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Ministers sworn in as VP says cabinet role transient

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday swore in newly appointed ministers and top officials, urging them to honour their oath with dedicated service.

At a colourful ceremony at the Chamwino State House, the president emphasized that the primary mandate of top officials is to serve the people.

In remarks in the direction of the Information, Communication, and Information Technology minister Jerry Silaa, she directed him to ensure that government systems read each other.

This is especially needed for similar sectors and across all government platforms, which ought to be interlinked by late December, she said, hinting that the directive is not new, stressing the strategic importance of linking the ministries in driving national development.

This is also vital in enhancing international collaboration, she said, asking newly appointed ministers to prioritize national interests and improve service delivery.

This will help the country attain its development goals, she said, commending the ministers for their previous achievements, as it is a mark of expected high performance in their new roles.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan swears in Jerry William Silaa (42) as Information, Communications and Information Technology minister at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Until the July 21 mini-reshuffle of the Cabinet, he oversaw the Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development docket. Photo: State House

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Simba SC appoints Francois Regis as new CEO

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Yanga's midfield conundrum: A wealth of talent, selection headache for Gamondi

Minister elicits fishers' views on policy goals

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR authorities are working on robust measures to curb illegal fishing especially at Chwaka Bay.

Shabaan Ali Othman, the Blue Economy and Fisheries minister, made this observation at an inter-ministerial meeting bringing together the ministry along with the defence and security committee of Unguja South Region.

It also involved local residents and fishermen working around the Chwaka Bay area, where the minister said that fishermen at the bay use small nets which are

prohibited and impact negatively on fish reproduction.

The meeting was convened to listen to the stakeholders' challenges and provide solutions, whereupon the ministry set out plans to build large fishing boats with lengths of eight metres.

The reason is to enable the fishermen to reach deeper waters within the Chwaka Bay now largely out of reach, he said, noting that this measure will help the designated conservation area stock more fish instead of being thinned out as at present.

The ministry will distribute

legally permitted and quality nets for use as nets being used now often infringe extant environmental regulations, he declared, affirming that the government was ready to listen to the fishermen on the challenges they face.

Their views will be taken into account in designing procedures meant to promote sustainable fishing and eliminate illegal fishing in the vital fish conservation area, he stated.

Ayoub Mohammed Mahmoud, the Unguja South regional commissioner, said that an ongoing crackdown pitting fishermen with fishing sector

supervisors isn't an ideal situation and poses a safety risk.

"Therefore, the fishermen should comprehend and support the government's proposals to find a swift solution," he said, with most fishermen at Chwaka Bay welcoming the government's initiatives.

They requested that the ministry conduct thorough surveys on the sustainable use of marine resources at the area, with Juma Khamis, a fisherman saying the corrective measure will be helpful in realising policy objectives on the sector while addressing current challenges that fishermen are facing.

EABC urges full EAC access to tripartite trade

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has urged several East African Community (EAC) partner states to make an effort to promptly ratify the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) agreement in accessing the regional arrangement.

Adrian Njau, the EABC acting executive director, said in a statement yesterday that EAC countries engage more in trade with tripartite member states on account of their overlapping memberships in SADC and COMESA, which similarly provide preferential tariff treatment.

Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, and Tanzania have yet to ratify the treaty for the tripartite trading zone and are

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Welcome to build phone towers, big telecoms told

By Henry Mwangonde

COMMUNICATION sector experts are emphasizing the importance of seizing the government's initiative to install communication towers as a constructive opportunity to invest in the digital economy.

Prof. Fredrick Mtenzi, head of research at the Aga Khan Uni-

versity (AKU), aired this sentiment at a discussion organized by a local media outlet yesterday, underlining the importance of increasing public awareness about proper internet use.

City technology and applied technology experts met to explore the role of internet services in national development, meeting organised by regulator

authorities and major service providers in the wake of controversies on social media use for unconfirmed reports inimical to the public order.

The medical field researcher affirmed the need for heightened awareness regarding appropriate internet use and technology, stressing that raising public awareness about proper

internet use will enable individuals to better understand how to leverage internet technology for income generation.

Increased awareness among citizens will significantly contribute to the country's development, he said, while Semvua

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Welcome to build phone towers, big telecoms told

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Kisenge, the TiGo (T) director of network planning and engineering, said that citizens should take full advantage of internet services to foster their own development.

Internet services play a crucial role in national development by promoting financial inclusion, which is vital for economic growth, he said, underlining that the service provider has been collaborating with the government to extend internet services to as many regions and districts in far off rural areas, to ensure inclusivity.

Last year, President Samia Suluhu Hassan oversaw the signing of two contracts billed at \$122m for the construction of 758 communication towers across 713 districts on the Mainland.

The pact involves the Universal Communications Services Access Fund (UCSAF) and major service providers, as the towers will help to enhance communication services in rural and underserved urban areas, he explained.

There are plans to upgrade the capacity of 304 existing towers from 2G to 3G, 4G and even beyond, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has a word with his fellow Muslim faithful shortly after prayers at Taqwaa Meli Nne Mosque at Mwanakwerekwe in Unguja's West B District yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

EABC urges full EAC access to tripartite trade

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yet to benefit from preferential trade terms with countries outside their particular blocs, he said.

"Our goal is to see businesses trading under the TFTA's preferential tariffs," he stated, noting that Tanzania and DRC are members of SADC, while Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, and Rwanda are part of COMESA.

EABC praised the initiation of the TFTA protocol, which Angola ratified recently on June 25, easing up trade with the EAC bloc in particular, bringing the total number of deposited instruments of ratification to 14.

This meets the threshold re-

quired for the agreement to come into force as a specific trading instrument where the broad area covers 29 member states, he said, explaining that in 2022, EAC exports to SADC reached \$3.79bn, with imports standing at \$3.9bn.

EAC exports to non-EAC states in the COMESA group stood at \$6bn, with imports attaining \$4.7bn in value, based on the EAC Trade and Investment Report 2022.

Praising Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda for ratifying the TFTA instrument, he said that Kenya can now export to South Africa under the TFTA preferential tariff, stressing the need for EAC countries to shed the phobia of competition

from South Africa and Egypt, in particular.

Other EAC nations already have preferential trade with the two more industrialised countries under the COMESA and SADC trading blocs, part of a situation where intra-African trade is currently below 20 percent, he elaborated. The launch of the TFTA arrangement signifies a higher resolve to boost intra-African trade, as trade data indicates that tripartite zone countries import the quasi-totality of similar products exported by the EAC.

This presents a significant market opportunity for EAC exports when they are part of TFTA, he said, citing products like vegetables, meat and

pasta, highlighting the formation of the African Tripartite Business Council (ATBC) by the EABC, the COMESA and SADC business councils.

The intention is to integrate private sector policy proposals into the TFTA framework agreed during the Kigali intra-regional business summit in 2022, as the EABC is committed to working with the development partners to develop an EAC regional private sector strategy for the TFTA, he said.

Additionally, EABC aims to collaborate with COMESA and SADC business councils to enhance business-to-business relationships, promote value chains where comparative

advantage is evident, to improve production complementarity, the statement noted.

The EABC is preparing private sector proposals to tripartite ministerial council meetings to expedite TFTA implementation, focusing on addressing competitiveness and supply-side constraints like efficiency costs, quantity, quality and high transport and logistics costs.

This is crucial for the EAC to capitalize on the TFTA's 800m population market, with effective sanctions for non-implementation seen as essential for the success of TFTA.

The 29 tripartite zone countries account for 53 percent of the African Union's membership and over

60 percent of continental GDP at \$1.88tr, the statement affirmed, underlining TFTA aims of eliminating tariffs on 100 percent of goods from within the region, fostering economic growth, industrialization, and sustainable development.

TFTA complements the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), seeking to remove tariffs on 90 percent of goods within the wider market of over 1.3bn people.

TFTA members who have deposited their instruments of ratification include Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Egypt, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the statement noted.

Africa CDC, lobby group partner to strengthen public health systems

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) announced that it had signed an agreement with Africa Public Health Foundation (APHF), a Nairobi-based health lobby, to enhance the resilience of public health systems across the continent amid multiple challenges.

The two organizations said in a joint statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, that the partnership will revolve resource mobilization, advocate for improved policies, and foster private sector engagement to revitalize Africa's public health systems.

Jean Kaseya, director-general of Africa CDC, said that the strategic engagement with APHF will be pivotal in ensuring robust, adequately resourced, and well-equipped public health systems on the continent.

"The Africa Public Health Foundation is pivotal in facilitating resource mobilization for Africa CDC, enhancing public health systems across African Union members, and supporting the implementation of the new public health order," Kaseya said.

Some of the priority areas under the partnership includes workforce re-skilling and expanding local manufacturing capacities for vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.

The two organizations will also cooperate with other stakeholders within Africa's broader health ecosystem to pre-empt or respond effectively to recurring health emergencies.

Bernard Haufiku, APHF Governing Council chair and founder, said the agreement with Africa CDC will enhance response to disease outbreaks such as COVID-19, Ebola, Marburg, and Cholera, while also addressing resource and capacity gap.



Advocate Boniface Mwabukusi (L) in jovial mood with his fellow lawyers in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after winning a case he had filed at the Dar es Salaam Division of the High Court of Tanzania against the Tanganyika Law Society. The development effectively paved the way for him to contest the TLS presidency in elections scheduled to be held in Dodoma city on August 2. Photo: Correspondent Restuta James

Ministers sworn in as VP says cabinet role transient

FROM PAGE 1

Earlier, Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango had raised a note of caution on the transient character of cabinet positions and the need to maintain high standards of performance, underlining accountability and dynamism in public service.

He said that the reshuffle reflects renewed commitment to strengthening governance and the country's international presence, aiming to advance national interests locally and abroad.

Last week President Samia terminated the appointments of January Makamba as the Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation minister as well as Nape Nnauye, then at Information, Communication and Information Technology, in a minor cabinet adjustment.

Mahmoud Thabit Kombo came in as the new Foreign Affairs portfolio holder while Jerry Silaa moved to Information.

Kombo, a former Zanzibar cabinet minister, was erstwhile serving as Tanzania's ambassador to Italy, while Silaa held the Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development docket.

In the reshuffle, legislator Cosato Chumi was appointed deputy Foreign Affairs minister, replacing Ambassador Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk. Ex-deputy minister Degoratus Ndejemi took over at the Lands portfolio while ex-deputy minister Ridhiwani Kikwete replaced Ndejemi at the Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities portfolio.

SA police arrest Libyans at 'illegal' military camp

JOHANNESBURG

NINETY-FIVE Libyan nationals have been arrested on suspicion of receiving training at an "illegal" military camp in South Africa, police have said.

Officers raided the farm near White River - a small town in the northern province of Mpumalanga - on Friday.

They said they found military tents, licensed firearms and other military equipment.

Cannabis and cocaine were also found at the camp, the police said.

Officers conducted the raid after receiving intelligence on Wednesday.

According to national police spokesperson Athlenda Mathe said, the Libyans allegedly "misrepresented themselves" on their visa applications by saying they would be training as security guards.

The camp in question was initially registered as security training site, the police said, but it appears to have been converted.

"We take any threat to the security and stability of our province and country very seriously," police commissioner Zeph Mkhwanazi was quoted as saying in a police statement.

However, the same statement assured the public that there was "no immediate threat to community safety."

The 95 Libyan nationals have been taken into custody and are being questioned by the relevant authorities.

The police have not said who the detainees might have been receiving military training from.



Opposition ACT-Wazalendo former Leader Zitto Kabwe (R) exchanges greetings members and supporters of the party shortly after he addressed a rally at Kibirizi in Kigoma Region earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Adhere to professionalism, insurance stakeholders told

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) has urged stakeholders in the insurance sector to maintain professional standards, provide quality services while avoiding fraudulent practices.

Dr Baghayo Saqware, TIRA Commissioner for Insurance, made the appeal yesterday here during the 8th meeting of the Tanzania Insurance Brokers Association (TIBA).

He warned that service provid-

ers found in violation of regulations, procedures and guidelines, including those engaging in fraud, will face stringent legal consequences.

"All stakeholders should conduct insurance business with integrity and professionalism, adhering strictly to the laws and guidelines set forth by the authority," Dr Saqware said.

He also emphasized the importance of providing accurate insurance education to the public, encouraging them to utilize insurance products to safeguard against risks to property,

health, business, and agriculture.

"Companies should put more weight on raising public awareness and encouraging Tanzanians to join the insurance services to protect themselves from various disasters," he added.

According to him, insurance is key to the country's financial inclusion agenda because the bulk of the growth of the financial sector in the coming decade is hinged on insurance.

Dr Saqware said TIRA will con-

tinue to create an enabling environment for the insurance market, while calling the insurance companies to increase creativity in designing various insurance products that are beneficial for Tanzanians, especially low-income citizens.

He underlined that as people living in a world full of uncertainty and disasters that endanger human plans, joining the insurance services is inevitable.

"The government has fostered

a positive image in the insurance market, benefiting both providers and users. This has enhanced our reputation and contributed to our success," Dr Saqware added.

TIBA's President, Okoth Oloo said the meeting has attracted participants from various regions of Tanzania, as well as from East African Community (EAC) countries including Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi.

He highlighted that the discussions will focus on how insurance

laws and regulations impact market growth and development.

Oloo reaffirmed the association's commitment to upholding professionalism, integrity and trust within the insurance sector.

Anna Lema, TIBA's chairperson said that the five-day event will host over 250 participants from various parts.

"We anticipate that participants will gain valuable insights from the topics covered by our speakers," she said.



Bishop Michael Msonganzila (L) of the Musoma Diocese of the Catholic Church cuts the ribbon earlier this week to inaugurate a 243m/- priest's house at Mugumu Parish built with contributions from members of the church. Second-left is the parish's priest, Father Joel Marwa. Photo: Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzanian in 2024 AGRA WAYA list

TANZANIAN national Judith Karia is among the top 15 finalists for the 2024 Women Agripreneurs of the Year Awards (WAYA) who have been announced by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

In a statement, Karia the founder and Managing Director for Ava Group Investment Ltd named in the Women Empowerment Champion category.

Other finalists in that category are from Benin, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda.

In her remarks, Karia stated: "I am deeply honoured to be selected as one of the top

15 finalists for the WAYA awards. This recognition is significant not just for me, but also for the farmers I work with. WAYA celebrates innovation and excellence, and being part of such a prestigious group is both humbling and inspiring. This acknowledgment reaffirms our commitment to pushing boundaries and making a meaningful impact in our communities."

According to a statement, this year's selection, drawn from a competitive pool of 1,535 applications across 44 African nations, showcases the continent's top women excelling in agribusiness.

This year's selection, drawn from 1,535 applications across 44 African nations, showcases the continent's top women excelling

in agribusiness.

The finalists have been drawn from Benin, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda.

According to Nana Yaa Boakye-waa Amoah, AGRA Director for Gender, Youth & Inclusiveness, women represent 50 percent of the agricultural labor force in Africa and are responsible for 70 percent of production.

"Despite this, they remain underrepresented as agribusiness leaders. WAYA aims to bridge this gap by recognizing and incentivizing these women as key drivers of inclusive agricultural transformation in Africa," she said.

This year's ultimate category

winners will each receive a cash prize of \$25,000, with the grand prize winner walking away with \$40,000. Notably, the 2024 awards have seen a rise in the number of countries represented, increasing from 42 last year to 44 this year, and applicants increasing from 1,430 to 1,535. The winners will be announced at the Africa Food Systems Forum in Kigali Rwanda, held from 2nd to 6th September 2024.

She said this year; the ultimate category winners will each receive a cash prize of \$25,000, with the grand prize winner earning \$40,000.

"The number of countries represented has increased from 42 last year to 44 this year, with applications rising from 1,430

Food Systems moves to tackle Africa's rising food insecurity

By Special Correspondent

TO curb rising food insecurity in Africa, the Africa Food Systems (AFS) is set to convene 5,000 world leaders, innovators, academia, development agencies, farmers organizations, and the private sector from across Africa in Rwanda to discuss solutions.

