



ZRA COLLECTS 559.49BN/- IN NINE MONTHS
PAGE 3



DCEA SEIZES 54,506KGS OF ILLICIT DRUGS
PAGE 4



CONTRACTOR SUPPORTS ORPHANAGE IN DAR
PAGE 6

Samia: Clear all AG audit queries in parliamentary budget meeting

The meters had been imported and were being analysed by Weights and Measures, with a few errors noticed, which should be fixed and the meters installed

By Carlos Banda

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed cabinet ministers to ensure that they rapidly start to prepare to respond to all the issues raised in the last annual report of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) as the National Assembly starts to discuss the performance of various ministries in the current Budget meeting.

This instruction was issued at the State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday after swearing in newly appointed public officials, with the president saying that it is important for incoming deputy ministers to prepare to respond to issues for the government to know what has been tackled and what is still pending.

On new top executives, other national lead-

TURN TO PAGE 2



President Samia Suluhu Hassan swears in Paul Makonda as Arusha regional commissioner at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

SPORTS

Page 20



Simba SC chases upset CAF Champions League triumph in dreaded Cairo

Page 19



Calm win over Luton shows how Arteta has learned from Arsenal's previous title challenge

Page 18



Sabotage allegations prompted Sundowns and Al Ahly to carry food, drinks

MPs want benefits formula reworked

The government has also extended 86 percent of the total investment in a leather products processing plant, which recorded a 4.5bn/- loss in the past four years

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

PUBLIC servants retirement payments formula needs to be reworked as it has continuously pained retirees, legislators demanded yesterday.

Debating the Prime Minister's Office budget estimates for 2024/2025 they

said that retired public servants are not satisfied with the arrangements and are pleading for a reformulation of payment schedules.

Esther Bulaya (Special Seats-Opposition) argued that the National Social Security Fund Act was initially pegged to retirees being paid 50 percent of their

contributions on lump sum payment in retirement, later deducted to 33 percent.

The government knew that the social security funds were close to bankruptcy, thus merged private sector pensions with funds for public sector employees to remain with the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) and the National Social Security Fund (NSSF).

Public servants such as police officers, nurses, teachers and medical doctors send messages to MPs raising their voices on the issue, opposed to the current retirement benefits payments arrangement.

Being paid a maximum of 17m/- while one has not yet built a retirement home hampers such effort, while public servants struggle to reach retirement age, she stated.

Retired public servants communicating with MPs on the issue demand a 50 per-

TURN TO PAGE 2

Government gets \$100m loan to buy 150 fire tenders

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government has finalised processes to access a concessional loan valued at 257.90bn/- (\$100m) through Adex Ltd, an international consulting firm operating in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), for procurement of fire tenders.

Geoffrey Pinda, the Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister, told the National Assembly

TURN TO PAGE 2



Special Seats legislator Ester Bulaya contributes to debate in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday on the Budget estimates of the Prime Minister's Office for financial year 2024/2025, as tabled in the legislative body by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

BoT ups benchmark rate, markets brace for lending impact

By Mnaku Mbani

BORROWERS are brooding over the likely impact on borrowing costs following a policy shift by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to raise its benchmark interest rate to six percent for the second quarter of this year.

Financial market analysts characterised this mood in response to the move by the BoT monetary policy committee, explained by the need to tighten credit further, with lingering inflationary pressures arising from global economic developments.

Raphael Masumbuko, analyst and chief executive officer for Zan Securities Ltd, said that the current geopolitical tension and other factors have likely effects on the country's macroeconomic environment for the second quarter of 2024 in particular as regards the rate of inflation.

The effect of these pressures is likely to be an increase in overall interest rates, even as fixed income space interest rate increase was likely to lead to a decrease in bond price.

Industries relying on borrowing like private sector construction, risk a slowdown with a likely increase in borrowing costs, he said.

Governor Emmanuel Tutuba announced the

TURN TO PAGE 2



9 770856 542009 >

Samia: Clear all AG audit queries in parliamentary budget meeting

FROM PAGE 1

ers making short addresses in the ceremony, said they are expected to boost performance in the government. They must focus on taking up and implementing major policy drives in cross cutting issues especially in relation to the youth.

Youth development, digitalisation and tourism development must be effectively supervised and implemented to spur socio-economic growth, the president emphasised.

Deogratius Ndejemi, taking over at Youth, Employment, Work and Disabilities in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), was told that as minister and still youthful, he has to oversee effective implementation of government policies concerning youth and people with disabilities.

The focus should not be to seek funds for any new youth project, she stated, pointing out that youth issues are crucial in agriculture, fishing and livestock rearing. "The youth are highly dependent on the government's role to prepare good policies and plans for their growth and development," she stated.

The newly appointed portfolio holders need to evaluate the impact of Building a Better Tomorrow - Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) in terms of how many youth have been uplifted by the programme.

They also need to know how many youth have been educated, joined VETA and how many have been employed so far; and which sectors have high employment records.

The new Home Affairs deputy minister was reminded of the digi-

talization of the country's law enforcement mechanism to enable real time updates for top officials when crime or such other events occur.

Illustrating, the president said operating digitally will enable a police station in Rorya informing police headquarters just as an incident. Road safety needs to be installed with surveillance cameras to waive cars to the roadside and instead everything operates by automatism.

The incoming Water deputy minister was reminded of the rapid installation of verified water meters enabling users to purchase the water they use, not being sent inflated bills by meter readers.

The meters had been imported and were being analysed by Weights and Measures, with a few errors noticed, which should be fixed and the meters installed, she said, expressing the view that this method will inculcate the habit of the prudent use of water.

The incoming Information, Communication and Information Technology deputy minister was tasked with ensuring that all Tanzanians have a single identity number identified as a social number that will house all public information on a person as opposed to carrying several identification documents as a means to curb the problem of some people having multiple identities.

Special mention was reserved for Paul Makonda, the first to be sworn after the incoming minister, taking over as Arusha RC was instructed to ensure the region has more accommodation facilities to cater for the rising influx of tourists and provide close support to investors.



Industry and Trade deputy minister Exaud Kigahe responds to questions from legislators during yesterday's morning session of the marathon meeting of the National Assembly in progress in Dodoma city. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

MPs want benefits formula reworked

FROM PAGE 1

cent lump sum on their retirement, pointing out that retirees aren't through with building houses and taking care of their families.

That means a drastic cut in initial benefits on the assumption that old age living at home and mostly without young people to raise is grossly mistaken, she said.

Pointing out that PSSSF liquidity is supposed to remain within 40 percent of the fund's value, she said that the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) noted that for several years its liquidity was in the region of 20 percent.

She asserted that the government had borrowed from social security

funds as part of financing for large scale projects and failed to repay the loans, hence affecting the funds' liquidity situation.

"In 2020/21 the government paid 2.1trn/- on a non-cash bond promising that it was going to pay 2.4trn/- in the next financial year but it didn't happen," she said.

In June 2020 PSSSF had recorded membership contributions valued at 1.364bn/- while the required monthly retirement benefits payments stood at 1.554bn/-, thus needing to find ways to fix the 190m/- deficit, she said, noting that PSSSF has the capacity of mobilizing 400m/- from its investments annually.

In June 2022 PSSSF had recorded

membership contributions valued at 1.526bn/- while retirement payment requirements stood at 1.697bn/-, with the return on investment during that year standing at 587m/-, the legislator affirmed.

"One of the investments commissioned with PSSSF funds is the Mkulazi Sugar factory, whose investment funds was sourced from the fund by 96 percent and for the past four years it has recorded a loss amounting 11bn/-," she specified.

The government has also extended 86 percent of the total investment in a leather products processing plant, which recorded a 4.5bn/- loss in the past four years, she elaborated.

Kasalali Mageni (Sumve) argued that the government is humiliating public servants with the idea that they can't manage their retirement payments while they have served the government for years handling money related to scores of projects.

He objected to that idea, saying it is a disgrace to public servants to be told that the government is managing their funds for them while they safeguarded public funds in their days of service.

Jane Jerry James (Special Seats) argued that payments for retired public servants from the education sector, especially teachers should be a priority to motivate teachers in school to diligently take up their du-

Govt gets \$100m loan to buy 150 fire tenders

FROM PAGE 1

here yesterday that the money will soon be disbursed to the Ministry of Home Affairs for strengthening the Fire and Rescue Force functions.

He made this observation when responding to Dorothy Kilave (Temeke) who wanted clarification on plans for procuring fire tenders for the Mchicha Station of the force, located in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam.

The concessional loan is intended for the purchase of 150 fire tenders and other rescue facilities to be supplied countrywide, he said, noting that the force has in the current financial year procured 12 fire tenders.

The fire tenders have been secured through a 13.72bn/- (4.9m euros) bilateral concessional loan by Austria, he stated, referring to efforts, explaining that the government has for several years sought to enhance capacity of the force, handing it necessary equipment for efficient execution of their duties.

The fire tenders are intended for Temeke, Ilala, Kinondoni, Dodoma, Mwanza, Morogoro, Mbeya, Arusha and Kilimanjaro fire and rescue stations, the deputy minister noted.

In a supplementary question, the MP demanded what the ministry is doing to install water hydrants to cut arrival time for fire tenders when outbreaks occur, searching for water sources to load the tenders.

He said that 12 fire tenders have been purchased and are in the city of Dar es Salaam, soon starting to be distributed to fire stations.

The force has several water bowers for emergency loading of water in fire tenders if an incident occurs, he said, explaining that the bowers have a capacity of 5,000 litres to 10,000 litres. The bowers play a critical role in fire outbreaks in Dar es Salaam, he asserted.

Abdallah Chaurembo (Mbagala) wondered if the rapid population growth in the city and the constituency, a suburb of the city, has ena-

bled plans by the ministry of setting up a fire and rescue station there.

In his response, Pinda said that with the 150 fire tenders expected to be procured in the next financial year, a fire station in the city suburb province is on the cards, as it is booming in small scale businesses.

Zuberi Kuchauka (Liwale) said that Liwale is among the country's fast growing towns with numerous commercial activities, thus demanding when the government expects to install a fire and rescue facility.

The deputy minister said that in the ministry's 024/25 estimates, fire and rescue services are among the top priorities. Surveys will be conducted in various districts including Liwale to find out the capacity of handling fire incidents, alongside identifying which places fire stations can be set up, he said.

Dr Christina Mnzava (Special Seats) said that Shinyanga municipality doesn't have a single fire tender, thus in case of an outbreak people have to pay for assistance from private security companies.

She demanded whether Shinyanga is one among municipalities listed for obtaining fire tenders among the 150 fire tenders to be supplied.

Rita Kabati (Special Seats), said that fire outbreaks have been frequent in Mufindi and Kilolo forests in recent years, asking the deputy minister to allocate fire tenders to contain the incidents.



...Shinyanga municipality doesn't have a single fire tender, thus in case of an outbreak people have to pay for assistance from private security companies



A traffic police officer inspects two cars involved in a road crash in downtown Dar es Salaam's Kisutu market area yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

BoT ups benchmark rate, markets brace for impact

FROM PAGE 1

key interest rate shift to 6 percent yesterday, eclipsing the debut benchmark policy rate of 5.5 percent in January, refocusing from money supply-based policy to at the end of the last year.

The policy committee chairman said in a statement that the decision on macroeconomic forecasts was conducted last month, demanding an increase in the scope of monetary policy actions to contain lingering inflationary pressures.

Implementation of monetary policy in the first quarter of 2024 had the 7-day interbank interest rate, a key factor in setting the policy rate, within the target band of 3.5-7.5 percent.

Inflation had remained low and stable, averaging 3.0 percent in the first quarter of 2024 in line with the country's target of not more than

5.0 percent, he stated.

This is also consonant with convergence criteria in regional economic blocs in which Tanzania is a member, the statement indicated, highlighting that stability was due to prudent monetary policy and adequate domestic food supply.

Zanzibar inflation eased, converging to the medium-term target of 5.0 percent mainly due to moderation in both food and non-food prices, thus expected to remain consistent with the target, BoT projected.

The governor was satisfied with recent economic performance despite facing external headwinds, underlining that the outlook for economic performance in the remaining three quarters of 2024 is favourable.

The economy is estimated to have grown at 5.1 percent in 2023 from 4.7 percent in the preceding

year, with first quarter 2024 growth being estimated at around 5.1 percent, he projected.

The performance is underpinned by public investments particularly in infrastructure, as part of measures to facilitate private sector growth and foreign investment.

Private investment rose due to an improving business environment in the country, reflected in the high growth of credit to the private sector and an increase in foreign direct investments, he stated.

Private sector credit growth remained strong, averaging 17 percent, the same as in the preceding quarter, directed to agriculture, mining, transport and manufacturing, he said.

"Demand for credit is expected to remain strong, attributable to improving business and investment conditions," the governor specified, toning down fears of a likely credit

cutback.

Foreign reserves remained high, at more than \$5.3bn as of the end of March 2024, equivalent to 4.4 months of projected imports, the report noted, affirming that the exchange rate depreciated by 1.8 percent in the quarter ending March 2024 compared to 1.6 percent in the preceding quarter.

The exchange rate depreciated more steeply owing to a seasonal decrease in foreign exchange flows for instance in tourism, as well as global economic conditions.

The committee said the shortage of foreign exchange in the economy would also be in the ongoing measures, increasing the supply and reducing the demand for the US dollar, to stabilize the situation in the near future, he stated, hinting at an improved economic performance in advanced and emerging market economies.



Preparations for the implementation of Phase II of the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit infrastructure project in progress along the Kamata stretch of Nyerere Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

TPDC surveying LPG pipe viability in Dar es Salaam

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

TANZANIA Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) in collaboration with TAQA Dalbit Tanzania Limited is conducting a survey on the actual demand for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in Dar es Salaam that among others is intended to facilitate connection of the energy to city residents.

The survey to be accomplished in June this year also seeks to identify best ways of distribution of the energy source in the entire city.

Energy Deputy Minister Judith Kapinga revealed the plan in the National Assembly yesterday when responding to a question by Josephat Gwajima (Kawe) who asked when the ministry will connect LPG pipes to houses in the city.

Kapinga said that the survey results will enable an effective plan for the LPG distribution that also takes into account urban planning.

"The survey will determine the best way to lay down pipes and identify suitable and unsuitable areas to be connected to the pipes," she said.

She said TPDC was continuing with the implementation of various LPG distribution projects in the city.

"The government has so far connected LPG pipelines to 880 houses in the city suburb of Sinza (226), Mikochoeni (155), Kurasini (344) as well as Mwenge Mlalakuwa and the University of Dar es Salaam (155)," she said.

She said the government has constructed a 12.4 kilometre LPG pipeline from Mwenge to Mbezi Beach via Bagamoyo road.

"To begin with, two factories and six hotels have already been connected to the pipelines in the city as TPDC continues to connect domestic customers," she said.

She invited the private sector to fully participate in energy investments especially in construction of infrastructure and supply of LPG to many areas of the city.

Mariam Kisangi, (Special Seats), said Dar es Salaam residents have adhered to clean energy consumption but spiralling cost is

an obstacle.

She questioned the government's plans in connecting more residents, especially those in slums and the outskirts of the city.

In her response, Kapinga said the current strategy is to connect 1,000 households and the more populated areas will come next.

Esther Matiko, (Special Seats) said that rural residents are motivated to use clean energy but the cost in accessing the energy source is high.

She challenged the ministry to come up with the strategy of offering subsidies so that people get rid of firewood and charcoal as cooking energy sources.

Kapinga responded that the government hopes to complete the clean energy strategy for cooking soon to address obstacles that rural residents face in accessing LPG.

ZRA surpasses quarter three revenue collection target

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA) has in the past nine months collected a total of 559.49bn/- surpassing its goal to collect 536.21bn/- in the third quarter of the 2023/24 financial years

Addressing reporters here on Tuesday, ZRA Commissioner General Yusuf Juma Mwenda said the collection was equivalent to 104.34 percent.

He said the increase of

collections was attributed to various factors including increase of the authority's efficiency, investment in digital systems and in the construction of infrastructure.

Other contributing factors to the increase of collections are the increase of investment projects as well as social and economic activities resulting from good economic policies put in place by the government.

"The increase of collections

is also attributed to improved awareness among taxpayers and the public in general as well as the strengthened collection systems and expanded economic activities," he said.

Mwenda said that ZRA has also increased cooperation with other institutions such as Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), tourism sector, immigration department as well as friendly relations with taxpayers.

He further said that the authority

will continue to implement strategies to further increase collections including addressing unnecessary inconveniences in regional tax offices.

"We will also invest in in-house training for our staff in order to increase efficiency in management and customer care," he said.

He added that the authority will also continue to heighten relations with taxpayers by increasing education and providing prompt response to their challenges.

LOSS OF CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

MICHAEL HENRICK MLYUKA announces the loss of Certificate of Title number 3395 in Ruvuma. Whoever find it take it to a nearest Police station. The information for the loss has been reported to the police. LR/T/2024/3395 RUV.



Procurement of Pharmaceutical Books for NTA Level 4-6

About Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC)

Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) is an ecumenical body jointly established by the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) and the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) in 1992 to facilitate social services with the main focus on education and health services provided by the churches. The Commission was registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1993 under the category of a not-for-profit faith-based organization and in 1994, CSSC became a legal entity by being incorporated under the Trustees' Incorporation Ordinance that is responsible for coordinating the provision of social services by churches in Tanzania. It is mandated to chart out a common action within the policies and legal framework of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania aimed at expanding and improving the provision of social services, Education, and Health. CSSC initiates, improves, and strengthens cooperation with the Government, NGOs, and other stakeholders sharing and bearing the same aspiration and dedication to the provision of social services.

