be registered by TPHPA to obtain traceability codes essential for exporter identification.

Furthermore, the farms must adhere to agricultural best practices and integrated pest management to control quarantine pests such as

fruit flies, false codling moths, and mealy-bugs. The packaging, storage, and transportation of avocados must also comply with all protocols agreed upon between Tanzania and China.

China already imports several agricultural products from Tanzania, including coffee, soybeans, sesame, cashew nuts, and seafood. During her visit to China in 2023, President Samia Suluhu Hassan signed the Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Export of Fresh Avocados from Tanzania to China, paving the way for this historic market access.

Under the STREPHIT project, implemented by FAO with support from the European Union (EU) and the government of Tanzania, efforts continue to ensure that all necessary requirements are met to position Tanzania's agricultural produce in the global market.

Tanzania exports avocados to various countries, including India, the Netherlands, Kenya, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, South Africa, and France. This new market access to China marks a significant expansion of Tanzania's agricultural exports, opening doors to even greater opportunities for local farmers and the national economy. The three companies are the first of many to come.



We have successfully completed the procedures required by the Chinese market, allowing farmers and growers to export three varieties of fresh avocados—Hass, Fuerte and Pinkertons—to China



Construction of a rapid transit bus terminal at a section of the main road in progress Dar es Salaam's Gongo la Mboto suburb yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Correspondent James Kandoya

NINE Japanese volunteers have arrived in the country as part of an ongoing initiative aimed at supporting development across various sectors.

A statement issued yesterday by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) stated that the latest group of volunteers will be stationed in different regions as follows: three will be in Dodoma, two in Kilimanjaro, three in Morogoro and one in Zanzibar.

Their arrival brings the total number of JICA volunteers sent to Tanzania since the Covid-19 pandemic to 28.

The statement highlights the significance of the volunteer programme, noting that it has facilitated arrival of 1,717 volunteers in Tanzania since its inception.

"The arrival of these volunteers

Nine Japanese volunteers jet in, to be stationed in four regions

underscores the strong and enduring partnership between Tanzania and JICA, reflecting our shared commitment to improving lives and building capacity in the region," the statement noted.

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) programme, launched by JICA in December 1965, has made substantial contributions to global development.

To date, the programme has dispatched 57,172 volunteers to 130 countries. As of July 31, 2024, there were 1,394 JOCV volunteers actively working in 78 countries.

"The JOCV programme recruits individuals with relevant skills

and experience to address specific needs of developing countries. Following a rigorous selection and training process, volunteers are deployed to work in various sectors, enhancing economic and social development, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and contributing their expertise to local communities," the statement said.

In Tanzania, where JOCV programme began in March 1967 with a team of 30 volunteers, the focus has evolved over the years. Initially concentrated on agriculture, the programme now supports a broader range of areas, including primary education,

science, mathematics, physical education, and vocational training in schools and VETA centres.

Additionally, JOCV activities now include assisting local authorities with community income and livelihood improvement and supporting maternal health initiatives in public hospitals.

The statement also mentioned that the arrival of the nine volunteers will be followed by another group of 12 expected in January 2025. The JOCV programme continues to adapt to the changing needs of Tanzania, demonstrating its sustained impact across diverse sectors.



Hidaya Chikawe (R), a coordinator with the Liwale Women's Paralegal Aid, presents to Hiari Moyo Farmers Group chairman Ramadhan Mpimbata a leaflet bearing messages on ways to improve the voter registration drive. It was in the course of a campaign held in Mpigamiti ward in Liwale Urban in Lindi Region earlier this week to sensitise the public into updating their personal information in the Permanent Voters' Register. Second right is Mpigamiti village chairman Sadick Tewele. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ACCRA

Ghana seeks to raise cocoa price by 45pct

GHANAS cocoa regulator plans to increase the state-guaranteed price paid to its cocoa farmers for the 2024/25 crop season by nearly 45 percent, it has been reported.

If confirmed, it would be the second increase in a row.

Earlier this year, Ghana followed fellow major cocoa producer Côte d'Ivoire in raising the farmgate price of the commodity by 58 percent to reach 33,120 Ghana cedis (about \$2,499) per tonne.

The move is believed to help boost farmers' incomes and deter bean smuggling out of the country.

This comes as the Ghana Civil Society platform called on the country's cocoa regulator to raise the minimum farmgate price for the 2024/2025 to reach \$3662 per tonne.

Every year in September, the government announces new farmgate prices for cocoa bag and tonne for the new cocoa season,

which is between September of the current year and August of the following year.

The price of cocoa soared rose sharply this year because of demand and troubles with the crop in West Africa due to plant disease and changes in weather.

Ghana is the second-largest exporter of cocoa beans in the world, after Ivory Coast [1][2] Ghana's cocoa cultivation, however, is noted within

the developing world to be one of the most modelled commodities and valuables.

Cocoa production occurs in the country's forested areas of Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Central Region, Eastern Region, Western Region, and Volta, where rainfall is 1,000 to 1,500 millimetres per year. The crop year begins in October, when purchases of the main crop begin, with a smaller mid-crop cycle beginning in July.

Urban Forum calls for innovative solutions to change African cities

By Special Correspondent

EXPERTS and policymakers attending a continental urbanization-themed forum have called for collaborative efforts to explore innovative solutions for African cities to thrive as centres of hope, growth, and prosperity.

They made the call during the inaugural Africa Urban Forum 2024, which opened on Wednesday under the theme "Sustainable Urbanization for Africa's Transformation: Agenda 2063" in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

The Africa Urban Forum is a continental platform that promotes sustainable development in African human settlements. The African Union (AU) and its members established the forum in 2022 in response to the rapid rise of urbanization in Africa, its opportunities and challenges, and the need to create a continental-scale forum to support an inclusive and holistic approach to unlocking the potential of urbanization on the continent.

Addressing the forum, Anaclaudia Rossbach, executive director of the United Nations Human Settlements Program, said as Africa's population is expected to double by 2050, African cities should be prepared to accommodate the needs of the projected rapid population growth.

According to the AU, the rapid urbanization in Africa presents significant financing challenges that require substantial investments in infrastructure, services, and social amenities to accommodate growing urban populations. The forum is expected to address the issue of financing urbanization in Africa.

It said traditional financing mechanisms often fall short of meeting the scale and complexity of urban development needs in Africa. The phenomenon requires urgently identifying innovative options for financing urbanization, including public-private partnerships, development financing, and community-based financing models.

Experts and policymakers attending the forum said challenges attributed to lack of infrastructure and services, unplanned settlements, significant informal economies, dependence on commodity extraction and exports, as well as institutional gaps have continued to undermine the links between urbanization and industrialization in many African countries.

Claver Gatete, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, in a message delivered on his behalf, emphasized the need to address the major bottlenecks that hamper sustainable urbanization in Africa. He said the inaugural forum will play a crucial role in laying the foundation for the continuous and sustainable development of African cities.

According to the AU, with an average annual urban growth rate of 3.5 percent in the last 20 years, Africa has seen the largest urbanization in the developing world, and this trend is anticipated to continue until the year 2050.

Temesgen Tiruneh, deputy prime minister of Ethiopia, underscored the need to exchange ideas and experiences to advance sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous cities across Africa, with an overarching goal of realizing the AU's 50-year continental development blueprint, Agenda 2063.

Adanech Abiebie, mayor of Addis Ababa, said the transformation of African cities will serve as an engine for the continent's economic development and beyond. "African cities have huge potential for development. Leadership plays an irreplaceable role in harnessing the potential of cities, and mayors are at the heart of this role. Ensuring habitability, safety, and resilience is our top priority."

Studies show that urbanization in Africa varies by region, with each area having its own geographic and historical contexts. East Africa has the lowest rate of people living in cities, while South and North Africa lead in urban growth, followed by Central and West Africa, which are home to some of the largest megacities in Africa.

"African cities and towns will be built one way or another in the next three decades. How they are built will determine the prospects for the continent and the viability of global sustainability efforts for the remainder of the century," the AU said.

The inaugural Africa Urban Forum 2024, which runs until Friday, brought together African leaders and ministers, local authorities and mayors, representatives from the private sector, think tanks, and financial institutions, among others.



African cities have huge potential for development. Leadership plays an irreplaceable role in harnessing the potential of cities, and mayors are at the heart of this role. Ensuring habitability, safety, and resilience is our top priority

Partnership action plans in line with AU Agenda 2063

BEIJING

THE 10 partnership action plans proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) are all in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063, said South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

In a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the summit, Xi said that China stands ready to work with Africa to implement 10 partnership action plans in the next three years to jointly advance modernization.

The 10 partnership action plans will cover the areas of mutual learning among civilizations, trade prosperity, industrial chain cooperation, connectivity, development cooperation, health, agriculture and livelihood, cultural

and people-to-people exchanges, green development, and common security, Xi said.

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

He also proposed that bilateral relations between China and all African countries having diplomatic ties with China be elevated to the level of strategic relations.

Ramaphosa welcomed those proposals, saying that they show the great importance that China attaches to its relationship with Africa and with African countries at large.

"This summit reflects our shared desire for modernization, development and progress on the African continent," said Ramaphosa.



A gaping pothole-turned-pond forces motorists to move with caution along the Kimara Resort section of Morogoro Road on the outer reaches of the city on Monday, with a drizzle complicating the situation by blurring the edges of the pothole. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

African countries urged to up teamwork in preparing carbon market frameworks

LUSAKA

AFRICAN countries should strengthen regional collaboration on the development of carbon market frameworks to deal with challenges many countries are facing, according to a communiqué issued after a meeting on Wednesday.

Many countries in sub-Saharan Africa are facing challenges in the development of national market

frameworks, which highlights the need for collaboration, said the communiqué issued after a high-level dialogue meeting of experts from Kenya, Senegal, and Zambia on harnessing carbon markets for Africa's low-carbon development.

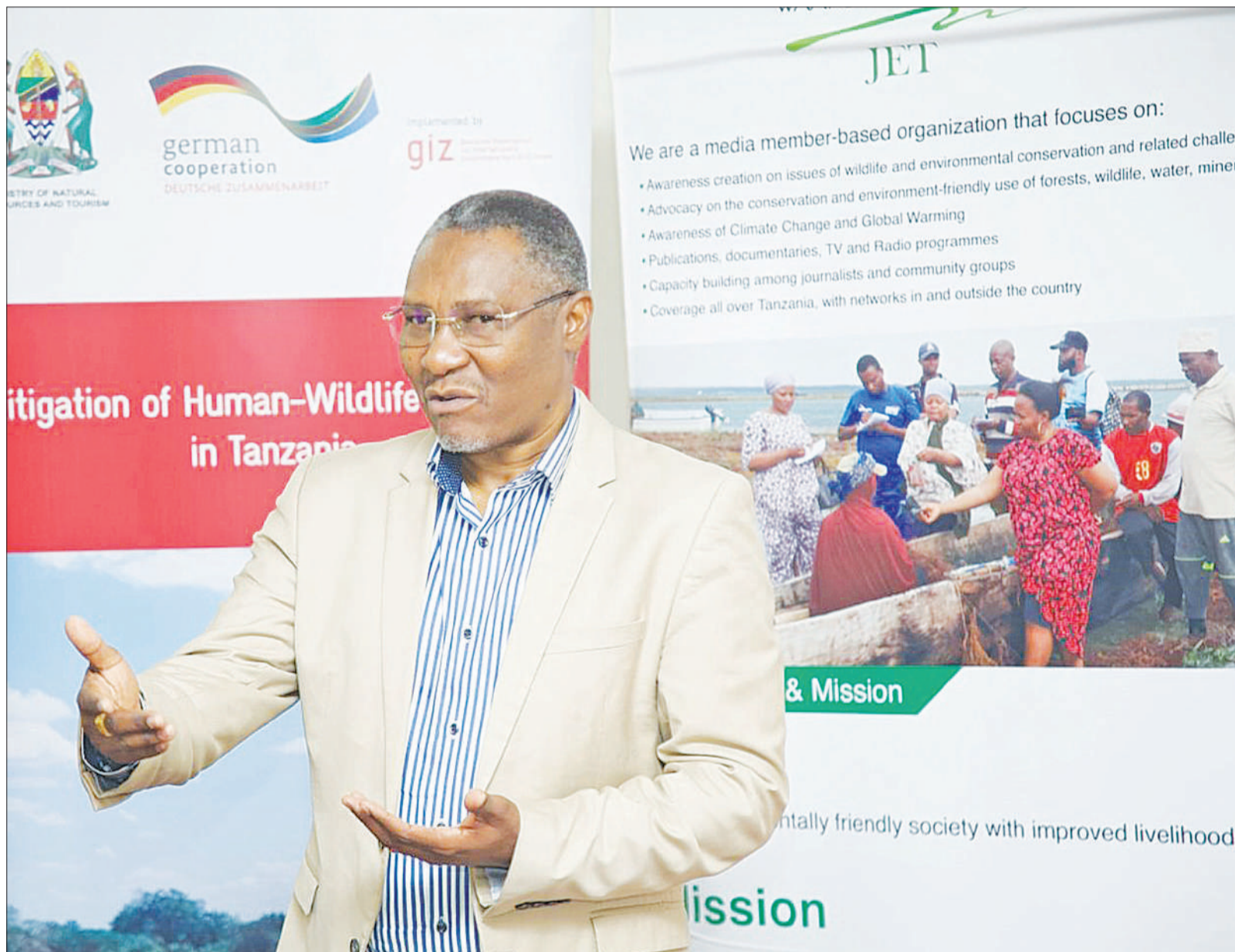
"This includes the exchange of experiences and the development of building blocks, which may be appropriated in national carbon market frameworks," the communiqué said, adding

that countries should identify an appropriate institution to spearhead the strengthening of regional collaboration.

The high-level meeting, held in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, acknowledged that most sub-Saharan African countries consider the carbon market as an important instrument to cofinance low-carbon development, while some countries have not fully understood the costs and benefits

as well as the required volumes of investment, a situation hindering the cost-efficient implementation of nationally determined contribution.

According to the communiqué, the meeting also acknowledged the need for national carbon registries and national greenhouse gas inventories, which will not only measure emissions but also assess the performance of mitigation activities and policies.



Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) executive director John Chikomo pictured in Bagamoyo town yesterday opening an editors' workshop on ways to mitigate conflicts between humans and wild animals. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

CHENGDU

CHINA Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) recently kick-started a training programme to cultivate radiation therapy physicists for African countries.

Under the IAEA's "Rays of Hope" initiative, this three-month training program, launched in Chengdu, capital city of the southwestern province of Sichuan, will train radiation therapy physicists for cancer and tumour treatment. It aims to improve healthcare standards and enhance the health and well-being of people in Africa.

The training program includes 16 trainees from 15 African countries, including Ghana, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso and Namibia.

China, IAEA help Africa train radiation therapy physicists

It covers a range of content, including theoretical instruction on the fundamentals and standards of nuclear medicine and radiation therapy. It also includes simulated and hands-on training in treatment planning, quality control, and quality assurance.

Additionally, the program features case studies on common cancers and tumours in Africa, as well as specialized lectures by renowned Chinese experts in medical physics, nuclear medicine, and radiation therapy.

Radiation therapy physicists play a crucial role in the radiation diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as cancer and tumours.

As nuclear science and technology have a wide range of applications in the field of health and medicine, African countries have an urgent need for capacity building and talent development in areas such as nuclear medicine, radioactive pharmaceuticals, and the control of zoonotic diseases.

"Rays of Hope" initiative offers technical support and assistance,

including infrastructure, specialized equipment, personnel training, and quality assurance, to help middle and low-income countries, particularly those in Africa, enhance their capabilities in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases such as cancer and tumours.

China, in collaboration with the IAEA, has provided nuclear medicine technology support, expert assistance, and personnel training to several African countries, including Ethiopia, Nigeria and Morocco.

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Child rapes: MPs have right concerns, still not solutions

IT is not strange hearing members of Parliament or any other section of society recommending the death penalty or castration of individuals convicted of rape of minors.

Debate on penalties for persons convicted of child rape resurfaced in the National Assembly this week, with a number of MPs pushing for significant amendments to the law - including adding the death penalty or castration of perpetrators. There are moral red lines in this issue.

Special Seats MPs were this time around at the forefront in primary question and supplementary questions on the issue. It was especially in relation to whether the government was considering a bill to impose the death penalty on those convicted of raping minors.

One of the legislators talked of an alarming increase in rape cases, particularly featuring youths in Iringa Region, with minors sexually assaulted by their peers. That means the law needs to be tighter to deter offenders.

Whether or not current penal provisions need to be tightened in view of the cases of child rape is debatable, as it hinges on whether those behind it all are simply criminal or are also sick.

If there is a dimension of mental incapacity tied to the grotesque misconduct, it is evident that harsher penalties are a minimum deterrent. One is dealing with basically deranged persons, but lawmakers often don't rush into the supposition as it lets offenders off the hook.

It is not clear if the debate on the adequacy or otherwise of current penal provisions for child rape in particular was positive.

What is clear now is that

MPs are, on the whole, hugely disturbed by the manner in which child rape has become a pervasive habit across the country.

The legislators' response is basically what can be called social despair, where the only way out is to raise the big stick. Small wonder, then, that a section of MPs have called on the government to consider castration as a viable alternative.

The respective deputy minister had a challenging task restating what the law provides for in the Penal Code, where the rape of adult calls for a minimum of 30 years in jail, corporal punishment and possible compensation for the victim.

By contrast, if the rape victim is a child under 10 years, the penalty is life imprisonment, this implying that other measures like castration are irrelevant if one is to spend a lifetime in jail. The MPs must have been aware of these safeguards but wished for a shock penalty.

The deputy minister was emphatic that life in jail is the second most severe penalty, after the death penalty for treason and premeditated murder, implying that under no circumstances can child rape be equated with premeditated murder.

While the government is under pressure to conduct some sort of review so that it sends out a message to deter such cases, the sociology is forgotten - that many youths hanker for basic dignity in life, decent work and predictable earnings.

Society has other preoccupations; the stagnation leads to social implosion, where the rapes are low intensity - if you will - as they are personal acts of despair, later degenerating into violence.

'Say it loud', that national arbitration will conform to international etiquette

EFFORTS developing in the past half decade to limit contentions between the government and foreign investors to local courts, the plea bargaining followed by procedural arbitration initiatives dating 2022, are taking root.

A national arbitration centre is being established to handle local and international disputes for this kind of resolution, ultimately wishing to diminish the role of the International Convention for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

These efforts were earlier on one-sided, presumably in the belief that national law reigned supreme and effectively deterring investors.

The 2022 initiatives were intended to alter this orientation so that foreign investors and potential local ones could be assured of fair procedures where the norms applied conformed to international usage.

With this sort of background, the response by the law community has been far-reaching and we have seen hundreds of practising advocates or law firms listing for inclusion.

This has applied mostly where their particular fields of specialisation are of any relevance, at the level of individual practitioners.