The forum will spotlight innovations and technologies, policies and delivery mechanisms, best practices, business models and investments to accelerate food systems transformation in Africa with youths and women at the helm.

"Innovating, accelerating, and scaling are not just words, they are the pillars upon which the future of African food systems will be built. We are committed to leveraging the best of science, policy, and technology to drive this transformation," said Amath Pathé Sene, managing director of the AFS Forum.

"This year's summit provides an unparalleled platform for stakeholders to come together, share insights, and forge partnerships that will lead to tangible actions.

It is through such collective efforts that we can address the pressing challenges of climate change, food insecurity, and economic inclusivity," he added.

Sene said the goal of the forum is to create an environment where innovative ideas can flourish, leading to sustainable solutions that benefit all, especially youths and women.

The founder of the forum, Edouard Ngirente, Rwanda's Prime Minister, also said the summit will feature a rich programme, including plenary sessions, thematic forums, side events, and leadership exchanges.

According to him, it will provide a unique, forward-looking platform for actionable dialogue and peer learning as stakeholders address the urgent need for innovative solutions to transform food systems in Africa.

"To transform the agriculture sector into a powerful engine for economic development, our country is embracing innovation and making evidence-based-policy decisions. In this context, the government has focused on de-risking the sector to ensure that it becomes more profitable and attractive for the youth and private sector actors," Ngirente said.

The forum with the theme 'Innovate, Accelerate, and Scale: Delivering Food Systems Transformation in a Digital and Climate Era,' will host Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda along with several current and former presidents, ministers, and key players from government and the private sector.

to 1,535. The winners will be announced at the Africa Food Systems Forum in Kigali, Rwanda, from September 2 to 6, 2024.

AGRA has also convened a distinguished panel of independent judges committed to women's economic empowerment to assess and select the final awardees.

This year's judging panel includes Delphine Traore, AGRA Board Member and CEO of General Insurance, Sanlam Allianz, Jen Ramnath, Chief Digital and Information Officer for the Mastercard Foundation, Mary Boote, Vice Chair of the International Agri-food Network and CEO of Global Farmer Network, Judy Matu, the National Executive Chairlady for the Association of Women in Agriculture Kenya and Oluymemisi Iranloye, CEO/Founder, Psaltry International & Psaltry Foundation and the WAYA 2022 Grand

Prize Winner. Oluymemisi is the first WAYA winner to make a judging debut, emphasizing AGRA's efforts to continue growing and recognizing the winning alumni.

"Our role as judges is not just to evaluate the achievements of these outstanding women, but to amplify their voices and highlight their contributions to sustainable agribusinesses and economic growth across Africa," said Judy Matu, one of the members

"This year's WAYA features five distinct categories, reflecting diversity and promoting the variety of talents among women entrepreneurs in the continent.

The categories are Young Female Agripreneurs (Rising Star), Women Empowerment Champion, Resilient and Inspirational Leader, Outstanding Value-Adding Enterprise and Female AgTech Innovator.



Ragib Hassanali (L), coordinator of eye care services with Lions Club of Mzizima Dar es Salaam, has a word with Tulumwi Semgilagwa (80) as the latter waited for attention at a three-day free eye treatment camp at Ubwari Health Centre in Muheza District on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Zim internet provider partners with China Telecom to offer faster broadband service

HARARE

ZIMBABWEAN internet access provider Dandemutande on Thursday officially launched a partnership deal with Chinese telecommunications company China Telecom to provide faster internet connectivity for Chinese businesses in the southern African country.

Never Ncube, chief executive officer of Dandemutande, said the partnership enables Chinese businesses in Zimbabwe to get fast and reliable bandwidth from Zimbabwe back to China.

Dandemutande, an information and communication technology solutions provider and internet access provider, has a comprehensive portfolio of products and services, including internet connectivity solutions, data center services, and cloud solutions.

Ncube said the company's partnership with China Telecom ensures that there is a dedicated

line specifically for Chinese businesses, which reduces latency.

"It will enhance productivity, but more importantly, it will make them be able to connect to the other services that are in the data centers or in the clouds that are in China," said Ncube.

In addition, he said Dandemutande is eager to utilize its partnership with China Telecom to expand its services.

Zhang Guangzhu, managing director of China Telecom South Africa, said the Chinese firm is always committed to enhancing connectivity in Africa.

"We are providing global low latency transmission solutions for our partner customers. Through this, we ensure that our partners, our customers, have the services they are expecting," he said at the launching ceremony.

Zhang added that as a major player in cloud service provision, China Telecom is eager to work with its local partner to provide cloud services.

Child water safety classes gain popularity in Kenya

NAIROBI

WHENEVER Nyokabi Lenana, a resident of Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, visits coastal regions where swimming is a fundamental undertaking, she feels relaxed venturing into the water with her two-year-old daughter.

This level of confidence and ease has only become possible out of the knowledge that her child has mastered water safety skills through a program she enrolled in nearly a year ago.

"Her father's native home is in a coastal area where we visit often. I just want to make sure that she is safe whenever she is

around water, so I enrolled her for classes when she was just over a year old," Lenana said during a recent interview.

The mother was inspired by numerous online videos of toddlers swimming before they could even walk, but more significantly by the story of Mary Njonjo Nguni, a water safety instructor who owns WaterSafe Kenya, a business dedicated to teaching water safety to infants and toddlers.

Nguni nearly drowned at the age of two when she loosened from her father's grip and ran into their family pool without warning.

WaterSafe Kenya is the first of its kind in the country. Nguni said it has gained the attention of urban parents. There are more than 20 children enrolled in the program.

Nguni was getting ready to welcome Kiaan, a seven-month-old baby, for his swimming lesson.

In the pool, Nguni held Kiaan in the crook of her arm, offering words of encouragement – a routine that put him at ease. Before long, Kiaan felt released in the water, and by instinct or memory, the little one gently surfaced, with his feet kicking and arms paddling amid short

breaths.

How can an infant, who doesn't yet understand spoken languages, learn to swim? Nguni explained that she and her fellow instructor Jerry Collins taught children to hold their breath with repetitive cues.

"We give them a gentle press on their backs and then dip them into the water. If you do this repeatedly, they learn that they need to hold their breath," Nguni said.

The process is repeated for the next few days until the children have mastered their breath control, and then they move on to the next lesson which is

floating and kicking, also taught through repetitive cues.

According to Nguni, there is a misconception about infant self-rescue courses that children are just thrown into the water and it is a matter of "sink or swim." "This couldn't be further from the truth."

Nguni said modern infant survival swimming courses emphasize gentle, child-centred approaches and are supported by a wealth of research on child development and water safety.

"Teaching children how to turn onto their backs, float, and remain calm in water at a young age prepares them for

any water-related accidents such as drowning. And it is possible to teach an infant as young as six months of age this important life skill," Nguni said.

The highest drowning rates globally are among children aged one to four years, followed by children aged five to nine, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

An estimated 236,000 lives are lost to drowning every year but teaching school-age children basic swimming, water safety, and safe rescue skills can prevent these deaths, the WHO said as the world marks World Drowning Prevention Day on

July 25.

Although the actual number of drowning cases in Kenya is not known, Nguni said many children in the country drowned due to different circumstances such as lack of supervision, exposure to hazardous water bodies, and extreme weather events such as flooding. One benefit that swimming gave Lenana's daughter was uninterrupted sleep throughout the night. "She sleeps deeply and better after attending her classes," the mother said.

"Swimming is one of the best lessons to give a child," Nguni said.

Swiss lauds Tanzania for inclusive democracy, economic development

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

SWITZERLAND has hailed Tanzania for addressing several barriers to inclusive democracy bringing about political, social, and economic changes to its people.

Outgoing Swiss Ambassador, Didier Chassot made the remarks recently during celebrations of Swiss National Day held at the Ambassador's residence in Dar es Salaam.

He noted that the Tanzanian government is conducting several strides towards a transparent and trusted electoral process as the country approaches local and general elections which benefit all citizens.

Ambassador Chassot highlighted the importance of a robust democratic governance system that ensures justice, equality, freedom of expression, development, prosperity, and security.

He also acknowledged Tanzania's ongoing measures to address local challenges and improve the quality of life for its citizens, aligning with Switzerland's aspirations for Tanzania, especially as the two nations mark 60 years of diplomatic relations.

"Tanzania is also taking vari-

ous measures to address the challenges faced by Tanzanians, aiming for every Tanzanian to have a better life, which is what Switzerland desires, especially at this 60-year mark of diplomatic relations," he added.

The envoy emphasized the importance of adhering to the Geneva Conventions to protect innocent civilians who suffer from injuries or loss of life in ongoing conflicts in various countries.

Juma Makungu Juma, Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office, Finance and Planning-Zanzibar thanked Switzerland's longstanding role as a key development partner for Tanzania supporting various sectors, including health, education, tourism, trade, and community development.

The Deputy Minister also called for increased collaboration in domestic industrial technology to enhance the value of Tanzanian crops such as cashew nuts, cotton, tea, and coffee, thereby supporting economic growth.

He also requested the Swiss government to consider resuming its airline services to Tanzania, noting that their absence currently affects both nations.



Mara regional commissioner Col Evans Mtambi (R) exchanges ideas with Tanzania Investment Centre's Lake Victoria zone manager, Fina Jerome, at a seminar on TIC's investment incentives held in Musoma municipality earlier this week for members of the business community in the region. Photo: Correspondent

UNIDO unveils training programme for MSMEs

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), through the Quality and Standards Compliance Programme for Tanzania (QUALITAN) component of the Business Environment, Growth and Innovation (BEGIN) Project financed by the European Union (EU) has launched a comprehensive training programme for MSMEs.

The programme is focused on quality standards, food safety

regulations, and market requirements. QUALITAN aims to expand market access for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by enhancing their access to quality standards, reducing compliance costs, and improving consumer protection.

Speaking at the launch of the programme, Stefano Sedola, UNIDO chief technical advisor for the QUALITAN project highlighted the challenge of reaching and engaging MSMEs in improving their production capacities

and quality compliance. "UNIDO is working closely with TBS to improve quality compliance, and SIDO to enhance MSMEs development to in supporting MSMEs through integrated approaches," he said.

Over the past six months, UNIDO, in collaboration with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), has designed a MSMEs training programme. This ini-

tiative aims to bolster MSMEs' capacity to adhere to quality standards, food safety regulations, and market requirements, thereby increasing their competitiveness in both domestic and international markets. The program's development included valuable inputs from private sector organizations such as the Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC) and the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture (TCCIA).

As part of the broader QUALITAN's MSMEs engagement strategy, the project is organizing training for 1,000 MSMEs to equip them with knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques on quality standards, food safety, and market requirements. Specifically, the training will address issues related to production processes, product value addition, and access to profitable regional and international markets. The training will be conducted in 10 regions including Dar es Sa-

laam, Tanga, Singida, Ruvuma, Mwanza, Geita, Shinyanga, Kili-manjaro, Kagera, and Kigoma and 40 districts between August and September 2024. Six agro-food products will be targeted in the training namely rice, honey, spices, flour, fish and fish products, and edible oil. Experts have developed and validated training materials and guidelines through a training needs assessment and Training of Trainers, which will be used to facilitate the sessions.

The launch event will gather government officials from relevant ministries, the European Union Delegation, TBS, heads of institutions involved in the MSMEs development programmes such as SIDO, BEGIN program counterparts, MSME representatives, and key stakeholders from the MSME ecosystem in Tanzania. The event will also offer a platform for engaging with other stakeholders involved in various MSME initiatives, fostering collaborations and synergies.

Burundi reports three monkeypox incidents

BUJUMBURA

THREE cases of monkeypox have been reported in three health facilities in western Burundi, according to Burundian health authorities.

"On July 22, 2024, three new alerts of suspected monkeypox virus cases were reported to the health ministry," said Lydwine Baradahana, minister of public health and fight against AIDS, in a press release issued in Bujumbura, the economic hub of Burundi, Thursday evening.

"They are clinically characterized by a fever, joint pains, and generalized skin eruptions," she said, adding that a multidisciplinary team made up of the urgency operations center from the health ministry, the National Reference Laboratory and the World Health Organization was deployed to the ground to conduct investigations and do the necessary screening.

"After laboratory analyses, the three samples turned positive for the monkeypox virus," said Baradahana.

Monkeypox is a viral disease that affects both humans and animals. Symptoms include an unexplained acute rash and back pain, swollen lymph nodes, acute onset of fever, headache, muscle and body aches, and low energy.

"The disease is highly contagious and causes death if it is not treated quickly. That's why we recommend hygiene measures like handwashing and avoiding contact with people having symptoms of the monkeypox virus," said Baradahana.

She reassured the population that adequate measures have been taken, noting that the three cases are under treatment in health facilities and that contact cases are being closely monitored.

On July 16, a child with symptoms similar to monkeypox died at a health facility in Mugamba, in Burundi's southern province of Bururi. The deadly disease has been reported in neighboring eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Energy deputy minister Judith Kapinga (R) inspects maize and other crop seeds at Thursday's launch in Mbanga town of a campaign on the proper use of fertilisers for Mbanga District farmers. Photo: Correspondent Gideon Mwakanosya

Make Saturday cleanliness day, RC instructs Tabora Municipality

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TABORA regional commissioner Paul Chacha expressed shock over the increasing level of dirtiness in Tabora Municipality streets, something which has prompted him to direct a weekly cleanliness drive.

He instructed municipal authorities to ensure proper environmental cleanliness management and take strict action against those who defy the order to conduct mass cleanliness every Saturday.

During a recent Heroes' Day commemoration, which included a cleanliness exercise at the monument of the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, Chacha voiced his concerns about the dire state of the streets and the associated health risks.

He said that everyone in the community needs to take immediate action to combat the problem of filth by cleaning their own areas to prevent and eliminate outbreaks of diseases and protect their health.

He urged the community to

take immediate action by cleaning their own areas to prevent disease outbreaks and safeguard public health.

"I am deeply concerned by the severe filth in many areas we cleaned. It is luck that we have not yet faced an outbreak. If one were to occur, no one would be spared here," Chacha stated.

He directed Director Elias Kayandabila to oversee the cleanliness exercise, which will take place every Saturday from 7 am to 10 am. No business will be allowed to open until that time,

and those who defy this order will face severe legal consequences.

He instructed Tabora Municipal Executive Director Elias Kayandabila to oversee the weekly cleanliness initiative, which will be held every Saturday from 7am to 10am.

During this time, businesses are to remain closed, and those who do not comply with the cleanliness order will face strict legal action," he insisted.

In another development, Chacha addressed the recent bru-

tal murder of a businesswoman popular as Mama Mviombo from Cheyo and that of Ilolangulu, emphasizing the government's commitment to apprehending those responsible.

"Whoever is involved in those murders should know there is no place to hide. We will find them, and those causing disturbances must either change their behaviour or leave the region. I do not tolerate failures or excuses, and the consequences will be severe," RC Chacha warned.

Ramadhan Kapela, Tabora Mu-

nicipal Council Mayor pledged to enforce the new cleanliness measures and take strong action against those who will neglect them.

Kapela noted that despite existing laws, the community has been complacent and needs stronger enforcement.

"From now on, we will implement strict measures and impose fines starting from 50,000/- and above for offenders, as well as taking them to court," Kapela stated.

Z'bar govt vows to support PwDs

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government has reaffirmed its commitment to ensure that people with disabilities (PwDs) benefit from various opportunities, including loans to enhance their income and livelihoods.

Harusi Said Suleiman, Minister of State in the First Vice President's Office made the statement during a visit to various entrepreneurship groups in Bungwi, Central District of Unguja.

He said that the government budget for the fiscal year 2024/25 has allocated substantial funds for disability groups to support their entrepreneurial activities.

He highlighted that the government's budget for the 2024/25 fiscal year has allocated enough funds for disability groups to support their entrepreneurial activities.

"The current task is to recognize and register these groups so that they can access these opportunities," he said.

He added: "Let me assure all entrepreneurs with disabilities that funds for people with special needs, including those with disabilities, have been allocated. We are currently in the final stages of verification to distribute them to the beneficiaries."

The minister also emphasized

that the government's priority is to ensure that people with disabilities overcome all barriers.

