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## World Bank ups population fears, sees solution in girls' education

*"We believe that investing in the health, education and skills for young people will provide a solid foundation for a thriving future"*

By Guardian Reporter

COMPLETING quality secondary education for girls is key to fertility reduction as well as child survival, improved child nutrition outcomes and overall enhanced welfare, the World Bank has declared.

Nathan Belete, the country director, issued this recommendation at the launch of the latest Tanzania Economic Update (TEU) themed 'Overcoming Demographic Challenges while Embracing Opportunities.'

Focusing on accelerating the decrease in fertility as crucial to the country to obtain a demographic dividend, he said that embracing the demographic dividend agenda requires strong multisectoral coordination.

Such effort needs to bring together crucial departments such as finance, education, health, gender and engaging civil society or-

ganisations as well as other instances of decision making, he said.

He welcomed government efforts to accelerate programmes to expand access to secondary education and strengthen completion rates for girls, while not leaving boys behind.

"Second, it is critical to scale up access to high-quality, affordable family planning or reproductive health services while addressing social norms using innovative approaches, including community outreach strategies, use of mobile units, and partnerships with private sector outlets," he said.

Special attention needs to be given to poor and vulnerable women and young girls who are at a disadvantage due to geographic, socioeconomic and cultural barriers, he said.

He urged the government to step up interventions to improve child survival, lowering

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Mkalama district commissioner Moses Machali has a word with residents of Mdi-lika at a meeting he convened at the village yesterday, chiefly with a view to exchanging ideas with them on how to handle the challenges they commonly face. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

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Simba SC set to confront Al Ahly in CAF CL quarterfinals

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An era ends for Jurgen Klopp and Pep Guardiola - but now they enter something new in the title race

## BRELA wants CSR 'charity' label nixed

*Up to the end of last year there was an increase in commercial projects worth \$5,720.36m, implying that traders can participate well in international markets*

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

THE Law Reform Commission of Tanzania yesterday met with stakeholders including advocates from public and private institutions to discuss reviewing some articles in the Companies Act and the Business Names Act to address what some stakeholders see as loopholes.

The meeting was initiated by the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) in submitting to the commission a proposal to review some articles on the laws, seeking to remove the idea that 'corporate social responsibility' is charity.

Isidor Nkindi, the BRELA operations director, told journalists that many countries have made big steps in taking up CSR not as charity but a legal require-

ment for all companies.

ment for all companies.

Interviewed on the side-lines of the meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday, he said the two laws have no major challenges but a few loopholes which affect effective compliance.

"We sat down with our experts and found that the laws have some challenges and in one way or another, leading to ineffective implementation of the CSR policy by companies," he said.

Expected changes in the laws will also improve the cooperation environment between big businesses and stakeholders, where communities expect to be considered part of their operations and plans.

He appealed to the business community to treat customers as vital stakeholders thus needing to ensure improving the environment of those they serve, underlining that CSR needs strong supervision, thus the law needs to be improved.

He insisted that the Business Names

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## 'Droughts raise HIV risks in rural Africa'

By Guardian Reporter

DROUGHTS driven by climate change are increasing the risk of HIV infection among rural women in Sub-Saharan Africa by driving them into sex work, according to a five-country study.

Researchers at the University of Bristol

in the UK writing for the World Health Organization that women in rural areas who had been exposed to drought were more likely to acquire HIV than those who had not been exposed to drought.

Adam Trickey, a research fellow, says that across the Africa region, around 25.6m people are living with HIV, while

around 380,000 people will die from AIDS-related illnesses in 2022.

The researchers linked HIV prevalence data from more than 100,000 adults surveyed in Lesotho, Eswatini, Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda between 2014 and 2016 with historical rainfall patterns.

They observed that women living in drought-stricken rural areas had a higher likelihood of contracting HIV compared to their counterparts in unaffected regions or urban settings.

"We found that women in rural areas

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## 9 dead, 78 hospitalised in Pemba 'turtle' fiasco

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

EIGHT children and an adult died after eating sea turtle meat on Pemba Island mid last week while 78 other people were hospitalized, the government has said.

Hassan Khamis Hafidh, the deputy Health minister, told journalists here yesterday that 160 people were reported to have suffered from eating turtle meat at Panza village in Pemba South Region.

The deceased include eight children under the age of 10 and an elderly person, still getting treatment at the Abdallah Mzee Hospital in Pemba, he said.

Due to the food poisoning incident, the Health ministry moved to ban eating sea

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# World Bank ups population fears, sees solution in girls' education

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stunting rates "to give parents the confidence to have fewer children." The World Bank sees the focus on adolescent girls as vital, to promote the economic empowerment of women and girls to support their reproductive health and strengthen health-seeking behaviour and investments in their children, he stated.

Reiterating the institution's commitment to family planning, he said that by empowering young people to make the right decisions about reproductive health, "we can reduce the problem of early pregnancies, thereby improving the lives of young people and their newborns."

The country office is committed to collaborate with the government to ensure that Tanzania seizes the opportunity to overcome demographic challenges for sustained economic growth and development, he affirmed.

"We believe that investing in the health, education and skills for young people will provide a solid foundation for a thriving future," he further noted, highlighting that from June to December 2023, the local currency depreciated by 7.8

percent against the US dollar.

Gross reserves rose from \$5.2bn (4.8 months of imports) to \$5.5bn (4.5 months of imports at constant prices).

He was of the view that a flexible exchange rate framework and adequate foreign exchange reserves and other buffers will alleviate recent forex pressures that the country has been experiencing.

"Going forward, the gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to grow 5.6 percent in 2024, with the long-run potential of around 6 percent, supported by an improving business environment and ongoing structural reforms," he said.

At a growth rate of three percent, the population will double in 23 years, increasing the demand for essential services such as health and education, in excess of the economy's capacity to provide these and to create jobs and opportunities, he cautioned.

For example in the education sector, projections show that by 2061, the cost of public education would rise from the current 3.3 percent of GDP to 4.1 percent under the high fertility scenario but could drop to 2.9 percent under the low fertility scenario, the director added.

## BRELA wants CSR 'charity' label nixed

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Act (Chapter 213 of the laws of Tanzania) is outdated, with the agency highlighting loopholes and bringing them before stakeholders for discussion.

William Erio, the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) director general, had earlier said that im-

provements on the laws will help stimulate business creativity and innovation, boosting social and economic growth.

Up to the end of last year there was an increase in commercial projects worth \$5,720.36m, implying that traders can participate well in international markets, he added.

## 'Droughts raise HIV risks in rural Africa'

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who had been exposed to drought were more likely to acquire HIV than those who had not been exposed to drought," the researcher noted.

This was not the case, however, for women in urban areas or men in either rural or urban areas, in which case droughts, which have become more frequent and intense as a result of climate change, exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, particularly in rural communities heavily reliant on subsistence farming, he elaborated.

The study, published in the journal AIDS and Behaviour and funded by Wellcome, a health and wellbeing research trust, says that this translates to increased poverty and food insecurity, factors known to contribute to the spread of HIV.

Drought-induced hardship is often disproportionately borne by women, who may engage in transactional sex, particularly with older, richer men, to secure basic necessities.

The study also notes that droughts can exacerbate mental health issues and heighten gender-based violence, both of which are linked to risky sexual behaviours and can hinder access to vital HIV prevention and treatment services.

The researchers say their findings underscore the potential for a surge in HIV transmission if left unaddressed, with approximately 15 percent of habited land in Sub-Saharan Africa regularly experiencing drought, and showing high HIV prevalence.

One in five adults on the conti-

ment have HIV and the majority of the population relies on subsistence farming, creating a perfect storm of factors, the researcher noted.

Even minor climate shifts, combined with Africa's HIV burden and drought exposure, could dramatically impact HIV transmission, he stated, asserting that even if the changes are slight, due to the large number of people with HIV living in Africa and the large percentage who will likely be affected by drought, this change could have a large effect on the number of people acquiring HIV.

"If efforts can be continued to get everybody with HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa onto stable antiretroviral therapy, then this could counteract any increases from risky sexual practices caused by climate change increasing poverty and food insecurity," he said.

Mark Lieber, HIV clinical fellow at the Los Angeles Department of Health and Human Services, says the study puts flesh on the bones of the assumed link between climate change and HIV.

Drought was only one of the many environmental consequences of increased carbon emissions worldwide, while impactful interventions need to come not only from reducing carbon emissions but also developing resilience, through multidisciplinary collaborations, he said.

"Enhancing food security in the global South and empowering women are perhaps two of the best things we can do to protect the most vulnerable from the negative health impacts of climate change," the researcher added.



Vice President Philip Mpango makes remarks in Dodoma city at the weekend at an exhibition sponsored by the EU-funded CookFund Programme and held in tandem with a Women's Clean Cooking Conference hosted by the Energy ministry. To the VP's right is Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 9 dead, 78 hospitalised in Pemba 'turtle' fiasco

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turtle meat as it has potential for high toxicity due to the jellyfish they catch and eat in the sea.

Local experts list seven types of turtles where four types are seen as dangerous or harmful and should not be eaten, while the supposed exceptions can lead to disaster as was the case last week.

"It is difficult to detect a poisonous turtle among those seven types," the cabinet official noted, highlighting that sea turtle meat is considered a delicacy by various Isles communities.

The habit periodically results in deaths from chelonitoxism, a type of food poisoning, where Dr Farid Mpatani, the Chief Government Chemist (CGC) said turtles are poisoned by decarbamoylsaxitoxin, a poison embedded in the leaves and corals in the sea where turtles feed.

The poison harms the human cognitive system leading to the loss of energy, numbness, vomiting and diarrhea that leads to death, where children under 15 years of age are more vulnerable.

In pleading for tolerance over the turtle delicacy culture, he said

there are some creatures in the sea that can eat poisonous plants and not cause harm to humans.

Fatma Mohamed Kabole, the deputy director for prevention and health education at the ministry, said that those affected come from different families, expressing the worry that some affected individuals are being hidden in homes.

"That's why we still believe that it is possible that the number of victims may rise as people are hiding information on some of those who ate the meat," she said.

The ministry will intensify the provision of education to the com-

munity about not eating harmful sea creatures including turtles as there is no cure for the poisons likely to be ingested from these creatures, the director affirmed.

In November 2021, seven people, including a three-year-old, died on Pemba after eating turtle meat, with three others hospitalised.

Insiders say that communities living along the coastline have different beliefs about turtle meat and soup, some claiming that it has aphrodisiac properties also commonly associated with octopus meat for a section of city residents in Dar es Salaam.



Tanga regional commissioner Dr Batilda Buriani (C) pictured yesterday swearing in Col Evance Mtambi as Mkinga district commissioner, as Tanga regional administrative secretary Pili Mnyema looks on. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

## Experts call for closer China-Africa ties

WITH significant progress made in bilateral cooperation between China and Africa under the Belt and Road Initiative over the past 10 years, African experts have called for closer collaboration to deliver more benefits to the two sides.

"The African-Chinese partnership during the last 10 years is without question a great step forward which carries promise and huge potential for both sides," said Maged Refaat, a member of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, when speaking at just-ended 13th Meeting of the China-Africa Think Tanks Forum.

"We have all witnessed during the last decade how the Belt and Road Initiative grew from planning to execution."

In that time, the initiative greatly boosted infrastructure develop-

ment, connectivity and trade across Africa. In Egypt, a number of infrastructure and industrial development projects have been carried out, including the Central Business District in its new administrative capital, the Suez Canal Corridor and the Suez Canal Economic Zone, Refaat said.

"The BRI is a global economic endeavour like no other, which engages some 70 percent of the world's population and accounts for more than 50 percent of global GDP."

The BRI is one of the most important and far-reaching projects in modern history, he said.

More than 150 countries, including many European ones, have been involved in the initiative, which shows its vitality and potential in

promoting development and connection, Refaat said.

James Mdoe, deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, said at the opening ceremony of the meeting that BRI and other platforms for collaboration such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation have boosted Tanzania's development in various fields.

"The government of Tanzania recognizes the significant contributions made by China through the BRI in building infrastructure, promoting trade and people-to-people exchanges." China has offered thousands of scholarships to Tanzania and stepped up collaboration in vocational training," he said.

Ezechiel Nibigira, former foreign

minister of Burundi, told the meeting that relations between China and Africa are based on trust and mutual benefit and should be maintained.

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else; this is exactly what China is doing. I have a dream that some African developing countries will one day become developed countries because of the teamwork and the win-win cooperation established between China and Africa."

Nibigira described China as a friend that has been with Africa "during hard moments and good times", and suggested Chinese investment in Africa should be increased to promote industrialization in the continent.





A panel held as part of a conference on financial institutions organised by the Bank of Tanzania, whose focus was 'Strengthening Financial Sector Resilience in Challenging Economic Times', under way in Arusha city at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent

# Samia appoints new, reassigns DCs, DEDs

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has made some changes in regional administration line-up by appointing new district commissioners and district executive directors.

In a statement issued yesterday by the Directorate of Presidential Communications said that the swearing ceremony for the new appointees will take place today at the State House Dar es Salaam.

President Samia has promoted Christina Mndeme to the position of Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment). Prior to the appointment, she was serving as Shinyanga Regional Commissioner.

Former CCM Deputy Secretary General Anamringi Macha has been appointed the new Shinyanga Regional Commissioner.

In the same development, Japahari Kubecha has been appointed Lushoto District Commissioner from his previous position as Busega District Administrative Secretary where he will be replaced by new appointee Sangai Mambai.

The President has also appointed Mussa Kilakala as Pangani District Commissioner, transferring him from his previous post as Kaliua District Administrative Secretary where he is will be replaced by new appointee Raymond Mwili.

President Samia has appointed Robert Masunya the new Iringa District Executive Director, leaving vacant his position of senior official in the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups.

She has appointed Mwashabani Mrope as Korogwe District Executive Director following the appointment of Tito Nganwa as the Executive Director of Chamwino District Council.

Jacob Nkwera has been appointed Bukoba District Executive Director transitioning from his previous position as the Senior Officer at the Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB).

The President has also appointed Frederick Dagamiko the new Tanga City Council Director from his previous

directorship post in Songea Municipal Council.

Following his reassignment, Bashir Muhoja has been appointed as the Executive Director of Songea Municipal Council from his previous post in Iringa District Council.

The realignment comes as Tanzania heads to local government elections later this year and General Election next year.

# Minister demands value for money in IAA building

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

FINANCE minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba yesterday instructed leadership of the Institute of Accountancy Arusha (IAA) to closely supervise the construction of its academic building to meet quality standards and show value for money.

The minister said this yesterday during a foundation stone laying ceremony at IAA Dodoma campus in Njedengwa area.

He said it was imperative to also consider good management in the construction of hostel buildings, administration, classrooms as well as conference halls that are being built at Arusha and Babati campuses so that they implement the projects in accordance with quality standards, laws, procedures and guidelines for the use of public funds and complete the projects on time.

"Sustainable Development Goal 4 demands that every country be able to provide quality education to its citizens. I congratulate you for being at the forefront to support the efforts of the government in this area," he said.

Dr Nchemba further said that the government's expectations through the construction of educational infrastructure including classroom, conference halls, computer laboratories that are ongoing in Arusha, Babati and Dodoma campuses will be a catalyst in providing quality education to Tanzanians.

"I believe that the infrastructure will enable us to prepare competent experts in the areas of accounting, finance, banking, economics, information technology, human resources management, procurement and supply, business management, tourism, marketing and other

areas to meet the demands of the labour market," he said.

The minister urged the college to continue designing various programmes that can make more Tanzanians well informed and elevate themselves economically as well as conducting research that brings productivity for the nation.

Dr Mwamini Tulli, Chairperson of IAA Governing Council lauded the government for continuing to support the institute in the construction of its infrastructure with the aim of improving learning and teaching environment whereby in the course of two years, a total of 3bn/- has been received for the ongoing construction of Arusha and Babati campuses.

Dr Tulli promised that the institution will continue to manage the projects to make sure that the funds do the intended work as well as ensure the institute

produces competent graduates with the skills needed for national development.

IAA Rector Prof Eliamani Sedoyeka thanked the government for providing funds for the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project for which the institute has been allocated 48bn/- which is expected to improve the institute in various ways.

He said that in recognising that Dodoma is the capital city, IAA through Dodoma campus will continue to offer a master's degree programme for one year through evening classes as well as online sessions, adding that the institute expects to start offering evening classes for diploma.

The academic building with the capacity to hold 4,500 students at once is expected to be completed in July and launched for use in October this year.

**Jubilee**  
LIFE INSURANCE  
Jubilee Life Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Limited  
HEAD OFFICE: P.O. Box 20524 DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel: +255 2221176/180



**LOSS OF LIFE POLICY NO**  
T1201900049400  
**CHARLES YARED MAVUNDE**

Application has been made to this company for the issue of duplicate of the above numbered policy, the original having been reported as lost or misplaced. Notice is hereby given that unless objection is lodged to the contrary at the office of the company within thirty days from the date of this notice, duplicate policy will be issued, which will be sole evidence of the contract.

**Jubilee**  
LIFE INSURANCE  
Jubilee Life Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Limited  
HEAD OFFICE: P.O. Box 20524 DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel: +255 2221176/180

**LOSS OF LIFE POLICY NO**  
T1201900049385  
**CHARLES YARED MAVUNDE**

Application has been made to this company for the issue of duplicate of the above numbered policy, the original having been reported as lost or misplaced. Notice is hereby given that unless objection is lodged to the contrary at the office of the company within thirty days from the date of this notice, duplicate policy will be issued, which will be sole evidence of the contract.

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST  
PROVISION OF ANCHOR BOLT and REBAR  
Ref: MST-TZ-20240312**

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DOCG), as a CONTRACTOR for Storage Terminal of EACOP Project, invites experienced and reputable contractors that have demonstrable capability, willingness, ability and availability to perform related works to express their interest in providing BOLT and REBAR near Chongoleani area, Tanzania.

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania and an onshore Marine Terminal in Chongoleani, near Tanga Port in Tanzania.

**There are Two (2) packages planned for Storage and Terminal as follows:**

- Package-1: ANCHOR BOLT (Ref: MST-TZ-20240312-001)
- Package-2: REBAR (Ref: MST-TZ-20240312-002)

**Brief description of the scope of Services:**

- Package-1: ANCHOR BOLT (Ref: MST-TZ-20240312-001)  
The scope of the anchor bolts shall include the Bolt\nut\washer\pocket piug\anchor plate ,etc
- Package-2: REBAR (Ref: MST-TZ-20240312-002) the scope of the materials shall include hot rolled round steel bar, hot rolled ribbed steel bar, cold drawn twisted steel bar, etc..

**Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:**

- Company Profile, Proof of business license for Tanzania, Registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority and proof of Tanzania Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- An experience list for similar services supplied in the last Three (3) years;
- Confirmation that they can manufacture or purchase the required materials in accordance with project standards;
- A copy of their own and main suppliers ISO and OHSAS current certification or equivalent;
- Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations, 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania. f.Evidence of organization HSE Management Systems & policy, procedure, and process in compliance with applicable Industry standards for similar works.
- Quality assurance & Quality control plan/ procedures in place for the execution of similar type of work, Copy of ISO or any other certification as applicable.
- Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) data base at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.


Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in **English** language by sending the above documents to **zhaoning@docgi.cn; renhulin@docgi.cn;** (not exceeding 20 MBs) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on **26/Mar/2024**. Subject of the email should be **MST-TZ-20240312-001 EOI – [COMPANY NAME]**.

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by Company.

**DOCG reserves the right not to consider companies that submit an incomplete dossier.**

**Note:** Only prequalified companies will receive invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.

**TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)**



**INVITATION TO TENDER NO. TP/03/2024/NCB/W/006**

**PROVISION OF ANNUAL CIVIL AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE WORKS**

**13 March, 2024**

- Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER) is a hospitality storage facility for bulk fuel with its share divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Oryx Energies SA (Based in Switzerland). The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot # 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
- TIPER hereby invites via National Competitive Bidding (NCB) eligible to bid for the **Provision of Annual Civil and Building Maintenance Works.**
- Eligible bidders are reputable civil and building contractors locally registered by the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) as Class V and above with at least 5 years of experience working with reputable organizations.
- Bidders who don't meet condition stated in line 2 above are not eligible to bid for this tender.
- Interested and eligible bidders may request an electronic copy of the tender document by sending their request letters through the following email: **tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz** from **date 13 March, 2024 to 26 March 2024 from Monday to Friday, between 8:00 A.M.O.A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**
- Bidders MUST visit the site before bidding.** The site visit will be conducted on **Monday 18 March, 2024 from 10:30 am to 12:30 am** local time.
- During the site visit all bidders will be required to come with their own PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) which meets TIPER standards. This includes **Steel Toe Safety Boots, Cotton Overcoat, and helmets.** Static Reflective vests are not allowed onto site. Bidders without PPE will not be allowed onto the site.
- Bids **MUST** be submitted in hard copies only in envelopes sealed with postal seals or fire seals. Softcopies of bids should submit via a USB flash driver embedded in the hardcopies of bid submitted. No bid should be submitted by email.
- All bids submitted in plain sealed envelopes in one original plus one copy, properly filled and marked **TENDER NO. TP/03/2024/NCB/W/006 FOR PROVISION OF ANNUAL CIVIL AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE WORKS. All bids must be delivered physically to: The Secretary, Tender Committee, Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPER), P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam.**
- The deadline for submission of Tender documents will be **4.00 P.M. local time on 27 March, 2023.**
- There shall be **NO** public opening of bids.
- Late bids, a portion of bids, and electronic bids will not be considered for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- TIPER is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.

**THE SECRETARY, TENDER COMMITTEE,  
TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LIMITED (TIPER),  
P.O. BOX 2608,  
KIGAMBONI, DAR ES SALAAM.**



## Storm Filipo: Lightning has killed four in Mozambique

MAPUTO

FOUR individuals lost their lives and three others sustained injuries from lightning strikes in the town of Mogincual, Nampula province in Mozambique.

The nation braces for Storm Filipo, with the southern and central provinces on alert for severe thunderstorms. Filipo has made landfall and may intensify into a severe tropical storm before dissipating at sea.

Increased rainfall has already been recorded and there are fears of mudslides. Boats and vessels were warned by Mozambique's National Institute of Meteorology (Inam) to take precautions.

As it continues to move south-westwards across southern Mozambique, the winds will quickly weaken so the system will get downgraded to a tropical depression over the coming hours.

Although the winds will ease, Filipo will continue to bring some heavy falls of rain across southern Mozambique, with 1cm or more in places - so Filipo will continue to threaten some flooding.

More than 525,000 people could be affected by strong winds and flooding, according to Mozambique's National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (INGD).

Natural disasters are common in Mozambique, particularly during the rainy and cyclone season which runs between October and April.

*As it continues to move south-westwards across southern Mozambique, the winds will quickly weaken so the system will get downgraded to a tropical depression over the coming hours*



Selina Mkaro (R), one of the participants of a just-completed short business development training organised by Barrick North Mara gold mine, receives a participation certificate from Rorya district commissioner Juma Chikoka at the mine's premises yesterday. Witnessing the event are officials and instructors with the mine. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Public sensitisation on climate change effects paying off'

By **Guardia Reporter, Dodoma**

THE government has said that sensitization efforts have created more awareness about the effects of climate change as manifested in mitigation measures undertaken in various parts of the country.

