



**REPUBLIC DAY 2025**

**REPUBLIC DAY MESSAGE 2025**  
**H.E. Mr. Bishwadip Dey, High Commissioner of India to United Republic of Tanzania**

On the occasion of the 76th Anniversary of the Republic of India, I am pleased to share my greetings and best wishes to the people of the United Republic of Tanzania. India and Tanzania share a long and rich history of friendship and cooperation. Over the years, the two countries have witnessed significant growth and development, which is a testament to the resilience and hard work of the Indian and Tanzanian people.

India and Tanzania share a long and rich history of friendship and cooperation. Over the years, the two countries have witnessed significant growth and development, which is a testament to the resilience and hard work of the Indian and Tanzanian people.

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**UDSM gas filling station: completed**

● *Billed to serve 1,200 vehicles daily*

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

A MAJOR compressed natural gas (CNG) filling station capable of serving 1,200 vehicles daily has been completed at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

Judith Kapinga, the Energy deputy minister, made this affirmation when visiting the site alongside members of the parliamentary committee on Energy and Minerals at the weekend.

The facility will be used to provide CNG refueling for motor vehicles and serve as a distribution point for CNG to smaller stations not connected to the gas pipeline infrastructure, she stated, explaining that the station will have the capacity to serve eight vehicles simultaneously and handle up to 1,200 vehicles per day. The project, costing 18.9bn/-, includes the construction of the mother station at UDSM and two smaller stations at the Muhimbili National Hospital and the Kairuki Hospital within the city centre perimeter, she said.

The funding was provided entirely by the government through the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), she stated, appealing for private sector involvement in building additional CNG stations.

An initiative to convert motor vehicles to using CNG has been well received, he said, while committee chairman David Mathayo David (Same West) commended TPDC for spearheading the project and establishing smaller stations to support distribution.

"We appreciate the government for heeding Parliament's advice to build this large CNG station. It will enable smaller stations to receive gas from this central hub and supply it to vehicles in other areas," he said.

The committee also advised the government to expand gas transportation infrastructure nationwide, pointing at the benefits of pipelines over road transport in cost-effectiveness and accessibility, he stated.

"Gas should be made available across all regions to reduce dependency on imported fuels like diesel and petrol. This will also save foreign exchange," he remarked.

The station marks a significant step toward making CNG accessible across the country starting with the city of Dar es Salaam, he added.



Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania Bishwadip Dey (C), with other officials during the 76th Anniversary of India's Republic Day at the High Commission offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Story on page 3. Photo: Courtesy of Indian High Commission

## Summit: Non-essential civil servants to work from home

By Getrude Mbago

**P**UBLIC servants in Dar es Salaam will work from home for the next two days to accommodate the African Heads of State high-level

energy conference which begins today.

Dr Moses Kusiluka, the chief secretary, said in a statement yesterday that in preparation for the summit, several key roads in the city will be closed, as previ-

ously announced by the police force.

"To minimize disruptions, the government has advised public servants in Dar es Salaam to work from home on January 27 and 28, except for those whose

roles require them to be physically present, such as staff in the security, healthcare and transport sectors," he said.

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## Legal Aid drive kicks off in Katavi, attracts thousands

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole, Mpanda

THOUSANDS of Katavi residents will have an opportunity to access free legal services during a 10-day camp of the legal advisory team sponsored by President Samia Suluhu Hassan taking off at Mpanda municipality in the region over the weekend.

Mwamvua Mrindoko, the regional commissioner, encouraged local residents to take advantage of the camp to resolve legal issues, at the launch at Kashaullili Primary School grounds.

Services provided during the camp would be free of charge, she said, urging officials to ensure that no fees were imposed on participants.

Parents and guardians of children

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Members of the parliamentary standing committee on Energy and Minerals inspecting the site of the main compressed natural gas (CNG) filling station at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) over the weekend. The project is on the whole finished and is expected to commence operations in a week or so. Photo: Correspondent Maulud Mmbaga



## Tourism groups object to 'sudden' WMA fee hikes

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TRAVEL and tourism industry stakeholders have expressed concern over the sharp increase in levies imposed by the government for tourists and service providers accessing wildlife management areas

(WMAs) and other game-protected areas.

Henry Kimambo, the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) vice chairman, said in a briefing after a meeting of stakeholders over the weekend that the new fees were introduced with little notice.

They have sparked unrest in an industry where tourism packages are often booked a year in advance, with arrivals likely to be affected by the move where the Natural Resources and Tourism portal indicated new fees in the past week.

Fees for tourists, tour guides,

drivers and tourist vans heading to WMAs have been increased on a range from 30 percent to 650 percent, placing the financial burden on tour operators responsible for collecting levies, the stakeholder noted. The fee hikes began affecting operations immediately after the

new rates were posted on the ministry's website, he said, asserting that tour operators are now bearing the financial losses to protect Tanzania's reputation as a tourist destination.

Some travel agencies have cancelled plans to visit WMAs and

game-protected areas, opting instead for national parks and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA), where the new fees do not apply, he stated.

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## Legal Aid drive kicks off in Katavi, pulls thousands

FROM PAGE 1

suffering abuse need to cooperate with legal professionals to ensure that justice obtained, she said, highlighting that the campaign is aimed at strengthening assistance for victims of sexual violence, children and other vulnerable groups.

"My hope is that, following this camp, we will see a significant reduction in legal disputes such as land conflicts, marriage issues, inheritance disputes, gender-based violence and family neglect," she declared.

Dr Franklin Rwezimula, the Constitutional and Legal Affairs deputy permanent secretary, explained that the campaign's primary objective is to promote and protect access to justice for all through the provision of legal aid services.

The campaign is also meant to offer educational resources on legal rights related to land, marriage, inheritance, litigation, criminal procedure and human rights in general, he stated.

The government intends to reduce legal conflicts and enhance public understanding of legal issues through training and direct services, he specified.

He similarly appealed to the

regional secretariat to fully support the legal aid providers to ensure that they are able to assist as many people as possible within the allocated time.

Boniphace Butondo (Kishapu), a member of the parliamentary standing committee on Administrative, Constitutional and Legal Affairs, encouraged the public to attend the camp in large numbers.

The presidential legal aid services campaign is expected to substantially address conflicts related to oppressive laws concerning inheritance, land and farms, he said.

He hailed the progress made since the campaign was rolled out, reminding citizens of the importance of understanding their basic rights to better protect themselves and contribute to national development.

"Legal education is a powerful tool for empowering citizens to overcome the challenges they face in their everyday lives," the MP underlined.

Residents expressed gratitude for the government's efforts to bring legal aid services closer to communities since its launch in April 2023.

The campaign is expected to yield positive results by reducing violence, resolving social conflicts and strengthening the rule of law across the country, they stated.



Some passengers of the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC)'s Standard Gauge Railway service arrive in Dodoma at the weekend. According to the Government Spokesperson, Gerson Msigwa, over 1,500,000 passengers have utilised the service since its inception. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Tourism groups object to 'sudden' WMA fee hikes

FROM PAGE 1

While Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) typically give a year's notice before implementing fee changes, stakeholders criticized the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) for its abrupt shift to the new levies.

TATO and the Tanzania Local Tour Operators Association (TLTOA) have appealed to the authorities to return to the negotiation table, citing potential harm to the country's image and communities dependent on WMA-related income.

Samuel Dia, the TLTOA chairman, said that this sudden fee hike undermines the

efforts of national leaders promoting Tanzania's tourism abroad and threatens development projects in WMA communities.

Drivers and tour guides have also felt the strain as a driver paying 2,360/- will now pay 17,700/- in a 650 percent increase), with conservation fees jumping from 5,900/- to 23,600/- per vehi-

cle. For tourists, entry fees have increased from \$11.8 to 70,800/-, representing a 135 percent hike.

TLTOA is urging the government to consider direct payment systems for tourists as tour operators are being blamed for the increased costs, he said.

These exorbitant levies will discourage tourists from

visiting WMAs and hurt communities relying on them for income, he cautioned.

"WMAs were created to involve local communities in conservation and direct proceeds toward development projects. However, these fee hikes may hinder tourist visits and frustrate these efforts," he added.



CCM Vice Chairman (Mainland) Stephen Wassira addresses party's leaders and members who gathered to welcome him at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Courtesy of CCM

## WHO airlifts medical supplies to Tanzania amid MVD outbreak

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has airlifted 1.4 tonnes of medical commodities and supplies to Tanzania to fight the Marburg virus disease (MVD) outbreak in the northwestern part of the country.

In its official X platform, the WHO said that the donated medical supplies shipped from the WHO Regional Emergency Response Hub in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, to Bukoba in the Kagera Region, would be used for patient management and infection control.

The WHO offered the medical aid after Tanzania President Samia Suluhu Hassan confirmed the second outbreak of the MVD in Biharamulo District, Kagera Region on Monday.

Sami said that one person was identified as being infected with MVD after laboratory tests conducted at the Kabaile mobile laboratory in the Kagera Region and later

confirmed positive in Dar es Salaam.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus pledged to support Tanzania's response measures, saying the WHO was releasing \$3million from its contingency funds for emergencies, in addition to the \$50,000 that it contributed earlier to support the initial investigations.

The WHO chief also pledged to continue supporting Tanzania in bringing the second outbreak under control.

He said since the first outbreak was reported two years ago, Tanzania has scaled up its detection measures, set up treatment centres, acquired mobile laboratories for testing samples, and deployed national response teams.

On Jan. 15, the WHO said eight people had been killed in a suspected MVD outbreak in the Kagera region.

In a statement, the WHO warned that the risk of further spread of the deadly disease in the country and the region was high.

## Summit: Non-essential civil servants to work from home

FROM PAGE 1

Banks will remain open, and business activities at Kariakoo Market will not be affected, along with hotels and restaurants in the city, remain operational during the summit, he stated.

Private sector employers are encouraged to allow their employees to work from home or make alternative arrangements to avoid the transportation challenges that may

arise due to road closures, he remarked.

Ambassador Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, attested that the African Heads of State energy summit, known as Mission 300, will bring on board 25 Heads of State who have been confirmed to attend.

Other countries will be represented at the level of prime ministers and deputy prime ministers, along

with energy ministers of all participating countries, he said.

The conference is aimed at driving Africa's energy transformation and address energy access issues for millions across the continent, with the goal of providing sustainable energy solutions to 300 million people by 2030.

A key achievement will be the adoption of the Africa Energy Compact, a strategic framework for advancing clean and inclusive energy,

the minister affirmed.

The summit will also endorse the first phase of national energy compacts for 2025-2030, with 14 countries, including Tanzania, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo, unveiling their national energy plans.

These plans will focus on improving energy access, reliability and affordability across the continent, a component of the Dar es Salaam Declaration, a collective vision for

sustainable energy expected to be approved.

It will provide a guideline for African nations in meeting energy needs and promoting renewable energy adoption, he specified.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to hold discussions with the Heads of State in post-summit exchanges to explore cooperation in rollouts for clean cooking energy access.

Heads of State from Algeria,

Comoros, Malawi, Zambia, Sierra Leoneo are among those confirming to attend, while top officials of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank will be present.

The summit is intended to deliberate on ways to boost energy access, infrastructure and competitiveness, setting the stage for sustainable energy solutions across Africa, the minister added.

## India introduces new monthly programme to engage with young Tanzanian students

By Guardian Reporter

THE High Commission of India has introduced a new monthly programme called 'Ka-ribu 'Tanzanian Youth' to engage with young Tanzanian students.

During the inaugural session, 30 students from Academic International Secondary School in Dar es Salaam visited the High Commission on October 25, 2024.

The programme is also aimed at fostering deeper understanding of the two nations.

Bishwadip Dey, High Commissioner of India to Tanzania unveiled this in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the celebration to mark India's 76th Republic Day in Tanzania under the theme: 'A Message of Friendship and Progress'.

He said that the 'youth represent the future and the engagement has been a deeply rewarding experience for him.

On cultural and trade relations between India and Tanzania, Dey said that the same have grown significantly, stressing that in 2024, Tanzania was the partner country for India's prestigious Surajkund Mela and the International Gita Mahotsav, showcasing shared cultural heritage.

He also stated that trade and investment continue to expand, with Tanzania playing a key role in South-South cooperation.

"Both nations have supported each other on multilateral platforms and we are pleased to see

Tanzania emerge as a strong voice in regional geopolitics," he said.

He also praised Dr. Kaushik Laxmidas Ramaiya, who received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman 2025, becoming the fourth Tanzanian of Indian origin to achieve the honour. He said his contributions exemplify the vital role of the Indian diaspora in strengthening bilateral relations.

He stated that the High Commission remains committed to fostering goodwill and deepening ties between India and Tanzania.

He also noted that January 26, 1950 marked a historic day for India when the constitution came into effect, laying the foundation for justice, liberty, and equality for all citizens.

"Today, India stands as the world's largest, most diverse, and vibrant democracy, achieving remarkable milestones over the decades," he said.

India's progress is evident across multiple sectors, saying: "Our economy, valued at \$3.8 trillion, ranks as the fifth largest globally and is projected to become the third-largest by 2030. With 65 percent of our population under the age of 35, India's youthful demographic is fuelling our growth. The nation boasts the third-largest startup ecosystem globally, comprising 114 unicorns valued collectively at \$350 billion. Known as the "pharmacy to the world," India has played a pivotal role in global healthcare, supplying over 298 million COVID-19 vaccines to nearly 100 countries under the Vaccine Maitri initiative."



Transport Minister Prof Makame Mbalawa (with red cap) inspects progress of Mwanza South Port expansion project in Mwanza Region at the weekend. The port is expected to accommodate MV Mwanza "Hapa Kazi Tu" ship upon its completion in May this year. Photo: Vitus Audax

## EA horticulture stakeholders form platform to foster healthy growth

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

HORTICULTURE stakeholders in the East African region have come together to create a unified platform aimed at fostering growth within the multi-billion-dollar industry.

Dubbed Horticulture Council of Eastern Africa (HoCEA), the newly formed body seeks to strengthen the region's horticulture subsector by addressing key challenges and capitalising on emerging opportunities.

At the helm of HoCEA is Dr. Jacqueline Mkindi, Chief Executive Officer of Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), who has been appointed as the inaugural chairperson. Her leadership is expected to guide the council in shaping its strategic

direction.

Supporting Dr. Mkindi include Clement Tulezi, CEO of Kenya Flower Council, who will serve as the secretary and Esther Nekambi, Executive Director of Uganda Flower Exporters Association, who takes on the role of treasurer.

The leadership team represents a collective effort by major horticulture stakeholders across East Africa.

HoCEA's focus areas include establishing a quality mark and branding strategy to raise the region's horticultural products on the global stage, implementing surveillance for plant diseases and pests to ensure health standards, and improving market access for local growers.

The council will also prioritise enhancing logistics to streamline the supply

chain, as well as advancing advocacy, information sharing, and communication across the region. In addition, HoCEA is committed to maintaining high standards of certification, ensuring food safety, and promoting sustainable resource management practices.

A key goal for the council is to host annual international trade events to showcase regional products and foster global partnerships.

The establishment of HoCEA marks a significant step forward for East Africa's horticulture industry, promising a coordinated approach to tackling industry challenges and seizing growth opportunities.

Speaking at TAHA headquarters in Arusha at the weekend, Dr. Mkindi expressed optimism that HoCEA, with its strong lead-

ership and strategic focus, would serve as a transformative force in the region's horticulture subsector.

"The success of this initiative is largely due to the invaluable support from TradeMark Africa," Dr. Mkindi noted, adding, "We are deeply grateful for their dedication to enhancing market access and advancing trade and investment initiatives throughout East Africa."

Dr. Mkindi further highlighted that: "With TradeMark Africa's partnership, we have navigated the complexities of trade and created sustainable opportunities that will help integrate and develop Eastern Africa as a whole."

The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat has also developed a comprehensive Fruits and Vegetables Value Chain

Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2031), which aims to increase intra-EAC trade of fruits and vegetables to \$25 million and global exports to \$1.3 billion by 2031.

Currently, intra-EAC trade in fruits and vegetables is valued at about \$10 million. The strategy focuses on enhancing production capacity, promoting research and innovation, improving packaging, expanding market access, and strengthening trade facilitation, quality infrastructure, skills development, and policy coordination.

The plan aims to raise global exports of vegetables from \$416 million to \$950 million, and fruits from \$125 million to \$350 million by 2031.

The fruits and vegetables subsector contributes between 20 and 36 percent to the GDP of EAC economies.



### ENROLLMENT FOR AB INITIO CABIN CREW COURSE

ATCL Training Centre is pleased to announce the opening of applications for its prestigious AB INITIO Cabin Crew Course. The course will have a duration of three (3) months and is scheduled to commence on 17th March 2025.

#### Umri: Applicant Qualifications

- Age:** 18 years to 25 years.
- Appearance:** visible tattoos and marks are strictly not permitted.
- Physical Requirements:** minimum height of 5'4" (162 cm).
- Educational Qualifications:** Must have passed at least four subjects at the Ordinary Education Level whereby English and Geography are mandatory.
- Language Proficiency:** Competent in written and spoken Swahili and English. Knowledge of additional foreign languages (Arabic, French or Chinese) will be an added advantage.
- Nationality:** Must be Tanzanian or Foreign citizens. Foreign nationals must obtain immigration visa to live and study in Tanzania and they are also required to verify their academic qualifications through the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA).

#### Application Requirements

All applications must include the following documents. A copy of Form Four certificate and other academic certificates A copy of birth certificate Two passport-sized photographs with a blue background and one full-sized photograph (6x8) A current Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Submission Details Submit applications to: Principal's Office at Julius Nyerere International Airport Terminal One or email: [training@airtanzania.co.tz](mailto:training@airtanzania.co.tz) before 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Address  
Principal, ATCL Training Centre,  
PO Box 543, Dar Es Salaam.

For any inquiries, please contact: +255 754 345 874 or +255 735 787 212



### PROVISION OF INFORMATION FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS/SERVICES TO M&P EXPLORATION PRODUCTION TANZANIA LIMITED (Ref. No. MPEP/2025/TM/002)

1. M&P Exploration Production Tanzania Ltd. (MPEP), an upstream producer of natural gas from the Mnazi Bay gas field in the Mtwara region hereby invites potential suppliers to express their interest and provide information for the supply of the following:

#### Goods & Services for Installation of Cathodic Protection System for 2 Flowlines of 6-inch Carbon Steel

The work shall include but not be limited to:

- Conduct an assessment of the existing Cathodic protection system and determine required upgrades.
- Detailed engineering, including system design calculations, and preparation of construction drawings.
- Procurement and delivery of all necessary materials including anodes, rectifiers, cables, and other components.
- Installation, testing, and commissioning of the Cathodic protection system.
- Preparation of as-built drawings, operation, and maintenance manuals.

2. This call for Request for Information (RFI) marks an open, transparent, and objective tender process.

3. Potential suppliers must submit information to demonstrate their capability and competency. This must include but not be limited to the following:

- Proof of experience and technical capability in providing said goods & services preferably in the Oil & Gas industry.
- International companies with the ability to team up with local entities in any form as per the Local Content Regulations, 2017.
- Proof of registration with the local authorities in Tanzania or the Country of Origin. This shall include but not be limited to a company profile, certificate of registration with BRELA, Tax Authority certificates for Tax Identification Number and Value Added Tax, Valid Business License, Proof of registration with ERB (Engineers Registration Board) if applicable, Regulatory license and permits (if applicable), Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.

4. All correspondence regarding this inquiry shall be made in writing and communicated by e-mail to [procurement@tanzaniamp.co.tz](mailto:procurement@tanzaniamp.co.tz), not later than **07<sup>th</sup> February, 2025**.



Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian delivers her remarks during the Chinese New Year reception in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

## Minister wants China-Tanzania relations to be taken as blueprint for development

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, has urged African nations to view China-Tanzania partnership as a blueprint for development, highlighting it as the embodiment of a shared vision for transformation, prosperity and modernisation.

He shared the insights in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during the Chinese New Year reception, emphasising the partnership's role as

a powerful driver of regional progress and shared prosperity.

Kombo elaborated that Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Samia Suluhu Hassan share a unified vision focused on driving transformation, fostering prosperity, and advancing modernisation through key initiatives. Their shared priorities reflect a commitment to uplifting citizens' lives and building sustainable development models that can inspire other nations.

"The presidents' commitment to

improving citizens' lives and establishing sustainable development models serves as powerful example. I urge other nations to take inspiration from this partnership and adopt similar approaches for meaningful growth and progress," he said. The minister also pointed to the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project as one of the modernisation efforts, aligning closely with President Xi's development theories.

This infrastructure initiative, he noted, exemplifies how moderni-

sation drives economic growth and enhances regional connectivity.

Chen Mingjian, Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, emphasised the resilience of the China-Tanzania friendship, which marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Tanzania.

She highlighted that China remains Tanzania's largest trading partner and source of investment, with the two nations' cooperation yielding significant results.

"China continues to uphold its status as Tanzania's largest trading

partner and source of investment while Tanzania will again be the guest of honour at the China International Import Expo. The mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries has yielded impressive outcomes," she said.

The envoy also noted that Chinese-funded enterprises in Tanzania have made substantial progress and contributed to the Belt and Road Initiative. Teachers and students coming to Tanzania have strengthened cultural exchange between the nations.

"As we celebrate this New Year, I hope prosperity will flourish for both China and Tanzania, preserving the traditional friendship between our two nations for future generations," she said.