This willingness is a preliminary act of reassurance that what they were presented with was consonant with basics of advocacy.

Senior ministerial officials have recently organised a training session for the numerous

accredited arbitrators, mediators and negotiators. It was organised jointly with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

This is additional testimony that the precepts at hand are not at variance with best practices on the issue as GIZ or its European Union associates with whom the agency has common standards of governance would expect.

What was noticeable was that the training focused more on arbitration of local disputes, among them the sort that could come under the Samia Legal Aid Campaign - where it has put aside 668 cases or disputes rather amicably.

This was sufficient for the ministry to say that the alternative dispute resolution mechanism has been a success, but the challenge is to extend the format to major disputes that would be referred to ICSID.

But even within the ambit of local dispute resolution, issues like contractors going unpaid, being underpaid or being paid irregularly or late can take a lot of time if left to regulatory fiat.

Much the same would apply in the event of some settlements disputed in the legislature, which both the regulatory organs and the 'government business' leadership in the House have left pending.

One reason could be the high stakes involved in the cases, igniting stakeholder anxiety that the cash would assist one side on the political chessboard.

Chaos needs to be prevented using a workable alternative dispute resolution format of impeccable standards.



Effective irrigation key to raising yields and ensuring food security across Africa

By **Tinashe Lindel Dirwai, Petra Schmitter and Barbra Muzata in Kigali**

AS the realities of climate change reshape agricultural landscapes across Africa, the importance of efficient water management and irrigation systems has never been more critical.

At the CGIAR Excellence in Agronomy (EiA) Initiative, we recognize that the future of African agriculture depends on our ability to adapt to these changes by co-developing and implementing context specific, regionally differentiated, and scale appropriate innovative irrigation and agricultural water management solutions that enhance both productivity and resilience.

Irrigation is far more than a technical solution; it is a lifeline for millions of farmers across the continent and it is critical for maintaining ecosystem integrity.

By optimising water use, effective irrigation systems have the potential to (1) double or even triple crop yields, (2) provide a vital buffer against the erratic weather patterns that increasingly threaten food security, and (3) mitigate against over abstraction of groundwater, thus ensuring its sustainability.

Key trends shaping the future of irrigation in African agriculture include context-specific irrigation technologies.

One: Modern and scale-appropriate irrigation and agricultural water management solutions are tailored to the unique conditions of various agro-ecological zones across Africa.

These technologies are designed to optimise water use in regions where scarcity is a constant challenge, ensuring that every drop counts. From drip irrigation to advanced scheduling systems, these technologies are making a tangible difference in the lives of smallholder farmers.

Two: Irrigation as climate adaptation. With the increasing unpredictability of rainfall patterns due to climate change, irrigation is emerging as a cornerstone of agricultural resilience.

By providing consistent water supply, irrigation systems help farmers stabilise their yields and reduce the risks associated with climate variability. This is particularly important in regions where rain-fed agriculture is

becoming less reliable.

Three: Collaborative policy development. The success of irrigation initiatives hinges on robust policy frameworks that support integrative and inclusive investments and innovations.

At EiA, we work closely with government bodies, research institutions and international partners to shape policies that foster sustainable irrigation practices.

The recent launch of the African Irrigation Policy Dialogue Series, in alignment with the 2024 Nairobi Declaration, is a prime example of these collaborative efforts.

Four: Capacity building and knowledge sharing. Equipping farmers with the knowledge and skills to effectively manage irrigation systems is essential for long-term success.

Through training programmes and extension services, EiA ensures that farmers are not only able to use these technologies but also understand how to maintain and adapt them to changing conditions. This approach ensures the sustainability and scalability of irrigation practices.

Integration with Broader Agricultural Systems: Irrigation does not exist in isolation. It is part of a larger agricultural ecosystem that includes soil health, crop selection and pest management.

By integrating irrigation with other agronomic practices, EiA helps farmers create more resilient and productive farming systems. This holistic approach is key to addressing the complex challenges posed by climate change.

Five: Real-world impact. The impact of effective irrigation on farmers' livelihoods cannot be overemphasized. From reducing crop failures to increasing income stability, irrigation provides farmers with a reliable means of navigating the challenges of a changing climate.

Real-world examples from across the continent demonstrate how these systems are transforming lives and ensuring food security.

The main message is clear: strengthening irrigation investments across Africa is essential for adapting to the yield instabilities brought on by climate change.

However, this requires more than just expanding irrigation infrastructure; rather, it demands reconfiguring and better designing existing irrigation schemes to achieve the desired outcomes.

Many current systems are outdated or inefficient and,

without significant improvements, the full potential of irrigation as an adaptation pathway will not be realised.

At EiA, we are deeply committed to advancing this agenda of driving the agricultural transformations needed to secure a resilient and food-secure future for Africa. Our work is closely linked to the climate resilience strategies that are vital for Africa's future.

Our work in irrigation is not just about deploying technologies; it is about empowering farmers with the tools and knowledge they need to thrive in the face of climate change.

By focusing on scalable, context-specific solutions, we are determined to make a lasting impact on African agriculture.

Through our new collaboration with the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Irrigation and Mechanisation Systems, we are spearheading efforts to redesign and optimise irrigation schemes across the continent.

This initiative, in partnership with leading research institutions such as the University of Nebraska in the US, is focused on delivering cutting-edge, context-specific irrigation and mechanisation solutions that can be scaled up to meet the needs of African farmers.

Ultimately, the path to resilient and productive agriculture in Africa lies in smarter irrigation investments.

By focusing on innovative designs and effective implementation, EiA is ensuring that irrigation becomes a powerful tool for climate adaptation, securing food systems, and boosting agricultural productivity for generations to come.

The CGIAR Excellence in Agronomy (EiA) Initiative was launched in 2020 to improve outcomes for smallholder farmers amidst climate change.

EiA is supported by the CGIAR Big Data Platform and will combine big data analytics, new sensing technologies, geospatial decision tools and farming systems research to come up with scalable agronomic innovations for agricultural development.

The initiative is not only responding to demand from the public and private sector but will also help increase efficiencies through stronger collaboration and cross-learning among CGIAR centres and within the broader agronomy research and development (R&D) ecosystem.

CGIAR, formerly the Consultative Group for International

Agricultural Research, is a global partnership that unites international organisations engaged in research about food security.

The thrust of CGIAR research is on reducing rural poverty, increasing food security, improving human health and nutrition, and enhancing sustainable management of natural resources.

CGIAR research is carried out at 15 centres in different parts of the world that collaborate with partners from national and regional research institutes, civil society organisations, academia, development organisations, and the private sector.

Funding is provided by national governments, multilateral funding and development agencies and leading private foundations.

Representatives of CGIAR Funders and developing countries meet as the CGIAR System Council to keep under review the strategy, mission, impact and continued relevancy of the CGIAR System in a rapidly changing landscape of agricultural research for development.

CGIAR works to help meet the global targets laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals with an emphasis on five areas of impact: Nutrition, Health, and Food Security; Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods, and Jobs; Gender Equality, Youth and Social Inclusion; Climate Adaptation and Mitigation; and Environmental Health and Biodiversity.

CGIAR's vision is a world with sustainable and resilient food, land and water systems that deliver diverse, healthy, safe, sufficient and affordable diets and ensure improved livelihoods and greater social equality, within planetary and regional environmental boundaries.

Its mission is to deliver science and innovation that advance transformation of food, land and water systems in a climate crisis.

Tinashe Lindel Dirwai is a regional researcher with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) - a non-profit international water management research organisation under the CGIAR with its headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and offices across Africa and Asia - and a key contributor to the EiA. Petra Schmitter is meanwhile a principal researcher in Climate Change Adaptation at IWMI, while Barbra Muzata is global communications leader at the EiA.

By Rachna Pande

THE tonsils are part of the immune system of the body, i.e. the system which helps fight against diseases in the body. Inflammation of the tonsils is known as tonsillitis. They are located in the throat—part of the pharynx in the throat and nose—where they serve as the first-line barrier against infectious and harmful agents entering the body.

Tonsillitis is primarily caused by bacterial or viral infections, resulting in painful and swollen tonsils, high fever, nasal congestion, cough, and possibly difficulty breathing.

This causes pain when swallowing and speaking, impairing food intake, and in severe cases, may also affect the swallowing of liquids.

The infection is mostly acquired by germs present in droplets in the atmosphere, brought about when another person expels them through coughing, sneezing, or talking. Infection of the ears or nose can also spread to the tonsils. Curettage of the throat done by indigenous healers is yet another source of infection to the tonsils. There can be acute onset of inflammation in the tonsils, which mostly subsides within five to seven days, more so in case of viral infections.

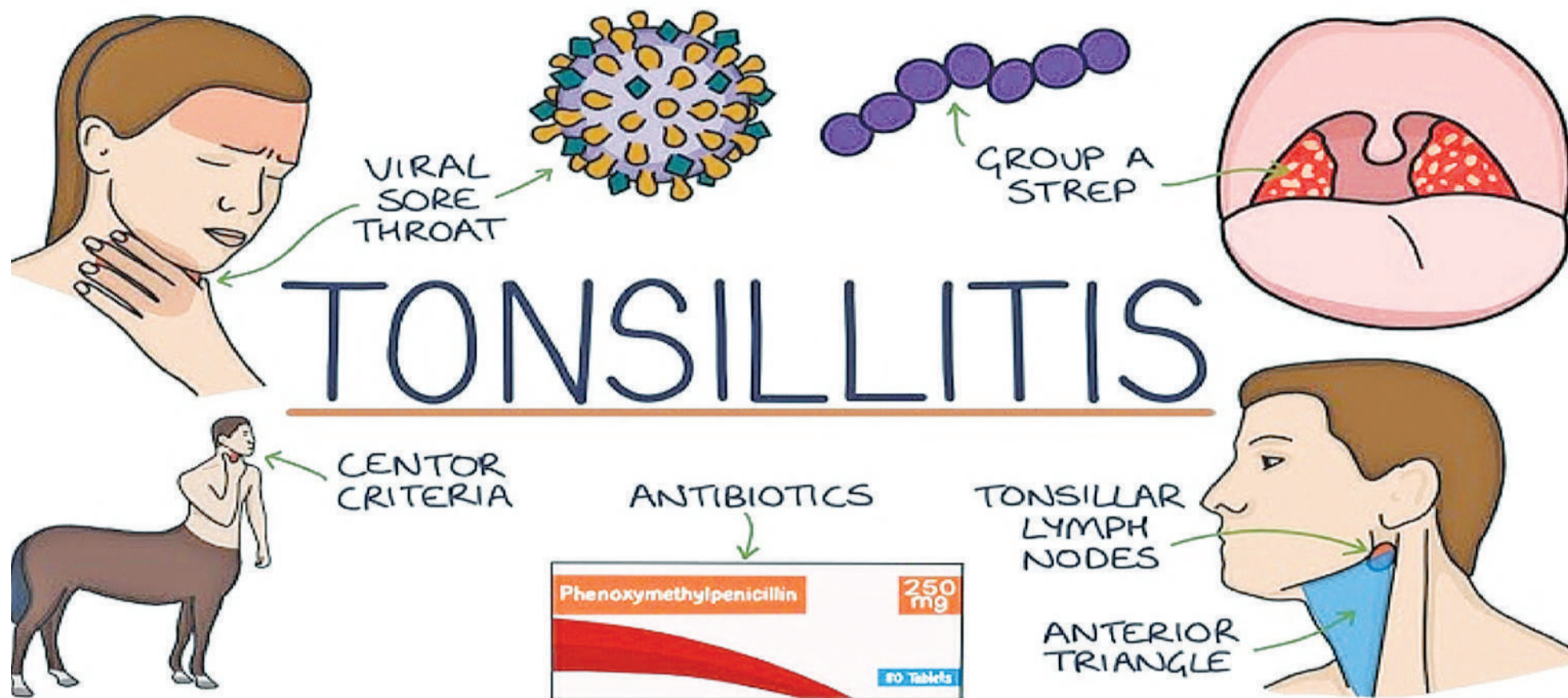
Some people have recurring infections, whereas some suffer from chronic tonsillitis, where the inflammation is chronically present, making the person suffer more.

An individual of any age or gender can suffer from acute or chronic tonsillitis. Persons with depressed immune systems like HIV-affected individuals, diabetics, etc. are more susceptible to developing chronic tonsillitis.

Tonsillitis is often mistakenly viewed as a benign, temporary condition, but untreated or severe cases can lead to serious complications. In case of recurrent or chronic tonsillitis, pockets of pus can form around the tonsils which become difficult to treat and also aggravate the problem. It can reach the ears causing chronic ear pain and discharge which can impair hearing.

Infection can spread via the blood-

The hidden dangers of tonsillitis: Why timely treatment is essential for health



Tonsillitis is primarily caused by bacterial or viral infections, resulting in painful and swollen tonsils, high fever, nasal congestion, cough, and possibly difficulty breathing.

stream to the body causing septicemia. It can also travel to the brain causing inflammation of the coverings of the brain or abscess in brain substance. This can manifest as severe headaches, convulsions, paralysis of limbs, etc. One may not suspect the tonsils as a source of infection thus delaying the treatment.

Tonsillitis caused by Group B-hemolytic *Streptococcus viridians* (a kind of bacteria), is known to cause Rheumatic fever which causes damage to the heart valves as a sequel. It

can also damage the kidneys and lead to renal failure.

It is wise to prevent tonsillitis, rather than suffering from it. One should avoid cold drinks or food, particularly if one is not sure if they are fresh and safe to take. Somebody with recurrent cough or cold due to allergy should try to control it with suitable measures, lest infection sets in and spreads to the tonsils.

People in rural areas should be educated about the risks of throat curettage performed by traditional practi-

tioners. By doing so, they are exposed to the risk of acquiring not only acute tonsillitis but also HIV and Hepatitis B and C infections.

Tonsillitis can be easily diagnosed by examining inflamed tonsils. Cultures and drug sensitivity tests can identify the causative bacteria and determine an effective antibiotic for treatment. Anti-inflammatory drugs are needed to reduce inflammation and pain. Along with drugs, drinking large quantities of warm liquids also helps in providing relief from tonsil-

litis. Hot saline gargles and or steam inhalation are other non-pharmaceutical measures used to soothe the aching throat in tonsillitis. Chronic or recurrent tonsillitis needs surgery for its correction. The formation of pockets of pus is yet another indication for surgery.

To remain healthy, one should be prudent enough to avoid problems like tonsillitis. Even if it occurs, it is wise to treat it timely to avoid complications.

Aluminium foil that can clean water: We've developed a coating which attracts and traps dangerous microbes

By Taufiq Ihsan

MORE than 2 billion people around the world do not have access to safe, uncontaminated drinking water. Around 418 million of them live in African countries.

The problem is most acute in rural communities, where people's primary water sources are rivers, lakes and hand-dug wells, which are often contaminated with harmful pathogens. This contamination is caused by inadequate sanitation facilities, open defecation practices, and agricultural runoff, and it has dire consequences.

Waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid and diarrhoea claim hundreds of thousands of African lives each year. Children are especially vulnerable to these diseases because of their developing immune systems. And the cycle of waterborne diseases not only affects health: it also perpetuates poverty, as sick children are unable to attend school and adults are unable to work, hindering economic progress.

The existing solutions for water treatment often fall short. Conventional methods, such as boiling or chlorination, can be time-consuming, require fuel or chemicals, and may alter the taste of water, making people less likely to take precautions.

Filtration systems, while proven to be effective, can be expensive and require regular maintenance. This makes them inaccessible to many rural communities.

The need for a simple, affordable and sustainable solution is clear. What if part of that solution is lying in your kitchen drawer right now, in the form of a roll of aluminium foil?

I am an environmental engineer. With my colleagues I have developed a foil coated with a special material called layered double hydroxide (LDH). This material acts like a magnet, attracting and trapping microbes. In laboratory tests we found the LDH foil remarkably efficient, removing over 99% of *E. coli* bacteria, a common indicator of



water contamination, from water samples within a few hours. We found that its efficacy also extends beyond *E. coli*, targeting a wide range of waterborne pathogens, including bacteria, viruses and parasites. This means that the LDH foil offers comprehensive protection against various diseases.

Our invention is not intended to be a standalone solution, and of course further testing will be needed, especially in the field. However, we believe it can become a valuable addition to existing water treatment practices. It can be used along with traditional methods like boiling or filtering, providing an additional layer of protection and ensuring comprehensive water safety.

How it works

This isn't a completely new idea; it was already known that layered double hydroxide could trap contaminants. Our innovation was making it into a simple, easy-to-use foil.

The LDH foil's magic lies in its ability to adsorb or capture harmful pathogens

from water. Imagine a sponge soaking up water - that's absorption, where one substance is taken into another. Adsorption, on the other hand, is like sticking magnets to a fridge; substances cling to the surface of another material.

The science behind this process is fascinating. The LDH surface is positively charged, while most microbes have a negative charge on their surface. This creates an electrostatic attraction, drawing the microbes towards the LDH foil like iron filings to a magnet. Other chemical and physical forces contribute to making pathogens bind to the LDH surface, ensuring their effective removal from the water.

We tested the LDH foil in a lab by adding bacteria to clean water and then dipping the foil in to see how many bacteria it could remove. It turns out the foil was really good at its job - it removed more than 99% of the bacteria within 3 to 24 hours, depending on the specific type of LDH foil used, as different formulations exhibited slightly varying adsorption

rates.

Advantages tailored for Africa

There are several reasons we believe that LDH foil is ideal for use in African countries.

The first is that it's simple and affordable. The production process is remarkably straightforward and inexpensive. We estimated the cost of producing LDH foil for one year's use is approximately US\$6.93 per person. This makes it suitable for local production even in remote areas with limited resources. It not only ensures accessibility but also empowers communities to take ownership of their water safety, fostering self-sufficiency and reducing reliance on external aid.

Secondly, it's easy to use. That's a key advantage in contexts where technical expertise and complex instructions might be barriers to adoption. Its simple design and operation make it accessible to everyone, regardless of their education level or background.

It is also reusable, which is important in resource-constrained environments.

After use, the foil can be regenerated multiple times by being re-immersed in simple alkaline solutions like sodium carbonate solution, commonly known as washing soda or soda ash, which is a readily available and inexpensive alkaline salt. This promotes sustainability and reduces the environmental impact associated with disposable water treatment solutions.

We've also taken cultural sensitivity and adaptability into account. The LDH foil's design and implementation can be adapted to fit the cultural context and specific needs of different African communities.

One practical example of this is the use of seawater as the alkaline solution in its production, particularly for coastal communities with easy access to this resource. This is primarily a matter of geography and what resources are available - but it also ties into cultural adaptability. Coastal communities often have a strong connection to the sea and its resources. Similarly, using fertilisers as a magnesium source (magnesium is a key component of the LDH foil's production) will resonate with agricultural communities where these materials are commonplace and familiar.