"We have removed the value-added tax (VAT) on equipment for PwDs to ensure they overcome barriers that hinder their development activities," he said.

Abushiri Said Khalid, Deputy Secretary-General of the Council for Disabled Persons, stated that the loans provided to people with disabilities will not require repayment with interest.

He explained that the government will also empower PwDs to engage in development and entrepreneurial activities without obstacles by removing interest from these loans.

He explained that the government aims to empower people with disabilities to engage in development and entrepreneurial activities without obstacles by removing interest from these loans.

"This loan scheme for people with disabilities will have no interest repayments because the government aims to help them improve economically," he said.

Some disabled entrepreneurs who were visited by the minister praised the government for its efforts to provide affordable loans to vulnerable groups in society.

"Many people with disabilities



Songwe Police Officer Commanding District (OCD) Maria Kway (2nd-L) pictured earlier this week presenting 130,000/- and an assortment of items to Elinara Anyingisye, who has albinism, at her residence in Songwe District. Photo: Issa Mwandangala of Police Force

are engaging in vegetable farming and various economic activities,

but our major plea is to obtain soft loans to support the growth of our

entrepreneurial activities," said Mwanakhamis Vuai Kassim, a resi-

dent of Bungwi in Unguja Central District, Zanzibar.

Instagram eliminates 63,000 sextortion accounts in Lagos

LAGOS

INSTAGRAM owner Meta says it has removed thousands of accounts in Nigeria that were trying to target people in sextortion schemes.

Such scammers typically pose as young women online to trick people into sending sexually explicit material before blackmailing them.

Victims of sextortion crimes have taken their own lives due to the stress, stigma and shame felt after being scammed.

Meta said in a blog post on Wednesday it had removed about 63,000 accounts that tried to engage with the scammers.

"Financial sextortion is a horrific crime that can have devastating consequences," it said.

The company said it also took down 5,700 Facebook groups in which scammers were offering tips on how to scam people.

Experts and authorities have previously warned social media users to remain aware and alert of the

scam's dangers amid their apparent rise. In May, 16-year-old Murray Dowey from Dunblane took his own life after being targeted by criminals.

And the BBC found sextortion guides being sold on social media platforms in May.

Perpetrators of sextortion scams present themselves to a user online as a potential romantic interest with the aim of getting them to send explicit or intimate images of themselves - often by sending a

nude image first and asking for one in return.

Senders are then threatened with having their intimate images circulated publicly unless they send payment.

Dead in 6 hours: How Nigerian sextortion scammers targeted my son 'It's not worth taking your life over sextortion' 'My stolen image was used to con men out of thousands' Meta said on Wednesday that the accounts it disrupted and removed for engaging in sextortion

attempts had links to a wider, informal network of cybercriminals operating in Nigeria, known as "Yahoo Boys".

The fraudsters are included on the tech giant's list of dangerous organisations and individuals that are banned from using its platforms to carry out their activities.

The company says it uses a combination of different technologies to identify accounts that may be engaging in sextortion scams or attempts.

These include automatically blur-

ring nude images sent to users in messages and presenting them with a message saying they do not have to respond and letting them instantly block the sender and report the chat.

As part of new tools it announced in April, Meta said will not display the "message" button on a teen's profile to accounts it believes could be engaging in sextortion attempts, even if the accounts have already connected with each other.

Education expo to draw fifteen universities to Arusha today

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

OVER fifteen international universities are set to participate in a special exhibition to be held today in Arusha city, offering students a chance to explore educational opportunities abroad.

Abdulmalik Mollel, Director of Global Education Link (GEL), announced that the series of exhibitions began in Zanzibar from July 15 to 21, this year saying that increasing demand for overseas study opportunities prompted the organisation to organize additional events, including the upcoming exhibition in Arusha.

He said that after finishing the Zanzibar exhibition, GEL held another exhibition in Dar es Salaam, but due to the high demand in other regions, they have organized another one tomorrow Saturday in Arusha.

"After the success in Zanzibar, we held another exhibition in Dar es Salaam. Now, due to high demand, we are bringing this opportunity to Arusha," Mollel said.

He said students attending the exhibition will receive comprehensive information about universities abroad, and those interested in immediate admission will have the

chance to secure it on the spot.

He said that the students who will participate in the exhibition will get all the information about universities abroad and those who want to be admitted will get admission right away.

"GEL encourages students, parents, and guardians to attend the exhibition to meet representatives from universities in the UK, Canada, India, Cyprus, China, Iran, and other countries. The exhibition will open early in the morning and close in the evening."

Regina Lema, GEL's General Manager, highlighted the organization's ongoing commitment to facilitating access to international education.

"We invite residents of the northern region to join us and explore the diverse opportunities available. On-the-spot admissions will be offered for those ready to study abroad," Lema said. The series of exhibitions started in Zanzibar, continued in Dar es Salaam on July 23 and 24, and will now conclude in Arusha.

"This is a continuation of our efforts to provide access to foreign university education. We have seen a great response, and we hope students will take full advantage of this opportunity," Lema said.



Simanjiro constituency legislator Christopher ole Sendeka (L) congratulates Naberera chairman Richard Kusumba on Thursday after learning that residents of the village had built three classrooms at a local school and conducted a fundraiser that saw 51.8m/- collected. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Stop storing petroleum products in homes, Zanzibar residents told

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Fire Brigade and Rescue Force (KZU) has urged residents to stop storing petroleum products near fire sources to prevent avoidable accidents.

Mbarouk Ali Juma, Fire and

Rescue Inspector made the call here yesterday when speaking to journalists following a recent fire incident in Amani area, Zanzibar.

He noted that several houses and valuable items were destroyed by fire due to negli-

gence in using electrical appliances and items that can cause explosions.

He explained that the recent fire in Amani was caused by the burning of scrap metal in the house, which led to the destruction of the house and

its contents. Inspector Juma said that the fire spread further due to the presence of stored petrol in containers inside the store's entrance in the burnt house.

"It is not advisable to store petrol, as it is said that the

source of the fire was two containers of petrol stored, which caused the fire to spread quickly," he said, mentioning that the incident resulted in the destruction of a large area of the house and caused losses of various items, the cost of

which has not yet been determined.

He stated that the fire was extinguished by the Mwanakwerekwe Fire Station in collaboration with the City Fire Station, successfully controlling it to prevent further damage to

nearby buildings.

Workers burning scrap metal in the area expressed their gratitude to the fire teams for extinguishing the fire, noting that without their efforts, the damage could have been much greater.

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Activists demand action to tackle the global food crisis

By Special Correspondent

ACTIVISTS and chefs around the world participated in a new campaign to highlight the global food crisis.

Campaigners demonstrated in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where G20 leaders convened for a two-day meeting.

The members of different NGOs distributed empty plates, served down from a mock-up food truck.

The CEO of Sustainable Development Goal 2 Advocacy explained the symbolic move.

"We're talking about the empty plates, and we are using these to symbolize people around the world, 733 million people that are not having food, they are having an empty plate. And we need action and commitment to drive forward and make sure there's change, building on the commitments by Brazil, by the G20 to set up this alliance."

The protest came after Brazil committed to partially funding the global alliance against hunger and poverty.

The president of Citizen's Action Brazil welcomed the announcement highlighting the importance of raising the public's awareness.

"Yesterday a global alliance was launched at Citizen's Action (NGO headquarters), and this is another way for us to put pressure on people and mobilize them so that they become aware that it's no use solving hunger in one country, it has to be solved globally. And above all to show that it's possible because Brazil has already done it, and knows how to do it, so we're also an example in this sense."



Akili Platform Tanzania officials and Tabora District Hospital staff hold seedlings donated by the agency earlier this week shortly before planting them at the hospital's premises. Based in Tabora, APT is committed to helping people improve their mental health. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

African officials speak highly of outcome of latest CPC plenum

CHANGSHA

AFRICAN officials attending the 7th China-Africa People's Forum have spoken highly of the outcome of the third plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

The 20th Central Committee of the CPC adopted a resolution on further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernisation at its third plenary session held in Beijing

from July 15 to 18.

It is of great significance for Africa and China to jointly seek a development path towards modernization, said the African officials, adding that political parties and civil organizations of African countries are willing to strengthen cooperation with China to help build a China-Africa community with a shared future.

The 7th China-Africa People's Forum and the 7th China-Africa Young Leaders Forum are being held in

Changsha, central China's Hunan Province from Wednesday to Friday.

More than 200 representatives from over 50 African countries are attending the events jointly held by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee and the Hunan Provincial Committee of the CPC.

Gelase Daniel Ndirirabe, president of the National Assembly of Burundi, expressed appreciation for China's efforts to provide Africa with useful experience, which has helped enhance

its people-centred awareness and promote its development.

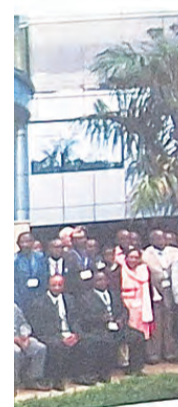
On Wednesday, the International Department of the CPC Central Committee and the Hunan Provincial Committee of the CPC jointly held a briefing to introduce the major measures adopted by the plenum to further deepen reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. More than 200 foreign guests from over 50 African countries attended the briefing.

Ndirirabe said at the briefing that he hopes to further strengthen education, culture and training exchanges between the two sides, break the barriers of languages and cultures, and learn from China's experience in governance and advanced technology. Marvin Fanny, vice president of the United Seychelles political party, was impressed by the specific measures adopted by the CPC to further deepen reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. He added

that he has drawn inspiration from the resolution and hopes it will help empower the governance of political parties.

Obert Mpfou, secretary-general of the ruling ZANU PF party of Zimbabwe, praised the Chinese government for its efficient decision-making and executive force. "We are willing to strengthen our relations with the CPC, whose sincere advice and friendly support have promoted the development of Zimbabwe," he said.

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tion (ARC)
HIRF
ff Kimweri
es Salaam,
@gmail.com
onomic



Tanzania Roads Association administrative officer Anna Nkoma briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday on an international conference on sustainable transportation and smart innovation scheduled to take place in Arusha city on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

No severe hunger in Sudan, says minister

KHARTOUM

SUDAN'S Agriculture Minister, Abubakr al-Bushra, denied that there is a famine in the country, challenging UN reports that 755,000 people are facing severe hunger.

He also rejected the idea of allowing aid agencies to bypass border restrictions to deliver help.

The ongoing conflict between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has led to a severe hunger crisis.

The army has blocked aid from reaching areas controlled by the RSF, where supplies are often stolen by RSF soldiers.

Speaking in Port Sudan, al-Bushra argued that 755,000 people are a small fraction of Sudan's 50 million population and cast doubt on the accuracy of the hunger data in RSF-controlled areas.

The UN's Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) reported that 14 areas in Sudan are at risk of famine, which can be declared if hunger and malnutrition reach critical levels. Al-Bushra opposed potential UN Security Council orders to override army restrictions on aid deliveries, fearing it could open borders controlled by militias.

Aid agencies report that the only authorized crossing into the famine-threatened Darfur region is blocked by rains, while the army-controlled Adre crossing remains off-limits.



The ongoing conflict between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has led to a severe

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa appoints 1st woman chief Justice

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa named Mandisa Maya, the current deputy chief justice, as the country's new most senior judge. Her term is due to start on Sept. 1, when she will replace Chief Justice Raymond Zondo as the head of the apex Constitutional Court. Zondo is retiring.

Maya, 60, previously served as the judge

president of the Supreme Court of Appeal, the second-highest court in South Africa, before her promotion to the Constitutional Court. She was the first Black woman to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal and the first woman to be appoint-

ed deputy president and then president of that court.

Ramaphosa nominated Maya for chief justice in February and she was interviewed by the Judicial Services Commission in May. The commission recommend-

ed her and noted her appointment "would be a significant milestone for the country," Ramaphosa said in a statement.

Maya grew up in a rural part of South Africa's Eastern Cape Province. She won a Fulbright Scholarship in 1989 to do a Mas-

ter's in law at Duke University in the United States, an incredibly rare achievement for a young Black woman during the apartheid era of racial segregation in South Africa.

She said in an interview in 2017 that initially she intended to study medicine but changed her mind on the first day she attended university in South Africa and switched to law after looking at a medical textbook.

SATURDAY 27 JULY 2024

**Taking A New Look
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Travellers' insurance scheme merits rigorous peer reviews

PLANS by the Zanzibar authorities to introduce an insurance scheme for incoming travellers looks exciting, but setting out a strategy for it could be challenging indeed.

For the scheme to obtain the revenue it envisages, it will have to be more or less compulsory, and that is exactly what could become a bother in bringing about large numbers of tourists.

The system is designed as a three-month scheme costing US\$44 paid online. While it needs compliant tourists if it is pay dividends, it is unclear if this will be the right response - with all concerned seeing the rationale involved in the measure.

There was no hint in early information concerning the scheme if it is a habit around the world now that tourists can meet with risks like any other people.

This is even as each level of insurance deposit or contribution has its defined level of potential benefits tied to the respective market framework of such scheme.

What was similarly not said was how far situations have emerged in the past requiring that public authorities do something on the health needs of tourists, like a malaria infection for instance, and what that implied.

That can't be the background of a legislative or regulatory measure of this sort if, for instance, it has no visible benefits apart from handling instances where a tourist is stranded.

Travel agencies handling tourists are the people most likely capable of feeling how far the measure could affect travel plans.

In the particular context of Zanzibar, tourism authorities may have mapped out the likely curve the measure will take. They scale up the bar in a way, suffer a margin of loss in tourist numbers, lower dynamism, raise revenues, etc.

The Zanzibar Treasury was

quick to point out that, under the scheme, incoming travellers would be provided with immediate support in case of medical and other challenges.

There was no solid 'proof' that setting up an insurance arrangement is expected to increase the number of tourists although there was a possibility of that improving revenue collection.

In the circumstances, it sounded ironic that policy makers give an impression that the measure will indeed increase the number of tourists, as if their being assured of local health care is a routine demand on the part of major travel agents.

In like manner, the way this arrangement would be administered looked like a plus when it was given out although it would have been more reassuring were it designed as a public-private arrangement with a private insurer - for instance linked with travel agencies.

The idea that the local manner in which insurance claims demands or claims work will be put to work in this instance will be unconvincing for travel agents, who at least need to be sure that the terms of the suggested deal as stated will be efficiently observed on the ground.

It seems that there is still some work to do with the Treasury, ZIC and major stakeholders. Participants of a meeting where the scheme was announced insisting on the need for its being thoroughly evaluated by stakeholders before it becomes a regulatory requirement.

It is possible that there is something there that may be practicable, depending on the income levels of tourists and how those tourists budget their trips. What is crucial is for policymakers to remember it is that the customer is ultimately more of "king" than any attractions can be.

Piling up of garbage in streets points to poor governance, not lack of resources

RESIDENTS of a Dar es Salaam city suburb have recently raised concern about the accumulation of garbage in their areas.

There are fears that the situation poses significant health risks for the community, but more visibly so is discomfort, even if no children pick up pieces of garbage and are directly infected with diseases.

It is not just diseases that prompt the need to collect garbage, as keeping the city clean is an essential part of the role of councillors and officials.

In the past the duty of collecting waste from the streets didn't have to be drummed up into the hearing of city authorities as they were in office principally for that reason as well as auxiliary services in health, water and education.

While these other concerns have proper designated departments within the central government, collecting garbage is not linked directly with the Health or Environment ministries, and is wholly a city or municipal affair.

The residents referred to say that the accumulation of all manner of garbage has become a routine phenomenon, which is not hard to understand as the city authorities at times suggest raising garbage collection fees citing higher petrol prices, etc.

They have never been able to impose the fees they want and will similarly not hand over the task to private garbage collectors

with a regulatory framework to ensure that garbage is collected, say, once per week. That would work but it can't be instituted as then the councils would only collect taxes from garbage collecting firms.

What the councils want is to collect revenues from the garbage collection as such, and presumably the proper revenue authorities will be taxing the collectors on a different basis.

That might be disputable if an official were asked, but short of that prerogative it is unclear why local authorities keep garbage collection mechanisms or procedures close to their chests.