The Spring Festival, celebrated according to Chinese tradition, marks the beginning of the New Year and is the oldest and most significant traditional festival in China. It is an important occasion for bidding farewell to the old year, welcoming the new, and for family reunions.



Mussa Azzan Zungu (R) Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly participates in cake cutting during President Samia Suluhu Hassan's birthday celebration in Dar es Salaam at the weekend shortly before presentation of CCM's election manifesto implementation report. Others are CCM Dar es Salaam Regional Chairman Abbas Mtemvu, Kivukoni Councillor, Sharik Choughule, CCM Ilala District Chairman Alhaj Said Side and other part members. Photo: Correspondent

## Rescuers retrieve nine bodies of fishermen killed by strong winds

By Guardian Correspondent, Rukwa

SEARCH and rescue operation in Lake Rukwa has led to the recovery of nine bodies out of ten fishermen who went missing after strong storm swept through the lake on Thursday last week.

Authorities have confirmed that a team of rescuers, including 36 divers from the Fire and Rescue Force, were still in search of one missing fisherman.

A total of 550 fishermen were missing after several boats capsized in strong storm and 540 fishermen were rescued.

Minister for Home Affairs Innocent Bashungwa confirmed the recovery of the bodies and expressed his 'deep sorry' over the loss of lives.

"The storm hit unexpectedly, while we managed to rescue some,

it is with a heavy heart that I report the tragic loss of some fishermen. We continue the search for the last missing person," he said during a visit to Nankanga Village at the weekend.

The ongoing search efforts are being led by Commissioner General of the Fire and Rescue Force, John Masunga, who coordinates the operation by a helicopter to communicate with rescue units on the ground. The team utilises a total of 19 boats to assist in the search.

Bashungwa urged all Tanzanians to heed weather warnings issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority, which has been equipped with modern technology to enable it provide accurate, timely forecasts.

"The government has worked hard to strengthen the Fire and Rescue Brigade, which now has

one helicopter for rescues and fire fighting, 150 fire fighting vehicles, 40 ambulances and 23 rescue boats," he said.

He reassured the public that the search and rescue operation will continue until the missing fisherman is accounted for, either alive or dead.

He confirmed that a special rescue team from Dar es Salaam would arrive at Nankanga to further bolster the efforts.

Sumbawanga District Commissioner Nyakia Chirukile provided an update on the ongoing identification process.

The bodies of the fishermen who have been recovered are being identified at a health facility located at Nankanga Village and preparations for their burial were underway.

## COSTECH issued over 3,000 permits to researchers in 2024

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE National Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) issued over 3,000 research permits in 2024 to both local and international researchers covering various fields.

COSTECH's Director General, Dr. Amos Nungu, made the announcement in Morogoro at the weekend during the commission's 37th staff meeting for 2025.

"As a commission, we fund various research projects, and we have also granted permits to foreign researchers to conduct studies here in the country," he said.

Dr. Nungu cited long-term research initiatives, including studies in Ngorongoro, which have been ongoing for more than 50 years.

"There are long-term studies in Ngorongoro focusing on the lives of lions, hyenas, and also research on Mount Kilimanjaro," he said.

He further highlighted that in addition to these areas, the commission has also contributed to the country's tourism sector by facilitating research in tourism-related fields.

"There are other studies on geographical matters that are featured on channels, which attract tourists and encourage them to visit Tanzania," he added.

Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretary, Dr. Mussa Ali Mussa, expressed concerns that while the commission funds research and issues permits, it lacks the authority to ensure that the research benefits the Tanzanian people.

"Many studies are conducted, and new ones are underway every day. I've seen in the report that over 4,000 studies have been permitted," he said.

"What is their practical use? If the research is not applied, it doesn't help us. We must ensure that the research conducted in the country is being utilised effectively," Dr. Mussa emphasised.

## TIC sees lots of investment opportunities in Lake Zone

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has identified the Lake Zone as a prime hub for investment, offering vast opportunities across multiple sectors, including agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing, tourism, and infrastructure development.

TIC-registered projects in the region have already become cornerstone for economic growth, driving job creation, infrastructure development and enhancement of social services.

During a visit to Simiyu Region recently, TIC board chairman Dr. Binilith Mahenge highlighted the successes of two key projects namely Alliance Gineries Ltd and Big One Gineries which are both cotton processing plants.

The projects have not only contributed significantly to the region's economic growth but also had a direct impact on the lives of local communities.

The projects have created job opportunities for residents, improved education by constructing classrooms at local primary and secondary schools and enhanced healthcare by building a health centre for the community.

Dr. Mahenge emphasised that TIC-registered projects have been pivotal in Simiyu's development. He also assured that TIC will continue working to attract both

local and foreign investors to the region, as well as other parts of the country.

"The presence of these projects is a clear example of how investment can transform local communities and boost economic development. TIC will continue working to attract more investments to the region and beyond," he said.

The Lake Zone, which includes Mwanza, Geita, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Mara and Kagera regions, is now recognised as the region with immense untapped potential.

During the tour, Dr. Mahenge visited 11

TIC-registered projects, observing firsthand the positive impact the initiatives are having on the local economy.

The success of the projects has been largely driven by the collaboration of regional and district offices, district councils, and various government agencies that make up the One-Stop Facilitation Centre for investors.

The agencies work together to ensure smooth implementation and provide vital aftercare services for TIC-registered projects.



Shaaban Robert Secondary School

FORM V ADMISSION 2025

Application forms for the Form V - 2025 are now available at the School office Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for the following combinations:-

Physics, Chemistry, Biology	-	(PCB)
Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics	-	(PCM)
Physics, Geography, Mathematics	-	(PGM)
Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science	-	(PMC)
Chemistry, Biology, Geography	-	(CBG)
Economics, Commerce, Accountancy	-	(ECA)
Economics, Geography, Mathematics	-	(EGM)
History, Geography, Economics	-	(HGE)
History, Geography, Language (English)	-	(HGL)
History, Kiswahili, Language (English)	-	(HKL)

1. Applicant should not be above 18 years of age.
2. Fee for Registration is Tshs. 25,000/- only.

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Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Ashatu Kijaji (C) listens a briefing from owner of Alpha Tanganyika Fish Processing Factory, Alpha Nondo (R), during her visit to the factory in Rukwa Region at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

## Over 20 pupils, two teachers hospitalised after bee attack

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyoni

TWENTY-seven pupils and two teachers at Sayuni Primary School in Manyoni District, Singida Region, have been hospitalised after a swarm of bees attacked the school.

School teacher Neema Ng'aa shared the details during a visit by Manyoni District Commissioner, Dr. Vicent Mashinji, explaining that the incident occurred while the students were in class.

"When the bees attacked them, the pupils panicked and ran away. The teachers who went to help them were also attacked," she said.

Bless Mwarabu, also a teacher at the same school, added that when the school bell was rung to alert the pupils, the sound agitated the bees and the attack intensified.

Dr. Lucy Deo, Medical Officer in charge at Manyoni District Hospital, confirmed that three ambulances were dispatched to transport the victims to the hospital for treatment.

"We admitted 27 pupils and two teachers, provided medical care, and some were discharged while

others continue to receive treatment," she said.

Dr. Mashinji ordered that all public service providers, including those handling pests and dangerous animals, ensure the removal of such threats.

"I instruct that no bees should surround schools. We will begin with the environment teacher, then the head teacher as there's no reason for bees to surround schools," she said.

Bee colonies in Singida Region have been nesting in classrooms and places of worship, leading to multiple attacks on the local community.



**When the bees attacked them, the pupils panicked and ran away. The teachers who went to help them were also attacked**

## NEMC applauds EACOP for saving Sigi river ecosystem

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has praised the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) for its efforts in safeguarding Sigi river ecosystem during the pipeline's construction.

Sigi river, located in Muheza District, Tanga Region, is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. The 24-inch electrically-heated pipeline passes through a tunnel beneath the riverbed to avoid disrupting the river's ecosystem. Due

to the viscous nature of Uganda's crude oil, the pipeline must maintain a minimum temperature of 50 degrees Celsius for the oil to flow.

EACOP's environmental coordinator, Joflin Bejumula, explained to the NEMC board that routing the pipeline beneath Sigi river was essential for maintaining environmental standards and ensuring no disruption to the river's aquatic life.

NEMC board chair, Prof Ensat Chaggu, expressed satisfaction with the pipeline's construction approach, emphasising the importance of envi-

ronmental conservation and sustainability. "The decision to route the pipeline under Sigi river is a remarkable achievement in environmental management," she stated.

Sigi river's ecological significance stems from its origins in the East Usambara Mountains, which are known for their rich biodiversity. The river flows for 100 kilometres, eventually meeting the Indian Ocean 40 kilometres north of Tanga City.

During their visit to the project's marine export terminal at Chon-

goleani Peninsula, the NEMC delegation commended EACOP for fully complying with national and international environmental laws. Bejumula reaffirmed the project's commitment to protecting the environment, including measures for marine life conservation, wildlife protection, and minimising noise, vibrations, and oil spill risks.

The EACOP pipeline stretches 1,147 kilometres within Tanzania and 296 kilometres within Uganda, transporting crude oil from Uganda's Hoima

District to the terminal at Chongoleani.

The project's success is attributed to its proactive environmental protection strategies and continued collaboration with local communities along the pipeline route, helping to raise awareness and mitigate environmental risks.

EACOP is owned by TotalEnergies (62percent), Uganda and Tanzania National Oil Corporations (UNOC and TPDC) with 15 percent each, and China National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC) holding 8 percent.

## FIRST HOUSING FINANCE (TANZANIA) LIMITED PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Issued pursuant to regulations 7 and 8 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations, 2014

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DEC. 2024

(Amounts in thousand shillings)	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter
	31st Dec. 2024	30th Sep. 2024
<b>A. ASSETS</b>		
1. Cash	5,218	2,571
2. Balances with Bank of Tanzania	-	-
3. Investments in Government Securities	3,691,250	3,656,967
4. Balances with Other Banks and Financial Institutions	1,739,465	3,287,276
5. Cheques and Items for Clearing	-	-
6. Inter-branch Float Items	-	-
7. Bills Negotiated	-	-
8. Customers' Liabilities for Acceptances	-	-
9. Interbank Loans Receivables	-	-
10. Investments in Other Securities	-	-
11. Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (Net of Allowances for Expected Losses)	35,596,892	33,993,904
12. Other Assets	1,217,111	1,107,515
13. Equity Investments	1,767,980	1,767,980
14. Underwriting Accounts	-	-
15. Property, Plant and Equipment	167,851	197,088
<b>16. TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>43,765,677</b>	<b>44,003,301</b>
<b>B. LIABILITIES</b>		
17. Deposits from Other Banks and Financial Institutions	-	-
18. Customer Deposits	2,322,479	2,461,997
19. Cash Letters of Credit	-	-
20. Special Deposits	-	-
21. Payment Orders/ Transfers Payable	-	-
22. Bankers' Cheques and Drafts Issued	-	-
23. Accrued Taxes and Expenses Payable	254,370	437,686
24. Acceptances Outstanding	-	-
25. Inter-branch Float Items	-	-
26. Unearned Income, Other Deferred Charges & Taxes	603,662	544,848
27. Other Liabilities	287,187	232,444
28. Borrowings	20,993,595	21,225,103
<b>29. TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>24,461,284</b>	<b>24,906,064</b>
<b>30. NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) (16 minus 29)</b>	<b>19,304,394</b>	<b>19,097,217</b>
<b>C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>		
31. Paid up Share Capital	21,800,000	21,800,000
32. Share premium	-	-
33. Fair Value Reserve	95,831	95,831
34. Retained Earnings	(3,383,974)	(3,454,708)
35. Profit/(Loss) Account	451,134	242,478
36. Regulatory Reserve	347,393	413,616
37. Minority Interest	-	-
<b>38. TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>19,304,394</b>	<b>19,097,217</b>
39. Contingent Liabilities	-	-
40. Non-Performing Loans & Advances	1,314,544	1,288,186
41. Allowance for Expected Losses	375,205	426,384
42. Other Non-Performing Assets	-	-
<b>D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS</b>		
(i). Shareholders' Funds to Total Assets	44.11%	43.40%
(ii). Non-Performing Loans to Total Gross Loans	3.67%	3.73%
(iii). Gross Loans & Advances to Total Deposits	1473.30%	1325.34%
(iv). Loans & Advances to Total Assets	80.56%	77.23%
(v). Earning Assets to Total Assets	89.37%	86.19%
(vi). Deposits Growth	-5.67%	3.02%
(vii). Assets Growth	-0.54%	7.74%

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

(Amounts in Thousand shillings)	Current Quarter	Comparative Quarter	Current Year Cumulative	Comparative Year Cumulative
	31st Dec. 2024	31st Dec. 2023	31st Dec. 2024	31st Dec. 2023
1. Interest Income	1,812,479	1,485,112	5,838,376	4,833,482
2. Interest Expense	(671,689)	(460,199)	(2,191,848)	(1,487,940)
<b>3. Net Interest Income</b>	<b>940,790</b>	<b>1,024,913</b>	<b>3,646,528</b>	<b>3,345,522</b>
4. Bad Debts (Reversal) / (Losses)	-	-	-	-
5. Impairment Reversal / (Losses)	43,710	26,368	(116,990)	(106,888)
<b>6. Non Interest Income</b>	<b>90,504</b>	<b>(87,841)</b>	<b>499,431</b>	<b>205,398</b>
6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/ (Loss)	(14,950)	(2,582)	(14,818)	(1,237)
6.2 Fees and Commissions	78,542	(62,791)	416,599	152,147
6.3 Dividend Income	-	-	40,100	36,900
6.4 Other Operating Income	26,912	8,332	57,380	17,588
<b>7. Non Interest Expenses</b>	<b>(627,441)</b>	<b>(785,735)</b>	<b>(3,499,258)</b>	<b>(3,040,590)</b>
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	(418,568)	(584,397)	(1,892,860)	(1,774,369)
7.2 Fees and Commissions	-	-	-	-
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	(498,873)	(201,338)	(1,606,398)	(1,266,221)
<b>8. Operating Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>247,852</b>	<b>178,505</b>	<b>530,747</b>	<b>403,442</b>
9. Income Tax Provision	(38,906)	(33,378)	(79,614)	(51,397)
<b>10. Net Income/(Loss) after Income Tax</b>	<b>208,946</b>	<b>145,127</b>	<b>451,134</b>	<b>352,045</b>
11. Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-
<b>12. Total Comprehensive Income/ (Loss)</b>	<b>208,946</b>	<b>145,127</b>	<b>451,134</b>	<b>352,045</b>
13. Number of Employees	28	27	28	27
14. Basic Earnings Per Share	0.96	0.67	2.07	1.61
15. Number of Branches	1	1	1	1
<b>SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>				
(i). Return on Average Total Assets	0.48%	0.40%	1.03%	1.00%
(ii). Return on Average Shareholder's Fund	1.09%	0.77%	2.30%	1.88%
(iii). Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	80.23%	83.78%	84.04%	85.63%
(iv). Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	2.44%	3.19%	2.44%	10.17%

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

(Amounts in Thousand shillings)	Share Capital	Share premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory reserve	General Provision Reserve	Others (Fair Value Reserve)	Total
	Current Quarter (31.12.2024)	21,800,000	-	(3,213,719)	413,616	-	95,831
Balance as at the beginning of the quarter (01.10.2024)	21,800,000	-	(3,213,719)	413,616	-	95,831	19,097,217
Profit/(Loss) for the quarter	-	-	208,946	-	-	-	208,946
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	72,223	(72,223)	-	-	-
General Provision	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the current quarter (31.12.2024)	21,800,000	-	(2,932,840)	341,393	-	95,831	19,304,394
Previous Quarter (30.09.2024)	21,800,000	-	(3,131,198)	232,247	-	95,831	18,996,910
Profit/(Loss) for the quarter	-	-	98,818	-	-	-	98,818
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	181,389	(181,389)	-	-	-
General Provision	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the quarter (30.09.2024)	21,800,000	-	(3,213,719)	413,616	-	95,831	19,097,217

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.

Name	Signature	Date
Charles Mugila (Chairman)	(Signed)	24.01.2025
Margaret Ikongo (Director)	(Signed)	24.01.2025

In preparation of the quarterly financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements (if there were changes during the quarter, the changes be explained as per IAS 34 & IAS 8).

Name and Title	Signature	Date
Amulike E. Kamwela (Ag. Chief Executive Officer)	(Signed)	24.01.2025
Antidius Kabemela (Ag. Chief Financial Officer)	(Signed)	24.01.2025
Isambo Binde (Internal Audit Manager)	(Signed)	24.01.2025



### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

(Amounts in Thousand shillings)	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter	Current Year Cumulative	Comparative Year Cumulative
	31st Dec. 2024	30th Sep. 2024	31st Dec. 2024	31st Dec. 2023
<b>I. Cash Flow from Operating Activities:</b>				
Net Income/(Loss) before tax	247,852	116,904	530,747	403,442
<b>Adjustments for:</b>				
- Impairment/Amortization/Depreciation & Non-cash Items	(18,994)	71,507	206,725	(595,372)
- Net Change in Loans and Advances	(1,238,096)	(2,714,165)	(8,086,190)	(8,107,900)
- Gain/Loss from Sale of Assets	-	-	-	-
- Net Change in Deposits	(139,518)	72,286	441,874	968,818
- Net Change in Short Term Negotiable Securities	-	-	-	-
- Net Change in Other Liabilities	(108,665)	(69,848)	336,642	(366,748)
- Net Change in Other Assets	(53,504)	(8,578)	(345,885)	(84,859)
- Tax Paid	(38,906)	(17,186)	(79,614)	(51,397)
- Others (Interest paid & Adjustments for previous items)	6,013	26,577	58,233	57,989
<b>Net Cash (Used)/ Provided by Operating Activities</b>	<b>(1,544,188)</b>	<b>(2,590,455)</b>	<b>(6,937,467)</b>	<b>(7,776,647)</b>
<b>II. Cash Flow from Investing Activities</b>				
- Dividend Received	-	-	40,100	36,900
- Purchase of Fixed Assets	26,951	30,759	(28,723)	917,695
- Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
- Purchase of TMRC Securities	-	-	-	-
- Investment in Govt Securities	55,717	(57,525)	(688)	801
- Purchase of Intangibles	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Cash (Used) by Investing Activities</b>	<b>82,668</b>	<b>(26,766)</b>	<b>10,689</b>	<b>955,396</b>
<b>III. Cash Flow from Financing Activities</b>				
- Repayment of Long Term Debt & Interest	-	-	-	-
- Proceeds from Issuance of Long Term Debt	-	-	-	-
- Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	-	-	-	-
- Payment of Cash Dividends	-	-	-	-
- New Loan from TMRC & NBC Bank	(235,913)	3,022,737	4,794,872	4,204,994
- Others (Repayment of Lease liabilities)	(54,987)	(63,100)	(108,200)	(103,890)
<b>Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities</b>	<b>(290,100)</b>	<b>2,969,637</b>	<b>4,678,672</b>	<b>4,104,104</b>
<b>IV. Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>				
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash and Cash equivalents	(1,551,540)	442,468	(2,248,106)	(2,716,847)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the period	3,289,847	2,847,379	3,988,413	6,696,930
ECL on bank balances	6,378	0	6,378	6,021
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the period	1,744,685	3,289,847	1,744,685	3,986,104

S/N	ITEMS	CHARGES/FEEES
1	Prime Lending Rate (PLR)	18% p.a.
2	Maximum spread above PLR	4% p.a.
3	Application Fee (Non-refundable)	TZS 200,000/-
4	Processing Fee	1.5% of the loan value
5	Facility Fee	1.5% of the loan value
6	Restructuring/Rescheduling Fee	1% of the restructured/rescheduling amount Paid by the client as per the invoice
7	Valuation Fee	Paid by the client to HFF account and HFF will pay law firm
8	Legal Fee	
9	Early Repayment	5% of the amount to be prepaid from Bank or Financial Institution
10	Annual Review Fee	N/A
11	Cheque returned Unpaid (Outward & Inward)	TZS 50,000/-
12	Loan Statement	TZS 20,000/-

## Ngorongoro expands access to clean water with key infrastructure project

By Guardian Correspondent, Ngorongoro

AUTHORITIES in Ngorongoro District, Arusha Region, have ramped up efforts to provide clean and safe water to residents by enhancing local infrastructure. This includes the construction of 300,000-litre water tank and installation of over 30 kilometres of water pipes.

The project is set to benefit residents of Loliondo Township, along with surrounding villages such as Lopoluni and Oldonyowasi.

Gerald Andrew, manager of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Ngorongoro District, provided an update on the ongoing initiative, revealing that the project is progressing well. He highlighted that it is a critical development for the region, expected to increase access to

clean water by over 85 percent once completed. Currently, it is at 90 percent. The project is expected to significantly improve water delivery in the region. Andrew emphasised that addresses a long-standing water shortage that affects Loliondo residents and neighbouring villages for years.

The initiative is being executed in collaboration with the government and development partners from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"The project is nearing completion and will relieve water challenges the community faces whereby residents had to walk long distances in search of water," said Andrew.

Once operational, the project will offer reliable access to clean and safe water closer to homes, greatly improving daily life for those in Loliondo and the surrounding villages.