CSSC Vision: CSSC envisions a society in which all people have equal access to quality education and health CSSC Mission: To facilitate the delivery of quality health and education services by member Churches in Tanzania, through advocacy, capacity building, partnerships, and cost-effective interventions, with the compassion and love of Christ.

Specification for Books

Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) through the Multi-Actors Partnership Project for Quality Pharmaceutical Services (MAP OPS) has set aside funds to procure and distribute to middle cadre pharmacy training institutions offering NTA level 4 - 6 pharmacy courses as part of efforts undertaken to improve the quality of training.

This advertisement calls for local authors who have written books that are used as teaching book(s) or reference material as approved by the regulatory authorities overseeing the training of pharmacy students under NTA level 4-6 A bidder responding to this call needs to provide the following:

1. Name of the book(s)
2. Price of the book(s)
3. Evidence of ownership of the book(s)
4. Evidence suggesting that the book(s) have been approved by the regulatory authority to be used for training book(s) or reference book(s) regulating the pharmacy training using NTA level 4 - 6 system

Application Package and Procedures:

- i. Interested, eligible vendor should email their electronic quotation indicating the Tanzanian Shillings cost for each book via email to the procurement department at procurement@cssc.or.tz copying director@cssc.or.tz,
- ii. Applicants are not required to protect their submitted documents with a password.
- iii. The organization reserves the right to accept or reject.

Executive Director
Christian Social Services Commission
 4 Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road
 P.O Box 9433 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The deadline for the submission is 1600hrs East Africa Time on 18th April 2024.



TENDER FOR DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

ITT/SCITZ/DISP/2024/001

Save the Children (SCI) is the world's leading independent organisation for children. We save children's lives; we fight for their rights; we help them fulfil their potential. We work together, with our partners, to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

Save the Children - Tanzania Office intends to dispose its assets listed below through Open Tender.

S/N	Asset Description	Reg. Nr.	Location*	Condition	Duty
1	Toyota Landcruiser - Hardtop	T 314 CJQ	Dar es Salaam	Non Operational	Not Paid
2	Toyota Corolla	Z 889 DK	Zanzibar	Non Operational	Not Paid
3	Motor Cycle Honda XL 125	Z 539 AH	Dar es Salaam	Non Operational	Not Paid
4	Motor Cycle Honda Xtrial 110	MC 457 BLL	Dar es Salaam	Non Operational	Not Paid
5	1 Generator; Perkins; 30KVA		Dar es Salaam	Non Operational	N/A
6	1 Generator; Honda 11KVA		Dar es Salaam	Non Operational	N/A

* Location: Dar es Salaam = Plot 157, Kiko Avenue, Off- Mwai Kibaki Road: Mikochoeni A. Phone: +255222701725 Zanzibar = SCI Offices; Vuga Street & Kilimani area, Stone town. Phone: +255242234153

Inspection of the items (motor vehicles/equipment) shall take place on the 12th and 15th April 2024 between 10.00am and 2.00pm at indicated locations above (Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar offices). All items are being sold in their current condition and without representations or warranties from the SCI.

Interested individuals/firms are requested to submit their offers through email attaching copy of Identification (NIDA or Passport) for individuals and Registration Certificate with Director's ID for companies/organisations. Please send your offer through email to: tenders@savethechildren.or.tz with the Subject "Disposal of Assets 2024" then indicate item (s) selected along with your offer in Tanzania Shillings (TZS) No later than 19th April 2024 at 2.00pm (1400hrs).

Successful buyer will be required to pay at least 25% of the accepted offer within five (5) calendar days and the balance (75%) within one (1) month (initial 5 days inclusive) after being notified of the award. Failure to pay as indicated above, SCI is at liberty to withdraw the award and consequently charge the awardee (winner) 10% of the initially accepted offer. The winner will be responsible for all related costs including transfer of ownership, duties (where applicable), etc. The buyer will be allowed to remove items after full payment and successful transfer of ownership for motor vehicles.

Only winners will be notified by email within two (2) weeks from the date of closure of applications. In case you don't hear from SCI three (3) weeks after the closing date, consider your application unsuccessful.

Any bid submitted after the indicated time shall be rejected.

Save the children International - Tanzania
 Country Office, Plot No. 257 Kiko Avenue, Mwai Kibaki Road, Mikochoeni
 P.O. BOX 10414, Dar es Salaam - Tanzania

'Tanzania needs more efforts to maintain cybersecurity status'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ALTHOUGH Tanzania ranks second after Mauritius in guaranteeing a high level of cybersecurity in Africa, the country needs more efforts to maintain the position.

This came to light in Arusha city yesterday during the third Cybersecurity Tanzania Forum, organized by the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Commission.

Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga, Director General of ICT Commission, said at the moment all government transactions and communication systems have gone digital and connected online which means the issue of security is of paramount importance.

So far, only 15 African countries including Tanzania, have a level of cybersecurity preparedness above the global average. Mauritius has remained the leader on the continent since 2014.

Tanzania is now holding the second position after climbing up gradually from number eight then taking the third position and eventually now slotted at number two ahead of Egypt which is also working hard to top the continental bill.

Tanzania is so far the most cyber secure country in the entire east, central and southern African region, beating digital giants like Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.

Chairperson of ICT Commission Prof Leonard Mselle said cybersecurity platforms are useful in bringing together experts in the field to hatch better ways of ensuring their digital platforms remain firewalled from increasing threats of attacks.

The event runs under the theme of 'Charting shared and inclusive future in cybersecurity.'

It was observed that about 20 countries on the continent still have a basic cybersecurity level. These include DRC, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea and Djibouti that are already connected to more than eight submarine fibre optic systems.

According to Verified Market Research, the Middle East and Africa cybersecurity market which was valued at \$5.92 billion in 2018 is expected to reach \$17.30 billion by 2026.

On the other hand, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Google estimate in their joint report that the digital sector could generate \$180 billion in revenue for the African economy by 2025 and \$ 712 billion by 2050.

However the joint report points out that if things continue as they are, the poor reliability of African digital platforms, coupled with threats of cyberattacks, could jeopardize this promising prospect.

Envoy hands over 400 gas cylinders to women in Mkuranga

By Guardian Reporter

SEYCHELLES, Ambassador to Tanzania, Maryvonne Pool, and Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited have jointly distributed 400 gas cylinders to women at Mwalusembe Ward, Mkuranga District, Coast Region as part of measures to promote clean cooking.

Speaking at the handover ceremony yesterday, Ambassador Pool, who is also the founder of the African Reflections Foundation, said the decision to cooperate with the company was reached after recognizing efforts by the government to encourage the use of clean cooking energy.

"This is the second time I am supporting women in Mkuranga District because in 2022 I will also distribute gas cylinders to them. I am doing this to promote environmental protection as well as the government's efforts," she said.

She said that her foundation has been supporting various development projects, including modern irrigation agriculture.

She said her foundation has been helping women and young people to practice modern agriculture as well as protection of forests and the environment through use of clean cooking energy.

Rufiji District Commissioner who also acts as Mkuranga District Commissioner major Edward Gowele, said the time has come for stakeholders to support the government's endeavours in ensuring more Tanzanians shift from dirty to clean energy.

Gowele said that supporting the government would not only protect the environment but also enable women to participate in other economic activities as they use short time to prepare food for their families.

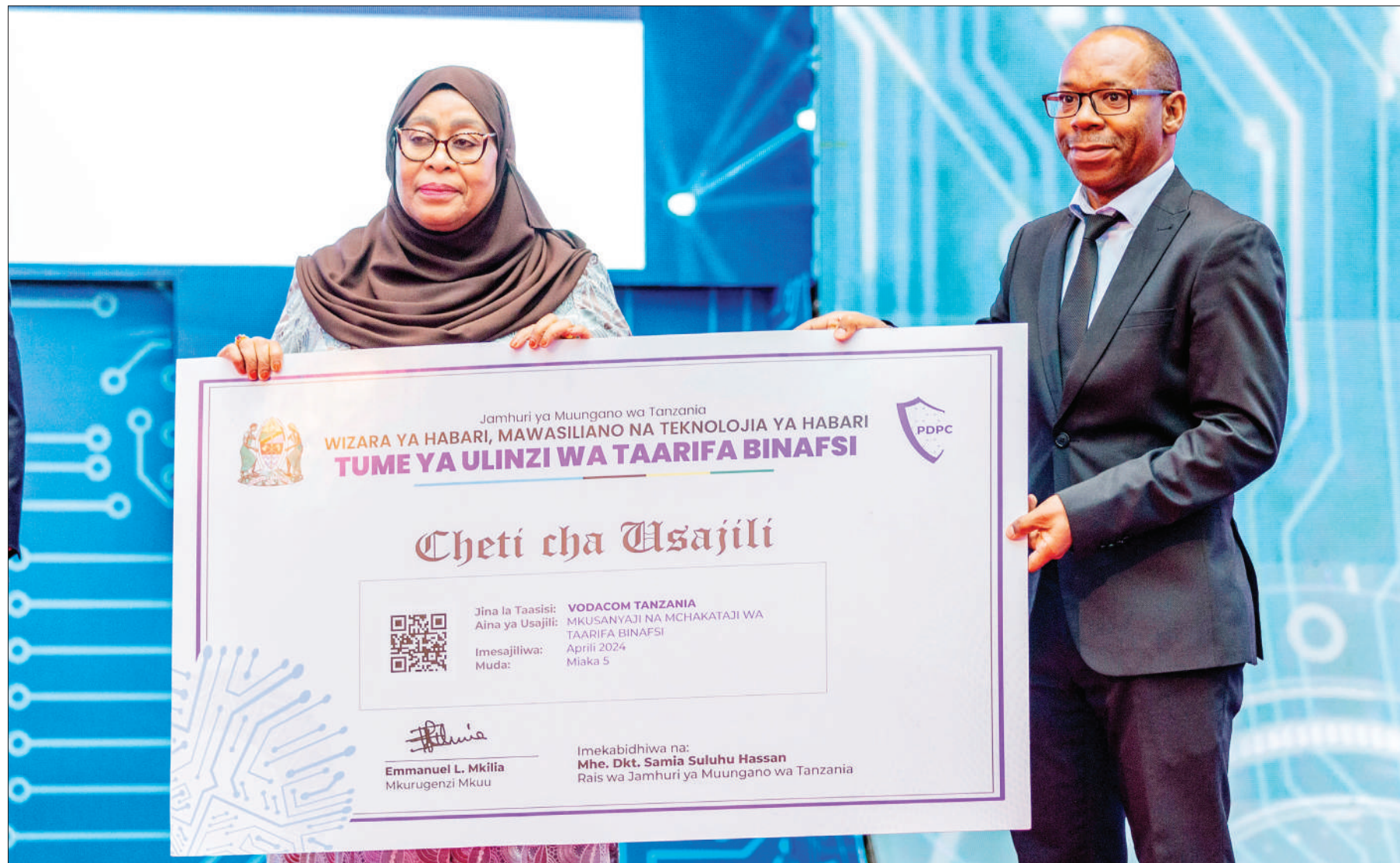
"We have distributed 400 gas cylinders to women in Kinene Village. It is our hope that the energy company would facilitate availability of gas cylinders to women in other villages. This will help in realising the government's goal of seeing 80 percent of Tanzanians using clean cooking energy by 2030," he said.

"You must ensure proper use of the gas cylinders by following instructions. It is important that you take care of the environment and avoid cutting down trees for charcoal and firewood."

Janeth Mutashobya, OGTLs manager for health safety and environment who represented the director general, said the donation was the continuation of the company's efforts to encourage the use of clean energy for cooking.

She said since July 2021, the company has engaged in supporting the government's efforts with ultimate goals of safeguarding people's health and the environment.

"There are many benefits of using clean energy, it helps in saving time that is used to cook with firewood or charcoal and protect women from smoke," she said.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents registration certificate to Vodacom Tanzania Plc's Director of Legal Affairs, Olaf Mumburi, shortly after launching the Personal Data Protection Commission in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has seized 54,506 kilos of illicit drugs and arrested 72 suspects.

The authority also seized a medication known as Methylenedioxypropyvalerone (MDVP) which belongs to the class of stimulants derived from precursor chemicals.

Aretas Lyimo, DCEA commissioner general, unveiled this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking during a press conference on the operation they carried out in Dar es Salaam, Shinyanga, Tabora, Iringa, Mbeya and Arusha Regions in February and March, this year.

DCEA seizes 54,506 kilos of illicit drugs in two months

Lyimo said that during the operation, they seized 54,489 kg of marijuana, 10.3 kg of khat, 90.93 grams of heroin, 1.98 grams of cocaine and MDVP which were being transported by one Ahmed Abdou, a citizen of Comoros who was detained in Dar es Salaam.

"MDV is a stimulant medication manufactured with precursor chemicals. In contrast to other medications, this

one contains a chemical that can injure a person instantly. Moreover, it now has an even stronger intoxicating effect than methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin," he said.

According to him, the substance is concealed by using fictitious brand names, distributed via package delivery services and sold online.

Lyimo added that DCEA has

discovered the existence of significant cannabis farms in Mabatini area, Tabora Region as well as Lubaga Forest Reserve in Shinyanga Region.

He said that with the help of the Tanzania Forest Services Agency, they were able to burn the farms and apprehended the owners who had chopped down trees in the middle of the forest and grew marijuana.



An operator with the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TanESCO) Customer Service Centre (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday briefing Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko on activities at the centre. Photo courtesy of Energy ministry

TanESCO ordered to release customer service report monthly

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Electric Supply Company Limited (TanESCO)'s customer service centre has been tasked to release reports every month to show how utility form responds to challenges facing its customers.

Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko gave the directive yesterday when he visited the centre in Dar es Salaam, saying the move is meant to increase efficiency.

"Because what you are doing directly touches our customers, it is important now to prepare reports on how you serve them; we want to know which regions respond quickly to customers' complaints and which ones delay so that we take action," he said.

He directed a special assessment of each region served by TanESCO to establish power supply efficiency as well as find out reasons behind power cuts in the specific areas.

"We want to know how frequently

power goes off and factors behind the same. So, if there is any recklessness, the government can take action," he said.

The minister said that he was quite aware that not all power cuts are due to major technical issues but some issues which can be fixed quickly and services restored. "You can find somewhere a tree falls down and blocks power lines but this can take a long time to fix and when customers report, no quick action is taken; we want the reports," he said.

Dr Biteko wanted the centre's manager

to compile reports which comprise all regions and the same to be submitted to the Energy Ministry Permanent Secretary.

In another development, Dr Biteko wanted the TanESCO's customer service to facilitate toll-free calls for customers.

He said that the government released a total of 2.9bn/- to strengthen emergency services hence workers should ensure that they fulfil their responsibilities which include ensuring that Tanzanians access quality services.



HABIB AFRICAN BANK LIMITED

PUBLICATION OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31.12.2023 (Amounts in Million Shillings)

	Current Year 31.12.2023	Previous Year 31.12.2022
A. ASSETS		
1. Cash	8,097	7,864
2. Balances with Bank of Tanzania	46,934	22,248
3. Investment in Government Securities	69,165	62,592
4. Balances with other banks and financial institutions	28,796	22,030
5. Cheques and items for Clearing	89	50
6. Interbranch float items	209	201
7. Bills negotiated	5,511	1,710
8. Customer liability on acceptances	7,964	11,505
9. Interbank loans receivable	0	0
10. Investment in Other Securities	0	0
11. Loans, advances and overdrafts (Net of allowances for probable Losses)	194,125	170,224
12. Other Assets	2,811	3,524
13. Equity Investments	0	0
14. Underwriting accounts	0	0
15. Property, Plant and Equipment	555	558
16. TOTAL ASSETS	364,256	302,506
B. LIABILITIES		
17. Deposits from other Banks and financial institutions	0	0
18. Customer deposits	298,809	237,944
19. Cash Letters of Credit	0	0
20. Special deposits	5,304	4,711
21. Payment orders/transfers payable	0	0
22. Bankers' cheques and drafts issued	93	61
23. Accrued taxes and expenses payable	6,523	5,152
24. Acceptances outstanding	7,964	11,505
25. Inter branch float items	218	191
26. Unearned income and other deferred charges	0	0
27. Other liabilities	2,183	2,250
28. Borrowings	0	0
29. TOTAL LIABILITIES	321,094	261,814
30. NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)(16 minus 29)	43,162	40,692
C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		
31. Paid up share capital	2,600	2,600
32. Capital reserves	288	220
33. Retained earnings	34,442	32,187
34. Profit (Loss) account	3,434	1,051
35. Other capital accounts	2,398	4,633
36. Minority Interest	0	0
37. TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	43,162	40,692
38. Contingent liabilities	74,947	59,969
39. Non performing loans and advances	3,590	8,768
40. Allowances for probable losses	(126)	169
41. Other non performing assets	0	0
D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS		
(i). Shareholders Funds to total assets	11.85%	13.45%
(ii). Non performing loans to total gross loans	1.79%	5.04%
(iii). Gross loans and advances to total deposits	64.59%	70.33%
(iv). Loans and advances to total assets	54.99%	57.52%
(v). Earning Assets to Total Assets	83.61%	88.22%
(vi). Deposits Growth	25.34%	0.34%
(vii). Assets growth	20.41%	0.73%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31.12.2023 (Amounts in Million Shillings)