There is push and pull between councils and the companies they deploy for the job - with something between optimal returns for the duo and acceptable performance.

Such issues seldom make it to the legislature, and are expected to be worked upon at the level of local authorities.

Trouble is that they are sensitive about health, water and education as well as electricity supply, while garbage collection is left to their whims and guises.

That is much in like manner as those who build schools and save up on funds for building toilets, or when it comes to road building, efforts are made to save cash for putting up drainage facilities. Both preventive and remedial measures are needed here.

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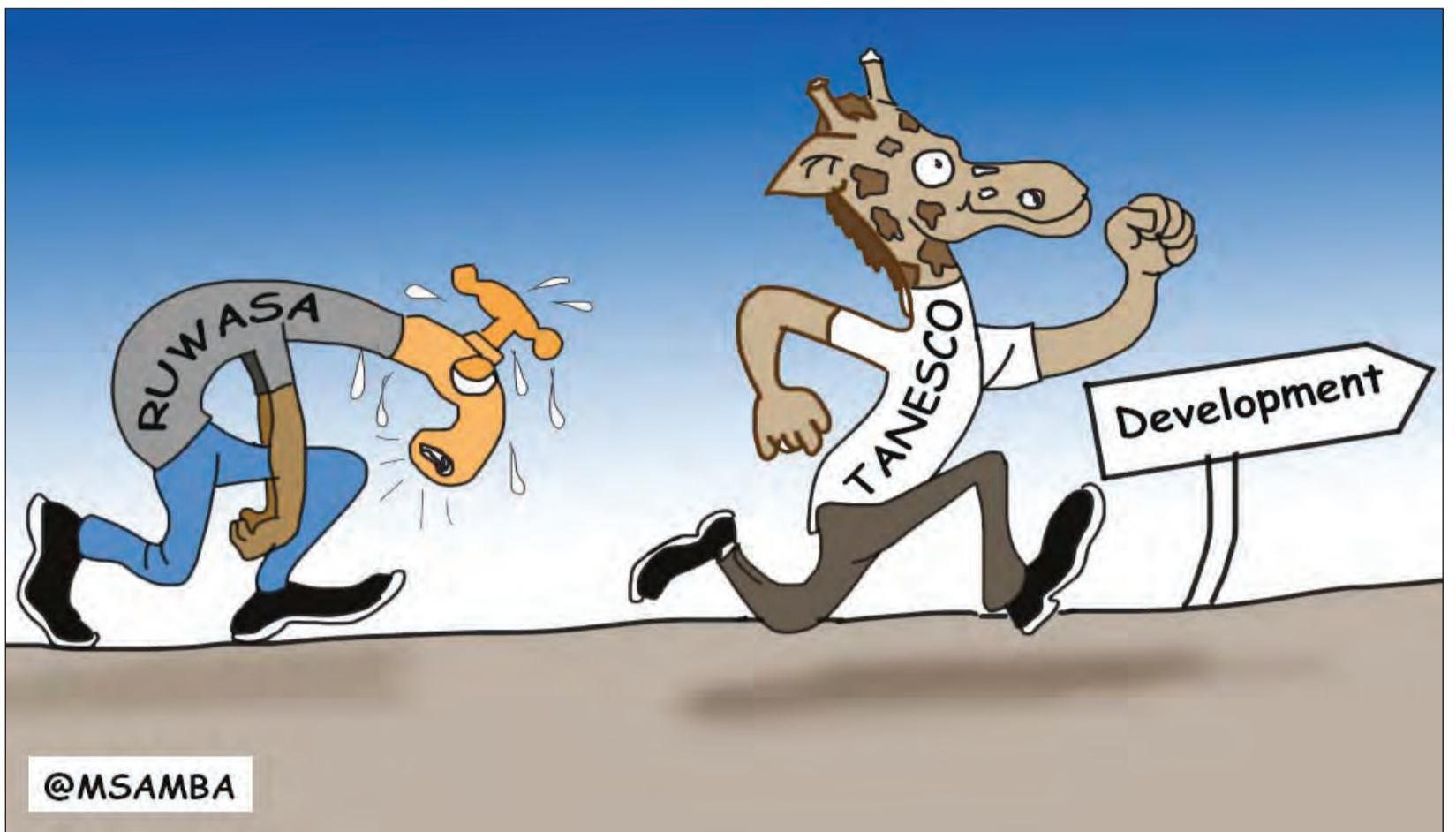
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

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Will new triumvirate of Russia, China & North Korea force the South to go nuclear?

UNITED NATIONS

WHEN Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a pact last month to revive a Cold War-era mutual defense pledge between two of the world's nuclear powers, it also had the implicit support of a third nuclear power standing in the shadows: China.

The new nuclear alliance, which has triggered fears in Japan and South Korea, ensures the possible sharing of Russia's knowledge of satellites and missile technologies with North Korea.

The new pact, has also resulted in a sharp divide between Russia, China and North Korea on the one hand and the US, Japan and South Korea on the other.

But one lingering question remains: Will these new developments force—at least in the not-too-distant future—South Korea to go nuclear, joining the world's nine nuclear powers: the U.S., UK, France, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea.

The New York Times quoted Cheong Seong-chang, the director of the Center for Korean Peninsula Strategy at the Sejong Institute, as saying: "It is time for South Korea to have a fundamental review of its current security policy, which depends almost totally on the US nuclear umbrella to counter the North Korean nuclear threat."

And quoting North Korea's official Central News Agency, the Times said Putin and Kim agreed that if one country found itself in a state of war, then the other would provide "military and other assistance with all means in its possession without delay."

Alice Slater, who serves on the boards of World BEYOND War and the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, told IPS the fact that Russia is allying with North Korea and China at this time is a result of the failure of U.S. diplomacy, and the drive by the U.S. military-industrial-congressional-media-academic-think tank complex (MICIMATT) to expand the U.S. empire beyond its 800 U.S. military bases in 87 nations.

The U.S., she said, is now surrounding China with new bases recently established in the Pacific and forming AUKUS, a new military alliance with Australia, the UK and the US.

"The U.S. has been breaking its agreement made with China in 1972, as we now are arming Taiwan despite promises made by Nixon and Kissinger to recognize China and remain neutral on the question of the future of Taiwan, to where the anti-communist forces retreated after the Chinese Revolution," said Slater, who is also a UN NGO Representative for the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

According to a report in the Associated Press (AP) wire on July 12, the U.S. and South Korea have signed joint nuclear deterrence guidelines for the first time, "a basic yet important step in their efforts to improve their ability to respond to North Korea's evolving nuclear threats."

Meeting on the sidelines of a NATO summit in Washington, U.S. President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol commended what they called "the tremendous progress" that their countries' alliance has made a year after



Addressing the UN General Assembly, Ambassador Kim Song of North Korea said nuclear weapons are stockpiled in many countries, including the U.S., yet Pyongyang is the only one facing sanctions: Credit: UN Photo

creating a joint Nuclear Consultative Group.

Last year, the U.S. and South Korea launched the consultative body to strengthen communication on nuclear operations and discuss how to integrate U.S. nuclear weapons and South Korean conventional weapons in various contingencies, said the AP report.

Meanwhile, Abolition 2000, the Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons, will host a seminar in Geneva on July 30, titled "Denuclearization in North-East Asia through a 3+3 Model Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone."

Tensions, unresolved conflicts and nuclear weapons policies of nuclear armed and allied states active in North-East Asia (China, Japan, North Korea, Russia, South Korea and the USA) increase the risks of armed conflict and nuclear war in the region, says Abolition 2000.

"Unilateral disarmament by any one of these countries is highly unlikely while other countries in the region continue with robust nuclear deterrence policies. What is required is a regional approach to nuclear disarmament which maintains the security of all."

The 3+3 model for a North-East Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone envisages an agreement whereby the three territorial countries in the zone (Japan, North Korea and South Korea) would mutually relinquish their reliance on nuclear weapons in return for credible and enforceable security guarantees from China, Russia and the US that they would not be threatened with nuclear weapons.

This agreement would provide part of a more comprehensive peace agreement to formally end the Korean War.

The proposal is being seriously discussed amongst academics, legislators and civil society organizations in Japan, South Korea and the USA. The upcoming event aims to broaden the discussion to include delegations to the NPT Prep Com.

Asked about the rising nuclear threats from North Korea, State Department Spokesman Matthew Miller said July 22: "We have made clear on a number of occasions that we prefer diplomacy to deal with this situation, and the North Koreans have shown that they are not in any way interested in that."

Responding to a question on the consequences of Russia being driven closer to North Korea and China, Antony Blinken, US Secretary of State said: "I think we've seen two things. We have seen that, although that was something that was in the works for a long time, and maybe some of it's accelerated as a result of the war in Ukraine, but we've also seen something else that's been quite remarkable."

During a Fireside Chat at the Aspen Security Forum, moderated by Mary Louise Kelly of National Public Radio

(NPR) on July 19, Blinken said: "I've been doing this for more than 30 years. I have not seen a time when there's been greater convergence between the United States and our European partners and our partners in Asia in terms of the approach to Russia, but also in terms of the approach to China, than we're seeing right now."

"We've built convergence across the Atlantic, we've built it across the Pacific, and we've built it between the Atlantic and the Pacific. So, I would take our team and the countries that we're working with than anything that Russia's been able to put together."

"Beyond that, I think there are going to be - and we've already seen a lot of strains in these groupings. It's not particularly good for your reputation to be working closely with Russia and helping it perpetuate its war in Ukraine."

"So, I think China is very uncomfortable in the position it's in, but for now we do have a challenge, which is China is providing not weapons, unlike North Korea and Iran, but it's providing the inputs for Russia's defense industrial base."

Seventy percent of the machine tools that Russia is importing come from China, he pointed out. And ninety percent of the microelectronics come from China. And that's going into the defense industrial base and turning into missiles, tanks and other weapons.

"We've called out China on that. We have sanctioned Chinese companies. But more to the point, so have many others. And we just saw that in Europe a couple of weeks ago. And China can't have it both ways. It can't all at once be saying that it's for peace in Ukraine when it is helping to fuel the ongoing pursuit of the war by Russia."

"I can't say that it wants better relations with Europe when it is actually helping to fuel the greatest threat to Europe's security since the end of the Cold War," Blinken declared.

This article is brought to you by IPS Noram, in collaboration with INPS Japan and Soka Gakkai International, in consultative status with UN ECOSOC.

IPS UN Bureau Report

By Telesphor Magobe

Every act that affects legal rights, duties must be justified'

LAST week, we briefly looked at the concept and practice of the rule of law in Tanzania, which essentially implies the 'rule of justice'. We quoted John Alder in his book "Constitutional and Administrative Law (5th Edition, 2005)" who says: "The rule of law is not a 'law' in itself, but a moral and political aspiration that influences our attitude to the law. Thus, it is not necessarily a contradiction to say that an Act of Parliament, although itself a law, might violate the rule of law."

We then briefly looked at the World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2023 report to have an idea of how Tanzania fares in the global rule of law outlook and saw that the WJP 2023 ranked Tanzania 98th (with the overall score of 0.47) out of the 142 surveyed countries and jurisdictions. The surveyed countries and jurisdictions were ranked against eight factors that encompass the concept of the rule of law, namely constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.

Although in both rankings of 2023 and 2022 Tanzania was ranked 98th out of the 142 surveyed countries and jurisdictions, it was gaining momentum in the rule of law. In 2021, it was ranked 100th with the overall score of 0.47 and climbed 1 position from the ranking of 2020. This translates into saying that Tanzania has been improving its performance in the rule of law although more improvements are still needed in this regard. The overall score of 2022 was 0.46, which was a drop of 0.01 from the overall score of 2020. Scores ranged from 0-1, with 1 indicating the strongest adherence to the rule of law, according to the WJP 2023 criteria.

Today, I invite you to look at equality before the law. In Tanzania, the Constitution is the fundamental law and every person in the United Republic of Tanzania is subject to it. No person by virtue of his or her position is above the Constitution and ordinary laws.

Yet, laypersons may think that high ranking authorities are above the Constitution and ordinary laws and so they may break the law if they so wish. This in the eyes of the law is obviously flawed.

H.W.R. Wade & C.E. Forsyth in their book "Administrative Law (Eighth Edition, 2000)" suggest that "An essential part of the rule of law...is a system of rules for preventing the abuse of discretionary power...In principle all public



authorities should be subject to all normal legal duties and liabilities which are not inconsistent with their governmental functions."

A few days ago I was listening to a morning local radio programme and there was an officer who was responding to questions related to road traffic safety. The questions were posed by listeners. One of the questions concerned traffic lights and the officer explained that the red light indicated "stop", while the green light indicated "go". He said when it is unsafe even if the light turns green a motorist shouldn't drive because he or she may cause a road accident. Then, the officer spoke of the route of Dar es

Salaam Rapid Transport (DART) and said although the routes were specifically for DART vehicles during emergency cases "the law can be broken under certain circumstances".

The officer mentioned the circumstances under which "the law can be broken" and said when used by a motorcade, an army or security force vehicle, a fire brigade vehicle and an ambulance. Although the officer used the expression "can break the law" what he meant was that such vehicles might use the DART routes out of necessity, but they are exclusively for DART vehicles.

In this case, other users of those routes under those circum-

stances "don't break the law", but it is only that the law provides for emergency use of any road or route. It is unlawful to "break the law" and when a law is broken there are sanctions for it. The law's distinguishing character from other rules is its normativity. In this sense, laws prescribe what subjects may do, are allowed or are entitled to do (permissive laws), what they must not do or are prohibited to do (prohibitive laws) and what they shall do, must do or are obliged to do (directive laws).

Therefore, a motorcade, an army vehicle, a fire brigade vehicle or an ambulance may use the DART route out of necessity and this use of the road or route does not break the law because the law provides for it. Thus, laypersons should understand that no person in the United Republic of Tanzania is above the Constitution or law or is permitted to break the law by virtue of his or position. It is only in the case of emergency that the law provides for an exceptional use of the road or route and this is not the same as breaking the law.

H.W.R. Wade & C.E. Forsyth put it this way: "Every act of governmental power - every act which affects the legal rights, duties or liberties of any person, must be shown to have a strictly legal pedigree." However, arbitrary use of a public road or specific route is breaking the law per se.

Today's legal maxim: "An act itself does not make a person guilty, unless there be guilty intention."

The author is a Dar es Salaam-based lawyer. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com

Carrying pupils on motorbikes violates both traffic laws and children's rights



By Correspondent James Kandoya

CARRYING children on motorbikes is becoming a pervasive problem that impacts children in various aspects of their lives. It is common to see children on motorbikes in the morning and evening, especially those at primary school levels.

In fact, the violation of traffic laws by motorcyclists contributes to deaths, injuries and other deformities in children as passengers.

Mohamed Haji, a motorcyclist at the Kisima Chumvi suburb in Ubungo District, Dar es Salaam Region, is one such individual who violates the law by carrying children on motorbike without taking precautions.

Haji told The Guardian that most parents hire his motorbike to transport their children to and from school for 1000/- per trip. He says, as a motorbike rider, he is not aware of the law prohibiting children from being carried on motorbikes since he has never attended a driving course.

"We carry children on our motorbikes; the business is risky since children have no protective gears to ensure they are not injured in case of road crashes. When children fall, the riders enter into conflicts with parents as well as traffic officers for violating traffic laws," he states.

Mwanahawa Bakari, a mother of two, says she hires a motorbike for her child due to the long distance her

child has to walk to and from school. She explains that her numerous household duties compel her to request motorbike riders to pay a minimum fee of 100/- to take her child to school.

"As parents, we need to change our mind-set and habits by finding alternative ways of transporting our children to and from school. I'm sure there are several alternatives to using motorbikes," she suggests.

According to her, in the event of a crash, the child becomes the main victim since they cannot escape or protect themselves.

Sharing her experience, Bakari Simbeye explains that currently, most parents hire motorbikes to transport their children to and from school for various reasons, including the long distance from home to school.

Principal Legal Officer at the Traffic Police Headquarters, Deus Sokoni, states that carrying children on motorcycles is a violation of both traffic laws and children's rights.