Minister for Finance, Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba (C), presents the best taxpayer award to Pawan Subhash Patel, Managing Director of the M.M Integrated Steel Mills Ltd, during a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## MP wants civic education to enable residents get IDs

By Correspondent Elizabeth Zaya

KIGOMA Urban MP Kilumbe Ng'enda has called upon officials with Mama Samia's Legal Aid Campaign to provide civic education to residents living in the border areas to enable them access national identification cards.

Ng'enda made the call in Kigoma Municipality at the weekend when speaking during the cam-

aign, highlighting persistent citizenship challenges faced by border residents due to unclear data.

Ng'enda emphasised that Kigoma Region experiences serious citizenship issues than other regions, primarily due to a lack of civic education. He called for the campaign officials to address pressing needs.

"Many of our people lose their

rights because they don't understand the legal procedures required," Ng'enda stated.

"For example, someone born by a mother from Burundi and a Tanzania father or vice versa, may fail to confirm their citizenship due to a lack of awareness. This prevents them from obtaining crucial documents like the National Identification Authority (NIDA)'s card, driver's licence

or business permit leading to legal problems.

"When we hear that President Samia has initiated legal aid, we are overjoyed. We believe this initiative will help Kigoma residents access legal procedures to secure their civic rights. That's why I urged people to attend the campaign during the parliamentary committee meetings," Ng'enda explained.

He expressed gratitude to President Samia for extending legal aid services to Kigoma, emphasising the significance of issuing IDs for the citizens of the region.

"In Kigoma, our people need many rights addressed, but citizenship issues affect the majority. For instance, a young man failed to secure police job due to citizenship complications," Ng'enda added.

He urged Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs to ensure lawyers assist in legal procedures to enable people obtain citizenship.

Dr Damas Ndumbaro, Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister affirmed that the campaign would continue at the municipal level to address citizens' legal concerns and guarantee everyone receives the rightful entitlement.

## China hands MNH medical equipment valued at 125bn/-

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

CHINA has donated medical equipment worth 125bn/- to Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), including specialised tools for visualising blood vessels and nerves during surgeries.

Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian, officially handed over the equipment to Health Minister Jenista Mhagama at MNH on behalf of the government of China during a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend.

Speaking after receiving the donation, Mhagama said it was part of the 60th-anniversary celebrations of Tanzania-China cooperation in the health sector.

She emphasised that the equipment would help MNH improve health services and address challenges in delivering quality care to citizens.

"This partnership between our two nations will continue to bring benefits, including advanced medical equipment, modern technology and specialised experts to enhance healthcare services.

"I applaud the MNH leadership for their commitment to this partnership. This donation will significantly improve healthcare delivery and positively impact citizens," Mhagama stated.

Ambassador Chen expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Health, MNH, and the Chinese medical team in Tan-

zania for their contributions to the enduring partnership between the two nations.

Earlier, MNH Executive Director Prof. Mohamed Janabi thanked China for the support and called for increased collaboration in developing human resources and adopting advanced technology.

"This partnership offers our doctors opportunities for specialised training in China, enhancing their skills and introducing modern techniques, including artificial intelligence, which are essential for healthcare," Prof. Janabi emphasised.

He highlighted that the donated equipment includes a magnifying microscope worn like glasses, enabling surgeons to view and operate on tiny blood vessels and nerves with precision.



**I applaud the MNH leadership for their commitment to this partnership. This donation will significantly improve healthcare delivery and positively impact citizens**



Music artists perform at Tegeta kwa Ndevu commuter bus shelter in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The artists have been conducting such performances daily, causing inconvenience to passengers by occupying waiting areas. Photo: John Badi

## Stakeholders want clean energy solutions to end power outages

By Guardian Reporter

STAKEHOLDERS in the energy sector have emphasised the need to involve major players in clean energy production to address frequent power outages that disrupt industrial production and hamper economic development.

Speaking at a meet-

ing in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Tarak Jani, deputy general manager of Clarke Energy, pointed out that power outages severely affect industries' ability to produce goods efficiently and ultimately hinder the nation's economic progress.

He stressed that the disruptions are a significant barrier to scaling industrial

production and providing affordable products to the market.

Jani called for collaboration between the government, energy stakeholders and industry leaders to implement sustainable solutions.

"While Tanzania has the capacity to generate power, the challenge lies in ensuring consistent and reliable

delivery to industries," he noted. "Frequent power interruptions reduce production efficiency, leading to financial losses and undermining the global competitiveness of Tanzanian products."

Experts argue that despite the country's power generation potential, the key challenge remains in the effective distribution

of energy, which continues to cause inefficiencies and operational setbacks for industries across the country.

Jani explained that there are private sector players already playing a crucial role in supporting industrial production by providing advanced energy solutions, including natural gas-powered power plants.

The systems not only

offer a cleaner alternative to more polluting fuels like diesel and coal but also help industries minimize their environmental impact.

Through partnerships with the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO), the actors help to strengthen

Tanzania's energy infrastructure.

Jani also highlighted the importance of building local capacity by offering training to industries on how to maximize the efficiency of natural gas power plants, including how to recover heat, steam and cooling from exhaust systems to reduce carbon emissions.

IN THE DISTRICT LAND AND HOUSING TRIBUNAL FOR KINSHANI AT MWANANYAMALA APPLICATION/MISC. APPLICATION NO. 264 OF 2023 MICHAEL ALOIS HAULE... APPLICANT VERSUS ASTERIA LEIVA MOSHI... RESPONDENT SUMMONS/NOTICE

TO: ASTERIA LEIVA MOSHI  
Take notice that the above matter is coming for mention/hearing on 03 day of 02, 2025 before the Hon. J.W SILLAS Chairman of the tribunal. You are hereby commanded to appear at.....noon when the case will be mentioned/heard.

Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal this 10 day of 01, 2025



# ADVERTISEMENT

## TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY



The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, presents an award to a representative of Rinan Mining Investment Tanzania Limited from Songwe Region during the Taxpayer appreciation awards for the 2023/24 financial year, held on January 23, 2025, in Dar es Salaam.



The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, presents an award to Said Salim Bakhresa, who won first place as the High Net Worth Individual (HNWI) taxpayer during the Taxpayer appreciation awards for the 2023/24 financial year, held on January 23, 2025, in Dar es Salaam.



The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, presents an award to a small taxpayer from Kariakoo, Mr. Faisal Abdulsatar, during the Taxpayer appreciation awards for the 2023/24 financial year, held on January 23, 2025, in Dar es Salaam.



The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, presents an award to a representative of Glitter Gems Limited from Manyara Region during the Taxpayer appreciation awards for the 2023/24 financial year, held on January 23, 2025, in Dar es Salaam.



The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, presents an award to a small taxpayer from Mtwara Region, Mr. Jumbé Bakari, during the Taxpayer appreciation awards for the 2023/24 financial year, held on January 23, 2025, in Dar es Salaam.



The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, presents an award to the NMB Bank's Chief Executive Officer Ms. Ruth Zaipuna, after the most profitable bank emerged as the overall winner in voluntary tax compliance for the 2023/2024 financial year. The award was presented during the Taxpayer appreciation awards, held in Dar es Salaam.



The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, receives an award from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) for being the number one advocate of tax compliance. The award was presented to the President by the Minister of Finance, Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba, the TRA Board of Directors Chairman, Mr. Mussa Uledi, and the TRA Commissioner General, Mr. Yusuph Juma Mwenda, during the Taxpayer appreciation awards for the 2023/2024 financial year, held in Dar es Salaam.



The Speaker of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Tullia Ackson, presents an award to the Managing Director of CRDB Bank PLC, Abdulmajid Nsekela, for emerging third in the category of the most compliant corporate taxpayers with a significant contribution to revenue during the Taxpayer appreciation awards for the 2023/24 financial year, held on January 23, 2025, in Dar es Salaam.



The Speaker of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Tullia Ackson, presented an award to Tanzania Breweries Public Limited Company for emerging second in the category of the most compliant corporate taxpayers with a significant contribution to revenue during the Taxpayer appreciation awards for the 2023/24 financial year, held on January 23, 2025, in Dar es Salaam.



The Commissioner General of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Mr. Yusuph Juma Mwenda (right), presents an award to Airtel Tanzania Public Limited Company during the Taxpayer appreciation awards for the 2023/24 financial year, held on January 23, 2025, in Dar es Salaam.

MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2024

**Taking A New Look  
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## Gastronomy tourism forum menu to list more than food

TANZANIA is among a number of countries set to host major fora around the world in the first 100 days of incoming US President Donald Trump. A pact has just been signed to that effect with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UN Tourism), making Tanzania the host of the second forum on gastronomy tourism for Africa. The tourism minister was in the Spanish capital of Madrid for the signing on Friday; it will be a tasty engagement.

The reason is the delegates will have more than the bonanza of testing various types of food and hotel operators scanning which recipes appear more appealing to the visitors. It isn't about tourism per se but it touches global expectations in various areas, and tourism flows could also be implicated. The fact is that the United States is altering how it seeks to relate to the rest of the world, and it is a take it or leave it situation, not one that it tables for discussion in UN fora, etc.

There will definitely be winners and losers in the now emerging environment, with for instance huge dividends likely for artificial intelligence when the US moves multibillion dollars initiatives in that regard, as part of the showcase programmes of the incoming administration. All that ignites industry will also ignite banks, and implicitly travel either on account of new business links or extra incomes from newer opportunities from the new strategic drive, etc.

At the bonanza itself, over 300 participants from around the world are expected to converge in Dar es Salaam from March 11 to 13, where the minister

showed Tanzania's enthusiasm in hosting the upcoming forum. There will definitely be new data emerging as to what should be expected in tourism as a whole, even before the bit about gastronomy is taken up. Specialised spheres of government work in the US that have plenty to do with administering various aid activity to needy countries are being suspended right away.

The point here is that gastronomy is something that relates to some kind of festivity, not just the discovery of some delightful culinary formula specific to certain countries or cultures. When the situation on 'what there is' on the horizon is not good, people may even skip some keen points about gastronomy and focus on unfolding realities instead. The US contributes about 25 percent of total funding of all United Nations agencies, and it is re-examining most of this format.

That is why despite the convivial atmosphere tied up with the whole idea of gastronomy tourism, the sort of interest that tourists take in relation to what the country they visit can offer or the various hotels there can provide, there is a fly in the soup this time round. There is no way that a food tasting bonanza can proceed as if nothing is the matter when nearly everything that the 'business as usual' trajectory of global tourism has to rewrite its 2025 focus to take up the sort of initiatives that the incoming administrators in Washington take up. The delegates are unlikely to be in their happiest mood, and their hosts even more so gives the deep ties we have with aid agencies.

## Diplomatic efforts to solve Horn of Africa tensions quite welcome

REPORTS cite new efforts by Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi to drum up the maintenance of peace and security in the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa. This effort illustrates ongoing changes in the diplomatic and strategic map in the Middle East and around the world, most of which bodes for well. There are far too many crises in this part of the world, and new initiatives are likely to add momentum to what is already being done on the ground, even now.

What some observers may have noticed with some relish is that the Egyptian leader says the region is strategically important to global stability. That obviously is true now as in the past, but only when there is some change in the global outlook is it feasible to add the dire need for Red Sea plus Horn of Africa stability to the list of urgent needs. It reflects what is not being directly admitted, that forces of destruction, hostile to the world order, are losing ground.

It would also appear that President al-Sisi is erecting another pole to a diplomatic design already being noticed with the successful mediation conducted by Turkey, to end a simmering conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia. To a considerable extent a number of African states are already reciprocating and seeking horizons of mediation in the newly found diplomatic conveyance outlets. Rwanda President Paul Kagame was in Turkey towards the end of the week, where solving the eastern DRC stalemate was uppermost.

Yet reaching the aims that these diplomatic initiatives are mooted will not be easy, as for instance a

dual engagement by the United States and Saudi Arabia to stop the bitter civil war in the Sudan when it started failed to take hold. For a while such efforts have been pegged to the idea that the problem is a sharp division between armed wings of the Sudanese state, especially over some overriding interests of the generals. Now most people are beginning to grasp the breadth of the conflict that it's basically about slavery.

There are integration or confederation initiatives which if carried out in the manner required as many in Africa are dreaming, a number of things could change. There was reference in the Egyptian president's remarks in the company of Somalia President Mahmoud Sheikh Muhammad, highlighting the outcome of an October 2024 Asmara Summit bringing together Egypt, Somalia and Eritrea, affirming that it showed significant progress in relations and coordination among those countries. So far it is Egypt that is seeking to bring the tensions down; other actors can help as well.

The Egyptian as well as the Turkish initiative are building up on efforts by the regular, regional Inter-Governmental Agency for Development (IGAD), just as the trip to Ankara by the Rwanda leader would in a way uplift efforts by Angola (coordinating with South Africa) or the SADC initiative, and then the EAC effort domiciled in Nairobi. Those who foment certain types of conflict at times have a vision for a bigger theatre where their contributions will be valued; if these strategic links are shredded, things change.

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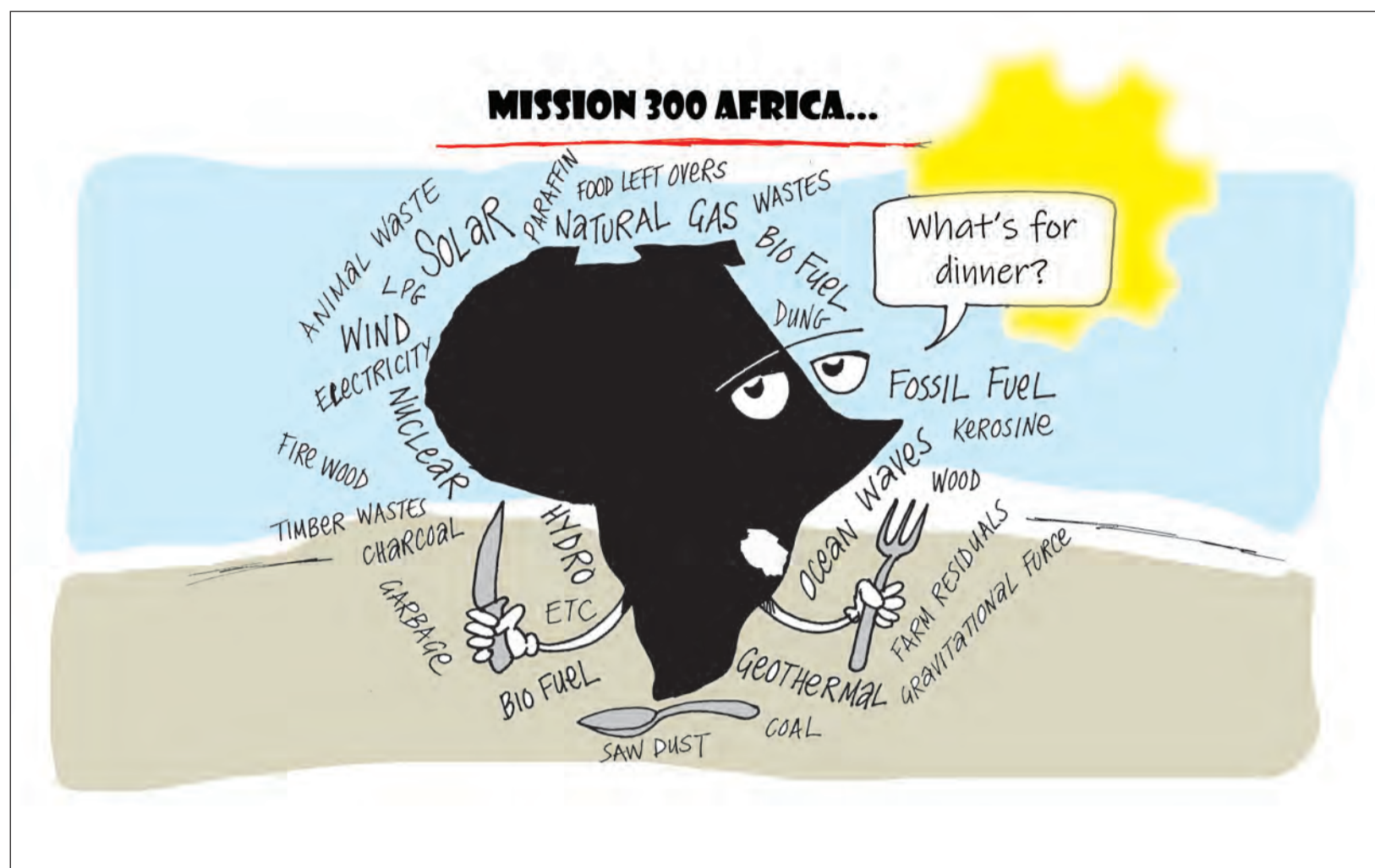
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## Mbowe won respect, Lissu gained the chair and a test to pass or fail

By Songwa Songwa

I HAVE a binding policy of not commending politicians when they do well given the unpredictable nature of some, or should I say most of them? The outgoing Chadema national chairman Freeman Mbowe's demeanour soon after the announcement of the outfit's intraparty election results last Wednesday, compelled me to amend this code.

The gruesome electoral process that pitted him against his then deputy Tundu Lissu would have drained energy out of a 30-year-old man. At 60-plus, Mbowe came out calm, composed, articulate and even wise.

Those who have contested anything serious with Lissu in a free and transparent manner will tell you that it is never a walk in the park. The man can put up a fight that forces his opponents to burn midnight oil, spend some sleepless nights, hence visible exhaustion.

One is safe to say that he fantastically lived up to his first name Freeman: no visible signs of grudges, no that sad look election losers normally wear and last but not least, no frown. Wow!

### Split, weak Chadema

It should be recalled that when the campaign reached fever pitch, the talk on the streets was that this election would culminate in rejection of results, defections and finally end of Chadema as the biggest opposition party in the country. This eventuality was bound to materialise whether Mbowe won or lost and one man to blame for it was none other than Freeman Mbowe for his confident decision to seek re-election for a position he held for 20 or so years.

His brief speech shocked naysayers and prophets of doom. First, he was very quick to concede defeat and congratulate Lissu. Only mature and wise politicians do this kind of thing in this part of the world.

Second, Mbowe said that the polls took the party through uncharted waters, leaving it badly wounded hence an urgent need for reconciliation and healing. If he won, he would have started with that, he said, looking Lissu in the eye, for emphasis I presume. Anecdotally declaring himself 'the father of Chadema', Mbowe 'directed' that this should be a priority for the new leadership.

### Pragmatism vs hard-line

Freeman Aikaali Mbowe comes across as a good student of Chinese statesman Deng Xiaoping who once said: "It doesn't matter if a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice." This is a classical definition of pragmatism.

Mbowe proved this in the lead up to 2015 polls when he warmly welcomed



The outgoing Chadema national chairman Freeman Mbowe (R) greets his then deputy and now the incoming chairman Tundu Lissu shortly before the polls in Dar es Salaam last week. File photo

then CCM heavyweight the late Edward Lowassa who sought refuge there after being controversially eliminated from his party's presidential candidate nomination race. Mbowe's move was strongly opposed within Chadema, loudly so by then secretary general Dr Wilbrod Slaa. But strong cat Lowassa did catch the mice. For the first time, the number of Chadema's elected MPs jumped from 23 in the 2010 polls to 70, qualifying as official opposition camp in the National Assembly. Its candidate Lowassa also garnered the unprecedented number of votes: 6,072,848 vs John Magufuli's 8,882,935. In the 2010 polls, Chadema candidate Dr Wilbrod Slaa received 2,271,491 votes against Jakaya Kikwete's 5,276,827.

Tundu Antipas Lissu is one of the brightest people in this country; you can't take that away from him. But as a politician, he comes across as combative hardliner. Lissu hails from Singida region and his deputy John Heche is my homeboy from Mara but when it comes to politics, the two are cut from the same cloth. Their difference is the same.

### Diplomacy, negotiation skills

After taking over following the demise of her predecessor John Magufuli, President Samia Suluhu Hassan sought to right some wrongs of her departed boss through recondition with the opposition. Both Mbowe and Lissu had things they wanted to be sorted out. In September 2017, during a parliamentary session break, Lissu, whilst in his car, was shot 16 times and seriously injured by unknown assailants in the parking lot of his parliamentary residence in Area

D, Dodoma. He was later removed from his parliamentary seat whilst receiving medical treatment in Belgium. On the other hand, Mbowe lost businesses and cash. He was accused of financing acts of terrorism in the Economic Sabotage Case Number 16 of 2021 and spent quite some time at Segerea Remand Prison.

While Mbowe accepted the olive branch extended by the president, Lissu saw some sinister and took it with a pinch of salt. He later accused Mbowe of a serious malpractice. In his words, he said Mbowe amelamba asali. In plain Kiswahili, kulamba asali simply means eating honey. But it was Mbowe who told us that the new idiom means being bribed. In one of his interviews, he said he is not easy to bribe because he found wealth in his family the day he was born.

Successful leaders must be good at horse-trading and behind-the-scenes negotiations. In the negotiation process, details are tightly kept under wraps. In the lead up to the election, we did not know that some religious leaders had secretly called Lissu and sought to reconcile him with Mbowe. Lissu told us!

### Hidden secret to victory

People who truly love Lissu must remind him that he got a certain support that he did not have before. After declaring his intention to vie for the seat, some CCM bigwigs started commenting in support of Mbowe. This led to a strong impression that Mbowe candidature was a ruling party's project. Therefore, Lissu got votes of those who genuinely love him is as well as those who do not like CCM and

the establishment.