	Current Year 31.12.2023	Previous Year 31.12.2022
1. Interest Income	27,243	24,056
2. Interest Expense	(15,512)	(13,695)
3. Net Interest Income (minus 2)	11,731	10,360
4. Bad Debts Written Off	(4,421)	(2,273)
5. Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	(126)	169
6. Non-Interest Income	5,084	4,850
6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/(Loss)	1,040	1,165
6.2 Fees and Commissions	1,678	1,571
6.3 Dividend Income	0	0
6.4 Other Operating Income	2,366	2,114
7. Non interest Expenses:	(10,966)	(9,813)
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	(6,226)	(6,004)
7.2 Fees and Commission	(287)	(266)
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	(4,453)	(3,544)
8. Operating Income/(Loss)	1,302	3,293
9. Income Tax Provision	(1,897)	(2,248)
10. Net Income (Loss) After Income Tax	(595)	1,045
11. Other Comprehensive Income (Itemise)	4,029	6
12. Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the year	3,434	1,051
13. Number of Employees	75	77
14. Basic Earning Per Share	1,321	402
15. Number of Branches	4	4
SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	0.40%	1.11%
(ii) Return on Average Shareholders' Funds	8.69%	2.61%
(iii) Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	33.92%	33.95%
(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	4.29%	4.11%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2023 (Amounts in million shillings)

	Current Year 31.12.2023	Previous Year 31.12.2022
I: Cash flow from operating activities:		
Net income (loss)	5,331	3,299
Adjustment for:		
Impairment/amortization.	368	330
Net change in loans and advances	(27,702)	(21,509)
Gain/loss on sale of Assets	0	0
Net change in deposits	62,710	846
Net change in Short Term Negotiable Securities	(9,638)	(2,698)
Net change in Other Liabilities	1,047	66
Net change in Other Assets	(306)	776
Tax paid	(1,834)	(1,627)
others (Specify)	(3,771)	(999)
Net cash provided/(used) by operating activities	26,206	(21,515)
II: Cash flow from investing activities:		
Dividend Received	0	0
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(230)	(132)
Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	0	0
Purchase of Non-Dealing Securities	0	0
Proceeds from Sale Non-Dealing Securities	0	0
Others(specify)	0	0
Net cash provided/(used) by investing activities	(230)	(132)
III: Cash flow from financing activities:		
Repayment of Long-Term Debt	0	0
Proceeds from Issuance of Long Term Debt	0	0
Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	0	0
Payment of Cash Dividends	(500)	0
Net change in Other Borrowings	0	0
Others(specify)	0	0
Net cash provided/(used) by financing activities	(500)	0
IV: Cash and cash equivalents:		
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	25,475	(21,648)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Quarter/Year	63,719	85,367
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Quarter/Year	89,194	63,719

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31.12.2023 (Amounts in million shillings)

	Share capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	Other Reserve	Total
Current Year 2023						
Balance as at the beginning of the year	2,600	-	33,238	4,633	220	40,692
Profit for the year			3,434			3,434
Transfer to statutory Reserve			2,235	(2,235)		-
Transfer to other Reserve			(68)		68	-
Tax paid for prior years			(480)		-	(480)
Dividend paid			(500)			(500)
Others			17			17
Balance as at the end of the year	2,600	-	37,877	2,398	288	43,162
Previous Year 2022						
Balance as at the beginning of the year	2,600	-	30,681	6,345	285	39,912
Profit for the year			1,051			1,051
Transfer to statutory Reserve			1,712	(1,712)		-
Transfer to other Reserve			65		(65)	-
Tax paid for prior years			(271)			(271)
Balance as at the end of the year	2,600	-	33,238	4,633	220	40,692

The above extracts are from the Financial Statement of the Bank for the year ended December 31, 2023 which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The Financial Statements were audited by Baker Tilly DGP & Co, Certified Public Accountants and received unqualified audit report.

These Financial Statements were approved and authorised for issue by Board of Directors and signed on its behalf by:

Mr. S.S Hassan Rizvi
Managing Director

Ms. Mwatumu J. Malale
Director

Govt to spend 1.7bn/- in allowances for all elected local leaders

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government has allocated 1.7bn/- in allowance payments to hamlet, village and Mtaa chairpersons this financial year.

Dr Festo Dugange, Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) told the National Assembly yesterday that as of February this year, the government had already disbursed 1.15bn/- for such payments.

He was responding to a question by Flatei Massay, Mbulu Rural MP, who wanted to know when the government will start paying such elected leaders allowances.

He said that the central government is aware of the good services extended by village, hamlet and Mtaa chairpersons to the general public.

"The government has in the current fiscal year allocated another 20.8bn/- for allowance payments of ward councillors in 168 district councils whereby as of February this year, 13.5bn/- was disbursed," he said.

According to him, the government will continue coming up with new revenue sources at the district level and improve collections so that government officials are paid good allowances and salaries.

Massay argued that in his region, nearly all village and hamlet chairpersons are not paid allowances since they were elected.

In his response, Dugange directed Mbulu district council executive director to immediately start allocating money for the payments.

Massay also sought to know when the government will increase the amount of allowances so that the leaders in question are financially empowered to live their lives happily.

"The government is still working on the issue of allowance increment in consideration of the actual central government and district councils' revenue collection status," he said.

Aida Khenani, Nkasi Northern MP, argued that for as long as the government has been allocating billions in local government elections it should not hesitate to allocate money for their allowances and salaries.

"There are regulations in place that obligates the government to allocate funds for paying local government leaders. When will this controversy come to its end?" she asked.

Dr Dugange said that the main challenge has been the financial resources by the majority of district councils in clearing the payments.

"Most of the district councils are struggling to even collect revenues for development projects," he said.



The government is still working on the issue of allowance increment in consideration of the actual central government and district councils' revenue collection status

Bank mulls over networking platform for business people

By Guardian Reporter

BANK of Africa (BOA) plans to host a platform that brings together businesspeople to provide an opportunity for them to display their products and services.

Wasia Mushi, BOA acting managing director, said this in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday when speaking at an Iftar dinner organised by the bank for its customers.

He said that the aim of organizing such a platform is not only to bring them together but also to expand their networks and exchange best practices and experiences.

"The main objective of the upcoming platform is for the business people to increase and expand the scope of the businesses while networking to expose existing business opportunities that will fuel economic growth of our country," he said.

He said that the bank will continue to organize conferences and training for businesspeople on tax related issues, financial management and other banking services as well moving those products and services closer to customers in an effort to make banking services affordable.

Mushi added that the bank will improve and continue to develop its banking services, including agencies, SimBanking and Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) to its customers' fingertips in order to promote business and stimulate economic growth of the country.

"Our bank promises to continue providing quality services and accountability in ensuring the wellbeing of our customers and stimulate economic development in various sectors in the country," he said.

"It is an honour for the bank's management to organize this Iftar for the bank's customers which paves the way for the spirit of loving and caring for one another."

He emphasized the importance of sharing iftar in the holy month of Ramadan and the importance of living together religiously and respecting each other in order to maintain peace, harmony and social order.

Sheikh Ramadhan Shareef Koba from the Muslim Council of Tanzania hailed the bank for hosting Iftar, quoting a religious text that "he who feeds a fasting believer is rewarded with all the blessings of those who are invited."



Dr Rhimo Nyansaho (4th-L), Azania Bank Limited's director of business development, presents cooking oil to one of the leaders of various social groups represented at iftar in Serengeti District on Tuesday. The event was jointly hosted by the bank and immediate past Mara regional commissioner Said Mtanda (3rd-L), since transferred to Mwanza Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Latra wants written statements from bus owners after fatal crash

By Guardian Reporter

LAND Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has issued a seven-day ultimatum to New Force and Sauli bus companies to provide written explanations on the cause of the fatal crash involving their two buses.

The accident which occurred in the wee hours of Thursday morning last week at a rice plantation in Kibaha District, Pwani Region along Morogoro

Road caused the death of two people, dozens of injuries and destruction of property.

LATRA gave the ultimatum recently after a meeting with the police force and the owners of the bus companies.

A report by traffic police said the accident was caused by negligence of the driver of a bus with licence plate number T668 DTF Scania owned by Mwahabila Sauli, who attempted to overtake multiple vehicles without

taking safety precautions.

The report also indicated that the driver of New Force bus with license plate number T175 DZU was negligent by not leaving a distance between him and another vehicle in front as required, causing the death of two people, injuring others and destroying property.

According to LATRA Vehicle Tracking System (VTS), the day of the accident, the buses left Dar es Salaam together

at 02:44am despite their licences indicating they were supposed to leave the city at 03:00am and 06:30am.

According to LATRA's investigation, the two drivers also ignored using their respective identification buttons required to be used when travelling.

Salum Pazy, Head of Public Relations and Communications at LATRA, said in a statement that both drivers made mistakes that contributed to the accident.



Bank of Africa acting executive director Wasia Mushi (3rd-L) leads the bank's customers in serving themselves Ramadhan-time iftar hosted by the bank in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Contractor extends support to orphanage in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

YAPI Merkezi, a construction company implementing the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) has donated an assortment of food and other items worth 31m/- to Mama Mwana Orphanage located at Vingunguti in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region.

The donation encompasses food supplies, hygiene products, a freezer and clothes tailored to bring joy to the children during the upcoming Eid el-Fitr

celebrations.

Speaking during the handover event yesterday, Amisa Juma, head of public relations at Yapi Merkezi expressed gratitude for the opportunity to support the orphanage.

"Yapi Merkezi is deeply committed to making a positive impact in the communities where we operate. As we approach the festive season of Eid, it is our privilege to extend our support to Mama Mwana Orphanage and bring smiles to the faces of these deserving

children," she said, emphasizing that, "Our donation reflects Yapi Merkezi's core values of compassion, generosity and social responsibility. We hope that through this contribution, we can provide some comfort and joy to the children, reminding them that they are valued and cared for, as well as encouraging companies to emulate the same."

Levent Doruck, Chief Finance Officer at Yapi Merkezi expressed the company's commitment to supporting

the orphanage's ongoing efforts in order to provide a nurturing environment for the children.

The orphanage expressed appreciation for the company's generosity, emphasizing the significant impact that such contributions have on the wellbeing of the children under their care.

The centre noted that the donation covers most of the basic needs that the children use in their day-to-day lives and will greatly help cut their operating costs.



Rashid Makubui, extension officer for Mihumo ward in Liwale District, pictured on Wednesday installing bottles of a "foul-smelling" liquid mixture of pepper, ginger, neem leaves and cooking oil which he described as a cheap but effective way of ensuring that rogue elephants don't invade farms. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Parliamentarians: Programme for youth empowerment 'not popular'

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Parliamentary Community Development Committee has said that the Decent Work Country Programme for Tanzania is not well known by many people, including those it targets.

The Committee Chairperson Fatma Toufiq told the National Assembly yesterday that the programme aims at capacitating youth with real life work skills.

The programme is fully funded by development partners whereas in the current financial year 1.33bn/- has been allocated for its implementation.

The committee recommended that the government should ensure it makes it easier for citizens to access information about the programme to sensitize more young people take advantage of the opportunity.

The committee found out that young people who benefit from the training get useful skills although it is sometimes difficult for the knowledge to help them in real life.

She said the reason for the difficulty is the lack of capital to buy equipment and tools for self-

employment.

"If such challenges are not addressed, the programme is likely not to be viable and the creation of employment as targeted will not be fully achieved," she said.

The committee reported that as of February this year, the Prime Minister's Office received a total of 310.42mn/- for the implementation of the Decent Work Country Programme.

She said the committee noted that the money has been spent on evaluation and review of the Youth Policy 2007 and the National Social Security Policy.

The amount also facilitated the review of the 2004 National Policy on Development and Services for people living with disability.

"The fund was also spent on coordinating participation of 10 young people at the sixth African Youth Forum," she said.

According to her, the committee considers that the project's productivity goals have not been realized.

The committee argued that the programme is still in its initial stages of implementation and has not reached the requirements of

beneficiaries.

"The committee is of the opinion that the Prime Minister's Office focused more on building life skills among youth so that impact is realized," said.

On the other hand, the committee learnt that the skills development programme has in the current fiscal year allocated 9bn/- which as of February this year had been disbursed by 100 percent.

The committee visited the implementation of the programme at St. Anthony Vocational Training Center in Musoma and at the RVPSC College in Mwanza where a total of 272 young people are undergoing apprenticeship training.

"The purpose of the visit was to see the implementation of the programme and identify successes and challenges of its implementation," she said.

She said that the committee was told that in the current fiscal year, the programme has reached 9,593 young people with apprenticeship training alongside another 6,000 young people who started training in January this year.

Embattled speaker of South African parliament resigns

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's parliament speaker resigned on Wednesday and relinquished her seat in the legislature over allegations of corruption, a day after she lost a bid in court that would block her arrest.

Prosecutors last week said they intended to charge Speaker Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula with corruption, accusing her of receiving about \$135 000 in bribes from a defence contractor during her three years as defence minister.

She allegedly received the payments between December 2016 and July 2019, while another bribe, amounting to \$105,000, was not paid.

Mapisa-Nqakula announced in a statement that she had tendered her resignation but insisted she was innocent of the accusations against her.

"I have made this conscious decision in order to dedicate my time and focus to dealing with the recently announced investigation against me by our country's law enforcement agencies," she said. "My resignation is in no way an indication or admission of guilt regarding the allegations being levelled against me."

Media reports in South Africa allege that on one occasion in February 2019, she received more than \$15,000 and a wig at a meeting at the country's main international airport.

Mapisa-Nqakula's party, the African National Congress, is set to fight a crucial elections this year against the backdrop of high unemployment, rising poverty and anger over various allegations of corruption against its leaders.

Recent polls suggest the party could receive less than 50 percent of electoral support – the lowest level since it came into power in the country's first all-race vote at the end of apartheid in 1994.

After Mapisa-Nqakula's announcement, it remained unclear if she would be taken into custody or surrender to authorities on her own, after the North Gauteng High Court dismissed her motion to avoid arrest.

Couple from opposite sides of a tribal divide finds love in Rwanda

KIGALI

WHEN the father of Marie-Jean Uwimana, an ethnic Hutu, murdered most of John Igiraneza ethnic Tutsi relatives during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, no one expected that love and marriage could emerge from the horror.

But love did conquer hate and today they are married with their own family.

Igiraneza is a survivor of the Rwandan genocide, also known as the genocide against ethnic Tutsis in 1994.

It killed an estimated 800,000 people.

Twenty of them were his siblings and they were killed by Marie-Jean's father. Igiraneza, now 48, walks with the aid of a crutch and has a visible scar of his head.

All of his injuries were sustained when the then 18 year-old and his siblings were hacked by attackers wielding crude weapons.

Igiraneza is part of a very large family, his father had 10 wives and 30 children, but only ten survived the attack.

John and Marie-Jean met in one of the government set up reconciliation villages in Bugesera District. Set up all over the country, the concept appears to have worked well in uniting and reconciling the nation after the genocide.

Naphtal Ahishakiye, the executive secretary of Ibuka, a Rwanda umbrella body to aid victims of the genocide, said survivors took charge and changed the course of the narrative through forgiveness.

"Genocide survivors only wanted justice, so we said, a better way to fight against genocide ideology is to play a big role in unity and reconciliation process, so it is where the genocide survivors took power to forgive those who committed genocide," he explained.



PUBLICATION FOR DISCLOSURE OF FUNDING SOURCES FOR MSPH TANZANIA LLC FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2023

MSPH Tanzania LLC, also known as ICAP, is a non-governmental organization operating in Tanzania since 2004. MSPH Tanzania LLC receives fund mainly from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Centre's for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In line with the countrywide scale up of HIV services to reach, 95-95-95 goals in Tanzania, ICAP at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health is a recipient of a five-year PEPFAR-funded cooperative agreement beginning 30th September 2021 from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support comprehensive community and facility-based HIV and voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) services in Mwanza and Geita regions.

Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2023

figures in TZS'000	2023 (Provisional)	2022 (audited)
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalent	4,486,436	6,271,822
Receivables	1,108,305	769,996
	5,594,741	7,041,818
Other Assets	0	0
TOTAL ASSETS	5,594,741	7,041,818
EQUITY		
Fund balance	5,594,741	7,041,818
Account Payables	0	0
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	5,594,741	7,041,818

Statement of Income and Expenses for the year 2023

figures in TZS'000	2023 (Provisional)	2022 (audited)
INCOME		
Grant income	40,735,322	42,599,117
Total income	40,735,322	42,599,117
EXPENSES		
Operating expenses	3,404,481	1,879,815
Program expenses	23,914,377	27,684,908
Staff expenses	13,416,463	13,034,393
TOTAL EXPENSES	40,735,322	42,599,117
Surplus for the year	0	0

Statement of cash flow as at 31st December 2023

figures in TZS'000	2023 (Provisional)	2022 (audited)
Cashflow from operating activities		
Changes in:		
(Increase)/ decrease in Receivables	(338,310)	51,442
(Increase)/ decrease in Payables	0	0
Increase/ (decrease) in fund balance	(1,447,076)	4,942,040
Net decrease in cash from operating activities	(1,785,386)	4,993,483
Movement in cash and cash equivalents		
At start of the year	6,271,822	1,278,339
Increase/ (decrease)	(1,785,386)	4,993,483
At end of the year	4,486,436	6,271,822

Expenditure Analysis by project for the year 2023

figures in TZS'000	2023 (Provisional)	2022 (audited)
Sustain and accelerate a comprehensive HIV response in URT under PEPFAR, FIKIA+ Project	33,576,611	29,795,345
HIV focused Population survey in Tanzania under PEPFAR, THIS Project	6,075,887	6,735,684
Community Based HIV services for key population and Adolescent Girls and Young women	-	1,744,763
Covid 19 vaccination under Global Vax and ARPA fund	408,779	4,323,325
Covid 19 Response Mechanism, C19 RM project	526,005	-
	40,587,282	42,599,117

Financial transparency, accountability, and disclosure of fundraising activities.