Dr Selemani Jafo, Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) made the statement at a meeting in Dodoma yesterday when

presenting a report on the implementation of Sustainable Landscape Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation (SLR) project and the Sustainable Land Management of Lake Nyasa (SLM-Nyasa) to the Parliamentary Committee on Water and Environment.

Dr Jafo said due to the education on environment that is consistently provided, members of the public continue to participate in afforestation activities which contribute to availability of rain.

"Through public education on

environmental conservation, we have witnessed the benefits that people get from planting trees," he said.

Dr Jafo said that because of the effects of unsustainable human activities which contribute to environmental destruction along Lake Nyasa, the Vice President's Office was implementing the Tanzania Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Restoration Project to build the public's capacity to take measures to preserve land.

He said that through the project, people who benefit from the capacity building programme can improve their lives through alternative means to generate income and avoid deforestation activities or unsustainable fishing activities.

Dr Jafo said the Vice President's Office implements the project to improve inclusive supervision of the environment and restoration of areas that have been destroyed so as to create resilience in ecological systems.



### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR INDEPENDENT REVIEWS OF EACOP RAP IMPLEMENTATION IN TANZANIA REFERENCE NO. EOI-0000492

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) LTD ("EACOP LTD") invites experienced and reputable companies or organizations to express their interest to undertake a series of compliance reviews of EACOP Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) Implementation in Tanzania.

The EACOP Project involves the construction and operation of an underground and cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from Lake Albert area in Uganda to eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kibaale, Hoima District in Uganda to the Chongoleani peninsula in Tanga, Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,143 km, of which 296 km will be in Uganda and 1,147 km in Tanzania. In Tanzania the pipeline traverses eight (8) regions comprising of Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Manyara and Tanga.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

The EACOP Project (hereinafter "the Project") has acquired over 8800 acres of land for construction of the EACOP pipeline and Above Ground Installations affecting approximately 10 000 PAPs in Tanzania. Ten RAPs and one Supplementary RAP have been developed and disclosed to the public. Each RAP contains the Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP). This land has been permanently acquired, the Right of Occupancy (ROO) granted to Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), and a lease is being issued to EACOP. Following entitlement briefings and compensation agreement signing, payment of compensation has been completed to over 99% of PAPs. All replacement housing has been constructed and handed over to PAPs. The Notice to Vacate was completed in July 2023 and RAP Implementation is continuing accordingly.

According to the RAPs monitoring chapters, EACOP needs to undertake a number of compliance reviews of RAP Implementation as well as a completion audit 3 years after relocation. The reviews will establish whether EACOP has met the stated objectives of RAP implementation, identify any compliance gaps and corrective measures.

EACOP is seeking a reputable company or organization with a demonstrated track record of undertaking RAP implementation compliance evaluations to meet the requirements of the International Financial Cooperation Performance Standards (IFC PS) and Equator IV requirements and good International Industry Practice.

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies or organizations expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Certificate of Incorporation and BRELA search (Attach copy).
- Business license (Attach copy).
- Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority and Tax (TRA) Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- Proof of registration with EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database or an approved application for registration at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is required.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
- Brief description and evidence of experience of implementing and monitoring large-scale linear Resettlement and Livelihood Restoration projects and in Africa.
- CVs of senior experienced Resettlement and Livelihood Restoration experts available to the Company who have proven track record of undertaking RAP and LRP implementation and compliance reviews.
- Details of relevant experience in RAP Implementation compliance evaluations and due diligence for private sector clients or lender organizations, including on Livelihood Restoration programmes.
- Financial capacity to deliver the services required including submission of financial accounts for the past three years.
- Evidence of a QHSE Management system, organization, and process in compliance with applicable Local and Industry standards for similar works.
- Proof of Anti-corruption, Anti-bribery, Compliance and Human Rights policies.

Companies or organizations which have the ability, capacity, and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending an Expression of Interest (EOI) via email, together with the above listed documents through an email to [procurement.tz@eacop.com](mailto:procurement.tz@eacop.com) (max. email size 20Mb) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on or before **27<sup>th</sup> March 2024** Email address shall be **REQ-0000492 INDEPENDENT REVIEWS OF EACOP RAP IMPLEMENTATION - TANZANIA**.

Statements of EOI should be no more than ten (10) to twenty (20) pages long.



TANZANIA INVESTMENT CENTRE (TIC)

### CALL FOR MEETING WITH BIOSHAPE (T) LTD TO REVIEW PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Tanzania Investment Centre is reaching out to inform Bioshape (T) Ltd of its intention to discuss critical update regarding Bioshape (T) Ltd's agricultural project, specifically focusing on the Jatropha plantation initiative in the Kilwa District Council, Lindi Region.

Bioshape (T) Ltd was officially registered with TIC on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2007, and was awarded Certificate of Incentive No. 010240. This certification facilitated the commencement of an ambitious agricultural project aimed at establishing and operating a Jatropha plantation for bio-oil production across four villages: Mavuji, Migeregere, Nainokwe, and Liwiti. The project, initially scheduled between May 2007 and April 2010, sought to harness the potential of Jatropha as a sustainable biofuel source.

In light of the above, TIC is convening a meeting to thoroughly discuss the current status of the project's implementation and to deliberate on the future of the Certificate of Incentives No. 010240. This session is pivotal to understanding the progress made thus far and to plan way forward in alignment with the project's goals and objectives.

#### Meeting Details:

**Date: 20th March 2024**

**Time: 9:00 AM**

**Venue: TIC Head Office, Golden Jubilee Tower, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

Your presence at this meeting is highly valued, as it offers an opportunity for an in-depth review and constructive dialogue on the project's trajectory. Your participation is critical to the collaborative effort of ensuring the project's success and its contribution to the country's agricultural development.

Please note, in the event of your absence, TIC will proceed with the meeting and take necessary steps in accordance with the government laws to address the project's future.

Should you have any questions or require further information, do not hesitate to contact us through [info@tic.go.tz](mailto:info@tic.go.tz) or through mobile number **0786660777**

ISSUED BY  
TANZANIA INVESTMENT CENTRE (TIC)



# Set aside industrial parks to spur growth, councils urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

LOCAL government authorities have been urged to set aside special areas for investment activities to ease construction of factories and provide job opportunities and increase land value.

This appeal was made here yesterday by Kanuti Masha, acting manager for promotion and investment at Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) while addressing Morogoro regional leaders and members of business community.

"The authority is ready to cooperate with you to provide education, experience in planning areas, issuing licenses and advertise the areas to local and foreign investors," he said.

Masha said that despite EPZA providing various incentives for investment, especially licence and support for preparation of investment areas, very few councils and have been keen to allocate areas.

"As of December 2023, EPZA registered a total of 181 factories in Tanzania Mainland; these would not have found areas themselves

if you had not set aside areas for investment where the government provides various services such as electricity, water and roads. Some investors want to come and see the factory infrastructure so that they just install the machines," he said.

He said that when the investors don't get areas, they decide to look for areas themselves and the government does not get revenues such as land tax, adding that Tanzania Mainland has 25 investment special zones including eight established by EPZA in Dar es Salaam, Coast, Tanga, Ruvuma, Mara, Manyara and Dodoma regions.

Masha said there are two types of investment areas namely special investment areas for export managed by EPZA and Special Economic Zones (SEZ) established mainly to encourage economic activities aimed at promoting production of domestic products and exports which increases employment opportunities.

He said that criteria for recognition as an investor include to be registered with EPZA to benefit from various incentives, adding that new investment with starting capital of USD100,000 for local and

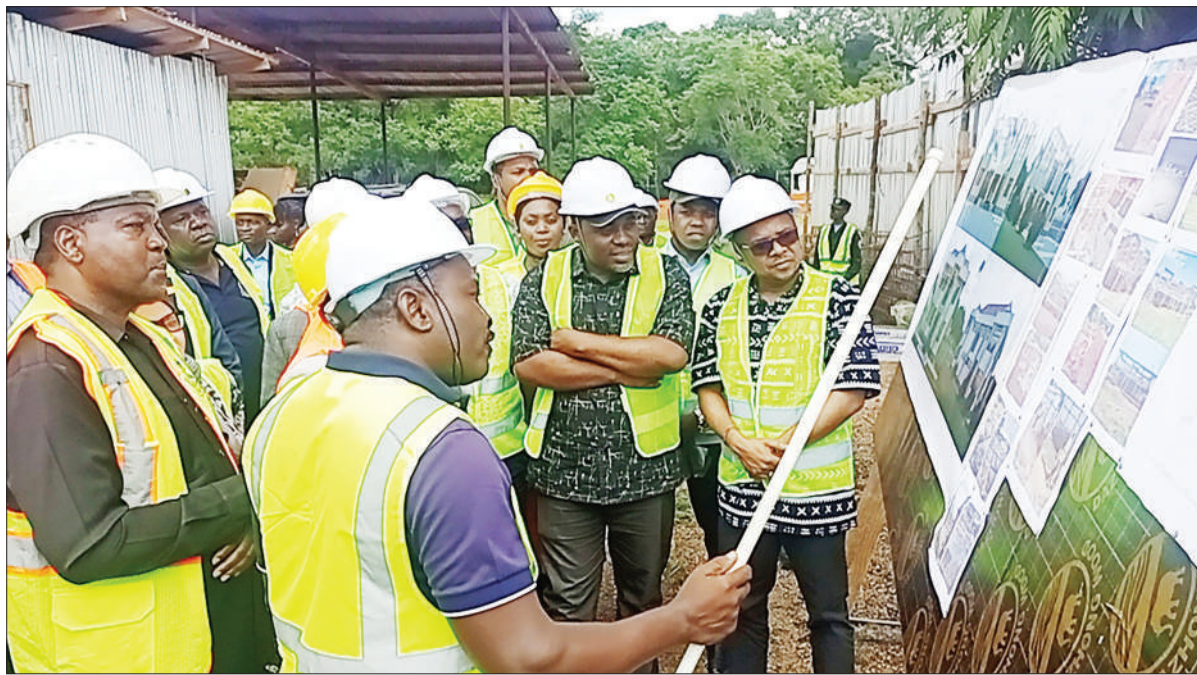
USD 500,000 for foreigners and must be in an area that is officially recognized by the government authority as an official investment area by having licence.

Grace Njawa, acting Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretary in charge of industry, trade and investment, urged district councils to grab the opportunities and asked that measures be taken to control unscrupulous businesspeople who change or misuse EPZA licences or incentives provided by the government.

She said that before, many district councils were unable to allocate areas because of not knowing their importance and believed that the move was a waste of land resources, time and money.

Alphonse Eugen one of the investors from Tanzania Teak Limited said despite being on tax exemption, district council officials have been disturbing them and charging them taxes whereby a piece of wood measuring one cubic metre is charged 10,000/- by the council while they have not reached three years since starting production.

"Unfriendly road infrastructure and regular power outages pose challenges to production," he said.



Engineer Julius Sokambi (with stick) briefs members of the Parliamentary Administration, Constitution and Law Standing Committee who were on an on-site inspection tour of progress in the construction of Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau offices in Iringa municipality yesterday. Right is Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance) Ridhiwan Kikwete. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

## MADRID

SPANISH maritime rescuers have said they had pulled out 38 people alive and recovered the remains of two others from a migrant boat that had left West Africa and was trying to reach the Canary Islands.

The boat was spotted by a merchant ship 140 km south of Gran Canaria on Monday evening.

Four people in critical condition were evacuated to a hospital aboard two helicopters, while 34 others were transported by boat to the port of Arguineguin, Spain's maritime rescue service said. Among the survivors are seven women.

Spanish authorities face an influx of migrants and refugees from West Africa reaching the archipelago, a

## Two dead, 38 rescued from capsized boat with migrants

springboard to continental Europe.

Nearly 12,000 people fleeing poverty, conflict and instability in West Africa arrived in the Canaries in the first two months of the year, according to the Spanish Interior Ministry, more than six times the number recorded during the same period last year.

Most migrants set out from the Mauritanian coast on artisanal fishing boats called pirogues and navigate for several days against the strong winds and currents of the Atlantic. While thousands of people survived this risky journey, many

died or disappeared along the way and the remains were sometimes washed across the Atlantic.

Last week, two canoes that had left Mauritania for Spain were found adrift hundreds of kilometres away, near the Cape Verde archipelago, after failing to reach their destination, according to the police.

Eleven survivors were rescued from one boat and five more from the second boat, but one person later died. Five bodies were also found and dozens more were believed to have been lost at sea.

## By Nkechi Ogbonna, Lagos

THE price of beer is set to rise once again in Nigeria because of the rising cost of production, leading brewer has announced.

This is the third time in less than a year that consumers will be paying more for their refreshment. Nigeria Breweries said the new prices would take effect next weekend, seven months after the last reset.

Nigeria Breweries is the largest and oldest brewery in the country, but last year, it recorded a net loss of 106bn naira (\$66m: £53m) because the depreciation of the naira, the local currency, made importing the ingredients more expensive.

In recent months, local manufacturers in many sectors hiked product prices as the country faces the worst economic crisis in a generation.

## Nigeria: Beer prices to rise for the third time in a year

Lack of access to foreign currency which would be used to import raw materials and the poor power supply are among key factors impacting the cost of production and doing business in Nigeria.

The high food and transportation costs have forced many into poverty.

On Monday, Nigerian Breweries' zonal business manager, Lekan Awosanya, announced a new price increase and the new price review will take effect from Friday, March 15, 2024.

According to the notice, the latest price review is premised on the need to mitigate the impact of rising input costs.

"As earlier informed, we will

review the prices of some of our SKUs effective Friday 15th March 2024. This review has become necessary because of the continued rising input cost and the need to mitigate the impact.

"All open orders in our system at 00.00hrs on Friday 15th of March, 2024 will be invoiced at the new prices."

Nigeria Breweries is the producer of Star lager beer, Gulder lager beer, Legend Extra Stout, Heineken lager beer, Life Continental lager, Ace Passion, Star Lite and Star Radler, 33 Export lager beer, Williams dark ale, Turbo Kings dark ale, More lager beer, Star Radler Red Fruits, and Desperados, amongst others.

KOICA  
Korea International  
Cooperation Agency

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 06 Mar 2024 (Wed)  
Invitation No.: KOICA-TZ-SM-1

1. KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) Tanzania Office invites foreign and local eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Supply and Installation of Solar Power Equipment and Rehabilitation Work for 'Serengeti Media Center' in Serengeti National Park.

### Brief of Bidding

. Bid No.	KOICA-TZ-SM-1
. Bid Title	Procurement of Supply and Installation of Solar Power Equipment and Rehabilitation Work for 'Serengeti Media Center' in Serengeti National Park.
. Scope of Service	Solar power equipment supply, conveyance and installation Solar power system repair including electric works Rehabilitation of the Serengeti Media center
. Item	Solar Power Equipment (20 types, 656 items) Repair of roofing, windows, finishing, painting and decorations, plumbing, air condition and ventilation, fire alarm installation of the Serengeti Media center *For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment
. Procurement	Supply of required equipment with the same or higher specification listed in Requirements (Section 4.5), User manual in English or Swahili, Quality assurance are required
. Delivery	Delivery to the Serengeti Media center (The expense related to the delivery paid by the contractor) - Specific transportation schedules will be determined through coordination between the contracting entity and KOICA. - The contractor is responsible for bearing the transportation costs associated with the shipment. - The contractor is required to handle the transportation along the supply order and is accountable for any issues arising during transportation. - After completing the transportation, the contractor must notify KOICA and submit a final delivery confirmation document that can be verified by relevant country officials of TANAPA, stating that "all items were transported without any damage or issues."
. Inspection, installation and repair	Equipment inspection by KOICA Office, Construction Manager hired by KOICA office and TANAPA before and after installation. Solar power system repair including electric works
. Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of the Serengeti Media center *For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment
. Defects Liability Security	Defects Liability Security 2 year after KOICA's Inspection on Installation, Rehabilitation and Repair
. Duration	total contract period : 6 months from the date of signing the contract <b>Delivery of the solar power system items : within 4 months from the contract signing date</b> <b>Installation of the solar power system : within 1 month from the date of delivery.</b>
. Project Budget	USD 152,545 (excluding value-added taxes and other fees)
. Projected Estimated Price	refer to (f) Estimated Price below

- Goods for procurement :**
  - Solar Power Equipment (20 types, 656 items)
  - Repair of roofing, windows, finishing, painting and decorations, plumbing, air condition and ventilation, fire alarm installation of the Serengeti Media center
  - \* For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment
- Delivery :** Delivery to the Serengeti Media center (The expense related to the delivery paid by the contractor)
  - Specific transportation schedules will be determined through coordination between the contracting entity and KOICA.
  - The contractor is responsible for bearing the transportation costs associated with the shipment.
  - The contractor is required to handle the transportation along the supply order and is accountable for any issues arising during transportation.
  - After completing the transportation, the contractor must notify KOICA and submit a final delivery confirmation document that can be verified by relevant country officials of TANAPA, stating that "all items were transported without any damage or issues."
- Bid Type :**
  - Lowest Price Technically Acceptable (LPTA)
  - Qualification and Cost Based Selection
- Selection of the Successful Bidders**
  - Selection by Two-Stage Bidding (Technical Proposal and Price Quotation)
- Bidder's qualification requirement :**
  - (a) Those who have submitted the application for the participation in this bid by the deadline.
  - (b) A legitimate and lawful entity legally established by the relevant laws and regulations of Tanzania
    - Must be a legally registered company;
    - Has no impediments to tax refunds and fulfill their tax obligations.
    - Bid applicant must possess the necessary documents, including the latest three years' tax payment certificates and social insurance payment confirmation.
    - Bidders with outstanding payment records will be disqualified
  - (c) Anyone with licenses to perform required services in designated places
    - ① Have a valid registration by Tanzania Government to perform procurement, installation and operation of equipment including solar power system in Tanzania at least for 5 years or more
    - ② Have a valid work permit, resident permit and any legal permit to perform procurement of equipment in Tanzania
  - (d) Anyone not sanctioned or penalized by international organizations or governments as ineligible entities.
    - Pledge (Such pledge shall contain the bidder's declaration that it has never been subject to any sanction prior to participating in this bid and it will not raise any objection against the termination and nullification of the contract if its declaration is found to be untrue)
  - (e) (In case of Korean firms) Anyone not sanctioned by the Korean government as ineligible (or such sanction is expired) in accordance with Article 27 of the National Contract Law (Law on Contracts to Which the State is a Party), Article 31 of the Local Government Contract Law or Article 39 of the Management of Public Institutions Law
  - (f) Anyone never been punished by any government on the charges of bribery.
    - ODA Project Anti-Corruption Pledge
  - (g) Direct or indirect provision of cash or entertainment in exchange for a favor in this procurement procedure is prohibited.
    - Anti-Corruption and Integrity Contract
  - (h) The Bidders will not offer or receive money, goods, entertainment, or any other benefit directly or indirectly in the course of making or accepting a bid or signing or performing a contract (and even after the completion of the relevant project or the delivery of goods).
    - Integrity Pledge
    - ※ Whenever required by the Employer, the Bidders shall be able to present their legitimacy in manners that are satisfactory to the Employer.
- Details of the work scope :** kindly refer to the Bid Data Sheet
- Bidding explanation :** None
  - In order to provide the same information to all bidders equally and fairly, KOICA Tanzania Office will not respond to telephone inquiries.
  - Email to [tzkoica@gmail.com](mailto:tzkoica@gmail.com)
  - Inquiry deadline : **13 Mar (Wed)-15 Mar (Fri) 2024 11:00am**
  - Response will be posted on KOICA Tanzania Office website on **18 Mar 2024 (Mon).**
- Application for bidding**
  - Those who intend to participate in this bid shall submit the application via email [tzkoica@gmail.com](mailto:tzkoica@gmail.com).
  - When the application is submitted, the title of email shall be the name of this bid.
  - Deadline : by **13 Mar 2024 (Wed) 15:00 pm**
  - Email address : [tzkoica@gmail.com](mailto:tzkoica@gmail.com)
  - Required documents : Application (in the prescribed form)
- Submission Place :**
  - Submission: Visit
  - Deadline (date): **by 20 Mar 2024 (Wed) 15:00 pm**
  - Place (address): **KOICA Tanzania Office** P.O.Box 31370, 8th floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No.66, Chabruma Road, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam
  - Person in charge : Ms. Jade Jonathan Program officer
  - Contact details : +255 22-292-6581
- Time, date of closing**
  - Submission: Visit
  - Deadline : by **20 Mar 2024 (Wed) 15:00 pm**
  - Place : **KOICA Tanzania Office** P.O.Box 31370, 8th floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No.66, Chabruma Road, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam
  - Person in charge : Ms. Jade Jonathan Program officer
  - Contact details : +255 22-292-6581
- Time, date of opening :**
  - Time, date of opening : **21 Mar 2024 (Thu) 10:00**
  - Place of Opening : **KOICA Tanzania Office** P.O.Box 31370, 8th floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No.66, Chabruma Road, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam
  - ※ All bid participants are strongly recommended to attend such bid opening.
  - This may be attended by Bidders or their representatives.
  - ※ In accordance with Article 11.1. of the Regulations for Procurement and Contract in Grant Aid Projects, the bid limit is equals to the expected price.
- The available budget for this procurement assignment is **152,545USD** and Bidders' Proposals should not exceed this budget. Any bid exceeding the project budget may result in rejection of its bid.
- The Bidding Documents include the following documents: Documents for Submission (refer to the attached Section 3 Bidding Forms)
  - ① Bid Application Form
  - ② Bidder's information sheet
  - ③ Form of Bid
  - ④ Experiences Form
  - ⑤ Financial Statement
  - ⑥ Declaration of anti-Corruption in ODA Business participation
  - ⑦ Integrity Pledge
  - ⑧ Bid security
  - ⑨ Eligibility Pledge that the Bidder is not on the Lists of Sanction and Penalty
  - ⑩ Joint Venture Summary (if applicable)
  - ⑪ Joint Venture Agreement (if applicable)
  - ⑫ Letter of Certified Copy Confirmation (if applicable)
  - ⑬ License & Registration : one set of documents evidencing the applicant's eligibility to participate in the Bid
  - written confirmation authorizing the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder
  - Latest/valid Certificate of business Registration.
  - Copy of valid registration issued demonstrating bidder is eligible/authorized to provide works (procurement of solar power system equipment) in Tanzania
  - a certificate from the tax inspectorate on the absence of debt;
  - a certificate from the social fund on the absence of debt;
  - latest three years' tax payment certificates, social insurance payment confirmation
  - ⑭ Power of Attorney : documents evidencing the authenticity of the applicant's signature or seal power of attorney (not required if representative submit the application)
  - ⑮ Original Letter for Submission
  - ⑯ Materials of Qualification Examination
  - 1) List and value of contracts for the last five years of similar works plus client's contact details (name and email address) who may be contacted for further information on those contracts.
  - \* The company should provide the performance certificate of similar projects in the past five years (2019-2023)
  - 2) CV, certificate & proof of employment of the technical personnel has to be attached along with the bid document.
  - \* CV of the technical personnel has to indicate the project area, scale and financier of each project
  - ※ Evaluation and Qualification Criteria must be duly completed and signed and in accordance with Annex 1
  - ⑰ Any other documents specified in the Bid Data Sheet.
  - ⑱ Sealed bid price duly completed and signed
- Language of Proposal:** English
- KOICA Tanzania Office requires that bidders and contractors observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, KOICA:
  - (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
  - (b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by KOICA.
- The KOICA now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at KOICA Tanzania Office webpage, [tzkoica@gmail.com](mailto:tzkoica@gmail.com) for inquiry and issuance of bidding documents and cable/telex/facsimile numbers.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of five per cent (5%) or higher of Total Bid Price or stated fixed amount, and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or prior to the bid date until after 30 days or more of the bid opening date.
  - Types of bid security: Bank guarantee, irrevocable credit, cash, certified check, or equivalent.
  - ※ The bid security will be surrendered to KOICA if the bidder who has been awarded the contract fails to conclude and sign the contract within the set period of negotiation or withdraws from the bid after the notification of award.
- KOICA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders



# Company leaders given business expansion skills

By Guardian Correspondent, Musoma

LEADERS from 19 companies in Mara Region have been equipped with essential skills meant to enable them expand their businesses.