### Throwing uppercuts after the fight

In the combat sport of boxing, it is considered a foul and illegal to hit an opponent who is already on the floor. Yet, Lissu's lieutenants led by Godbless Lema were busy throwing verbal punches only a day after their "historic election and golden standard." This defies Mbowe's call for reconciliation and healing.

### Lost election, not influence

Given the margin of victory, difference of 31 votes, keen and honest observers will tell you that Mbowe only lost the election but not influence within Chadema. He still wields immense power and permanent member of the central committee. Plus, he is quite wealthy which helps in matters politics.

My assessment is that Lissu and his team now need Mbowe more than Mbowe needs them. The chairman and his deputy should take some online or physical courses that can help tone down their combative nature.

Importantly, if Lissu still harbours ambitions of becoming a tenant at No. 1 Barrack Obama Drive and State House in Chamwino, he should surround himself with competent ladies and gentlemen as advisors. If he fails this test, after his first term at the helm of Chadema, party members and supporters will remember Mbowe with nostalgia. Cheers!

**Songwa Songwa is a senior journalist with The Guardian. He can be reached at songwa.songwa@guardian.co.tz**



# International human rights day: Celebrating 40 years of peace and human rights advocacy

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

ONE of the most fundamental factors that makes a country maintain peace and tranquility is the observance of good governance which evades denial of human rights.

Good governance is the process of managing public resources and affairs in a way that is free of corruption and abuse. It also ensures that human rights are respected and the rule of law is followed in accordance with the laid down principles.

Tanzania is among the 195 countries in the world which has maintained high level of peace and tranquility within its territorial integrity and that's a reason why it maintains rights of people without discrimination regardless of its people's regions and political affiliations.

The country observed 40 years of human rights activism that was climaxed on December 10th last year with different perspectives that gave hope sadness and disappointment for some citizens of the concerned countries.

The International Human Rights Day is celebrated worldwide on a specific day of the year calendar to raise awareness and promote respect for the rights and freedoms in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which started officially in 1948.

This date was chosen in honor of its adoption by the United Nations General Assembly to allow nations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to work and advocate for human rights also organize special events to commemorate the day.

As the world continues to observe this day on annual basis, the United Nations Human Rights office has expressed its grave concerns over the ongoing increase of human rights violations in some countries.

That is why the annual celebration of ethics and rights, along with the advocacy for human rights is important for society and the governments. Despite having this special commemoration, it also defends and upholds rights and good governance in the world.

However, unlike previous anniversaries, in 2024 the celebrations took place with youths being called to be in the forefront to robustly defend human rights as they are the most active segment spearheading economic activities in societies.

The essence of this day is to educate and inspire people based on the intrinsic value of each human being and to remind society of the progress made so far in promoting respect for all human dignity, against slavery and the oppression of individual rights.

Human rights abuse is when someone's rights are ignored, harmed, denied and not given proper respects in accordance with the laws governing independent countries in the world. This can also include severe actions which lead to deaths.



Violation of the basic rights of people by treating them wrongly causes confusion to affected individuals who in one way or another become victims and most sufferers of all these forms of human abuses.

In wider perspectives, any country Tanzania included which does not follow the rule of law is automatically subjected to the denial of basic and fundamental human rights to its citizens for unknown reasons.

Human rights violations can be committed by state or non-state actors. They can occur even if violations committed aren't incorporated into both national laws or in civil law jurisdictions. This causes public outcry, annoyance, harm, or injury to another person and that is why most governments across the globe have been accused of human rights abuses.

Examples of human rights abuse are many, some of these includes unsafe working conditions that lead to injuries, discrimination that divides people and leads to conflict, indiscriminate killings, torture, sexual harassments, kidnappings and denial of basic social needs such as housing, medical treatment, education food and clothing.

In recent years, bad actions of human rights violations in many nations around the world have manifested itself through illegal acts of kidnapping which have significantly increased alongside other related types of such violations.

Tanzania as a member of United Nations has in recent months been affected by these malpractices that emerged in some parts in the country unexpectedly and at different times a factor that caused anxiety and fear among civilians.

However, the police force managed to curb the phenomenon and restore the situation into normalcy. In some countries the situation has become a menace to their citizens.

Apart from cases linked to abductions, there are certain tragic incidents such as denial of proper medical treatment which are always exacerbated by acts of corruptions among the medical personnel.

A typical example is an incident that occurred to one resident of Magugu, Babati District, Juliana Obedy (44), who lost her life after health workers at the Magugu health center were reportedly delaying her treatment at the facility after she was bitten by a venomous snake. This incident, which is a violation of human rights, was caused by negligence, and so far, three people were dismissed from their jobs for allegedly delaying her treatment for six hours as they insisted to be paid 150,000/- first.

A statement released to the public by Acting Executive Director of the Babati District Council, Benedict Ntabagi, identified three service providers from the Magugu health center who have been suspended pending an investigation as a medical officer in charge, an assistant nurse, and a pharmaceutical technician.

The statement further explained that according to the National Health Policy of 2007 and its guidelines, special groups including pregnant women, children under five, and disabled elderly individuals are entitled to receive free medical treatment in all government hospitals in the country.

As if that is not enough incidences related to gender-based violence increasing enormously in various parts in the country despite having punitive measures in place, perpetrators are not afraid at all.

Last week, President Samia Suluhu urged citizens to report incidents of this type of violence to law enforcers so that the government can take action and eradicate such acts in the country.

The move was inspired by Vice President Dr. Mpango in his address when he represented the Head of State at the celebrations to mark the 25th year of the association of women's judges and magistrates in the country.

Dr Mpango was of the view that, the association has contributed to amending laws, including those to prevent and combat corruption, and has added a provision concerning with the increased sexual bribery to curb the abuse of power that is also among the violation of human rights at work places.

The VP called on magistrates and judges to address cases of gender-based violence in mainland Tanzania as well as in the islands of Zanzibar. Another issue concerning human rights is the matter related to married couples, of which the head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Bishop Alex Malasusa, highlighted recently in Arusha.

According to the Bishop, there are increased acts of divorces among couples in various local communities which are not in line with religious beliefs. This is due to one partner not being committed to entering into marriage, and that some have been forced to marry each other an aspect that contributes to many marriages not lasting longer.

Malasusa made theremarks while opening a workshop for journalists on child marriage. He was concerned that various reports indicate an increase in divorces and as religious leaders, the situation is troublesome for them.

## US withdrawal from WHO: Need for Africa to step up boldly

By Adonis Byemelwa

CHAIRPERSON of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat on January 21, 2025, delivered a sharp and poignant critique of the United States' unexpected decision to withdraw from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Describing the move as a monumental setback to global health security, Mahamat emphasized the far-reaching consequences for international cooperation and regions like Africa, which heavily depend on collective efforts to combat pandemics and strengthen fragile health systems.

Calling the move a blow to global health security, Mahamat highlighted the implications for regions like Africa, which heavily depend on international partnerships to address pandemics and other public health challenges.

For over seven decades, the US has been a cornerstone of WHO support, helping shape global health strategies. Its exit sends shockwaves through the international health community.

"The USA has been instrumental in supporting the Africa CDC and the WHO in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from pandemics," Mahamat stated.

He warned that the withdrawal could undo years of progress in strengthening health systems across Africa and beyond. Social media has been ablaze with reactions, with Euphrasia Makata, a prominent voice online, saying, "African leaders, it's time to get serious. Start funding the AU and our African health organisations. We need visionaries who act, not beggars."

The US decision aligns with a broader trend under Trump's administration, which has focused on scaling back involvement in global institutions.

The country has also exited the Paris Climate Agreement, reduced financial commitments to NATO, and pulled funding from UN sub-organisations such as UN-HCR and UNDP. While this strategy reflects an "America First" approach, critics view it as a retreat from the global stage.

Analysts believe African leaders should take this as a wake-up call. "Trump's decision is not surprising," remarked Peter Maina, a political observer.

"His administration is prioritising domestic challenges and low prioritising global organisations. African leaders must stop expecting perpetual funding from the West. This is a moment to shift towards African solutions to African problems."

Others on social media pointed out contradictions within the US itself. Wisdom Onyeka commented, "The US struggles with issues like mass incarceration, gun vio-



lence, and broken family systems. Perhaps stepping back from global responsibilities will help them focus on fixing their challenges, while Africa uses this opportunity to step up."

The withdrawal raises urgent questions about Africa's dependency on donor funding from Western nations. For decades, international assistance has sustained key health initiatives, infrastructure, and trade agreements. The US departure from the WHO underlines the fragility of this reliance, challenging African leaders to take greater responsibility for the continent's future.

Chairperson Mahamat urged the US to reconsider its decision, stressing that public health is a shared global good that transcends borders.

However, he also emphasised the need for African nations to step up and fund their health organisations to ensure long-term sustainability. Euphrasia Makata's online post resonated widely, declaring, "We need to stop begging. The AU and Africa's health institutions must rise to the occasion. This is a blessing in disguise if only we use it to build stronger, self-funded systems."

Many see this as a defining moment for

Africa. The shifting geopolitical landscape requires innovative solutions and regional collaboration. Hon. Maina added, "The world is moving into a multipolar order where Africa must prioritise independence. Our leaders need to act swiftly to ensure we can handle our challenges without waiting for external aid."

The United States' abrupt decision to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO) has sent shockwaves through the global health community, drawing sharp reactions from leaders, experts, and citizens across the globe. While some view this move as a crippling blow to international public health efforts, others see it as a wake-up call for self-reliance, especially for Africa.

The announcement, delivered amidst ongoing challenges in global health, has raised alarms over the potential fallout. As the largest donor to WHO, contributing \$1.284 billion during the 2022-2023 biennium, the US has been a driving force in emergency response, disease prevention, and health system strengthening across vulnerable regions. Its withdrawal threatens to destabilize programs that rely heavily on its funding and expertise.

The African Union (AU) Chairperson

Moussa Faki Mahamat expressed deep concern, calling the US exit "a significant setback to global health security."

He emphasized that the US has been instrumental in supporting Africa's fight against pandemics, citing its role in establishing the Africa CDC and working with WHO to contain outbreaks such as Ebola, mpox, and Marburg virus disease.

"This decision undermines decades of progress. The world depends on the WHO to protect our collective health," Mahamat said.

However, social media reactions tell a more complex story. While many voiced dismays, others framed the withdrawal as an opportunity for Africa to chart its course.

Wisdom Onyeka, a vocal advocate for self-reliance, remarked, "If the US wants to focus on its issues, so be it. Africa must take control of its destiny and reduce its dependency." This sentiment has reignited conversations about the AU's financial strategies, with growing calls to shift from reliance on Western donors to developing homegrown solutions.

The AU now finds itself at a crossroads. With the US scaling back funding not only for WHO but also for other global initiatives like climate agreements and NATO, the message is clear: Africa must build resilience and prioritize regional cooperation. "This is a wake-up call," Mahamat stated. "By investing in our initiatives, we can secure our people's health regardless of external developments."

The implications of the US decision extend far beyond Africa. The WHO, already strained by funding challenges, faces a daunting future without its top donor.

The US has historically been a cornerstone of WHO's emergency response efforts, including its critical role in halting the mpox outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and neighboring countries.

Between March 2024 and today, the US contributed over \$22 million to mpox re-

sponse efforts, funding vaccine delivery and capacity building in six African nations.

In Rwanda, the US partnered with WHO to combat the Marburg virus outbreak through enhanced surveillance and public health communication.

Experts from the US also played a vital role in WHO's Joint External Evaluation missions, helping countries strengthen their health security systems under the Global Health Security Agenda. These initiatives have saved countless lives and bolstered global preparedness against emerging threats.

But the withdrawal signals a dramatic shift. Critics argue that this move could embolden other nations to reconsider their financial commitments, leaving the WHO's ability to respond to global crises severely weakened. "The US has been more than a donor; it has been a partner in safeguarding global health," said one WHO official.

For Africa, the path forward is clear but challenging. The continent has long depended on foreign aid for health security, but experts argue that the time has come to invest in local solutions. Mahamat's call for self-reliance has been echoed by leaders across the region, with some advocating for innovative financing mechanisms and stronger intra-African cooperation to reduce dependency on external donors.

The coming weeks will be critical as global leaders prepare for emergency discussions on the implications of the US decision. Africa must now decide whether to view this moment as a crisis or an opportunity to reshape its future. As one commentator put it, "This is a defining moment. Africa's response will either cement its place as a global health leader or keep it tethered to external aid."

The US withdrawal from WHO is more than a political statement—it's a seismic shift in global health dynamics. For Africa, it's a call to action, a challenge to build resilience, and an opportunity to redefine its trajectory. The world will be watching.

By Special Correspondents

# AI for India 2030: A blueprint for inclusive growth, global guidance



AI has the potential to contribute \$500 billion to India's economy.

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) is transforming economies and industries worldwide, presenting an unparalleled opportunity for India to address systemic challenges and achieve inclusive growth.

With the potential to contribute \$500 billion to the economy by 2025, AI stands to revolutionize key sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, urban planning and manufacturing.

However, realizing this promise requires not only technological advancements but also robust frameworks and equitable access to resources.

The AI for India 2030 initiative, co-hosted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India, the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Nasscom and the World Economic Forum's Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, India (C4IR India), provides a structured approach to integrating AI across India's socio-economic fabric.

Launched in alignment with the IndiaAI Mission in January 2024, the initiative emphasizes ethical, inclusive and responsible AI adoption to position India as a global leader in AI innovation.

Need for AI in India's development journey

AI is not merely a tool for innovation but a strategic enabler for solving India's pressing socio-economic challenges. From improving agricultural yields to enhancing healthcare delivery and increasing manufacturing efficiency, AI has the potential to elevate productivity and drive growth in underserved areas.

However, challenges remain. India's economy continues to grapple with sectoral inefficiencies, skill gaps and inequities that hinder its global competitiveness.

The AI for India 2030 Advisory Council has stressed the importance of the emerging technology in bridging these gaps, creating jobs and driving socio-economic inclusion.

"India has an opportunity to create a trillion-dollar digital economy by 2025, benefitting all sectors and people."

S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India said: "To enable this growth and become a global tech powerhouse, we need collaboration from all stakeholders to leverage Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies for critical challenges on health, education, smart cities and agriculture. AI for India 2030 is an important initiative in partnership with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, enabling stakeholders across industry and start-ups to partner with the government to realize the potential of AI."

AI's ability to develop context-specific solutions provides India with a unique opportunity to address its diverse challenges while contributing to global AI governance and ethics.

Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, remarked: "Our association with the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution India is driving forward innovative solutions that address key challenges in healthcare, education, urban development and agriculture through the power of advanced technologies."

Building foundations for scalable AI solutions

The success of AI in India depends on the collaboration of multiple stakeholders, including government bodies, industry leaders, academia and startups. Public-private partnerships are essential to accelerate AI adoption, while regional initiatives such as AI centres

of excellence provide localized ecosystems for innovation.

India's digital public infrastructure (DPI) serves as a critical enabler for scaling artificial intelligence applications. By integrating AI capabilities into existing DPI systems, India can overcome traditional barriers to adoption and create a robust foundation for deploying AI solutions across sectors. As one council member noted: "We don't need a separate DPI for AI; rather, we need our DPI to power AI."

To support these efforts, resource allocation remains key. This includes both financial investments and the creation of sector-specific AI operating systems that integrate data, models and infrastructure.

These systems will enable seamless collaboration across industries such as agriculture, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and healthcare, fostering scalable and impactful AI solutions. "India's DPI provides a key head start in driving scale among AI use cases," noted a council member, highlighting its transformative role.

AI Playbook and Sandbox workstreams as catalysts for change

The AI for India 2030 initiative is driven by two critical workstreams: the AI Playbook and the AI Sandbox, both designed to operationalize AI adoption and innovation in priority sectors in India.

The AI Playbook workstream is progressing through two major components: the Future Farming Playbook for agriculture and the Future SMEs Playbook for MSMEs. These reports, to be published in early 2025, are being developed with insights from approximately 20 experts from domain, policy and technology spheres.

These multi-stakeholder communities are pivotal in shaping frameworks that address India's unique socio-economic landscape while driving ethical and responsible AI adoption. The AI Playbooks integrate governance guidelines, actionable steps and best practices, ensuring inclusivity and scalability across India.

"At Mahindra, we believe in harnessing technology to drive meaningful change across industries. The AI for India 2030 initiative aligns perfectly with our vision of leveraging AI to create sustainable, impactful solutions. As part of this journey with the World Economic Forum, we look forward to shaping India's future as a global leader in AI," said Mohit Kapoor, Group Chief

Technology Officer, Mahindra.

The AI Sandbox, on the other hand, provides a controlled environment for testing and refining AI solutions before large-scale deployment. By offering startups and SMEs access to high-performance computing, datasets and mentorship, the sandbox democratizes AI innovation and ensures equitable participation.

Lessons learned from international collaborations, such as the AI Governance Alliance, further enhance the sandbox's ability to integrate global best practices into India's unique context. The AI Sandbox workstream has also seen significant advancements, with a multi-stakeholder community now deliberating on its value proposition. These discussions focus on identifying challenges and opportunities to unlock the sandbox's full potential.

Ekroop Caur, Secretary, Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, said: "As India's IT and start-up capital, Karnataka is committed to becoming a global leader in AI."

"We aim to build a robust AI environment that advances priority sectors such as agriculture, healthcare and education, positioning India as a hub for sustainable, tech-driven innovation. By providing a platform and sandbox for scaling AI solutions, we strive to empower businesses and drive impactful transformation through this collaboration."

After the publication of the playbooks and the AI Sandbox workstream, the community will work towards adopting and scaling these actionable frameworks, ensuring widespread impact across priority sectors in India.

India's role in the global AI ecosystem

"AI is set to reshape India's tech landscape, and AI for India 2030 is the launchpad for that change. At Sarvam, we're on a mission to make AI accessible and impactful for Bharat's unique needs - and we're excited to help drive this transformation forward," said Pratyush Kumar, Co-Founder, Sarvam AI.

India's journey toward becoming a global AI leader is deeply rooted in its commitment to ethical and inclusive practices. Through initiatives like AI for India 2030, the Indian economy is not only advancing its own socio-economic goals, but also contributing to the global dialogue on responsible AI governance.

For instance, India's ability to develop sovereign AI solutions tailored to its cultural and economic nuances has significant

implications for the global AI landscape. "Global use cases don't factor in the nuances of our culture. We need to build sovereign AI for India," said a council member, emphasizing the importance of context-specific innovation.

"Our efforts to upskill the workforce for the jobs of the future must be accompanied by the creation or fostering of a higher demand for these workers," says Shri Jayesh Ranjan, a special invitee to the Advisory Council. His words underscore the need to match workforce development with the demand for skilled labour.

By actively engaging in international forums and frameworks, such as the AI Governance Alliance, India is helping to shape global norms for responsible AI adoption. This approach not only bolsters India's global standing but also reinforces its role as a model for leveraging AI to address local challenges.

Looking ahead for the future of AI

The AI for India 2030 initiative demonstrates that India is poised to lead the global AI revolution while ensuring that innovation benefits all segments of society.

As discussions continue at the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos, the focus will remain on scaling AI solutions, fostering partnerships and building a sustainable future through technology.

Rohini Srivathsa, Chief Technology Officer, Microsoft India and South Asia, said: "We at Microsoft believe AI has immense potential to benefit people, industries and governments, and we are committed to co-piloting India towards becoming an AI-first country."

"We are proud to be part of the AI for India 2030 initiative, as it fosters an environment of trust among multiple stakeholders, which is crucial for unlocking AI's full value."

"Our collaboration with the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution India unites the ecosystem to ensure that India adopts and scales AI in a manner that promotes trust, inclusion and responsibility."

# Fear and despair in US immigrant detention centres

By Special Correspondent

OVER 300 undocumented immigrants were detained on January 21, in a first day of raids under the mandate of newly inaugurated US president Donald Trump. The following day, 1,500 soldiers were dispatched to the US southern border, and Congress approved a law authorizing the detention of undocumented immigrants for relatively minor crimes, including theft or shoplifting. These events have created an atmosphere of "fear" and "desperation" in California's detention centers.

Attorney Astrid Montealegre, expert in immigration affairs and advisor to the Nicaraguan-American Human Rights Alliance, warned that the detention of migrants occurred on the highways agricultural workers take to the fields. Now, in just two days, the detention centers have begun to fill, and massive deportations could occur "at any time," she stressed.

"Most of those detained are Mexican," Montealegre specified after visiting the migrant detention centers in California. Among the detained, "I also encountered several Nicaraguans, Venezuelans and Cubans," she added.

At this time, "any immigrant who doesn't have legal status in the United States

is in danger of immediate deportation," Montealegre affirmed. Among the executive orders President Trump signed on January 21, 2025, is one indicating that the deportations may be "expedited" without requiring judicial review.

"Deportations could begin this afternoon. It's an expedited process. We already saw this during the Covid-19 pandemic, when the Remain in Mexico program was in effect, and expedited deportations were authorized. We may see a deportation flight leaving Louisiana or Atlanta very soon," she commented.

Changes in the U.S. immigration policies

The detention of illegal immigrants in the United States and the threat of massive deportations are part of a series of immigration changes implemented by President Trump, who announced a sweeping series of measures to end the legacy of his predecessor, Democrat Joe Biden.

Immediately following his inauguration on January 20, 2025, Trump eliminated the program known as "catch and release," through which a person with irregular migration status detained by immigration agents could be let go, "as long as they did not have a criminal record or a pending deportation order," Montealegre explained.