The road ahead: a collaborative journey

While the LDH foil holds immense promise, its widespread adoption will require a collaborative effort.

Further research and development are needed to optimise its performance, address any potential limitations, and ensure its long-term effectiveness in diverse African environments. We published our study in open access format using a Creative Commons licence (CC BY 4.0) to ensure that all our data is publicly available and that others are able to test the LDH foil in specific settings, replicate our findings, and build upon our existing research.

Field trials in various communities will be crucial to gather user feedback, assess its practicality, and identify any cultural or logistical considerations. Moreover, partnerships with local organisations, governments and NGOs will be essential for production, distribution and education on its proper use. The journey towards clean water for all is a shared responsibility. We believe that LDH foil represents a powerful tool in this endeavour.

By Orlando Milesi

Chilean wine industry migrates to the south due to climate change



The floral border created in the Trapi del Bueno vineyard, in the municipality of La Unión, is a strategy to biologically control pests in the vines. The two owners decided to establish their vineyard in southern Chile, accepting the challenges of climate and rainfall that come with it.

Climate change is affecting Chile with water shortages and rising temperatures, and among its many impacts, it has already forced both large and small wine producers to migrate south in search of better conditions for their vines.

The territory of this elongated South American country of 19.5 million inhabitants benefits from natural protection against pests that affect vineyards, being flanked by the Andes mountain range and the Pacific Ocean on its eastern and western borders, and by the Atacama Desert and Antarctic territory to the north and south respectively.

"We are a biogeographic island. Chile is full of natural barriers, so we don't have many pests. Not just any species manages to cross the borders and establish itself here," explained Olga Barbosa, Ph.D. in Ecology and academic at the private Universidad Austral de Valdivia.

This uniqueness enables a "sustainable viticulture that bets on quality rather than quantity," she added in a conversation with IPS from the city of Valdivia, located about 770 kilometers south of Santiago, the capital of the province of the same name and part of the southern Los Rios region.

"We have unique characteristics because we are naturally unique," Barbosa said, alternate director of the Institute of Ecology and Biodiversity, which has led numerous sustainability projects with vineyards for 15 years.

According to 2023 data, Chile is the fourth-largest wine exporter in the world, behind France, Italy, and Spain.

Large vineyards remain in the central regions of O'Higgins and Maule but are increasingly moving south, particularly to the BioBio region, although they are already experimenting with initiatives in even more southern regions.

Small-scale winemakers, on the other hand, are establishing themselves in the regions of Araucanía and Los Ríos, south of BioBio. They are even venturing into more southern places like Chiloé Island and the municipality of Coyhaique, in the Aysén region, the second southernmost in the country, just behind Magallanes.

Barbosa admitted that in the Valdivia province "it is very difficult to produce wine. The grapes grow well, of very high quality and at different times than in the central region, but there is a shortage of analysis laboratories."

"Most vineyards that can make wine do so with the best possible conditions in their cellars, but it is a gigantic challenge," she stated.

Two experiences in Valdivia Viviana Valdivia, an agronomist, works at the Rebellin small family vineyard, covering 3.5 hectares, located 15 kilometers from the city of Valdivia.

Rebellin started in 2019 and now produces 5,000 kilos of grapes that are turned into 2,200 liters of wine, vinified on-site. It has chardonnay, pinot noir, and pinot gris vines.

"We are from the south, and grapes have always been here, although on a small scale. The vineyard emerged seeking diversification and doing different things because the south was eternally relegated to potatoes, prairies, and berries," Valdivia explained from the family vineyard.

Rebellin opted for natural processes. It has manual harvesting, does not use chemicals to burn the grass, has geese that

help control it, and uses native floral plants to prevent insects.

"White wines fare better here. This is a very cold area in winter, but summers tend to be warm though not as hot as in the central region," the engineer said about the climate in Chile's southern seasons.

At Rebellin, the harvest is very limited to the first and second weeks of April. "We cannot harvest earlier because there is not enough sun, and later it rains, causing the grapes to become waterlogged," Valdivia specified.

Luis Moller has been developing the Trapi del Bueno vineyard, covering eight hectares, since 2010, located in the municipality of La Unión, also in the Los Ríos region and 922 kilometers south of Santiago.

"We produce 40,000 kilos with cool-climate vines. Only one red, pinot noir, and chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, and riesling," he detailed in a conversation with IPS from his vineyard.

"We come from the central region," Moller said about the decision he and his partner made to find a location for their winemaking venture in the south.

"The experience has been stimulating but not without problems. Along the way, we learned how the varieties behave. We have had to replant many times," he explained.

He added that the southern climatic conditions have helped. "We have more extreme characteristics in terms of maximum and minimum temperatures. Colder but also

warmer than in the Central Valley," he detailed.

He also mentioned that there are available water courses. And there is always rain, and the land resists because it is particularly permeable.

"We reproduce a typical characteristic of calcareous soils that give mineral quality to the wines, which is highly desired, sought after, and difficult to find," he emphasized.

Moller recalled that initially, they thought they wouldn't need to control low temperatures due to the slopes. "But we had very pronounced frosts during the budding periods (September-October) and had to adjust our project and invest in a frost control program," he explained.

He emphasized that, nevertheless, "we have a lot of sun, much light, and greater photosynthesis and grape ripening capacity."

Slow migration and good figures As temperatures and cold hours change, the quality of the terroir—the French term used in viticulture to refer to the set of factors involving soil, topography, and microclimate that influence vines and wine quality—is altered.

Thus, the migration of large vineyards south has been slow and is still concentrated in the BioBio region and its northern neighbor, Maule, while it has not yet approached Valdivia and the rest of the Los Ríos region.

In Maule, the average annual rainfall for 2023 was 740.6 millimeters,

while in Valdivia it reached 1,313 millimeters.

In Chile, a country where the first grapevines were brought by Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century and the first harvests occurred in the latter half of that century, there are currently 120,000 hectares of vineyards dedicated to winemaking, of which, beyond Mulchén in BioBio, there are only 200 so far.

If the negative effects of climate change intensify, large vineyards with financial capacity are expected to migrate further south. Small producers, on the other hand, have almost no capacity for relocation due to a lack of resources, being rooted in place, and having cultural ties.

The country became a major wine producer in the 1990s, and its total wine exports in 2023 reached 677.6 million liters, generating US \$1.514 billion. The main destinations were Brazil, China, and the United States.

In Chile, there are 11,697 wine producers and about 394 exporting companies, some with large foreign capital, although 76% are small and medium-sized enterprises.

Advantages and precautions for migration Barbosa notes that the expansion and search for new sites to deal with rising temperatures and lack of rainfall began with vineyards on the coast, even in the central region, due to the moderating effect of the sea on the climate.

"That same thing happens fur-

ther south," she added, before noting that migration continues and is not limited to the Los Ríos and Los Lagos regions, "because we have vineyards that are doing well in Chiloé and a little further north, in Araucanía."

This is possible because "innovation in winemaking methods has been ongoing." "Climate change has allowed exploration in other areas because the climatic conditions are good," she specified.

She asserts that the main conclusion after 15 years of Institute of Ecology and Biodiversity projects with vineyards is the need to protect surrounding ecosystems.

"If I move my lands and expand south, towards cooler climates, I have to consider what I have around me today, because that system won't be able to move south," she explained.

The Institute of Ecology and Biodiversity helps winemakers understand where the climate will be favorable in the context of climate change.

"But we always emphasize the importance of conserving biodiversity and maintaining native vegetation. If there isn't much, promote and restore native vegetation and avoid invasive exotic species," she noted.

"Where we have good wine is where nature helps and supports that agriculture," Barbosa emphasized. "We continue to verify the terroir. In the south, there are unique conditions that we need to conserve," she concluded.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

New agreement to provide special services for herders

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Livestock Keepers Association (CCWT) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) aimed at providing specialized and preferential financial services to livestock keepers and all stakeholders within the livestock value chain.

The MoU signing event was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday involving senior officials from both sides.

Mathayo Daniel, CCWT secretary said the arrival of these specialized services will greatly assist various stakeholders in the livestock sector to increase the efficiency and quality of their activities. "This step will significantly stimulate production and growth of personal and national economies," he said, applauding the bank for remembering the important group in the country.

He stated: "Through this preferential treatment we will receive from NBC, including loan services, financial education, and other services such as health insurance, we expect that our production pace will increase, while we also have the assurance of producing better quality products for the benefit of our customers and the community as a whole. We're very grateful to NBC, and now is the time for us to take advantage of this opportunity," he said.

Msafiri Shayo, bank's head strategic unit stated that this step is a continuation of the bank's efforts to grow and improve the value chain of farmers and livestock keepers in the country.

He noted that through empowerment measures, the bank aims to help the stakeholders conduct their activities in a more modernized manner, increase their incomes, and create employment, to grow their personal economies and that of the nation as a whole.



NBC Bank's head of strategic unit, Msafiri Shayo (2nd R) and CCWT secretary, Mathayo Daniel (2nd L), sign the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two institutions in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on include CCWT legal representative, Mathew Mtemi from (L) and NBC legal representative, Desmond Malyi (R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

"We're targeting to increase the production of food and nutrition derived from this crucial sector. Through our various financial services, including loans, we aim to enable the stakeholders in this sector to fulfill their responsibilities by enhancing their efficiency in their activities, including their businesses," he said.

According to Shayo, un-

der the agreement, livestock keepers who subscribe to the 'Mfugaji Account' service offered by the bank specifically for them will be able to benefit from various privileges. These include loans for the development of their activities and businesses, profit interest on savings exceeding 100,000/- per month, and the opening of accounts with no monthly maintenance fees.

He also said that livestock keepers will receive various insurance covers, including livestock and health insurance, free account statements, affordable cash withdrawal fees regardless of the amount, mobile banking services, and an NBC Visa card that will enable them to withdraw money from any ATM worldwide that accepts Visa cards or make online and point-of-

sale payments.

Raymond Urassa, bank's head of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) said it will spur the growth of the livestock sector in the country. Through the programme, the bank aims to empower livestock keepers by providing them with loans that will help them increase their production pace and the quality of their products.

"Through the loans that these livestock sector stakeholders will receive, they will be able to fatten their livestock further, increase milk production, afford the costs of quality animal feed, cover the medical expenses for their livestock and themselves, as well as improve various infrastructures related to their investments, including livestock dipping facilities," he mentioned.

Vulnerable Ethiopian women now know beautiful life with bamboo craftsmanship

ADDIS ABABA

NESTLED at the heart of the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, a small, yet bustling bamboo workshop buzzes with the sound of skilled hands and pieces of machinery as a group of six women collaborate to transform bamboo canes into an array of household products.

The Green Golden Bamboo workshop is quietly changing the fortunes of Fikirte Gebre, a mother of four, and her five other friends. Once grappling with the challenges of unemployment and uncertainty, these women were forced to pursue illegal migration into Middle Eastern countries, looking for better economic opportunities.

"For some time, my friends and I were sitting idly with our parents after returning from different Middle Eastern countries, where we used to work as housemaids," Gebre recalled, with a hint of wistfulness in her voice. Some 18 years ago, Gebre, along with her desperate fellows, left her home in Addis Ababa to the Middle East, eventually spending over 10 years as a housemaid in Syria and the United Arab Emirates.

After returning home some six years ago, Gebre and her migrant returnee friends had no other option but to stay with their desperate families and relatives before they embraced an unexpected chance that led them into a new life path -- bamboo processing.

Hearing about a government-sponsored training program on bamboo craftsmanship, they decided to take a chance, albeit having no prior experience or knowledge about it.

"If it weren't for our desperation, we would not have ventured into bamboo processing. People used to underestimate bamboo craftsmanship, viewing it as something limited to artisanal practices in rural areas," Gebre argued.

Despite Ethiopia's huge bamboo resources, the sector's great potential to enhance the country's socioeconomic and ecological development, however, remains underutilized and often limited to traditional processing and use. Traditionally, bamboo is used among rural communities for constructing fences, and agricultural utility products, as well



Fikirte Gebre displays finished bamboo products in the Green Golden Bamboo workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

as for fuel wood purposes.

The East African country has the largest bamboo resources in the African continent, with an estimated 1.47 million hectares of bamboo natural forest and the potential for increasing the resource base to over 3.5 million hectares, according to data from the Ethiopian Forestry Development.

ONE GOOD CHANCE AFTER ANOTHER

While they were practicing bamboo craftsmanship inside a government facility after receiving the four-month training, they were provided with another opportunity when Gebre and another group member were selected to participate in a two-month bamboo processing training in China, facilitated by the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR).

"The training we received in China was very helpful and crucial for us. It opened our eyes and perspectives on

the importance of bamboo, the different ways of bamboo craftsmanship, and how best we can embrace technology in making bamboo products," Gebre said.

Headquartered in China, INBAR is a 50-member intergovernmental development organization that promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan. Ethiopia, which has been an INBAR member since 2002 and hosts its East Africa regional office, has been benefiting from the organization's various initiatives over the years.

According to Biruk Kebede, acting director of INBAR's East Africa Regional Office, the organization has implemented over 15 integrated bamboo development projects in Ethiopia and other countries in the region. He highlighted the positive contribution of INBAR to the overall growth of the bamboo sector in Ethiopia and the region. In addition to small enterprises, industries have now started to produce industrial

bamboo products, such as furniture, parquet flooring, and more.

The training proved to be a revelation for the vibrant group of women, who became determined to harness their new expertise and techniques learned from China to transform bamboo into innovative products.

Powered with the knowledge and skills they gained in China, within a few weeks after they returned, they opened their first makeshift workshop by transforming a small plot of land in their neighborhood, which was previously a landfill area.

"Inside that small workshop, we were barely using our hands and accessories like knives and handsaws to cut the bamboo, while also manually painting our finished products by hand," Gebre recalled.

With the support from INBAR, they were eventually able to reconstruct the makeshift workshop into a proper one. The international organization also supported these women with much-

needed machinery and equipment.

"These pieces of machinery and equipment greatly helped us to transform our work from merely hand craftsmanship to applying modern technologies, which significantly improved our productivity while also ensuring the safety and sustainability of our work," she said.

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

One bamboo product at a time and a range of exquisite finished products eventually, the bamboo processing workshop has become an oasis of productivity and a beacon of empowerment to the resilient group of women as they weave a life of meaning with craftsmanship.

According to Gebre, their business has been steadily growing over the past five years. During major events and bazaars, products from Green Golden Bamboo can be sold at a price of over 200,000 birrs (around 1,800 U.S. dollars), a far cry from the price of 10,000 birrs to 20,000 birrs during the early days of their business.

"Before I started my bamboo business, I was living with my parents as a single mother. Over the past five years, I have been comfortably supporting my family of six. This positive change is also clearly evident in the lives of my fellow group members," Gebre declared.

The positive changes that they garnered over the course are not just professional, but personal as well. She argued that her engagement in the bamboo sector has not only made her economically productive but also helped her regain confidence and plan for her family's future.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE, EMPOWERING OTHERS

Gebre and her group members, who were once fortunate enough to join the bamboo sector, are now at the forefront of knowledge and skills transfer as they encourage other vulnerable community members to embark on the bamboo processing journey.

With the help of INBAR and concerned government institutions, the group members have been sharing the skills and expertise they acquired over the years with other Ethiopians and foreigners alike.

West African power shift: Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger form new alliance, disobey traditional regional bodies

By Adonis Byemelwa

Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, three Francophone West African countries under military rule, have made a dramatic geopolitical shift by establishing the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), a new confederation. Formed from the remnants of their previous regional alliances, this coalition marks a significant departure from traditional regional and international frameworks.

The AES was conceived on September 16, 2023, and officially launched on July 6, 2024. This new confederation arose from a mutual defense pact among the three nations, each of which has seen its pro-Western governments overthrown by military coups.

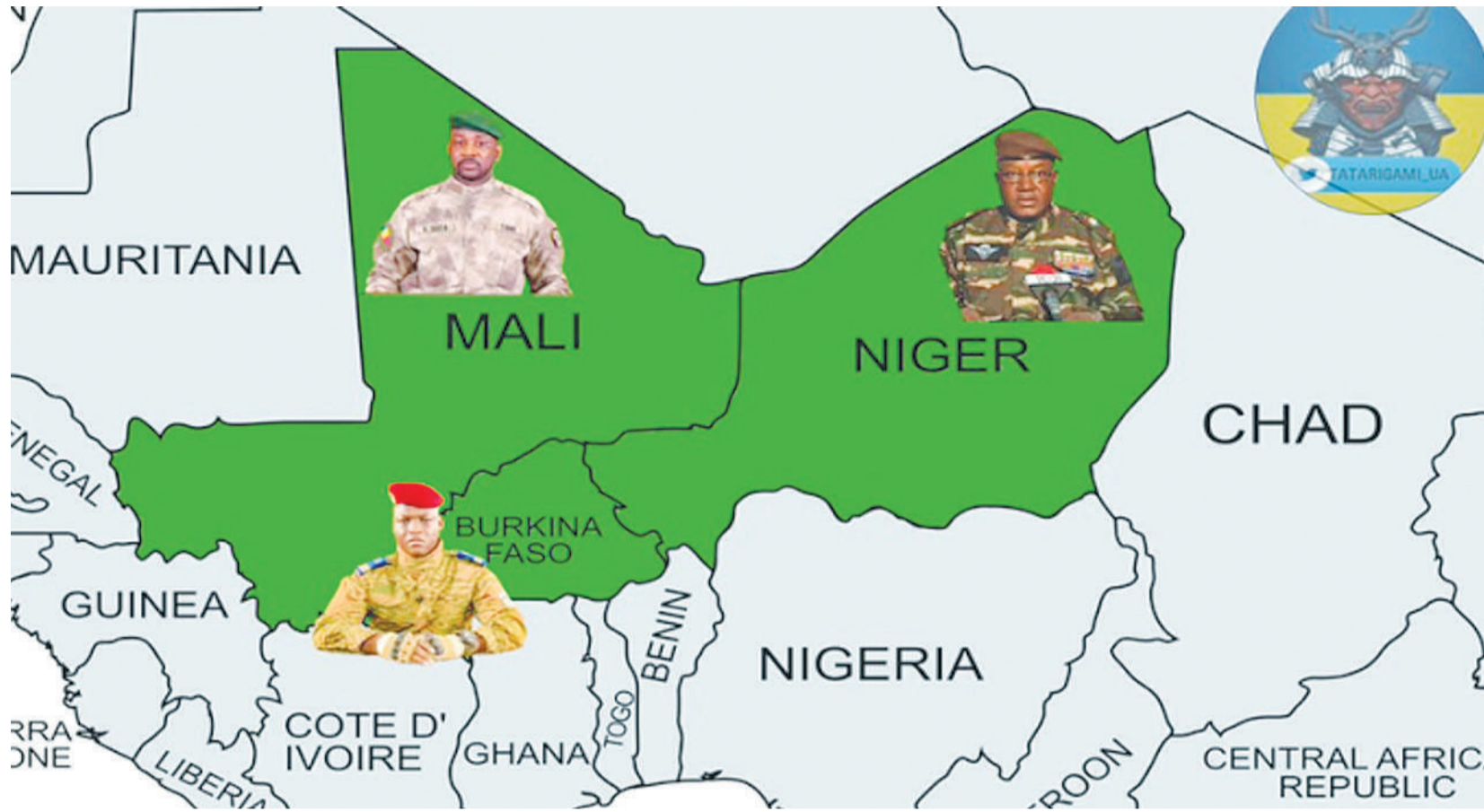
Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger have collectively exited both the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), highlighting their dissatisfaction with these bodies.