The companies, including those that surround North Mara Gold Mine in Tarime District have benefited from the training under the Local Business Development Programme implemented by Barrick Gold Corporation.

Speaking during the closure of the training on Monday here, Barrick North Mara general manager, Apolinary Lyambiko, said the training was a continuation of the company's strategy to ensure that Tanzanian companies benefit from various opportunities within mining sector and others fields.

North Mara Gold Mine is jointly administered in partnership between Barrick and the government through a subsidiary company, Twiga Minerals Corporation.

"Our major goal is to help these companies invest in innovative measures to improve quality of their products and services towards winning local and international markets in the current competitive economic environment," he said.

Lyambiko said Barrick Gold has continued to provide opportunities for the local business community to serve and supply products in the mine in efforts meant to back the government's efforts to lift up traders and promote economic growth in the country.

He cited an example of the amount of \$37.4 million (95bn/-) which has been paid to various local suppliers for the year 2023 to promote the 'Local Content' philosophy.

According to him, so far the company has registered 118 local companies which benefit from various commercial opportunities in the mine, producing a total of 1,144 jobs to people surrounding the mine.

Juma Chikoka, Rorya District Commissioner commended Barrick Gold for the training programme, saying apart from broadening the understanding of the participants, it helped them see various existing opportunities both within and outside the mine.

Annasia Kwayu, manager in charge of financial audit, tax review and local content at the Mining Commission commended Barrick Gold for the initiative, saying it will help broaden the knowledge of participants and enable them benefit from various opportunities within and outside the mine.

Kwayu said the initiative was a clear example of the implementation of the Mining Act, 2010 and the Local Content regulations of 2018.

Selina Mkaro, one of the beneficiaries from Kemanyaki Contractors Company said the training has greatly helped to broaden her knowledge on the importance of working efficiently, producing quality products in order to benefit from various business opportunities.

## OUT seeks copyright protection of online examination system

By Guardian Correspondent,

Bagamoyo

THE Open University of Tanzania (OUT) is keen to get copyright protection of an online oral examination system (OREX) it developed four years ago at the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This came after the innovation impressed various education institutions, including China's Shanghai Open University which has shown interest in adopting it.

OREX is a mode of assessment whereby examiners meet candidates through a virtual examination room with the support of a web-based audio-visual conferencing tool.

Prof Deus Ngaruko, OUT Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics, Research and Consultancy made the remarks on Monday here during the opening of a three-day training on protection of technological innovations provided to staff of the university.

The training was provided by experts from the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA), Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA) and the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH).

According to him, the China-based institution has been impressed by the innovative system and works to start using it.

Prof Ngaruko said the system was developed by OUT during the Covid-19 pandemic to enable students conduct their examinations wherever they were.

He said the structural design of OREX framework provides a viable assessment solution that overcomes the limitations of traditional physical oral and written examinations while ensuring the continuity of education delivery during challenging times.

He said during the pandemic, the university managed to continually conduct online lectures through audio-visual collaboration tools for video conferencing services in both synchronous and asynchronous modes of delivery but faced a major challenge on how to administer examinations.

"Due to the global outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, several higher learning institutions tried to develop solutions to maintain online learning and assessment for their students, the coming of OREX was good news to us and our students," he said.

Prof Ngaruko said due to the increasing innovations by various institutions, it was important to invest in protecting the innovations legally in order to benefit from them.

According to him, the system was among many innovations developed by the university and has continued to invest in research to come up with more technological solutions to address various challenges facing the society and boost the education sector.

Advocate Nelly Mushi, OUT Council Secretary said the training came at the right time with the legal department of the university participating effectively in order to correctly advise on the copyright area.

Dr Harrieth Mtae, Director of Research, Publication and Innovation at OUT thanked the university's management for coming up with the training to ensure that its staff are equipped with prerequisite skills to protect innovations.



**Due to the global outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, several higher learning institutions tried to develop solutions to maintain online learning and assessment for their students, the coming of OREX was good news to us and our students**



Kinondoni district commercial officer Philipo Mwakibete briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the beginning of operations at Dar es Salaam's newly completed Mwenge commuter bus stand. He said the facility can comfortably handle up to 300 buses at a go and already 40 have been registered for the purpose and are in business. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Tanroads pleads for road protection as repair works complete

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

TANZANIA National Roads Agency (Tanroads) has appealed to Singida Region residents to protect road infrastructure which cost Tanzanian taxpayers a lot of money by not conducting human activities within road reserves as has been the case.

Msama Kosani, Tanroads Singida regional manager, made the call on Monday when speaking about accomplishments of President Samia Suluhu Hassani in her three

years in office.

The manager said that the government invests a significant amount of funds in the construction of roads hence residents have the responsibility to take care of them.

"Singida residents and road users are kindly requested to remember that the government has invested a significant amount of money in the development of road infrastructures, thus it is their responsibility to ensure they are maintained," he said.

He warned them to exercise

extreme caution to avoid encroaching areas designated as road reserves which he said should stay open for possible expansion in the future without incurring huge compensation costs.

Yohanes Mbegalo, head of Tanroads maintenance department in Singida Region said the region has roads with a total length of 1,718.31 kilometers whereby 490 are tarmac and 1,228 are gravel and clay.

He said that for a three-year period beginning 2021/2022

financial year, the government disbursed a total of 93.3bn/- to Tanroads for road maintenance throughout Singida Region. "The roads are all easily passable and the work has been completed efficiently with local contractors only," he said.

James Hezra, Kagwa General Supply Company director, said that additional awareness is still needed in order to protect road infrastructure for residents to stop encroaching reserves and destroying infrastructure.



Tanzania Gender Networking Programme executive director Lilian Liundi, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday speaking at a capacity building meeting meant to sensitise women on gender equality and leadership. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Jenifer Gilla

CLEAN cooking energy stakeholders yesterday launched a special campaign aimed at increasing access to clean cooking energy.

Organized by the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) through Bongo FM station, the campaign dubbed 'Pika Kijanja' seeks to facilitate access to energy-efficient electric stoves through collaboration with innovators and the government.

It also aims to change the behaviour of energy usage by emphasizing the use of clean energy such as electricity in cooking, thereby contributing to sustainable development and a cleaner environment.

## Campaign kicks off to promote energy-efficient electric stoves

Speaking at the launch event in Dar es Salaam, Chairman of Tanzania Renewable Energy Association (TAREA), Prosper Magali, emphasized the importance of using electricity for cooking, saying that it is a more cost-effective option compared to other energy sources.

"We are promoting the use of electric stoves due to their availability and cost-effectiveness. These stoves consume minimal electricity, thus reducing energy costs for Tanzanians," said Magali.

Sayuni Mbwilo, energy engineer with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said that the organisation has continued to ensure quality standards are met for stoves imported into the country.

"We have introduced a policy with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to ensure that stoves entering the country are of high quality and meet the required standards. This will ensure citizens access quality appliances," said Mbwilo.

The campaign also aims to provide education to citizens on the proper use of electric stoves to reduce energy excess consumption and associated costs of cooking.

Director of Radio services at TBC Aisha Dachi expressed the public broadcaster's commitment to continue the campaign and reach more citizens across the country.

"After this launch, we will continue to visit rural areas and hold events to ensure every citizen receives education on the use of clean and safe energy," she said.





Zanzibar's Education and Vocational Training minister, Lela Muhammed Mussa (3rd-L), pictured on Monday receiving 250 desks from NMB Bank's Zanzibar Cluster manager, Naima Said Shaame (2nd-L). The desks are meant for Zanzibar's Uzini and Kidimni primary schools. Photo: Guardian Photographer

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Heart surgery camp in Dar will save 500m/-, says JKCI

THE Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) expects to save 500m/- which the government would have spent to send 15 heart patients abroad for treatment that is being offered at a camp for heart and blood vessel surgery in Dar es Salaam.

The special five-day camp is conducted by JKCI health professionals in collaboration with their colleagues from the US-based CardioStart International for patients who need surgical treatment.

Dr Peter Kisenge, JKCI executive director said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that CardioStart International Organization started collaborating with JKCI since 2019 and they have since held five specialized camps for heart treatment.

He said apart from providing medical services, the organization also provide medical equipment for heart surgery treatment for JKCI worth more than 200m/-.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan has developed a good relationship with various countries, a relationship that has enabled us to exchange knowledge and provide good services patients," he said.

Dr Aubyn Marath, Adult Cardiothoracic Surgeon who is President of CardioStart International said JKCI has continued to improve even after the challenges occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said that JKCI has continued to be on the side of professional experts, professional services and the ability to save lives of patients despite all challenges.

Dr Marath said CardioStart International has been uniting health professionals working in heart surgery room to ensure that cooperation in providing services to patients is done at a high level to save lives.

"JKCI experts have continued to show their expertise, integrity and dedication to ensure that heart treatment services continue to be available here in Tanzania, I congratulate you for that", he said.

Dr Evarist Nyawawa, JKCI cardiothoracic surgeon said CardioStart International has been enabling the institute's specialists to provide major heart surgery and blood vessel transplant services since initiation of the treatment.

Dr Nyawawa said apart from providing surgical training to JKCI, Dr Marath has been linking the institute's experts with various colleges for knowledge sharing.

"I am one of the experts of JKCI that Dr Marath connected with one of the college in Brazil where I received training on heart and blood vessel surgery," he said.

## Kagame agrees to meet Tshisekedi over turmoil in eastern DR Congo

LUANDA

RWANDA'S President, Paul Kagame, has confirmed his readiness to engage in talks with Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in order to tackle the ongoing crisis in eastern Congo.

The announcement follows mediation efforts led by the Angolan government, with President João Lourenço serving as the African Union's mediator in the DRC crisis.

The agreement was reached after a meeting held in Luanda, Angola's capital, between President Kagame and President Lourenço. Angola's Foreign Minister, Tete Antonio, informed the press that President Kagame had agreed to meet President Tshisekedi at a time to be determined by the mediator.

Minister Antonio further revealed that both Rwanda and DRC had consented to the meeting, with ministerial delegations from both countries actively working towards facilitating the dialogue.

Rwanda's presidency released

a statement, indicating that both leaders had "agreed on key steps towards addressing the root causes of the conflict," signalling a potential breakthrough in resolving the crisis.

This development comes in the wake of escalating tensions in eastern DRC, where clashes between M23 rebels and Congolese forces have resulted in the displacement of over 100,000 people, according to reports from the United Nations.

However, prior to this agreement, President Tshisekedi had demanded the withdrawal of Rwandan troops from Congolese territory as a precondition for the meeting, a condition that Rwanda vehemently denies.

President Kagame's willingness to engage in dialogue underscores the importance of regional cooperation in addressing the complex challenges facing the Great Lakes region.

Accusations of Rwandan support for M23 rebels have further complicated the situation, with Kigali vehemently denying any involvement in the conflict.

## Mourning as rogue elephant tramples tour guide to death

JOHANNESBURG

CONSERVATIONISTS in South Africa are mourning a Zimbabwean tour guide who has been trampled to death by a charged elephant at Gondwana Private Game Reserve.

David Kandela, 36, was leading a group of tourists on Sunday evening when the tragedy happened, the reserve said in a statement quoted by local media.

It added that the incident occurred as one of Gondwana's herds of elephants was passing through Gondwana's tented Eco Camp.


"The herd had nearly passed through the camp when David encountered the last remaining elephant just before the tragic event

occurred," the statement added. Fellow tour guides and tour operators described Kandela as an expert guide who had a deep passion for his work.

Such incidents are rare, but elephants are said to be easily disturbed by high number of tourists especially in areas that are not designated for safari tourists.

Elephants are a major tourist attraction in southern Africa.

Elephants tend to crop-raid at night time, and farmers confronting elephants in the dark are often left with no choice but to throw stones and fire crackers or shoot bullets into the air to try to scare them away. This confrontation leads to heightened aggression and some elephants charge and attack.



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## Investing in children should start with cheap consumer goods in poor homes

ANOTHER round of international discussions on health, food security, nutrition and children is under way in Dar es Salaam.

It is the form of a four-day international conference on early child care, upbringing and development running under the theme: 'Investing in early childhood; building human capital along the life course'.

A clarion call was given underlining the need for African countries to invest in a healthier productive workforce, a theme cultivated not so long ago, to a certain number of beneficial impressions.

All such gatherings matter, since a global and effective viewpoint on massive cross-cutting issues is complicated.

There were auxiliary issues which aren't far from the main issues - for instance the whole issue of the corrupting and otherwise damaging influences when young children aged five or slightly above are exposed to 'disruptive' social media images.

At times it is cartoons of films and even school exercises intended to take their minds in a certain direction, in which case danger lurks on the children in all directions.

It may start with faulty care of pregnancy and being born with inbuilt setbacks to nutritional and eventually social exposure in growing up.

Health experts and top-level social welfare workers warn that the use of electronic devices by children requires maximum supervision.

Thus, African countries need to exhaustively ponder controls with respect to the use of technology by children - which is complicated.

This is without even focusing on children below five, as Community Development, Gender, Elderly, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima aptly noted.

Indeed, even at an adult level, negative exposure has an impact, in which case few proper defences could

be recommended for children.

Things like exposure to technology have so many levers that policy as such can't work, starting with a situation where proper parental upbringing is a problem, especially when the mother is engaged in full-time work outside home.

With the fulsome campaign to have as many women as men having independent income-generating outlets, alerting an international conference on the need to take closer care of children may sound a bit unconvincing, but it definitely has its merits.

It is evident that the liberation of women has costs to it, especially in upbringing. Still, the overriding conference theme and indeed in practice it is how a healthy workforce can be assured.

It is not just being relatively fit physically but, more intensely, being mentally fit to be an achiever.

Laying the accent on policy as such can ensure that appropriate childcare and upbringing is difficult to figure out.

Public investments in health, nutrition, learning and early stimulation, responsive nurturing, child protection and safety may be hard to attain, even as all these relate to personal and family expenditure.

For a child to grow up smart and ready to be a productive adult is both a matter of aptitude in upbringing and compulsion in life.

Much depends on a range of decisions outside one's ability or mistakenly believed to be in a particular person's favour.

But, for one thing, the health of children starts with how much a person can buy for the children, in which case the government can ensure that people invest in nutrition and hence health of children.

That is in part assuming that there are far fewer taxes than currently obtains - numerous more jobs than is now the case.

## Duty in the family shifting to durable friendships, tolerance

SOMEONE has lately decided to 'break the silence' around family issues in the wake of International Women's Day celebrations, saying that duties must be fulfilled before the advocating of equality.

The militant credited with having espoused that position in a professional gathering comes from the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA). It wasn't part of celebrating.

What the advocate stated must have sounded anathema to militants listening to that speech, as to bona fide feminists it smacked of the old patriarchal assertions that women have to be careful when crusading for equality.

The idea that women must fulfil all their 'required duties and responsibilities' at the family level is contentious because rights come before duties. Indeed, in the final analysis, it is the scope of rights that sets out fairness and the whole idea of duty.

There was something accurate in what the counter-militant said - in that a number of women have been forgetting their roles when asserting their rights, thus engendering conflicts in families.

Yes, that is true, but a militant would not just ask women to take note of those responsibilities without making the demand reciprocal.

Part of the trouble lies in the fact that reciprocity is not part of what is being discussed, which is affirming or denying women's equality with men in families, irrespective of how far men fulfil their duties.

In that when the advocate says that owing to the on-going campaigns to fight for equality in the society, some women have started to misuse

education by claiming rights which in reality are not theirs, the issue is where this is decided.

It can't possibly be via custom as that is the first culprit in women's oppression, and the bedrock of family as an institution. It is a litany of complications.

Surely, what basically defines a family or a conjugal relationship as a family can be split at a conjugal level and be retained in that way is a set of prohibitions rather than duties.

It is precisely in this direction that the family institution appears to be in crisis, as it demands a lot of tolerance along the way for two relatively free people to coexist in a family where there is ranking rather than command.

Conjugal unions are maintained essentially for social harmony and social respect, but wishing to avoid a breakdown might lead to violence to correct the conjugal partner, as it were.

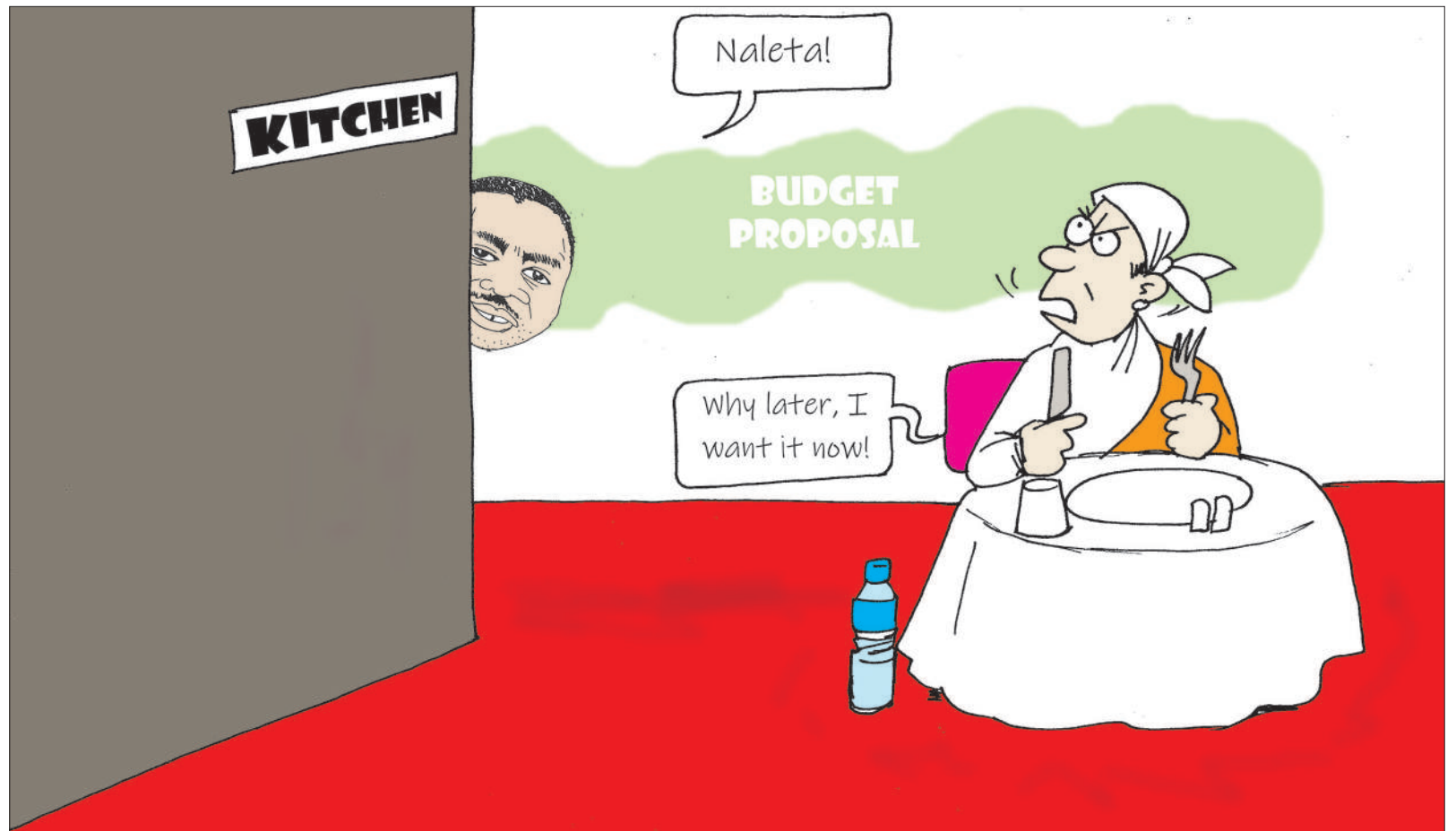
If violence is removed, the corresponding situation will be relativising the family, where one freely enters - or leaves.

There are no easy answers in accommodating women's liberation and conjugal duty, as this sense of liberation is relative and reciprocal.

The wish to separate the freedom to work, practise a profession, run a business and remain within traditional duties for everything else is a challenging equation.

It is a bit uncertain if the militant went as far as sorting this out but, then, let's just hope for the best as each woman sorts out the matter, 'in the castle of her skin'.

That suggests that people remain mindful of their happiness, remaining free as practicable as they were before the conjugal union and with their conscience guiding them on what to do and what direction to take.



ABUJA

LILIAN Eze still shivers when she recalls the frequent attacks by kidnapers in the Kaduna community she once lived in, in north-central Nigeria. In February 2022, she fled with her children to Abuja, the nation's capital, to ensure their safety.

In an interview with IPS, she explained that the kidnapers would invade the community on foot and with a horde of motorbikes in the evenings with little or no resistance from security agencies.

They would indiscriminately fire gunshots into the air, instilling fear among residents, before forcibly taking their victims to remote areas in the forest, where they would be held captive until ransom was paid. But not all victims make it out alive.

"When it started, sometime around 2017, we thought it would subside but it became extremely frequent. The gunshots were terrifying; most nights, we could not sleep. After my neighbour was kidnapped, I stopped sleeping at my house. My children and I would go to a nearby community to spend the night," Eze said.

Nigeria is currently bedeviled with a widespread kidnapping for ransom crisis. It is among the highest globally. Armed gunmen snatch their victims from highways, schools, and even their homes. According to a report from Lagos-based risk consultancy SBM Intelligence spanning from July 2022 to June 2023, 3,495 individuals were abducted in 582 incidents, with over USD 18 million paid as ransom between 2011 and 2020.

The Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit says kidnapping for ransom is one of the major sources of terrorism financing in the country. Despite several pledges by the government to bring an end to the crisis, it has continued to fester.

While the payment of ransom has been criminalised, Nigerians have no choice but to crowdfund for ransom to secure the release of their family members and relatives, as in most cases, the kidnapers would not release their victims until ransom was paid.