In subsequent to pursuant to regulation 12 and 13 of the Non-Governmental Organizations Act section 32 regulations 2018 on financial transparency, accountability and disclosure of fundraising activities requirements. Subject to availability of funding MSPH Tanzania LLC has received a Cooperative agreement Notice of awards (NOA) entitled "Sustain and Accelerate a Comprehensive HIV Response in the United Republic of Tanzania" and "HIV-Focused Population Surveys in Countries Supported Under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief" under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) funding. The expected funding amount is subjected to funding availability to support projects work plan and budgets with implementation period starting from September 30, 2023, through September 29, 2024, are as follows.

Award	Funding	Activities
Sustain and Accelerate a Comprehensive HIV Response in the United Republic of Tanzania under PEPFAR HIV-Focused Population Surveys in Countries Supported Under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief	TZS 80 billion	The purpose of this funding is to support the Government of Tanzania (GOT) strategy for comprehensive HIV prevention, testing, care, and treatment (C&T) addressing the entire continuum of care in Mwanza and Geita regions in both community and facility settings. MSPH Tanzania LLC will be implementing innovative, evidence-based, client centered and culturally appropriate interventions to enhance identification of HIV-positive individuals; linkage to C&T clinics (CTC) for same day initiation antiretroviral therapy (ART); support for community-based HIV services; access to HIV services for clients with special needs; retention on treatment and patient adherence to ART, monitoring viral load (VL) to attain viral suppression; support for HIV prevention services (e.g. PrEP, DREAMS, VMMC, etc) and utilization of appropriate data for continuous quality improvement (CQI). MSPH Tanzania LLLC will collaborate with regional and council health management teams (R/CHMT) to implement HIV prevention, testing, C&T activities to achieve PEPFAR and GOT's National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Framework IV (NMSF IV) goals. Focus is on children and adolescents, men and boys, adolescent girls and young women, pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and infants, key populations, and at-risk groups so no sub-population is left behind.
Covid 19 Response Mechanism	TZS 1.3 billion	COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in March 2020 and the spread of the virus in nearly every country in the world, ICAP at Columbia University supported the Ministry of Health in Tanzania and Zanzibar under the Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) TA Project to strengthen laboratory-based surveillance in the area of laboratory governance, structure and function by developing policy documents, defining the role of the laboratory in surveillance activities, and developing the laboratory response network to optimize the existing next-generation sequencing capacity.

Govt's burden offloading will ease debt, create jobs

PRIME Minister has made wide-ranging remarks in the National Assembly in relation to government business for fiscal 2023/2024.

Evidently, it was not possible for the presentation to cover the whole SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) gamut.

The strengths were quite visible especially with respect to the doing business environment, with the weaknesses mildly touched upon with regard to exogenous factors like the impacts of climate change.

Opportunities were chiefly in relation to continuity of what is happening rather than in reforms as the 4Rs presume, while threats were quite simply missing from the account.

Policy planners or analysts at upper government levels will definitely remember a World Bank report or update on the issue, where a singular observation was in relation to debt exposure and its sustainability over the short and medium terms.

The country's debt is doubtless still largely sustainable, but there are missed opportunities even within the framework of the current budget servicing level, as roughly a third of all revenues is directed towards debt servicing, and the debt is rising.

By mid-2022 there were 16,000 teaching posts remaining to be filled and, by comparison, Tanzania spends around 10 per cent of its total budget on education; our northern neighbours twice the amount.

The difference isn't sensitivity to education but gross budget resources and the direction of expenditure.

Colossal sums of money are directed at the needs of parastatal organisations, since it is next to impossible to alter their ownership or shareholding structures.

According to online sources, the government has so far spent 3.6trn/- purchasing a fleet of planes for the national flag carrier, whereas in this

field debt purchasing is more or less out of view.

To grasp the significance of that amount in terms of development potential, one just needs to recall how in 2017 the government removed 700bn/- in commercial bank deposits by major state corporate entities.

That disrupted short-term lending capacity and export trade, especially in horticulture, consequently collapsed the following year.

As we prepare to mark 102 years since the birth of Father of the Nation Mwalimu Nyerere, we need to admit that the philosophy of reform is still a hard sell.

And since the International Monetary Fund extended 1.2trn/- in post-Covid-19 recovery efforts, one may conclude that the money is there and all it needs is for the president to notice urgent needs in public service delivery and it will be done.

We may not be sensitive enough about unemployment as an issue as it is woven into community class mentality.

With that, those with regular and especially middle and upper incomes may see themselves as better persons. But it is difficult to float consensus on privatization as a big plus for jobs, never.

Whether there is going to be a new reform dynamic in the current year or the next is partly unclear. However, on the whole there is consensus on tax waivers to attract investors as well as hesitant venturing into public-private partnerships.

This mixture is, admittedly, still holding well. However, since a more relaxed governance atmosphere is intensifying access to public funds generally, critics are becoming more daring.

A recent cautioning of the government on salaries for teachers and doctors alongside critical remarks by clerics ably point to the widespread desire to enhance implementation of well-meaning reforms.

UHI welcome as a new experiment in our 'cost-sharing' health sector policy

ALL eyes and ears will be inclined to the start of application of the Universal Health Insurance (UHI) policy.

The bill on the matter has already been assented to and, apparently, the Health minister has already put in appropriate regulations as well for its rolling out.

It is something that is coming up as a heroic effort to bring everyone into medical care access, but while hemmed in within the cost-sharing format as an insurance modality.

This cost-sharing idea replaced the concept of free supply of medicine or education at the start of the 1980s with reasons either pushing the idea that medicine was being indiscriminately prescribed or was being looted.

The best way to bring everyone to accessible medical care, as was the case with education, is to make hospital visits and drug dispensing fees (at least for a range of basic drug types) free - that is, provided without preliminary payment.

It appears that policy makers in the Africa Department of World Bank - or rather the International Development Association, the bank's soft loan window - sort of swallowed the fee-free policy for education.

This could chiefly be owing to the gender-related argument that it is young girls who are kept out and married off if there are fees. With health care, health mandarins of the global lender know there is no exit option.

What is being proposed is like rolling out the Community Health Fund all over again - only that this time everyone is expected to contribute.

The suggested membership payment of 350,000/- or so per family

of four or six persons looks a bit unrealistic. This is especially as policy makers admit that anything between five million and three times as many people regarded as poor won't be able to pay, and therefore need assistance.

The government may wish to see that members of the public could assist one another via taxation - that is, if medical drugs and doctor visits were free as with respect to HIV/Aids.

It is said that too many cooks spoil the broth, and the camel may indeed be perceived as a donkey drawn up by a committee.

This is not exactly a fact, but it has a moral in it, and that is that there are too many objectives piled into one measure in the name of UHI.

This keeps out clear workable alternatives simply owing to the prejudice about 'free things' and then piled up on supposed community solidarity by everyone contributing so that everyone is treated.

This is contrary to what we know of human society or actual preferences as we are grateful about free things and we usually contribute to relatives, not strangers.

So the rolling out of the insurance policy might mean three things, one being that there will be little harmony between insurance membership and service delivery with the danger that victimisation and underhand payments may prevail.

The other aspect is that it will not be easy to get universal contributions, and trying to raise the sums to pay adequately for the poor to be included will elicit no public sympathy.

Finally, there are likely to be tensions with service providers, some of whose objections the government may have been relentlessly brushing aside.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



By Mohamed Khalfan

AS perceived for decades, the world has shrunk into one proverbial global village in which movements and relocations have become an integral part of dignified human life and behaviour.

Competition for a better fruition of each person's life over another's life on an individual basis is getting rougher and tougher owing to the on-going explosion in human population - and worsened by the steady depletion of the world's natural resources.

Incidentally, the real scare over the Climate Change 'monster' is but just one consequence.

We need to equip our own nationals with a series of conducive provisions and also a series of pieces of legislation to facilitate them to face, meet and adapt to these challenges as they keep coming about and accumulating also in a series - in life currently and ahead for them and future generations.

We who are in positions of authority cannot and should not fail them on this score. Dual citizenship is one of such provisions whose fruits have been precisely tested and sweetly tasted - in most parts of the world.

The intended 'special status' by legislation is no match at all, nor does it in any way have the benefits and welfare enjoyable in the domain of 'dual citizenship'. The two are not even comparable!

There are fears that the global crisis of illegal immigrants bypassing 'immigration border controls' in many countries will worsen when the demarcated national entry points cease to be of any relevance in the modern world.

Many countries will get burdened as human population, already huge relative to the availability and accessibility of the resources needed to support it, continues to rise by leaps and bounds.

It is certainly the enactment of legislative provisions for dual citizenship - no different from those for long operating in some visionary African countries - that will enable Tanzanians in diaspora to adopt or acquire the citizenship of their host countries.

They will then be a position to compete well in a lucrative foreign job markets and other economic engagements with the nationals of the respective host countries they live in, 'on a level ground', while still retaining Tanzanian citizenship.

In this respect, surely no alternatives exist. Obviously, no employers will readily employ Tanzanians in diaspora in responsible and well-paying positions of responsibility when they remain immigrant residents holding residence permits subject to periodic renewals - and, indeed, even refusal.

Much the same negative situation

Dual citizenship widely embraced national necessity but Tanzania reluctant - at a cost



Mohamed Khalfan

applies with respect to securing favourable leasing terms for better rental housing and access to the popular comprehensive government-sponsored health insurance schemes for nationals.

Schooling children too cannot have access to government schools, colleges or universities with subsidized fees when the parents are officially still foreign residents.

As a serious consequence, many Tanzanians in diaspora do not find themselves in a position to build up decent enough savings to make decent enough regular remittances back to Tanzania, while Kenyans holding dual citizenship have a different tale to tell and celebrate.

Recent incidents clearly show that Tanzanian Diaspora's remittances (to Tanzania) are appreciably smaller than the staggering ones by their Kenyan counterparts.

This is tragically the case while Tanzania's need for foreign exchange reserves may be greater, as the country is larger in terms of geographical size and population.

A reflection on some recent data on the remittances of the Kenyan Diaspora to Kenya will come in handy here. A regional weekly newspaper, The East African, once reported that Kenyan diaspora remittances had grown into that country's largest foreign exchange earner.

Kenya was reported as having consistently registered a steady increase in diaspora remittances annually, while for Tanzania it was said to much less.

Additionally, going by a Central Bank of Kenya report, remittances by Kenyans in diaspora to their home country increased to an all-time high in the sum of Kenyan Sh670 billion (US\$4.19 billion) last year (2023), and much more was expected this year.

What was described as particularly important was the need to attract huge amounts of foreign direct investments for all sectors of the national economy against competition in the context of the same FDI policy followed by other East African countries.

In this context, it would be understandable if foreign investors required their managing directors and/or CEO to be those with the relevant professional skills and

tested experience.

The presence of expatriates in Tanzania would however of necessity to be subject to periodical grants and renewals of residence and work permits, and this hardly an incentive to FDI. Rather, dual citizenship is the core key if we are to attract more of the foreign experts we genuinely need.

Australia has reportedly an especially positive visionary legislative provision on triple citizenship. It is all a part of an innovative thought process in the trend of modernisation of this small world for the welfare of the people at large.

A person is born in a particular country by divine choice and, therefore, one's birthplace and original citizenship constitute one's human birthright complete with sentimental attachment.

No legislation by any ethical standard or on any moral ground should deprive one of one's birthright upon adopting the citizenship of a host country.

This holds true in the case of Tanzanian as well - and more emphatically so under Article 8 (1) (b) of the country's Constitution in substance, spirit and essence with reference to the people's welfare having to be the objective of every government for good governance.

In renouncing Tanzanian citizenship upon taking up the citizenship of a host country, it is unlikely that a person and most probably even one's children (upon attaining adulthood) will feel much sentimental attachment to one's country of birth owing to the awkward situation they would find themselves in. This is a human nature.

A legislative provision for dual citizenship will surely come by when it comes - though, sadly, possibly at a time much later than it has already become long due.

That would only serve to baffle the mind as to why it came true so late and at a heavy cost in terms of depriving the national economy of much-needed support.

Perhaps, by the time "dual citizenship" is granted back home, some members of the Tanzanian diaspora would have already died or gone out circulation as part of the workforce.

Tanzania, like many other countries, is guided by the constitutional principles of broad democracy. However, the present concept and traditional functioning of Parliament is not conducive enough to the execution of those principles.

Rather, it is a small group constituting the leadership of whichever political party is in power that dictates how to move with respect to the adoption or

endorsement of any motion up for legislation in the national legislative body.

In effect, the right of "Say" of the people at the grassroots is naturally usurped by the leadership of the political parties which include a ruling party or a coalition of such parties. These impose their respective mandates, even of while their members may not be even come to half of the country's population.

The pristine broad democracy need be such that it gives space to members of Parliament headed by the Speaker to move motions such as that of Dual Citizenship with an "open mandate" whenever the Government fails to move - or delays in moving - any bills of great national importance in terms of the welfare of the people and the nation's interests.

In such a situation it would be upon the Speaker to assume the duty of guiding the legislators into get any draft piece of legislation moved and passed on any issues of national concern where the government is perceived to be failing the people contrary to Article 8 (1) (b) of the Constitution.

In such a situation brought about by a deficient process in the exercise of broad democracy, the Speaker has a vital and defining role to play.

Incidentally, it has since been well pointed out to me that certain host countries have restrictions relating to immigrant residents staying and living in a host country for an indefinite period of time of their liking.

In the absence of legislation on dual citizenship for Tanzanians, such immigrant residents having to return to Tanzania face a stubborn problem with regard to issues like continuation of schooling for their children, mostly adults.

Differences in school syllabi would most likely stand as a daunting challenge. Whatever might be the solution would hardly ever be as nearly perfect as it essentially ought to be.

Consequently, it would be the welfare of both the children and their parents that would be undermined, while "the welfare" of Tanzanians stands as the objective of every government under Article 8 (1) (b) of the Constitution. I hope our government is listening as keenly as it always says it does.

I should note here that I am a Tanzanian citizen - and Dar es Salaam resident - aged 92. My endeavours in underscoring the need to ensure that national interests always take precedence over any others are not driven by personal interests but by the sense of patriotism in which the welfare of the people ought to be paramount now and always.

Skill attributes needed for competitive labour market

By Telesphor Magobe

THERE is an increase in the number of job seekers due to lack of jobs or employability skills. Some researchers say that it is not that in the future there will be no jobs, but that there will be jobs which need new skills and competences.

Many companies across the world have undergone a painful restructuring process by retrenching some of their employees and remaining with manageable and competent teams that can meet operational requirements. These manageable teams are expected to deliver to the satisfaction of their employers.

Painful restructuring processes recur to the extent that instead of remaining with manageable and competent teams, some companies have started experiencing low production due to a shortage of employees.

It is difficult to apply for and secure a job, especially a well-paid job and higher education institutions are often blamed for failing to groom students for the competitive labour market. But what can be done to solve this problem? Some researchers suggest acquisition of employability (soft or 21st century) skills and competences needed in the workplace and in life.

Suarta et al. (2017) in their article "Employability skills required by the 21st century workplace: a literature review of labour market demand" acknowledge that students need extra skills besides technical skills they acquire during their studies and these extra skills, not only that add value to the workplace, but also contribute to lifelong success and social interaction.

"The workforce in the 21st century not only requires graduates with high academic qualifications (hard or tech-



nical skills) as represented by the subject and degree class, but also equipped with a number of skills and attributes. Employer surveys indicate that occupation-specific skills are no longer sufficient for graduates to meet the needs of the national labour market."

The authors suggest that a new set of skills, attributes and competencies called employability skills (soft skills), are required by students to prepare themselves to meet the needs of various occupations after graduation. These skills, attributes and competencies, the authors say, "are considered a missing link between education and training and the workplace."

They say a study conducted by Think Global and British Council "found that for job seekers, knowledge and awareness of the wider world are more important than degree classification." Thus, according

to them, today's competitive labour market needs employees who have critical thinking and who are able to solve problems besides being excellent in communication skills.

They say "employability skills are a set of essential abilities that involve the development of a knowledge base, expertise level and mindset increasingly needed for success in the modern workplace and in life." Furthermore, the authors say a report from the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and the Business Council of Australia (BCA), "defines employability skills as skills required not only to gain employment, but also to progress within an enterprise to achieve one's potential and contribute successfully to enterprise strategic directions."

Eight skill groupings are generally being referred to as employability skills and these are communication

skills, teamwork skills, problem-solving skills, initiative and enterprise skills, planning and organising skills, self-management skills, learning and technology skills. However, the authors say the most important employability skill attributes include communication skills, problem-solving skills, teamwork skills and personal qualities.

Mahmud et al. (2022) suggest that people are highly employable when they have a set of skills like digital literacy, computer skills, and information communication technology (ICT) skills because it helps them to adapt to the rapidly-evolving working environment of the 21st century.

Citing researchers such as (Bejaković & Mrnjavac, 2020) they say "a dearth of digital literacy will not only result in unemployment, poor productivity, and decreased efficiency, but it may also affect the chances of getting a job, promotion,

or pay raise."

They say employees need to think of new alternative techniques, detect problems, analyse alternative solutions to those problems and generate workplace innovative ideas.