He also ordered an end



to the Humanitarian Parole program that benefited thousands of migrants from Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Haiti. Trump claims that in the last few years his country "has endured a large-scale invasion, at a level without precedent."

Further, he restored the Remain in Mexico program that forces anyone seeking asylum in the United States to wait in Mexico for their interview. This situation, the attorney pointed out, "exposes

the immigrants not only to the risk of kidnapping, but also to serious dangers if they attempt to cross the border illegally out of desperation, due to the risks they face not only in their home countries but now in Mexico."

Simultaneously, Trump temporarily suspended the United States Refugee Admissions Program which included the Safe Movement Program, through which Venezuelan or Nicaraguan refugees in Costa Rica or

Guatemala could receive legal permission to enter the US, or apply for relocation to Spain and Canada.

Finally, he signed an executive order attempting to eliminate so called "birthright" citizenship in the United States. The measure was immediately rejected as "illegal" in 24 states, given that citizenship for all those born on US soil is specified in the fourteenth amendment of the US Constitution. On January 23, a federal judge tempo-

rarily blocked the order.

What alternatives are left for parolees?

Given the changes in US immigration policy, Montealegre indicated that those who entered the country legally under the humanitarian parole program can stay on US soil until their legal status expires.

The humanitarian parole program, "allows those benefited to remain in the United States for the time designated [two years]. None of the ex-

ecutive orders [approved by Trump] affects this permission. That could change, but for the moment, those who have had their entry permits stamped under Law 94, with their date of exit, have permission, and do not run the risk of deportation," stated the immigration specialist.

Beneficiaries of humanitarian parole who desire to remain in the United States after the time allotted should seek legal advice, given that their alternatives will depend on an individual case basis.

"Some - very few - are going to have relatives who can petition for them and request an extension of stay. Others are going to have to file asylum applications, if they qualify. Unfortunately, the great majority will have no alternative except returning to Nicaragua," predicted Montealegre.

Meanwhile, those who are in the process of asylum retain their temporary protective status. According to Montealegre, "this allows them to work and live legally in the United States with no risk of deportation, until USCIS administration or a judge have the opportunity to review their case."

Those who were approved for humanitarian parole but couldn't travel to the US due to the program's cancellation can apply for a humanitarian visa.

## WFP to work with TASHICO in transportation of food cargo

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

**T**HE United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has expressed its commitment towards working closely with Tanzania Shipping Company Limited (TASHICO) in transporting food cargo.

WFP representatives from its headquarters in Rome, Italy made the remarks here recently during a visit to TASHICO's Mwanza office to evaluate its performance in transporting food shipments from Dar es Salaam Port to South Sudan via Uganda, a collaboration that began in 2017.

During their visit, the delegation inspected the MV Umoja, a vessel instrumental in delivering food aid from Mwanza Port to Uganda and eventually to South Sudan, addressing hunger among vulnerable populations.

Speaking shortly after visiting the MV Umoja, WFP Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Sala Maharenovic emphasized the importance of assessing the partnership.

"This joint discussion is crucial for a detailed evaluation and understanding of the current needs to further improve the relationship between WFP and TASHICO," she said.

Eric Hamissi, TASHICO Managing Director expressed gratitude for the visit, saying: "The visit enhances the strong ties we have developed. Previously, our MV Umoja ship was not fully operational, but after the government invested 19.5bn/- in 2021 for major repairs, the vessel is now functioning efficiently."

Hamissi added, "This visit marks the start of renewed collaboration, especially now that MV Umoja is back in service after being out

of operation for major repairs in 2019."

Mamoud Mabuyu, Head of the Transport and Supply Department at WFP Tanzania, praised the partnership, noting: "This visit from our Rome headquarters highlights how essential TASHICO has been as a transport partner. The evaluation will help us understand the mutual benefits of our collaboration and identify areas for improvement."

Eugenia Punjila, TASHICO's marketing manager also highlighted the importance of government support.

"WFP has been transporting food and aid supplies via MV Umoja to South Sudan through Uganda. We appreciate the government's commitment to supporting our projects and hope for additional assistance to handle the anticipated increase in cargo after the completion of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR)," she stated.

MV Umoja's veteran captain, Dembele Samsoni Mwita, remarked on the vessel's improved performance stressing: "Following the major repairs, there has been a significant improvement in MV Umoja's operations and efficiency compared to 10 years ago."

TASHICO, a state-owned entity, began operations in 1961 as TRC Marine Division, with a focus on advancing Tanzania's shipping sector. Over the years, the company has rehabilitated aging vessels, built new ships, and enhanced water transportation in key lakes: Victoria, Tanganyika, and Nyasa.

In 1997, TRC Marine Division was restructured into Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL) under the Companies Act. However, aging vessels led to operational challenges, and by 2017, only five ships remained active: MV Umoja and



MV Clarias on Lake Victoria, MV Liemba and MT Sangara on Lake Tanganyika, and MV Songea on Lake Nyasa.

On November 18, 2024, the government

transformed MSCL into TASHICO, aiming to further revitalize the water transport sector under President Samia Suluhu Hassan's administration.

By 2030, TASHICO is expected to employ 5,000 workers, reflecting the sector's growth and the company's expanding operations.

## 116 tortoises repatriated to Tanzania in landmark wildlife trafficking fight

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

**I**N a major breakthrough in the battle against international wildlife trafficking, 116 tortoises have been successfully repatriated to Tanzania after being intercepted in Thailand more than two years ago.

The tortoises, including critically endangered species, will now serve as crucial evidence in the prosecution of a Ukrainian smuggler. The animals were seized in July 2022 when a Ukrainian woman was stopped by customs officials at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport during an INTERPOL operation. Concealed in her luggage, the tortoises were destined for the illegal exotic pet trade. Following her arrest, a global investigation led to the dismantling of an international wildlife trafficking ring and the arrest of 14 individuals from countries including Egypt, Indonesia, Madagascar, and Tanzania.

A formal handover ceremony took place in Bangkok on Thursday, with senior officials from Thailand and Tanzania present, marking the successful repatriation of the animals.

Police Major General Surapan Thaiprasert, Commander of the Foreign Affairs Division at the Royal Thai Police, expressed pride in the collaboration. He said, "Thailand worked closely with INTERPOL and our partners in Tanzania on this significant case. Through our robust detection capabilities, we intercepted the smuggler and saved the tortoises. Their return is a testament to our shared commitment to combat wildlife crime."

The 116 tortoises returned to Tanzania include pancake tortoises, radiated tor-

toises, and Aldabra giant tortoises, all of which are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Tragically, some of the animals did not survive the traumatic conditions of being smuggled despite immediate care provided by Thai authorities. However, all 116 tortoises were repatriated as evidence in the ongoing case.

The illegal trade in endangered tortoises remains a significant global issue. These species are often taken from their natural habitats and trafficked internationally, where they are sold as exotic pets. This type of wildlife trafficking not only threatens biodiversity but also fuels organized crime networks that profit from exploiting vulnerable species.

Cyril Gout, Acting Executive Director of Police Services at INTERPOL, emphasized the importance of international cooperation: "Wildlife trafficking is a global threat that disrupts ecosystems, harms local communities, and enriches criminal networks. This case highlights the dedication of law enforcement agencies worldwide to protect endangered species and bring wildlife criminals to justice. INTERPOL plays a critical role in facilitating coordinated global efforts to combat wildlife crime."

Following her arrest in Thailand, the smuggler fled the country before facing full prosecution. However, through an INTERPOL Red Notice, she was tracked down in Bulgaria in March 2023 and extradited to Tanzania in June 2023. This led to the revelation that she was part of a larger trafficking network.

INTERPOL provided vi-



tal investigative and operational support, helping authorities identify additional suspects and resulting in the arrest of 14 individuals involved in the operation.

Ramadhan Hamisi Kingai,

Director of Criminal Investigations at the Tanzania Police Force, expressed gratitude for the international collaboration that made the operation a success: "From the capture of the suspect

to the repatriation of the tortoises, this success is a direct result of strong international collaboration and a multi-agency approach facilitated through INTERPOL. Tanzania remains com-

mitted to combating wildlife crime and will continue to work with other countries to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable."

Upon arrival in Tanzania, the surviving tortoises will

be placed in quarantine and cared for by local wildlife officials. Authorities will assess their health and, if suitable for release, work to return them to their natural habitats.





## Dr Nchemba highlights role of capital markets

By Guardian Reporter

Finance Minister Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba (pictured) has highlighted the critical role of capital markets in empowering Tanzanians economically, aligning with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's vision of a modern and inclusive economy.

Speaking at the listing of Azania Bank's bond at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), Dr. Nchemba commended the bond's oversubscription, which raised 63bn/- against a target of 30bn/-, with 15bn/- greenshoe option.

He noted that the participation of retail investors, comprising 97 percent of the subscribers, reflects growing public engagement in financial markets.

"This bond's success demonstrates that many ordinary Tanzanians now see the value of investing in capital market instruments," he said.

The medium-term note (MTN) bond, launched to raise funds for affordable loans targeting youth, women, and people with disabilities, offers a 12.5 percent quarterly interest and required a minimum investment of 500,000/-.

The bank's Managing Director Dr. Esther Mang'anya confirmed the bond's oversubscription at 210.9 percent, attributing it to increased trust in the bank and robust oversight from regulatory bodies such as the Bank of Tanzania, CMSA, and the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) Chief Executive Officer Nicodemus Mkama praised the public's growing awareness of stocks and securities markets, citing the oversubscription as a positive sign for the nation's economic development.

## Capital markets tribunal seeks to boost investors confidence

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

IN a move aimed at boosting investor confidence and enhancing the integrity of Tanzania's financial markets, the government has established the Capital Markets Tribunal.

The new tribunal is designed to address disputes related to stock market activities, securities regulations and investor grievances, providing legal clarity and fairness to the market.

The tribunal will hold the full judicial powers of a High Court, with a High Court judge serving as its chair.

It will also be supported by four additional members with expertise in capital markets. This development is seen as a critical step towards strengthening the country's investment climate and ensuring a fair, transparent, and efficient securities market.

Speaking during the ongoing Law Week in Dodoma over, Martin Kolikoli, the Registrar of the Capital Markets Tribunal emphasized the importance of the tribunal in supporting the government's long-term economic vision.

"The tribunal will play a pivotal role in achieving the goals of the National Development Vision 2050 by managing claim rights, protecting investors and fostering good governance. Through the efforts, we aim to contribute to sustainable economic and social development," Kolikoli said.

The establishment of the tribunal comes at a time when Tanzania's stock market has shown positive growth. Despite challenges in bond markets and a lack of new listings, the value of local listed companies rose by 7.4 percent last year, reaching 12.24trn/-.

The positive trend underscores the need for mechanisms like the tribunal to help protect investors and maintain market stability.

The launch event also featured a stakeholder meeting, where the tribunal outlined its objectives and the processes through which investors can access their rights in the stock market.

Kolikoli highlighted the tribunal's commitment to educating both investors and the public about capital markets.

He revealed that educational campaigns will be introduced, alongside digital platforms for filing claims and tracking case progress.

"We are confident that by fulfilling our mandates as outlined in the law, we can safeguard stakeholders' rights, providing them with a platform to seek redress for any misconduct, fraud, or violations of securities laws," Kolikoli said.

"This will ultimately help to build trust among investors and ensure that their interests are protected."

In a bid to further strengthen its operations, the tribunal currently engages in discussions with similar institutions in Canada and South Africa. The collaborations are aimed at equipping the tribunal with the knowledge and tools necessary to function effectively and inspire investor confidence.

Looking ahead, Kolikoli expects the tribunal to play a significant role in fostering more dynamic and transparent capital markets across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Over the next two years, he anticipates that the tribunal will become a leading authority in securities market appeals, helping to promote invest-

# Foreign investment in Africa reaches record \$94bn in 2024

By Guardian Correspondent

**D**espite a global decline in foreign investment, Africa saw a significant boost last year, largely driven by a single major urban and tourism project in Egypt.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) flows into Africa surged by 84 percent in 2024, reaching a record \$94 billion, according to a report released on January 20 by the United Nations Trade and Development agency (formerly UNCTAD).

The "Global Investment Trends Monitor" report cited the massive project in Egypt - the Ras El-Hekma Peninsula Development - to explain the sharp rise.

The ambitious initiative, spearheaded by the Abu Dhabi Developmental Holding Company (ADQ), a sovereign wealth fund from the UAE, aims to transform the peninsula into a top-tier tourist destination, a financial hub, and a free trade zone with state-of-the-art infrastruc-



ture. Even without this megaproject, Africa saw a 23 percent increase in FDI inflows in 2024, totaling \$50 billion. The gains came despite a tough economic climate marked by rising interest rates, mounting public debt, and persistent political and security challenges across the continent.

Worldwide, FDI flows grew by 11 percent in 2024, reaching an estimated \$1.4 trillion. However, when excluding intermediate economies in Europe countries often used as transfer points for investments the global figure dropped by 8 percent.

Developed economies experienced mixed results. North America saw

a 13% increase in FDI, bolstered by an 80 percent surge in mergers and acquisitions in the United States. In contrast, Europe faced significant declines, with FDI dropping 45 percent from 2023 when intermediate economies were excluded.

In developing regions, FDI fell by 2 percent, marking a second consecutive annual decline. This drop threatens progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which rely heavily on international funding.

Investments linked to SDGs fell 11 percent globally in 2024, with fewer projects in areas like agriculture, infrastructure, water, and sanitation compared to 2015, when the

goals were adopted.

Asia, traditionally the largest recipient of FDI among developing regions, saw inflows shrink by 7 percent, while Latin America and the Caribbean experienced a 9 percent decline.

UN Trade and Development predicts moderate FDI growth in 2025, supported by better financial conditions and a recovery in mergers and acquisitions.

However, risks such as geopolitical tensions and global economic instability remain significant challenges for both developing and developed countries.

Renewable energy, communications and semiconductors are likely to be the top three recipients of FDI

in 2025, even though FDI in renewable energy is expected to slow down.

Investment in the automotive industry will slow down overall, but the sector remains highly dynamic in terms of structural and technological transformation.

Industries such as real estate, transportation and warehousing, and software and IT services are likely to experience stagnated growth in FDI. Meanwhile, the electronic components and metals industries may suffer from a decline in FDI.

Investment into services now accounts for a whopping 72 percent of the total FDI stock in the world. The growth of cross-border investment into services is a long-term trend.

In each decade, FDI into services has grown significantly, five-fold in 2000, four-fold in 2010 and again by more than 50 percent in 2020. The growth of FDI in services will continue to outpace FDI into manufacturing and natural resource sectors.



## All are set for EAC's energy summit

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

Ministers from various East African Community (EAC) countries and major energy consumers are expected to convene in Arusha for the East Africa Energy Cooperation Summit (EA-ECS), which is scheduled to take place from January 29 to 30.

The summit will focus on creating opportunities for the private sector, promoting a diversified energy mix to strengthen the resilience of the national grid, supporting industrial growth, and increasing electricity generation for commercial and industrial purposes.

Speaking about yesterday's summit, Andrea Malueth, Deputy Secretary

General (Infrastructure, Productive, Social, and Political Sectors) of the East African Community Secretariat, said that building on last year's achievements, the summit will enhance cooperation across East Africa.

He noted that the summit will also highlight the EAC's vision for deeper regional integration and its pivotal role in fostering industrialization and collaboration among stakeholders.

He added that the event will bring together private energy producers in Africa and stakeholders in Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Finance (EPCF) to explore investment opportunities and innovations initiated by key strategic compa-

nies, including Africa Data Centers and iAfrica.

"At the heart of this regional investment activity is the EAC Secretariat, which connects investors and policymakers alongside EnergyNet, focusing on 'Resource Wealth. Energy Access. Investment Opportunities,'" he said, adding:

"Energy is the backbone of development and growth and is critical for the economic functionality of East African Community Member States. The East Africa Energy Cooperation Summit will serve as an excellent platform to advance projects and bring tangible changes in the sector," he said.

He further noted that the EA-ECS will welcome

politicians and prominent leaders from all East African countries and their energy sectors to the summit, where they will join private sector developers shaping the future of East Africa's energy landscape, serving approximately 500 million people.

Elisa Palmioli, Producer at EnergyNet, said: "Ten years from now, the East African middle class will have greater job security, more opportunities, and higher incomes than ever before. New railways, industries, ports, and tourism will make this region a global investment magnet, surpassing Asia and Latin America."

She cited achievements such as the Ethiopia-Kenya electricity interconnec-

tor, underscoring the potential for transformative cross-border cooperation for economic and social development.

She mentioned other achievements, including the increased demand for energy production by external users. The summit is expected to focus on the mining sector and digital infrastructure.

In 2024, following EnergyNet's Powering Africa Summit in Washington DC, USA, Mara Holdings committed to investing in East Africa by signing a significant agreement with the Kenyan government. This move underscores the transformative potential for the region and the commercial viability for Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

# Africa draws 74m tourists in 2024

By Guardian Correspondent

For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, Africa has surpassed pre-pandemic levels of international tourist arrivals.

The continent welcomed 74 million visitors in 2024, a 7 percent increase from 2019 and 12 percent higher than in 2023, according to a statement from UN Tourism on January 21.

North Africa led the recovery, with international arrivals rising 22 percent compared to 2019. This strong performance helped position Africa as the second-fastest recovering region globally in 2024, following the Middle East, which saw a 32 percent increase in arrivals compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Countries across the continent are investing heavily in tourism infrastructure in 2025.

Morocco, which dethroned Egypt as the leading tourist destination on the continent in 2024, has an-

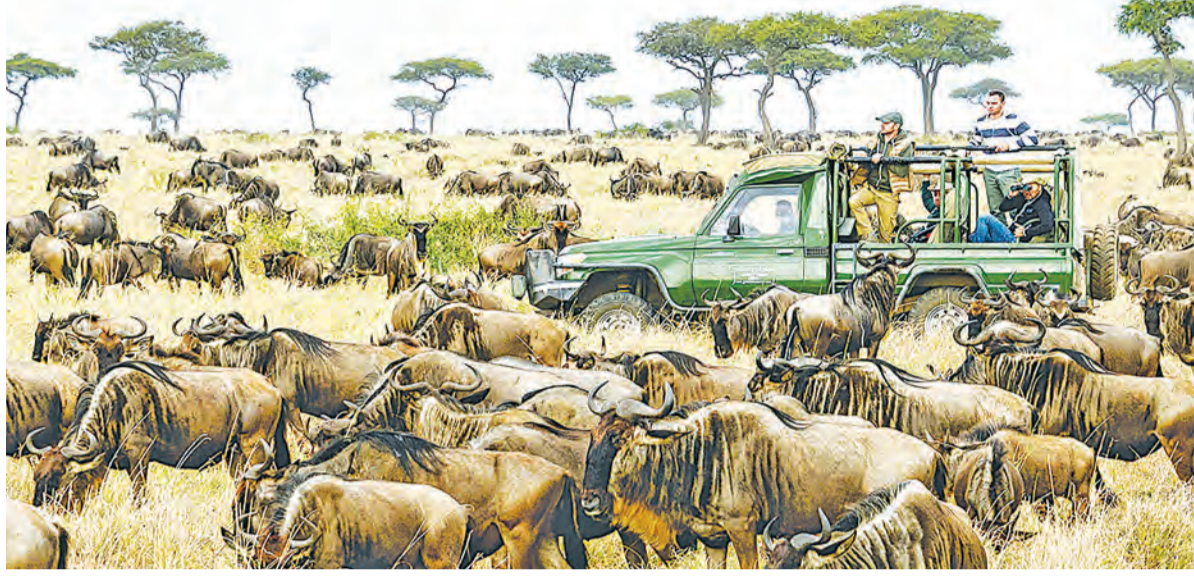
nounced plans to increase its airport capacity from 38 million to 80 million passengers by 2030.

The country is set to host the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations and is co-hosting the 2030 FIFA World Cup.

Recent Marriott Bonvoy Ticket to Travel research shows a promising growth trajectory for the travel market next year. The comprehensive study surveyed 21 374 adults across ten markets in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, along with over 2 000 travellers in South Africa.

The findings indicate that more than 60 percent of South Africans are planning to take more holidays next year than they did in 2024.

In 2025, Africa's top travel destinations will spotlight eco-tourism, with countries like Kenya and Tanzania leading in sustainable safari experiences. Urban hotspot Cape Town will draw culture enthusiasts and foodies, while wellness retreats in Mauritius and offbeat gems like Rwanda and Botswana will attract adventurous travellers.



In 2025, Africa's top travel destinations will spotlight eco-tourism, with countries like Kenya and Tanzania leading in sustainable safari experiences. File photo

"In 2025, we expect to see a continued rise in popularity for lesser-known destinations in Africa, such as Rwanda, Namibia, Botswana and

Zambia," says David Ryan, founder of Rhino Africa.

According to UN Tourism, Europe retained its top spot worldwide as

the most popular destination, attracting 747 million tourists in 2024—1 percent more than in 2019 and 5 percent more than in 2023.

Asia-Pacific lagged, with arrivals reaching 316 million, about 87 percent of pre-pandemic levels. The Americas were closer to a full recovery, with 213 million arrivals, representing 97 percent of 2019 figures.

The number of international tourists nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels, reaching 1.4 billion in 2024. This represents a 99 percent recovery and an 11 percent increase compared to 2023, with an additional 140 million travelers. This growth was fueled by strong post-pandemic demand, robust performances in major travel markets, and a steady recovery in Asia-Pacific destinations.