Trapped in Kidnappers' Den While Eze and her family were lucky to have escaped to a relatively safer location, others have not been so lucky.

Joshua Peter, 30, along with his friend Salama Ogboshun, were kidnapped last year while on their way to the farm in Kaduna. He said heavily armed men ambushed and bundled them into a bush, from where they were taken to a forest. He added that the trauma of his experience in the forest may never fade away.

"Many kidnapped victims were killed before my eyes. Women and

## State fails to stem kidnapping for ransom crisis in Nigeria



Joshua Peter and his friend Salama Ogboshun were kidnapped last year while on their way to the farm in Kaduna. Credit: Promise Eze/IPS

young girls were frequently raped in the open. I was beaten and received death threats every day," he said.

Peter said he was released after two weeks only after the ransom was paid but for days he could eat just a little food and did not talk to anyone as a result of the trauma he battled with. He wondered why the Nigerian security forces were unable to rescue them and track the location of the kidnapers despite negotiations for their release on the phone.

Nigerians have frequently raised concerns about the efficiency of the country's intelligence gathering and have voiced criticism regarding the perceived shortcomings of different security agencies in employing technology to address insecurity. Critics argue that, despite security agencies effectively monitoring and suppressing opposition activities, they have consistently fallen short in tracking down criminals. The police attribute delays in addressing kidnapping cases to a "shortage of tracking machines."

Nigeria's Failing Technological Infrastructure

For Sadiq Abdulahi, a tech expert with Fozy Global Concept based in Abuja, there is sparse collaboration between security agencies, which hampers the fight against insecurity.

"There should be synergy among the various security agencies regarding data sharing," he added, emphasizing the lack of awareness about the potential use of technology to combat crime in the country.

In 2022, the Nigerian government mandated residents of the country to synchronize

their Subscriber Identification Modules (SIMs) with their National Identification Numbers (NINs) to bolster security. However, despite the policy, kidnapers continue to place untraceable calls to the families of their victims. Isa Pantami, the former Nigerian Minister of Communications and Digital Economy who spearheaded the initiative, faced criticism for seeking funds to pay ransom for certain kidnapped victims earlier this year. Pantami, however, shifted blame to security agencies, accusing them of not efficiently utilizing the policy to trace criminals.

Zainab Dabo, a Nigerian political analyst, argues that a lack of commitment and political will by the government is contributing to the crisis. According to her, the Nigerian security forces are under-equipped to confront rogue non-state actors.

"Security operatives have arms that are not as sophisticated as those of the kidnapers. While our security forces are well-trained, the lack of proper armament turns confronting terrorists into a perilous mission," she told IPS.

Dabo also alleged that there are insiders within the Nigerian security infrastructure who are aiding terrorists. "For insecurity to persist for this long, it indicates elite connivance not only among security operatives but also among politicians and traditional rulers," she added.

Joshua Madaki, a Kaduna resident kidnapped from his home by armed gangs on the evening of December 21, 2021, shares the same view as Dabo. Madaki, who said he spent 17 days in captivity, was abducted alongside 36 others from his

community. He disclosed that while ransom negotiations were ongoing, the criminals killed six of the victims as a warning to their families.

"Insecurity in Nigeria is very complicated, but it seems the government is not ready to take action to tackle it," said Badasi Bello, whose younger sister was kidnapped in Sokoto State, northwest Nigeria, in 2023.

Amnesty International has advised the Nigerian government to regard the kidnapping crisis in the country as an emergency and to take measures to solve the problem.

However, kidnapping continues, including the mass kidnapping of schoolchildren. Last week (Thursday, August 7, 2024), 287 children were abducted from two schools in Kaduna State. UNICEF Representative in Nigeria, Cristian Munduate, said in a statement that the act was "part of a worrying trend of attacks on educational institutions in Nigeria, particularly in the northwest, where armed groups have intensified their campaign of violence and kidnappings."

Then, on March 10, 15 pupils were abducted from the Islamic seminary in Gidan Bakuso, Sokoto State, while they slept, according to the Associated Press.

Munduate said UNICEF was coordinating with local officials and assisting parents and families with psychological support services.

"Every child deserves to grow up in an environment of peace, away from the looming shadows of threats and insecurity. Unfortunately, we are currently facing a significant deterioration in community safety, with children disproportionately suffering the consequences of this decline in security," Munduate said.



By Adonis Byemelwa

# Report unveils alarming realities of threats, attacks journalists face

**I**N the heart of Tanzania's journalistic landscape, where stories unfold and truths are uncovered, a stark reality casts a shadow over the profession. Imagine a world where every headline comes at a cost - a cost that 50% of Tanzanian journalists willingly bear.

In the pursuit of uncovering the untold, facing threats, harassment, torture, and attacks has become an unsettling norm.

Picture this: two out of ten journalists find themselves behind bars or in the clutches of authorities, while an equal number navigate the treacherous waters of gender-based harassment and the confiscation of their indispensable work tools. Welcome to the challenging tapestry of journalism in Tanzania, where the pursuit of truth is not without its harrowing battles.

These findings were released by Twaweza in collaboration with Media Institute of Southern Africa Tanzania Chapter (MISA-Tan), Jamii Forums, Union of Tanzanian Press Clubs (UTPC), and Tanzanian Women Journalists Association (TAMWA), in a research journal titled "Voices of Journalists: Experiences and Opinions of Tanzanian Journalists."

The journal presents statistics on the experiences and opinions of journalists in Tanzania. The opinions were gathered from 1,202 media professionals, including journalists, editors, and bloggers.

The journalists were identified through membership databases of various media associations, including UTPC, TAMWA, MISA-Tan and Jamii Forums.

The interviews were conducted via phone between September 23 and November 7, 2023. Many journalists have precarious and non-permanent employment. Two out of ten (20 percent) claim to have permanent positions, compared to six out of ten (60 percent) who describe their jobs as temporary, and two out of ten (18 percent) who are called to work only when needed.

Half (50 percent) have signed contracts. A significant number of journalists (63 percent) find it difficult to earn a living wage through journalism, while a few (5 percent) do not consider it a problem. One in three journalists (36 percent) has additional income from sources other than journalism.

Only two out of ten journalists (19 percent) would prefer their children to follow in their footsteps and become journalists. Journalists' experiences of workplace hazards are significant, with half (50 percent) reporting having been threatened, tortured, or attacked while on the job.



Journalists largely accuse government officials as the main source of threats; more than half (56 percent) say government officials are the primary source of threats, more than any other group.

A majority of journalists (86 percent) claim corruption exists in the sector, including 36 percent who say corruption is widespread. The most prevalent forms of corruption are payment for publishing (55 percent) or not publishing (53 percent) specific stories.

Almost all journalists (95 percent) admit to accepting

money from individuals or institutions involved in news, with 23 percent accepting regularly and 72 percent having accepted on multiple occasions. One in ten (10 percent) reports receiving gifts or money "always" to manipulate content, and half (53 percent) say they have done so at least once.

Furthermore, journalists feel that media outlets in Tanzania have limited freedom to work without control or interference. Six out of ten journalists do not feel free to report on corruption (60 percent) or issues related to law

enforcement and security forces (61 percent).

In the intricate tapestry of Tanzanian journalism, the indispensable role of journalists in shaping the narrative cannot be overstated. Aidan Eyakuze, CEO of Twaweza, passionately underscores their pivotal contributions - from informing and educating citizens to entertaining and holding those in power accountable. Yet, beneath the surface of this noble endeavor lies a harsh reality.

Journalists, the unsung heroes of truth, grapple with an unfriendly working environment, facing threats and abuse in their relentless pursuit of transparency. Many endure unreliable and insufficient income, highlighting a dire need for fair and well-benefited employment contracts. It's a plight echoed in a recent study by the online media outlet, The Chanzo, revealing journalists' vulnerability to low pay, lack of contracts, and the ominous presence of brown envelopes that eclipse their professionalism, jeopardizing their very livelihoods.

The struggle extends beyond financial constraints, as The Chanzo's investigation sheds light on the disturbing prevalence of sexual abuse faced by female journalists. Senior editors exploit their positions to coerce these journalists, compromising their integrity for the sake of publishing stories.

Reinforcing this storyline, Hoyce Temu, Tanzania's Deputy Head of Mission in Geneva, Switzerland, sheds light on a troubling reality in her doctoral thesis examining gender equity in media firms. The results glaringly reveal the systematic marginalization of women based on gender within these organizations.

In championing the cause of journalists, Eyakuze's call to protect and empower them becomes even more imperative. It's a collective responsibility to fortify the pillars of journalism, ensuring that these truth-seekers are shielded, respected, and able to thrive in an environment that honors their dedication to truth.

# Adaptation funding essential for farmers in the Horn of Africa

By Special Correspondent

**A**LL over the world, the frequency and intensity of devastations caused by climate change continue to increase. Countries in the Horn of Africa are particularly vulnerable to these impacts as residents deal with long-term droughts, acute hunger and ravaging floods time and again.

Although these countries have committed to ambitious action plans to cut emissions and mitigate climate-related disasters, there remains a gap in financing for adaptation efforts. Farmers, in particular, need access to funding to improve agricultural resilience in a region buckling under severe food and economic crisis.

The current state of farming in the Horn of Africa - Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Djibouti. Broader definitions often include parts of Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda.

Agriculture plays a key role in the population's livelihood, yet farming opportunities are limited as 70% of the area consists of un-farmable land. Continuous drought and increasing overexploitation have resulted in arid and semi-arid lands, which are incapable of sustaining healthy crop cultivation.

The prolonged shortage of water and other natural resources also makes it difficult to support large-scale livestock production.

As a result, famine has intensified in the region, plunging residents well below the poverty line and increasing the risks of climate-related health emergencies. According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 47 million people already face acute hunger, while disease outbreaks become more frequent.

In addition to the food crisis, socio-political instabilities have created an unprecedented number of displacements, fueling instances of cross-border conflicts. In January 2024, Eritrean soldiers were accused of abducting eight farmers along with their livestock from neighboring Ethiopia, despite a cease-fire agreement effective 15 months ago.

The dire need for adaptation funding in the region - As experts have pointed out, only by adapting to climate change can the Horn of Africa and the rest of the continent reach its potential.

However, the financing for such programs remains critically short of what is needed. In a region where agriculture plays a key role in the population's livelihood, yet farming opportunities are limited as 70 percent of the area consists of un-farmable land. Continuous drought and increasing over-exploitation have resulted in arid and semi-arid lands, which are incapable of sustaining healthy crop cultivation.

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The African Development Bank (AfDB) estimates the continent will need around \$2.7 trillion in climate financing be-



tween 2020 and 2030. This funding spans various developmental projects, including agriculture resilience, especially in the Horn of Africa and other regions impacted by rainfall shortages.

According to AfDB president Akinwumi Adesina, the organization is looking to raise \$1.4bn for desalination and wastewater treatment plants, which can go a long way in improving safe water supply for residential and commercial purposes.

To further bridge the financing gap, the AfDB launched the African Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP) in collaboration with the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), aiming to raise \$25bn for climate adaptation. These funds will target four priority areas - food security, nature-based solutions, job creation and adaptation financing through green bonds and private financial instruments.

Farmers in the Horn of Africa may also benefit from the \$100 billion a year fund pledged by wealthy nations to drive climate action in developing countries. While the amount

falls short of these nations' actual needs, it's a step in the right direction.

Additional financing from the private sector has been helpful, too. In 2022, the Gates Foundation pledged \$1.4 billion to help farmers address climate change.

Supplementing adaptation funding with humanitarian aid - While adaptation financing efforts are well underway, it might take years to notice their effects. In the meantime, people continue to suffer famine, displacements and other harsh impacts from climate change. For example, food shortage in Madagascar has seen 27% of the population facing life-threatening conditions, with 16.5% of children severely malnourished.

Humanitarian aid can provide respite in the short term. The UN has established four core principles guiding the efforts of these assistance programs - humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. Most aid efforts come in the form of in-kind goods or assistance, though individuals can also participate in day-to-day relief activities like donating

blood, volunteering and providing supplies to displacement victims.

On a broader scale, global organizations must ramp up their assistance efforts as 60 million Horn of Africa residents desperately need humanitarian aid. The response has been promising so far, with the EU recently announcing a €171 million donation to fund relief programs in the region.

Adaptation funding for farmers in the horn of Africa

Adaptation finance is sorely needed to help farmers in the Horn of Africa cope with the many challenges posed by climate change. Meeting these funding requirements can help address famine, political instabilities and displacements, as well as create more resilient agricultural infrastructures.



# Xi's 'two sessions' messages highlight China's high-quality development in crucial year

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has shone more light on the country's source of confidence for high-quality development by expounding on a wide range of topics at this year's "two sessions," a key political event slated to close on Monday.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, joined national legislators in deliberations and participated in discussions with national political advisors at the event, making a raft of remarks on issues including new quality productive forces, environmental protection, overall reform and coordinated regional development.

In this crucial year for fulfilling the objectives and tasks set out in the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), Xi stressed that efforts must be made to sustain and reinforce the positive momentum of economic recovery, and boost confidence in development across society. Key messages from Xi at the sessions provided insight into the trajectory of the world's second-largest economy.

## NEW QUALITY PRODUCTIVE FORCES

Xi has stressed developing new quality productive forces amid the country's accelerated efforts to foster new growth drivers and promote high-quality development.

First put forward by Xi in 2023, the concept was highlighted at a key meeting on economic work last December, and became the subject of a group study session of the CPC leadership this year.

With innovation playing the leading role, new quality productive forces mean advanced productivity that is freed from the traditional economic growth mode and productivity development paths, features high-tech, high efficiency and high quality, and comes in line with the new development philosophy.

Joining his fellow deputies from the delegation of Jiangsu in a deliberation on March 5, Xi underscored the importance of developing new quality productive forces based on local conditions.

Developing new quality productive forces does not mean neglecting or abandoning traditional industries, Xi said, noting that it is necessary to prevent a headlong rush into projects and the formation of industry bubbles, and avoid adopting just a single model of development.

Xi stressed the need to strengthen basic research and basic research in applied sciences, achieve breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields, and foster new drivers for developing new quality productive forces when participating in a joint group meeting attended by national political advisors on March 6.

Citing achievements in transportation as an example, he said that China is a global leader in automobile production and sales, excels in new energy vehicles, boasts the longest expressway network, and has successfully introduced high-speed railways and urban rail transit systems internationally, alongside the development of large aircraft.

Craftsmen are important for these accomplishments, he stressed, calling for enhancing vocational education, fostering a culture of meticulous craftsmanship, and nurturing generations of master craftsmen at the forefront of production.

"The master craftsmen are the backbone. Without a diamond, you can't handle porcelain," Xi said. Attending a plenary meeting of the delegation of the People's Liberation Army and the People's Armed Police Force on March 7, he said the drive to accelerate the development of new quality productive forces has provided rare opportunities for the development of strategic capabilities in emerging areas.



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the CMC, visits national political advisors from the Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang, the sector of science and technology, and the sector of environment and resources, who are attending the second session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in Beijing, China, March 6, 2024. /Xinhua

He called for enabling new quality productive forces and new quality combat capabilities to effectively integrate with and boost each other.

## DEEPENING OVERALL REFORM

Reform has been a key word in China over the years. At the deliberation on March 5, Xi stressed the necessity of planning major measures to further deepen reform on all fronts, so as to continuously inject strong impetus into the endeavor to promote high-quality development and advance Chinese modernization.

To build a high-level socialist market economy, it is imperative to accelerate the improvement of basic systems underpinning the market economy, such as those for property rights protection, market access, fair competition, and social credit, Xi said.

He stressed that it is essential to improve and implement the institutions and mechanisms to unswervingly consolidate and develop the public sector and unswervingly encourage, support and guide the development of the non-public sector, and facilitate the growth of the private sector and private enterprises.

The reform of systems involving science and technology, education and professional personnel should be deepened, and barriers obstructing the development of new quality productive forces should be removed, Xi said, stressing creating a world-class business environment that is market-oriented, law-based and internationalized to foster new strengths for a higher-level open economy.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

"The CPC Central Committee always attaches great importance to environmental protection," Xi told national political advisors, including those from the sector of environment and resources, on March 6.

He emphasized the need to secure red lines in the development and protection of territorial space, and improve the

region-specific environmental management system, so as to further consolidate the ecological foundations of high-quality development.

According to the government work report, China has set a target of reducing its energy consumption per unit of GDP by approximately 2.5 percent this year.

Xi said that efforts must be made to carry out targeted, science-based and lawful pollution control, promote green and low-carbon transition in economic and social development, strengthen conservation, efficient use and recycling of resources, explore more ways to realize the market value of ecological products, and work toward peaking carbon emissions and achieving carbon neutrality.

On the country's plan to control new pollutants following its treatment of smog and black and malodorous water bodies, Xi said that both newfound and persisting environmental problems need to be addressed.

## COMMON PROSPERITY

Xi considers pursuing common prosperity for all to be an essential feature of Chinese modernization. The tale of Yonglian Village in east China's Jiangsu Province, a legendary example of developing township enterprises during China's reform and opening up, caught his attention in the deliberation on March 5.

Once a tidal flat area along the Yangtze River, this village boldly established a steel enterprise about 40 years ago and emerged as a nationally renowned prosperous community.

Last year, with total industrial and agricultural revenues reaching 161.6 billion yuan (about 22.77 billion U.S. dollars) and a collective operating revenue of 335 million yuan, the village residents enjoyed an average per capita net income of 73,000 yuan.

Listening to a national legislator from the village recount these achievements, Xi praised the village as a pioneer on the path to rural revitalization and common prosperity, urging the

villagers to continue their efforts to promote common prosperity.

## COORDINATED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, a series of coordinated regional development strategies have been implemented, including the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta, and the integration and coordinated development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

They are playing an important supporting role in fostering a new development paradigm and promoting high-quality development. During the deliberation on March 5, Xi said that it is imperative for Jiangsu to fully integrate into and contribute to the development of the Yangtze Economic Belt and the strategy for integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta, urging the major economically developed province to better leverage its strength to drive the development of the whole region and the whole country.

# CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Ending gender inequality in farming to achieve food security, generate growth

LILONGWE

IN central Malawi, the everyday life of Alefa Ofesa and Lloyd Phale work in their field changed two years ago when Alefa embarked on a project support and training to cope with erratic rainfall in the region.

The 42-year-old mother learnt how to plant seeds in two parallel rows, separated by rain collection channels, build terraces, contour ploughing, and construct check dams to slow down water flow and prevent soil from being washed away.

All of these methods help to maximize water efficiency. The project also encouraged the farmers to plant indigenous trees around the field which produce organic manure through composting and protect the field from floods during the rainy season.

The farming couple have been farming for over 20 years, but Alefa says the TRADE project (Transforming Agriculture through Diversification and Entrepreneurship Programme) has made a difference.

"The project has encouraged women to participate in agriculture. With the knowledge and the skills, they are sure and confident about what needs to be done to improve productivity, for example the double row planting," Ofesa says.

The TRADE project is implemented by the government of Malawi and supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

IFAD has been investing in rural women to help them address gender inequality.

The message on International Women's Day from IFAD's Vice President Geraldine Mukesima is that investing in gender equality and women's em-

powerment is not only more urgent than ever but also an incredibly smart investment to generate economic growth, food security, income opportunities and better lives, particularly in rural areas where most of the world's poorest live.

Indeed, gender inequality often results in a gender gap in productivity.

"Substantial gender gaps in productivity have arisen not because women are less efficient farmers, but because women experience inequitable access to land and to agricultural inputs", a 2019 IFAD report says.

One of the challenges in achieving gender equality by 2030 [Editor's note: SDG's objective] is a lack of financing, with a staggering US\$360 billion annual deficit in spending on gender-equality measures.

## Joint decision-making

Since Alefa undergone training, she shares her new knowledge with other women from her community.

"A lot of women here are now experts in farming activities and because of their profits, many have realized the importance of joining together," she says.

The training has also produced changes in Alefa's working relationship with her husband.

Working together as equal partners the pair have seen an increase in productivity which has allowed them to earn more.

Indeed, the project trained families on how to make work-related decisions together.

Amos Mailosi who visits the couple on their farm is the regional environment and climate change



officer for TRADE Programme: "One key thematic area that TRADE programme is promoting is the issue of gender and social inclusion. So, we are trying to empower women and men, and boys and girls, to be equally participating in the interventions. So that together they can realize the importance of joint decision-making at

household level."

Not only does her family have enough food for the whole year, but she can now also sell part of what she harvests, and she is planning to expand her business to sell at markets in nearby villages.

Alefa plans to use the additional income they earn for their children's

education and to purchase an ox cart for transportation.

Access to male family labour, Women's limited use of agricultural implements and machinery and their limited access to high-value crops enterprise are some contributors to the gender gap in agricultural productivity in eastern Africa.

# 'Hunting trophy ban unjust to local communities in southern Africa'

MAUN, Botswana

EUROPE'S plans to ban the importation of trophy hunting products are unjust and pose a huge threat to conservation that centres on the people in southern African rangeland countries, wildlife ecologists say.

Prof Richard Fynn, an ecologist at the Okavango Research Institute of the University of Botswana told journalists drawn from SADC countries that banning trophy hunting can have detrimental effects on the livelihoods of local communities and perpetuate colonial injustices.

"The ban on trophy hunting can harm conservation that centres on the people, the local communities that know and depend on their environment and has been vital in the conservation and protection of wildlife resources," he said.

"The rights of local communities to make decisions about their own resources are taken away. Western countries still perpetuate colonial in-

justices by adopting stringent measures that affect the livelihoods of local communities not only here in Botswana but in Africa as a whole."

Prof Fynn said past colonial social injustice in conservation, such as land grabs and strict conservation enclosures, forced displacement and exclusion of local communities from their natural resources.

The veteran ecologist said these experiences together with the latest moves by Europe to ban trophy hunting products exacerbated conflicts within and among local communities and negatively influenced support for conservation initiatives.

"Local communities are often disenfranchised by wildlife conservation. They lose land, they get huge human-wildlife conflicts and this a very unjust system," he said.

"This happens throughout Africa. Conservation has a colonial legacy with a top-down approach. Western countries strongly enforce this approach which is animal rights-based

rather than people rights-based. This causes problems."

In addition, Prof Fynn said the ban on trophy hunting products by Europe will hit local communities hardest in Botswana and the whole southern African region.

The ban, he said, would have a collateral negative impact on neighbouring countries such as Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Zambia.

"African countries working with their local communities can stop runaway poaching. The West is still pushing for Western ways of doing conservation," he said.

"It is very unjust. They are still trying to control how African governments do their wildlife conservation."

"This undermines efforts to undertake wildlife conservation for the people by the people. Communities can play a critical role."

Hunting is a major revenue generator for the southern African rangeland countries and this has faced fierce opposition from animal rights

and welfare activists in Europe and North America.

Proceeds from trophy hunts in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia help to reduce the impact of human-wildlife conflicts on community livelihoods.

Countries like the UK and France are in the process of considering legislation which prohibits hunting trophies from entering their territories while others like Canada and Belgium have even gone as far as to completely ban the import of hunting trophies.

Local communities, governments, NGOs, researchers and most tourism players fear that if the bill goes through in the UK to ban trophy hunting and trophy products, there will be a knock-on effect in Europe.