He emphasizes that one of the internationally recognized children's rights is the right to protection. Sokoni notes that the country's traffic laws strictly prohibit children from being carried on motorcycles to avoid the risk of crashes.

Sokoni said: "The law is clear; children under nine years old should not be carried on motorbikes. Parents should stop hiring motorbikes to transport their children; this will help protect them from road crashes."

If parents refuse to carry their children on motorbikes, they will be safe. he emphasizes, calling upon parents to find alternative means of transport children.

According to him, motorbikes are relatively unsafe commercial transport especially to young children. He said riders are also at risk, as their injuries are usually severe.

"Without stern measures, children remain at risk of fatal or severe injuries, which can lead to costly treatments," he added.

Dr Bitita Muhanuzi from the Emergency

Medical Department (EMD) at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) reveals that motorbike passengers, including children, are at risk of suffering brain trauma.

According to her, brain trauma is one of the fatal risks for motorbike riders and passengers who do not wear helmets in the event of a road crash.

"There are no imported helmets for children; this is even putting them at greater risk. Children bodies are delicate and can suffer severe injuries during crashes", added Dr Muhanuzi, noting that head injury is a common cause of death and long-term disabilities after motorcycle crashes.

The national referral hospital admits between 30 and 50 road crash casualties daily, with motorbike crashes accounting for 51 percent of all the patients.

Dr Muhanuzi notes that intracranial trauma is the leading injury from motorbike crashes, making up 27.9 percent of all crash casualties, followed by long-bone injuries which stand at 58 percent.

"A person riding a motorbike without

wearing a helmet is likely to suffer intracranial injuries in a road crash—the disease is particularly linked with brain trauma. Patients experiencing such kind of injuries go through mental confusion, a situation which may cause mental illness," he told The Guardian.

The brain drives all activities in the human body. Once it's disturbed, a person's judgment ability drops to zero. The brain must be protected by wearing helmets to reduce intracranial trauma or internal bleeding, which often causes permanent disabilities.

Dr Muhanuzi calls for concerted efforts from stakeholders to increase awareness on medical risks associated with motorbike injuries as well as failure to wear helmets.

Motorbikes lead the way in contributing to road crashes, accounting for 51 percent and putting more children at high risk. Other contributors include regular cars (27 percent), commuter buses (9 percent), bicycles (5 percent), tri-cycles (3 percent) and long trucks (6 percent).

By William Dutton and Luna Rohland

Global IT outage: The cyber resilience alarm bells heard all around the world

LAST week, one of the largest IT outages in history disrupted businesses and governments around the world. The incident, which affected 8.5 million Microsoft Windows devices, led to widespread disruptions of airlines, banks, broadcasters, healthcare providers, retail payment terminals and cash machines globally. The cost of the outage is estimated to top \$1 billion.

What caused the outage

The disruption was caused by a flawed update to a cloud-based security software of CrowdStrike, one of the global top cybersecurity companies. The update to the Falcon software triggered a malfunction that disabled parts of the computer systems and software like Microsoft Windows. Three days after the incident, CrowdStrike reported that a significant number of the devices are back online and operational.

Why we need cyber resilience

As the stories of the disastrous consequences of the incident are making the headlines, there is a major lesson to be learned from the outage: we need to prepare for such incidents in ways that we can maintain the resilience of our businesses and services. Whether caused by the intentional actions of an adversary or the innocent mistakes of well-intentioned actors, businesses and governments need to be resilient to cyberattacks and other cyber failures that can lead to major disruptions of business processes.

The incident highlights the need to shift our perception of cybersecurity from a mere IT issue to the broader concept of cyber resilience as an integral part of business resilience. In the face of a cyberattack, businesses should be able to recover fast from an incident and resume business as usual.

To be cyber resilient, organizations need to first and foremost identify business-critical processes and ensure the continuity of those even during cyber incidents. This has to involve continuous conversations with business leadership to ensure alignment with the overall business strategy while conducting real-time prioritization.

The ecosystem view

The July outage should also nudge us to think beyond cyber and business resilience and look at the big picture: systemic resilience. As cyber threats become more advanced, businesses increasingly rely on a few sophisticated security software providers. This reliance creates a single point of failure, where a flaw in one system can lead to global cascading effects. Balancing centralized, highly protected architectures with decentralized, lower-impact systems is a difficult challenge.

Enhancing cyber resilience

Advances in cybersecurity can prevent many disruptions, but when adversaries do succeed or accidental cyber failures happen, organizations need to make use



People stand near the blacked-out digital billboards at Times Square following a global IT outage, in New York City, U.S. July 19, 2024.

of a toolbox of methods to be able to detect, withstand, and recover business-as-usual operations as rapidly as possible.

The World Economic Forum's Centre for Cybersecurity is collaborating with the University of Oxford's Global Cyber Security Capacity Centre (GCSCC) on a blueprint

(Cyber Resilience Blueprint Initiative) – or compass – to support organizations across industries to advance their cyber resilience.

The initiative is bringing together cybersecurity leaders from across the world to develop a common understanding of business cyber resilience and collect and sys-

temize experience on cyber resilience tradecrafts that matter.

As online and cyber infrastructures become ever more complex, interconnected and central to all sectors of business and society, the importance of cyber resilience will only continue to rise.

How decline of Indian vultures led to 500,000 human deaths

By Soutik Biswas

ONCE upon a time, the vulture was an abundant and ubiquitous bird in India.

The scavenging birds hovered over sprawling landfills, looking for cattle carcasses. Sometimes they would alarm pilots by getting sucked into jet engines during airport take-offs.

But more than two decades ago, India's vultures began dying because of a drug used to treat sick cows.

By the mid-1990s, the 50 million-strong vulture population had plummeted to near zero because of diclofenac, a cheap non-steroidal painkiller for cattle that is fatal to vultures. Birds that fed on carcasses of livestock treated with the drug suffered from kidney failure and died.

Since the 2006 ban on veterinary use of diclofenac, the decline has slowed in some areas, but at least three species have suffered long-term losses of 91-98 percent, according to the latest State of India's Birds

report.

And that's not all, according to a new peer-reviewed study. The unintentional decimation of these heavy, scavenging birds allowed deadly bacteria and infections to proliferate, leading to the deaths of about half a million people over five years, says the study published in the American Economic Association journal.

"Vultures are considered nature's sanitation service because of the important role they play in removing dead animals that contain bacteria and pathogens from our environment - without them, disease can spread," says the study's co-author, Eyal Frank, an assistant professor at University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy.

"Understanding the role vultures play in human health underscores the importance of protecting wildlife, and not just the cute and cuddly. They all have a job to do in our ecosystems that impact our lives."

Frank and his co-author Anant Sudarshan compared human death

rates in Indian districts that once thrived with vultures to those with historically low vulture populations, both before and after the vulture collapse. They also examined rabies vaccine sales, feral dog counts and pathogen levels in the water supply.

They found that after anti-inflammatory drug sales had risen and vulture populations had collapsed, human death rates increased by more than 4 percent in districts where the birds once thrived.

The researchers also found that the effect was greatest in urban areas with large livestock populations where carcass dumps were common.

The authors estimated that between 2000 and 2005, the loss of vultures caused around 100,000 additional human deaths annually, resulting in more than \$69bn (£53bn) per year in mortality damages or the economic costs associated with premature deaths.

These deaths were due to the spread of disease and bacteria that vultures would have otherwise removed from the environment.

For example, without vultures, the stray dog population increased, bringing rabies to humans.

Rabies vaccine sales rose during that time but were insufficient. Unlike vultures, dogs were in-

effective at cleaning rotting remains, leading to bacteria and pathogens spreading into drinking water through runoff and poor disposal methods. Faecal bacteria in the water more than doubled.

"The vulture collapse in India provides a particularly stark example of the type of hard-to-reverse and unpredictable costs to humans that can come from the loss of a species," says Sudarshan, an associate professor at the University of Warwick and co-author of the study.

"In this case, new chemicals were to blame, but other human activities - habitat loss, wildlife trade, and now climate change - have an impact on animals and, in turn, on us. It's important to understand these costs and target resources and regulations towards preserving especially these keystone species."

Of the vulture species in India, the white-rumped vulture, Indian vulture and red-headed vulture have suffered the most significant long-term declines since the early 2000s, with populations dropping by 98%, 95% and 91 percent, respectively. The Egyptian vulture and the migratory griffon vulture have also declined significantly, but less catastrophically.

The 2019 livestock census in India recorded more than 500 million animals, the highest in

the world. Vultures, highly efficient scavengers, were historically relied upon by farmers to swiftly remove livestock carcasses. The decline of vultures in India is the fastest ever recorded for a bird species and the largest since the passenger pigeon's extinction in the US, according to researchers.

India's remaining vulture populations are now concentrated around protected areas where their diet consists more of dead wildlife than potentially contaminated livestock, according to the State of Indian Birds report. These continuing declines suggest "ongoing threats for vultures, which is of particular concern given that vulture declines have negatively affected human well-being".

Experts warn that veterinary drugs still pose a major threat to vultures. The dwindling availability of carcasses, due to increased burial and competition from feral dogs, exacerbates the problem. Quarrying and mining can disrupt nesting habitats for some vulture species.

Will the vultures come back? It is difficult to say, though there are some promising signs. Last year, 20 vultures - bred in captivity and fitted with satellite tags and rescued - were released from a tiger reserve in West Bengal. More than 300 vultures were recorded in the recent survey in southern India. But more action is required.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Programme out to promote youth entrepreneurial skills

By Guardian Reporter

WITH the view to creating jobs for young people in the country, a local company, Sahara Ventures, yesterday launched an innovative programme dubbed Founders' School which is dedicated to nurturing and empowering aspiring entrepreneurs.

The skills enhancement programme aims to provide a comprehensive mentoring programme designed to equip founders with the essential skills, knowledge, and resources needed to build, scale, and sustain successful startups.

Sahara Ventures Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Jumanne Mtambalike, said during the launch of the programme in Dar es Salaam that with a focus on practical, hands-on learning, the platform offers various modules covering critical aspects of entrepreneurship, including business financing, strategic partnerships, marketing, and intellectual property.

"By fostering a community of lifelong learners and change-makers, Founders School aims to drive innovation, solve global problems, and contribute positively to society, aligning with Sahara Ventures' mission to catalyze a cultural shift towards entrepreneurship and economic growth," he added.

He noted that the mission of the programme is to empower future generations with the skills needed to succeed in the 21st-century job market by investing in both employability

and entrepreneurship.

"The vision of Founders School is to create a system where everyone gains the skills and ability to develop innovative ideas, launch businesses, and grow ventures that can positively impact society. It also aims to create a community of lifelong learners who can adapt to the digital age," he said.

He thus urged youth from all walks of life, parents, and guardians to make the most of the opportunity to turn innovative ideas into feasible businesses and in the process come up with more local solutions to the various challenges in the community.

For her part, Helena Isdory, an aspiring founder from Dar es Salaam who stands to benefit from the programme said that it has been a long time coming.

Aspiring entrepreneurs are those looking to start new businesses or with existing business plans who want to enhance their skills and according to Isdory, it is a rarity in the country to find proper guidance to help enhance one's business, let alone morph an idea into a product or a business.

"The programme will be of great benefit to young people in the country, both aspiring or established entrepreneurs, as it is already known, getting employment at the moment is a serious challenge among the youth," she said.

Ramadhan Mapera, an intern studying at the University of Dodoma (UDOM), said that he was interested in the programme when he first heard about it.



FOUNDERS SCHOOL

Skills Enhanced Platform For Founders



Sahara Accelerator Head of Programmes, Necta Richard, addresses the media during the launch of Founders' School. Left is the Programme Lead, Ismail Adam, and right is Sahara Ventures CEO Jumanne Mtambalike. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

"As a continuing student with aspirations to establish my own business in the future, I believe I will get to

hone entrepreneurial skills through the programme," he said.

Lead, Ismail Adam, said during the launch that the programme will be run on a 12-week basis (3 months),

and application for the first cohort closes on August 4, this year.

China-Africa cooperation helps revitalise Cameroonian villages

YAUUNDE

NDOUMALE Village in south Cameroon used to remind people of virtually everything except for development.

Located on the outskirts of the seaside resort city of Kribi, the once-inaccessible village now boosts revival thanks to the implementation of China-Africa cooperation projects.

The village's transformation began in 2011 when China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd. (CHEC), a Chinese firm, began building the first phase of Kribi Deep Seaport about 25 km from the village.

At the same time, Chinese construction company CGCOC Cameroon Ltd. set out to construct a drinking water treatment plant and related supporting facilities in Ndoumale, which can produce 7,000 cubic meters of water per day.

Upon completion of the infrastructure, a new world of possibilities opened up, breathing new life into the village, which is inhabited by about 600 residents.

To reach Ndoumale, one had to trek for at least two hours through a bumpy dirt track.

"It was a watercourse which did not have a bridge. There was no road," said Henri Bikouo, the traditional leader of the village.

Things are different now. As part of its corporate social responsibility, CHEC has constructed roads and bridges in the village.

"Road to riches because it has opened us up to the world. We now buy goods from other places and more people are relocating and constructing buildings in our village," said 63-year-old Jean Edjanle, a resident of the village.

The road network extended to Bagyeli locality of pygmies, an indigenous ethnic group.

"Sometimes we crossed in a canoe to go to school, but now we go by road. It's good for us," said Marie Belle Ndabouane, wife of the leader of Bagyeli.

In Ndoumale, children had to trek for nine km to find the nearest school because there was no learning institution in the village, said Bikouo, whose six children almost dropped out of school as a result of the risk and cost involved in the long journey.

A 10-year-old Brian Mengue who



wants to become a medical doctor was busy attending classes with his friends at Ndoumale Nursery and Primary School.

The six-classroom building used to house CGCOC Chinese workers constructing the water plant, but when they left after completing the project, the building was transformed into a school.

It is the lone primary school in the village and it has been functioning for three years.

"Before, the children could not go to school, but now everyone attends school since it's close (to them)," said 26-year-old Louise Njole Edjenguele, head of the school. "School gives a good future, makes you think. I am happy because we have the school here," added Mengue, the pupil.

When night falls in Ndoumale, solar lamps are

switched on to illuminate Ndoumale Nursery and Primary School, which now also serves as ceremonial premises in the village. The solar lamps were provided by CHEC to ease the education of the children and night activities in the village.

"Next year's enrollment in the school will surely increase thanks to the light," said Edjenguele.

When it was 6:30 p.m., villagers gathered in one of the classrooms to listen and watch CHEC workers talk about road safety measures on a major highway that CHEC constructed a few kilometers from the village. The villagers cheered with excitement as the solar lamps were switched on.

"This is so wonderful. We are blessed," shouted one of the villagers in the hall.

In Bagyeli, pygmies danced in gaily to welcome the

installation of solar panels in the locality. Ndabouane, the wife of the leader of Bagyeli, said that their lives have been transformed since CHEC installed the solar panels.

"We use it (light) in the kitchen. If you want to prepare you turn it on... and the light can last until the morning and that's good. When children go to school, they will turn on the light. This will also help them to be wise and intelligent in school," Ndabouane said.

Bikouo, the traditional leader of Ndoumale Village, is proud of the village's transformation. The 58-year-old said that it was his dream to lift his community out of poverty and achieve prosperity, and that dream is becoming a reality thanks to China-Africa cooperation.

"We trust them (Chinese) and want to support them in all their projects," said Bikouo.

By A Special Correspondent

Hunger numbers stubbornly high for three consecutive years with global crises deeper



agri-food systems is more critical than ever as we face the urgency of achieving the SDGs within six short years. FAO remains committed to supporting countries in their efforts to eradicate hunger and ensure food security for all. We will work together with all partners and with all approaches, including the G20 Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, to accelerate the needed change. Together, we must innovate and collaborate to build more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agri-food systems that can better withstand future challenges for a better world.