"Critical thinking, digital literacy and creativity are important skills attributed to employability as these are the skills that most employers look for in their employees. Therefore, acquiring these skills would increase one's job opportunities and career growth, which will help them navigate in their future career."

Furthermore, they stress that graduates with excellent academic credentials are needed in the 21st century workforce, "but they must also be prepared with a variety of skills and qualities [because] the ability to perform 21st century tasks is the new civil right of our time."

They note that contrary to hard (technical) skills taught in universities, 21st century skills are not job-specific or restricted to any particular industry, "but rather they can be transferred across all industries and occupations."

Therefore, they say, fresh graduates cannot solely rely on "hard skills" to succeed in the workforce and need to attain

"soft skills." "Due to the transferability of 'soft skills,' their appeal will still prevail in the job market regardless of the currently used technology or existing occupations."

ILO in its Unemployment Trends 2024 says unemployment is expected to rise modestly in 2024 "as labour force participation rates decline and employment growth slows, global unemployment will rise by 2 million, pushing the global unemployment rate from 5.1 per cent in 2023 to 5.2 per cent in 2024."

According to ILO, youth unemployment continues to present a challenge to faster structural and labour market adjustment, especially in countries with high not in training, education or employment (NEET) rates.

It suffices to say that with opportunities and challenges created by emerging exponential technologies, skill and competence gaps will continue haunting world countries albeit differently due to investment made in those technologies and in 21st century skills and competencies. Thus, there is a need to invest adequately in emerging exponential technologies and in employability skills and competencies that will determine participation in the labour market.

By Adonis Byemelwa

On April 2nd, World Autism Day was celebrated. This global event highlights the hurdles faced by individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) daily. In places like Tanzania, where resources for support are scarce, the significance of this day is amplified. It is time stakeholders united in recognizing the challenges and advocating for greater understanding and inclusion for those on the autism spectrum, not just in Tanzania, but worldwide.

In 1911, when German Psychiatrist Eugen Bleuler coined the concept of autism to describe a symptom of the most severe cases of schizophrenia, a concept he had also created, nobody had it in mind that people with the ailment would be associated with social communication and interaction.

As time went by, the World Autism Organisation (WAO) was initiated, dedicated to improving the quality of life of people with autism and their families.

On December 2nd and 3rd last year, Tanzania hosted the International Conference for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders (ICAN) at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC), Dar es Salaam.

The milestone event was organized jointly by the Victorious Centre of Excellence and Autism Connect. Victorious Centre of Excellence, provides extensive rehabilitation therapy services and extracurricular activities to individuals with autism spectrum disorders in Tanzania. Equally, Autism Connect is committed to creating awareness, providing education, and facilitating comprehensive care for individuals with Autism around the world.

The conference aimed to raise awareness about Autism and provide a platform for professionals and experts to share experiences and discuss recent developments in the field. The conference was graced by the Minister of Health, Ummu Mwalimu, showcasing the government's strong commitment to addressing Autism-related challenges.

The unique event provided an excellent opportunity for professionals to highlight their work, exchange knowledge, and network with peers, driving progress in Au-

World Autism Day: Empowering advocacy and inclusion for persons with spectrum disorder



tism research and care.

Distinguished guest speakers from various countries, including Tanzania, Kenya, India, the United States of America (USA), South Africa, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) shared insights and discussed new treatments for Autism.

The Minister of Health's attendance underscored the government's commitment and support in improving the lives of individuals with Autism, making ICAN a significant step in Tanzania's initiatives to grapple with Autism.

At the heart of the initiative is the recognition of ASD as a complex neurodevelopmental condition that affects social interaction, communication, behavior, and sensory processing. While the exact causes of autism remain elusive, a combination of genetic and environmental factors is believed to contribute to its development. Despite the lack of a cure, specialized interventions aimed at improving symptoms associated with the disorder have shown promise, emphasizing the importance of early intervention.

However, the gravity of autism cannot be overstated. For individuals with ASD, as well as their families and communities, the lifelong challenges posed by the condition are significant. From difficulties in social interaction and communication to heightened sensory sensitivities and repetitive behaviors, autism profoundly impacts daily functioning and quality of life. Moreover, individuals with ASD often face stigma, discrimination, and barriers to accessing essential services such as education, employment, and healthcare.

Disparities in autism awareness and support services are particularly pronounced in developing countries, where resources for diagnosis, treatment, and

support are often limited or inaccessible. Children with autism in these regions face significant challenges, including delayed or overlooked diagnosis, lack of specialized intervention services, and societal stigma. Families, particularly mothers, often bear the burden of caring for children with ASD, exacerbating stress, financial strain, and social isolation.

Against this backdrop, a remarkable grassroots initiative that was last year spearheaded by 15-year-old activist Madeleine Kimario has garnered attention. Kimario's dedication to supporting children with autism in Tanzania through fundraising efforts highlights the urgent need for increased awareness and resources in developing countries. Inspired by her desire to make a difference in society, Kimario's initiative has raised an impressive sum of \$100 million to support children with autism in her community.

Kimario's story serves as a poignant reminder of the power of youth activism and community collaboration in addressing pressing social issues. Through her school project, she galvanized support from various stakeholders to fund a one-year project aimed at providing speech and occupational therapy for students with autism at the Msimbazi Mseto Autism Centre in Dar es Salaam's Ilala District. The initiative, launched in January 2023, encompasses a range of interventions, including therapy sessions, transportation support, and the renovation of therapy rooms.

The significance of Kimario's initiative extends beyond its immediate impact on the lives of autistic children in Tanzania. It underscores the pressing need for increased awareness, advocacy, and support services for individuals with ASD,

not only in Tanzania but across Africa and beyond. By raising awareness and fostering inclusion, initiatives like Kimario's contribute to creating a more inclusive and supportive world where all individuals, regardless of neurodiversity, can thrive and fulfill their potential.

However, Kimario's initiative also highlights the stark disparities in autism awareness and support services between developed and developing countries. While developed countries have established research agendas and comprehensive support services for individuals with ASD, developing countries like Tanzania struggle to provide basic clinical services and quality care for affected children. The lack of research and support infrastructure in Africa exacerbates the challenges faced by families and communities affected by autism, perpetuating stigma and hindering access to essential services.

Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach that encompasses increased research, awareness, advocacy, and support services tailored to the needs of individuals with ASD and their families. Collaborative efforts between governments, non-governmental organizations, international agencies, and local communities are essential to bridge the gap in autism awareness and support services between developed and developing countries.

As the World marks Autism Day, it is crucial to recognize the efforts of developed nations that have made significant strides in grappling with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). These nations serve as models for promoting acceptance, understanding, and inclusion for individuals with ASD, showcasing effective strategies and support systems that can be emulated worldwide.

One such nation is the United States, where comprehensive autism awareness and support initiatives have been implemented at both federal and local levels. The Autism CARES Act, first enacted in 2000 and reauthorized in 2019, provides funding for autism research, early detection, intervention services, and support for individuals with ASD and their families. This legislation has been instrumental in advancing autism research, improving diagnostic capabilities, and expanding access to evidence-based interventions.

Moreover, the U.S. Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC) regularly monitors autism prevalence and research to better understand the disorder's epidemiology and impact. This data-driven approach has informed public health policies, educational programs, and intervention strategies aimed at improving outcomes for individuals with ASD.

In addition to federal initiatives, many states in the U.S. have implemented comprehensive autism insurance mandates, ensuring that individuals with ASD have access to essential services such as behavioral therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy. These mandates require health insurance plans to cover autism-related services, reducing financial barriers and ensuring that individuals with ASD receive timely and appropriate care.

Furthermore, educational policies such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandate that children with disabilities, including ASD, receive a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment possible. This legislation has led to the development of specialized educational programs, support services, and accommodations tailored to the unique needs of students with ASD.

Other developed nations, such as Canada, Australia, and countries in Western Europe, have also made significant progress in addressing the needs of individuals with ASD. Comprehensive autism support systems, including early intervention programs, specialized healthcare services, and inclusive education policies, are key components of their approach to autism awareness and support.

Developed nations like the United States and the United Kingdom have made progress in addressing autism through legislation and initiatives. Yet, globally, much work remains. Celebrating World Autism Day spotlights activists like Madeleine Kimario, whose work in Tanzania, like the Autism Resource Center, bridges gaps in awareness and support. Drawing from their successes, countries can create a more inclusive society, empowering individuals with ASD to thrive. Together, we can normalize autism acceptance and inclusion worldwide.

Four hundred years on, Mexico's oldest black community struggles to survive

By Gordon Cole-Schmidt

OUTSIDE Mama Cointa's home where she has lived for almost all her life, guests have gathered to celebrate her 101st birthday. Her friend Victor steadies her quivering hand with his own while she tilts a ribbon-wrapped bouquet of wilting flowers to her nose. Her son Don Amado ushers visitors inside their family home.

"Our home is the last of its kind here," Amado said, ducking underneath a sheet of thatched palm leaves hanging over the entranceway to a windowless, one-room house, where he was raised by his mother, Mama "Cointa" Chavez Velazco, in the village of Tecoyame, Oaxaca.

"But it may not be around next year. There is no support to help us, no money to maintain it as the climate becomes more extreme and threatens us more," Amado added, before stealing a glance at his mother, whose milky blue eyes have begun to flood with tears.

"We are forgotten." Known as "El Redondo", Mama Cointa's house is an icon of the Costa Chica, the "short coast", which spans approximately 400km (250 miles) across two states that straddle the Pacific Ocean. More Afro-Mexicans live here than anywhere else in this country of nearly 130 million people. Longer and harsher dry seasons in recent years have produced intense droughts in Tecoyame and nearby towns, hardening and cracking the land and leaving the parched soil unable to absorb the water from Mexico's rainy season. Instead, the rainwater careens off the concrete-like surface, splashing up against the village's homes and weakening their foundations.

With circular walls built from mud and sand - and a cone-shaped roof bound together with vines, palm leaves and wooden beams - this type of home was first built in Mexico by African slaves brought to Mexico by the Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century.

A fraction of them escaped the shackles of slave owners, fleeing quickly through the wild and hidden hills that characterise Mexico's vast Pacific coastline. Settlements like Tecoyame, which is just a couple of kilometres from the beaches where slave ships landed, were constructed with only the materials that were available at the time, and homes like Mama Cointa's have sheltered generations of African-descended Mexicans for hundreds of years.

"El Redondo in Tecoyame is a symbol of the important African heritage here, just like food, dance, and music also are," Victor Guzman, a local historian and hospitality manager, told Al Jazeera. "They are tangible examples of the history, suffering, development



Mama Cointa receiving flowers on her birthday at her ancestral Mexican home that is threatened by climate change and poverty.

and identity of Afro-Mexicans."

Discovering Mexico's 'black pearl' Guzman lives 30km (19 miles) north of Tecoyame in Cuajinicuilapa, one of the largest cities on the Costa Chica. It is home to 27,000 people, of which 75 percent identify as Afro-Mexican. Cuajinicuilapa is a city like no other in Mexico. Erased years ago from tourist travel guides and largely unknown to much of Mexico, the city is self-made, self-contained, and defiantly proud.

Locals refer to it as Mexico's "black pearl", and like the precious gemstone, Cuajinicuilapa's raw beauty is natural and unpolished, formed by the people who live there. It has also remained enclosed and isolated for much of its history, but not by choice.

With food spicier and flavours punchier than traditional southern Mexican dishes, Cuajinicuilapa has a strong culinary identity, rooted in African staple foods, and combined with Indigenous cooking methods and ingredients native to the Mexican states of Oaxaca and Guerrero.

Fried bananas served with condensed milk are often consumed with spicy, crimson-coloured fish stews, slow-cooked pig cheek on

fried corn pancakes or "sopes" and tamales de tichindas, mangrove mussels mixed with corn dough and wrapped in banana leaves.

With its proximity to the ocean, fish is a centrepiece of the community's diet. It's bought locally at sunrise each morning at a seaside market that resembles an auction, and sits at the edge of a stretch of untouched beach that is a short drive from Cuajinicuilapa. Black fishermen catch hundreds of kilogrammes of shimmering, colourful Pacific fish in the wee hours of the morning, and transport their haul to Cuajinicuilapa's central market, where it is weighed.

What isn't purchased there is given as payment to younger fishermen learning the trade, and the remainder is sold to fresh seafood restaurants in popular tourist spots like Acapulco and Puerto Escondido, often at a fivefold markup.

Beyond the food, the world-famous "devil dancers" credit Cuajinicuilapa as the home of their ceremonial dance. Like the local delicacies, the origins of the "Danza de los Diablos" are rooted in slavery, when the dance was performed as a form of prayer to the African god Rujá to beg

for freedom from Spanish conquistadors.

Today, the dance has evolved into a vehicle to increase visibility and recognition for Afro-Mexicans. In recent years, devil dancers from Cuajinicuilapa have performed for Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, and within international cultural events in New York City's Times Square and also in European capital cities.

One hundred years of solitude Still, the region's isolation, both geographically and politically, has left Afro-Mexicans with few resources to sustain their culture. As one example, Cuajinicuilapa's Afro-Mexican history museum - one of the first of its kind in Mexico - hasn't paid its staff a salary for 15 years and is now facing closure.

At his home, Abad Campos Rodriguez, one of the city's leading dance and music teachers, also explained: "I have performed and taught the Danza de los Diablos to hundreds of children, but I can only continue for a couple more years as I'm getting old."

He added: "There are not many teachers left here. I worry it won't

continue to the next generation."

The same can be said for Mama Cointa's home. With each rainless day, the soil grows harder and the cracks deeper on the farm where her son, Don Amado, works with his sons. The vegetable and fruit harvest that provides for four generations of the family is in peril as climatic conditions worsen, and the need for financial support grows.

Like Mama Cointa's home south of the city, institutions on the Costa Chica that offered Afro-Mexicans protection from the Spanish slave traders are also on the brink of collapse.

The core of the problem is the community's social and economic marginalization. It was only in 2015 that the government census afforded Blacks here the opportunity to self-identify as Afro-Mexican, or people of African descent in Mexico. Four years later, campaigners secured a constitutional amendment to add Afro-Mexicans to the national list of 69 distinct cultural identities. Advocates hope that recognition within the country's legal framework will bolster funding for healthcare, education and cultural projects for Afro-Mexicans, who account for approximately two percent of Mexico's population.

But the results so far have been underwhelming. Angelica Sorrosa, the manager of the Afro-Mexican museum, said that "Nothing has changed. We still feel like we are at the bottom."

Sorrosa hopes that the presidential elections in June will provide her community with some relief. The frontrunner is Mexico City's Governor Claudia Sheinbaum, a protégée of outgoing President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who founded the leftist Morena party that is credited with lifting nearly five million people out of poverty since 2018.

"I want to believe that Claudia [Sheinbaum] will bring more change," Sorrosa said. "She talks a lot about prioritising culture, but right now, I can't be sure."

Compounding that uncertainty is the tendency in Mexico, as elsewhere, to marginalize or "ghettoize" Black culture and uncouple it from Mexico's broader cultural traditions.

Mijane Jimenez Salinas, president of Mano Amiga de la Costa Chica, a human rights non-profit organisation founded to support Afro-Mexican rights, said:

"We campaign for equality of opportunity. My daughter dreams of learning ballet, not just devil dancing, and she wants to learn languages and travel."

Taking her daughter in her arms, she told Al Jazeera: "For that, she needs equal opportunities. I always grew up with limits, but I want her to feel she can do anything."

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

Botswana threatens to send 20,000 elephants to Germany

By Jacqueline Howard

BOTSWANA'S President Mokgweetsi Masisi has threatened to send 20,000 elephants to Germany in a dispute over conservation.

Earlier this year, Germany's environment ministry suggested there should be stricter limits on importing trophies from hunting animals.

Botswana's President Mokgweetsi Masisi said it would only impoverish people in his country.

He said elephant numbers had exploded as a result of conservation efforts, and hunting helped keep them in check.

Germans should "live together with the animals, in the way you are trying to tell us to," Masisi said.

Botswana is home to about a third of the world's elephant population - over 130,000 - more than it has space for.

Herds were causing damage to property, eating crops and trampling residents, Masisi said.

Botswana has previously given 8,000 elephants to neighbouring Angola, and has offered hundreds more to Mozambique, as a means of bringing the population down.

"We would like to offer such a gift to Germany," Masisi said, adding that he would not take no for an answer.

Botswana's Wildlife Minister Dumezweni Mthimkhulu last month threatened to send 10,000 elephants to London's Hyde Park so British people could "have a taste of living alongside" them.

In March, UK MPs voted to support a ban on importing hunting trophies, but the legislation has further scrutiny to pass before becoming law.

A pledge to ban the import of hunting trophies was included in the Con-



servatives' 2019 general election manifesto.

Botswana and other southern African countries make a lot of mon-

ey from rich Westerners who pay thousands of dollars for a permit to shoot an animal and then take its head or skin back home as a trophy.

They say this money is used to help conservation efforts, and local people, so they are less likely to be tempted to poach the animals.

Animal rights groups argue that the practice is cruel and should be banned. "In some areas, there are more of these beasts than people. They are killing children who get in their path. They trample and eat farmers' crops leaving Africans hungry," said Botswana's wildlife minister. Germany is the EU's largest importer of African elephant trophies, and hunting trophies overall, according to a 2021 report by the Humane Society International. Botswana banned the practice in 2014, but lifted the restrictions in 2019 after facing pressure from local communities.