France and Finland are considering it and Belgium has banned trophy hunting products completely.

A hunting trophy ban in Italy is also a possibility.

Prof Joseph Mbaiwa of the Univer-

sity of Botswana said the hunting trophy ban would hurt conservation efforts by local communities and bankrupt them.

"Conservation will be hurt. You conserve because you see the benefits. If you don't benefit why should you conserve," he said.

"We need to market the benefits of trophy hunting more aggressively. We must tell the world as a region that trophy hunting is for development."

Southern African countries under the Kavango-Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA) are home to about 230,000 elephants, thanks to good wildlife management practices and community-based natural resources initiatives.

"They know they can't influence legislation in Africa now. So, they are turning to emotional stances like wanting to ban trophy imports. It is a product of colonial legacy where they think they can still control our wildlife even from European capitals,"

said Prof Fynn.

"Trophy hunting is a just and ethical way for local communities to derive benefits that improve their livelihoods. It has a critical way in making sure that it brings benefits to local communities."

Apart from the trophy bans, a massive drive to shut down ivory trade worldwide has left Southern African elephant rangeland countries with virtually no markets to sell their ivory.

The ivory ban has left most SADC countries stuck with hundreds of tonnes of unsold ivory.

Had controlled trade been permitted, the countries could have generated revenue that could support animal welfare and protection as well as local communities.

Southern African nations including Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Zambia have for years been battling the global wildlife trade regulator to grant them rights to sell ivory acquired through natural deaths, confiscations and culling.

# Fitness enthusiasts keep Kenya gyms in business

NAIROBI

"ONE and two, one and two," the instructor shouted to a group of eight people at a fitness center in Kitengela, a suburb about 32 km south of Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. His instructions were in rhythm with the fast-paced music playing in the background to motivate the trainees as they engaged in various exercises.

After about 10 minutes, the instructor switched from jumping jacks to push-ups, striving to ensure the group engaged in as many drills as possible to keep fit. "This morning session usually lasts about two hours. In the evening, another group comes for a variety of exercises," John Okumu, the instructor, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

His gym is one of many in Nairobi and other parts of Kenya that serve hundreds of residents who have become fitness enthusiasts seeking to stay fit amid a rise in diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity due to sedentary lifestyles.

Gyms have mushroomed throughout the city's suburbs and estates, thanks to a ready market of growing middle- and upper-class residents willing to pay a premium to stay fit. Okumu, who studied commerce at university, said he turned to running a fitness business after failing to secure a good job two years after graduating.

"I was a fitness junkie even before I started my own business in 2020 when COVID-19 hit and most people were at home. I seized the opportunity to start the business after buying some used equipment with a loan," said Okumu. He started with two people and now has about 30 loyal clients. "The majority of them are women, and that is because many of them are body conscious," he explained.

Okumu charges a flat fee ranging from 300 Kenyan shillings (about 2.15 U.S. dollars) for a session to 50.1 dollars per month. Gym fees vary across Nairobi depending on location, type of client, and available equipment. "I started working out two years ago after I had my second child.

My body size increased, and I had to do something to regain my figure," said Julie Nderitu, an accountant at a government agency in



A man lifts weight in a gym in Nairobi, capital of Kenya, on March 2, 2024. Kenyans have become fitness enthusiasts as they seek to keep fit amid an increase in lifestyle diseases like diabetes and hypertension as well as conditions like obesity.

Nairobi. She pays 61 dollars a month for the work-out classes that involve aerobics, which she attends every night at a facility near her home in Umoja, east of Nairobi.

Daniel Moku, a businessman who works out at

a gym in downtown Nairobi, said he frequents the facility for better health because the sessions leave him stress-free and relaxed.

"I mainly do cardio workouts. They help me build stamina and lose excess fat." According to him, a

gym is just like a health facility, where everyone who wants to stay healthy goes. While most gyms in Kenya are run as private businesses, government institutions also offer the services – some to keep their employees healthy, others for commercial purposes.

Okumu said the business has been profitable, with him recouping his investment after about a year.

However, he noted that it is capital intensive, as one needs a variety of equipment such as treadmills, stationary bikes, rowing machines, weights, and climbers to cater to and attract different clients. "Initially, we relied on used gym equipment from Europe and the United States, but these days there are brand new affordable machines from China in the market."

In addition to fitness exercises, gyms in Kenya also offer nutrition and dietary advice to members so that they know what to eat to stay healthy while they work out.

"Some of the advice I give is to eat foods that are high in fiber, which helps with digestion, eat lots of fruit, avoid or reduce foods high in saturated fat, and drink plenty of water.

A good diet complements exercise," says Coleta Mutua, a nutritionist who consults at gyms. To operate a gym, one needs a license from the local county government where the business is located and another from the Music Copyright Society of Kenya since the facilities play songs during sessions.



# Global demand for dried fruits: Trends, economic impacts and market dynamics in a growing industry

By A Special Correspondent

THE global demand for dried fruits has been on an upward trajectory, fueled by a convergence of factors including health consciousness, culinary innovation, and changing consumer preferences. This burgeoning industry has not only reshaped the landscape of the food market but also sparked conversations about sustainability, nutrition, and economic implications. Let's delve into the trends, economic impacts, and market dynamics driving this phenomenon.

The global dried fruits market is currently valued at close to US\$ 10.2 Bn, and is projected to propagate at a CAGR of 5.5% and reach a valuation of US\$ 16.7 Bn by 2032, according to Persistence Market Research.

### Health Consciousness

One of the primary drivers behind the surge in demand for dried fruits is the growing awareness of health and wellness. Consumers are increasingly seeking out nutritious alternatives to processed snacks and sugary treats. Dried fruits, with their natural sweetness, abundance of vitamins, minerals, and fiber, have emerged as a popular choice among health-conscious individuals looking to make better dietary choices without compromising on taste.

Moreover, dried fruits offer a convenient and portable option for busy lifestyles. Whether added to breakfast cereals, salads, or enjoyed as a standalone snack, their versatility makes them an attractive option for those seeking nutritious, on-the-go options.

### Culinary Innovation

Beyond their health benefits, dried fruits have also found favor in culinary circles due to their versatility and flavor profile. Chefs and home cooks alike are incorporating dried fruits into a wide range of recipes, from savory dishes to desserts, imparting a depth of flavor and texture that elevates the dining experience.

The use of dried fruits in both traditional and contemporary cuisine reflects a broader shift towards experimentation and exploration in the culinary world. From Moroccan



tagines infused with apricots to Mediterranean salads adorned with figs, the possibilities are endless, adding a touch of sophistication and exoticism to dishes.

### Economic Impacts:

The growing demand for dried fruits has significant economic implications, particularly for countries that are major producers and exporters. Regions such as Turkey, Iran, the United States, and China dominate the global market, benefiting from favorable climatic conditions and advanced agricultural practices.

For these countries, the dried fruit industry represents not only a source of revenue but also employment opportunities and economic development, particularly in rural areas where agriculture

is a primary livelihood. Furthermore, as demand continues to rise, there are opportunities for investment in processing, packaging, and distribution infrastructure, driving further economic growth.

### Market Dynamics

The dynamics of the dried fruit market are influenced by various factors, including consumer preferences, seasonal fluctuations, and global trade patterns. While traditional dried fruits such as raisins, dates, and apricots maintain their popularity, there is also a growing demand for exotic varieties like goji berries, mango slices, and cranberries, reflecting evolving tastes and preferences.

Moreover, the rise of e-commerce platforms and online grocery stores has expanded access to dried fruits, allowing consumers to purchase them conveniently

from the comfort of their homes. This shift towards digital retailing has opened up new markets and opportunities for producers, enabling them to reach a wider audience beyond their geographical boundaries.

In conclusion, the global demand for dried fruits continues to grow unabated, driven by health consciousness, culinary innovation, and economic factors. As consumers become increasingly discerning about their food choices, the dried fruit industry is poised for further expansion and diversification, offering immense potential for producers, retailers, and consumers alike. Whether enjoyed as a wholesome snack or incorporated into gourmet creations, dried fruits are undoubtedly here to stay, enriching diets and delighting taste buds around the world.

### Competitive Landscape

Manufacturers of dried fruits are focusing on improving their product quality by investing in research & development activities. Few companies are strategically expanding their global reach through improvised logistics networks. In 2020, DuPont Nutrition & Biosciences entered into an agreement between its food & beverage platform and the Institute for the Future (ITF), the world's leading futures organization. This partnership would help the company drive food & beverage innovation by anticipating shifts in market needs.

AGRANA opened a new research and innovation center in order to carry out research for new products as well as innovations in existing products.

Miski Organics improved its distribution system by partnering with various channel partners. Some of the channel partners of Miski Organics are Mariluis Marketplace, Foods for Life, Penguin Fresh Grab 'n Go, One Stop Variety, Tierra Azteca Inc., and Essence of Life.

Industrial Técnica Pecuaría, S.A. (ITPSA) has been continuously striving to increase its market outreach, reaching significant levels of technical sales and services along with appreciation in over 60 countries across the world.

# Green financing could help Africa mitigate effects of climate change

By A Special Correspondent

AFRICAN countries should explore innovative green financing mechanisms to promote a green

transition to mitigate the effects of climate change, experts attending the annual UN Economic Commission for Africa's Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Eco-

nomic Development (COM2024) in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, said last week.

Veronica Jakarasi, Chief Director, Climate and Meteorological Servic-

es of Zimbabwe stressed the need to support environment friendly investments like climate smart agriculture to mitigate climate change.

"To attract green financing, Africa needs to have policy and regulatory frameworks with set targets in line with ambitious development," said Ms. Jakarasi.

She said Zambia and Zimbabwe were already investing in adaptation and that countries should now set aside budgets to mitigate and adapt against drought as a step towards leveraging international financing.

Green financing, she added is the new way of mobilizing resources for financing climate change resilience.

Countries should establish innovative financing mechanisms such as green bonds through public private partnerships, to fund their climate change projects and programs.

On the role of banks in mobilizing resources for green financing, Nqobizitha Dube, Climate Finance Manager, Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe said banking institutions should be involved in climate change discussions to enable them to make informed decisions on funding green projects.

Innovative clean mechanisms that reduce risks should be considered and evaluated for funding by banks to help address the effects of climate change.

Linus Mofor, senior environmental expert from the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), said African countries are increasingly experiencing water and heat stress at varying magnitudes, including droughts and seasonal shifts.

The public international financial flows are nowhere near sufficient to address adaptation, loss and damage or to support the low-carbon development needs of developing countries.

"Green climate finance is key for sustainable development and thus inform programming by continental and regional organizations in their quest to capacitate and facilitate low-carbon and climate-resilient development in Africa," said Mofor.

"Green transition requires financing for sustainable investment and access to real time climate-related data. We need to have national and regional programs aimed at galvanizing green finance for enhanced economic development; regional collaboration."

He noted that most African countries have ratified the Paris Agreement with ambitious NDCs requiring up to \$3 trillion for implementation.

"Countries should now focus on addressing issues of sustainability and finance under the Paris Agreement to move forward and mitigate climate change effects," he said adding that countries

should be supported with the tools and capacities needed to integrate climate resilience into their programs.

Paul Thangata, Head of Data and Analytics at AGRA said Africa is importing four major foods - maize, rice, soya, wheat - at a cost of \$4billion. Discussions on climate change should include agriculture food systems.

There is need for countries to set up processing point of production that will help in decision making on the smart agriculture systems.

George Laryea-Adjiei, Global Director of Programmes, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) USA, said the youth who are the majority on the continent should be involved in the climate change discussions of Africa.

"Climate change impacts, like floods, affect young people more. Climate change education should be incorporated in the school curriculum to educate young people on how cope with the crisis, be empowered with green skills and opportunity to solve disasters as a results of climate change," said Laryea-Adjiei.

"There is need to have programs to bridge the gap between the youth and the elderly to get them to be leaders in planting the trees and taking care of them, water conservation, taking care of plastics around, learning new skills by being attached to enterprises for a more resilient economy."

**THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 79 -**

**15. a smooth oily substance that is rubbed on the skin for medicinal purposes**

**17. violent uncontrollable anger**

**18. Hebrew name meaning God is salvation**

**21. Wife of Adam**

**23. plural form of man**

**24. Endless plain in Tanzania**

**DOWN:**

**1. a person who leases**

**2. a person from Ivory Coast**

**3. an income sufficient to live on 4. bravo!**

**5. a child's word for a horse**

**6. group of fungi of the genus Claviceps**

**7. capacity for inventive thought and quick understanding**

**10. conjunction to connect two words**

**12. relating to ions**

**16. a person who is unable to relax**

**19. Half**

**20. exclamation to express good wishes**

**22. the final part**

**ACROSS:**

**1. Capital city of Malawi**

**8. extremely wicked and immoral**

**9. Algerian music**

**11. Supreme power or authority**

**13. Shri**

**14. merchandise**

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

SODA	POP	ENGAGED	OSLO
OSAMA	OSAGE	OWN	
OLEATE	GAG	DAEMON	
TOMS	OGA	AMASS	
EON	SOOTHE	AGOG	
PAT	ENGAGE	EGAD	

By Felix: 0787 009794 / 77/ felixm@guardian.co.uk

# RADIO One

## RATIBA YA VIPINDI

### JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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## BUSINESS

## Foreign investors dominate stock market activity on week's outset

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) indices opened the week in red, with foreign investors dominating the activities by changing hands shares valued 2.5bln/-.

The Monday's daily market report shows foreign investors dominated both sides of the market activity, after buying shares valued 2.56bln/-, which was 97.62 percent of total value of shares bought.

This has expanded their stake on the value of shares sold since the start of the current quarter to 3.79bln/- or 7.94 percent of value of shares sold, from 1.23bln/- or 2.73 percent recorded during the end of last week.

The market report shows foreign investors also sold shares valued 2.54bln/- or 96.98 percent of total value of shares sold, pushing up the value of shares they have sold since the start of this quarter to 23.35bln/- or 48.89 percent during Monday's close.

The move has translated into foreign investors' net outflows of nearly 20bln/- since the start of the current quarter, which is equivalent to nearly four times of the value of shares they sold during the whole first quarter of last year.

Analysts expect continuing foreign investor selloff, specifically blue chip counters, due to various economic reasons including stagnation of the share prices, increasing central banks rates in developed economies and weaker local currencies in developing markets.

However, other analysts consider the current foreign investor selloff as seasonal, as many were 'holding a breath' to study the movement of the market in relation to the global economic trends.

sonal, as many were 'holding a breath' to study the movement of the market in relation to the global economic trends.

Top mover during the opening day of the week was CRDB Bank counter, which recorded the transaction of 4.89 million shares valued 2.59bln/- traded at a price ranging from 500/- to 520/- per share in 96 deals with 4.80 million shares being transacted through block trade pre-arranged market board.

Second top mover was Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL) counter, which recorded the transaction of 9,058 shares valued 19.02mln/- traded at a price of 2,100/- per share in three deals, followed by DCB counter, after recording the transaction of 7,155 shares valued 1.01mln/- traded at a price ranging from 135/- to 140/- per share in nine deals.

Other active counters during the day were NICO, which transacted 6,410 shares valued 3.7mln/- traded at an average price of 575/- per share in 18 deals, followed by Swissport, which recorded the transaction of 2,800 shares valued 3.25mln/- traded at a price of 1,160/- per share in one deal.

Total market turnover amounted to 2.62 million shares, following the transaction of 4.9 million shares traded in 15 deals.

Top losers were CRDB Bank and DCB Bank counters, which recorded the shares depreciations by 1.92 percent and 6.62 percent respectively, which affected the movements of share indices, amid the increase of Swissport counter share price by 3.57 percent.



Hemed Suleiman Abdulla (4th-L), the Second Vice President of Zanzibar, and TWCC officials are briefed by an entrepreneur. Photo courtesy of TWCC

## Z'bar partners with private sector to empower women

By Francis Kajubi

THE government of Zanzibar has graciously opened its arms to the private sector, inviting collaboration on projects designed to uplift and empower women, not only economically but socially as well. This synergistic endeavor is poised to spark transformative changes and cultivate a society that embraces inclusivity for all.

Against the backdrop of a lively economic empowerment conference for women in Unguja yesterday, Hemed Suleiman Abdulla, Zanzibar's Second Vice President, emphatically emphasized the government's steadfast commitment to partnering with the private sector to empower women across a wide range of economic sectors.

With unwavering determination, he assured attendees of the government's unwavering dedication and readiness to enhance the economic empowerment of women through collaborative partnerships with the private sector.

According to a joint statement released by the Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC) and TradeMark Africa (TMA) the conference brought together more than 350 women from the isles and the Mainland.

"Zanzibar is dedicated to ensuring women's

full participation in economic activities," Abdulla said in a statement, citing initiatives such as the establishment of the Institute for Economic Empowerment and the formulation of the Blue Economy Policy.

The conference specifically aimed to empower women economically by providing valuable trade insights, promoting knowledge sharing, recognizing female leaders, and offering mentorship programs in order to drive positive change and foster inclusive growth.

Additionally, the conference was strategically scheduled to coincide with the global celebration of International Women's Day, showcasing a strong commitment to advancing women's economic participation.

For her part, Mwajuma Hamza, TWCC's chief executive officer, emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between the government and non-government organizations to fully empower women. She highlighted the need for joint action in order to achieve this goal. "In partnership with TradeMark Africa and other stakeholders, this conference serves as a critical platform to equip women with the tools and networks necessary to thrive in trade and commerce," she said.

On the other hand, Elibariki Shamy, country director of TMA, announced an additional investment of \$1.5 million to support

12,000 women entrepreneurs in Zanzibar and the mainland, in addition to the existing investments in women.

The country director reiterated their dedication to women's economic empowerment by investing over \$3 million in Tanzania over the last seven years.

"TradeMark Africa's engagement extends beyond financial support. We are actively collaborating with government bodies and institutions to enhance trade infrastructure, streamline regulatory processes, and foster a conducive business environment for women," he said.

"Through collaborative efforts with the government and various stakeholders, TWCC has positively impacted the lives of thousands of women, empowering them to thrive in business and make significant contributions to national development," stated Mercy Sila, TWCC's national chairperson.

Besides, Tatu Seleiman, TWCC Zanzibar chairperson, underscored the transformative power of the Blue Economy in empowering women and fostering inclusive growth.

It was noted that the forum demonstrates a shared dedication to promoting gender equality and economic prosperity in Tanzania, laying the foundation for women to excel in trade and commerce.



Brokers at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange engaged in trading. Photo: File

## Indian parent company sells braids maker to Kenyan subsidiary

NAIROBI

INDIA'S Godrej Consumer Products will sell a portion of its assets in Kenya's Style Industries Ltd to a newly incorporated entity, Hair Manufacturing Kenya Ltd.

Style Industries Ltd is the company behind the 'Darling' brand of braids, weaves, and wigs.

The transaction has been approved by the Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK) but

on condition that at least 70 percent of Style Industries Limited's employees are retained on employment terms that are no less favourable than their current terms for 12 months following completion of the transaction.

"This approval has been granted based on the finding that the transaction is unlikely to negatively impact competition in the market for hair extensions and wigs. However, the transaction will

elicit negative public interest concerns," said CAK in the notice without revealing the value of the deal.

"The proposed transaction involves the acquisition of certain assets - plant and machinery, office equipment and inventory - of Style Industries by Hair Manufacturing."

Style Industries, a private limited liability company incorporated in Kenya, is principally involved in the manufacture and distribution of

hair addition products such as braids, weaves, and wigs under the brand 'Darling'.

Hair Manufacturing Kenya Limited, on the other hand, is a private limited liability company incorporated in Kenya but does not have any operations in the country since it has been newly incorporated for purposes of this transaction.

According to regulatory rules, merging parties whose combined turnover or assets,

whichever is higher, is over Sh1 billion are required to seek approval from CAK before implementing intended transactions.

In Kenya, the market for hair extensions and wigs is largely fragmented with local manufacturers and a significant extent of imported goods.

Some notable players include Angels Hair Collection Kenya (Sanaa Industries Ltd), Lush Hair Kenya (Tolaram Group), Fashion Idol (Rebecca

Fashion), Olivia Hair Kenya (Di Lorenzo Ltd), Africa Hair Factory Limited and Unique Beauty Salon Consultants (UBSC), among others.

According to global market research and consulting firm 6Wresearch, Kenya has increasingly been relying more on imports to meet its growing demand for human hair extensions as domestic production and supply continue to trail local demand.

CAK says that the indus-

try's revenue in 2022 was approximated at Sh80 billion at a time when Style Industries' market share stood at five percent.

"Therefore, the proposed transaction will not affect market structure and concentration since Style Industries will exit the market and be replaced by Hair Manufacturing. Additionally, the target will continue to face competition from other players controlling 95 percent of the market," said the regulator.

## US sanctions Kenyan transport, 15 others, for alleged terror financing

NAIROBI

THE United States has imposed sanctions on Kenyan-based transport company Crown Bus and 15 others for allegedly aiding Al-Shabaab in generating a \$100 million annual income.

"Today's action is part of a multifaceted effort by Treasury to support the Somali government's economic offensive against al-Shabaab one of three pillars in their campaign to degrade this deadly terrorist group," Brian E. Nelson, Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and

Financial Intelligence, said in a statement.

The US' Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) said that Awale and Dini's designations are linked to each other, and to Haleel Group and Crown Bus Services.

The list also includes at least three other individuals linked to Haleel's operations in Kenya, Uganda, Cyprus and the UAE.

One of them, Farhan Hussein Hayder, who the US says "directs and manages Haleel Group's branches in Kenya, Uganda, Cyprus, and the UAE, and supports al-Shabaab by

generating funds", has previously been investigated by anti-terror police in Kenya, according to a Ugandan court document.

In May 2018, Uganda's Financial Intelligence Authority froze the accounts of Haleel Group's subsidiary and those of five other companies on suspicion that they were part of a terror financing network. The companies sued the authority and the freeze orders were lifted in September 2019.

Why it Matters

The designation against companies and individuals

for financing terror mainly includes sanctions against doing business in the United States or with American companies. But its true power works similar to a global blacklist since "engaging in certain transactions with the individuals designated today entails risk of secondary sanctions."

It is likely that the designation will bring renewed interest in the Kenya and Uganda based companies from local anti-terror and anti-money laundering authorities, and complicate their relationships with lenders and financial institutions.





## Dar women undergo trade skills training

By Beatrice Philemon

WOMEN intrapreneurs from diverse sectors in the Dar es Salaam region engaged in a specialized training session centered on the initiation and management of international trade.

The training covered topics such as the challenges of international trade, starting from one's current position, investing in shares and treasury bonds, and the benefits of these investments.

The goal of the training was to empower these women to progress to the next level in their careers and businesses.

Dr Astronaut Bagile, the executive director of Women in Social Entrepreneurship (WISE), addressed a diverse group of women gathered in Kinondoni District to celebrate International Women's Day.

The training session was conducted at no cost by experts from the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) and the Dar es Salaam based firm 'Dorice la Bamba.'

Attendees received instruction on international trade procedures, processes, and

regulations to enhance the efficiency and success of their businesses.