"The fastest route out of hunger and poverty is proven to be through investments in agriculture in rural areas. But the global and financial landscape has become far more complex since the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted in 2015. Ending hunger and malnutrition demands that we invest more - and more smartly. We must bring new money into the system from the private sector and recapture the pandemic-era appetite for ambitious global financial reform that gets cheaper financing to the countries that need it most", IFAD President, Alvaro Lario stated.

AROUND 733 million people faced hunger in 2023, equivalent to one in eleven people globally and one in five in Africa, according to the latest State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report published today by five United Nations specialized agencies.

The annual report, launched this year in the context of the G20 Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty Task Force Ministerial Meeting in Brazil, warns that the world is falling significantly short of achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, Zero Hunger, by 2030. The report shows that the world has been set back 15 years, with levels of undernourishment comparable to those in 2008-2009.

Despite some progress in specific areas such as stunting and exclusive breastfeeding, an alarming number of people continue to face food insecurity and malnutrition as global hunger levels have plateaued for three consecutive years, with between 713 and 757 million people undernourished in 2023 - approximately 152 million more than in 2019 when considering the mid-range (733 million).

Regional trends vary significantly: the percentage of the population facing hunger continues to rise in Africa (20.4 percent), remains stable in Asia (8.1 percent) - though still representing a significant challenge as the region is home to more than half of those facing hunger worldwide - and shows progress in Latin America (6.2 percent). From 2022 to 2023, hunger increased in Western Asia, the Caribbean, and most African sub-regions.

If current trends continue, about 582 million people will be chronically undernourished in 2030, half of them in Africa, warn the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Health Organization (WHO). This projection closely resembles the levels seen in 2015 when the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted, marking a concerning stagnation in progress.

Key findings beyond hunger

The report highlights that access to adequate food remains elusive for billions. In 2023, around 2.33 billion people globally faced moderate or severe food insecurity, a number that has not changed significantly since the sharp upturn in 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Among those, over 864 million people experienced severe food insecurity, going without food for an entire day or more at times. This number has remained stubbornly high since 2020 and while Latin America shows improvement, broader challenges persist, especially in Africa where 58 percent of the population is moderately or severely food insecure.

The lack of economic access to healthy diets also remains a critical issue, affecting over one-third of the global population. With new food price data and methodological improvements, the publication reveals that over 2.8 billion people were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2022. This disparity is most pronounced in low-income countries, where 71.5 percent of the population cannot afford

a healthy diet, compared to 6.3 percent in high-income countries. Notably, the number dropped below pre-pandemic levels in Asia and in Northern America and Europe, while it increased substantially in Africa.

While progress has been made in increasing exclusive breastfeeding rates among infants to 48 percent, achieving global nutrition targets will be a challenge. Low birth weight prevalence has stagnated around 15 percent, and stunting among children under five, while declining to 22.3 percent, still falls short of achieving targets. Additionally, the prevalence of wasting among children has not seen significant improvement while anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years has increased.

Similarly, new estimates of adult obesity show a steady increase over the last decade, from 12.1 percent (2012) to 15.8 percent (2022). Projections indicate that by 2030, the world will have more than 1.2 billion obese adults. The double burden of malnutrition - the co-existence of under nutrition together with overweight and obesity - has also surged globally across all age groups. Thinness and underweight have declined in the last two decades, while obesity has risen sharply. These trends underscore the complex challenges of malnutrition in all its forms and the urgent need for targeted interventions as the world is not on track to reach any of the seven global nutrition targets by 2030, the five agencies

indicate.

Food insecurity and malnutrition are worsening due to a combination of factors, including persisting food price inflation that continues to erode economic gains for many people in many countries. Major drivers like conflict, climate change, and economic downturns are becoming more frequent and severe. These issues, along with underlying factors such as unaffordable healthy diets, unhealthy food environments and persistent inequality, are now coinciding simultaneously, amplifying their individual effects.

Financing to end hunger

This year's report's theme "Financing to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition", emphasizes that achieving SDG 2 Zero Hunger requires a multi-faceted approach, including transforming and strengthening agri-food systems, addressing inequalities, and ensuring affordable and accessible healthy diets for all. It calls for increased and more cost-effective financing, with a clear and standardized definition of financing for food security and nutrition. The heads of the five UN agencies, FAO Director-General QU Dongyu; IFAD President Alvaro Lario; UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell; WFP's Executive Director Cindy McCain; and WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus write in the report's Foreword: "Estimating the gap in financing for food security and nutrition and mobilizing innovative ways of financing to bridge it must be among our top priorities.

Policies, legislation and interventions to end hunger and ensure all people have access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food (SDG Target 2.1), and to end all forms of malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2) need significant resource mobilization. They are not only an investment in the future, but our obligation. We strive to guarantee the right to adequate food and nutrition of current and future generations".

As highlighted during a recent event in the High-Level Political Forum at UN headquarters in New York, the report underscores that the looming financing gap necessitates innovative, equitable solutions, particularly for countries facing high levels of hunger and malnutrition exacerbated by climate impacts.

Countries most in need of increased financing face significant challenges in access. Among the 119 low- and middle-income countries analyzed, approximately 63 percent have limited or moderate access to financing. Additionally, the majority of these countries (74 percent) are impacted by one or more major factors contributing to food insecurity and malnutrition. Coordinated efforts to harmonize data, increase risk tolerance, and enhance transparency are vital to bridge this gap and strengthen global food security and nutrition frameworks.

What they said
FAO Director-General, QU Dongyu said: "Transforming

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - 136

Crossword grid with clues. Clues include: 15 Symbol of Ne, 17 growth of hair on a chin, 18 Increased, 21 region in India with blacks, 22 an arbitrary command, 23 flat and smooth, 24 Topics. Down: 1 used to lock and unlock doors, 2 confessed openly, 3 very large, 4 express warm approval of final, 6 fuss or difficulty, 7 a number of miles travelled, 8 a level of quality or attainment, 11 eat dinner, 16 relates to mountains, 17 the flat cutting edge of a knife, 18 'let it be so', 19 a conscious or intentional action, 20 the darker stage of twilight.

Word fit grid. Clues: COST, CTC, AARON, INERT, DIDI, NOISES, ICE, INDIA, COINAGE, EIDER, ASK, SIROCCO, TNT, CAT.

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words: MOSCOW, GUT, DA, OLEMONS, HE, DE, MEANING, OFFICE, MATTOCK, SAILED, ACMAIL, SEAL, DANCES, TALAR, AMBER, AKIN, ALT, BEUD, DIETS, BELMETAL, SON.

RADIO One RAJIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Radio One logo and program schedule for Monday through Sunday. Bottom banner: Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One with social media icons.

BUSINESS



A construction worker on duty. File Photo

Unintended consequences of chasing craft productivity

By Gary Fischer

LOOKING out from the mezzanine, I had a bird's eye view of the factory floor. This tends to be my habit when visiting a worksite: find a high place that allows honest observation of the craft and activity onsite.

Why do I say honest? My experience is that when craft workers see 'management' wandering around a job site, they feel the need to 'look busy'. So, instead of standing around shooting the breeze or texting, they tend to pick something up and start 'looking busy' when they feel they are being observed.

We were very fortunate to be invited by a major automaker to see how they assemble trucks. Looking out over the floor was a sight to behold. Robots were welding, gluing and rhythmically installing components precisely on truck frames. Workers were in a similar rhythm as the next truck body appeared at their station.

But something in particular took our attention; we watched the workers and noticed that no one looked like they were working particularly hard (rushing through things, busy all the time). In fact, some even had time between tasks to check their phone for texts and joke with co-workers.

I asked the Plant Manager if they could get more work done by giving those people more to do. I will never forget his reaction to my question - he looked at me like I was from another planet and emphatically said "NO. It doesn't matter. What matters is rolling one quality truck off the line every minute."

I was a bit stunned. At our job sites, we watch craft productivity closely. Metrics are tracked per crew and rolled up for the whole job site. We believe that good craft productivity is essential to completing a project on cost and schedule.

So, why would a successful major automaker see it so differently? Maybe we are wrong. Maybe it's due to the fact that automotive factories are machine-paced while construction projects are still human-paced. Still, they didn't seem to be focused on making every machine work as hard as possible.

The global engineering and construction industry is obsessed with worker productivity (both knowledge and craft workers) driven by the belief that there is a direct relationship to project performance results.

Typically for our industry, hours (e.g., labor and construction equipment) are segregated in cost estimates and reports because many believe after procuring or contracting the work, hours are the only thing that can be improved.

This drives many decisions, including establishing goals, strategies and measurements to drive craft productivity improvement. There is certainly nothing wrong with trying to become more productive, but the interpretation of what 'more productive' means and how to make it happen can have some serious negative unintended consequences.

For the most part, the industry relates productivity improvement efforts with making individual crews get more done in less time for each task performed. Some may also argue that it is not only about labor productivity, but is also about equipment productivity such as cranes or earth moving equipment.

Many opt to keep crews busy all the time working on what work is available to avoid crews being idle, and in so doing, get them to produce 'something.' But perhaps, what many in the industry

may not fully understand is the fact that improving labor productivity is not the same as improving the productivity of the overall project.

As a matter of fact, improving the productivity of each crew does not equate to improving the productivity of the project. But before we go deeper, let's examine what productivity really means. There are two kinds of productivity, and the terms get used interchangeably which creates confusion.

Big "P" productivity is how efficiently the project produces a finished product or productivity of the Project Production System, where throughput through this system (units over time) should match expected demand (like a truck coming off the assembly line every minute).

Little "p" productivity is how efficient labor is working to complete individual tasks, which typically translates into the number of man-hours required to produce a unit of work.

A productivity metric derived directly or indirectly from a ratio of actual hours it took for a crew to produce a unit of work divided by the estimated hours to produce that same unit (or the inverse) is often used to manage little "p".

Augmenting that metric is the use of time-on-tools studies to see where the day goes for craft and what can be done to increase time spent doing the work.

There is nothing wrong with taking steps to obtain good craft productivity especially by removing inefficiencies from the workday through time-on-tools studies such as decreasing the time it takes for craft to badge in or the time it takes to check in and out small tools.

Productivity of the bottleneck does matter (both for manufacturing and construction) to increase capacity. In other words, improving craft productivity can enable reduction of staff or doing more work.

However, a singular focus on craft productivity generates confusion between keeping the "hands busy" with what is needed to achieve good big "P". The reason the little "p" craft productivity does not equate to the big "P" project productivity is found in Operations Science. Since idle crews count against the productivity measures, supervisors are driven to keep folks busy.

If the planned work is blocked for any number of reasons such as site availability, engineering or material issues, or construction equipment availability, the crews are moved to start something else to keep them busy (bear in mind we are saying start, not complete something).

Tasks that are viewed as more easily done are often prioritized, driving work out of sequence. Together, these natural responses to keep craft productivity high drives up significant amounts of work-in-process (work started, but not fully completed) and work out of sequence.

This way of approaching work execution has serious unintended consequences to project performance. Through an Operations Science lens, we understand that excessive work-in-process always results in longer cycle times which impacts schedule.

While rules of credit are applied to work being done (work-in-process) and progress calculated based on it may depict good progress (e.g., on time, ahead of schedule), project teams are often faced with the reality of reaching a high percentage of progress while completing the remaining work takes more time than expected.

By Guardian Reporter

STAKEHOLDERS of the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed Tanzania Breweries Public Limited Company (TBL) are expected to pocket 537/- per share or 158.4bn/- in dividends for 2023, an increase of 85 percent over the prior year.

This was announced during the company's 51st Annual General Meeting (AGM) held yesterday at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre.

The AGM, attended by various stakeholders, covered the growth and development of TBL and the entire group, as well as the challenges faced over the past year.

Board Chairman Leonard Mususa, said, "We are proud to announce that despite the challenging operating conditions of 2023, including global geopolitical tensions and local excise duty hikes, we demonstrated resilient growth and delivered significant value to our shareholders".

"Our steadfast execution of strategic initiatives and the market's confidence in our diverse portfolio of brands resulted in a notable increase in revenue, enabling us to approve and distribute a dividend of 537/- per share—an impressive 85 percent increase over the previous year. This accomplishment underscores our commitment to creating long-term value for our shareholders and reinforces our position as one of the nation's leading contributors to economic growth," he said.

Furthermore, the AGM involved the approval of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers as the external auditors for the upcoming financial

TBL shareholders to land 158.4bn/- in 2023 dividend



TBL Board Chairman Leonard Mususa addresses shareholders during the 51st Annual General Meeting held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is company secretary Esther Kuja and right is board member Phocus Lasway. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

year ending December 31, 2024, highlighting TBL PLC's unwavering dedication to sound financial governance and transparency.

During last year, the company delivered another year of consistent profitable growth, with revenue increasing by 12 percent and operating profit by 4 percent.

Revenue growth was driven by both beer and spirits, with significant contributions from the core and core-plus segments of the beer

business and spirits.

The group says it continues to execute its proven commercial strategy and increase sales and marketing investments behind its portfolio of beer and beyond beer brands to deliver consistent growth and long-term value creation.

TBL procures over 74 percent of its raw materials from within the country, directly and indirectly supporting the creation of over a million jobs throughout its supply chain.

These accomplishments have reinforced TBL's status as Tanzania's top employer and manufacturer.

Financial highlights show TBL paid 586bn/- in taxes to the government in 2023, compared to 528bn/- the year before, solidifying its position as one of the nation's biggest taxpayers.

The AGM promises to be an insightful event, reflecting on TBL's achievements and setting the stage for future success.

Initiative launched to bolster cotton production across Morogoro Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute and the Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) are jointly implementing a strategic initiative targeting to promote cultivation of cotton in Morogoro region.

The development which has already fetched promising results surfaced following research to prove that presence of friendly weather and soil for the production of cotton in Ulanga district of the region mapped in the country's eastern zone.

The strategy, which is part of implementation of Cotton Victoria Project (CVP), gears to transform the area into the country's best cotton hub and have so far impacted over 600 farmers in the area.

Speaking recently during staging of a special farmer field day (FFD) held at Lupilo village within the district in question, TCB acting director, James Shimbe said the farmers in the area have demonstrated high spirit to adopt growing the economic cash crop.

"We have been very impressed with the manner to which majority of farmers here have started to grow cotton, triggered by the inception of this project which runs under funds from the govern-



Tanzania Cotton Board acting director James Shimbe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ment of Brazil in partnership with TARI Ukiriguru," he expressed.

He ensures that the state-owned board will continue working in sync with TARI to elevate production of the crop within all eleven regions in Tanzania with potential for growing it.

Detailing over the initiative, Dr Paul Saidia, the project director who doubles as director for TARI

Ukiriguru Centre said the project is training the farmers to adhere to ten recommended principles needed for professional cultivation of cotton.

"Among the best agronomic practices we're training the farmers here include how to manage soil fertilisation, new planting spaces, as well as management of cotton plants, from planning to harvesting," he briefed.

For instance, he said the project has trained the farmers to adopt new planting spaces of 90 centimeters from row to row, and 30 cm from hole to hole, bringing the number of cotton plants to at least 44,444 per acre.

"Through new planting spaces, the farmers are now managing to harvest bumper," he added.

He said introduction of the new planting spaces

have help to attract more farmers in the area to opt growing the crop ever before, signaling the good future of production of the crop in the area.

And he added, the project plans to establish a good number of demo plots to help extensional officers to practically disseminating the farmers with the recommend practices for the cultivation of the crop.

He thanked the government of Brazil for bankrolling the project, as well as all other involving stakeholders from within and outside the country, saying the centre will stand at forefront to ensure for targeted results.

Speaking for his part, Thomas Tiluhongelwa, the project focal point for the Cotton Victoria Project said the farmers in the region are now realizing up to 2000kgs.

"After being introduced to the new planting space through the project, the farmers are currently managing to harvest up to 2000kg, the impressive records which keep on attracting more farmers to venture into cotton production," he briefed.

Adelina Mhonga, one of the project's beneficiary farmers in the region said the project has assisted them to elevate their production and productivity into brighter future.

By Grace Ellis

Essential construction KPIs to improve profits, productivity



From a construction standpoint, KPIs help you understand how successful your project has been. File Photo

How do you measure project success? For many of us, it's easy to see financials as a leading indicator of performance. Is it over or under budget? And by how much? As owners and project executives usually are looking at high-level metrics, it's easy for teams to get driven purely by money.