The country now issues annual hunting quotas, saying that it is licensed and strictly controlled.

It has previously considered using elephants for pet food.

A spokeswoman for the environment ministry in Berlin said that Botswana

had not raised any concerns with Germany on the matter.

"In light of the alarming loss of biological diversity, we have a special responsibility to do everything to ensure the import of hunting trophies is sustainable and legal," she said.

The ministry, however, remained in talks with African countries affected by import rules, including Botswana, the spokeswoman said.

Australia, France and Belgium are among countries that have banned the trade in hunting trophies.

Botswana, along with its neighbours Zimbabwe and Namibia, has also argued that it should be allowed to sell their stockpiles of ivory so it can earn money from its huge numbers of elephants.

Countries in East Africa, as well as animal rights groups, have opposed this saying it would encourage poaching.



Western chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*), which are a threatened species, in Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve in Guinea

Boom in mining for renewable energy minerals threatens Africa's great apes

By Phoebe Weston

UP to a third of Africa's great apes are threatened by a boom in mining projects for minerals required for the renewable energy transition, new research shows.

An estimated 180,000 gorillas, bonobos and chimpanzees are at risk due to an increase in demand for critical minerals such as copper, lithium, nickel and cobalt, a study has found. Many of those minerals are required for clean energy technologies such as wind turbines and electric cars. Researchers say the boom in demand is driving destruction of tropical rainforests which are critical habitats for Africa's great apes.

"Africa is experiencing an unprecedented mining boom threatening wildlife populations and whole ecosystems," researchers wrote in the paper, published in *Science Advances*. Africa is home to an estimated 30 percent of the world's mineral resources, and substantial produc-

tion increases in renewable energy are expected to drive up demand.

Mining harms apes through habitat loss, pollution and disease. It can also make habitats more accessible to hunters and farmers, as roads are carved into forest. More than two-thirds of primate species are already threatened with extinction.

"A shift away from fossil fuels is good for the climate but must be done in a way that does not jeopardise biodiversity," said lead researcher Dr Jessica Junker from the non-profit conservation organisation Rewild.

"In its current iteration it may even be going against the very environmental goals we're aiming for... It is crucial for everyone to adopt a mindset of reduced consumption."

Understanding the net impact of mining for energy transition minerals on biodiversity is challenging. The climate crisis also threatens great apes, and clean energy technologies are important to avoiding the worst effects of global heating.

The paper - written in collabora-

tion with researchers from the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research and the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg - used data on operational and pre-operational mining sites in 17 African countries and mapped areas where mining and high ape densities overlapped. It defined a buffer area of 10km around the mine as the area that would be directly affected and a 50km buffer for indirect impacts.

The paper found that the largest mining impacts on apes were in the West African countries Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali and Guinea. In Guinea, more than 23,000 chimpanzees (83 percent of the population) could be directly or indirectly affected by mining activities.

Even the most ecologically sensitive areas are generally not protected. Unrelated to apes, the paper found that 20 percent of mining areas overlapped with regions that were considered unique for biodiversity, or labelled "critical habitats". Junker said: "Companies, lenders and nations need to recognise that it

may sometimes be of greater value to leave some regions untouched to mitigate climate change and help prevent future epidemics."

Researchers said more could be done to mitigate mining's effects on endangered species. Mining companies are not required to make biodiversity data publicly available. It is possible that the impact of mining projects on great apes and other species is even higher than this paper found, according to the researchers.

Biodiversity offset schemes are typically developed to last as long as the mining project does, although impacts on great apes are permanent.

"Mining companies need to focus on avoiding their impacts on great apes as much as possible and use offsetting as a last resort, as there is currently no example of a great ape offset that has been successful," said Dr Genevieve Campbell from the International Union for Conservation of Nature, who is also a senior researcher at Rewild.

China's satellite TV aid project enlightening remote rural villages in Africa

NAIROBI

BAKO Auta, a resident of Hulumi village in Nigeria, vividly remembers the transformative impact of China's digital television aid initiative.

"Before that, our lives were limited to the village. The televisions donated by China allowed us to see the world beyond the fence," Auta said about the installation of free equipment by the Chinese digital television operator StarTimes seven years ago.

Auta's experience is similar to that of numerous beneficiaries across Africa who has been touched by the "Access to Satellite TV for 10,000 African Villages" project in remote rural areas.

The initiative, conceived during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2015, aims to connect 10,000 African villages to satellite television.

By December 2023, this China-aided project had successfully completed construction work in 20 African countries, encompassing 9,512 villages and directly benefiting over 190,000 households.

Speaking at the handover ceremony of the China-aided satellite TV project in Mozambique, President Filipe Nyusi praised its role in bridging the digital and information gap between rural and urban populations. He emphasized its significance in enhancing livelihoods, promoting public education, and fostering social development.

Under the project, each recipient village received two sets of solar-powered projector TV systems and one solar digital TV integrated terminal system for public areas, free of charge, as confirmed by contractor StarTimes. These installations have become vital conduits for villagers to access information from the outside world.

Murindahabi Augustin, a resident from an assisted village in Rwanda, expressed gratitude. "Through the TV, we can get information about modern agriculture, government programs, prevention of infectious diseases, and more," Augustin said.

StarTimes broadcasted all 52 matches of the 34th African Cup of Nations (AFCON) in early 2024, garnering widespread acclaim. The inclusion of commentary in local languages such as Kiswahili, Yoruba, and Hausa resonated with fans.

"Thanks to the Chinese enterprises that connected satellite TV signals for our village, we can now finally sit together as a family and watch matches!" said Abissa Kouassi, a villager from Yaou village in Cote d'Ivoire.

Ma Shaoyong, director of overseas public relations for StarTimes Group, highlighted the company's efforts in democratizing digital TV across Africa. He also emphasized the substantially reduced costs for installation and viewing, making it accessible to average households.

"The installation fee for a StarTimes set-top box stands at a mere 10 U.S. dollars, with subscribers required to pay a monthly fee ranging between 3-5 U.S. dollars, granting access to nearly 30 digital TV channels spanning news, sports, and movies," said Ma.

To ensure the sustainability of the project, StarTimes has trained local technicians in recipient villages to conduct after-sales maintenance. Nunes Guardagea, a Mozambican technician, finds profound fulfilment in his role.

"I'm able to help people in remote areas access information and enrich their lives," Guardagea said.

As the project continues to enlighten remote areas of Africa, StarTimes is advancing its localization strategy. In Kenya, the enterprise has invested in producing local dramas, resonating with audiences by using Kiswahili.

By Guardian Reporter

ENVI LODGES PLANS FOR A LUXURY TENTED NATURE CAMP IN ARUSHA

ENVI Lodges has announced the plan to expand its African presence after signing a new lodge on the outskirts of Arusha in Tanzania, a company said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

The 20-key ENVI Kili marks the hospitality company's second venture in East Africa, with a deal to manage the ENVI Paje ecolodge in Zanzibar inked last year.

Scheduled to open in Q4 2025, ENVI Kili is envisioned as a secluded tented camp that blends luxury and intimacy with nature, the embargoed statement said.

Facilities will include a restaurant serving cuisine focusing on ingredients grown in the ENVI garden and surrounding farms; a wellness facility offering alternative nature-based treatments; a yoga deck; and ENVI's signature barefoot luxury experiences; while a personal adventure concierge service will ensure every guest's stay is tailored to their individual preferences.

The camp will also host a clubhouse with dining and entertainment facilities, relaxation rooms, and an activities programme, it said.

This one-of-a-kind facility



will cater to travellers staying in Arusha before or after their game drives, with the city renowned as the gateway to Tanzania's world-renowned safari destinations, including the Serengeti National Park.

This positions ENVI Kili as an essential stop for safari

enthusiasts, providing a base from which to explore the rich biodiversity and resplendent landscapes of Tanzania, and pairing well with a beach escape on the island of Zanzibar where sister property ENVI Paje is set to open in less than a year.

The ENVI Kili project has been made possible through a partnership with American company Global Tourism Investments Inc and its wholly owned subsidiary Tanzanian company Golf Safari Resorts & Spa, founded by Niru and Chandu Patel, whose trust in

and collaboration with the ENVI Lodges team has been instrumental in bringing the project to life.

"It is thrilling to partner with ENVI Lodges to debut this visionary concept in Tanzania," said Niru Patel.

"We strongly believe that

our luxury tented camp in Arusha will be the lodging of choice for discerning safari travellers who wish to experience all the amazing Serengeti has to offer."

Chris Nader, Co-Founder of ENVI Lodges, added: "There is substantial demand for high-quality experiential lodging in Arusha. Our goal is to redefine the city's traveller experience, positioning ENVI Kili as a market leader. We are incredibly proud to join forces with the esteemed Patel family, united by our shared commitment to forging a sustainable future for Tanzania's hospitality sector, not only improving Arusha for its visitors, but its residents - the visited."

"With views of both Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru, ENVI Kili offers guests a serene and picturesque backdrop during their stay. The destination also includes world class golf, a polo club and a wide range of attractions for adventure and entertainment. The

tent design, currently underway by Tenthouse Structures, represents ENVI's third collaboration with the renowned architectural firm, promising innovative and eco-friendly structures that blend seamlessly with the natural surroundings."

The tented camp will capitalise on Tanzania's fast-growing tourism industry, with tourist arrivals to the destination hitting a record 1.81 million in 2023, up 24.3 percent on 1.45 million in 2022, and generating all-time-high tourism receipts of \$3.36 billion 2023, compared to a pre-pandemic (2019) high of \$2.6 billion (and 1.5 million arrivals), official Tanzanian Government figures reveal.

ENVI Lodges is a luxury experiential ecolodge brand and management company operating eco-friendly lodges that are immersed in nature and located in remote destinations.

Changes to capital gains tax rates affecting property

By Jacqueline Hima

In Tanzania, the realization of interest in land and buildings under the Income Tax Act entails various scenarios where ownership is transferred or relinquished, such as through sale, exchange, transfer, distribution, cancellation, redemption, destruction, or surrender.

Additionally, in the case of interests held in entities, realization occurs when the entity ceases to exist, immediately preceding its dissolution.

For individuals deriving gains from such realizations in the United Republic, the Income Tax Act mandates the payment of income tax through a single instalment.

This provision ensures that taxpayers fulfil their tax obligations upon gaining from transactions involving land or buildings, contributing to the revenue collection mechanism outlined by the Act.

Legislative update

These changes arise from two pivotal legislative updates: Government Notice (GN) No. 448C of 2023, also known as the Land Amendment Regulations 2023, which revises the Land (Fees) Regulations GN No. 83 of 2001, and the Finance Act No. 2 of 2023, which amends the Income Tax Act [Cap 332 R.E. 2019].

Capital gain tax on property

Capital gains tax on property in Tanzania is governed by the Income Tax Act, in conjunction with the Income Tax Act Practice Note on Taxation of Gains from the Realization of Interest in Land or Buildings, No. 03 of 2013.



an interest in land, buildings, shares, or securities in a resident entity.

Individuals should have a proper record of costs associated with the acquisition of assets that are subject to the standard 10 percent tax rate. The 10 percent tax is calculated based on the gain derived from the transaction, considering the documented costs associated with the acquisition of the assets.

The proposed amendments outlined in the Finance Bill represents a proactive step towards streamlining tax procedures and fostering a more investor-friendly environment.

By reducing the Capital Gains Tax burden and simplifying the calculation process, the government aims to alleviate administrative complexities for property sellers while ensuring fair taxation practices.

Additionally, the provision for sellers to choose between simplified or traditional tax rates enhances compliance and promotes transparency in tax reporting. Overall, these changes reflect the government's commitment to facilitating economic growth and encouraging investment in Tanzania.

Jacqueline Hima (pictured) is the Head of Real Estate & Immigration at Rive & Co, a law firm that resulted from the partnership between ABC Attorneys and Stallion Attorneys. Based in Dar es Salaam, she can be reached via jacqueline@rive.co.tz. The article is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice.



Cargo transport crisis as trucks stay grounded over container height rule

NAIROBI

Several trucks are stuck in different yards in Mombasa amid delays by the Kenya National Highway Authority (KeNHA) to issue permits for special cargo containers above 4.5 metres high.

KeNHA has implemented a new rule that prohibits truckers from carrying standard 40-foot-high cube shipping containers that exceed the height of 4.3 metres.

Transporters now say that delays in granting permits for special cargo containers of above 4.5 metres have affected their operations and the government risks losing business to Tanzania. "We have been frustrated by KeNHA for failing to act on cargo which is still at the Dongo Kundu weighbridge

for about eight days now. We do not know when the cargo will be released. The delay is increasing the cost of transport to us and our client," said PN Mashru, logistics officer Ezekiel Mengich.

He said the delay has led to frustrations not only for transporters but also their client in Uganda who have been using Mombasa port for years, but increasing delays have turned out to be a nightmare to him.

"The cargo being held at Dongo Kundu is factory assembly parts, which has resulted in a delay in completion of the project on time. This has frustrated the owner who is now contemplating importing his other products through the port of Dar es Salaam," said Mr Mengich.

John Kariuki, another transporter who has stayed at Mariakani for six days said he had applied for a special permit from KeNHA, which he has not received.

However, KeNHA maintained that only trucks that comply with the East Africa Community (EAC) Vehicle Load Act 2016 will be allowed on Kenyan roads. "EAC vehicle load Act puts the maximum overall height of vehicles at 4.3 metres unless it is an abnormal load, which is allowed, subject to the authority granting an exemption permit which gives conditions on times of travel and routes to be followed, to protect public safety and road-related infrastructure," the agency said in a statement.

Oar signs deal to acquire Namibian prospecting licences

Windhoek

OAR Resources, an exploration and production firm, has announced that it has successfully entered into a binding agreement to acquire full ownership of two Exploration and Production Licenses (EPLs), located in the highly prospective Erongo region, Namibia.

These EPLs are close to significant uranium deposits and show high potential for Alaskite hosted

uranium mineralisation as well as Calcrete-Gypcrete hosted mineralisation.

Additionally, Oar has announced the completion of pegging applications for two parcels of land in Brazil, which are prospective for uranium and ionic clay rare earth elements.

These tenements span 230km², further diversifying Oar's exploration interests.

The Namibian EPLs, numbered 9725 and 9652, are located near

Walvis Bay, Namibia's principal international port, and the coastal city of Swakopmund.

Encompassing 189.69km², EPL 9652 is situated next to Deep Yellow's Tumas Project. Applications for these EPLs were submitted in September 2023, and the company expects they will be granted in the second quarter of 2024.

Following the grant, environmental studies will be conducted to secure an environmental clearance certificate.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CYBER SECURITY TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES

Technology is evolving rapidly, and this trend doesn't appear to be slowing down anytime soon. Technology has undoubtedly made a wonderful contribution to many things, but it has also increased cybercrime. The majority of the organisation relies on technology to boost output and enhance service delivery. The majority of employees who use computers at work are not familiar with the principles and best practices of cyber security. Given the increase in cybercrime and malicious hackers, our employees need to be informed on the newest developments in cyber security, if for no other reason than to be able to prevent, identify, and respond to cyber threats.

Cyber security awareness training is the foundation of making your employees less vulnerable and raising awareness of cyber security risks. This training can improve the security of your organisation by assisting your employees in understanding common and modern cyber threats. Employees must be completely aware of the repercussions of failing to protect the organisation from outside threats.

The defensive security technology measures like firewalls and anti-spam software are always not enough, at this point the employees now hold the responsibility for the cyber security of the organisation. Your employees are your

By Ibrahim Sultan

Cyber Security Consultant.



organisation's last line of defense; if they are unable to save it, then nobody else will be able to.

In the event that employees are not properly trained in cyber security, hackers may take advantages of innocent employee and use variety of advanced hacking tactics to make them victim. He might send a link to a website affected by malware or a phishing email such as pretending to be from Toyota offering a free car or to have won a jackpot or green card. If employees click on the link or open the email attachment, the hacker gains access to the employee's device

and ICT resources of the organisation. If your organisation experiences a data breach, they expose themselves to risk of reputation, customer trust, business and economic losses.

In the complex threat landscape of today, Hackers utilize extremely sophisticated tactics to target your employees as ports of entry into your organisation's systems. About 90% of all cyberattacks within the organisation are the consequence of human mistake brought on by a lack of knowledge about cybersecurity. Providing employees with adequate cyber security awareness training can en-

hance their understanding of both common cyber threats, best cyber security practices and will assist them in acquiring the skills need to secure your organisation information assets.

These days, the majority of organisations only provide cyber security awareness training to their employees in order to comply with auditors; they do not assist staff members in self-defense or being able to report security incidents. The most of organisations don't assess their employees' awareness levels of cyber security after providing them with training. Having a program in place to measure how well employees are trained and comprehend their roles is essential to raising cyber security level of the organisation.

Employee behavior is modified by cyber security awareness training, which also helps to enhance attitudes regarding cyber security. Additionally, this improves the organisation's collective security level and makes it easier to hold individuals accountable for their actions. Employees will learn how to defend themselves both as individuals and as an organisation through cyber security awareness training.

What actions can an organisation take to increase its level of cyber security

awareness?

No magic exists. Organisations that have been successful are those whose staff members have received training on how to use the ICT resources safely.

Fastly, for an organization to successfully implement a security program, all staff members utilizing ICT infrastructure must get training on security policy, procedures, and technical control, as well as evaluation. Suspicious activity detection and recognition should also be covered in training, as this will help the organisation combat cybercrime.