Tourism revenues also grew in tandem with arrivals. Global earnings from international tourism hit \$1.6 trillion in 2024, 3 percent higher than in 2023 and 4 percent above 2019, accounting for inflation and currency fluctuations.

Looking to 2025, UN Tourism, headquartered in Madrid, projects a 3 percent to 5 percent increase in international arrivals compared to 2024. This forecast assumes a stable global economy, declining inflation, and no escalation in geopolitical conflicts.

## UAE, China firms partner Z'bar on 200MW wind power project

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar



### Samia praised for creating good environments for investments, businesses

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has been applauded for creating an excellent and enabling environment for domestic and foreign investors, thus facilitating tax payments to the government and driving development.

"The conducive and enabling business environment and investment climate established by the government under the leadership of President Samia has allowed investors to operate smoothly," said Fatma Abdallah, Managing Director of the local energy company, when speaking shortly after the company received four awards for Best Taxpayer of the Year, presented by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

President Samia was the guest of honour at the event that was held over the weekend in Dar es Salaam Region.

"We have been consistent taxpayers, especially in the oil and gas sector, which is why we have received all these awards. We thank God, but we also thank President Samia for creating an environment that enables investors to conduct their businesses smoothly," Abdallah remarked.

She noted that under President Samia, they are now seeing how tax revenues are being utilized to drive significant national development.

She added: "We have witnessed major projects

launched in 2024, along with many others still in the pipeline. This assures us that when we pay taxes, we know where our money is going," she explained.

The firm's Managing Director emphasized that the awards received from TRA results from their commitment to timely pay government taxes, adding that the awards serve as a motivation to perform even better in the upcoming fiscal year.

During the ceremony, the energy company was awarded the National Level Taxpayer Compliance Award for the fiscal year 2023/2024.

The company's Wet Cargo division received recognition for its timely payment of taxes and duties for the fiscal year 2023/2024 during taxpayer appreciation day in 2024.

Another award received by the firm was the overall winner in recognition of tax and duty payments made in the 2023/2024 financial year during customs and excise appreciation day in 2024.

The fourth award was presented to the company's Wet Cargo division for acknowledging the substantial taxes and duties paid in the 2023/2024 financial year under the category of customs and excise duties.

TRA awards best taxpayers of the year annually, in honour and recognition of businesses that excel in tax compliance across various categories.

Aseel Oilfield Services, headquartered in Dubai (UAE), in collaboration with SANY Renewable Energy, based in Beijing, China, has signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Ministry of Water, Energy, and Minerals through the Zanzibar Electricity Corporation (ZECO), to develop a 200MW wind power plant, marking a significant step in Zanzibar's energy sector.

The project will be executed by Aseel Oilfield Services Tanzania Limited and SANY Renewable Energy in partnership with the Ministry of Water, Energy, and Minerals.

Signed by ZECO, the agreement sets the stage for the construction of a 200MW wind power plant in Matemwe, North Unguja Region.

The project will be implemented in two phases, with the first phase—comprising 120MW, including 100 MW for Unguja and 20MW for Pemba—expected to be completed within 360 days.

This groundbreaking initiative aligns with the vision of Dr.



Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, who has prioritized renewable energy investments as a cornerstone of his administration's economic transformation agenda.

President Mwinyi recently emphasized the importance of renewable energy projects like the wind power plant, stating that they are crucial in positioning Zanzibar as a regional leader in clean energy while attracting investment and generating employment opportunities.

The Ministry of Water, Energy, and Minerals, under the leader-

ship of Shaib Hassan Kaduara, will oversee the project's implementation.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Joseph J. Kilangi, reiterated the government's commitment to reducing reliance on a single energy source and ensuring a reliable and sustainable power supply for Zanzibar's residents and industries.

Saeed Al-Jabry, Managing Director of Aseel Oilfield Services, signed the agreement on behalf of the company and expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership.

"This project is a significant

milestone, not only for Zanzibar but also for our shared commitment to sustainable energy. The Matemwe Wind Power Plant is a testament to the trust and cooperation between the government, ZECO, and private partners like SANY Renewable Energy and Aseel," he said.

The Aseel team, led by Group Chairman Mr Iman Al-Jabry and supported by technical experts, has played a key role in ensuring the success of this partnership while aligning the project with Zanzibar's Vision 2050 strategy.

SANY Renewable Energy, renowned for its advanced wind energy solutions, will oversee the construction and installation of wind turbines to ensure compliance with international efficiency and sustainability standards.

The Matemwe site was carefully selected due to its excellent wind energy potential and proximity to existing infrastructure. Once operational, the project will supply a significant portion of Zanzibar's electricity demand, enhancing energy security and reducing dependence on imported power.

The first phase, valued at approximately US\$180 million, will feature state-of-the-art wind turbines designed to maximize

energy generation while minimizing environmental impact.

The second phase will expand the plant's capacity to 200MW upon the successful completion of the first phase.

ZECO General Manager, Haji Mohamed Haji, who signed the agreement on behalf of SMZ, lauded the private sector's contribution to Zanzibar's energy landscape.

"This project will not only provide sufficient and reliable electricity but also empower communities, improve livelihoods, spur industrial growth, and showcase the power of partnership," he said.

He said the partnership underscores a shared vision of a prosperous, energy-independent Zanzibar leading the way in renewable energy. Construction is set to commence soon, with the Wind Power Plant standing as a symbol of progress, sustainability, and opportunity for East and Central Africa.

## Malinyi councilors laud revenue collection effort

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Malinyi District councilors have commended the council director, Khamis Katimba, for his efforts that have significantly improved the council's revenue collection and funded development projects.

During a council meeting over the weekend, Usangule Ward Councilor Nasoro Liggula detailed Katimba's achievements since his transfer to the council seven months ago.

Liggula noted that the director had revamped the revenue collection systems, enabling 87% of funds allocated for development projects to be disbursed within just six months.

"Only 13 percent of the funds remain, and we still have six months to go. This is unprecedented and something to be proud of," Liggula said.

He added that Katimba had established smooth

collaboration between the Regional Commissioner's Office, councilors, and residents, reducing service complaints.

"I was the council chairman for five years, and previously, our meetings were marked by heated arguments over delayed projects. Since the new director introduced good governance practices, such disputes have disappeared. Now, 90 percent of projects are completed, with the rest nearing completion," Liggula said.

Council Chairman Pius Mwelase echoed the praise, emphasizing the importance of efficient revenue systems in enabling government activities.

"Under the current director, Malinyi has made tremendous progress in revenue collection and development projects," Mwelase said. "I propose that we pass a resolution to congratulate the director for his outstanding

work. Do you agree?" he asked, receiving unanimous approval from the councilors.

Mwelase elaborated on Katimba's reforms, such as eliminating revenue leakages at crop collection gates.

"Previously, significant revenue was lost at the gates. The director introduced a system where traders pay taxes at the point of purchase and receive a receipt. At the gates, they simply show the receipt, which has significantly increased collections," Mwelase explained.

In response, Director Katimba thanked the councilors for recognizing his efforts.

"This resolution motivates me to continue adhering to legal guidelines and focusing on development. Our success is a team effort, thanks to the council's stability and collaboration. Let's maintain this momentum," Katimba said.

## SA coal, metal exporters to spend billions fixing railway

CAPE TOWN

South African coal and iron-ore exporters aim to sign agreements with state-owned logistics company Transnet next month that could pave the way for them to spend billions of rand to help fix crucial rail lines and boost shipments.

Organisations representing firms including Glencore and a unit of Anglo American are negotiating the terms of the pacts with Transnet, said Ian Bird, head of transport and logistics for B4SA, a business group that's partnering with the government to revive South Africa's sub-standard transport and energy infrastructure and operations.

The collapse of freight-rail lines due to poor maintenance and theft of equipment saw coal exports plunge to a 30-year low of 48-million tons in 2023.

Iron-ore railings slumped to the lowest in a decade. The government has agreed to allow private operators to run trains on the lines from about April to boost export income.

"We are now at a point where something has to be done," Bird said in an interview. The state of the lines has an "impact on both Transnet Freight Rail

and third-party operators," he said.

The parties haven't publicly disclosed the likely terms of the agreements, which should facilitate an infusion of private capital and expertise. Transnet, in a response to Bloomberg queries, put the cost of repairing the coal line over three years, at about R12.9-billion and the iron-ore line at about R9-billion.

Repairing all Transnet's tracks, including those used to transport containers and manganese, would require 64.5 billion rand over five years, Transnet said last year.

"The conclusion of the agreements with the customers is on track," Transnet said. "The investment is required to get these lines back up to a standard at which we can move more volumes."

Companies export iron ore from the Saldanha port on South Africa's west coast, while they ship most coal from Richards Bay on the eastern seaboard.

The Ore Users Forum, which counts Anglo's Kumba Iron Ore and Assmang among its members, declined to comment. Richards Bay Coal Terminal, the privately owned coal-export port whose shareholders include Glencore,

# US Fed prepares to pause in first rate decision since Trump's inauguration

WASHINGTON

The US Federal Reserve is expected to announce a pause in rate cuts on Wednesday, as policymakers look to continue tackling inflation under close and vocal scrutiny from President Donald Trump.

The Fed cut its key lending rate by a full percentage point in the last four months of 2024 and indicated it would move more cautiously going forward amid an uptick in inflation away from its long-term target of two percent.

"I think they will do nothing, and I think they should do nothing," Jim Bullard, the long-serving former president of the St. Louis Fed, told AFP. "I think the committee's in very good shape right now."

The Fed's challenge this week is how to pause and communicate a data-dependent approach to future cuts without drawing the ire of the commander-in-chief, who has expressed his desire for rates to come down.

"The goal will be to make as least amount of news as possible as they pause, which is well televised," KPMG chief



economist Diane Swonk said in an interview.

Financial markets saw a probability of more than 99 percent on Friday afternoon that the Fed would vote on Wednesday to hold interest rates at their current level of between 4.25 and 4.50 percent, according to data from CME Group.

"Next week should be a boring start to a tumultuous year for the Fed," JP Morgan chief US economist Michael Feroli wrote in a note to clients published Friday.

Trump's 'demands' lower rates

Trump has frequently criticized the Fed, which has a dual mandate from Congress

to act independently to tackle inflation and unemployment. After returning to office on Monday, he renewed his attacks on the US central bank.

"I'll demand that interest rates drop immediately," the real estate mogul-turned president said Thursday, later adding that he would "put in a strong statement" if the Fed - led by chair Jerome Powell - did not listen to his views.

"I think I know interest rates much better than they do," he added. "And I think I know certainly much better than the one who's primarily in charge of making that decision."

Trump's public criticism of the Fed and Powell - whom he first nominated to run the US central bank - is unusual, and runs counter to the policy pursued by most recent presidents of avoiding public criticism of the institution and its policymakers while in office.

"The Fed will not front-run any policies by the new administration," Swonk from KPMG said of the bank's upcoming rate decision. "They will wait and see how they play out and how they actually affect the economy."

The Fed's expected pause comes against the backdrop of a small uptick in inflation, with a relatively robust labor market and strong economic growth.

In December, Fed policymakers dialed back the number of rate cuts they expect in 2025 to a median of just two, with some incorporating assumptions about Trump's likely economic policies into their forecasts, according to minutes of the meeting.

Since returning to office on Monday, President Trump has revived his threats to impose tariffs on US trading partners including Mexico, Canada and China, and to

deport millions of workers. He has also said he wants to extend expiring tax cuts, and cut red tape on energy production.

Many economists see Trump's tariffs and immigration proposals as inflationary, potentially keeping the Fed on pause for longer if they come into effect.

But this is not a universally held view.

"I think the story that tariffs are inflationary is overplayed in financial markets," said Jim Bullard, who is the Dr. Samuel R. Allen Dean of the Mitch Daniels School of Business at Purdue University. "We have seen this movie before: We had the first Trump administration."

"The (economic) growth effects are actually the ones to worry about, and most of those are coming through the uncertainty channel and not through the actual effects of actual tariffs," he added.

"I do think that this will be more business-friendly administration, and they may be able to do some stuff on the deregulation side," he said. "So that's probably the thing could have the biggest impact."

# Tarime pockets 5.4bn/- from mining service levy, royalties

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

TARIME District Council has received 5.4bn/- as service levy and royalties for the financial year 2023/2024 as part of Barrick North Mara's efforts to foster social and economic development in the country.

The mine has also paid royalties totaling 1.718bn/- to five villages in the district, representing the fourth-quarter payment for the year 2024. The villages and the amounts received (in brackets) are Genkuru (749,488,891/-), Nyangoto (635,141,742/-), Kerende (195,749,927/-), Nyamwaga (95,529,025/-), and Kewanja (42,254,479/-).

Dr. Mark Bristow, Mine's President and Chief Executive Officer handed over a dummy cheque for the service levy and royalty payments to local leaders during a meeting with the Community Development Committee (CDC), which consists of leaders from 11 villages neighboring the mine.

Local government and village leaders expressed their gratitude to the North Mara Mine and pledged to manage the funds responsibly to stimulate community development projects, particularly in constructing and improving social service infrastructure. "We are very grateful to the

mine for providing us with these funds, and as leaders, we promise that they will be used for the intended purposes," said Petro Kurate, Vice-Chairperson of the Tarime District Council.

Dr. Bristow reaffirmed Barrick's commitment to ensuring that its investment in the country through the North Mara Mine contributes to national revenue through taxes and government levies while benefiting the local communities surrounding the mine. He emphasized the company's collaboration with the government through Twiga Minerals Corporation to achieve these goals.

Tarime Rural MP Mwitwa Waitara thanked the mine for continuing to pay royalties to the villages promptly and for supporting the implementation of various development projects through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.

He highlighted key sectors such as education, health, and infrastructure as primary beneficiaries of these initiatives.

Apolinary Lyambiko, Mine's general manager urged local government and village leaders to cooperate with the community in utilizing the funds effectively and transparently to ensure mutual understanding and sustained development.

# Younger Chinese embracing side hustles to unlock opportunities

BEIJING

"Life is not a track, but an open field" is a viral motto on Chinese social media. It encapsulates an emerging lifestyle choice among younger generations: They are willing to embrace all possibilities instead of being confined by one career commitment.

Meng Qiaofeng, a student at North China Electric Power University, runs a flower shop inside her dorm room with her roommates' consent.

From market research to promotional activities, Meng has seized the opportunity to run a business from scratch and built a reputation among her schoolmates without concerns about site selection and high rents.

"Starting a business in the dorm room has low costs," she said. "Even if it fails, it's not a big deal."

A report released by the 36Kr media platform found that 44.7 percent of surveyed young people have engaged in side hustles, and more than half are interested in pursuing one.

The vibrant digital economy empowers them. The same survey showed that many favor low-cost, low-risk opportunities, particularly online ventures, which now dominate the landscape of side jobs.

Wang Siyu, a 26-year-old white-collar, is also a content provider on the lifestyle-sharing platform rednote, also known as Xiaohongshu. As a master's degree holder in English literature, she shares her experience in learning English, garnering over 20,000 followers to date.

Wang believes that digital technology has reduced the cost of starting a side gig and brought more financial stability for young people. "It's better to put your eggs in different baskets," she said while mentioning the well-known proverb in an interview with Xinhua.

Xianyu, one of China's largest second-hand goods trading platforms, is becoming an online hub for young people exploring moonlight careers. According to a report Xianyu published in December 2024, more than 9 million young people posted their side hustles on the platform in 2024, and 40.8 percent were born after 2000.

The Xianyu report showed how side hustles are evolving beyond traditional opportunities and tapping into niche markets and unique consumer needs. For example, pet caregiving is becoming popular, with services ranging from pet walking to grooming and even match-making for pets.

Creative and specialized services are also gaining traction. Some young people offer professional skills like graphic design and software development. In contrast, others provide more unconventional services, such as writing memoirs for the elderly, naming newborns, or offering advice on blind dates.

Moonlighting brings economic gains. The Xianyu report showed that one part-timer on the platform earned an average of 3,660 yuan (about \$510) through side jobs in 2024.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE table with columns for Saturday 25 Jan, Sunday 26 Jan, Monday 27 Jan, Tuesday 28 Jan, Wednesday 29 Jan, Thursday 30 Jan, Friday 31 Jan, Saturday 1 Feb, Sunday 2 Feb, Monday 3 Feb, and Tuesday 4 Feb. Each column lists program titles and their corresponding times.

# WORLD

## Red Cross: 2nd phase of Hamas-Israel prisoner-hostage deal completed

GAZA / JERUSALEM

THE International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced Saturday the completion of the second phase of a prisoner-hostage exchange between Hamas and Israel, implemented under the initial terms of a ceasefire agreement.

The second phase, including the release of 200 Palestinian prisoners and four Israeli hostages, was carried out after thorough coordination and review procedures conducted by the ICRC, a neutral intermediary that ensured the smooth and secure implementation of the exchange, it said.

The Israeli hostages were transferred safely, with their well-being prioritized, whereas the Palestinian prisoners were released from Israeli detention centers and transported to Gaza and the West Bank following ICRC's interview with

them, during which it verified their identities, evaluated their health conditions, and confirmed their readiness for travel, it said.

The ICRC urged ongoing dialogue between the parties and their continuous humanitarian commitments, so as to create the necessary conditions for the safe execution of future operations.

Earlier on Saturday, the Israel Defense Forces and the Israel Security Agency said in a joint statement that four female Israeli soldier hostages held in Gaza were transferred to them and crossed the border into Israel.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Zaghari, head of the Palestinian Prisoners Club, as well as Palestinian officials in the Ramallah Governorate said 200 Palestinian prisoners were handed over to ICRC.

Some prisoners were released into the West Bank, some bound for Gaza,



Hamas fighters escort four Israeli hostages to hand them over to a team from the Red Cross in Gaza City on Saturday. AFP

and some have arrived in Egypt via the Rafah crossing, according to Palestinian sources and Egyptian media reports.

The first stage of the six-week ceasefire took effect on Jan 19.

The ceasefire agreement between Hamas and Israel was reached after 15 months of intense fighting, as a result of negotiations mediated by Egypt, Qatar and the United States.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister's Office said in a statement on Saturday that Israel will not allow Palestinian residents to return to their homes in the northern Gaza Strip for the time being.

The statement noted that the ban will apply until the release of Israeli civilian Arbel Yehud, who was scheduled to be freed on Saturday but was not among the four Israelis released by Hamas, is arranged.

Many residents of the northern

Gaza Strip were forced to leave their homes during the fighting and moved to temporary places in the south.

They are supposed to return to their homes according to the ceasefire-hostage deal between Israel and Hamas.

The statement mentioned that Yehud's release in the second swap of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners was part of the deal that went into effect last week.

Earlier on Saturday, Hamas released the four female Israeli soldiers Liri Albag, Karina Arie, Daniela Gilboa, and Naama Levy, and they arrived at an Israeli military camp near the Gaza border in good health.

A senior official of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement revealed that the Israeli hostage Yehud is alive and will be released next Saturday.

Agencies

## Kremlin sees Japan's stance on Russia as clearly unfriendly

MOSCOW

TOKYO continues to pursue a clearly unfriendly policy towards Moscow, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, commenting on Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's remark about his desire to resolve "the territorial issue" and sign a peace treaty with Russia despite the current difficulties in bilateral relations.

"Japan maintains a clearly unfriendly stance on our country," he told TASS, when asked if Tokyo had sent any signals about its readiness to restore ties.

The Japanese premier once again expressed a wish to sign a peace treaty with Moscow on January 24. According to him, Japan-Russia relations are "in a difficult situation" but Tokyo "will continue to pursue a policy aimed at resolving the territorial issue and signing a peace treaty." Ishiba's predecessor Fumio Kishida also made such statements in the past.

From the mid-20th century until their suspension, Moscow and Tokyo had been holding talks in an attempt to hammer out a peace treaty as a follow-up to fighting between the two countries at the tail end of World War II in August-September 1945.

The issue of the southern Kuril Islands has perennially remained the key sticking point in such talks, however. In 1945, jurisdiction over the entire archipelago was awarded to the Soviet Union.

Tokyo, however, laid claim to the islands of Iturup, Kunashir and Shikotan, and a group of uninhabited islands. The Russian Foreign Ministry has repeatedly stated that Moscow's sovereignty over the islands is enshrined in international law and cannot be called into question.

Japan introduced several packages of sanctions on Russia after Moscow launched its special military operation in Ukraine. The Russian Foreign Ministry announced in this regard that Moscow was suspending consultations on the peace treaty issue with Tokyo.

Addressing a plenary session of the Valdai Discussion Club last fall, Russian President Vladimir Putin pointed out that Moscow had not taken a single step against Tokyo. He added that Russia would respond in kind if Japan showed willingness to return to cooperation.



## Yemeni govt condemns Houthi arrests of UN, NGO workers

ADEN / SANAA

YEMEN'S internationally recognized government on Saturday condemned the detention of 13 staff members from the United Nations (UN) and international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Sanaa, describing the move as an escalation of the country's ongoing humanitarian crisis.

The foreign ministry, in a statement, characterized the detentions as a "flagrant violation of international humanitarian law" and warned that they directly endangered the lives and safety of humanitarian workers.

The condemnation follows a Friday announcement by the UN, which declared it was suspending all official movements in Houthi-controlled northern Yemen due to the arrests. This suspension follows the detention of seven additional UN staff members by the Houthi group.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in a statement, called the continued detention "unacceptable," and affirmed that the UN is actively working to secure the release of the detained individuals.