In fact, 43 percent of construction firms prioritize immediate financial goals over organizational resilience. Nevertheless, there are a number of other essential construction KPIs that can signify if a project is on track and provide more actionable insights into what changes need to be made.

Using budget as your primary indicator of performance is a lot like calculating the calories of a cake to assess its healthiness after it's been baked. While it might be an interesting fact to know for your own interest, it's a little too late to make any changes needed to alter the outcome. On the other hand, if you were to measure and adjust the ingredients during the baking process, you could tweak results for a more desirable outcome (should healthy desserts be your thing).

Clearly, pure financials should not be the main indicator of performance. So, why are they constantly the primary focus of project scrutiny? Other critical measurements need to be taken into account to track construction progress and productivity—the primary factors that are going to get teams that want success. Below, let's discuss the importance of construction KPIs and critical metrics your company should be measuring to affect profits and productivity.

What are construction KPIs?

Construction KPIs, or key performance indicators, are metrics used to measure and evaluate a construction company's performance in various areas. KPIs are essential for setting and achieving goals, monitoring progress, and making data-driven decisions.

Tracking and carefully interpreting an array of KPIs helps a construction company build long-term resilience while also meeting short-term financial goals. But just in case you need a refresher on the purpose KPIs serve, here is how the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA) defines them.

CFMA describes KPIs as being vital signs that show whether "your busi-

ness is functioning according to plan." It explains that the "key" part of the acronym indicates prioritized metrics.

The "performance" aspect of the acronym refers to the ways in which your company operates or behaves. Likening a construction business to an auto engine, CFMA stresses that engine analysis is based on more than miles per gallon. Similarly, although basic construction project metrics concern costs and time, profit isn't the only performance issue to measure.

As to the "I," CFMA notes that indicators usually are quantitative data, such as numbers or percentages, that present a quick picture of a condition and its "favorable or non-favorable status."

"Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have created meas-

urable value for Jacobsen Construction for many years. Our KPIs help us make sound and confident decisions that impact financial performance, project progress, etc. In addition, critical KPIs alert us when a potential problem or risk needs immediate and ongoing special attention. As accessibility to sophisticated data across multiple software platforms deepens, so does the ability to maximize strategic, data-driven decisions," said Heather Soderquist, VP of Construction Innovation at Jacobsen.

Why are KPIs important?

Think of KPIs as vital stats or biomarkers, but instead of measuring someone's physical health, you're tracking your construction firm's performance.

"I always think of KPIs like a health school; this is probably the easiest way to do it. We all want to know that our heart rate is in the right zone and our cholesterol levels are at a low level. It's exactly the same when it comes to projects. You want to know you're on time and on budget. It's no different when you're actually looking at a project's health," says Ivana Tudja, BIM and Digital Engineering Lead at Mace on an episode of the Digital Builder podcast.

Beyond measuring a firm or a project's health, construction KPIs also enable you to benchmark your performance against competitors. It helps you see how you're measuring up and how you can improve.

As Ivana puts it, "If you look at some of the key performance indicators that are

in use within the industry—whether that's, win rate, accident frequency rate, or the EMR—those sorts of things allow you to compare yourself to either other projects within your organization and say, 'What does good look like? And how is it that we address poor performance?'"

She continues, "Measuring is so, so important, and capturing that data and gathering information at scale is really hard to do. But I think that's where technology gives us such an opportunity to gather all of that KPI data and then use that to do some peer-to-peer benchmarking. That way, people can understand and answer questions like, 'What does good look like and how do we improve?'"

Construction KPI assess-

ment

It's vital to understand where your company currently stands when it comes to KPIs. Enter the Workflow Benchmarking Tool. This free tool allows you to see how you stack up against the top construction companies. In a few minutes, you can get an overview of your blind spots and identify processes that can help improve the way you record and use information to formulate a construction quality management plan with KPIs.

Essential construction KPIs to track

When it comes to KPIs, the right measures depend on your firm's objectives and priorities. What's "key" to one company may not be a top priority for another. That said, we did some research at Autodesk and found that the five value drivers for construction success are Winning Business, Quality, Cost, Schedule or Program, Health, Safety, and Environment.

Under each value driver are measures and outcomes that you need to monitor to determine whether or not you're on track. For instance, if "Winning Business" is a priority, then you'll want to measure things like your win-to-bid ratio, referral rate, or project pipeline.

On the other hand, if your goal is to improve "Health, Safety & Environment," it may behoove you to track things like safety training completions and near-miss reporting.

All in all, it's vital to understand that your KPIs will depend on your company's specific objectives and priorities. Start by figuring out your biggest value drivers. From there, hone in on the proper metrics and figure out how to surface that data to the right teams.

Although your company may measure many details of a project, effective performance analysis requires prioritizing a limited number of key categories of concern for tracking overall project success and company health. These would be both financial and non-financial matters that can be quantified. To be continued...

Grace Ellis is a Manager of Content Marketing Strategy at Autodesk

Kilosa, Mikumi National Park to be connected by SGR

By Correspondent James Kandoya

AUTHORITIES in Morogoro Region have said that plans are underway to ensure that Kilosa and Mikumi National Park are connected to Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) to enable tourists reach the destination easily.

Morogoro Regional Commissioner Adam Malima told the Guardian newspaper over phone that all the preparations were underway to ensure tourists get direct access to the national park.

He said that the authority has allocated special land for local investors to build hotels and lodges near Kilosa station to accommodate tour-

ists arriving by a speed train to visit Mikumi national park.

Malima said the move goes concurrently with construction of a road (18 kilometres) from Kilosa station to the newly established Mikumi National park's gate.

He said all responsible institutions work together such as Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA), The Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS), President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government Authority.

"Our target is to complement the government's efforts of promoting the country's tourism through the



Tanzania's electric train.

film "The Royal Tour", "he said.

He said tourists can travel to Udzungwa and Mwalimu Julius Nyerere National park in the southern circuit.

Malima said that the regional authority is in a dialogue with tour operators to make Kilosa station the tourist terminal for all those who in-

tend to visit regional tourist's attraction.

"SGR is going to be the economic backbone of our region in the near future. We have sugar cane plantations and massive production of rice. All these will be transported by rail to reduce congestion in the road and as well as transporting costs," he said.

Currently, there is no direct connection from Dar es Salaam to Mikumi National Park. However, you can take the train to Kisaki then take the taxi to Mikumi National Park.

Alternatively, you can drive from Dar es Salaam to Mikumi National Park in around 5h 16m.

About three years ago, Prime Min-

ister Kassim Majaliwa challenged the residents of Kilosa district in Morogoro region to embark in real estate to accommodate people using the new electric train

The premier said that in his tour to inspect the rail tracks, stations and electricity infrastructure from Dar es Salaam station to Kilosa station (about 215 kilometres)

He said the operation of a new train will come with a number of opportunities and called on them to tap them to fast track development.

According to the premier, the government decided to invest in the construction of SGR to transport people and the goods from one destination to the other.

Rwanda to benefit from global business outsourcing - report

KIGALI

Rwanda is poised to substantially benefit from the growing African business outsourcing market owing to the available untapped pool of young talent, according to a report by Everest Group, a global research firm.

Titled 'Strategic Horizons: Mapping the CXM Outsourcing Landscape for English Support in Africa' the report forecasts that at least 1.5 million new Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) jobs will be created in Africa over the next six years.

Business process outsourcing (BPO) is a business practice in which an organisation contracts with an external service provider to perform an essential business func-

tion or task.

Sometimes called the next stage of evolution for the outsourcing model, GBS can be defined as an integrated, end-to-end set of capabilities delivered globally to enterprise clients by a service provider.

The continent's BPO workforce is expected to more than double by 2030, and the surge is fueled by the growing demand from global companies seeking outsourced customer service.

"South Africa, Kenya, and Egypt are poised to reap significant benefits, while emerging hubs like Ghana, Ethiopia, and Rwanda are also positioned for substantial growth," it reads in part.

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growing demand from global companies seeking outsourced customer service.

"South Africa, Kenya, and Egypt are poised to reap significant benefits, while emerging hubs like Ghana, Ethiopia, and Rwanda are also positioned for substantial growth," it reads in part.

In 2022, Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator reported that more than 254,000 youth in Rwanda are qualified for the Global Business Service and BPO for hire although they are among 731,000 out of work youth.

With a skilled workforce of over 60,000 English-speaking agents as of 2022, competitive salaries, and growing physical and ICT infrastructure, Rwanda's global servic-



Rwanda is poised to substantially benefit from the growing African business outsourcing market.

es delivery is gaining exponential traction.

The widespread adoption of advanced technologies such as cognitive AI and intelligent automation in Africa's CXM industry is contingent upon several key enabling factors. Investments in robust internet connectivity, data

centers, and digital infrastructure will be crucial to support the seamless integration of AI technologies into CXM operations.

The service provider ecosystem is expected to play a vital role in proliferating the use of these technologies and creating a skilled labor force that can func-

tion in the digitally driven contact center operations of the future.

More than 254,000 youth in Rwanda are qualified for the Global Business Service and Business Process Outsourcing for hire although they are among 731,000 out of work youth, a new report has disclosed.

WORLD

UK hospitals face 'unprecedented' blood shortage after cyber attack

LONDON

BRITISH hospitals are facing an unprecedented shortage of blood supplies due to disruption from an ongoing cyber attack, health authorities said on Thursday, as they imposed limits on blood use and appealed for more donations.

Large London hospitals run by Britain's state-funded National Health Service (NHS) have faced disruption since the June 3 ransomware attack on Synovis, a provider of testing services.

The attack also meant thousands of

appointments for people to donate blood could not go ahead.

A period of high demand, combined with the added challenge of finding blood donors over the summer, when people are away on holiday and warmer weather can leave people too dehydrated to give blood, had helped created the "perfect storm", the NHS said.

Stocks of blood have dropped to "unprecedentedly low levels", it added.

"We urgently need more O group donors to come forward and help boost stocks to treat patients needing treatment," NHS Blood and Transplant



Police patrol outside the buildings at Arrowe Park Hospital in Upton. AP

Chief Executive Jo Farrar said in a statement. "The need for O negative blood in particular remains critical."

Only about 1.6 days' worth of O negative blood - the universal type used in emergencies when a patient's blood type is unknown - are left nationally, the NHS said. Overall national stocks of all blood types is at 4.3 days.

The NHS has issued an "amber alert" to hospitals, asking them to restrict the use of O type blood to

essential cases and use substitutions where it is safe to do so.

Since the start of the cyber incident, affected hospitals in London have needed an additional 1.7 days worth of O negative blood - almost double the amount compared with the same period a year earlier. Blood has a shelf life of 35 days.

Last week, a global IT outage affected the NHS's appointment and patient record system.

Agencies

China, Britain agree to work for closer communication

VIENTIANE

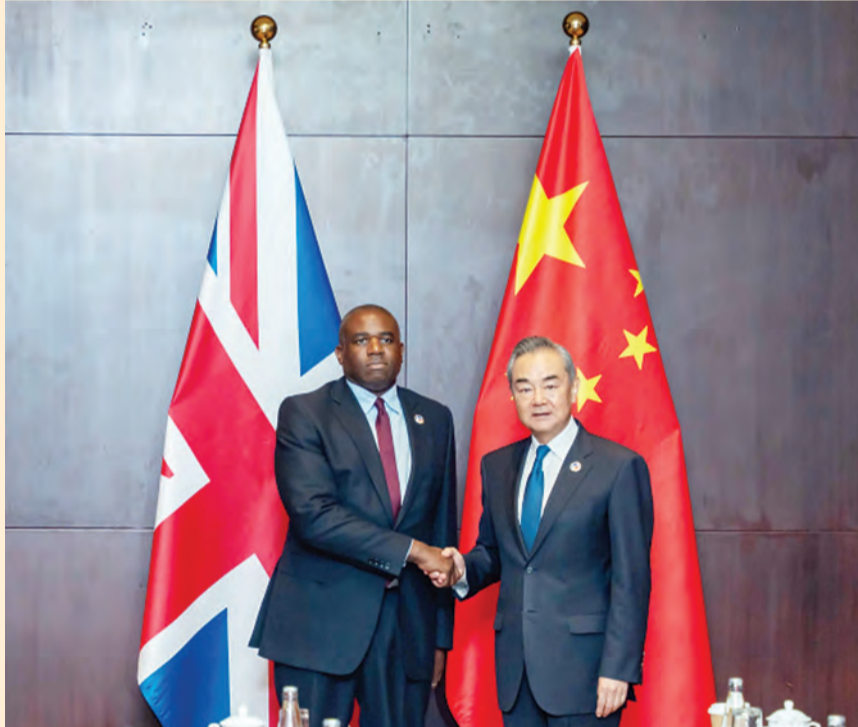
CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy met yesterday in Vientiane, and the two sides agreed to work together for closer communication and stable relations.

A series of meetings of foreign ministers of southeastern and eastern Asian countries are being held in the capital of Laos, the current rotating chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

During his meeting with Lammy, Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said the relationship between China and Britain is of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, noting they are both permanent members of the United Nations Security Council as well as major economies in the world, and have extensive exchanges, solid foundation for cooperation and deeply intertwined interests.

China's efforts following the third plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China Central Committee to further deepen reform in an all-round way and promote high-quality development and high-level opening-up will bring more opportunities to Britain and other countries around the world, Wang said.

The two countries can complement each other's strengths in their cooperative efforts towards common advance-



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right) shakes hands with British Foreign Secretary David Lammy during a meeting between the two sides, in Vientiane, Laos, yesterday. (PHOTO / MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CHINA)

ment, Wang said. Britain has said it will view its relations with China from a long-term and strategic perspective, and China attaches importance to this, Wang said.

Wang called for joint efforts by the two countries to develop a stable and mutually beneficial relationship, unleashing cooperation potential and boost each

other's development while strengthening bilateral communication and coordination on international affairs and shouldering their due responsibilities to jointly promote world peace.

China is willing to work with Britain to build a positive and stable bilateral framework and smooth down exchange channels, Wang said, while urging both

sides to set the right policy orientation, uphold a balanced, pragmatic, open and cooperative attitude, and provide stable and positive expectations for all sectors in the two countries.

The Chinese foreign minister called on the two sides to properly manage differences and carry out communication and exchanges on the basis of equality and mutual respect. He also voiced hope that Britain will provide a fair, just and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese companies.

During the meeting, Lammy said his country and China are important cooperative partners, noting the British side is willing to maintain communication and exchanges with the Chinese side to develop a relationship featuring predictability, mutual respect and long-term stability.

Britain's adherence to the one-China policy remains unchanged, he said.

The British side looks forward to strengthening cooperation with China in areas including culture, education, health care, technology innovation and climate change, he said.

Lammy said Britain attaches importance to China's important influence and role in international affairs and hopes for a joint response to global challenges.

The two sides also exchanged views on the Ukraine crisis and other international and regional issues of common concern.

Xinhua

Republican Senator tables bill to cement US-India ties, seeks terror sanctions

WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN Senator Marco Rubio has introduced a bill in the US Senate to strengthen ties between US India and to bar Pakistan from receiving security assistance if it is found to have sponsored terrorism against India.

The bill titled US-India Defence Cooperation Act requires a report to Congress on Pakistan's use of offensive force, including through terrorism and proxy groups, against India; and bar Pakistan from receiving security assistance if it is found to have sponsored terrorism against India.

"The US-India partnership is vital to

countering influences from Communist China. In order to strengthen this partnership, it is essential to enhance our strategic diplomatic, economic, and military relationship with New Delhi," Rubio said after he introduced the US-India Defence Cooperation Act in the Senate on Thursday.

"Communist China continues to aggressively expand its domain in the Indo-Pacific region, all while it seeks to impede the sovereignty and autonomy of our regional partners. It's crucial for the US to continue its support in countering these malicious tactics. India, along with other nations in the region, is not alone" Senator Rubio said.

The bill proposes to set a Statement of Policy that the US will support India in its response to growing threats to its territorial integrity, provide necessary security assistance to India to deter adversaries and cooperate with India with respect to defence, civil space, technology, medicine, and economic investments.