Historically, Mali withdrew from the G5 Sahel alliance in 2002, with Niger and Burkina Faso following suit in 2023. The dissolution of the G5 Sahel, once a key regional security framework, paved the way for the AES. The new alliance is notably anti-French and critical of ECOWAS, reflecting a broader sentiment of discontent with international influence and perceived ineffectiveness.

The AES was officially declared on July 6, 2024, in Niamey, Niger's capital. The inauguration was attended by President Ibrahim Traoré of Burkina Faso, Transitional President Assimi Goita of Mali, and President Abdourahamane Tchiani of Niger. This declaration was met with both excitement and skepticism across the continent.

The AES's creation is a response to several grievances. The member states argue that the AU and ECOWAS have failed to adequately support them in combating jihadist insurgencies. They also decry the sanctions imposed by these organizations, which they claim harm their populations and accuse ECOWAS of being unduly influenced by foreign powers, particularly France.

In addition to its critical stance on ex-



Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, February 2024, have committed to forming a confederation and called for urgent provisions to ensure the free movement of people and goods following their exit from ECOWAS.

ternal influences, the AES aims to enhance regional integration. The confederation's charter includes plans for a regional bank, a stabilization fund, and measures to attract foreign investment. The goal is to foster economic development and security within the member states while presenting an alternative to the existing regional frameworks.

The AES's Blueprint Document has been circulated widely, generating significant discussion. Critics argue that this move represents a threat to democracy and could signify an authoritarian consolidation of power. Conversely, supporters view it as a revolutionary step towards genuine self-determination and economic independence, marking a potential end to a legacy of colonialism.

The Alliance's formation has garnered varied international reactions. The United States and European nations have expressed concerns about the implications of this new bloc, particularly regarding its anti-Western stance and its potential to destabilize the re-

gion further.

Meanwhile, Russia has expressed support, aligning with its broader strategy of promoting "African solutions to African problems." Russian officials have praised the AES as a constructive regional security initiative and affirmed their commitment to supporting the alliance's goals.

In a related development, Mali's military leader Assimi Goita recently discussed the regional situation with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Putin emphasized the need for peaceful resolutions to enhance regional stability, a stance reflected in Russia's diplomatic support for the AES.

ECOWAS, already struggling with internal weaknesses and criticisms, faces a significant challenge as it contemplates the ramifications of the AES's creation. The regional bloc is attempting to bolster its capacity with a proposed standing regional force, but the financial and logistical implications of such an initiative are substantial. Critics argue that ECOWAS's ineffectiveness and perceived bias have contributed to the current crisis.

Professor Maurice Okoli from the Institute for African Studies and the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy

of Sciences, observes that the AES represents a critical realignment in West African politics.

He notes that the confederation's formation underscores the growing frustration with traditional regional institutions and highlights a shift towards a more autonomous regional security strategy.

Jenerali Ulimwengu, a renowned Tanzanian international relations expert and journalist, suggests that the AES could reshape the regional balance of power. He emphasizes that the new alliance's focus on self-reliance and resistance to external influence reflects a broader trend in African geopolitics.

The AES's impact on the West African Sahel, a region plagued by insecurity, poverty, and environmental challenges, remains uncertain. The confederation must navigate significant obstacles, including its landlocked geography and potential economic disruptions due to its withdrawal from the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), which uses the CFA franc.

The Sahel region, which includes Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, faces severe security issues exacerbated by terrorism and organized crime. Groups such as Boko Haram, Is-

lamic State, and al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) have intensified violence, contributing to a worsening humanitarian crisis. The AES's success will depend on its ability to address these challenges while fostering regional stability and development.

The ECOWAS bloc, which was established in 1975, has faced increasing scrutiny over its effectiveness and response to regional crises. The departure of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger has raised questions about the future of the organization and the broader implications for West African integration.

As the AES moves forward, it will need to demonstrate its ability to provide a viable alternative to existing regional frameworks. The confederation's success or failure could have far-reaching consequences for West Africa's geopolitical landscape and its approach to regional cooperation and development.

The emergence of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) has captured the attention of renowned African scholars in history and international politics. Professor Maurice Okoli, a distinguished fellow at the Institute for African Studies and the Institute of World Economy and International Relations,

Russian Academy of Sciences, offers insight into the significance of this development. According to Professor Okoli, the AES represents a pivotal shift in regional politics, reflecting a deeper dissatisfaction with traditional institutions like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU).

Similarly, Jenerali Ulimwengu, a respected Tanzanian international relations expert and journalist, views the AES as a bold attempt to redefine regional governance and security. Ulimwengu emphasizes that the formation of this new confederation underscores a critical moment in West African history, as countries seek greater autonomy and address longstanding security and economic issues.

Professor Adebayo Olu-koshi, a prominent academic in African politics and development, also highlights the implications of the AES. He suggests that the confederation's creation signals a broader trend of African nations reevaluating their relationships with international institutions and exploring alternative models for regional cooperation.

The perspectives of these scholars provide valuable context for understanding the AES's potential impact on West African politics and governance. Their analysis underscores the significance of this new confederation in shaping the future of the region and navigating complex geopolitical dynamics.

Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger are embarking on a significant experiment with the formation of the Alliance of Sahel States, drawing global attention. The outcome of this initiative could redefine regional alliances, impact global power dynamics, and set a new precedent for how African nations address internal and external pressures.

The coming months will be critical in determining whether the AES can turn its ambitious vision into enduring stability and prosperity, shaping the future of West Africa and potentially influencing the broader geopolitical landscape.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 168 -

ACROSS:
 1. very angry, furious
 6. Muscat is her mother city
 8. powered flying vehicle
 11. an enzyme which breaks down DNA into smaller molecules
 12. a small, flat, crisp unleavened cake
 13. not according with truth
 15. the length of time we exist
 16. topic
 18. Porridge in Russia and Poland
 19. opinions

DOWN:
 1. a wide way between places
 2. an event regarded as a portent of good or evil
 3. simple stories to illustrate morals
 4. the political union of Cyprus and Greece
 5. unit of measurement
 7. Centre
 9. former monetary unit of Spain
 10. make someone laugh or smile
 13. not genuine
 14. Military commander for Muslim
 17. the fifth month of the year

ORANGER **EGGAR**
RAGGA **MARANTA**
ETA **SONATA**
SAR **SHARES**
EG **BROTHER**
BOSS
HOE

Last puzzle Solutions
 C R I B O S P A
 H O M E S T A Y
 A M E N D E Y E
 N E I T H E R A
 N A N N O Y
 A E R O B E
 D P A M B A
 M I N E Y A W
 L N R E D I

M A T D A Y
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N O N A G O N
A W A Y M
C B E G A D
E L O U
S E N A T E

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

tel: 0789437309 / tel: xmasz@gmail.com

RADIO One **RAJIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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By Francis Kajubi

SPECIAL REPORT

HOW WATER, ELECTRICITY RATIONING HURTS CONCRETE BLOCKS DEALERS -5

INVESTORS in the concrete blocks manufacturing industry are counting losses attributed to regular water rationing and electricity outages.

Sedekia Falesi, Manager ADS Hardware and Vibrated Block at Skanska suburb in Dar es Salaam said that he pays between 250,000/- and 300,000/- a month on water bills.

"When there is water rationing I spend 90,000/- for three water containers of 1,000/- liters each on a daily basis. A huge amount of water is needed for preparation of mortar and watering bricks and pelvic stones," said Falesi.

According to him, operations are stalled during water rationing while the water he buys from private suppliers are used for watering the blocks in morning and evenings.

"I spend a maximum of 400,000/- a month when water rationing is high in the city alongside losing urgent blocks and pelvic stones orders from bulk buyers," said Falesi.

Speaking of electricity rationing, he said it normally takes between two to eight hours hence incurring him losses of mortar.

According to him, mortar should not be left for over 40 minutes unless cement loses quality of producing good blocks. When mortar gets dry it becomes useless.

"Sometimes power outages occur when mortar is ready for manufacturing the blocks. I sometimes incur a loss of up to 85,000/- in cement that has been mixed with sand due to power outages," he said.

He said that he pays an eighteen percent Value Added Tax (VAT) on whatever amount of vibrated blocks he sells and for that reason he deserves quality services from the government that will make the business flourish.

Falesi demands on quality government services resonate with Article 8 (1) (b) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania 1977 which highlights the primary responsibility of the government as being to safeguard the people's welfare.

However, Article 9 (d) of the same Constitution reads: "The state authority and all its agencies are obligated to direct their policies and programmes towards ensuring that the national economy is planned and promoted in a balanced and integrated manner."

Falesi asserted that he pays 357,14/- per unit of electricity as he pleaded to the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) to cut the price to at least 250/- per unit especially for vibrated block small-scale manufacturers.

Operating under a working capital worth 20mn/-, he spends almost 700 units of electricity a



John Nkindikwa (36) laying concrete blocks at Gewe Vibrated blocks in Matosa suburb of Dar es Salaam. Photo: Francis Kajubi.

month.

But Judith Kapinga, Energy Deputy Minister said that the price per electricity unit is set according to the costs incurred in production, transportation and distribution activities.

She said the current price is basically not the actual one because it has a government subsidy in it. The subsidy has made the average price of one unit of electricity to be 100/- for end users who consume less than 75 units a month.

Kapinga asserted that a customer who consumes more than 75 units a month pays 292/- per unit of electricity instead of 320/- because the government has also injected a subsidy in the said price.

"Regarding the issue of reducing the price of one unit of electricity, the ministry continues to evaluate the costs of providing services incurred by Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited and see the possibility of reducing them if proved that it does not affect operational costs," said Kapinga.

Selemani Athumani, Manager Ombeni Hardware Vibrated Blocks in Goba suburb of Dar es Salaam said that water rationing incurs small-scale blocks manufacturing an estimated 270,000/- a month on water for watering blocks and for manufacturing less than 200 blocks a day.

"Water rationing and electricity blackouts are a burden for small-scale vibrated block manufacturers," said Athumani.

Engineer Mkama Bwire, Acting Chief Executive Officer for Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) said water rationing has significantly been cut down by the authority.

He said as of now water cuts do not exceed six hours before the problem that had resulted to such cutting is being fixed and the service resumed to customers.

"As for block manufacturers the authority is considering to start supplying them water treated from sewage instead of supplying them treated water which should be used only for domestic consumptions," said Bwire.

Related concerns were raised by small-scale vibrated block manufacturers who spoke to this journalist in the towns of Dodoma, Kibaha and Morogoro.

In her response, Engineer Mwajuma Waziri, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water said that the government has invested in machinery capable of producing 590 million liters on a daily basis, but due to inefficiencies and poor control of water loss, the DAWASA currently produces only 320 million liter.

"The authority sells only 210 million liters on a daily basis with water losses standing at 110 million liters. This loss means the authority could potentially serve an average of six million residents of Dar es Salaam and the Coast region where DAWASA serves," said Engineer Waziri.

According to her, the 110 million liters lost water is equivalent to 34.37 percent of the current DAWASA's production.

In addressing the shortage of clean and safe water for all Tanzanians, the PS said that the ministry had in July 2022 launched the third phase of the Water Sector Development Programme (WSDP) which targets at strengthening institutions for integrated water resource management, increasing water supply, sanitation and hygiene services.

Engineer Waziri said the World Bank USD 352 million funded project has so far played a significant role in boosting investments in Tanzania's water sector, resource mobilization, and capacity building. The project will be implemented countrywide from 2019.

This journalist has established that unreliable access to water jeopardizes the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) which targets at ensuring easy access to clean safe water and sanitation for all.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) in its joint report with Oliver Wyman dubbed: 'Nature Positive: Role of the Cement and Concrete Sector' released September 2023 states that the concrete and cement sector accounts for nine percent of global industrial water withdrawals.

It states that 75 percent of concrete production by 2050 will occur in regions that are expected to experience water stress.

"In particular, water is used for

cooling equipment and exhaust gases, for wet-process kilns which can be almost replaced by more efficient dry-process technologies, for aggregate washing and for the manufacturing of concrete," reads the WEF report.

WEF asserts that while activities such as agriculture demand far more water, concrete production alone is responsible for nine percent of global industrial water withdrawal or 1.7 percent of total global water withdrawal.

"By prioritizing water management, emissions reductions, land stewardship, circularity and innovation, the sector can unlock USD44 billion in additional annual values by 2030," reads the report.

The Global Cement and Concrete Association's (GCCA) Sustainability Guidelines for the monitoring and reporting of water in cement manufacturing of November 2018 states that leading companies in the sector already acknowledge their natural footprint and have committed to act.

For example, in September 2021 Holcim launched its new nature strategy that commits the company to contribute to a nature-positive future, with measurable water and biodiversity targets.

It clarifies that as part of its water positive approach to production, Dalmia Cement conserved and harvested 14 times water as it consumed and recycled 31 percent of used water from 2022 to 2023.

The GCCA report states that top four drivers of nature loss in the value chain of the cement and concrete sector are water loss, land-use change and ecosystem disturbance, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

It is explained in the report that the sector withdraws water across its entire value chain. Quarries for sourcing raw materials upstream are usually connected to local freshwater supplies.

GCCA states that most water withdrawal occurs during the mid-stream production of clinker, cement and concrete.

One of the damages that cement can cause is the waterproofing of the soil, such as the loss of its capacity to infiltrate and retain water.

This can lead to problems of runoff, erosion, flooding, drought, desertification and contamination of surface and groundwater.

Cement consumes almost one-tenth of industrial water use, and 75 percent of this consumption occurs in regions suffering from drought.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) warns that the direct CO2 emissions intensity of cement production has broadly flat over the last five years, and is estimated to have increased slightly by one percent in 2022.

IEA states that in contrast, annual CO2 intensity declines of four percent through to 2030 are required for the sector to get on track with the Net-Zero Emissions by 2050 (NZE) Scenario.

"Reducing of the clinker-to-cement ratio through the uptake of clinker substitutes, continuous energy efficiency improvements, adoption of low-carbon fuels, material efficiency improvements, and deployment of innovative technologies, such as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), will play a significant role in achieving the goal," reads the IEA 2022 report.

It states that the production of one tonne of clinker generates about 0.9 tonnes of CO2, of which 60 percent comes from the calcination of limestone and 40 percent from the combustion of fuels.

Therefore, the production of one tonne of cement, which contains 65 percent clinker on average, generates about 0.6 tonnes of CO2.

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) is at the forefront of supporting the Paris Agreement goal of keeping global temperature rise well below 2°C, and aiming for 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels.

In realizing this goal, UNEP has developed the 'Sectoral Solution', a roadmap to reducing emissions across sectors in line with the Paris Agreement commitments and in pursuit of climate stability.

The six sectors identified are: energy; industry; agriculture and food; forests and land use; transport; and buildings and cities.

To be continued

Continental corruption: A growing challenge among African youths

JOHANNESBURG:

AN estimated 60 percent of African youths are looking to migrate in the next five years, with North America being the top destination of choice followed by Western Europe, where France, UK, Germany and Spain are the top destinations.

These findings are based on the 2024 edition of the African Youths Survey report, which indicated that despite young Africans having bounced back from the ravages of COVID 19, they aren't happy with the direction their governments are taking.

They are courageous to speak out and they are unequivocal about what the greatest threat to their futures is in the wake of devastating corruption.

The report highlights that corruption brainwash minds of youths in the rest of the continent. They believe that corruption

in their countries is robbing them of their birth right, the single greatest hurdle they face to achieve their own potential and achieve the better life that was denied their parents and their grandparents.

Most of all, they don't believe their governments are doing enough to address this scourge. The survey is the third edition of the unique biennial survey of African youths aged between 18 and 24.

For this edition, 5 604 youths were interviewed in 16 countries. Since its inception in 2020, researchers have gauged the sentiments of more than 14 000 respondents across Africa, collectively representing 84 percent of the continent - on a variety of different issues from their hopes and aspirations to their most pressing concerns.

"The youth want change. They want tougher sanctions against corrupt politicians, including banning them from stand-



ing for office. They also want a different form of government. The youth still believe in democracy (69 percent), but they are turning away from the western concept of democracy in favour of an African infused system (60 percent) that will deliver the results they desire," reads the report

More alarmingly, it states that nearly one in three believe that non-democratic sys-

tems, from the military or one-party rule, could be preferable under certain circumstances.

The youth also want jobs and if not jobs, then the opportunity to create their own. They are concerned about their countries being exploited by foreign companies especially their natural mineral wealth being mined and exported without any further benefit to the people from where those resources have been extracted.

From a global perspective, the report reveals that China continues to have the most positive perception among African youth, closely followed by the US, with Russia making significant strides since the previous survey in 2022.

Ivor Ichikowitz, who's Ichikowitz Family Foundation conceptualised and funds the survey said the survey continues to build on the promise it showed when it was

launched four years ago.

"As we move ever deeper into the epoch that was dubbed the African Century only 25 years ago, it is becoming clearer about what needs to be done to make this a reality by unlocking the potential that lies within Africa and properly, organically and sustainably harnessing it to the benefit not just of the people who live here, but to the whole world too," says industrialist and philanthropist, said Ichikowitz adding:

"Almost a third of the continent will go to the polls in 2024 it is vital to have an idea of what is going to happen - and to understand why when it does. In a continent like Africa, with the age of its population, the youth are a far more important factor than anywhere else on the globe. How the rest of the world will respond to the voices of Africa's youth will shape the future of the planet."

NEW GLOBAL TAX ORDER COULD BENEFIT AFRICA

KIGALI

Africa's efforts in mobilising more domestic revenue for the many development needs the continent has could soon be enhanced as the change of the global taxation system starts to take shape.

A new convention that was tabled before the United Nations last month offers an opportunity to change the global tax system by ensuring fair and equitable taxation of multinational enterprises, the digital economy, cross-border services and tackling illicit financial flows and profit shifting.

This is another step towards the reshaping of global financial architecture that African leaders have continuously claimed to be unfair, especially for the global south.

According to the Economic Development in Africa Report by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Africa loses about \$88.6 billion, 3.7 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) annually in illicit financial flows, as of 2020.

Member states of the UN in August adopted the Ad Hoc Committee's Draft Terms of Reference for a United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation.