The Houthis have detained dozens of staff from the UN and other humanitarian organizations, mostly since mid-2023. In June 2024, the Houthis carried out a mass detention of staff from UN, international and local aid organizations in Sanaa, claiming they had detained "key members of an American-Israeli spy network" linked to the US Central Intelligence Agency.

The UN has repeatedly called for the release of those detained, including during a December 2024 visit to Sanaa by World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who sought to negotiate their release.

Meanwhile, the Houthis on Saturday unilaterally released 153 war prisoners detained during the civil war with the Yemeni government forces in



Armed Yemenis chant slogans during a march in solidarity with the people of Gaza on Nov 24, 2023, in the Houthi-controlled capital Sanaa. (PHOTO / AFP)

recent years, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Iscander Saeed, the spokesperson of the ICRC in Yemen, told reporters at a press conference in Sanaa that "Ansarullah (Houthis) today released 153 war prisoners unilaterally."

The ICRC welcomes this unilateral release, he added.

"The ICRC has facilitated the initiative in the framework to encourage all sides to move ahead in this humanitarian file and release prisoners," he said.

Those released were handed over to their family members who had come to Sanaa from other provinces.

Yemen has been mired in a civil war since late 2014 when the Houthi group seized control of several northern provinces and forced the Saudi-backed Yemeni internationally recognized government out of the capital Sanaa.

The war has killed tens of thousands of people, displaced 4 million, and pushed the country to the brink of starvation, according to United Nations (UN) aid agencies.

In May 2024, the Houthi group unilaterally released 113 war prisoners.

In April 2023, the UN facilitated the exchange of 900 prisoners between the Yemeni government and the Houthi rebel group. Thousands are still being held in prisons on both sides, including political opponents, human rights activists, and journalists. The UN is trying to release of all detainees and reach a political settlement between the Yemeni sides to end the war.

## New records, shifting trends: China embraces world's largest annual human migration

BEIJING

THIS year's Spring Festival travel rush is poised to set new records for travel numbers, marked by several notable changes, according to China's transport authorities.

The world's busiest travel season, driven by the Chinese ritual of family reunions, kicked off on Jan. 14 this year.

China is anticipating a record-breaking 9 billion

inter-regional trips during this year's Spring Festival travel rush, with significant shifts, noted Wang Xiuchun, an official with the Ministry of Transport, who joined the latest episode of the China Economic Roundtable, an all-media talk show hosted by Xinhua News Agency.

Participants in the 40-day travel season not only include those traveling for family visits, but also a growing

number of leisure tourists, Wang said.

Additionally, the rise of self drive trips and the expansion of travel modes have changed the transportation mix, Wang added.

Air travel has become an increasingly popular choice during the Spring Festival season, driven by rising demand for higher living standards, according to Shang Ke-jia, an official with the Civil

Aviation Administration of China.

The number of flights and passengers are expected to reach new highs this year, Shang said. Daily flights are projected to exceed 18,500, an 8.4 percent increase compared to last year, with passenger trips surpassing 90 million.

Additionally, the diversity of air travel routes has expanded, spurred by new

demands, including the rise of "reverse Spring Festival travel," in which people travel against the flow of typical holiday movement, and the growing tourism boom, Shang explained.

Shang noted that more international tourists are flocking to China, marking a new highlight in this year's Spring Festival travel rush.

The vast railway network, the backbone of China's

transport system in handling with Spring Festival travel rush, has further improved its coverage and capacity, according to Zhu Wenzhong with the China State Railway Group.

This year, more than 14,000 trains will be on the move each day, with over 10 million seats offered, representing an almost one-third increase in capacity compared to five years ago, Zhu

said.

When highlighting new trends for this year's travel season, Zhu noted that passenger flow toward the northeastern region is increasing, partly driven by the thriving ice and snow economy and the upcoming Asian Winter Games, which will be held in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

Xinhua



# India adopts circular economy to drive growth and environmental sustainability

INDIA adopts circular economy to drive growth and environmental sustainability

India's focus on sustainability is evident in its efforts to minimize environmental impact, create green jobs, and boost innovation. This transition promotes resource efficiency, waste reduction, and recycling, conserving resources, reducing carbon footprints, and fostering economic growth through sustainable practices.

While globalization has connected economies and cultures, it has also brought significant environmental challenges. Increased consumption, production, and industrialization have led to resource depletion, rising greenhouse gas emissions, and climate risks. In contrast, circular economy principles promote sustainability by transitioning from the linear model of "take, make, dispose" to a regenerative approach that emphasizes restoring and reusing resources.

Each year, over 100 billion tons of resources are introduced into the global economy, but only 8.6% are recycled. According to the 2021 Circularity Gap Report, the global economy is just 8.6% circular, with an ambition to reach 17% by 2030 by targeting high-potential sectors. Achieving this goal requires promoting product designs that prioritize durability, reparability, and recyclability, paving

the way for a sustainable future.

The circular economy enhances supply chain resilience by reducing dependence on scarce resources, helping businesses mitigate global supply chain volatility. By prioritizing material recovery and reuse, it minimizes reliance on new raw materials, stabilizes prices, and ensures resources are utilized for extended periods. This model decouples economic growth from resource consumption, making it essential for achieving long-term sustainability.

India's government is driving the transition to a circular economy through targeted policies such as the Plastic Waste Management Rules, e-Waste Management Rules, Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, and the Metals Recycling Policy.

To accelerate progress, 11 committees, led by various ministries and supported by experts, have been established to develop action plans for key sectors. These initiatives focus on addressing challenges in areas like e-waste and construction materials, emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts.

India has introduced policies like Plastic Waste Management and e-Waste Management Rules to promote recycling and waste reduction.

NITI Aayog is leading initiatives to integrate circular economy practices



across sectors like steel, construction, and e-waste.

India is a member of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE), advocating for global circularity.

The government has formed 11 committees to create action plans for transitioning to a circular economy in key sectors.

India's adoption of circular economy principles is projected to save up to 30% of GDP by 2050 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 44%.

NITI Aayog, India's premier think tank, has played a crucial role in advancing circular economy initiatives. In collaboration with the EU delegation, it has focused on resource efficiency in sectors such as steel, construction, and e-waste. Significant progress includes utilizing industrial by-products like fly ash and slag across various sectors. Furthermore, NITI Aayog has developed insights into recycling industries and identified challenges in transforming waste into valuable resources.

India is a member of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE), an international coalition established in 2021 to promote circularity and sustainable resource management. GACERE fosters global collaboration among governments to accelerate the transition to a circular economy through sustainable solutions.

For Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs), transitioning to a circular economy presents significant opportunities in India. By adopting a circular business

model, MSMEs can enhance resilience, reduce waste, and optimize resource efficiency. Collaborating with government initiatives provides MSMEs with the necessary support to facilitate this transition, contributing to a more sustainable and efficient supply chain.

Standardization is crucial in advancing the circular economy. Frameworks developed by organizations like the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) help ensure consistency among businesses, governments, and consumers.

New ISO standards, introduced in May 2024, offer the tools and frameworks needed to implement and measure circular economy practices. These standards support interoperability, energy efficiency, waste reduction, and market access, fostering global circularity and boosting consumer confidence.

The circular economy holds substantial economic potential. UNCTAD estimates it could create over 7 million jobs and generate up to USD 4.5 trillion in global growth by 2030.

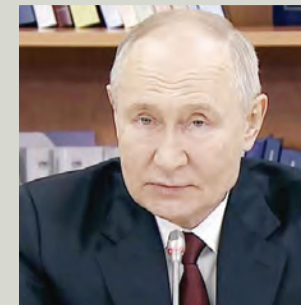
For India, embracing circular practices could save up to 11% of its GDP by 2030 and 30% by 2050, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 44%. Currently, China is the largest emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>, accounting for around 28% of global emissions, followed by the U.S. as the second-largest emitter. India ranks as the third-largest emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>, though its emissions per capita are relatively low compared to developed nations.

Agencies

Russia is ready for talks with Ukraine, but Kiev stands against it, says President Putin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is still ready to hold negotiations on the Ukrainian conflict settlement, including with the United States, but the Kiev authorities are against it, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.



"We have been always saying this, and I want to reiterate it, that we are ready for such negotiations on the Ukrainian issue," he said in an interview with VGTRK journalist Pavel Zarubin after his visit to the Moscow State University commenting on US President Donald Trump's one of the recent statements to launch talks with Russia on the Ukrainian conflict settlement.

"However, we are faced with some particular issues here that require special attention," Putin continued. "As you may all know well, for instance, the current head of the regime in Kiev, when he was still a fairly legitimate head of state, inked a decree banning all negotiations with Russia."

Russian President Putin earlier set forth the conditions for resolving the situation in Ukraine, which included Ukraine withdrawing troops from Donbass and Novorossiia and abandoning plans to join NATO. Moscow also believes that all Western sanctions on Russia must be removed and Ukraine's non-bloc and non-nuclear status must be guaranteed.

Gavi says malaria case numbers fall in 17 African countries amid vaccine rollout

NAIROBI

THE delivery of 12 million malaria vaccine doses in 17 African countries since 2023 has contributed to a significant drop in caseload and fatalities among high-risk demographics including children, according to the Gavi vaccine alliance.

About 5 million children in the 17 malaria-endemic African countries, which represents more than 70 percent of the global malaria burden, have been protected from the disease after being inoculated, Gavi said in a statement issued Thursday in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

Gavi Chief Executive Officer Sania Nishtar described the consistent rollout of the malaria vaccine as a game changer in combating the mosquito-transmitted disease. "This early data is a small indicator of the potential public health impact of a program we hope to scale up dramatically by the end of this decade, protecting tens of millions of children around the world, and reducing the stress malaria imposes on African health systems," Nishtar said.

The successful implementation of pilot malaria vaccination programs in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi from 2019 to 2023, which reached 2 million children and led to a 13 percent drop in overall child mortality, has informed rollout in other high-burden countries on the continent, according to Gavi.

In addition to vaccines, other vital interventions like mass distribution of insecticide treated nets have been pivotal in reducing malaria transmission and deaths in Africa, Gavi said.

The introduction of malaria vaccine in African countries grappling with strife, including Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was hailed by the agency for revitalizing malaria fight, Gavi noted. In 2025, Gavi plans to introduce malaria vaccines in six to eight new countries, including Uganda, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali and Burundi, protecting an additional 13 million children by the end of the year.

## WEF calls for cooperation to address global challenges, uncertainty

DAVOS

THE World Economic Forum (WEF) concluded its annual meeting here on Friday, calling for increased cooperation in the face of global challenges and uncertainty.

Amid ongoing conflicts, economic instability, and rapid technological advancements,

the WEF Annual Meeting 2025 served as a crucial platform for fostering dialogue, encouraging collaboration, and driving sustainable solutions to shared global challenges.

In his closing remarks, WEF President Borge Brende said, "We all realize during this week that we came together in Davos, at a time of immense

consequence and uncertainty. Political, geopolitical, and macroeconomic landscape - all are shifting under our feet."

He emphasized that critical political priorities such as driving economic growth, reducing carbon emissions, and finding ways to end conflicts require urgent attention.

"All of these challenges can-

not wait, and the only way to make progress on these issues is by working together," he added. Brende further noted that leaders from around the world, representing both the public and private sectors, had gathered to demonstrate how collaboration can be achieved.

Even though nations compete, there are areas where in-

terests overlap. In these areas, "we really need to strike and find deals to make the world a better place."

During the Economic Outlook session, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva highlighted that the evolving geopolitical landscape will reshape trade and economic relations.

## Trudeau's cabinet lines up behind Carney as ex-banker brushes up on French

BY BLOOMBERG

THE senior ranks of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's cabinet have made their choice on who they believe should replace him as Canada's prime minister - and they're throwing their weight behind Mark Carney.

Carney has secured the backing of Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly, Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault, Energy Minister Jonathan Wilkinson and Labor Minister Steven MacKinnon. He will receive a public endorsement from Industry Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne on Sunday, said a person close to Champagne.

The support shows that many ministers believe the former central banker is the best bet to counter US President Donald Trump's trade threats and boost the Liberal Party's electoral fortunes. They also strengthen Carney's position in Quebec, traditionally a crucial bastion of Liberal support.

Joly, Guilbeault, MacKinnon and Champagne are all from the French-speaking province. Carney, 59, who grew up in Alberta, has been working daily with aides on improving his French-language skills, according to people familiar with the matter.

That will matter a lot if he wins the Liberal leadership contest, becomes prime minister and heads into a general election, where he would be up against Pierre Poilievre, a fierce and fluently bilingual debater who leads the Conservative Party, and Yves-Francois Blanchet, leader of the Bloc Quebecois.

Joly, speaking with reporters on Thursday, said it "was a difficult choice" to back Carney over Chrystia Freeland, the former finance minister who entered the race last week. Joly said she chose Carney due to his proven ability to handle big crises such as Brexit, which unfolded while he was governor of the Bank of England, and the 2008 global financial crisis, which erupted shortly before he became governor of the Bank of Canada.

Guilbeault, a former Greenpeace activist, said he believes Carney is best placed to manage Trump and to steer Canada's economy through an energy transition in the years ahead. "I've known him and I trust him and I have great faith in his abilities," he said.

The backing of Quebec ministers is important for the credibility of Carney's campaign - his first attempt at winning political office - as there are still questions about how well



This undated file photo shows Mark Carney speaking during a press conference when he was governor of the Bank of England. (PHOTO / BLOOMBERG)

he can speak French without a script in front of him.

"It should be a source of concern for the Liberals, who badly need Quebec in the next election," said Jeremy Ghio, a Montreal-based consultant who previously worked as an aide to Joly.

No Liberal leader from outside of Quebec has won a general election in Canada since 1965. The Bloc Quebecois, a party that represents Quebec's interests in Ottawa and promotes the province's independence, is doing well in public opinion polls and ap-

pears set to take seats from the Liberals. Quebec will have 78 of the 343 seats up for grabs in the House of Commons in an election that may happen as early as May.

But in addition to improving his French, Carney can help himself in Quebec by spending

time on the ground there and through policy stances, Ghio said.

He pointed to the tactics of former Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper, an Albertan. His French was far from perfect, but in 2006 his government passed a parlia-

mentary motion recognizing Quebec as a nation within Canada, which helped the Conservatives build support there.

Chrystia Freeland, Canada's former finance minister, launched her leadership campaign with an event in Toronto on Jan. 19.

Freeland, who is seen as Carney's main opponent in the leadership race and is a more fluent French speaker, was Trudeau's deputy prime minister for five years and was seen by many as the most powerful member of his cabinet.

A handful of ministers have endorsed her, including Justice Minister Arif Virani and Health Minister Mark Holland. Like Freeland, they represent districts in greater Toronto.

Transport Minister Anita Anand, who has a seat in a Toronto suburb, appeared on a video Saturday wearing a Canadian hockey jersey to announce she's backing Carney.

It was Freeland's scathing resignation as finance minister on Dec 16 that triggered the events that led to Trudeau's decision to step down and call a leadership race. The prime minister will leave after his successor is chosen on March 9.

Agencies

# Caravans cricketers prolong winning ways in 2024 TCA DC Super League

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

**A**JITH Augustin put on a solid batting showing as Caravans prolonged their unbeaten run in the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) DC Super League, clobbering Aces A by 212 runs in a recent game in Dar es Salaam.

It was the third consecutive win for Caravans in the competition - projecting them as one of serious trophy contenders.

In the game, which took place at the Leaders Club venue, Caravans had the chance to start batting and raced to a massive 344/5 in 50 overs.

The no-nonsense Augustin solidly led his outfit's plan to end with the massive score, garnering an impressive 128 runs.

It was the first-ever century to have been posted by a cricketer in the 2024 TCA DC Super League, confirming Augustin's reputation as one of the most reliable batsmen in domestic tournaments in recent years.

In his memorable nail at the crease, Augustin nailed 12 boundaries and two sixes.

The top-order batsman's displays were instrumental in Caravans' successful efforts to gallantly wind up the club's batting time.

There were further meaningful contributions from a trio of Adersh Dileep, Jitin Singh, and Amal Rajeevan.

Singh slotted in as the opener, had Caravans launching their



Caravans Cricket outfit. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

pursuit of dominant showing solidly - garnering 51 runs.

Rajeevan, placed at number three, offered the batting team more control with his 66 runs.

Dileep got back to the pavilion with the bat in hand, posting 39 runs not out.

Kassim Nassor made full use of his experience - having recorded 23 runs - whereas Akhil Anil, too, chipped in with two digits after notching 14 runs.

Professional player Jeremiah Makanya turned out to be Aces A's bowling unit member with significant showing after taking 3-65.

Chasing a daunting 345 runs to secure victory was a quite challenging task Aces A had to face.

Despite boasting depth in batting, the Asif Butt-led Aces A could not get down to a fruitful chase - garnering 132/10 in 36.5

overs.

Brief stays by openers Butt and Alishah Bukhari signalled a rather difficult assignment that Aces A was presented with when it came to realising the chase.

It was - in every sense - a wobbly start to the innings, giving the other batsmen a massive challenge.

A 40-ball 36 by Ally Mpeka and Makanya's 30 runs were by far the worthy contributions in what was largely a below-par performance at the crease.

There were further two digits garnered by Aisah Chibanda and Kashif Anwar, seeing to it Aces A notch a respectable figure.

Zimbabwean Chibanda made his way back with 12 runs and Anwar had similar digits in his respective innings.

Team captain Singh wounded up with gallant bowling showing for Caravans, garnering

5-34 and a 4.25 economy rate.

His stellar all-round contribution eventually handed him the Player of the Match prize.

Aces A cricketers' two matches played are marked by a victory and a loss - pointing to the need for the cricketers to step up their game if they are to stay in contention for the trophy.

The 2024 TCA DC Super League, a TCA officer stated, features the top cricket teams in Tanzania, put into two groups.

Group A teams are Aga Khan SC, Delaware Upanga SC - A, Patel Brotherhood A, Dar Indian Titans, and Pak Stars A.

Group B clubs are: Caravans, Strikers, Aces A, Gymkhana, and Lions A.

The showdown began on January 4, 2025, marking an exciting start to Tanzania's premier cricket competition.



Madison Keys of the U.S. during the press conference with the trophy after winning the Australian Open final against Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka at Melbourne Park, in Melbourne, Australia on Saturday. REUTERS

# Anthony Davis, LeBron James lead Lakers past Warriors

By Field Level Media

**A**NTHONY Davis and LeBron James combined for 61 points as part of double-doubles, Dorian Finney-Smith contributed a 3-pointer to a game-breaking surge early in the fourth quarter and the Los Angeles Lakers ran off from the Golden State Warriors for a 118-108 victory Saturday night in San Francisco.

Davis finished with 36 points and 13 rebounds -- both game highs -- and James chipped in with 25 points and a game-high 12 assists for the Lakers, who improved to 2-0 this season against the rival Warriors, with both wins coming on the road.

Andrew Wiggins paced Golden State with 20 points on a night when Stephen Curry missed all eight of his second-half shots, made just two 3-pointers overall and finished with 13 points.

The game was tightly contested, with Los Angeles up just 91-85 in the second minute of the fourth quarter, before James converted a layup to trigger a 9-2 burst that opened a 13-point lead. James had a second basket in the run, sandwiching the 3-pointer by Finney-Smith, who was facing the Warriors for the first time as a Laker.

In losing for the third time in their last four games, the Warriors got no closer than nine after that as Davis capped his big night with 10 late points.

Davis, who also had three steals, shot 13-for-23 and James 12-for-25 for the Lakers, who finished at 54.7 percent



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) shoots against Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) and guard Max Christie (12) during the first quarter at Chase Center in San Francisco, California, USA on Saturday. Agencies

from the field. Ten of Davis' points came on 12 free-throw attempts.

Austin Reaves aided the visitors' cause with 16 points, Dalton Knecht had 13 and Max Christie added 11 for Los Angeles, which followed up its impressive home win over the Boston Celtics with a third straight victory.

Brandin Podziemski had 17 points, Gary Payton II 12 and Dennis Schroder 10 for Golden State, which outscored the visitors 48-30 on 3-pointers. Six different Warriors connected on at least a pair of threes, led by Podziemski's three in six tries.

Curry, who shot 4-for-17, found time for a team-high nine assists.

Meanwhile, James

Harden scored 17 of his 40 points in the third quarter and Norman Powell added 33 points as the Los Angeles Clippers finished off a 127-117 victory over the visiting Milwaukee Bucks at Inglewood, Calif.

Kawhi Leonard scored 18 points, while matching a season high with 24 minutes in his seventh game of the season. Ivica Zubac had 12 points and 10 rebounds as the Clippers went 3-2 over a stretch of five games in seven days.

The Clippers used a 14-0 run in the fourth quarter to turn a 100-98 deficit into a 112-100 lead. Harden, who had nine assists, scored the final six points in the run.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 36 points with 13 rebounds,

and Damian Lillard had 29 points with 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his fifth career triple-double as the Bucks saw a five-game winning streak come to an end.

Gary Trent Jr. scored 19 points, Taurean Prince added 14 and Brook Lopez had 13 for Milwaukee, which opened a four-game road trip.

Leonard, who is on a minutes restriction following his return from knee soreness, left the game for the final time in the third quarter just as Harden was starting to take charge.

Harden scored the Clippers' final 15 points of the third as Los Angeles went into the final period with a 94-93 advantage.

Antetokounmpo scored six consecutive

points in the fourth quarter to get the Bucks within 114-106 with 5:07 remaining. Harden added the final three points in a 7-2 run to put Los Angeles up 121-108 with 4:07 left.