They were also educated on the importance of providing exceptional customer service to remain competitive, increase sales, and foster customer loyalty.

The event, organized by WISE in partnership with Tanzania Child Welfare (TCW), brought together women representing various sectors including food processing, poultry farming, construction, catering, non-communicable diseases, and cosmetics.

The goal was to promote gender equality and economic empowerment, expand networks of advocates for women's participation in financial markets, and facilitate knowledge-sharing among public and private sector stakeholders.

Dorice Kanyimba, the chief executive officer of Dorice la Bamba, underscored the importance of customer service and impactful marketing strategies as essential elements for the longevity and expansion of business operations.



Dr Astronaut Bagile, the Executive Director of Women in Social Entrepreneurship, conduct training for women during one-day training held in Dar es Salaam yesterday in marking International Women's Day. Photo: Beatrice Philemon

She encouraged women to prioritize understanding their customers' needs, supplying quality products, avoiding exploitation, and overseeing their operations diligently to thrive in the market.

Kanyimba also recommended that women engage in international trade op-

portunities to maximize profits and access new markets.

She highlighted the support available through travel companies in China for exporters seeking high-quality products and encouraged Tanzanian women to leverage these resources for business ex-

pansion. Eddna Chandeu, executive director of Tanzania Child Welfare (TCW), urged women to translate their visions into actions, share knowledge with their peers, and persevere in pursuing their goals.

She emphasized the importance of

customer-centric approaches, accessibility, and feedback mechanisms in improving products and services to meet customer needs effectively. Chandeu also encouraged women to mentor young girls and serve as role models in their communities.

## Bank freezes plans for fintech subsidiary months after green light

NAIROBI

STANBIC Holdings has put on hold plans to set up a fintech subsidiary months after the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) granted it approval.

The lender had not given details about what it intended to do with the subsidiary but now says the board has decided to pause the idea.

"We reviewed that decision at the board level and what we have done is put it on hold at the moment. If we need to come back to it, we will, but for now, that is the position," said Joshua Oigara, CEO at Stanbic Bank Kenya and South Sudan.

Stanbic had in the financial year ended December 2022 said it was open to acquiring or partnering with fintech or mobile



Stanbic Bank Kenya and South Sudan's CEO, Joshua Oigara, addresses attendees during the bank's financial results briefing for the full-year of 2023, held on March 6, 2024, at the Serena Hotel in Nairobi. Photo: Billy Ogada/NMG

network operators as an option to "exponentially grow business."

The CMA had in the quarter that ended December 2023 said it had approved a shareholder circular by Stanbic for the "incorporation of a fintech subsidiary." This would have become the fifth subsidiary.

Stanbic Holdings, which is owned by Standard Bank Group, currently has four subsidiaries—Stanbic Kenya, Stanbic South Sudan, Stanbic Bancassurance Intermediary, and SBG Securities.

The holdings company in 2021 said it was seeking partnerships with Chinese financial technology firms to boost Sino-Africa trade. The firm had said by collaborating with Chinese fintechs, Kenyan traders would be able to find suppliers of quality products in China and also settle transac-

tions conveniently.

Standard Bank has been open to partnering with fintechs and the same strategy appears to be trickling down to its subsidiaries outside South Africa.

Nigeria's Stanbic IBTC Holdings, also part of Standard Bank Group, in 2022 started a fintech subsidiary called Zest Payments Limited which functions as a payment solution service provider.

Stanbic Holdings net profit for last year by 34 percent to Sh12.2 billion. Stanbic Bank Kenya's net earnings grew 30 percent to Sh11.5 billion while that of Stanbic South Sudan went up 50 percent to Sh460 million.

The Bancassurance Intermediary net profit rose by 93 percent to Sh214 million as that of SBG moved to Sh149.72 million net profit from a loss of Sh1.87 million.

## Fuel and shelter costs lift US consumer prices in February

Washington

US consumer prices increased solidly in February amid higher costs for gasoline and shelter, suggesting some stickiness in inflation that could delay an anticipated June interest rate cut from Federal Reserve.

The consumer price index (CPI) rose 0.4 percent last month after climbing 0.3 percent in January, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics said yesterday.

Gasoline and shelter, which includes rents, contributed more than 60 percent to the monthly increase in the CPI. In the 12 months through February, the CPI increased 3.2 percent, after advancing 3.1 percent in January.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the CPI gaining 0.4 percent on the month and increasing 3.1 percent year-on-year. The annual increase in consumer prices has slowed from a peak of 9.1 percent in June 2022, but progress has stalled in recent months.

Inflation picked up in January, largely blamed on beginning-of-year price raises by service providers, which economists said were not fully addressed by the model used by the government to strip out seasonal fluctuations from the data.

There was also a jump in owners' equivalent rent



Residential home construction continues as California faces a housing shortage. Photo: File

(OER), a measure of the amount homeowners would pay to rent or would earn from renting their property, which diverged from rents. That was partly the result of some methodology changes by the government.

The BLS last week held a webinar to discuss the underlying

methodology related to the January OER and rent data.

"There is a high likelihood that OER inflation will exceed rent inflation more often moving forward," said Stephen Juneau, an economist at Bank of America Securities in New York. "However, we think that much of the 20 basis points divergence was

noise and not signal. Rent and OER inflation should continue to moderate over the course of this year, helping to drive core inflation lower as goods price deflation dissipates."

Excluding the volatile food and energy components, the CPI increased 0.4 percent last month after rising by the same margin in January. In the 12 months through February, the so-called core CPI advanced 3.8 percent. That was the smallest year-on-year increase since May 2021 and followed a 3.9 percent rise in January.

The Fed tracks the personal consumption expenditures price indexes for its 2 percent inflation target. These measures are running at rates tamer than the CPI. Though job growth accelerated in February, the unemployment rate increased to a two-year high of 3.9 percent and annual wage inflation moderated a bit.

Prior to the release of the CPI data, financial markets saw a roughly 70 percent chance of the Fed cutting rates in June. Since March 2022, the US central bank has raised its policy rate by 525 basis points to the current 5.25 percent-5.50 percent range.

By Guardian Reporter

## Tanzania NGOs nominated for Ashden Awards

TANZANIA-BASED organizations, Ujamaa Community Resources Team (UCRT) and Solar Sisters, have been nominated for the prestigious Ashden Awards. The awards recognize innovative projects that promote sustainable energy and climate solutions.

A statement provided to this paper highlighted that the annual awards champion exceptional, inclusive climate innovation in both the UK and Global South.

These innovations seek to build a more equitable and sustainable future, where green enterprises thrive, biodiversity flourishes, and communities are empowered to reap the benefits of climate action.

According to the statement, UCRT has empowered 120 Indigenous communities in securing their land rights and achieving sustainable liveli-

hoods from their territory. Through their efforts, 1.5 million hectares of land have been safeguarded.

Besides, Solar Sister has assisted over 10,000 female entrepreneurs in starting businesses selling solar products, providing economic opportunities for women and increasing access to clean energy in their communities.

Finalists for this year's sev-

en award categories are announced today.

Award winners receive grants, global publicity and connection to funders, investors and partners. This year's champions will be announced in a ceremony on Thurs June 27 at the Institute of Engineering and Technology, part of London Climate Action Week.

Four award categories focus on the Global South, and three

of these highlight pioneers widening access to clean energy. They include awards centred on skills and jobs, and energy access for refugees.

A fourth Global South award celebrates organisations boosting sustainable livelihoods for Indigenous People, and other communities living in threatened natural habitats.

Three UK-focused categories highlight work creating

natural defences to extreme weather, and clean energy innovation. All categories feature two finalists, apart from one - the Ashden Award for People's Energy - for which five organisations are eligible.

The finalists have been selected with the help of panels of expert judges including academics, investors, civil society leaders and journalists. These panels will also decide the fi-

nal winners.

The Ashden Awards highlight proven solutions to the climate crisis and energy access challenges. They will be held during London Climate Action Week on the evening of Thurs 27 June in London.

Winners receive a cash prize, development support, and the chance to connect with investors and leading figures in the energy and climate sectors. Since 2001, Ashden has awarded more than 261 ground-breaking organisations.







WORLD



Members of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions protest outside the US Consulate General in Hong Kong and strongly condemn US attempts to smear the National Security Law for Hong Kong and proposed Article 23 legislation on Monday.

US politicians slammed for interfering in HK affairs

HONG KONG

LAWMAKERS, community leaders and dozens of members from local groups organized protests outside the Consulate General of the United States in Hong Kong on Monday, slamming some US politicians' baseless accusations against Hong Kong's efforts to safeguard national security.

On Monday morning, more than 30 people, including legislators Bill Tang Ka-piu and Michael Luk Chung-hung, from the city's largest labor union – the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions – protested outside the consulate general, criticizing the US for interfering in Hong Kong affairs and even blatantly impeding the legislation related to Article 23 of the Basic Law.

Since January, Western politicians such as Gregory May, US consul general to Hong Kong and Macao; Nancy Pelosi, former speaker of the US House of Representatives; and David Cameron, the British foreign secretary, have made a series of groundless defamatory attacks, attempting to undermine Hong Kong's efforts to strengthen the mechanism of safeguarding national security. Their irresponsible speeches have triggered citywide protests in Hong Kong.

Tang said that the Legislative Council is reviewing the Safeguarding National Security Bill in a responsible, efficient, and highly professional manner.

The legislation work has also been welcomed and supported by the general public as the work will help the special administrative region fulfill its constitutional responsibilities and ensure unrest like the street violence of 2019 will not return.

Tang said that after the legisla-



Also on Monday, members of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong – the city's largest political party – staged a protest

The per capita disposable income of Chinese residents increased by 6.1 percent in real terms last year, outpacing the GDP growth during the same period. China created 12.44 million new urban jobs, maintaining overall stability in employment. Additionally, with price reductions and medical insurance reimbursement, negotiated drug prices in 2023 saved over 200 billion yuan (\$27.8 billion) for patients.

These tangible improvements in livelihoods have continuously enhanced the Chinese people's sense of fulfillment, happiness, and security.

"In recent years, our village has vigorously developed collective economy, which created job opportunities and increased villagers' income," said Xu Chuanjiang, Party head of Yuejia Village community in Chengyang neighborhood, Juxian county, Rizhao, east China's Shandong province.

tion's completion, Hong Kong society can focus on developing its economy and improving people's livelihoods.

The federation has warned the US government to give up its attempt to use anti-China activists, agents and organizations to endanger national security and social stability in the city, Tang added.

Luk said the actions taken by the US government and some of its officials blatantly violate international practices and diplomatic norms, deserving condemnation from all over the world.

The Article 23 legislation strikes a very good balance between safeguarding national security, protecting human rights and freedoms, and promoting economic development.

The city's proposed legislation has drawn upon the experience of other common law jurisdictions, Luk said, adding it not only comprehensively protects residents, but also benefits Hong Kong's economic development and foreign investors.

Also on Monday, members of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong – the city's largest political party – staged a protest outside the consulate general, condemning the US and some other Western politicians' obstruction of Hong Kong's national security legislation and interference in Hong Kong's judicial independence.

The alliance said the US' tricks will definitely be unable to shake Hong Kong people's resolve and willingness to complete the legislation and bring the city back to a road toward stability and prosperity.

The alliance demands that these countries and their politicians stop undermining the SAR's work to safeguard national security, especially the Article 23 legislation, and respect Hong Kong society's pursuit of security, stability, prosperity and development.

Disinformation and intervention from the West will only lead to greater objections from Hong Kong people and are destined to be futile, the DAB said.

Xinhua

Haiti's prime minister resigns amid unrest

MEXICO CITY

HAITIAN Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced early yesterday that he would resign once a transitional presidential council is created, according to local media.

"The government that I am leading will resign immediately after the installation of (a transition) council," Henry said in a video address. "I'm asking all Haitians to remain calm and do everything they can for peace and stability to come back as

fast as possible."

Regional leaders of the Caribbean Community held an emergency summit in nearby Jamaica on Monday to discuss the framework for a political transition and provide urgent humanitarian assistance to local residents.



On July 7, 2021, the then-President of Haiti, Jovenel Moise, was assassinated. Haiti was scheduled to hold elections before February 7 this year. Those elections failed to materialize, leading to social unrest.

Since late February, multiple gang organizations in Haiti have launched attacks on public facilities in the capital, Port-au-Prince, including police stations, the police academy and the international airport, demanding the resignation of the prime minister.



These 10 year's work is just a trailer, I have a long way to go, says PM Modi

AHMEDABAD

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday listed initiatives like a six-fold budget increase from 2014 and assured the countrymen that in the next five years, the transformation of railways will exceed their imagination.

Addressing the event of inauguration and foundation stone laying of several Railway projects, PM Modi (pictured) said that his government has displayed the willpower to bring the railways out of that hellish condition.

"Now Railways development is among the top priorities of the government. These 10-year's work is just a trailer. I have a long way to go," PM Modi said.

"For us, the development projects are not to form govt, but to form a Viksit Bharat. Our future generations should not face the struggles which were faced by us. In our 10 years, we have also created eastern and western dedicated freight corridors. This demand was delayed by Congress for decades... Freight corridors are working as a catalyst for the creation of industrial corridors" PM Modi added.

Noting Railways' critical role in a nation becoming developed and economically competent, the Prime Minister said, "Transformation of the railway is the guarantee of Viksit Bharat."

"The network of Vande Bharat train has reached over 250 districts. The govt is consistently expanding the route of Vande Bharat trains... We are working towards 100% electrification of railways. We are also planning for railway stations to run on electricity generated by using solar power. We are establishing Jan Aushadhi Kendras in railway stations. These reforms will create an ecosystem for 'Made in India' in railways" the PM said.

PM Modi threw light on the transforming landscape of railways and mentioned laying railway tracks at a fast pace, redevelopment of more than 1300 railway stations, flagging off next-generation trains like Vande Bharat, NaMo Bharat and Amrit Bharat, and unveiling of modernized railway engines and coach factories.

"Post-independence, the governments prioritised political gains over social welfare which impacted the railway sector the most. 10 years ago, the capitals of 6 northeastern states lacked railway stations. Our govt has completely transformed the landscape of the railway sector. Prioritising the sector, we increased the average railway budget 6 times as compared to the budget before 2014" the PM said.

ANI

UK's Kate apologizes for 'any confusion' photo edit

LONDON

KATE, Britain's Princess of Wales, issued an apology on social media on Monday for "any confusion" caused by an edited photograph which had been issued by her office Kensington Palace the previous day.

Several leading news organizations including Reuters withdrew the picture of Kate, 42, posing with her three children after post-publication analysis showed it did not meet their editorial standards.

"Like many amateur photographers, I do occasionally experiment with editing," the message on X said, signed with a "C" meaning it was sent by Kate. "I wanted to express my apologies for any confusion the family photograph we shared yesterday caused."

In the picture a smiling Kate, 42, was shown posing with her beaming children Princes George and Louis and Princess Charlotte in Windsor, where the family live. Kensington Palace said the photo had been taken by her husband, heir to the throne Prince William, last week.

News agencies including Getty, Reuters, the Associated Press and AFP and the Press Association later withdrew the photograph. Reuters picture editors said part of the sleeve of Kate's daughter's cardigan did not line up properly,



A montage of British newspapers that lead with the image of Kate, Princess of Wales and her children is laid out in London on Monday. AP

suggesting that the image had been altered.

A royal source said Kate had wanted to post an informal picture of her family to mark Mother's Day, which was celebrated in Britain on Sunday, and had made minor adjustments.

Broadcasters with access to the original image said an examination of its metadata showed it had been saved in photo editing software Adobe Photoshop twice on an Apple Mac.

The picture had already attracted huge media attention as it was the first official photograph of Kate since she spent two weeks in hospital after undergoing abdominal surgery in January for a non-cancerous but unspecified condition.

Although her office said she would not return to public duties until after Easter and that she was recovering well, her absence has led to intense speculation about her health on social media in recent weeks.

"Thank you for your kind wishes and continued support over the

last two months," Kate wrote in a message which accompanied Sunday's picture.

Kate and William were pictured together on Monday leaving Windsor by car for London. The prince joined other senior royals for a service to mark Commonwealth Day at Westminster Abbey.

Kate travelled to a private appointment as planned, a royal source said, and did not attend the abbey service.

Another absentee was King Charles, 75, who has postponed public appearances while he undergoes treatment for an unspecified form of cancer.

"In recent weeks, I have been most deeply touched by your wonderful kind and thoughtful good wishes for my health and, in return, can only continue to serve you, to the best of my ability, throughout the Commonwealth," he said in a pre-recorded message played at the service.

Agencies

Putin approves denunciation of fisheries agreement with UK

MOSCOW

THE Russian Government has signed the law on denunciation of the fisheries agreement with the United Kingdom. The document was posted on the legal information web portal.

The agreement was made in 1956 between the USSR and the United Kingdom. British fishing boats were allowed fishing in certain areas of the Barents Sea along the Kola Peninsula's



coast. The agreement continued to be in force after the collapse of the USSR because Russia is the successor to the Soviet Union.

The document is predomi-

nantly one-sided and does not provide benefits to the Russian side, according to accompanying materials.

Considering the termination of the most favored nation trade status for Russia by the United Kingdom in March 2022, denunciation of the document will not result in any serious foreign political and economic consequences for Russia.

The law will come into force in ten days after its publication.

Agencies

China takes people's wellbeing as fundamental goal of development

Yuejia Village has made a success in running supermarkets and hotels, and now its collective assets have exceeded 1 billion yuan, with a collective economic income of 65 million yuan.

"In the future, we will continue to expand the village's collective economy and explore new paths to prosperity," said Xu.

To meet the housing needs of people is an important goal for improving people's livelihoods and directly concerns their wellbeing, said Shangguan Jian, secretary of the Communist Youth League Shanghai Committee.

Shanghai is increasing the supply of affordable rental housing for new residents and young people, accelerating the development of a multi-level and tiered rental housing supply system, Shangguan noted. The city is also optimizing the spatial layout

of affordable housing for young people to alleviate the housing difficulties they face.

Equal education is an important foundation for social equity.

"In our school, there are over 3,500 students from ethnic minority groups. With the support from governments at various levels, there have been significant improvements in infrastructure, and students have achieved balanced and comprehensive overall development," said Yulong, a teacher at the First Primary School in Menghai county, Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan province.

According to her, 20 schools were built or expanded in Xishuangbanna last year, providing an additional 9,680 school places and introducing high-quality educational resources. As a re-

sult, teaching quality in the prefecture has been on continuous improvement.

In recent years, various issues concerning people's livelihoods, ranging from strengthening food safety supervision to reducing students' academic burden, and from the "toilet revolution" to garbage sorting, have been effectively addressed.

The various demands and needs of the people are being addressed and satisfied, highlighting the image and unique strengths of Chinese modernization.

To provide people with easier access to high-quality medical resources, China has implemented a series of policies and measures, such as establishing urban medical groups and county-level medical consortia, said Yang Zhenglin, an academician of the

Chinese Academy of Sciences and president of the Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital.

Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital has established a medical alliance with 12 county-level public hospitals through a trusteeship model, to bring high-quality medical resources to lower-tier regions, thus expanding people's access to medical services, Yang noted.

With steady progress in various reforms and gradual improvement of supporting measures, significant achievements have been made in ensuring people's access to childcare. The enrollment rate for preschool education has reached 91.1 percent, and the number of affordable kindergartens has reached 236,400. A comprehensive and quality public service system for preschool education, which en-

sures wide coverage and basic access, is continuously being established. "In recent years, China has accelerated the improvement of its elderly care service system, greatly enhancing the sense of fulfillment, happiness, and security for the elderly," said Xiong Shuilong with the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

As one of the pilot cities for the long-term care insurance system, Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, has issued trial measures on long-term care insurance.

Currently, the long-term care insurance system covers nearly 8.97 million employees and over 2.54 million residents in the city. A total of 83,000 people have been benefited.

Xiong suggested further ex-

panding the pilot scope. "By further expanding the coverage, we can ensure that elderly people in need of long-term care receive proper assistance, relieving more families of their worries."

In 2023, the Department of Civil Affairs of Hunan Province, in collaboration with relevant departments, carried out a special campaign to ensure the well-being of 9,000 orphans and 29,000 children without parental care, safeguarding their healthy growth, said Huang Donghong, head of the Department of Civil Affairs of Hunan Province.

This year, Hunan province will continue to expand the care for vulnerable children, including raising the minimum living guarantee standards for orphans and children without parental care as a key priority in the province's livelihood projects. More care will be extended to those in need of assistance, she added.

People's Daily



# US intelligence report raises concerns over Netanyahu's political 'viability' as leader of Israel

WASHINGTON

US intelligence community has highlighted concerns over the political future of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, indicating that his "viability as a leader" is "in jeopardy," CNN reported.

The annual report from the US intelligence community, presented to Congress, suggests that "distrust of Netanyahu's ability to rule has deepened and broadened across the public from its already high levels before the war, and we expect large protests demanding his resignation and new elections."

"A different, more moderate government is a possibility," it also said.

The report also underscores criticism within Israel directed at Netanyahu's government for failing to anticipate the October 7 attack by Hamas, resulting in significant casualties and hostages. Public opinion questions the efficacy of Netanyahu's prolonged military response, which has caused extensive destruction in Gaza and raised doubts about its effectiveness in rescuing hostages, as reported by CNN.

Despite widespread support in Israel for dismantling Hamas, the intelligence assessment delivers a stark outlook on Netanyahu's political standing, signaling a possible shift towards a more



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

moderate government. This assessment is notable given President Joe Biden's previous positive sentiments towards Netanyahu.

Tensions between the US and Israeli leaders have escalated, particularly regarding the civilian toll in Gaza. The Biden administration has urged Israel to allow more aid into the Palestinian enclave, with Biden warning that Netanyahu is "hurting Israel more than helping Israel."

To which Netanyahu hit back in a separate interview that if Biden was suggesting "that I'm pursuing private policies against the wish of the majority of Israelis, and that this is hurting the interests of Israel then he's wrong on both counts."

The intelligence report further warns that Israel may face ongoing armed resistance from Hamas, with difficulties in neutralising the group's underground infrastructure. Military experts echo these concerns, cautioning that Israel's aggressive approach may inspire future generations of terrorists, as evidenced by the influence of Hamas on groups like al-Qaeda and ISIS.

The report indicates a heightened terrorism threat within the US since the October 7 attack, with FBI Director Chris Wray emphasizing the increased risk from various extremist groups.

"Even before October 7th, I would have told this committee that we were at a heightened threat level from a terrorism perspective, in the sense that it's the first time I've seen in a long, long time the threats from homegrown violent extremists, that is jihadist-inspired extremists, domestic violent extremists, foreign terrorist organizations and state sponsored terrorist organizations all being elevated at one time," Wray said.

The Annual Threat Assessment, a comprehensive overview of global security threats, took an unusual turn during a Congressional hearing, with Republican lawmakers focusing on security issues related to the US southern border. This deviation prompted a brief exchange between Democrat Sen Mark

Warner and Republican Sen Jim Risch about the politicisation of the panel.

"One of the things I think that we have always taken some pride [in on this committee] is that we can agree without questioning each other's patriotism, questioning each other's motives," Warner said, adding, "And I hope that tenor will be maintained."