A total of 110 member states



A view of Dar es Salaam port, the main gateway of the East African region.

voted in favour of the new treaty, with at least 44 abstentions and eight nations voting against it (Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom and the United States).

The instrument will be presented at the 79th session of UN General Assembly slated for September 10 to 28.

The global tax convention aims to ensure that large multinationals pay their fair share of

taxes, regardless of where they operate, and is expected to generate significant additional tax revenues for many countries, especially developing economies.

Multinational corporations are allegedly involved in the illegal transfer of funds outside the continent through abusive transfer pricing, tax evasion, and trade misinvoicing, among others.

"For me, any company working in Africa, using Africa's re-

sources must pay taxes in Africa. It's not a free world. We need resources to be able to develop," said Akinwumi Adesina, the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) during the bank's annual meeting in May.

What an inclusive, effective tax system looks like for Africa

According to experts, more inclusive and effective international tax cooperation is critical in enabling countries to respond to existing tax-related challenges,

from digitalisation to global operations of large multinational enterprises, as well as to mobilise domestic resources and use tax policy for sustainable development.

In addition, the framework convention should include commitments to achieve its objectives, from equitable taxation of multinational companies to addressing tax evasion and avoidance by high-net worth individuals, ensuring their effective

taxation in relevant member states.

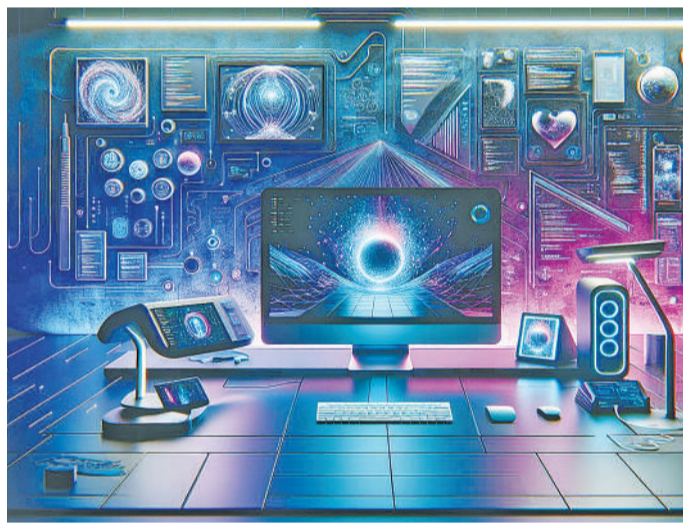
This is because the scale of undeclared expatriated profits and overseas assets, and thus the income tax lost to developing countries, are large relative to other forms of innovative development finance.

"Only an international tax system that is fully inclusive will be legitimate and effective. The livelihoods and future of billions of people depend on governments being able to finance basic infrastructure, education, health services and climate action," said Junhua Li, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development.

Effective income and wealth taxation is a central development cooperation issue because taxation of foreign companies and their own residents' overseas assets remain problematic for developing countries.

The international cooperation involves information exchange between jurisdictions to allow the full application of existing tax codes. This expanded global tax base would be a more sustainable and equitable system than the traditional donor-recipient relationship.

African countries have successfully secured a platform at the United Nations to discuss global tax regulations on an equal footing, a development that is expected to empower them to tackle critical issues such as tax evasion, illicit financial flows, and harmful tax competition.



Technology giant now pursues legal action despite yacht tragedy

WASHINGTON

United States-based technology company Hewlett Packard Enterprises, also known as HPE, has confirmed it plans to continue legal action against the estate of British entrepreneur Mike Lynch, despite his death in a yachting accident last month.

Lynch, his 18-year-old daughter, and five others died after his boat, the Bayesian, went down in freak nighttime weather conditions off the coast of Sicily.

Investigations remain at an early stage, but local prosecutors have said that potentially, charges including manslaughter could be brought.

In June, Lynch, who was a scientific advisor to former United Kingdom prime minister David Cameron and who was described as "a titanic figure in the British tech industry" and an artificial intelligence pioneer, was cleared of fraud charges over the \$11 billion sale of his software company Autonomy to HPE in 2011.

Reuters reported that shortly after the purchase was completed, a major internal accounting scandal was uncovered, and in 2022, HPE won a civil case against Lynch related to it.

When Lynch was cleared of the charges in June, he said: "I am elated with today's verdict and grateful to the jury for their attention to the facts over the last 10 weeks."

"I am looking forward to returning to the United Kingdom and getting back to what I love most: my family and innovating in my field."

HPE has declined to discuss its plans in detail, other than to issue a statement saying: "In 2022, an English high court judge ruled that HPE had substantially succeeded in its civil fraud claims against Dr Lynch and Mr (former company finance chief Sushovan) Hussain."

"A damages hearing was held in February 2024 and the judge's decision regarding damages due to HPE will arrive in due course. It is HPE's intention to follow the proceedings through to their conclusion."

It is understood Lynch's yachting trip was a thank you to friends who had stood by him during the trial, with some of them believed to have been on board when the yacht went down.

Chris Morvillo, a lawyer at Clifford Chance, the firm that represented Lynch in his trial, was among the dead, as was his wife Neda Morvillo, and another senior partner from the company was rescued as the boat sank.

Representative minority caucus condemn rapid petrol price hike

LAGOS

THE Minority Caucus of the House of Representatives has strongly condemned the recent announcement by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to increase the price of petrol.

In a statement signed by the Leader of the caucus, Rep. Kingsley Chinda, the caucus described the move as "ill-timed" and "grossly insensitive" to the current economic challenges faced by Nigerians.

The caucus argued that the price increase would exacerbate the suffering of the average Nigerian, leading to higher transportation costs, food prices, and other essential goods and services.

They also expressed concern that the decision was made without adequate consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the National Assembly.

The Minority Caucus urged the Federal Government to intervene and reverse the price increase, and to explore more sustainable measures to stabilize the economy.

They suggested prioritizing the rehabilitation and upgrading of local refineries, curbing corruption in the petroleum sector, and ensuring that subsidies benefit the masses.

The caucus vowed to continue advocating for policies that prioritize the welfare and well-being of all citizens.

The statement reads "At a time when the nation is grappling with unprecedented economic challenges, including rising inflation, unemployment, and the depreciating value of



the Naira, any further increase in the price of petrol will only exacerbate the suffering of the average Nigerian.

"The ripple effects of such an increase are far-reaching, impacting the cost of transportation, food, and other essential goods and services. This will ultimately erode the already fragile purchasing power of millions of our citizens, pushing more families into poverty."

"The Minority Caucus is deeply concerned that this decision by the NNPC appears to have been made without adequate consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the National Assembly, which represents the interests of the people. This unilateral action disregards the principles of

transparency, accountability, and fairness, which should guide decisions affecting the lives of the citizenry. The current dire economic conditions, characterized by rising unemployment, soaring inflation, and widening inequality, have placed immense pressure on the livelihoods of citizens.

"These hardships have understandably triggered widespread protests, as people demand relief and accountability from those in power. The resulting unrest and chaos serve as stark reminders that economic instability can quickly escalate into broader social and political instability. While it is crucial for all stakeholders, including government, businesses, and civil society, to work collaboratively to ad-

dress these economic challenges and restore stability, before the situation deteriorates further, Tinubu's government should as a matter of urgency address the connection between dire economic conditions and social unrest rather than create conditions that exacerbate the already dire economic conditions. Not doing so merely provides filips to the army of youths who are jobless to return to occupy the streets and unleash violence on our country.

"This government must learn lessons from destructive effects of the national protests against bad governance, triggered by depressing and ex-cruciating economic conditions.

"We, therefore, call on the Federal Government to urgently intervene and reverse this unwarranted increase in petrol prices. We also urge the government to explore and implement more sustainable measures to stabilize the economy without placing an additional burden on the people.

"This includes prioritizing the rehabilitation and upgrading of our local refineries, curbing corruption within the petroleum sector, and ensuring that subsidies genuinely benefit the masses rather than a few privileged individuals.

"The Minority Caucus stands with the Nigerian people in rejecting this petrol price hike and will continue to advocate for policies that prioritize the welfare and well-being of all citizens. We urge the government to listen to the voice of the people and take immediate steps to alleviate their suffering, rather than aggravate it.

Firefighting craft to aid in emergencies

SHAANXI

China has begun deploying large firefighting aircraft, giving fresh hardware to its emergency response and rescue system.

According to the Aviation Industry Corp of China, the nation's dominant aircraft manufacturer, two firefighting variants of the MA-60 jetliner were delivered recently to the Ministry of Emergency Management in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi province.

The State-owned industry conglomerate said in a statement that the de-

livery marked the end of the absence of a Chinese large firefighting aircraft.

The new model, it added, will effectively boost the development of the country's aerial emergency response and rescue capability.

Designed and built by Xi'an Aircraft Industry, a subsidiary of AVIC, the MA-60 firefighting variant is capable of carrying 6 metric tons of water, or 28 people, each trip.

In addition to extinguishing fire, the plane can also perform command and control, communications relay, personnel deployment and cargo trans-

port in emergency response tasks, according to its designers.

Design work of the MA-60 firefighting model started in June 2021 and took two years. It conducted its maiden flight in Xi'an in July 2023.

Its baseline model, the MA-60, is a turboprop-powered airliner that has been in service in several countries including China, Laos, Zambia and Sri Lanka since the early 2000s.

The new model of MA-60 is currently the only fixed-wing plane in China that can suppress fire, and will soon be joined by a larger partner,

the AG600M, which is the fire-extinguishing variant of China's AG600 seaplane.

So far, four AG600M prototypes have been used in test flights and have carried out trial fire-extinguishing operations in typical blaze scenarios.

Project managers plan to gain the model's type certification this year.

After receiving type certification, civilian aircraft also need to gain production certification and airworthiness certification to make way for delivery.

CONSTRUCTION

NEW YORK

The property sector's influence is being scrutinized due to rising sustainability concerns and increased scrutiny over different sectors' contributions to climate change.

The property industry is reevaluating the current state of affairs by using a sustainability perspective. As the biggest asset class in the world, it is expected to have a market value of over \$338 trillion by 2022.

These days, sustainability issues impact every link in the property value chain, including regulators, developers, designers, managers, and renters.

At present, the real estate industry is responsible for 43 percent of the world's carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions; building activities make up around 70 percent and construction the remaining 30 percent.

Due to their growing awareness of the potential value and profitability of properties managed with a focus on sustainability, investors are placing a higher priority on sustainable practices.

Sixty-three percent of these investors are looking into the use of IoT and building sensors, and sixty-two percent are looking at automated energy management and sustainability reporting.

Thanks to innovative approaches in material sciences, 3D printing, water management, and energy efficiency, the real estate industry is seeing a strong movement toward sustainability.

SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES IN REAL ESTATE SECTOR: KEY INNOVATIONS

The potential for a net-zero paradigm change in real estate construction is substantial, since it represents the third-largest contributor to CO₂ emissions. This might lead to climate-conscious designs that improve efficiency and affordability.

A paradigm change in property design is being made possible by the increased worldwide emphasis on material science, which is giving sustainability and structural integrity priority. The effects of new materials on the environment, their affordability, and their sustainable practices are what are driving this change.

Climate-responsive smart glass and self-healing concrete are two examples of smart materials that lower emissions and capital costs throughout the course of a building's life cycle. The latter material regulates opacity to manage light and heat.

8 percent of the world's CO₂ emissions come from conventional cement, which has a significant carbon impact. Innovative companies like US-based Biomason and Partanna are tackling this issue.

While Partanna employs recycled resources like brine and slag to manufacture concrete without the high energy and emissions of



typical concrete production. Biomason uses biological production platforms to generate concrete materials by combining aggregates with bacteria, nutrients, calcium, and carbon sources.

In the region, plastic trash is being used by firms such as TileGreen in Egypt to produce concrete substitutes that are carbon neutral. Using sustainable materials may lower the cost of real estate, particularly in areas like Sub-Saharan Africa where green buildings can save 16 percent on operating costs over the long run while requiring a 2 percent higher initial investment.

With the support of Lafarge Holcim, Switzerland-based 14Trees is building schools and homes in Malawi and Kenya using 3D printing in record time—less than 18 hours—and selling them for a reasonable \$27,000. At every stage of the project, 14Trees seeks to further reduce building expenses.

Significant advancements in 3D printing and additive manufacturing have resulted from developments in the material sciences. These techniques provide realistic cost and efficiency advantages by facilitating effective prototyping, meticulous scale modeling, and

design visualization.

Even though they start off expensive, products produced by additive manufacturing may use up to 90 percent fewer raw resources, and as new materials become accessible, they should become more reasonably priced.

3D printed products work as concrete models that promote better communication and collaboration throughout the design and building phases.

By moving production closer to the end user, additive manufacturing improves security and reliability, reduces waste and delays during the design process, and simplifies supply chains.

In the real estate industry, the move towards sustainability is not only a reaction to environmental issues; rather, it is a holistic plan to improve productivity, affordability, and profitability.

By effectively replacing components in heavy equipment, regional players like Immensa—which is now pioneering additive manufacturing within the energy sector—can also take use of their knowledge and technological prowess to optimize the construction process.

In a similar vein, Innotech, an Omani company, provides 3D

manufacturing and prototype services for a range of industries, including engineering and design.

Beyond process optimization, US-based Mighty Buildings and other regional investors, including Saudi Aramco's Wa'ed Ventures and Khosla Ventures, use 3D printing technology and eco-friendly materials to produce prefabricated, low-emission buildings.

These structures come in a range of components, such as steel frames, panels, and insulation, and they provide flexible on-site assembly choices.

Beyond material selections, building amenities and central HVAC systems are clearly moving in the direction of sustainability. Energy-efficient lighting and other technologies are being integrated from the very beginning of the value chain.

The need of integrating sustainability into decision-making processes is emphasized by programs like the Africa Green Building Finance Initiative, Saudi Arabia's developing national building regulations, and the UAE's Al Sa'fat and Pearl grading systems.

Regional firms are launching extensive energy management networks, such as Taka Solutions, located in the United Arab Emirates. The company's Cooling-as-a-Service (CaaS) concept lowers chiller costs for all facilities, and creative financing options for new construction or retrofit projects contribute to energy efficiency.

The portfolio of Taka Solutions has saved 100,000 MWh and assisted customers in saving over \$12 million on energy costs, demonstrating how sustainability is compatible with both financial gains and environmental objectives.

LOS ANGELES

Ensuring visibility and safety in warehousing and manufacturing facilities is paramount to maintaining operational efficiency and protecting workers. These industrial environments are often fraught with challenges such as dust, water, and chemical exposure, which can complicate the maintenance of clear pathways, egresses, and adequate lighting.

Facility managers and safety officers must navigate these obstacles to create a secure and efficient workplace. This blog will explore these challenges and discuss the advantages of using explosion-proof light fixtures to improve visibility and safety in such harsh conditions.

The Challenges of Maintaining Safe Pathways and Egresses

In warehousing and manufacturing facilities, ensuring that pathways and egresses are safe and unobstructed is critical. These pathways serve as lifelines for workers, facilitating smooth operations and quick, safe exits in case of emergencies. However, several challenges can impede this objective:

Dust Accumulation: Industrial processes often generate significant amounts of dust, which can settle on pathways, making them slippery and hazardous. Dust can also obscure signage and egress points, hindering quick evacuation during emergencies.

Improving safety in warehouses, various manufacturing facilities



Water and Chemical Spills: In many industrial environments, the use of water and chemicals is unavoidable. Spills are common and can create slippery surfaces that pose a high risk of slips and falls. Additionally, chemical spills can introduce toxic hazards, necessitating prompt and safe clean-up procedures.

Poor Lighting: Adequate lighting is crucial for visibility and safety, yet many industrial facilities struggle with this. Traditional lighting

solutions may not withstand the harsh conditions present in these environments, leading to frequent maintenance and replacement. Consider options like dust proof light fixtures to ensure consistent and effective illumination.

The Importance of Proper Lighting

Effective lighting in industrial settings is not merely a matter of convenience—it is a critical component of workplace safety. Proper lighting ensures that workers

can see hazards, navigate safely, and perform their tasks efficiently. The key considerations for lighting in these environments include:

Durability: Lighting fixtures must withstand harsh conditions, including exposure to dust, water, and chemicals.

Energy Efficiency: Given the extensive operational hours of industrial facilities, energy-efficient lighting can result in significant cost savings.

Maintenance Requirements:

Frequent maintenance can disrupt operations and increase costs. Therefore, lighting solutions should be low-maintenance and long-lasting.

Explosion-Proof Light Fixtures: A Safe Lighting Solution

In environments where there is a risk of explosions due to the presence of flammable gases, vapors, or dust, explosion-proof light fixtures are essential. These fixtures are designed to contain any sparks or flames that could ignite the hazardous materials present in the environment, thereby preventing explosions. The benefits of explosion-proof light fixtures include:

Safety in Hazardous Locations: Explosion-proof lights are constructed to prevent ignition of the surrounding atmosphere. This is achieved through robust design and materials that can withstand harsh industrial conditions, ensuring the safety of workers in high-risk areas.

Durability and Reliability: These lights are built to be exceptionally durable, capable of withstanding

extreme conditions such as heavy dust, moisture, and corrosive chemicals. This durability reduces the need for frequent replacements and maintenance, which is especially important in hazardous locations.

Energy Efficiency: Modern explosion-proof lights, especially LED models, offer significant energy savings compared to traditional lighting solutions. They provide bright, consistent illumination while consuming less power, leading to lower operational costs.

Improved Visibility: By providing clear and consistent lighting, explosion-proof fixtures help improve visibility in industrial settings. This reduces the risk of accidents and enhances the efficiency of operations.

Compare & Contrast: Real-Life Examples Unsafe Industrial Workplace

Consider a large chemical manufacturing plant that failed to address critical safety issues. The facility had inadequate lighting, with old, inefficient fixtures that often flickered or went out completely. Pathways were poorly marked, and spills were common due to a lack of proper containment measures. The accumulation of dust and exposure to hazardous chemicals further exacerbated the situation.

Newly revamped roof-fast cap, base unveiled

WASHINGTON

IKO, a worldwide leader in the roofing, waterproofing and insulation industries for residential and commercial markets, announced the newly revamped Roof-Fast™ Cap and Base for the U.S. and Canadian markets. The Low-Slope Roofing Components have been redesigned with direct feedback from IKO's valued customers.

"At IKO, we are committed to delivering products that truly meet the needs of our diverse customer base," said Vince Carrier, residential product development manager at IKO North America. "The improvements made to Roof-Fast™ Cap and Base reflect our dedication to innovation, product quality and the installer's valued input. By incorporating feedback and expanding our product's accessibility with multilingual support, we aim to

provide a solution that resonates with both residential as well as commercial applications across North America."