The bill seeks to provide a limited exemption for India from Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) sanctions for purchases of Russian equipment that are currently used by the Indian military; expedite consideration of certifications of letters of offer to sell defence articles, defence services, design and construction services, and

major defence equipment to India is consistent with US interests and it is in the interest of peace and stability India to have the capabilities needed to deter threats.

The bill proposes to treat India as if it were of the same status as US allies such as Japan, Israel, Korea, and NATO allies regarding technology transfers; authorize the Secretary of State to enter into a memorandum of understanding with India to increase military cooperation;

expedite excess defence articles to India for two years and grant India the same status as other allies; and expand International Military Education and Training Cooperation with New Delhi.

ANI

Airtel Africa reports strong quarterly performance amidst economic challenges

LAGOS

AIRTEL Africa has announced a robust performance for Q1'25, showcasing its strong fundamentals and effective execution despite a challenging macroeconomic environment.

The company's total customer base grew by 8.6 percent to 155.4 million. Data customers saw a significant increase of 13.4 percent, reaching 64.4 million. Data usage per customer surged by 25.1 percent to 6.2 GBs, while smartphone penetration rose to 41.7 percent, up by 4.7 percent.

Mobile money subscribers increased by 14.9 percent, reflecting continued investments in distribution to enhance financial inclusion across its markets. The transaction value in constant currency grew by 28.7 percent, reaching an annualized transaction value of \$120 billion.

"Our sustained revenue growth underscores the resilient demand for our services, bolstered by a growing customer base and increased usage. Our strategic execution enables us to seize these opportunities while maintaining our industry-leading cost position," said Sunil Taldar, Chief Executive Officer of Airtel Africa.

He added, "Our comprehensive cost optimization program has already yielded positive results, and we expect continued sustainable savings. A strong capital structure is crucial for meeting our ambitious growth targets, and we are committed to reducing foreign currency exposure to mitigate the impact of currency devaluation."

Data Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) grew by 9.6 percent, while mobile money ARPU increased by 8.8 percent in constant currency, contributing to an overall ARPU rise of 9.3 percent year-on-year.

The company invested in network infrastructure, boosting data capacity by 33 percent through the deployment of nearly 3,000 new sites and over 5,600 kilometers of fiber. A comprehensive cost efficiency program was launched to optimize network utilization, implement energy-saving measures, and renegotiate key contracts, with anticipated benefits in the coming year.

Revenue in constant currency grew by 19.0 percent in Q1'25, driven by a 33.4 percent increase in Nigeria and a 22.3 percent rise in East Africa.

However, reported currency revenues fell by 16.1 percent to \$1,156 million due to currency devaluation, particularly in Nigeria. Mobile services revenue grew by 17.4 percent, and Mobile Money revenue rose by 28.4 percent in constant currency.

Capital expenditure (Capex) amounted to \$147 million, a 4.9% increase from the previous period. The full-year Capex guidance remains between \$725 million and \$750 million as the company continues to invest in future growth.

Airtel Africa fully repaid its \$550 million HoldCo bond in May 2024, eliminating HoldCo debt. Currently, 86 percent of market debt is in local currency, with \$828 million of foreign currency debt paid down over the past year.

The \$100 million share buyback program continued, with 21 million shares purchased for \$29 million by the end of June 2024.

US Vice President holds talks with Israeli PM on Gaza ceasefire

WASHINGTON

US Vice President and Democratic Presidential candidate Kamala Harris on Friday said that she had a "frank and constructive meeting" with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Harris said that the discussion touched upon US's commitment to Israeli security during which she urged Netanyahu for a ceasefire deal in his country's ongoing war against Hamas.

In a post on X, Harris said, "Today, I had a frank and constructive meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu about a wide range of issues, including my commitment to Israel's security, the importance of addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and the urgent need to get the ceasefire and hostage deal done."

Vice President Harris offered Netanyahu strong support for Israel's right to defend itself after their meeting, but also declared that she "will not be silent" about Palestinian suffering and pressed the parties to finally agree to the long-delayed Gaza cease-fire deal, the New York Times reported.

The meeting between Harris and Netanyahu followed an address to a joint session in US Congress by the Israeli PM where he defended his country's operation in Gaza.

Earlier on July 17, US Secretary of Defence, Lloyd J Austin, said he discussed the latest round of hostage negotiations with Israeli Minister of Defence Yoav Gallant.

ANI

China sees rapid development of intelligent shipping

ON the shore of the Bohai Sea, a "smart zero-carbon" terminal at the Section C of Tianjin Port's Beijing Area was bustling with activity. Nearly 100 AI-enabled transport robots zipped back and forth, guided by the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, setting new highs in cargo handling volume.

A 12.5-meter-deep channel downstream of Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu province along the Yangtze River, was teeming with vessels. Thanks to an automatic identification system, ships entering an electronic geofence could quickly receive real-time service information, which significantly improved navigation safety.

In the waters off Zhanjiang, south China's Guangdong province, the unmanned vessel Wenjiang traveled thousands of miles from inland rivers to the open sea

for marine surveying tests and applications. Equipped with low-latency communication and high-precision positioning systems, it not only navigated autonomously but also transmitted data in real-time, expanding the potential uses for unmanned vessels.

From fully automated cargo terminals to the rapid rise of digitally managed waterways and self-navigating smart ships, "intelligence" is becoming a key feature of the high-quality development of China's shipping industry.

Smart ports are emerging rapidly across China. Nowadays, China ranks among the world leaders in both operational and under-construction automated container terminals. The country has mastered key technologies across the entire chain, from design and construction to equipment manu-

facturing, system integration, and operational management. Both the overall application scale and technological level are at the forefront internationally.

Meanwhile, the automation of dry bulk cargo terminals is accelerating. Qinhuangdao Port, Huanghua Port, Qingdao Port, Ningbo-Zhoushan Port, and Zhangjiagang Port have achieved full automation of dry bulk cargo handling, transitioning towards unmanned, intelligent operations.

Smart waterways continue to expand. Electronic navigational charts now cover over 5,700 kilometers of waterways nationwide, with complete coverage of the Yangtze River's main channel. The application of electronic cargo release platforms for imported containers and bulk commodities by sea is also growing.

Significant breakthroughs have been made in the development of intelligent vessels. China has successfully developed key technologies for intelligent navigation, including ship perception and decision-making, with some indicators leading globally.

These advancements have resulted in a series of achievements, including the Zhifei vessel which equipped with a complete set of intelligent navigation systems, over 10 self-navigating ships, and more than 1,000 vessels applying intelligent technologies. These developments have brought substantial economic and social benefits.

"Currently, a new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation is reshaping the global shipping industry, creating new driving forces and competi-

tive advantages," said an official with China's Ministry of Transport.

It is important to maintain a coordinated approach to promote systemic upgrades, and accelerate comprehensive development in smart ports, intelligent waterways, smart ships, and intelligent shipping services, so as to continuously enhance the digital and intelligent capabilities across all elements and the entire chain of the shipping industry, the official explained.

The shipping industry not only serves as a crucial support for economic circulation but also acts as a window into economic performance. The rapid development of intelligent shipping not only demonstrates China's growing strength in the shipping sector but also reflects the vibrant energy of a nation in motion.

Since this year, many Chinese

ports have seen continued growth in throughput. From January to June, Ningbo-Zhoushan Port handled 708 million tons of cargo, a 4.2 percent year-on-year increase, and processed over 19.16 million twenty-foot equivalent units of containers, up 8.4 percent from a year ago.

During the same period, Huanghua Port, the primary hub for China's "west-to-east coal transport and north-to-south coal transport" strategy, achieved a cargo throughput of 179 million tons, marking a 12.04 percent year-on-year increase.

"Last year, China's international maritime shipping volume approached nearly 1/3 of global sea freight, further cementing the country's role as an 'anchor' in international shipping," said the official.

People's Daily

SPORT

Ten players to define Olympic football at Paris 2024: Marta, Olise and more

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Simba complete pre-season, ready for 'Simba Day' and Dar Derby

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AS Simba Sports Club enters the third week of their pre-season, the squad is gearing up for the culmination of their rigorous training regimen. This intensive preparation is set to conclude by the end of the week with another friendly match, providing a final test before their return home.

According to sources within the club's leadership, the team is expected to return to Tanzania on Wednesday. This will allow them a few days to finalize preparations for Simba Day, which is scheduled for Saturday, August 3.

Head coach Fadlu Davids has been optimistic about the progress his team has made during the pre-season.

Davids, who has been closely monitoring the squad's development, expressed his satisfaction with the players' performance and their competitive spirit.

"We continue to be very pleased with the competition as every player in my squad is fighting for their own chance to show excellence," Davids stated in a recent interview.

Davids praised the squad's youthful energy and determination, noting that the young players are highly motivated and show significant resilience, especially during training sessions. This competitive atmosphere has been crucial in pushing each player to perform at their best, vying for a spot in the starting lineup.

Despite the limited time available for pre-season training, Davids is confident that the team will continue to improve as they play more matches.

"The time for pre-season has been limited, but I believe our team will get better with each game," he remarked.

Earlier this week, Simba demonstrated their prowess by securing a convincing 3-0 victory in a friendly match against Egypt's El Qanah. The match, which lasted 120 minutes, showcased the team's potential and readiness for the upcoming season.

As the pre-season draws to a close, Davids is taking the opportunity to further assess his players. This weekend, the squad will participate in two additional friendly matches, providing further opportunities for the coach to fine-tune his team before their return to Tanzania.

Upon their return, Simba will shift their focus to the highly anticipated Simba Day Festival on August 3. This event not only celebrates the club's history and achievements but also serves as a platform to unveil the squad for the upcoming season. Fans can expect to see a well-prepared and dynamic team take to the field, showcasing the results of their intensive pre-season training.

Following Simba Day, the team will quickly turn their attention to the Community Shield tournament, including the much-anticipated Kariakoo Derby against arch-rivals Young Africans.

This high-stakes match is scheduled to take place on August 8 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, with kickoff set for 7:00 PM.

The derby, one of the most eagerly awaited fixtures in Tanzanian football, will be a crucial test for Simba as they look to set the tone for the upcoming season. With the squad's preparation and the competitive edge fostered during the pre-season, fans are hopeful that Simba will put on a strong performance.

As Simba wrap up their pre-season, the team is poised to enter the new season with renewed vigor and determination. Davids' emphasis on competition and resilience has created a robust squad ready to face the challenges ahead. With Simba Day and the Community Shield on the horizon, Simba are set to demonstrate their readiness and ambition for the season, aiming to make a strong start and secure early victories.

Gamondi highlights competitive edge in Yanga's Toyota Cup clash with Kaizer Chiefs



Young Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi (R) and Kaizer Chiefs head coach Nesreddine Nabi pose with the Toyota Cup trophy during a press conference held in Johannesburg, South Africa yesterday. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans Sports Club are currently engaged in an intensive pre-season training camp in South Africa, aimed at gearing up for the upcoming 2024/25 season. The Jangwani Street-based side has already participated in two friendlies, showcasing their readiness and honing their strategies for the new season.

In their recent friendly match of the tour, Young Africans secured a narrow 1-0 victory against the South African side TS Galaxy FC, thanks to a decisive goal from Prince Dube in the 55th minute. This win highlighted Young Africans' solid preparation and the team's ability to perform under competitive conditions.

However, the team's subsequent friendly against German side FC Augsburg did not yield the same result. Young Africans suffered a 2-1 defeat, with Jean Baleke,

who came on as a substitute, scoring their only goal with a powerful header. Despite the loss, the match offered valuable insights into the squad's dynamics and areas for improvement.

Looking ahead, Young Africans are set to face off against Kaizer Chiefs in the Toyota Cup tomorrow. This match promises to be more than just a friendly, as it pits Young Africans against their former coach, Tunisian tactician Nesreddine Nabi.

Nabi, who led Young Africans to back-to-back titles before departing last year, now manages the Amakhosi, adding an intriguing layer to the encounter.

Young Africans' head

coach, Miguel Gamondi, acknowledged the significance of the upcoming match, emphasizing the broader objectives beyond mere victory.

"Our game against Kaizer Chiefs will be a good and competitive game, especially considering that Chiefs have a new coach," Gamondi said. "Every player will have a chance to showcase their abilities. For us, our preparations are intensifying, and we believe we will have a strong performance."

Gamondi also highlighted the importance of the South African tour in preparing for the new season.

"Arriving in South Africa has been crucial for us as we prepare for the 2024/25 season.

son. Playing against a team from the Bundesliga is part of our strategy to promote the club both in Africa and globally," he stated. He further emphasized that these matches are vital for building a cohesive team, particularly with new additions to the squad.

The team's participation in the Mpumalanga Cup and subsequent friendlies has provided them with valuable experience and an opportunity to refine their tactics. The insights gained from these matches are expected to contribute significantly to Young Africans' performance in the upcoming season.

Upon completing their

South African tour, Young Africans are scheduled to return to Tanzania next week. The club will then focus on final preparations for the league season and the CAF Champions League. A key highlight of their pre-season activities will be the 'Wiki ya Wananchi' celebrations on August 4, a major event that holds special significance for the club and its supporters.

Following the celebrations, Young Africans will compete in the Community Shield tournament, which is set to take place between August 8 and 11. The club will face their arch-rivals Simba SC on August 8, with Coastal Union and Azam FC also competing in the tournament. The winners of these matches will clash in the final, adding an extra layer of anticipation to the fixtures.

Last season, Simba emerged victorious in the Community Shield, defeating Young Africans 3-1 on penalties after a goalless draw in regular time. The matches were held in Mkwanzi Stadium in Tanga, underscoring the intense rivalry between the two Tanzanian clubs.

Young Africans' tour of South Africa is seen as a crucial phase in their pre-season preparations, offering the team invaluable experience and the opportunity to refine their strategies. As they look ahead to a demanding season, the insights and cohesion gained from this tour will be instrumental in their quest for success.

Simba SC appoints Francois Regis as new CEO

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA Sports Club have yesterday announced the appointment of Uwayezu Francois Regis as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective August 1.

An official statement released by the chairman of the club's Board of Directors, Mohamed 'Mo' Dewji, yesterday said Regis (pictured) succeeds Imani Kajula, whose contract is set to expire.

According to the statement, Regis has over 12 years of experience in management positions in both the public and private sectors.

He is a well-rounded professional with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Finance and Accounting and a Certificate of IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards).

Regis has also made significant contributions to the field of football, serving as the Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Football Association for over three years and as Vice Chairman of APR F.C.

He is a founding member of the Rwanda Association of Football Coaches, where he served as Vice President for many years and currently serves as a CAF General Coordinator.

According to Dewji, Simba are confident that Regis will bring his wealth of experience and knowledge to the club and lead it to success in the upcoming



season.

He said the club expects Regis to bring a wealth of experience in both football and management to the role.

Regis holds a UEFA B coaching license and has attended numerous football management courses, including the "Programme Exécutif de Football" in Senegal and the General Secretary Academy course in Morocco.

Dewji expressed his confidence in Regis's ability to lead the club to new

appreciation to Imani Kajula, both on my own behalf and on behalf of the Board. Imani's valuable contribution to Simba leaves positive marks of progress and success, which will be new heights from where Simba will continue growing.

"I would also like to extend my appreciation to Imani's family, as he largely lived Simba hours, days and late nights. I wish him the best in his future endeavors, and wish him success," Dewji added.

Until August 31, Kajula will continue in his role, overseeing the transition and orientation of his duties to Regis.

Simba will compete in the CAF Confederation Cup next season after securing a third-place finish in the Tanzania Mainland Premier League. The club is currently in Ismailia, Egypt, for a pre-season training camp as they gear up for the upcoming continental campaign.

The Msimbazi Reds are putting the final touches on their preparations with two friendly matches scheduled before returning to Tanzania for the annual Simba Day celebration on August 3 against Rwandan side APR FC.

Simba will kick off the new domestic season with a Community Shield match against arch-rivals Young Africans at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and the club will be looking to make a strong impact in both domestic and continental competitions.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