Secondly, there should be cybersecurity governance training for board members and Management Team. Their responsibilities in organisation include ensuring the accomplishment of cyber security goals, managing risks effectively, and confirming that ICT resources are utilized inside the organisation in an ethical manner. The goal of security governance training is to ensure security strategies, goals, risks, and objectives in organisation are evaluated using a top-down approach.

Ibrahim Sultan is Cyber Security Consultant. These are his personal views. He can be reached through email address: "mailto:sultibra@gmail.com" sultibra@gmail.com

Eiffage secures design, build contract for Lumi project

By Guardian Reporter

The Australia based Black Rock Mining has confirmed that has secured the globe, at Bordeaux

EIFFAGE Construction has secured a design-and-build contract to take over the Lumi project, a multipurpose space in the Euratlantique district of Bordeaux, France.

Awarded by Clairsienne, the contract is valued at nearly €45m (\$48.80m).

Vincent Lavergne Architecture Urbanisme, with assistance from Cierito Estudio, will handle the project management of Lumi, which is situated at Quai de Brienne.

The Lumi project will feature a complex of four mixed-use buildings, with eight to ten above-ground floors, encompassing a total of 21,000m² of floor space.

Designed around a 1,140m² landscaped area, the project includes a tertiary building with conference rooms, office areas, and a school, as well as catering and rooftop spaces.

The development plan includes two buildings that will offer 130 homes for first-time buyers and properties for rent.

Additionally, there will be a building with 192 units of social university accommodation and a childcare facility on the ground floor.

The project will also provide 167 parking spaces across two

underground levels and a range of high-service-level cycle parking spaces.

Aligned with the RE2020 regulation, the Lumi project aims for sustainable building and urban development practices.

The eco-design initiative will focus on retaining most of the existing structures and recovering materials through reuse or recycling, which is expected to result in 800 tonnes worth of carbon savings.

During construction, the company intends to use low-carbon concrete, bio-sourced materials, and industrialised bathrooms by its subsidiary HVA Concept alongside circular solutions.

In addition, the complex will connect to the local district heating network, and some offices will use power from photovoltaic panels.

Demolition is scheduled for late November 2024, following the design and technical structural planning stage.

The main structural work is set to commence in March 2025, with completion expected in December 2026.

The Lumi project is expected to employ approximately 80 Eiffage Construction tradespeople.

Earlier this week, Eiffage announced that its Pradeau Morin teams are currently working on the Saint-Gervais church restoration project's new phase.



By Michael Bertolone

If you don't have mental health support for your workers right now, start the conversation. We all know of the Fatal Four risks - but there's a strong argument to be made that it should really be the Fatal Five.

Long hours on site, extended time away from friends and family, and exposure to traumatic events are so common in our industry, and as we have learned while recently researching mental health options for our union members, they're also key drivers of mental health risk.

Local 18 is the Ohio chapter of the International Union of Operating Engineers. It is our job to ensure the operating engineers building the infrastructure that keeps our state running can also run as human beings, and stay above water in what has been proven to be one of the most stressful industries there is.

When looking at mental health risks nationally, the suicide rate for those working in construction is 4 times higher than the general population, but this isn't news for anyone who's long worked in the sector, it's instead become a sad forgone conclusion. We recently found out first-

hand why despite the widespread nature of the problem, it's an incredibly challenging one to solve.

After hearing from members and my own employees that mental health was rapidly becoming one of the greatest areas of need amongst our community, we set off on a journey to find better support and create our own mental health program.

While we finally landed on Wysa, an evidence-backed AI-guided chatbot that also offers human coaching support, we learned a lot along the way about the numerous considerations that have to be made when looking at mental health options in our sector.

Here's what we learned when searching for better mental health support for our members: Accessibility

The closest we could've gotten in the past to offering mental health support for our members and workforce would be through Employee Assistance Plans. We faced a problem here: not all of our members use the same insurance plan and we refused to deny care or offer mental health support options that would only apply if you happened to participate with the right insurer. This really characterizes the

Why the fatal five risks matter in the construction industry

state of mental health in our sector today. Once you get through the paperwork, the wait times and the general bureaucracy, you're more stressed than you were when you started.

It's also challenging for individuals to convince themselves to take this step of self-care and agree they need mental health support to a degree that it's worth undergoing this process. It demotivates people from seeking help and getting care early, and that seems like a core issue with industry standards around mental health.

As an industry, we need solutions that are always available, require no applications and paperwork, no wait times, and no other barriers to entry. We want all of our members to take care of themselves every day, not only when it's gotten bad.

We learned in looking at a variety of solutions and offerings on the market that having immediate access to care can come at a steep price.

Some AI tools now lessen this barrier. Lookout for platforms that charge by the session for human coaching, which ultimately acts as a dissuasion mechanism for individuals needing this further support.

Also, some focus exclusively on human coaching which is staggeringly expensive, while also being more difficult for people to schedule and access depending on where they were.

Data privacy and anonymity was another key consideration and one that I'd encourage others not to overlook. Our field has a history of a machismo culture and we knew that anonymity in any solution helps encourage uptake, as well as protect members' privacy.

When providing mental health support, seek to hit a sweet spot of including always available, anonymous, clinically tested AI, along with unlimited human coaching.

Clinical safety and liability Offering support for mental health in our industry bears an incredible weight upon us all, because we understand it isn't just about higher satisfaction at work or a better mindset, it's also about preventing severe mental health risk like suicide.

Relief from yoga or breathwork apps is all good, but my workforce needs and deserves clinical-grade mental health care. They need support in the form of evidenced therapies and techniques. It's not worth the cost of onboarding support nor the liability risk if it isn't going to be serious and proven.

AI means there are a lot of new mental health tools on the market, but what we learned is they come with varying levels of research and clinical backing behind them.

As we consulted with professionals in the field, we also learned it's critical to make sure any program being offered has significant infrastructure for escalation or crisis response. There needs to be a clear set of actions that begin if any individual displays signs of severe risk.

My advice? Spend the time, dig deeply into the options on the market. We here at Local 18 formed a taskforce responsible for researching and compiling information on all the available tools out there which included background on how much clinical evidence each one had and what kind of escalation support they provided.

Start somewhere As part of a union, our jobs exist to ensure that professionals in our field are supported and I can tell you right now, one of the biggest issues they're struggling with today is mental health. It's a hard problem to solve but one that we simply cannot ignore.

We owe it to our colleagues, to the kids coming into the industry next, and to the families of professionals in the field to tackle it.

If you don't have mental health support for your workers right now, start the conversation. Find out what they would want, speak to leaders in your organization about how the process can be started and look into solutions.

What we discovered in our search was that a myriad of new technologies and solutions are available, and it's up to us to take a step forward, vet them and start providing care for our workforce.

Michael Bertolone is the business manager at Local 18 - International Union of Operating Engineers.



The development will provide 167 parking spaces across two underground levels. Photo: Courtesy of Eiffage.

CONSTRUCTION

ROBOTS ARE SEEN REWRITING THE RULES OF CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

By Sander Van de Rijdt

To make worksites safer for humans, we need a smarter approach to automation. There's no getting around it; construction is a risky business. When you're working on complex projects involving half-built structures, heavy machinery, ever-changing weather conditions, and the need to coordinate the activities of large work crews, an element of risk is impossible to prevent.

The trouble is, while many occupations are getting far less risky over time, construction work is actually getting more dangerous. Construction worker deaths rose 41% between 2011 and 2019, and have continued to climb since then.

Clearly, a business-as-usual approach isn't working. To ensure the safety of our teams, we need a new approach to managing and mitigating the hazards associated with construction sites – and that means leaning into new technologies, including automation and robotics, to make our worksites the safest they can possibly be.

Rise of the Machines

Robots and automated tools are already transforming construction sites. Automated masonry tools can dramatically increase the speed of construction—one prototype robot can lay 1,000 bricks per hour, for instance, while reducing the need for human workers to haul heavy pallets of brick or mortar around worksites. Autonomous vehicles and “driverless dozers” are also starting to break through, promising to allow heavy equipment to



complete risky tasks while keeping humans safely out of harm's way.

Other technologies are already widely utilized: drones, for instance, are used on at least 37% of construction sites, and they can significantly reduce the need for human workers to climb to high areas for inspections. With falls from dangerous heights accounting for more than a third of fatal construction accidents, that's a big deal. There's also the potential for drone-mounted sensors to help detect heat sig-

natures to prevent fires as well as dangerous equipment malfunctions, and in commercial spaces, robots are being used to detect slip-and-fall hazards. We need to make similar automated preventative measures ubiquitous on construction sites.

The benefits of such tools are obvious. Automating high-risk activities is a huge net win for construction workers, who will increasingly be able to work remotely on dangerous tasks. Many injuries—sometimes fatal—can be traced back to human error, and

the human element is one factor an automated system, working with precision and consistency, can completely eliminate. As long as a robotic system is configured correctly, it won't make mistakes—and if something does go wrong, it will be replaceable equipment, not human workers.

Don't Take Safety for Granted

But it's not all good news. Many construction workers say they find it distracting to work alongside drones, and there's evidence that even when drones are operating at a considerable distance from humans they often lead workers to look away from their tasks. To use drones safely, we'll need to manage their use and ensure they're deployed in ways that coordinate with human workers and enable teams to operate safely and confidently across a range of worksite settings.

New technologies such as robot exoskeletons are also a mixed blessing: they can significantly reduce the wear-and-tear on human muscle and bone, making many workplace injuries less prevalent, but any technology that helps a single human lift 1,000 pounds brings potential dangers, too. These new capabilities bring new risks, and require proper training and new safety protocols to ensure their safe use.

It's important to remember that worksite automation is also about increasing productivity. If a new tool or technology lets a worker complete a task single-handed, that's great—but sometimes having fewer people working on

a given task can make it easier for mistakes to go unnoticed. We'll need proper planning and checklists, delivered and tracked seamlessly using digital tablets and other systems, to ensure that automation doesn't increase the risk of potentially dangerous oversights.

A Safer Future for Construction Teams

The reality, then, is that robots will bring both potential benefits and new risks to construction worksites. To capture those benefits and manage those risks, we'll need to be proactive about integrating new technologies into our worksites and our workflows in smart and responsible ways.

That will mean ensuring that we don't simply patch together new technologies and expect them to work seamlessly and safely without any central oversight. In an era that will increasingly be defined by new construction technologies, we need to make sure that we have full visibility into the processes, equipment, and people across our worksites.

It might help to take a look at manufacturing, where industrial robots and automated systems are now par for the course. To keep track of factories, plant managers use “virtual twins” that digitally track every aspect of the equipment they're using—from the rpm of a given motor, to the locations of specific workers or automated vehicles, to the temperature on the factory floor. That allows factories to operate more efficiently, but it also provides a layer of centralized over-

sight and communication that helps keep everyone safe.

If we are to be as successful with new technology as they are in the manufacturing sector, we'll need proper training and education for construction teams, who will increasingly have to be knowledge workers as well as manual laborers. Using robotic tools and working alongside automated equipment, work crews will need to be able to follow safety guidelines and processes for using sophisticated tools in real time. Making that process easy and seamless for human workers will be vital to ensuring that teams work safely and efficiently, while also overcoming any potential resistance they may have to using automated tools.

As we begin to introduce new automated and robotic technologies, we need to remember that construction worksites are complex places where humans and machines come together to get the job done. Using digital tools for education, training, worksite management, risk prediction and mitigation, asset tracking, communication, and related purposes will be essential as we strive to make construction sites the safest they can possibly be for their workers.

Sander Van de Rijdt is the co-founder and co-CEO of Plan-Radar, a digital platform for documentation, task management and communication in construction and real estate projects, serving more than 100,000 users across 60+ countries.

SUA plans to roll out master's degree in agroecology

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Morogoro

THE Morogoro-based Agroecology Hub Tanzania (AEHT) has developed a special curriculum on Master of Science Degree (M.Sc) in agroecology, being concerted efforts to boost the performance of the environmentally- friendly farming.

The well-drafted curriculum which is awaiting accreditation from the Tanzania Commission of Universities (TCU) expects to greenlight official rolling-out of the said high-level agro training program at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).

This was unveiled by Prof. Dismas Mwaseba, the AEHT Project Coordinator during this year's annual agroecology stakeholder's forum which gathered recently at the Institute of Continuing Education (ICE), Edward Moringe Campus, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).

“We have decided to develop the key course in order to help moulding high-profile agro experts who will play a major role to push for the smooth metamorphosis of the agroecology among the farmers across the country, the Don expressed.

He hopes that the new training program will start to be offered at the SUA coming next academic year.

Prof Mwaseba asserted that the robust project is also implementing a potential strategy for the development of a short course curriculum on agroecology whose major targets are in-service ward and village level extension staff who have had no opportunity to receive such training.

“After completing with the general task for the development of the said curricula



Prof. Robinson Mdegela, the Coordinator for Research and Publications at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) when officiating the Annual Agroecology Stakeholders Forum held recently in Morogoro region. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

we're expecting to share it with the ministry of agriculture, the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), as well as the other relevant stakeholders for further process, including resource mobilization in readiness for official implementation,” he detailed.

He added, “As per the pilot project, to start with, the short courses in question will be imparted to the targeted extension officers within Morogoro, Mbeya and Singida regions, the areas where the project has based its strong foothold”.

After the pilot project to prove success, the training program will be extended to further areas across the country, basing on available agro ecological zones.

In his remarks to open the timely forum, the Coordinator for Research and Publications at SUA, Prof. Robinson Mdegela commended the involvement of various participants engaged in agroecology, particularly farmers, who are the focal point for agricultural development initiatives in the country.

He observed that the annually-staged forum would provide a helpful podium for the involved stakeholders to get ample opportunity to discuss and recommend how best to implement the recently launched strategy, the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NEOAS) which was inaugurated in Dodoma in November 2023.

AEHT is the robust project which focuses on undertaking gender-sensitive and multi-stakeholder collaborative research for development of Agroecology friendly policies contributing to enhanced livelihoods and sustainable environment in rural communities through principles of Agroecological Intensification (AEI) in Tanzania.

The project, AEHT, is a collaborative crop research program funded by the McKnight Foundation, in partnership with other vital partners including SUA, Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-MAIST), Agricultural Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF), Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT), Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA), Swissaid Tanzania, Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM), Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO) as well as Local Government Authorities (LGAs).

US govt expands crackdown on junk fees, mortgage industry

WASHINGTON

The Biden administration is expanding its crackdown on junk fees, this time setting its sights on the mortgage industry.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) cites particular concern about the rising costs of home purchase loans, which surged nearly 22

percent from 2021 to 2022. In other words, closing costs rose nearly \$1,000 to an average \$5,954, the largest annual increase dating back to 2018.

At the same time, closing costs for a refinance skyrocketed 49% and reached an average \$4,979. Closing costs were found to have an outsized impact on first-time homebuyers – as well as lower-income bor-

rowers – with nearly 15 percent of them paying closing costs which exceeded their down payment, the CFPB revealed.

Closings costs typically include origination fees, appraisal, credit report fees, title insurance, discount points and other fees.

“Costs for homeowners are driven up if companies in the mortgage industry can pad

their profits with illegal junk fees,” the agency said. “The CFPB is working to combat the proliferation of junk fees in consumer financial markets and to ensure that mortgage companies don't tack on unlawful fees.”

The figures underscored what we know to be true: Mortgage fees and costs have risen significantly in recent years.



Dimmy Kanyankole, Country Manager, Bolt

Ride-hailing agency bags best platform in EA award

By Guardian Reporter

The Global Brand Magazines has awarded ride-hailing platform-Bolt, as the best in East Africa for its commitment to excellence, innovation, and customer satisfaction in providing seamless transportation solutions across the region.

Global Brands Magazine (GBM), based in London, is one of the largest brand publishing companies in the world and is renowned for its rigorous evaluation process and unbiased assessment of industry leaders.

Each year, GBM develops a series of awards for companies that have stood out among the industry leaders, demonstrating exceptional service and unique vision.

GBM bestowed this accolade to Bolt in acknowledgment of its service quality, technological advancement, and impactful contributions to the transportation sector in East Africa.

Dimmy Kanyankole, Country Manager, Bolt said: “We're honoured to receive the award from GBM. This recognition is a testament to our pursuit of excellence in delivering quality mobility solutions across Tanzania and the wider region. This award continues to fuel our determination to keep pushing boundaries and revolutionising the

mobility experience for everyone we serve.”

With a mission to make cities for people and not cars through innovation and technology, Bolt has consistently enhanced its service quality, reliability, and safety in the region. Through strategic partnerships, user-centric design, and a relentless focus on customer satisfaction, the company has cemented its position as the preferred choice for millions of commuters in Tanzania and the East African region.

This recognition from Global Brands Magazine reaffirms Bolt's position as the leading ride-hailing platform in the region and further motivates the team to remain dedicated to empowering communities, fostering economic opportunities, and delivering exceptional mobility solutions to its customers.

The Awards were established to honour excellence in performance across industries.

Following rigorous research and evaluation of award nominees, an external research team was constituted to evaluate the nominees.

Bolt was selected for demonstrating unique and exceptional service delivery towards the evolving transportation sector.

This year marks 12 years since the Global Brands Awards were established.

WORLD



This combination of photos provided by World Central Kitchen/WCK.org shows seven aid workers who were killed in Gaza on April 1, 2024. (PHOTO / WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN VIA AP)

Israel urged to be accountable for aid worker killings

HONG KONG

ISRAELI statement of “unintentional” and “misidentified” killings of international aid workers in Gaza on April 1 paled out amid accountability calls from its Western allies and allegations of scaring aid workers in Israel's Gaza-starving scheme.