Integrating user preferences, Roof-Fast™ Cap and Base now come in full squares instead of short square rolls, aligning with how roofers measure and estimate materials for easier calculations and application. Additionally, the product now comes wrapped in a band instead of a box or bag, reducing packaging waste and simplifying handling. To further cater to IKO's diverse customer base, Roof-Fast™ Cap and Base now include multilingual instructions in six languages – English, French, Spanish, Punjabi, Chinese (Simplified) and Polish. This ensures that users receive clear and easily comprehensible instructions in the language they are most comfortable with.

Low-slope roofs present unique



challenges, but IKO Roof-Fast™ Low-Slope Roofing Components are engineered to address these effectively. When paired together, Roof-Fast™ Cap and Base create a

robust, multilayer roofing system that helps ensure optimal leak protection and durability. This makes them an excellent choice for both new constructions and

renovations of low-slope roofs, especially in climates prone to prolonged, wind-driven rain or ice dams. Ideal for both residential and commercial applications,

Roof-Fast™ provides the reliability needed to handle various roofing conditions.

IKO Roof-Fast™ Base is constructed of a durable, reinforcing mat of nonwoven glass fibers that have been coated and permeated with polymer-modified asphalt. It's a self-adhesive product that features the flexibility of either a self-adhered installation method that can easily be cold-applied, or an optional mechanical installation method.

IKO Roof-Fast™ Cap is a self-adhered, polymer-modified cap sheet constructed of a durable, reinforcing mat of nonwoven glass fibers that have been coated and permeated before applying mineral surface. Available in a range of attractive colors, including White, Dual Brown, Slate Grey, Driftwood and Black, it can be used alone or in combination with Roof-Fast™ Base.

WORLD

China to implement 10 partnership action plans with Africa, says President Xi Jinping

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said yesterday that China stands ready to work with Africa to implement 10 partnership action plans in the next three years to jointly advance modernization.

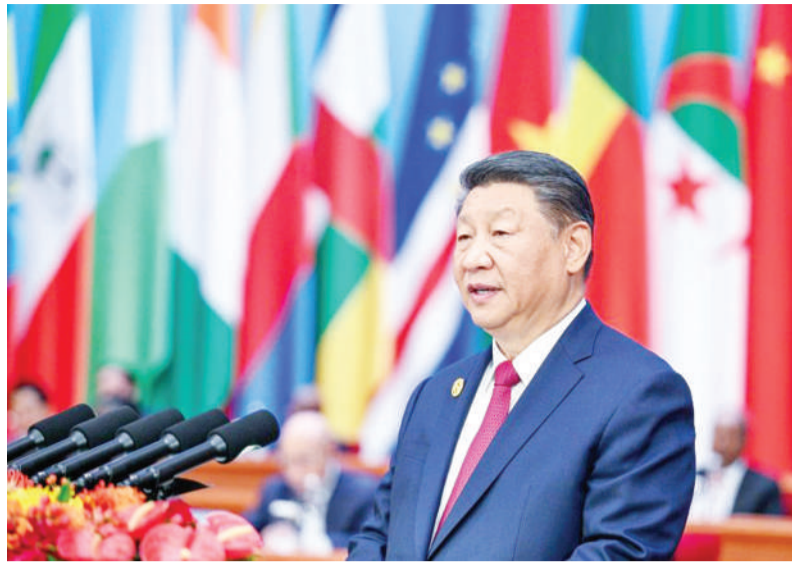
One-third of the world's population lives in China and Africa. There will be no global modernization without the modernization of China and Africa, he said in a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in the Chinese capital, Beijing.

The 10 partnership action plans will

cover the areas of mutual learning among civilizations, trade prosperity, industrial chain cooperation, connectivity, development cooperation, health, agriculture and livelihood, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, green development, and common security, he said.

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

He also proposed that bilateral relations between China and all African countries having diplomatic ties with China be elevated to the level of strategic relations.



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech while attending the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. Xinhua

Thanks to nearly 70 years of tireless efforts from both sides, the China-Africa relationship is now at its best in history, Xi said.

He said a joint pursuit of modernization by China and Africa will set off a wave of modernization in the Global South and open a new chapter for building a community with a shared future for humanity.

Xi stressed jointly advancing modernization that is just and eq-

uitable, is open and win-win, puts the people first, features diversity and inclusiveness, is eco-friendly, and is underpinned by peace and security.

Prior to the FOCAC opening ceremony, the Chinese president and foreign leaders gathered for group photos at the Great Hall of the People.

Xinhua

PM Modi calls India-Singapore ministerial roundtable 'path-breaking mechanism'

SINGAPORE

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi has said that Singapore is not just a partner nation but an inspiration for every developing nation. He called the roundtable formed between India and Singapore a "path-breaking" mechanism.

In his opening remarks at the meeting with his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong, PM Modi stated, "I thank you for your warm welcome. This is our first meeting after you assumed the post of Prime Minister. Many congratulations to you from my side. I am confident that under the leadership of 4G, Singapore will progress even faster."

"Singapore is not just a partner country, Singapore is an inspiration for every developing country. We also want to create many Singapores in India and I am happy that we are working together in this direction. The ministerial roundtable that has been formed between us is a path-breaking mechanism," he added.

PM Modi noted that cooperation between two nations in various sectors, including digitalisation, advanced manufacturing and cyber security, has become an identity of India-Singapore ministerial roundtable.

PM Modi said, "Cooperation in the fields of skilling, digitalisation, mobility, advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, AI, healthcare, sustainability and cybersecurity has become an identity of this initiative."

External Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Secretary East, Ministry of External Affairs, Jaideep Mazumdar, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal and other officials were present in the meeting.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi received the ceremonial welcome at Singapore's Parliament House on Thursday.

Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong welcomed PM Modi and the two leaders warmly greeted each other. He signed the visitors book at the Parliament House.

PM Modi and Lawrence Wong met ministers and delegates from each other's countries.

PM Modi, who reached Singapore on Wednesday, is slated to hold numerous engagements in the city-state on Thursday as well. This visit is poised to further bolster the bilateral ties between India and Singapore.

During the day, PM Modi will visit AEM Holdings Ltd's semiconductor facility with Singapore's Prime Minister, after a lunch hosted by Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

He will also meet with Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. Following a business meeting with CEOs, PM Modi will return to New Delhi.

PM Modi met his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong on Wednesday. He expressed his happiness at meeting Lawrence Wong.

Sharing a post on X, PM Modi stated, "Happy to have met my friend, PM Lawrence



Prime Minister Narendra Modi (L) meets Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, in Singapore yesterday. ANI

Wong. Had an excellent discussion on a wide range of issues. India cherishes the friendship with Singapore."

Wong also shared a picture of their meeting on X and welcomed PM Modi for dinner at Istana, the official residence and office of the president of Singapore.

In a post on X, he stated, "Welcome PM Narendra Modi to Singapore! Delighted to have the chance to catch up over a meal at the Istana, before the official meetings tomorrow."

On Prime Minister Modi's Singapore visit, MEA official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that the visit will further fortify ties between the two nations.

"Fortifying India-Singapore bonds of friendship. PM Narendra Modi warmly hosted by PM Lawrence Wong at the iconic Sri Temasek in Singapore. An evening cherishing the deep and long-standing India-Singapore ties awaits," he posted on X.

Singaporean Minister for Home Affairs and Law K Shanmugham received PM Modi at the Changi airport on Wednesday and received a warm welcome from the Indian community.

PM Modi was seen giving autographs to diaspora members outside the hotel. He also tried his hand at playing the dhol there. Sharing pictures on X, PM Modi stated, "Thank you, Singapore! The welcome was

truly vibrant."

Before his arrival in Singapore, PM Modi was on an official visit to Brunei. During his visit, he held "wide ranging" talks with Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah at Istana Nurul Iman in Bandar Seri Begawan.

During their talks, both the leaders discussed ways to further cement bilateral ties. On Tuesday, PM Modi inaugurated the new Chancery of the High Commission of India in Brunei's capital city, Bandar Seri Begawan. The Prime Minister also visited the Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan on Tuesday as a part of his historic visit to Brunei.

ANI

West, Kiev dropped Istanbul deal for sake of 'defeating' Russia, but to no avail – Putin

VLADIVOSTOK

THE West and the Kiev authorities abandoned the Istanbul agreements on a settlement in Ukraine in order to achieve Russia's strategic defeat, but to no avail, Russian President Vladimir Putin said while speaking at the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum.

"We had practically achieved all parameters of a possible peace agreement with representatives of the government in Kiev. We agreed on everything. Moreover, Ukraine's chief negotiator (David Arahamiya - TASS), who still heads the faction of the ruling party in the Verkhovna Rada, authorized these agreements," Putin (pictured) pointed out.

"True, there were still some details to be finalized, but on the whole the approval is still valid. It's a document. But then Mr. [Boris] Johnson (who served as British prime minister - TASS) arrived, as it is known - the British authorities confirm this - and instructed the Ukrainians to fight to the last Ukrainian. Which is happening today in an attempt to achieving Russia's strategic defeat."

"This does not work," Putin said.

The Ukrainian authorities, he recalled, have publicly stated that "if they had then carried out what we agreed with them and not obeyed their masters from other countries, the war would have stopped a long time ago."

"But they took a different path. The result is in sight," the Russian leader stated.

Russia has never refused to negotiate on Ukraine, Putin emphasized, but not on the basis of some ephemeral demands, but on the basis of the Istanbul agreements.

"Are we ready to negotiate with them? We have never refused to do so. But not on the basis of some ephemeral demands, but on the basis of the documents that were agreed and actually initialed in Istanbul."



Boko Haram attack on village leaves 81 dead in Nigeria

Yobe

SUSPECTED fighters from Boko Haram attacked a village in northeastern Nigeria and left multiple people dead, with the members of the group setting fire to shops and homes during the assault, Al Jazeera reported.

The attack took place on Sunday afternoon. Local official Bulama Jalaluddeen said that the attack claimed the lives of 81 people. "It has been established that at least 81 people were killed in the attack," Jalaluddeen said.

However, resident Modu Mohammed, who lives in Mafa, said several more residents were missing and estimated the death toll at more than 100. He said some corpses were still in the bush.

However, contrary to the official reports, Mafa resident Modu Mohammed said that several residents remain unaccounted for and estimated the death toll to exceed 100.

Around 150 suspected Boko Haram members armed with rifles attacked Mafa ward. "Around 150 suspected Boko Haram terrorists armed with rifles and RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades) attacked Mafa ward on more than 50 motorcycles," said Dungus Abdulkarim, a police spokesman in Yobe State where the village is located.

ANI

PYONGYANG

"I couldn't stand a regime only obsessed with nuclear and missile tests," says defector Ri Il-gyu, a former North Korean diplomat.

Why did a former elite diplomat, who wrote several reports for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, abandon the North Korean regime? Ri Il-gyu, 52, who fled to South Korea last November after serving as a counselor responsible for political affairs at the North Korean Embassy in Cuba, said, "I couldn't stand the Kim Jong-un regime, which squandered hundreds of millions of dollars on nuclear and missile development while turning 25 million people into modern-day slaves."

Initially, Ri felt a sense of pride when North Korea announced successful nuclear and missile tests. But his perspective shifted as the regime constantly disregarded the basic needs of its citizens. "After one or two [successful] tests, people who were worried about securing food and their children's education would inevitably feel resentment toward a leadership only obsessed with nuclear and missile development."

Ri described North Korean Foreign Ministry officials as "beggars in

Why elite former diplomat slams N. Korean regime as 'modern-day slavery'

ties," revealing that his salary was a mere \$0.30. "When I worked abroad [without rations], my salary increased slightly, but it was still not enough," he said. "During my time in Cuba, I received \$500 (about 690,000 won) a month." To make ends meet, he resorted to selling illegal cigars.

"I would like to introduce advanced culture, science, and technology to North Korea if the two Koreas are reunified," Ri said. "I want to think about what I can do to bring light to the dark land."

It has been proved exclusively that North Koreans seem clearly to reject Kim Jong-un, saying that life has become harder than under the Japanese rule.

Ri Il-gyu, 52, a former elite counselor who worked at the North Korean Embassy in Cuba, said in an interview with the Chosun Ilbo on July 14, "Once the article is published, the North Korean authorities will attack me as human trash, just as they always do with defectors." Despite this, he agreed to the interview because he felt that "exposing the horrific human rights abus-

es and reality in North Korea is the way to help the North Korean people."

What was life as a North Korean diplomat like?

"Embarrassingly, some in North Korea call Foreign Ministry officials 'beggars in ties.' Unlike trade workers or those in special agencies, we don't have any money, but we have to wear high-end clothes and ties for external activities, hence the nickname.

When I was the Deputy Director General for Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I also served as a party cell secretary and received the highest salary for a deputy director general, which was 3,000 North Korean won. However, at the time, \$1 was about 8,000 North Korean won, so my salary was only about \$0.30."

What was it like working overseas? "Overseas, the salary is paid in dollars, which is slightly better. When I was in Cuba, my salary was \$500 (about 690,000 won). It varies by country, but ambassadors receive \$600 to \$1,000, counselors and minis-

ters get \$500 to \$600, and secretaries earn between \$350 and \$500."

How do you manage with that income?

"That's why North Korean overseas workers have been reported worldwide for engaging in illegal trade. The primary reason for this is the very low income of diplomats. They save every penny they can and bring it back to North Korea.

"North Korean diplomats in Cuba, for instance, use their diplomatic privileges to send 150 to 200 boxes of cigars each to China, making a net profit of \$15,000 to \$20,000 per shipment. Given the profitability of the cigar trade in Cuba, they can live off these earnings alone. Although the illegal cigar trade paused during the coronavirus pandemic, it has recently resumed on a large scale with the resumption of flights."

What happens if they can't trade?

"In February 2019, the Director of Disarmament at the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry was publicly executed

on espionage charges. He frequently traveled to Switzerland, where illegal trade is not possible, so he had no money. His extravagant spending raised suspicions, leading to an investigation. Another case involved the embezzlement by a secretary at the Beijing Embassy following the purge of Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho in 2019. The secretary, responsible for purchasing plane tickets, would buy a \$500 ticket from a Chinese travel agency but get a receipt for \$1,000, pocketing the difference. Many security officials rely on bribes as supplementary income due to their need for extra earnings."

Is living on just their salary difficult?

"Inadequate and unjust labor pay is one of the most critical issues in North Korean society. Agencies like the Ministry of External Economic Relations compel their overseas workers to pay annual loyalty fees ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

"Despite Kim Jong-un ordering a crackdown after reports surfaced of

workers engaging in illicit activities to meet these payments, citing concerns that it undermines the Party's authority abroad, the agencies paradoxically advise their employees to use any means necessary to acquire funds while avoiding detection, as these loyalty payments are mandatory."

How did you feel about the nuclear and missile tests?

"Initially, the announcement of successful nuclear and missile tests was met with a sense of pride. However, as people realized the immense financial resources being diverted to these programs, their support waned. Under the false pretense of preparing for a U.S. invasion, Kim Jong-un's regime has allocated hundreds of millions of dollars to nuclear and missile development. This expenditure has crippled the country's economy and reduced 25 million people to modern-day slavery. Older citizens have remarked that 'it wasn't this hard during the Japanese occupation.' They question the rationale behind defending such a harsh and impoverished system. In response to losing popular support, the regime is escalating its politics of fear."

Agencies

Keynote address by Chinese President Xi Jinping at opening ceremony of 2024 FOCAC summit

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday delivered a keynote address at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

The following is the full text of the address:

Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a Community with a Shared Future
Keynote Address by H.E. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
At the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing Summit of The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation
Beijing, September 5, 2024
Your Excellency President Bassirou Diomaye Faye,
Your Excellency President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, Chairperson of the African Union (AU),
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation,
Your Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations,
Your Excellency Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission,

Friends and Distinguished Guests,

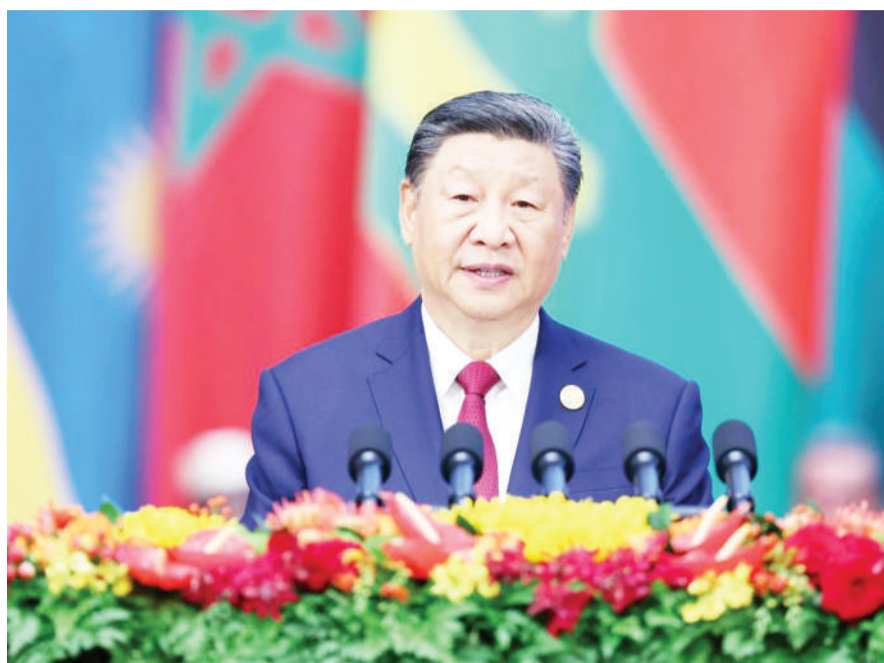
Blossoms in spring turn into fruits in autumn, and a bumper harvest is the reward of hard work. In this season of harvest, I am delighted to gather together with so many old and new friends in Beijing to discuss grand plans for China-Africa friendship and cooperation in the new era. On behalf of the Chinese government and people, I extend a warm welcome to you all!

The friendship between China and Africa transcends time and space, surmounts mountains and oceans, and passes down through generations. The founding of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2000 was a milestone in the history of China-Africa relations. Over the past 24 years, especially in the new era, China has advanced forward hand in hand with our African brothers and sisters in the spirit of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith. We stand shoulder to shoulder with each other to firmly defend our legitimate rights and interests as once-in-a-century changes sweep across the world. We get stronger and more resilient together by riding the tide of economic globalization, delivering tangible benefits to billions of ordinary Chinese and Africans. We share weal and woe in fighting natural disasters and epidemics together, creating touching stories of China-Africa friendship. We always empathize with and support each other, setting a stellar example of a new type of international relations.

Thanks to nearly 70 years of tireless efforts from both sides, the China-Africa relationship is now at its best in history. With its future growth in mind, I propose that bilateral relations between China and all African countries having diplomatic ties with China be elevated to the level of strategic relations, and that the overall characterization of China-Africa relations be elevated to an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era.