Risch fired back, referring to Warner and another Democratic senator who condemned the Republican line of questioning: "I've been on this committee for 15 years and we do a really good job until politics do creep in -- and that's what's happened here this afternoon with the last two speakers," according to CNN.

Testimonies from Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines and CIA Director Bill Burns highlighted the precarious situation in Ukraine. Russia's resurgence and Ukraine's ammunition shortages pose significant challenges, with the CIA urging additional US assistance to prevent further territorial losses.

Burns said that without additional assistance from the US, Ukraine "is likely to lose ground and probably significant ground in 2024." A USD 60 billion aid package to Ukraine has been delayed in the House amid Republican opposition to additional funding. **ANI**

# Emirates supports customers observing the Holy Month of Ramadan

DUBAI

REFLECTING the spirit of togetherness and generosity during the Holy Month of Ramadan, Emirates will be serving thousands of meal boxes for passengers who are fasting both onboard and at boarding gates, screening an array of religious content and popular TV shows on the entertainment service on board, and serving specialized Ramadhan dishes in the lounges.

At the Emirates lounges in Dubai International Airport (DXB), Arabic sweets, dates and coffee will be offered during Ramadhan. Meals available in First and Business Class lounges will include a selection of hot and cold Arabic mezze, lentil soup, main courses of Arabic mixed grill with tahina, chicken kabsa served with dakous and raita, and desserts of kunafa pistachio cream, basbousa saffron, walnut kathayef ashta and ice cream flavours of Arabic coffee and dates or baklava, alongside a host of sweets and pastries.

Emirates lounges are also equipped with dedicated prayer rooms and ablution facilities to ensure a peaceful environment for worship.

For fasting customers at select Emirates Boarding Gates during iftar time, there are complimentary iftar boxes to help break the fast - containing water, laban, a banana, and dates.

To ensure the highest levels of accuracy for fasting Muslim passengers, Emirates uses a unique tool to calculate the correct timings for imsak (the time to commence fasting) and iftar while in-flight, based on the times of the sunrise and sunset of the location the flight is passing by using the aircraft's longitude, latitude, and altitude. When the sun sets, passengers will be officially informed of the iftar time by the captain.

Customers breaking their fast across all cabin classes to select destinations will be offered nutritionally balanced Ramadhan meal boxes. Iftar meals will be served in bespoke boxes, designed by Emirates to represent the rich Emirati heritage of the Al Sadu weavers.

This traditional community weaving practised by Bedouin women of the UAE produce accessories in distinctive geometric patterns, reflecting the community aspect of the Holy Month.

Ramadhan meal boxes include light bites from hummus with spinach and Arabic bread, to tabbouleh with baba ghanoush, alongside sandwiches of Moroccan or zaatar chicken with pickled garlic mayonnaise, and some sweet treats of almond chocolate or Arabic baklava, cashew nut and pine seed baklava flowers, as well as staples like dates and refreshing laban. Emirates' Ramadhan boxes will be served in addition to the regular hot meal service.

Specialised meal boxes are being served on flights catering to Umrah groups travelling to Jeddah and Medina during the month of Ramadhan. Passengers are entitled to check in one bottle of Islamic holy water 'Zamzam' containing up to five litres per person at Dubai International Airport (DXB) and various airports in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. **Agencies**

# UN chief calls for action as women's rights face backsliding, violence

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday underscored the critical urgency of protecting women's rights, now endangered by regressing achievements, escalating violence, and a widening digital gender divide.

Addressing the opening of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the pivotal forum dedicated to promoting and safeguarding the rights of women and girls worldwide, the UN chief stressed the disproportionate impact of wars on women.

"In conflict zones around the globe, women and girls are suffering most from wars waged by men," he said, urging immediate ceasefires and humanitarian aid.

He highlighted the dire circumstances in Gaza, where reportedly more than two-thirds of casualties and injuries during Israel's military actions involve women and girls, and pointed out alarming reports of sexual violence against Palestinian women during detentions, house raids, and checkpoints in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Guterres also voiced concern over the situ-

ation faced by women in other countries, including Afghanistan and Sudan.

The secretary-general stressed that despite evidence that women's full participation makes peacebuilding much more effective, the number of women in decision-making roles is falling.

"The facts are clear: Women lead to peace," he said, calling for more funding and new policies to boost women's participation and investment in women peace-builders.

The UN chief also emphasized a growing digital gender divide, noting the dominance of men in digital technologies, particularly in artificial intelligence. He cautioned that algorithms controlled by men might embed disparities across multiple life facets, observing that the design of systems by male leaders and technologists frequently neglects women's needs, bodies, and essential rights.

"It's time for governments, civil society and the Silicon Valleys of the world to join a massive effort to bridge the digital gender divide and ensure women have decision-making roles in digital tech-



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

nology at all levels," he urged. Guterres also drew attention to the pressing need for women to hold leadership roles, particularly in financial institutions. He highlighted the stark gender disparity in finance, with over eight of ten finance ministers and more than nine out of ten central bank governors being men.

The top UN official emphasized that dismantling structural barriers is crucial for achieving gender parity in leadership roles. "Overwhelmingly male-dominated financial institutions need to dismantle the structural barriers that are blocking women from leadership roles," he said.

Drawing parallels with the UN's

successful achievement of full gender parity among senior management and leaders worldwide, he urged governments, banks and businesses to replicate these efforts, emphasizing that change does not happen by accident.

In concluding his speech, the secretary-general called on the global community to rally together for gender equality, highlighting the role of the CSW as a driving force for transformative change.

He advocated for joint actions to eradicate poverty in all its forms. "Let's do it by investing in women and girls, betting on women and girls, and pushing for peace and dignity for women and girls everywhere," Guterres said. The president of the General Assembly, Dennis Francis, continued the call to action, highlighting the urgency of intensifying efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With the world currently lagging in attaining the goals, particularly the goal to eradicate extreme poverty, Francis revealed a stark reality: "Currently, one in every ten women lives in extreme poverty - 1 repeat - one in every 10

women."

Highlighting the necessity of a comprehensive strategy, Francis emphasized the importance of ensuring equal access to resources, implementing social protection policies sensitive to gender, and adopting measures to eliminate gender-based discrimination that restricts women's participation in leadership and decision-making positions.

The 68th session of the CSW is taking place from March 11 to 22 at the UN headquarters in New York, under the priority theme of "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective."

Annually convened, the CSW stands as the foremost worldwide assembly of civil society members, governmental figures, policymakers, and specialists, dedicated to evaluating advancements in gender equality, deliberating on critical concerns, and forging consensus on initiatives aimed at enhancing the well-being of women and girls globally. **Xinhua**

# EAM Jaishankar thanks outgoing UK envoy Alex Ellis for strengthening ties with India

NEW DELHI

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, yesterday warmly welcomed and bid farewell to the outgoing UK High Commissioner, Alex Ellis, while thanking him for strengthening bilateral relationship with India.

EAM Jaishankar (pictured) expressed his gratitude for the dedicated service and contributions made by the outgoing UK High Commissioner during his tenure in India.

"Glad to receive UK High Commissioner @AlexWellis on his farewell call. Thank him for strengthening our bilateral relationship," said EAM Jaishankar in a post on X.

Alex Ellis was appointed as the British High Commissioner to India in 2021.

On February 11, 2021, Ellis presented his credentials to the then President Ram Nath Kovind, in a virtual ceremony, who accepted him as the UK's High Commissioner to India.



Previously, Alex worked as Deputy National Security Adviser for the Integrated Review on foreign and security policy. He was also Director General in the Department for Exiting the EU for three years, according to UK government.

Alex has extensive experience in security issues, EU and strategy, including DExEU Director General responsible for the UK-EU security partnership, international agreements with the UK's closest partners and domestic and EU engagement on Brexit.

He also served as British Ambassador to Brazil, (2013 - 2017) and Portugal (2007-10) and also as Director of Strategy in the Foreign Office responsible for developing new tools for improving FCO and government policy.

He was member of the cabinet of the President of the European Commission, with responsibility for energy, climate change, competition, development, trade and strategy; and before that in the UK Representation to the EU working on the negotiations to establish the

euro, the seven-year budget, and then institutional issues including the Treaty of Nice.

Alex has worked in the British Embassy in Madrid and started his civil service career as part of the team supporting the transition to multi party democracy in South Africa, following the release of Nelson Mandela.

Prior to this Alex was a teacher, including in India. He sings in a choir and loves music, theatre and most sports, especially cricket. **ANI**

# Unique charm of whole-process people's democracy

WHENEVER he has time, Qian Haijun, a community manager in the customer service center of the power supply company of State Grid in Cixi, east China's Zhejiang province, would conduct door-to-door research with a small notebook.

Qian, also a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), discussed experiences of carbon reduction with company managers and energy-saving measures with local residents. He gathered suggestions on topics like new energy transformation and green electricity trading, and then brought them to the NPC meetings.

To make proposals that better align with public opinion and reality, researcher Jiang Qi with the Ningxia Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences, a member of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), had frequent field

research to learn about the expectations of livestock farmers. He has brought "fresh" proposals to the meetings of the top political advisory body currently held in Beijing.

NPC deputies and CPPCC National Committee members from all walks of life extensively listen to the voices of the people. Each "golden idea" that gathers the collective wisdom of the people showcases the unique charm of China's whole-process people's democracy, invigorating socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics.

There are various ways to achieve democracy. The people's congress system and the CPPCC system enrich the forms of democracy, and demonstrate unique and significant institutional advantages.

NPC deputies and CPPCC National Committee members actively fulfill their duties and



The opening meeting of the second session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 4, 2024. (Xinhua/Rao Aimin)

conduct thorough research on various issues such as community governance, ecological conservation, and rural revitalization. They gather wisdom from all and draw on the strengths of all, contributing their insights to the ultimate goal of delivering a better life for the people.

The stories bear witness to the harmonious blend of democracy and people's livelihoods, showcasing the true value of democracy.

The stories of NPC deputies and CPPCC National Committee members fulfilling their duties reflect the methodologies for advancing national endeavors. Promoting Chinese modernization is an exploratory undertaking of hundreds of millions of Chinese people and thus they are the main actors in this process.

By listening about the needs of the people and seeking

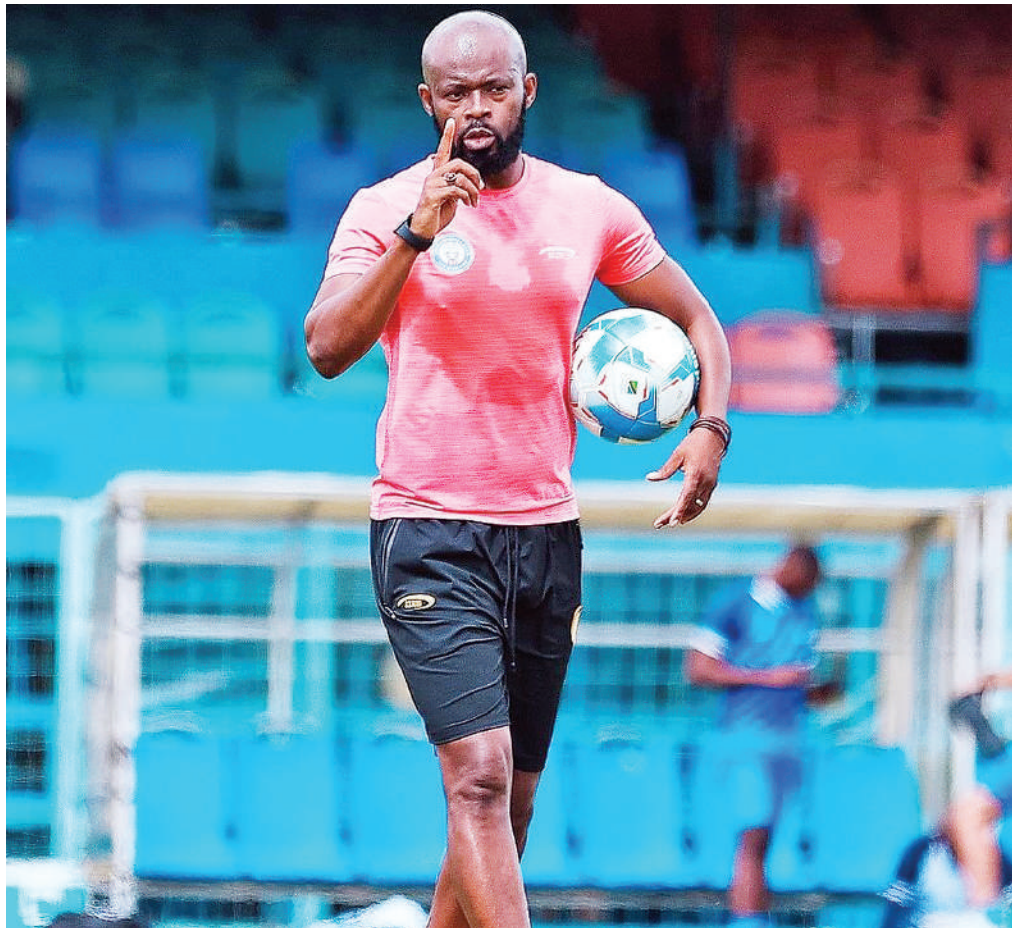
their advice, identifying practical issues from the pressing concerns of the people, and drawing inspiration from the vibrant practices of the people, China can better arouse the will for unity, rally the strength for striving, and blaze new trails forward.

In order to meet the people's ever-growing needs for a better life, the "two sessions," which refer to the annual sessions of the NPC and the CPPCC National Committee, have become an important platform that pools wisdom for practical strategies and good advice to achieve high-quality development.

With an aim to meet the people's aspirations for a better life, the "two sessions," gathering more wisdom and strength from the public, are unfolding a magnificent picture across the country that improves people's well-being and enhances their quality of life.



# SPORT



Azam FC head coach, Youssouph Dabo.

## Dabo eyes Azam FC's defensive rebuild ahead of Premier League duel vs Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC head coach Youssouph Dabo has emphasized on strengthening his outfit's defense ahead of this season's NBC Premier League duel against Yanga slated for Sunday in Dar es Salaam.

The coach's move has been reached as the outfit leaked in goals in five of the last seven games since the top flight resumption in February after a break brought about by the 2023 AFCON tournament.

Azam FC lost 3-2 to Yanga in the NBC Premier League first-phase fixture held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on October 23, 2023.

Dabo pointed out that after notching a 1-1 draw with Coastal Union on March 6, Azam FC returned to the training ground to correct some of their mistakes from both ends of the pitch and plan how they can emerge victorious.

He has said that all areas that cost his team- from defense to attack- have been kept in consideration to achieve their goal of defeating Yanga.

The tactician revealed: "Our focus and attention are on those areas because, in the next match, we want three points by not giving our opponents a chance to attack us freely, we lack confidence and we need much control in this match."

"The attackers also need to be careful, especially through the chances we create, we lose a lot of chances, in that we are working to prepare for our next game against Yanga and have a good account of ourselves, our opponents are scoring goals and our defense needs to be aware of that," Dabo noted.

He added that recording points happen to be what his club is mostly looking for in every game to achieve its goal and see to it the side's fanatics watch their team play good football and get good results.

Dabo noted: "We have played many games than Yanga and Simba SC who are our rivals, we need to neutralize

their pace by picking points against them, in the first round, we were solid in our possessive style of play- we need to replicate that and see how we can play against Yanga to our advantage."

The tactician expressed his confidence in his attacking line, with the absence of Prince Dube who is set to leave the club after a release clause demanding payment of 765m/- is settled by either the striker or any of the outfits that want his services. The Senegalese coach noted that the missing striker has not affected his team and he lauded the remaining attacking players.

"He is still our player regardless of what's going on. We missed him in two matches against Tanzania Prisons and ended the game with a 1-1 draw," the tactician revealed.

"We won 4-1 against Dodoma Jiji FC and had a 1-1 draw with Coastal Union. The existing players have done well and shown their worth every day for this club," the coach noted.

"Azam FC has many players and each one wants to get a chance to play, so I believe that those who are available will do well in the attacking area regardless of whether Dube is there or not," the Senegalese coach added.

Azam FC is currently placed second in the league log with 44 points after 20 games.

## Dar boxer still searching for Paris Olympics qualification

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Olympic Committee (TOC) says it is contemplating securing the country's boxer Lucas Chagalawe's participation in another Paris Olympics qualifying event.

Chagalawe, fighting in the Heavyweight division, bowed out of the Paris 2024 Qualification Tournament that is taking place in Busto Arsizio, Italy, having lost to Norway's Mindaugas Gedminas by points.

The Tanzanian pugilist lost 3-2 to Gedminas in the round of 32 of the Olympic Qualifiers.

He was among the five African boxers who won their fights in the round of 64 held on the second day of the qualifiers.

In an interview, TOC vice president Henry Tandau- who accompanied the boxer to Italy- said once he arrives in the country this week, the committee's leaders will meet to discuss the way forward.

"TOC is an institution- we will meet to see what we should do, there are still more Paris Olympics qualifying events," Tandau pointed out.

"Before we come up with a final decision there are many aspects which we will look into, those include availability of funding," he said.

A total of 602 players from the National Olympic Committees of 113 countries are participating in the Italy competition, competing for 49 places in 13 different weight categories.

To reach the round of 32, Chagalawe- the 2022 Commonwealth Games and Africa

Championships bronze medalist- twice knocked down Venezuela's Diego Pereira in the first round before referee Peter Olanda from Sweden waved it off in one minute 36 seconds of the first round.

Meanwhile, Boxing Federation (BFT) secretary-general Makore Mashaga said Chagalawe is expected to join the Ghana-bound national boxing team tomorrow.

He also disclosed that the federation plans to send nine boxers to the Paris Olympics Qualifiers which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in May.

Makore said there are 28 places for men and 21 for women in the Paris Olympics boxing showdown, with each weight category having four places, except for the 57kg women's weight category- which has two positions, and the 60kg women's weight category which has three positions.

The BFT leader noted: "The first Olympics Qualifier is being held in North Italy, Busto Arsizio, our boxer Lucas Chagalawe was last Friday knocked out of the qualifiers."

"There were 49 quotas competed for (21 for women and 28 for men). Chagalawe was sponsored by Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) but there is a second World Olympic Boxing Qualifier which will be held in Thailand's capital, Bangkok, in May," Mashaga noted.

"The remaining 51 quotas will be competed for, six female pugilists and seven male pugilists will qualify for the Paris Olympics, we plan to send nine boxers (four women and five men)," he said.

## SPORTS

## Yanga and Simba brace for stiff competition in CAF Champions League quarterfinals

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

AFTER making a lackluster start to the CAF Champions League Group Stage, Simba SC and Yanga are probably now breathing a huge sigh of relief following their successful passage to the quarterfinals of continental football's most treasured competition.

Indeed, Simba SC and Yanga's landmark achievements mark the first time in history that our country will be represented by two clubs in the knockout stage of the CAF Champions League.

However, now that we have come to the business end of the championship, it is crystal clear that Simba SC and Yanga will face infinitely stiffer competition than that they faced in the Group Stage of the CAF Champions League.

According to recent media reports, Yanga is expected to meet one of the following fearsome big guns that are Mamelodi Sundowns, ASEC Mimosas, and Petro Atletico of Angola, who amazingly topped Group C during the competition's Group Stage.

For Simba SC's part, they are likely to cross swords with any of the following three teams that are South African titans Mamelodi Sundowns, Group C table-toppers Petro Atletico, and Egyptian powerhouses Al Ahly, which ended the Group Stage as Group D leaders.

Indeed, one gets the sense that the real battle royals in this season's CAF Champions League are only just beginning to get underway.

With the quarterfinals set to kick off at the end of this month, one hopes that lady luck will smile on Simba SC's and Yanga's expectedly massive efforts to advance to the semifinals of the CAF Champions League.

Let us remain with all things football and dig into a new FIFA tournament dubbed the FIFA Series, which



Simba SC's midfielder Said Ntibanzonkiza (L) battles for the ball with a Jwaneng Galaxy player when the outfits locked horns in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group B tie which took place in Dar es Salaam on March 2, 2024. Simba SC defeated Jwaneng Galaxy 6-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

significantly will involve our very own Taifa Stars this year.

The newly minted 2024 FIFA Series will take place from March 22-25 in Baku, Azerbaijan and it will feature three competing teams which are Taifa Stars, Bulgaria, and Mongolia.

In my book, this is a commendable move by FIFA to establish such a competition as it will offer some much-needed exposure to the Taifa Stars, which ought to stand the Stars in good stead going forward.

It should be recollected that teams like the Taifa Stars have precious little chance of confronting European opposition since they never qualify for the coveted FIFA World Cup.

In light of that unpleasant reality, one would like to give FIFA the thumbs up for organizing such a competition that will hopefully serve as fertile ground for teams like the Taifa Stars to vastly improve.

Let us switch focus now to the low-profile sport of squash which was in the spotlight last weekend at the Colosseum Gym in Dar es Salaam.

Indeed, last weekend saw the final of the Tanzania Squash Open take place at the Colosseum Gym

between the Zambian Samuel Kabwe and the Kenyan James Dalidi in an action-packed contest.

Following an exhilarating and entertaining display of top-notch squash, Zambian Samuel Kabwe was the player who prevailed but, in reality, it was local squash that was the big winner.

After years of stagnation, it was particularly rewarding to see a squash tournament finally take place on the local scene and one hopes that this is just the first championship in a long line of squash competitions this year.

## Gamondi attributes Yanga's victory to tactical brilliance

By Correspondent Seth Mapoil

IN a captivating NBC Premier League showdown marked by redemption, Young Africans SC showcased a stellar showing in a dominant 5-0 victory over Ihefu SC in an NBC Premier League tie held at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Monday.

The win reignited the defending champion's pursuit of glory. The highly charged encounter served as a fitting platform for Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, to avenge their previous loss to Ihefu SC in the first-round fixture.

Amidst the jubilant celebrations, both sides' coaches seized the opportunity to dissect the game's exhilarating twists and turns.

Miguel Gamondi, Yanga's head coach, elucidated the key factors behind their success.

The Argentine noted: "The truth is that my boys played exceptionally well today, and the primary reason for our victory is our respect for Ihefu SC."

"Despite acknowledging Ihefu SC as a formidable team, I instructed my players to execute our training ground strategies and create ample scoring opportunities," the tactician stated.

Gamondi delved into the technical aspect of how they managed to overcome Ihefu SC's defensive tactics, highlighting their ability to penetrate the opponent's area despite facing a compact defense.

He remarked: "In their area, Ihefu SC adopt a low block strategy, but we are well-versed in countering such tactics through diligent practice."

"It's evident that our team possesses several players with exceptional decision-making abilities, especially in challenging matches like this," the Argentine noted.

The triumph on Monday evening propelled Yanga to 49 points after 18 matches.

The scoring commenced with midfielder Pacome Zouzou's opener, followed by fellow midfielder Mudathir Yahya doubling the lead.

In the second half, Stephane Aziz Ki, Augustine Okrah, and Maxi Nzengeli fully exploited their opportunities, primarily through counterattacks, to score three goals.

Furthermore, the coach elaborated on his squad's second-half dominance, during which they scored three goals.