Harden reached 40 points for the third time this season on a free throw with 2:31 remaining as the Clippers took a 125-112 lead. The Bucks never got within single digits the rest of the way.

In a competitive first half, the game was tied 28-28 after one quarter, with the Bucks up 59-58 at halftime. The Bucks led by as many as 11 points in the opening half, while the Clippers led by as many as five despite shooting just 36.5 percent in the half.

REUTERS

# Keys fulfils Grand Slam ambition after banishing doubts with therapy

MELBOURNE

**MADISON** Keys once suffered under the weight of expectation that one day, she would achieve the Grand Slam success tipped for her since she was an 11-year-old prodigy.

On Saturday, nearly 16 years after turning professional, the liberated American upset world number one Aryna Sabalenka 6-3 2-6 7-5 in the Australian Open final.

Good things come to those who wait as the saying goes -- but Keys's wait may have seemed interminable.

Her Australian Open triumph came in her 46th Grand Slam, the third-most for a maiden major trophy in the professional era, behind only Flavia Penetta and Marion Bartoli.

While her pile-driving groundstrokes and courage under fire were vital in toppling Sabalenka, the double defending champion and world number one, Keys credited therapy for helping her play her best tennis.

She needed it to quieten the nagging voices in her head about her lack of major success.

"I think as I got older and I had gotten close and it didn't happen, it kind of feels like, 'Will this ever actually happen? If it doesn't happen, I didn't live up to what everyone told me I should have done,'" she told reporters.

"I finally got to the point where I was personally low enough that I was like, I don't really care if this helps me perform, I just want to feel better."

"I honestly think that had I not done that, then I wouldn't be sitting here."

Ten years ago, at the age of 19, Keys appeared set to deliver on the hype as she stormed into her first Grand Slam semi-finals at Melbourne Park.

But she was in no way regarded a title threat at this year's tournament.

Her 2024 season was blighted by injury and her best effort at the three Grand Slams she played was a fourth-

round appearance at Wimbledon.

**BITTER DEFEAT**

When she came to Melbourne Park, she was at peace with the prospect that the peak of her tennis career might be her run to the 2017 U.S. Open final, a match that ended in bitter defeat by her compatriot Sloane Stephens.

The equation changed suddenly on Thursday when the 19th seed upset five-times Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek in a three-set thriller to reach the final.

The biggest win of her career was topped by a bigger one on Saturday as she felled Sabalenka.

It banished the demons of their last Grand Slam match-up in the 2023 U.S. Open semi-finals, where she gave up a one-set lead to lose in three and wept in the post-match press conference.

A year-and-a-half on, it was Sabalenka weeping bitterly under a towel at Rod Laver Arena.

Keys goes down in tennis annals as the woman who denied the Belarusian a third successive title at Melbourne Park and ended her 20-match winning streak at the hardcourt major.

The celebrations were teary and joyous as she went to her team and wrapped up her husband-coach Bjorn Fratangelo in a hug two months after wedding the former tennis player.

Having finally crashed through the Grand Slam barrier, Keys's ranking will improve to seven, a return to her peak more than eight years ago.

The Grand Slam monkey may be off her back but the therapy will continue, said Keys.

"It's something I will continue to do for the rest of my life," she said.

"I think if more people do it and more people talk about it, then it just kind of becomes the norm. It's almost as if you're going to the doctor. No one bats an eye at that."

REUTERS

## Real's Ancelotti delighted with hat-trick hero Mbappe's form

MADRID

REAL Madrid Manager Carlo Ancelotti was overjoyed with Kylian Mbappe's first hat-trick for the club as they beat bottom side Real Valladolid 3-0 away on Saturday to extend their lead atop LaLiga to four points.

Ancelotti said he was delighted about the France striker's inspired form, with eight goals in their last five games in all competitions and finally looking like his old self, giving Real even more firepower in an already stacked attack.

"Mbappe is bringing a lot to the team, he's been getting into a rhythm for a couple of months and today, for the first time, he scored a hat-trick for us.

"Obviously that's a plus for our team, he's a player of great quality," Ancelotti told a press conference.

"Little by little we've got into a good rhythm, we've got into a good dynamic and that's great to see.

"As I have been saying, we are improving in the aspects that undermined us in previous games. And we must continue as we try to improve and correct some of the problems we still have."

Real lead the standings with 49 points ahead of second-placed Atletico Madrid, who slipped further behind after a 1-1 draw against Villarreal.

They are followed by Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao, level on 39 points, but both with a game in hand, followed by Villarreal.

Ancelotti seemed unfazed by Real's lead, though, saying there was still a long road ahead in their title defence.

"We have to have a bit of balance and not get ahead of ourselves," the Italian added.

"It's true that we've done well in the league recently, we've got a good lead on top, but it's too early to think it's over. We have a small gap and hopefully we can make the most of it in the next few games."

REUTERS

## PSG's Luis Enrique targets Champions League playoffs after Reims draw

PARIS

PARIS St Germain coach Luis Enrique has quickly turned his attention to Champions League qualification after his side were held to a 1-1 draw by Stade de Reims in Ligue 1 on Saturday.

The Spaniard knows the capital club face a tough challenge at VfB Stuttgart in the final game of the first phase on Wednesday after giving themselves a chance of a playoff spot with a 4-2 home win over Manchester City in midweek.

Regarding PSG's display at home to mid-table Reims, Luis Enrique told a press conference: "I have nothing to question my players (about). I don't think that in terms of energy the team was bad. In fact, I think it was good.

"I think we have fulfilled the objective of managing this week in the best way to be prepared. Now we have to play this next Champions League game to confirm our qualification - to win or at least draw it. That's the objective," he added.

Saturday's draw took PSG 10 points clear atop Ligue 1 and Luis Enrique was quick to praise new signing Khvicha Kvaratskhelia after his first game with the French champions.

"It's clear that it's a new situation for him, but it's his first game, I hope, out of many, I think he was in a positive line," said the Spaniard after Kvaratskhelia got an assist.

"He's a player who usually has the ball a lot more than the opposition and can help us generate superiority, which is a happy and fortunate thing for me as a coach."

REUTERS

## Guardiola backs defender Khusanov despite error on Man City debut

MANCHESTER, England

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola expressed confidence in defender Abdulkodir Khusanov, despite the 20-year-old giving away a goal in his Premier League debut against Chelsea before being rescued by his teammates as they came back to win 3-1.

Signed from French side Lens earlier in the week, the 20-year-old from Uzbekistan looked overwhelmed at times at the Etihad Stadium, and his nerves were not helped by gifting Chelsea the opener in the third minute.

"It is not easy for him. He trains once, and then to play against (Nicolas) Jackson and Cole (Palmer) and (Noni) Madueke and (Jadon) Sancho, it is a process when you buy a player this young. He will learn," Guardiola said.

The Spanish coach has endured a turbulent time in recent months, with the loss of key players to injury and the rest of the Premier League stepping up to pose a sterner challenge to his side's previous dominance.

"We struggled lately and it has been a tough, tough season. Most players have been here eight or nine years and I am not going to change my opinion in two months," Guardiola explained.

REUTERS

# Lewis-Skelly red card leaves Arsenal boss Arteta 'fuming' and pundits baffled

LONDON

ARSENAL defender Myles Lewis-Skelly's controversial red card in Saturday's 1-0 win away at Wolverhampton Wanderers left manager Mikel Arteta "fuming" while television pundits reacted with shock and surprise at referee Michael Oliver's decision.

The red card was Arsenal's fourth of the season when Lewis-Skelly was sent off for tripping Matt Doherty on the edge of the Wolves box as the home side attempted a counterattack just before halftime.

Oliver produced a straight red card, a decision upheld by the video assistant referee, with Lewis-Skelly suspended for Arsenal's next three games.

"I am absolutely fuming but I leave it with you. Because it is that obvious, I don't think my words are going to help," Arteta told Sky Sports after the game.

Arteta later told reporters that he did not



Arsenal's Myles Lewis-Skelly is watched by manager Mikel Arteta as he leaves the pitch after being sent off during their Premier League match against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux Stadium, in Wolverhampton, Britain on Saturday. Agencies

receive an explanation for the red card but hoped it would be overturned the same way Bruno Fernandes' red card against Tottenham Hotspur was rescinded earlier this season.

"Hopefully we don't need to" appeal the red card, he said. "If we have to, it's a really good precedent with what happened with Bruno this season. Hopefully."

The Premier League said in a statement the red card was "checked and confirmed by VAR who deemed his challenge to have been serious foul play."

But former Premier League referee Mike Dean said a yellow card would have been sufficient.

"I thought it was harsh. I've seen the still (image)... I just think there's not a lot of force

in it. I think it's more of a glancing blow coming down for me. I think the VAR could have got involved," Dean said.

GROUNDS FOR APPEAL

Dean also said Arsenal have grounds for an appeal, which, if successful, would make Lewis-Skelly available for their league games against Manchester City and Leicester City, as well as their League Cup semi-final

against Newcastle United.

BBC Match of the Day host Gary Lineker described the sending-off as an "incredibly poor decision" and was baffled when Wolves' Joao Gomes did not receive a straight red card for what seemed like a harsher foul.

Fellow pundit Alan Shearer said it was "one of the worst decisions that I've seen in a long time.

"It should have been a yellow card, it is a terrible decision. There was no speed, no intensity, it was not endangering an opponent and was 90 yards from goal. So never, ever a red card," he said.

"What worries me is there is an assistant VAR and a VAR who have seen several replays and they think it is serious foul play."

Arsenal goal scorer Riccardo Calafiori said it was "clearly not a red card" and that the 18-year-old Lewis-Skelly was initially very upset with the decision.

"He's really happy now that the team won and found a way to win it," Calafiori said.

"He is very worried about what's coming next because he's strongly feeling that there was nothing to do with the action."

REUTERS

## Conte calls for calm amid Napoli's title charge

NAPLES, Italy

NAPOLI manager Antonio Conte hailed his side's 2-1 comeback win over Juventus in Serie A on Saturday but stressed the importance of staying grounded despite his side keeping pace with their title-winning season of two years ago.

Conte's side recovered from a goal down at home as Andre Frank Zambo Anguissa and Romelu Lukaku sealed the victory against a Juve side that were unbeaten in the league.

Napoli now have 53 points, the same total that Luciano Spalletti's side had at this stage on their way to winning the Scudetto in 2023, and sit atop Serie A, six points ahead of Inter Milan, who have two games in hand.

"We must never extinguish the enthusiasm because it's our lifeblood. However, we must stay grounded because what we've done so far is extraordinary," Conte told reporters. "We have already matched last year's points, and this is without (Victor) Osimhen, Kvara (Khvicha Kvaratskhelia), and Piotr (Zielinski)," he added, referring to three key players who have left the club this season, albeit with Osimhen on loan.

"It's nice to see that, despite the difficulties with the (transfer) market and injuries, nothing changes.

"We need to stay humble and keep working. Today, though, we beat a great team that had left us far behind last year."

Juve finished third last season on 71 points while Napoli languished in 10th with 53.

Conte added that his side performed well above expectations against Juventus.

"The intensity today



Napoli's Romelu Lukaku heads at goal during their Serie A match against Juventus at Stadio Diego Armando Maradona, in Naples, Italy on Saturday. REUTERS

was like a European match, with very high rhythms and full-field pressure," he said.

"We took some risks and yet some still say we play with a low defensive line and on the counter-attack. Sometimes it feels like I'm dreaming."

Despite the good run Napoli are on, Conte is still holding his cards close to his chest regarding the transfer window.

"It's not just about bringing someone in ... Everyone is good at saying who is missing and I could easily say what we need too," he added.

"But my role as head of the group forces me to focus on the players I already have and to make a difference with them.

"Let's see what happens but I remain calm because I know I have a group of players ready to fight with me."

Meanwhile, Juventus manager Thiago Motta was disappointed with his side's first Serie A loss of the season at leaders Napoli on Saturday and pointed to the amount of preparation time the

hosts have for matches as they are not playing in Europe this term.

Antonio Conte's Napoli staged a second-half comeback to win 2-1 at home thanks to goals from Andre Frank Zambo Anguissa and Romelu Lukaku and lead the table with 53 points, six above Inter Milan who have two games in hand. Juve are fifth on 37 points.

"I'm disappointed with the defeat. We had a good first half, causing

our opponents a lot of problems, a side that is not top of the table as a fluke because they have a great coach and had the opportunity to prepare all week for this," Motta told DAZN.

"However, we did not have that luxury and it showed, because all the good work we did in the first half, we struggled to replicate in the second and that is why we were unable to win."

Juve dominated the opening period and

were ahead at the break thanks to a debut goal from France forward Randal Kolo Muani, who has just joined on loan from Paris St Germain, but Napoli then took control and piled on the pressure.

"We reacted well in many other situations, we just didn't do it today. Juve have not won here since 2019, it is important to point that out. It is the sixth consecutive defeat for the club here so evidently that is

a tough place for us," he said.

Motta added that Juventus made several minor mistakes that ultimately led to their defeat.

"The idea was to press and defend well but we were unable to do that because our quality was lacking and when we started giving the ball away Napoli tended to give the duels and that gave them an advantage."

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

**Lewis-Skelly red card leaves Arsenal boss Arteta 'fuming' and pundits baffled**

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## Ramovic clarifies remarks on Premier League, praises competitiveness



"We are focused on improving our intensity - getting more meters in our legs and refining our approach. Scoring 4-5 goals in a match isn't easy. It reflects the players' hard work and their commitment to the process," Ramovic said.

Ramovic also highlighted the importance of respect for opponents, emphasizing that even in commanding victories, the effort required is significant.

"Every team we play against deserves respect. Winning by a large margin is not easy. It speaks volumes about the players' improvement and dedication. As a coach, I'm thrilled to see their progress," he remarked.

The coach concluded by reaffirming his commitment to continuous improvement, noting that rigorous training is essential to achieving their goals.

"Our aim is to improve in every aspect. Training should be even harder than matches so that we're fully prepared. That's my responsibility as a coach - to ensure we're always progressing," he said.

Young Africans' convincing performance in the Federation Cup and their continued improvement under Ramovic highlight their intent to maintain their dominance in Tanzanian football while preparing for greater challenges ahead.

minute, we aimed to play with high intensity, pressing aggressively and maximizing our runs. This is an area we want to improve," Ramovic said.

"After the Champions League match, I made comments about intensity, but some Simba journalists misunderstood me and framed it negatively. Let me make it clear - I have the utmost respect for this league, its players, and its coaches."

Ramovic praised the Premier League as a challenging and competitive environment, describing it as one where success requires significant effort and dedication.

"It's a very difficult league to play in and even harder to win. As the biggest club in Tanzania, we aim to win every competition, but that requires effort and preparation."

"This process we are following is the right way, focusing on each game without being fixated on the outcomes," he added.

The coach noted the improvement in Young Africans' form since the early days of his tenure, attributing it to the team's increased intensity and physical conditioning.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

**Y**OUNG Africans (Yanga) head coach Sead Ramovic has addressed recent claims that he made disrespectful comments about the Tanzania Premier League, emphasizing that his words were misunderstood.

Speaking after his team's dominant 5-0 win over COPCO FC in the Federation Cup on Saturday, Ramovic (pictured) clarified his position and expressed deep respect for the league.

"I have to give a lot of credit to my players. From the first

minute, we aimed to play with high intensity, pressing aggressively and maximizing our runs. This is an area we want to improve," Ramovic said.

"After the Champions League match, I made comments about intensity, but some Simba journalists misunderstood me and framed it negatively. Let me make it clear - I have the utmost respect for this league, its players, and its coaches."

Ramovic praised the Premier League as a challenging and competitive environment, describing it as one where success requires significant effort and dedication.

## Ouma confident in Singida Black Stars' top-four finish aspirations

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SINGIDA Black Stars assistant coach, David Ouma, has expressed confidence in his team's readiness for the second round of the Premier League, commending the squad's balance and resilience despite recent technical bench changes.

Ouma (pictured) praised the players for quickly adapting to the new system under the revamped technical team.

"We are proud of how swiftly our players have embraced the changes. The team is complete in all departments and ready to maintain our competitive edge in the second round," he said.

The Singida-based club began their preparations early, holding an extensive training camp in Arusha to ensure the squad was well-conditioned for the upcoming fixtures.

However, reports suggest the camp will soon be dismantled as the team transitions back to Singida to finalize preparations for their league campaign.

Ouma highlighted the significant improvements made during the recently concluded transfer window, emphasizing that new signings had addressed the team's previous shortcomings.

"We identified a few areas that needed strengthening, and the players we brought in have been instrumental in improving our squad. They are in good competitive shape and ready to contribute immediately," he noted.

Despite the mid-season changes in the technical bench, Ouma assured fans that the team's performance trajectory remains unaffected.



"Our players have adjusted well to the new technical team, which took charge shortly after being introduced. Singida Black Stars will continue to fight at the same level we started with," he said.

With the team currently sitting in fourth place on the league table, Ouma expressed optimism about achieving their season objective of finishing in the top four and securing a spot in continental competitions.

"The entire squad is in excellent shape. Individually, each player is highly competitive, and collectively, we have built a strong team capable

of handling the challenges ahead. Our ultimate goal is to finish in the top four and represent Tanzania internationally, and we believe this is achievable," Ouma stated.

He further explained the decision to return to Singida, citing the need to sharpen their focus as they gear up for a demanding fixture schedule.

"Initially, we planned to remain in Arusha for a month, but with the adjusted schedule, we'll head back to Singida to prepare for the battles ahead. We are determined to secure a spot in international competitions."

Looking ahead to February, Ouma acknowledged the challenges posed by a congested schedule, which includes six critical league matches three at home and three away.

"It won't be easy, but we are ready to fight. Our goal is to collect as many points as possible in February to maintain our position and push for greater heights," he affirmed.

The Singida Black Stars' second-round campaign begins with a home clash against Kagera Sugar, followed by away fixtures against KMC, JKT Tanzania, and Young Africans (Yanga).

They will then conclude February with back-to-back home matches against Pamba Jiji and Mashujaa.

Ouma is confident that the team's meticulous preparations, coupled with the players' form and determination, will ensure they navigate this demanding period successfully.

With their sights firmly set on a strong finish, Singida Black Stars aim to solidify their status as one of the league's top-performing teams and achieve their long-term ambitions of representing Tanzania on the international stage.

## Sinner dismantles Zverev to retain Australian Open title in Melbourne

MELBOURNE

JANNIK Sinner retained his Australian Open title with an emphatic 6-3 7-6(4) 6-3 win over Alexander Zverev yesterday, breaking new ground for Italian tennis and leaving his German rival smarting after a third Grand Slam final defeat.

World number one Sinner became Italy's first player to win three Grand Slam crowns, moving past Nicola Pietrangeli, who won back-to-back men's titles at Roland Garros in 1959-60.

A year after mowing down Daniil Medvedev in five sets for his first major trophy, Sinner sapped his second Melbourne Park final of all drama by applying suffocating pressure and clinical execution.

Under the lights at Rod Laver Arena, he captured the decisive break in the sixth game when Zverev pushed a forehand long.

Arguably, the German's spirit had already been broken by an unlucky net cord that turned the second-set tiebreak in Sinner's favour.

Zverev gave up match point with a forehand that fell well wide of the line before Sinner sealed the win with a backhand passing shot.

Sinner raised his arms in triumph and clambered into the terraces to embrace his entourage.

For Zverev, the wait for a maiden Grand Slam title will go on after finishing runner-up to Carlos Alcaraz at last year's French Open and having been beaten by Dominic Thiem in the 2020 U.S. Open.

REUTERS

## TFF to introduce VAR in the 2025/26 Premier League

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has announced plans to implement Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology in the Premier League starting with the 2025/26 season.

This development comes after TFF successfully acquired the necessary VAR equipment with support from the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

TFF President Wallace Karia, in a monitored interview, confirmed the federation's readiness to introduce the technology, emphasizing that a comprehensive training workshop for referees and operators is the next step.

"The seminar for referees and officials is crucial since both CAF and FIFA require licensed VAR operators for their events," Karia explained.

He added that the long-term goal is to extend the use of VAR to all leagues and tournaments across Tanzania.

"CAF has provided us with all the necessary documentation and guidelines for the use of VAR. We are now prepared to introduce it in the 2025/26 Premier League," Karia stated.

VAR is a technology-aided officiating system designed to assist on-field referees in making accurate decisions during critical moments of a football match.

The VAR team operates remotely, monitoring matches on multiple screens with real-time access to video footage from various camera angles.

This system aims to enhance fairness and accuracy in football by reducing errors in key decisions such as goals, penalties, red cards, and cases of mistaken identity.

Meanwhile, Karia revealed that TFF is considering penalizing clubs that engage in black magic practices to influence match outcomes.

He said the federation plans to engage football stakeholders to discuss potential amendments to rules that could lead to the deduction of points from teams found engaging in such practices.

"Black magic is commonly associated with football matches, especially among supporters, but it drains club resources and offers no tangible benefits.

"Surprisingly, teams that rely on such practices often suffer significant defeats," Karia remarked.

In many African countries, the use of black magic in football is widespread, with supporters often convincing club officials of its effectiveness.

Karia, however, dismissed these beliefs, urging clubs to focus on proper training and preparation instead of superstitions.

TFF's move to address these issues is part of broader efforts to enhance professionalism and integrity in Tanzanian football.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