Friends and Distinguished Guests,

Modernization is an inalienable right of all countries. But the Western approach to it has inflicted immense sufferings on developing countries. Since the end of World War II, Third World nations, represented by China and African countries, have achieved independence and development one after another, and have been endeavoring to redress the historical injustices of the modernization process. As we are about to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, we are going all out to build a great modern socialist country in all respects and pursue national rejuvenation through a Chinese path to modernization. Africa is also awakening again, and the continent is marching in solid strides toward the modernization goals set forth in the AU's Agenda 2063. China and Africa's joint pursuit of modernization will set off a wave of modernization in the Global South, and open a new chapter in our drive for a community with a shared future for mankind.



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech titled "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a Community with a Shared Future" while attending the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. Xinhua

- We should jointly advance modernization that is just and equitable. In promoting modernization, we should not only follow the general rules, but also act in light of our national realities. China is ready to increase exchanges of governance experience with Africa, support all countries in exploring modernization paths befitting their national conditions, and help ensure equal rights and equal opportunities for all countries.

- We should jointly advance modernization that is open and win-win. Mutually beneficial cooperation is the sunny road to the betterment of long-term and fundamental interests of all countries. China is ready to deepen cooperation with Africa in industry, agriculture, infrastructure, trade and investment, promote exemplary, high-quality Belt and Road cooperation projects, and build together a model for the delivery of the Global Development Initiative.

- We should jointly advance modernization that puts the people first. The ultimate goal of modernization is the free and full development of human beings. China will work vigorously with Africa to promote personnel training, poverty reduction and employment, enhance the sense of gain, happiness and security of the people in the course of modernization, and ensure that all will benefit from the process.

- We should jointly advance modernization featuring diversity and inclusiveness. Well-balanced material and spiritual advancement is a lofty objective of modernization. China will enhance people-to-people and cultural exchanges with Africa, champion mutual respect, inclusiveness and coexistence of different civilizations on our way to modernization, and strive together for more fruitful outcomes under the Global Civilization Initiative.

- We should jointly advance modernization that is eco-friendly. Green development is a hallmark of modernization in the new era. China is ready to help Africa build "green growth engines," narrow the gap in energy accessibility, adhere to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and jointly push for the global transition to green and low-carbon development.

- We should jointly advance modernization underpinned by peace and security. Modernization would not be possible without a peaceful and stable environment for development. China is ready to help Africa improve its capacity in safeguarding peace and stability independently, prioritize Africa in implementing the Global Security Initiative (GSI), promote mutual reinforcement of high-quality development and greater security, and work together with Africa to uphold world peace and stability.

Friends and Distinguished Guests,

China and Africa account for one-third of the world population. Without our modernization, there will be no global modernization. In the next three years, China will work with Africa to take the following ten partnership actions for modernization to deepen China-Africa cooperation and spearhead the Global South modernization.

First, the Partnership Action for Mutual Learning among Civilizations. China is ready to work with Africa to build a platform for governance experience sharing, a China-Africa knowledge network for development, and 25 centers on China and Africa studies. We will make better use of Africa's leadership academies to cultivate talents for governance, and invite 1,000 members of African political parties to China to deepen exchanges of experience in party and state governance.

Second, the Partnership Action for Trade Prosperity. China will voluntarily and unilaterally open its market wider. We have decided to give all LDCs having diplomatic relations with China, including 33 countries in Africa, zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines. This has made China the first major developing country and the first major economy to take such a step. It will help turn China's big market into Africa's big opportunity. China will expand market access for African agricultural products, deepen cooperation with Africa in e-commerce and other areas, and launch a "China-Africa quality enhancement program." We are prepared to enter into framework agreements on economic partnership for shared develop-

ment with African countries to provide long-term, stable and predictable institutional guarantee for trade and investment between the two sides.

Third, the Partnership Action for Industrial Chain Cooperation. China will foster industry cooperation growth clusters with Africa, push forward the Pilot Zone for In-depth China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation, and launch an "African SMEs empowerment program." We will build with Africa a digital technology cooperation center and initiate 20 digital demonstration projects so as to embrace together the latest round of technological revolution and industrial transformation.

Fourth, the Partnership Action for Connectivity. China is prepared to carry out 30 infrastructure connectivity projects in Africa, promote together high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and put in place a China-Africa network featuring land-sea links and coordinated development. We are ready to assist in the development of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and deepen logistics and financial cooperation for the benefit of trans-regional development in Africa.

Fifth, the Partnership Action for Development Cooperation. China is ready to release the Joint Statement on Deepening Cooperation within the Framework of the Global Development Initiative with Africa, and implement 1,000 "small and beautiful" livelihood projects. We will replenish the China-World Bank Group Partnership Facility to boost Africa's development. We support Africa in hosting the 2026 Youth Olympic Games and the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations. We will work together with Africa to deliver more fruits of development to the two peoples.

Sixth, the Partnership Action for Health. China is ready to establish with Africa a hospitals alliance and joint medical centers. We will send 2,000 medical personnel to Africa, and launch 20 programs of health facilities and malaria treatment. We will encourage Chinese companies to invest in Africa's pharmaceutical production, and continue to do what we can to help Africa with epidemic response. We support the development of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to strengthen public health capacity in all African countries.

Seventh, the Partnership Action for Agriculture and Livelihoods. China will provide Africa with RMB1 billion yuan in emergency food assistance, build 100,000 mu (about 6,670 hectares) of standardized agriculture demonstration areas in Africa, send 500 agricultural experts, and establish a China-Africa agricultural science and technology innovation alliance. We will implement 500 programs in Africa to promote community welfare. We will also encourage two-way investment for new business operations by Chinese and African companies, enable Africa to retain added value, and create at least one million jobs for Africa.

Eighth, the Partnership Action for People-to-People Exchanges. China will implement with Africa more solidly the Future of Africa-Vocational Education Cooperation Plan, establish

together an engineering technology academy, and build ten Luban Workshops. We will provide 60,000 training opportunities to Africa, mainly for women and youths. We will launch with Africa a Cultural Silk Road program as well as an initiative of cooperation on innovation in radio, TV and audio and visual programs. The two sides have agreed to designate 2026 as the China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges.

Ninth, the Partnership Action for Green Development. China is ready to launch 30 clean energy projects in Africa, put in place meteorological early warning systems, and carry out cooperation in disaster prevention, mitigation and relief as well as biodiversity conservation. We will create a China-Africa forum on peaceful use of nuclear technology, establish together 30 joint laboratories, and collaborate on satellite remote sensing and lunar and deep-space exploration. All this is designed to help with green development in Africa.

Tenth, the Partnership Action for Common Security. China is ready to build with Africa a partnership for implementing the GSI, and make it a fine example of GSI cooperation. We will give Africa RMB1 billion yuan of grants in military assistance, provide training for 6,000 military personnel and 1,000 police and law enforcement officers from Africa, and invite 500 young African military officers to visit China. The two sides will conduct joint military exercises, training and patrol, carry out an "action for a mine-free Africa," and jointly ensure the safety of personnel and projects.

To implement the ten partnership actions, the Chinese government will provide RMB360 billion yuan of financial support through the next three years. This breaks down into RMB210 billion yuan of credit line, RMB80 billion yuan of assistance in various forms, and at least RMB70 billion yuan of investment in Africa by Chinese companies. In addition, China will encourage and support Africa in issuing panda bonds in China to enhance our results-oriented cooperation in all areas.

Friends and Distinguished Guests,

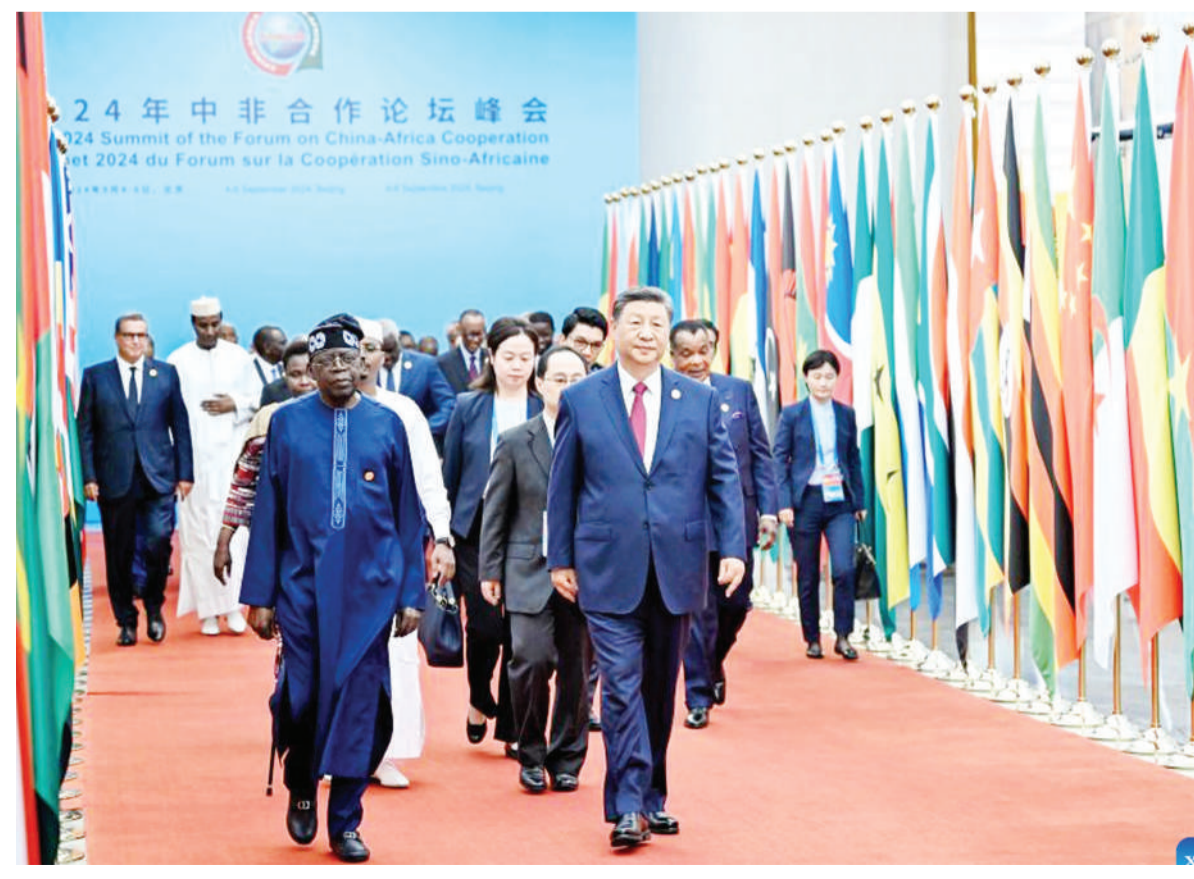
The Communist Party of China held in July the successful Third Plenary Session of its 20th Central Committee, laying out systematic plans for further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. This will profoundly further transform China. It will also provide new opportunities and new driving forces for African countries and for our joint pursuit of modernization.

As an African proverb goes, a friend is someone you share the path with. On the path to modernization, no one, and no country, should be left behind. Let us rally the more than 2.8 billion Chinese and African people into a powerful force on our shared path toward modernization, promote modernization of the Global South with China-Africa modernization, and write a new magnificent chapter of development in human history. Let us join hands to bring about a bright future of peace, security, prosperity and progress for our world.

Thank you.



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and delivers a keynote speech at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping and foreign leaders arrive to attend the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. Xinhua

Feisal eyes Azam's return to CAF Champions League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC attacking midfielder Feisal Salum, popularly known as 'Fei Toto', has expressed optimism about the team's chances of returning to the CAF Champions League next season.

Despite their early exit this year, Salum believes Azam have a competitive squad capable of achieving great things.

Azam were eliminated from the preliminary round of the CAF Champions League by Rwanda's APR FC with a 2-1 aggregate score, winning 1-0 at home but losing 2-0 in the return leg.

Salum (pictured), however, stressed recently that the setback won't derail the team.

"No player wanted us to be eliminated early. We had big goals, but it happened. We haven't lost hope. We will fight to get back into the competition next season, and it's possible because we have a good squad," he said.

The midfielder emphasized that early exits are part of the journey in football, adding: "Even the teams that have gone far in the competition started like us. There are teams with long histories in African football that have never won titles. The beginning is always tough. I believe that if we return to the competition, we won't repeat the same mistakes."



Salum, who joined Azam from Young Africans last season and scored 19 goals, remains determined to help Azam win the Mainland Premier League and FA Cup titles. Reflecting on their Champions League exit, he said: "Losing the opportunity to continue in the Champions League

has made us angry and determined to qualify again. We will fight to win the Mainland Premier League title, and it's possible."

Fei Toto praised the club's impact on his development as a player, highlighting the support and competitive environment at Azam FC.

"I'm on the right team. I've never regretted joining here. The biggest thing that excites me is how I've been improving and becoming competitive with others. This builds me up and makes me believe that I can achieve even greater things while at Azam FC," he said.

Azam FC, founded in 2004, have made significant strides in Tanzanian football. Though they've twice participated in the CAF Champions League, in 2015 and 2024, both campaigns ended in preliminary-stage exits.

Domestically, Azam clinched the Tanzanian Premier League title in the 2013/14 season and have consistently participated in the CAF Confederation Cup without reaching the group stage.

Now, with new technical staff, Azam FC aim to return to international competitions and challenge the domestic dominance of Young Africans and Simba SC, who have been the top two teams in Tanzania since 2001.



Ken Gold striker Ibrahim Joshua targets 16 goals after injury comeback

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KEN Gold FC striker Ibrahim Joshua has set an ambitious target for the 2024/2025 Tanzania Premier League season, aiming to score more than 16 goals and compete for the league's top scorer award.

Joshua (pictured), who was sidelined last season due to a knee injury, is eager to regain his form and make a significant impact.

The forward, known for his goal-scoring prowess, previously netted 16 goals in all competitions for Tusker FC during the 2021/2022 season, helping the team secure the Kenyan Premier League title.

Joshua had not played in Tanzania's top tier before moving to the Kenyan league in August 2021.

The powerful-built striker joined Tusker FC from second-tier Ken Gold FC and quickly established himself, reaching double-digit goals in his first season.

His electric form earned him a surprise call-up to the Tanzania national team in March 2022, where he made three appearances. Despite his success, the striker's campaign with Tusker was later annulled.

Joshua faced a difficult period in his last two seasons with Tusker due to persistent knee injuries, limiting his

game time and leading to his release in June.

Now back with Ken Gold in the Premier League, the forward is confident in his ability to exceed his previous achievements.

"I believe I can surpass my previous best and become one of the top scorers in the league," said Joshua. "I'm happy to be back with the team that I fought for to play in the Premier League before getting the opportunity to go to Kenya to play professional football."

Despite a disappointing start to the season with a 3-1 loss to Singida Black Stars, where Joshua scored Ken Gold's consolation goal, the striker remains optimistic.

"Unfortunately, we started the season with a loss, but I believe we can do well in the upcoming matches. As a striker, what I need is to score goals to help my team perform well this season," he added.

Joshua is determined to leave his injury struggles behind and make this season one to remember. "I believe this will be a good season for me, as the previous one was challenging due to injuries."

Ken Gold will be looking to bounce back in their next match against Fountain Gate, where Joshua hopes to continue his goal-scoring form and lead his team to success.

Ugandan Olympic athlete dies in Kenya after being severely burned by her partner over a land dispute

NAIROBI, Kenya

UGANDAN Olympic athlete Rebecca Cheptegei has died at a Kenyan hospital where she was being treated after 80% of her body was burned in an attack by her partner. She was 33.

A spokesperson at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret city, Owen Menach, confirmed Cheptegei's death yesterday. Menach said the long-distance runner died early in the morning after her organs failed. She had been fully sedated on ad-

mission at the hospital.

Cheptegei competed in the women's marathon at the Paris Olympics less than a month before the attack. She finished in 44th place.

Her father, Joseph Cheptegei, told journalists at the hospital that he had lost a daughter who was "very supportive" and hopes to get justice.

Trans Nzoia County Police Commander Jeremiah ole Kosiom said Monday that Cheptegei's partner, Dickson Ndiema, bought a can of gasoline, poured it on her and set her ablaze

during a disagreement Sunday.

Ndiema was also burned and was being treated at the same hospital.

Menach said Ndiema was still in the intensive care unit with burns over 30% of his body but was "improving and stable."

Cheptegei's parents said their daughter bought land in Trans Nzoia to be near the county's many athletic training centers. A report filed by the local chief said the two were heard fighting over the land where her house

was built before the attack.

The Uganda Athletics Federation eulogized Cheptegei on the social platform X, writing, "We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of our athlete, Rebecca Cheptegei, early this morning who tragically fell victim to domestic violence. As a federation, we condemn such acts and call for justice. May her soul rest in Peace."

Uganda Olympic Committee President Donald Rukare called the attack "a cowardly and senseless act that has led to

the loss of a great athlete."

In 2023, Ugandan Olympic runner and steeplechaser Benjamin Kiplagat was found dead with stab wounds. In 2022, Kenyan-born Bahraini athlete Damaris Muthee was found dead and a postmortem report stated that she was strangled.

In 2021, long distance runner Agnes Tirop was stabbed to death at her home. Her husband, Ibrahim Rotich, was arrested and charged with murder, the case is ongoing.

AP



FILE - Rebecca Cheptegei, competes at the Discovery 10km road race in Kapchorwa, Uganda, Jan. 20, 2023. (AP Photo, File)

FIFA's World Cup qualifying draw for European teams to give Nations League more weight

GENEVA

FIFA is preparing a more complicated draw for the European World Cup qualifying groups, giving greater weight to the upcoming UEFA Nations League rather than relying solely on world rankings – but also making most teams wait months to find out their full slate of opponents.

The new system will see the list of top-seeded teams for the 12 groups made up of the eight Nations League quarterfinalists plus the four top-ranked teams among those who don't make the last eight of the UEFA competition. That means when the draw is held in December, only placeholder names will be used for the top-seeded teams in each group as the Nations League program will still be underway. The quarterfinals are not completed until March 23, when teams will finally know which top-seeded side they will be facing.

FIFA detailed its preferred format in a briefing note Tuesday to UEFA member federations, outlining the changes compared to qualifying for the 2022 World Cup, when seedings relied on the FIFA world rankings.

The new seeding proposal would give lower-ranked teams like Hungary, Israel, Scotland and Bosnia-Herzegovina a chance to outperform their current FIFA ranking with a good six-game Nations League program. But it also gives the top-ranked European teams like France, Spain, England and Belgium a direct route to a top seed. England was demoted to League B in the Nations League and therefore could not have been one of the eight quarterfinalists from League A, but is currently the third highest-ranked European nation behind France and Spain.

Having a top seeding helps teams avoid most of the expected toughest opponents, with only the top team in the 12 groups guaranteed to qualify for the 2026 World Cup played in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Four more teams will qualify through a playoffs in March 2026.