Gamondi disclosed: "In the second half, I made the strategic decision to adjust our



Yanga's midfielder Salum Abubakar (L) races past Ihefu SC's midfielder Duke Abuya when the teams met in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League duel that took place in Dar es Salaam recently.

formation, allowing Ihefu SC more possession. However, we capitalized on swift counterattacks and surprised them with our speed and physicality."

"As a football coach, it's imperative to analyze the game and adapt tactics accordingly," the Argentine coach stated, emphasizing the importance of tactical acumen in achieving success.

In the aftermath of the defeat, Mecky Mexime, coach of Ihefu SC, conceded that Yanga deserved the victory, acknowledging their superior performance.

"I must admit that Yanga were exceptional today. They played very well despite our efforts to create numerous scoring opportunities," the tactician stated.

"We failed to capitalize on their flaws in the first half, squandering four clear chances," stated the coach, who boasts experience from various clubs in NBC Premier League," Mexime noted.

Reflecting on the adjustments made, particularly in the second half, Mexime lamented their inability to turn the tide in their favour.

"Entering the second half with a 2-0 deficit, we had no choice but to reorganize and strive for equilibrium."

Despite our attempts to push forward and mount attacks, Young Africans SC proved formidable and capitalized on our vulnerabilities, scoring three goals through swift counterattacks," Mexime explained.

Looking ahead, Yanga's focus now shifts to their upcoming fixture against Geita Gold FC, where they will look to maintain their winning momentum and further solidify their grip on the top spot.

With their confidence soaring and their squad firing on all cylinders, they will undoubtedly approach the match

with determination and resolve, eager to secure another crucial victory.

Meanwhile, Ihefu SC will be left to lick their wounds and regroup as they prepare for their next challenge against Coastal Union at the Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga.

Despite the disappointment of their defeat, they will be keen to bounce back and put in a strong performance to redeem themselves and regain momentum in their quest for success.

Yanga's emphatic victory over Ihefu SC has not only bolstered their position at the summit of the Premier League standings but also served as a statement of intent to their rivals.

With their relentless determination, clinical finishing, and unwavering focus, they have firmly established themselves as the team to beat in the race for the title.



## Tehran football derby ignites passions in Iran

TEHRAN

EXCITEMENT is running high among fans of Tehran's two football giants before today's derby between Persepolis and Esteghlal whose long-running rivalry has ignited passions in sports and politics for decades.

The Azadi stadium, which is home to both teams, is one of the largest in the world, and will see its seats packed for the 103rd Tehran Derby.

"It's the most important match. There's a crazy atmosphere, incredible to experience," Kevin Yanga, the only Frenchman playing in Iran, told AFP. "Half of the stands are all blue, the other all red," said Yanga, who has played in five derbies since joining the blues of Esteghlal in 2021.

Fans travel hundreds of kilometres to reach the capital before spending the night near the stadium to secure a seat.

"It's a very, very strong rivalry, comparable to that between the clubs of Manchester - United and City - or of Glasgow - Celtic and Rangers," Yanga said.

The Frenchman, however, will not be playing on Wednesday due to injury.

Both teams are competing in the Iranian top-tier football league, the Persian Gulf Pro League.

Esteghlal are top of the table, three points ahead of title holders Persepolis, with 11 games to play.

This year, for the first time in Iran, a woman will join the refereeing team for a men's match. Though not on the field, 34-year-old Mahsa Ghorbani will observe the match with two others as video assistant referees.

Ghorbani's assignment is a mark of a new era in a closed-off world of Iranian men's football that has rarely seen women in the stadiums.

Last year, 3,000 Iranian women, after decades of fighting to get into stadiums, were able to attend their first derby, a move welcomed by FIFA.

"Iranian women have proven that they can obtain their rights, despite the patriarchal manage-

ment of football," said Ebrahim Afshar, one of the country's best-known sports journalists. "And one day, one of them will become the main referee."

The Islamic republic's two most popular clubs have also left their footprints in the country's politics over the decades.

Esteghlal, Persian for "independence", considered to be the club of the elite close to power, was founded in 1945 by an influential military officer under the name Taj, or "crown", of Tehran.

The club was associated with the Pahlavi dynasty which ruled Iran until 1979, when it was toppled by the Islamic Revolution.

In contrast, Persepolis aimed to be the people's club, after its founding in 1967 by a boxing champion.

"But in truth, Persepolis had players who were proud to be members of the shah's secret police, while some Taj players were from the left," which opposed the Iranian monarchy, Afshar said.

Both clubs managed to survive the Islamic Revolution, whose initiators considered football a pastime promoted by the ancien regime to distract the population's attention from "serious issues".

Forty-five years later, politics remains a pillar of fan bases on both sides, who accuse each other of benefiting from government financial support.

Their intense rivalry has forced public personalities to hide their allegiances to avoid criticism by supporters of the opposing team.

Out of 102 matches, 49 have ended in draws so far, with Persepolis winning 27 and Esteghlal 26.

"The history of the derby has shown that the pressure is such that the result is often decided on an act of play, a throw of the dice, rather than on the quality of the teams," said Afshar.

It is unlikely to see a repeat of the 6-0 defeat inflicted by Persepolis on Esteghlal in 1973, the memory of which is cultivated with pride by supporters of Iran's most successful club.

AFP

## Pochettino calls for Chelsea unity after Newcastle win

LONDON

MAURICIO Pochettino called for the Chelsea fans to trust his players after a 3-2 win over Newcastle on Monday propelled the Blues back into contention for European football next season.

Pochettino had faced open revolt from among his own support during last weekend's 2-2 draw at Brentford.

The former Tottenham boss has suffered a difficult first season at Stamford Bridge, which included losing the League Cup final to a severely depleted Liverpool last month.

Chelsea remain 11th in the Premier League table, but closed to within four points of West Ham in seventh, which should at least secure a place in the Europa Conference League.

"We need to stick together," said Pochettino, whose side face Leicester in the FA Cup quarter-finals on Sunday.

"Until the end we are going to fight to try to give our fans the best things. It helped a little bit today we scored from the beginning, the fans were good and behind us. They need to trust in us."

Newcastle's 12th defeat of the season leaves the Magpies just one point better off than Chelsea in 10th.

The pressure is also rising on Eddie Howe as Saudi-backed Newcastle have failed to build on finishing fourth last season to qualify for the Champions League for the first time in 20 years.

"All three goals are similar in their characteristics. We didn't defend those situations well enough and if you do that you are going to lose games," said Howe. "I know we can hit the heights of previously, but we are not doing it anywhere near often enough."

There were promising signs for Pochettino as some of his much-criticised expensive young recruits showed glimpses of their potential.

Nicolas Jackson is now up to 12 goals in his debut season as he cleverly flicked in Palmer's shot after less than six minutes.

However, it was the story of Chelsea's season that they failed to build on that flying start and allowed Newcastle to go onto control the rest of the first half.

The visitors were dealt an injury blow midway through the first period when Anthony Gordon was forced off.

But Alexander Isak produced a quality finish, fired low into the far corner, to bring Newcastle level two minutes before half-time.

The one new signing Chelsea have been able to rely on all season is Cole Palmer and the England international restored his side's lead in emphatic fashion just before the hour mark.

Palmer collected Enzo Fernandez's pass, cut inside and unleashed a powerful effort for his 11th Premier League goal of the season.

Mykhailo Mudryk, by contrast, has been a constant frustration for a number of Chelsea managers since joining for £88 million (\$113 million) just over a year ago.

The Ukrainian had been on the pitch only five minutes when showed his blistering pace to burst through the heart of the Newcastle defence and turn in just his sixth goal in 46 Chelsea appearances.

AFP

## An era ends for Jurgen Klopp and Pep Guardiola - but now they enter something new in the title race

By Miguel Delaney

AS a beaming Jurgen Klopp sat down with the press after a 1-1 that got everyone off their seats, he was asked whether this made him want to stay.

The Liverpool manager reasserted his reason for leaving at the end of the season, but there is maybe some slight sense of regret - if also completeness - that his team produced what he described as one of their best performances against Manchester City in his last league game against them.

Klopp can be given to hyperbole in such situations, but there was logic to his claim. It was also for more reasons than the context of the performance and, as the German said, "the squad situation".

It was also about the approach and resolve. In Klopp's previous landmark performances against City, particularly in 2017-18, there was an element of Liverpool exploiting the rare gaps left by Pep Guardiola's side.

Those performances had the sense of being fully commanding, but they weren't quite that. As Klopp said himself, they usually won through counter-attacks.

This was different. It was one of Liverpool's more complete displays against this City side in how they dominated the ball and space. The spell after half-time was remarkable, with Guardiola's side unusually spooked.

It was a rare game where it felt like the champions got away with one, even though they themselves went so close with Jeremy Doku's shot off



Klopp and Guardiola hug on the touchline at Anfield. Agencies

the post. That might normally foster the sense that Liverpool will rue this draw, but there was no sense of that after the game.

"How we played in midfield was some of the best moments of my coaching career," Klopp said. "That we are able to do that against them... the boys really wanted it, massive heart, sensational atmosphere, one point, let's keep going".

The big question, of course, is how far they can go. Is it just a title challenge, or are we really talking about Liverpool becoming champions again in Klopp's final season?

The German, perhaps predictably, sidestepped that question. "All that matters is where we are from a performance point of view - and today we saw that."

This is actually the real significance of a fixture that had been built up as another seismic Liverpool-City game but ended somewhat unsatis-

factorily. There was no climax. Rather than settling anything, though, it set a pace.

After months where Liverpool looked so promising but questions persisted over how good they actually were, we now have a definitive answer. They were able to come back against City and dominate the game with many senior players missing. That is a big step.

They have become the team to beat... except for the fact that Arsenal are still ahead of them. And, once this duel between two great rivals was out of the way, thoughts properly turned to the fact that this really looks like the Premier League's first proper three-way race in a decade. Both managers were asked about the prospect, with neither having experienced it before.

It is something new even for them. That creates even more excitement from a sense of uncertainty. They

won't just be looking to each other. Guardiola initially had a curious response when asked whether that posed a different challenge.

"You are not going to undermine our previous Premier Leagues," he said, before again mentioning "credit".

That whole debate is something that seems to have increasingly agitated the Catalan of late, and it's hard not to wonder whether it's linked to all the praise for the departing Klopp. The German himself simply ruminated on whether he'd ever been involved in a three-way race and concluded he had not.

Where both managers were relaying exactly the same message, though, was in effusive praise of the other challenger. Both were glowing about Arsenal.

Guardiola enthused about how Mikel Arteta's side "need 25 minutes to go 3-0 up", in reference to the way they've just blown sides away of late. Klopp picked up that theme, talking about how Arsenal are firing on all cylinders.

He then added "City is City", which is a simple three words but is maybe the most relevant point in all of this.

What he meant is that it's known Guardiola's side can get over 85 points at will - usually more - so this is the standard the other two have to reach. That's the decisive factor in the entire race. That is also why Klopp took such satisfaction from this result, but particularly the performance. It was an assertion of quality. Arsenal are meanwhile indicating they can accelerate from last season; that they have genuinely gone to another level. **THE INDEPENDENT**

## Griezmann back as Atletico face Inter challenge in crunch week

MADRID

ATLETICO Madrid host Champions League runners-up Inter Milan today boosted by key player Antoine Griezmann's likely return from injury.

Diego Simeone's side stumbled 1-0 in Milan in February in the last 16 first leg clash, with Griezmann spraining his ankle at the San Siro.

The French forward missed four games since, of which Atletico have won only once, but has returned to training and Spanish media say he is set to feature in the second leg.

Struggling Atletico face an uphill climb against the runaway Serie A leaders after Marko Arnautovic netted the only goal on Simeone's return to Italy to face one of his former teams from his playing days.

The Rojiblancos also have Spanish champions Barcelona's visit on the horizon on Sunday in La Liga, where Athletic Bilbao are battling to overtake them in fourth place.

Atletico were ousted from the Copa del Rey by Athletic and despite a strong start to the season, are 14 points behind bitter rivals and current league leaders Real Madrid.

Perhaps with one eye - or even two - on the Champions League, Atletico fell to a dismal 2-0 defeat at lowly Cadiz on Saturday.

It was the Andalucians' first victory in 17 matches and first in La Liga since September.

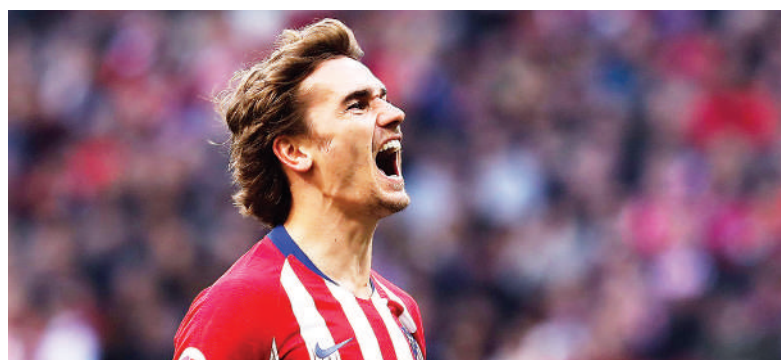
Despite the woeful performance Simeone backed his men ahead of the Inter clash.

"I feel that the team is giving everything and it's me that is not finding the right way," said the coach. "I'll go to the death with the players because I know what they can give, I know they can do big things, and I will keep working with them."

Simeone's last chance of silverware this season lies in Europe and the coach will be grateful for Griezmann's potential return.

The 32-year-old forward has 18 goals in 36 appearances across all competitions this season.

Atletico are also boosted by their strong home record. At the Metropolitan stadium they have won 18 of 20 matches this season across all competitions, tumbling just once - against Athletic in the cup.



Their fans usually create a raucous atmosphere on big nights and the game is tipped to set a new record attendance at the 70,000 seater stadium. Simeone has doubts in defence as none of his regulars are in good form with the exception of Axel Witsel.

New arrival Gabriel Paulista made errors against Cadiz, while Reinildo Mandava has not been at his best after a long injury lay-off.

"We have to reset and prepare well for the game against Inter on Wednesday," said Witsel after the humbling by the Yellow Submarine. "There is no time for words, we have to focus on our work and play well against Inter."

Meanwhile, in Dortmund, Borussia Dortmund coach Edin Terzic will know his job is on the line against PSV Eindhoven in today's last-16 second leg at home. A 1-1 draw in the Netherlands makes the assignment simple: the winner in Dortmund will progress to the last eight.

Born and raised on Dortmund's outskirts, Terzic's story of the childhood BVB fan was his first head coaching job was at his favourite club is the stuff of fairytales.

Winning the German Cup as interim boss in 2021 before getting Dortmund closer to a league title last season than anyone since Jurgen Klopp, losing out on goal difference, had Terzic living an increasingly rare modern football story.

But a poor domestic season, which has Dortmund out of the German Cup and fighting for a spot in next year's Champions League, has Terzic on thin ice. Bayer Leverkusen's stunning run under Xabi Alonso, who has his unbeaten side 10 points clear with nine games left and on course for a maiden Bundesliga title, along with Bayern Munich's self-inflicted struggles this season have taken the focus off Dortmund somewhat.

An exit against a team from outside Europe's top five leagues, PSV's impressive unbeaten domestic record under former Dortmund coach Peter Bosz notwithstanding, would likely prove the death knell for Terzic's reign.

Stodgy and mistake-prone in Germany, Dortmund have however impressed in Europe, finishing first in a difficult group which included Paris Saint-Germain, AC Milan and Newcastle.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

An era ends for Jurgen Klopp and Pep Guardiola – but now they enter something new in the title race

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga's striker, Kennedy Musonda (R), negotiates his way past Ihefu SC's player during the 2023/24 NBC Premier League tie which took place at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Monday and ended in a 5-0 victory for Yanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

## Gamondi: It is too early to say NBC PL title race is over

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC head coach Miguel Gamondi believes it is far too early to declare the NBC Premier League title race over.

The league's defending champions already find themselves five points clear at the top of the NBC Premier League, despite having two games in hand over second-placed Azam FC.

They are also ten points ahead of third-placed Simba SC who have one game in hand.

Imperious in the NBC Premier League and with a CAF Champions League quarterfinal ticket, Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, sealed a sixth straight league win with a 5-0 triumph over Ihefu SC at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Monday evening.

Gamondi told reporters he is more than satisfied with his team's performance against Ihefu SC who had beaten them when the two sides met earlier this season at Highlands Estate Stadium, Mbarali.

The Argentine disclosed: "I am very happy with the performance of the team. In the beginning, it was a tough game for us because Ihefu SC is a team that plays a nice kind of football but I think we were perfect."

"We dominated, created chances, and put the ball in the net which is the most important," Gamondi stated.

"I can't ask for more than five goals. It is fantastic. Last time they told me you don't score many goals, you lose too many chances but today we did not lose many chances," he noted.

He insisted: "We are very realistic, we missed three or four chances but we scored five. I think we are the best offensive team in the league and we are defending well as well. I am more than satisfied."

When asked if he thought the title race was over, the Yanga boss said it was way too soon to tell while calling on his side to keep their winning momentum for the next five games.

"It is too early. Nineteen games that we have played. It is step by step, we must respect all the opponents," the Argentine disclosed.

He stated: "In football, you never know. We are in a good run and, of course, we are contenders for the title but we must respect the other teams."

"I repeat we have eleven games to play and we need to play the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League, Azam Sports Federation Cup as well. There are a lot of games to play but we need to continue with this pace," the tactician added.

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*I repeat we have eleven games to play and we need to play the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League, Azam Sports Federation Cup as well. There are a lot of games to play but we need to continue with this pace*

## Aziz Ki, Feisal step up race for top goalscorer award

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki and his Azam FC counterpart Feisal Salum are neck-and-neck in the race for the top goal scorer in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League season as the country's top football tournament approaches its two-third mark.

Statistics compiled by the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) show the two players have each scored 12 goals so far.

On Friday, Salum, popularly known as 'Fei Toto', scored against Coastal Union to salvage a 1-1 draw at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

He had scored a brace in the previous game against Dodoma Jiji FC to go level with Aziz Ki.

In addition to his 12 goals, Salum has assisted five times in 20 league appearances this season.

Aziz Ki - who has played fewer games than Salum - has the advantage of leading the goal contributions table.

He has six assists on top of his 12 goals to take his goal contributions to 18 in 15 league appearances this season.

On Monday he scored one and assisted three times to inspire Young Africans SC, also known as Yanga, to a sixth league win in a row as they tightened their grip on the top spot.

Aziz Ki and Feisal will come face-to-face when Azam FC and Yanga clash in a league duel at Azam Complex Stadium on Sunday, each seeking to increase their goal tally for the season.

Waziri Junior scored an 18-minute hat-trick for Kinondoni Municipal Council FC on Sunday to make up ground in the race to be crowned top goalscorer.

The 27-year-old began his second-half goal fest by firing Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's second goal in their 4-2 win over Tabora United.

Junior added his second of the game just 11 minutes later as Kinondoni Municipal Council FC began to run riot on the Tabora side. He completed his hat-trick in the 67th minute to take his tally for the season to 11 goals.

After a four-game goal drought, Maxi Nzengeli got himself on the scoresheet in Yanga's win over Ihefu SC.

The Congolese midfielder produced a fine near-post run and finished to strike the final nail in Ihefu SC's coffin in the 86th minute.

Nzengeli has now scored nine times in the league for Miguel Gamondi's side. He is third in the top goalscorer list.

Last season, Simba SC's Saidi Ntibazonkiza and Yanga's Fiston Mayele shared the NBC Premier League Golden Boot title with 17 goals apiece.



Yanga midfielder, Stephane Aziz Ki. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

## Simba SC set to confront Al Ahly in CAF CL quarterfinals



Simba SC footballers are pictured jubilating when the outfit secured a goal in this season's CAF Champions League Group B tie against Jwaneng Galaxy in Dar es Salaam on March 2. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA's envoys in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League, Simba SC, and Yanga, will come up against opponents from Egypt and South Africa in the quarterfinals following the phase's draw which took place in Cairo, Egypt yesterday.

Simba SC is set to take on a familiar opponent in Egypt's Al Ahly in the premier continental showdown's last-eight phase.

The teams will be locking horns for the third time this season. They previously met in the inaugural African Football League (AFL) first stage, which was won by Al Ahly via an away-goal rule.

In the AFL's last eight's first leg tie which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on October 20, 2023, the teams were locked to a 2-2 draw.

In the rematch that took place in Cairo four days later, the teams settled for a 1-1 draw, an outcome which saw Al Ahly make it to the last-four phase.

Yanga will face a much sterner test, given the NBC Premier League defending champion will confront AFL champion, South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns in the CAF Champions League last-eight.

According to CAF, the quarterfinals' first leg will take place be-

tween March 29-31, 2024 and the second leg has been slated between April 5-7, 2024.

The 2023-24 CAF Champions League is the 60th edition of Africa's premier club football tournament organized by the Confederation of African Football and the 28th edition under the current CAF Champions League title.

The quarterfinal draw brought together eight teams that were split into two pots. Pot 1 consisted of the four group winners. Pots 2 teams constituted the runners-up from Group A-D.

It must be stated that teams from the same group could not be drawn against each other in the CAF Champions quarterfinals but teams from the same association could be drawn against each other.

It means that Tanzanian side Simba Sports Club will not be able to meet its Group B opponents ASEC Mimosas at this stage. Each knockout tie is played at both teams' home stadium - as long as it meets CAF requirements - whilst extra time and penalties are used if the tie is level after 180 minutes.

The group winners are Al Ahly (Egypt), ASEC Mimosas (Cote d'Ivoire), Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa), and Atletico Petroleos (Angola). The runners-up are TP Mazembe (DR Congo), Simba SC (Tanzania), Esperance Sportive de Tunis (Tunisia), and Young Africans SC (Tanzania).

According to organizers, the draw was conducted in Cairo, Egypt starting with the CAF Confederation Cup at 14h00 Cairo

time (12h00 GMT) and the CAF Champions League at 15h00 Cairo time (13h00 GMT).

The draw was streamed live on CAF's digital platforms and was free for everyone to access. According to CAF, fixtures will be confirmed after the draw, with the group winners playing the first leg away from home. The draw will also determine the semi-final pairings and the road to the final.

In the draws for the semi-finals, there will be no seedings, and teams from the same group or the same association could be drawn against each other.

As the draws for the quarterfinals and semi-finals were held together before the quarterfinals were played, the identity of the quarterfinal winners will not be known at the time of the semi-final draw.

The winners of the title will qualify for the brand new 2024 FIFA Intercontinental Cup and the expanded 2025 FIFA Club World Cup in the United States of America.

Exciting fixtures are also on the cards in the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals, given the defending champion USM Alger of Algeria will lock horns with the tournament's previous season quarterfinalist, Nigeria's Rivers United FC.

Abu Salim of Libya will take on the 2022 CAF Confederation Cup winner, RS Berkane of Morocco in the last-eight phase, and the phase will moreover see Stade Malien of Mali confront Ghanaian club Dreams FC.

The quarterfinal phase of the second tier of Africa inter-club showdowns will further pit Zamalek SC against compatriots, Modern Future FC.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