AP

Villa 'out of touch' over Champions League prices

LONDON

ASTON Villa fans have called the club "out of touch" for charging up to £97 a ticket for home Champions League matches this season.

Villa announced on Wednesday that adult tickets for their four home matches in the new 36-team league format will be priced at £85, £94 and £97.

Season ticket-holders will get discounted rates of £70, £79 and £82 respectively.

The Premier League side will host Bayern Munich, Bologna, Juventus and Celtic at Villa Park in their return to Europe's top club competition for the first time in 41 years.

Aston Villa Supporters' Trust (AVST) said it met with the club towards the end of the last season to discuss potential Champions League ticket prices.

AVST said it "made clear pricing should be no higher than that of a Category A game" if Villa qualified, which they did by finishing fourth in the Premier League.

Villa's top Category A ticket price for the 2024-25 Premier League season is £92, while the cheapest in that tier is £55.

The equivalent of that £55 ticket for a Champions League home game at Villa Park for an adult without a season ticket and any concession will be £85 – an increase of 55%.

"For the club to announce Champions League ticket prices well above this season's category A is extremely disappointing," added AVST.

The Football Supporters' Association called Villa's ticket prices "truly eye-watering".

Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester City are the other three Premier League sides competing in the Champions League this year.

Liverpool's adult home ticket prices range from £30 to £61, Manchester City's from £37.50 to £62.50 and Arsenal's from £74.30 to £106.80, though the Gunners include Champions League home tickets in their season ticket price. Villa's equivalent range is £70 to £97.

European football governing body Uefa has capped the amount clubs can charge for away tickets in the Champions League at 60 euros (£50.55).

"When compared to other English clubs in the Champions League this year, and indeed Uefa's own away ticket price cap, today's announcement is out of touch," added AVST.

"Loyal Villa fans who've waited as long as 40 years to celebrate this momentous season are being punished and exploited.

"The trust fears the club will alienate fans with these prices and urges the club to rethink ahead of the first home match against Bayern Munich in October."

Villa begin their Champions League campaign away at Swiss side Young Boys on 17 September before hosting Bayern Munich, who they beat in the 1982 European Cup final, on 2 October.

BBC

2024 Ballon d'Or: Lionel Messi is left off list of contenders for soccer's biggest individual prize

By JAMES ROBSON

LIONEL Messi may be considered by many as the greatest soccer player of all time, but the Argentina star was omitted from the list of nominations to win this year's Ballon d'Or award – the sport's most prized individual honor.

The record eight-time winner and holder of the trophy did not feature Wednesday in a list of 30 players in the running for the award, which will be presented Oct. 28.

Also excluded was Messi's great rival, five-time winner Cristiano Ronaldo. It was the first time since 2003 that neither player made the list.

Vinicius Junior, Rodri, Jude Bellingham, Kylian Mbappé, Erling Haaland and Harry Kane are



among the names nominated.

Messi (pictured), who left European soccer behind when moving from Paris Saint-Germain to

Inter Miami last year, is still delivering at a high level and helped Argentina win the Copa America in July. The 37-year-old beat Manchester City

striker Haaland to the award last year, but will not defend his title.

Messi won his first Ballon d'Or in 2009 – the start of a four-year streak of taking the top prize.

He was first nominated in 2006.

Messi and Ronaldo turned the competition into a near-two-way contest during the peak of their careers – winning it a combined 13 times from 2008.

Ronaldo's first nomination was 2004.

Their omission from the list of nominations is likely due to leaving top-flight European club soccer, with Ronaldo having moved to Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia.

A new generation of talent has emerged in the form of Mbappé, Vinicius Junior, Bellingham and Haaland.

Emerging teenage star Lamine Yamal of Spain was also nominated.

While City striker Haaland was runner-up to Messi last year, the favorites to be crowned Ballon d'Or winner this time around include Real Madrid pair Vinicius Junior and Bellingham, as well as City and Spain midfielder Rodri.

Messi was also left off the list in 2022, but powered back to inspire Argentina to the World Cup title later that year and won his eighth Ballon d'Or in 2023.

However, at the latter end of his career and now playing in MLS, he may find it harder to hold off the challenge of his younger rivals for the title of the game's best.

It is also notable that he was omitted despite winning a major interna-

tional honor with Argentina this year.

Aitana Bonmati, who won the women's award last year is nominated again. U.S. stars Trinity Rodman, Sophia Smith, Mallory Swanson, Alyssa Naeher and Lindsey Horan were also on the 30-long list of contenders. The awards are voted for by a jury of men's and women's soccer journalists.

Created by France Football magazine, the Ballon d'Or was first awarded to England great Stanley Matthews in 1956.

Legends of the game including Eusébio, Bobby Charlton, George Best, Johan Cruyff, Franz Beckenbauer, Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane have all won it in the past.

AP

How Jadon Sancho went from the signing of the summer to Erik ten Hag's fifth choice at Man U

By Richard Jolly

THERE was something sadly fitting about the way it ended. Jadon Sancho's final kick of a ball in a Manchester United shirt was a missed opportunity that came at a cost: the rather tame penalty that Ederson saved in the Community Shield shootout. Perhaps it was a microcosm of a United career that is, in effect, now over.

Sancho was omitted from the 20-man match-day squads for the games against Fulham and Brighton. He completed a move to Chelsea on Saturday, so late it felt like a deadline-day afterthought. It is a loan but with an obligation to buy for £20-£25m. After a mere 83 games, just 12 goals and only six assists, Sancho now forms part of United's past.

The numbers indicate the scale of the failure, footballing and financial. In effect, United will lose some £50m on the transfer fee they paid, with Borussia Dortmund's contribution to Sancho's loan last season largely covering his wages and part of his salary now still being paid at Old Trafford.

They have written off bigger sums – the world-record signing Paul Pogba departed on a free transfer – and may have to again, given that Antony cost still more than Sancho – but it is about the football pitch as well as the balance sheet.

And Sancho's last two competitive appearances have come at Wembley. In the first, he started a Champions League final for Dortmund, fresh from a man-of-the-match display in the semi-final. After a cameo for United – less than some expected, after there was a possibility Sancho could start as a false nine – came confirmation of his place in Ten Hag's pecking order.

Sporting director Dan Ashworth underlined it on Sunday: "We've got four really good wide players, Jadon was a



Jadon Sancho left Manchester United to join Chelsea in added time on deadline day (Chelsea FC)

fifth." It put him behind Antony, among others. It illustrated the duality of Sancho, Dortmund wunderkind turned fifth-choice winger for the club who came eighth last season.

Sancho was Dortmund's flagship sale in 2021. Comparisons can be made with his counterparts in 2022 and 2023, Erling Haaland and Jude Bellingham, and the heights they have subsequently scaled.

When transfers go wrong, perhaps it is cruel to revisit the initial optimism. Such quotes do not tend to age well. But go back to 2021 and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said: "Jadon epitomises the type of player I want to bring to the club – he is a forward player in the best traditions of Manchester United. He will form an integral part of my squad for years to come." It was scarcely Solskjaer's squad for months to come, let alone years.

There was the Norwegian's infamous admission that he signed Sancho to play on the right, only to discover the winger himself preferred the left. There was the destabilising effect

of omitting him from the squad for the defeat to Arsenal and to go public with his reasoning, followed by Sancho's suggestion the manager was lying, backfired.

If fault could be found on both sides, there is scarcely any sense United benefited from Ten Hag's inflexibility. His stubbornness as he talked about "standards" brought precious little evidence they were improved by exiling Sancho for four months while neither backed down and before he headed back to Dortmund; the manager's moral compass, meanwhile, meant some offences were deemed more serious than others.

The summer rapprochement that brought Sancho's brief reappearance in United colours was never fully explained; jettisoning him from the squad even when Rasmus Hojlund's injury left Ten Hag short of one attacker suggested it was a temporary truce and he was directed the forward towards the exit.

"We're not in a position where we're kicking players out of the club," Ashworth argued. "It was a decision that we made – if it's right for Jadon and [if] it's right for us to move on."

It may be right simply because the situation has been so wrong. Perhaps Sancho's plan was to outlast Ten Hag but he

has not. Certainly United hoped to raise £40m by selling him this summer, but they will get barely half that.

Sancho is a boyhood Chelsea fan who admired Frank Lampard but the lesson of his career is that he needs to be in an environment that suits him; Dortmund, under Edin Terzić's supportive management and where they forgave him for his lapses with timekeeping, was a case in point.

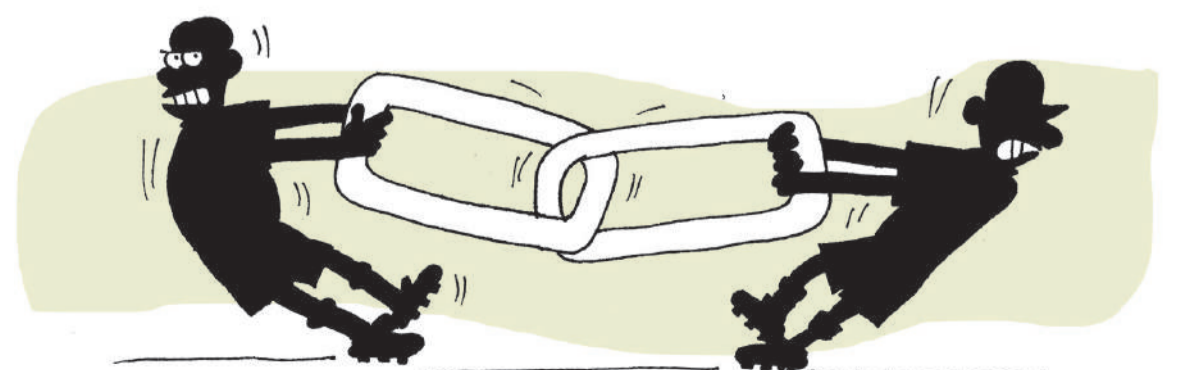
Chelsea, who have still more wingers than United, who have just made Raheem Sterling persona non grata for the apparent crime of earning too much and who change manager with far greater frequency, scarcely looks the ideal antidote to Old Trafford.

United may take the view that selling Sancho to a club as dysfunctional as Chelsea reduces the resident risk he returns to the level that brought him 50 goals and 57 assists in just 137 games during his first spell at Dortmund, that made him a £73m player or, indeed, that made him a Champions League finalist a few months ago.

They might think Sancho is someone else's problem now; but there is scope for embarrassment if he performs in such a way to become an indictment of them and add to the damage of the monetary shortfall.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Ballon d'Or: Lionel Messi is left off list of contenders for soccer's biggest individual prize

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Simba bolstered by player returns ahead of JKT Tanzania friendly

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SEVERAL Simba Sports Club players sidelined by injuries are expected to make a return when the Msimbazi Street-based team plays a friendly match against JKT Tanzania tomorrow at the KMC Complex stadium.

The game is part of their preparation for upcoming competitions, including their crucial CAF Confederation Cup campaign.

Ahmed Ally, the club's Information and Communication Manager, confirmed that all arrangements for the match have been finalized and necessary permits secured. The friendly match will be open to fans, offering them a chance to see the team in action.

This will be Simba's second friendly after their 1-1 draw with Sudanese giants Al Hilal last Saturday and head coach Fadlu Davids has requested this additional warm-up game to fine-tune the squad before they head into a critical phase of their CAF Confederation Cup campaign.

Simba will, however, be without some players including three key players who are currently on international duty with the Tanzanian national team for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers.

Goalkeeper Ali Salim, defender Mohamed Hussein, and attacking midfielder Edwin Balua are all with the national team after featuring in Tanzania's recent 0-0 draw against Ethiopia at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Wednesday. Their absence will be a challenge, but it offers other players an opportunity to step up and make an impression in the friendly.

On the positive side, several players who were sidelined due to injuries are expected to return to action. Among them is winger Joshua Mutale, who sustained an injury during the Premier League clash against Fountain Gate but made a late appearance in the friendly against Al Hilal.

He is now fully recovered and is expected to play a more significant role in the upcoming match against JKT Tanzania.

The fans will also get to see midfielder Fabrice Ngoma back in action after his absence due to personal reasons. Ngoma traveled to DR Congo to attend to family matters but has now returned and is available for selection ahead of Simba's CAF Confederation Cup clash.

His return bolsters Simba's midfield, with expectations for him to contribute significantly as the team prepares for their trip to Libya.

Ngoma's situation has attracted attention due to limited playing time since the season began, leading to rumors of dissatisfaction and potential contract issues. However, the club remains hopeful that Ngoma will reintegrate smoothly into the team and make a valuable contribution moving forward.

Simba's upcoming CAF Confederation Cup tie against Al Ahly Tripoli is crucial. The first leg is scheduled for September 15 in Tripoli, with the return leg in Dar es Salaam on September 22. Coach Davids is keen to ensure his team is well-prepared, with the friendly against JKT Tanzania serving as a key tactical test before the crucial fixtures.

The team's recent performances and the return of key players like Mutale and Ngoma provide a much-needed boost as Simba SC looks to secure their place in the CAF Confederation Cup group stage and maintain their form in domestic competitions.

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Ngoma's situation has attracted attention due to limited playing time since the season began, leading to rumors of dissatisfaction and potential contract issues

Taifa Stars set for tough tests ahead after stalemate with Ethiopia in AFCON qualifier



Taifa Stars striker Clement Mzize negotiates his way past two Ethiopia defenders during their 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers group H match at the Benjamin Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli.

TANZANIA's national football team, Taifa Stars, had a rocky start in their quest to qualify for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) after being held to a 0-0 draw by Ethiopia in their Group H opener.

The match, played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, saw both sides unable to break the deadlock, leaving Tanzanian fans hopeful for a better outcome in future games.

From the outset, Taifa Stars showed aggressive intent, creating opportunities in attack. However, their efforts were hindered by a lack of stability in the final third and midfield, allowing Ethiopia to settle into the game and handle Tanzania's advances with ease. Despite their offensive push, Taifa Stars struggled to connect in front of goal, particularly in the first half.

The Tanzanian attack, though promising at times, failed to convert chances. By halftime, Taifa Stars had managed only three shots on goal, none of which troubled Ethiopia's defense. The Ethiopian backline remained composed and effectively neutralized the Tanzanian forwards, denying clear opportunities.

The lack of cutting-edge play in the final third was Taifa Stars' main issue, compounded by their midfield's struggle to maintain possession and control the game. Key players like Feisal Salum, Himid Mao, and Novatus Dismas were outpaced and outmaneuvered by Ethiopia's quicker and more organized midfield.

Despite these challenges, Taifa Stars' defense, led by goalkeeper Ally Salim, remained solid and prevented significant threats from the Ethiopians.

Post-match, Taifa Stars

head coach Hemed Suleiman, known as "Morocco," expressed satisfaction with the team's tactical performance despite the draw.

"I am pleased with the players' performance. They were tactically sound, but we just couldn't find the net," Morocco said.

Morocco explained that his decision to deploy five defenders was a strategic response to Ethiopia's pace, particularly on the wings.

"We opted for five defenders because we analyzed Ethiopia's speed, especially their wingers. Mohamed

Hussein and Nickson Kibabage did well on their flanks, providing defensive support," he added.

Looking ahead, Morocco remained optimistic but acknowledged the challenges ahead.

"The matches are tough, especially away games, but I believe in this team. We need to review our mistakes, train hard, and improve. Our players are young, and this is a transitional period for our national team," he said.

In the second half, Taifa Stars sought to build mo-

mentum but continued to lack creativity and cohesion. Ethiopia, employing a disciplined defensive strategy and effective counter-attacks, frustrated Tanzania's efforts.

Morocco made three substitutions - Nickson Kibabage, Himid Mao, and Edwin Balua were replaced by Pascal Msindo, Mudathir Yahya, and Wazir Junior. These changes injected fresh energy into Taifa Stars, who began to press Ethiopia more effectively. Despite winning two corners, Tanzania could not find a breakthrough as Ethiopia's well-organized defense held firm.

The draw leaves Taifa Stars in second place in Group H as they aim to secure a spot at AFCON 2025. Although the result was disappointing, there remains hope for future matches as the team looks to build on its performance.

Next up for Taifa Stars is an away match against Guinea, set for September 10 in Ivory Coast. Morocco and his team are aware of the challenges ahead, especially in a competitive group. The upcoming matches will be crucial in determining Tanzania's qualification fate, and the team must enhance its attacking play to progress to the 2025 finals.

For now, Taifa Stars will return to training to address their shortcomings and prepare for the tough away fixture. Supporters will be eager to see a more composed and clinical performance as Tanzania's AFCON 2025 dream remains very much alive.

...Coach Morocco calls for patience after Stars' 0-0 draw with Ethiopia

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA national soccer team (Taifa Stars) interim head coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman has called for patience after his side managed to secure a single point in their opening match of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers following a 0-0 draw against Ethiopia at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Wednesday evening.

Taifa Stars maintained a solid defensive shape throughout the game, but Ethiopia controlled possession and displayed composure on the ball. Both goalkeepers faced little pressure, as neither side created many clear-cut chances.

Tanzania's best opportunity in the early stages of the match fell to forward Clement Mzize. Lusa Mwaikenda made a dangerous run down

the right flank and sent a well-placed cross into the box, but Mzize, a Young Africans forward, was unable to connect strongly enough to direct the ball toward the goal.

Coach Morocco, serving as the interim head coach following Adel Amrouche's suspension, made a key tactical change after the break, introducing Pascal Msindo in place of the ineffective Nickson Kibabage.

The substitution brought fresh energy to the Taifa Stars, who started the second half with more intensity, registering their first shot on target soon after the restart.

Msindo's delivery from the right flank found Feisal Salum, whose header was impressively punched away by Ethiopia's goalkeeper, resulting in a corner kick.

As the match progressed, Tanzania continued to press for a goal, creat-

ing a few more chances. However, their inability to convert in the final third proved costly.

Mudathir Yahya, a second-half substitute, came close to breaking the deadlock with a long-range effort that narrowly missed the target.

After the match, coach Morocco acknowledged that Tanzania struggled in the first half but showed improvement in the second period.

He called for patience and understanding from fans as the team continues to develop.

"Of course, it was a little bit tough. We started slowly but kept on progressing. We did not play well in the first half but we improved in the second half. We created chances, especially in the last twenty minutes, but unfortunately, we did not utilize them. That is football," Morocco remarked.

He also praised Ethiopia's resilience, highlighting the challenges posed by their defensive structure.

"Ethiopia is a very strong team. It is difficult to play against a low-block side. We tried different combinations in midfield, but it didn't work, so we shifted to the flanks," he explained.

Morocco emphasized that this is a transitional period for Taifa Stars, with several young players in the squad who need time to adapt.

"This is a team in transition. Most of the players are young, and they need time. We have to keep encouraging the young players to ensure they do well. I believe it is just a matter of time before this team succeeds," he added.

Tanzania will now regroup and focus on their next AFCON qualifying match against Guinea, scheduled for Tuesday.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