Several countries, including staunch ally the United States, have demanded accountability and that Israel conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into what went wrong, with some accusing Israel of intentionally targeting or indiscriminately attacking the workers.

Francesca Albanese, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the West Bank and Gaza, accused Israeli forces on her X account, formerly Twitter, of “intentionally killing” the WCK workers so that donors “would pull out and civilians in Gaza could continue to be starved quietly”, as she accused Western countries of not “moving a finger for the Palestinians”.

Nonprofit organization World Central Kitchen said in a statement on April 2 that seven of its members – from Australia, Poland, United Kingdom, a dual citizen of the US and Canada, and Palestine – “have been killed in a strike by Israeli Defense Forces in Gaza”.

It said that despite coordinating movements with the IDF, the convoy was hit “as it was leaving the Deir al-Balah warehouse” where the team had unloaded more than 100 tons of humanitarian food aid via the maritime route pre-agreed with Israeli military.

The WCK convoy, with clear marks on ve-

hicles and following routes in a non-conflict zone, was hit three times in a sequence by drone-piloted missiles, the last vehicle stricken hard while carrying the dead and wounded from first two strikes, Al Jazeera English reported.

World Central Kitchen CEO Erin Gore said she was “heartbroken and appalled” that their group lost beautiful lives “because of a targeted attack by the Israeli Defense Forces” and that the attack was not only against WCK but “on humanitarian organizations showing up in the most dire of situations where food is being used as “a weapon of war”, adding it “is unforgivable”.

The latest tragedy has prompted WCK and some humanitarian organizations to rethink their work in Gaza – a blow to conflict-stricken, deprived civilians and aid workers already working with depleted sources and racing against time to curb the threat of famine.

UN Secretary General Guterres said the Israeli attack on aid workers is “unconscionable.” Dennis Francis, president of the UN General Assembly said he is “outraged by the tragic killings.” At least 196 humanitarian workers have now been killed in Gaza since October, according to the UN.

US President Joe Biden, in a statement, said he was “outraged and heartbroken” by the deaths of seven humanitarian workers from WCK. He demanded Israel's investigations to be swift, bring accountability and the findings “must be made public”.

Biden also noted that it was “not a stand-

alone incident” and that the ongoing conflict “has been one of the worst in recent memory” in terms of how many aid workers have been killed.

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell said on his X account that he was appalled by the killings. In a joint statement with EU Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarcic, Borrell demanded an assurance of accountability for those responsible and reminded the Israeli obligation under International Humanitarian Law to “protect humanitarian workers at all times”. They also demanded the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution on adopting an immediate and sustainable cease-fire.

In a telephone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on April 3, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese expressed outrage over the attack on innocent aid workers.

The Australian government had summoned the Israeli ambassador to Australia, Amir Maimon, to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to give an explanation but was told “he is sick”. DFAT said in a statement on April 2 that Australia has been “very clear that we expect humanitarian workers in Gaza to have safe and unimpeded access to

do their lifesaving work”.

United Kingdom Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called the strike “shocking” on his X account and demanded Israel to explain how “this tragic incident happened” and to take immediate steps to protect workers and facilitate vital humanitarian operations in Gaza.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, in a statement, affirmed “complete rejection of weaponizing food against civilians in the war on Gaza” and demanded ensuring accountability and non-impunity “for all crimes committed as a result of the horrific war”. The United Arab Emirates, which normalized ties with Israel through the Washington-brokered Abraham Accords in 2020, also made its indignation felt.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in a statement, sent cables of condolences to Australia, Poland, UK, US, Canada, and the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Abu Dhabi, as well as WCK Founder Jose Andres.

He stressed the UAE's call on Israeli authorities to “conduct an urgent, independent and transparent investigation, and accept full responsibility”, and to strengthen the humanitarian response and intensify efforts aimed at “halting escalation in the occupied Palestinian territory and in the region”.

What we did in last 10 years is just the trailer : PM Modi

GENEVA

says plenty more to come if NDA elected for third term
ANI | Updated: Apr 04, 2024 14:23 IST

Jamui (Bihar) [India], April 4 (ANI): Hailing the governance of the BJP-led NDA at the Centre over the last 10 years under his leadership, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said all that happened over the decade gone by was just a “trailer” as a lot more would follow if he is elected for a third, straight term in office.

Addressing a campaign rally in Jamui on Thursday, PM

Modi said, “Echoes in favour of the BJP and the NDA are not only renting the air across Bihar but also sounding in the far corners of the country. What happened in the last 10 years is just a trailer, as there's plenty more still to be done. We all have to come together to take the country forward.”

Ripping into the Opposition bloc-INDIA, he said back in the day when the partners in the ‘Ghamandia’ alliance were in power at the Centre, “the trains that plied on our tracks were rickety at best. Now, the people of Bihar are travelling in the Vande Bharat”.



“Those who gobbled up land in the name of giving jobs to the poor in the Railways can never do any good for the people of Bihar,” PM Modi said, in a scathing takedown of the Opposition bloc.

He said India was considered ‘weak’ in the eyes of the world during the Opposition

rule at the Centre but now, the country is a global leader.

“Congress and RJD tarnished the country's image before the world during their rule. The BJP and NDA are working towards one goal, which is to build a ‘Viksit Bharat’ (a developed India) and a prosperous Bihar.

You all are, perhaps, aware of what the world used to think of us in the previous years. During the rule of Congress, India was considered a weak and poor country. Today, we are showing the way to the world...the whole world is watching us. How did our

global profile and prestige rise by leaps and bounds? Today, we are the fifth-largest global economy,” he said.

“On one side is the NDA government, which talks about setting up new industries. On the other, there are these people whose only claim to fame is the kidnapping industry. On one side is the NDA government, which talks about solar power and LED lights. On the other are these arrogant leaders in the Opposition coalition, who want to take Bihar back to the age of the lantern,” Prime Minister Modi added.

ANI

West wants all NATO members to assist Kiev as long as it keeps fighting Russia – Lavrov

MOSCOW

WESTERN countries are trying to compel all NATO member states to sign up for providing obligatory aid to Ukraine just so long as Kiev keeps up its fight against Russia, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

“Now they want to turn voluntary military aid to Ukraine into mandatory military aid under NATO auspices, to force all NATO members to sign up for the obligatory provision of funds and weapons to the Kiev regime through heavy-handed disciplinary measures, just so that it can con-



tinue to fight Russia,” the top diplomat said at a meeting with foreign ambassadors on a potential settlement in Ukraine.

Since the beginning of the special military operation in Ukraine, foreign countries and international organizations have provided Kiev with assistance totaling more than \$150.8 bln. Almost one-third - \$48.5 bln - went to Ukrainian military needs, according to TASS calculations based on official statements by the authorities of donor countries and media data.

Thus, the total amount of Western aid to Ukraine since the beginning of the special

military operation has exceeded its budget for 2022 (\$55.5 bln) by 2.7 times. And military aid to Kiev alone is already equal to 94.9% of Russia's defense spending last year (\$51.1 bln).

Russian President Vladimir Putin said earlier that today the military potential and capabilities of almost all major NATO countries are being “actively used against Russia.” Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu emphasized that Moscow was fighting not so much with the Ukrainian military as with the “collective West.”

Agencies

Foreign Ministry elaborates on Xi-Biden phone talks

BEIJING

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Wednesday answered media questions on the phone talks between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden.

According to the US side, during the telephone conversation between the Chinese and US presidents on Tuesday, President Biden mentioned Ren'ai Jiao, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Xizang. The US side also urged China to stop supporting Russia and play a bigger role in the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue.

In response to a related query, spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a daily news briefing that during the call, the Chinese side stressed that China has indisputable sovereignty over Nansha Qundao and its adjacent waters. The sovereignty covers the islands, reefs, shoals and reefs of Nansha Qundao, including Ren'ai Jiao.

The root cause for the Ren'ai Jiao issue is that the Philippines has repeatedly gone back on its words and tried to build permanent outposts on the uninhabited reef which belongs to China, in an attempt to permanently occupy Ren'ai Jiao, which is illegal, Wang noted.

The United States is not a party to the South China Sea issue, and should not intervene in matters between China and the Philippines. China has strong will and resolve to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, he said.

“The Chinese side stated clearly that Hong Kong is China's Hong Kong, and Hong Kong affairs are purely China's internal affairs,” Wang said.

Completing the legislation on Article 23 of the Basic Law of Hong Kong is the constitutional responsibility of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for safeguarding national security.

It will help protect the fundamental wellbeing of all Hong Kong residents, as well as the interests of investors from all over the world in Hong Kong. It will not at all undermine the rights and freedoms that Hong Kong residents enjoy in accordance with the law, Wang said.

The United States needs to respect China's sovereignty and the rule of law in Hong Kong, and should not disrupt, still less interfere in the process, he added.

“The Chinese side stressed that issues related to Xinjiang and Xizang are China's internal affairs,” Wang said, adding that no country has a monopoly on human rights. China attaches great importance to the protection of human rights. The people of a country are best positioned to judge the human rights conditions of the country.

China would like to engage in exchanges with the United States on human rights on the basis of mutual respect, but we firmly oppose interference in China's internal affairs under the pretext of human rights, he said.

“On the Ukraine crisis, China's position has been consistent, clear and transparent,” Wang said, adding that there is a risk that the crisis will further deteriorate and escalate, and efforts should be made toward de-escalation to bring the conflict to an end through negotiation rather than fighting. There should be no winner and loser in a political settlement. Rather, it should be peace that prevails. China will continue to play a constructive role to that end.

China is neither the one that created the conflict nor a party to it, and has never provided lethal weapons or equipment to any party, Wang stressed.

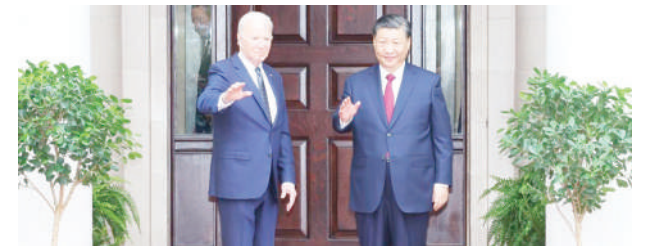
“We did not and will not seek gains from the conflict. Other countries should not smear and attack normal relations between China and Russia, should not undermine the legitimate rights of China and Chinese companies, and should not shift blame to China wantonly and provoke camp confrontation,” he said.

The Korean Peninsula issue has dragged on for years, and its root cause is clear. The imperative now is to desist from acts of deterrence and applying pressure, and move out of the spiral of escalating confrontation, Wang said.

The fundamental solution lies in resuming dialogue and negotiation; addressing the legitimate security concerns of all parties, especially those of the DPRK; and advancing the political settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue, Wang noted.

“Turbulence and fighting in Northeast Asia will be in no one's interest. The core of the Korean Peninsula issue lies in the conflict between the United States and the DPRK, and it is the United States who holds the key to the issue,” he said.

Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with US President Joe Biden at Filoli Estate in the US state of California, Nov 15, 2023. XINHUA

To approach different civilizations with mind broader than sky

ON March 27, 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a speech at the UNESCO headquarters, calling on the world to encourage different civilizations to respect each other and live in harmony, so that exchanges and mutual learning between civilizations will become a bridge promoting friendship between people around the world, an engine driving progress of human society, and a bond cementing world peace.

Ten years on, Xi's proposals on exchanges and mutual learning between civilizations have gained increasingly more support from the international community, providing strong motivation for building a community with a shared future for

mankind.

Human history is one of civilizations living and prospering together in diversity. There are more than 200 countries and regions, over 2,500 ethnic groups and multiple religions in our world. Diversity breeds exchanges, exchanges lead to integration, and integration brings progress.

Xi said civilizations have come in different colors, and such diversity has made exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations relevant and valuable; civilizations are equal, and such equality has made exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations possible; civilizations are inclusive, and such inclusiveness has given exchanges and

mutual learning among civilizations the needed drive to move forward.

He said to promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, the world must adopt a right approach with some important principles. His remarks have charted the course for human progress.

Irina Bokova, then director-general of UNESCO, noted that the vision of the Chinese leader aligns perfectly with the mission of UNESCO.

Over the past decade, Xi has elaborated on China's perspective on civilization in the new era on various occasions, continuously contributing Chinese wisdom and solutions to promoting cultural exchanges, mutual learning, and the progress of

human civilization.

When attending the general debate of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2015, he noted that peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom are common values of all mankind. At the 18th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in June 2018, he stressed the importance to champion equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness between civilizations.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations in May 2019, Xi emphasized the need to promote exchanges and mutual learning among

countries, nations and cultures around the world, and strengthen popular support for jointly building a community with a shared future for both Asia and humanity as a whole.

In his keynote speech delivered at the Communist Party of China in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting in March 2023, Xi proposed the Global Civilizations Initiative, saying the world should advocate the respect for the diversity of civilizations, the common values of humanity, the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilizations, and robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

Through these important remarks

by Xi, the international community sees China's major country responsibility to promote human progress.

“As long as the idea of peace can strike deep roots and the sail of peace can be hoisted in the hearts and minds of people all over the world, a strong defense will be constructed to prevent and stop war.” What Xi said provides valuable guidance for navigating the current intricate and volatile international landscape.

Today, conflicts keep emerging in certain regions of the world, and terrorist attacks occur from time to time, while hegemonic thinking continues to erode the foundations of peace.

People's Daily

Morocco head of govt represents King Mohammed VI at inauguration of Senegalese President

RABAT

HEAD of Government Aziz Akhannouch represented King Mohammed VI on Tuesday in Diannadio near Dakar, at the swearing-in and inauguration ceremony of Senegal's newly elected President, Bassirou Diomaye Faye.

Aziz Akhannouch's trip to Senegal, accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Living Abroad, Nasser Bourita, follows royal instructions from the new president-elect invited the Sovereign to take part in the inauguration ceremony.

Apart from the leaders of the sub-region, King Mohammed VI is the only head of state to have received such an invitation, which testifies to the depth of the bonds of fraternity, solidarity and consideration uniting Morocco and

Senegal. It also testifies to the depth of the exceptional, multi-dimensional political, economic, cultural, social and spiritual partnership between the two countries.

The swearing-in and inauguration ceremony of Senegal's new president took place in the presence of several heads of state and chairmen of the commissions of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAE-MU).

Bassirou Diomaye Faye, who won the March 24 presidential election in the first round with 54.28% of the vote, well ahead of candidate Amadou Ba (35.79%), is Senegal's fifth President since the country gained independence in 1960.

'We continue to look forward to results of investigation'

WASHINGTON

THE US Department of State reiterated on Wednesday its commitment to conduct a full investigation into the alleged foiled assassination plot against India designated terrorist Gurbatwanti Singh Pannun and said that they have made it clear to the Indian government to do the same.

In the daily press briefing of the US State Department, when being asked if the US received a report of India's internal investigation in the case, US Department of State official spokesperson, Mathew Miller, denied sharing any details and asserted that they are looking forward to the results of the investigation on the Indian side.

"So I'm not going to speak to media reports. I will just say that we have made clear to the Government of India that we want to see them conduct a full investigation, and we continue to look forward to the results of that investigation, but I don't have any updates to offer," Miller said.

Gurbatwanti Singh Pannun is an India-designated terrorist who holds American and Canadian citizenship. He has repeatedly issued threats against India.

Earlier, in an interview with ANI, US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti acknowledged that India and the United States are working together in the investigation of the alleged foiled assassination plot against Khalistani terrorist Gurbatwanti Singh Pannun.

He, however, also emphasized that a 'red line' should not be crossed and no government employee of any country can be involved in an assassination plot of a foreign citizen.

"I think that's absolutely critical. For any of us, just abstractly, that has to be a red line. No government or government

employee can be involved in the alleged assassination of one of your own citizens. That's just an unacceptable red line," Garcetti had said.

Further referring to the ongoing investigation into the alleged plot to assassinate Pannun, Garcetti said that the fact that New Delhi and Washington are working together to hold those behind criminal action, shows how strong and close the India-US relationship currently is.

"Any country, having an active member of their government involved in a second country trying to assassinate one of their citizens. That's, I think, usually a red line for any country. That's a basic issue of sovereignty. That's a basic issue of rights," he added.

In response to the US envoy's comments EAM S Jaishankar on April 1 had said that the case was being investigated based on information provided.

"The US ambassador, as an ambassador, will say what he thinks is the position of his government. The position of my government is that in this particular case, there has been certain information provided to us that we are investigating, Jaishankar said while addressing a press conference in the national capital.

As per the US Justice Department indictment, an Indian national, Nikhil Gupta, who is currently in custody, has been charged with the murder-for-hire of Pannun. The US Justice Department had claimed that an Indian government employee, who was not identified in the indictment filed, had recruited Gupta to hire a hitman to allegedly assassinate Pannun, which was foiled by US authorities.

The US envoy also appreciated that India had set up an inquiry commission to look into the matter.

ANI

AI 'resurrects' loved ones for bereaved families

CHONGQING

THE once fantastical concept from science fiction movies of using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to recreate the appearance, voice and even the exact personality of deceased individuals, enabling interaction between "digital life" and their bereaved families, is becoming a reality in China.

In the run-up to this year's Tomb-Sweeping Day, also known as Qingming Festival, which falls on Thursday, multiple commemorative activities for body and human organ donors were held in Chongqing municipal human organ donation memorial park in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality.

This year, with the consent of the families of the generous donors, the deceased loved ones can virtually reunite with those still on this earthly plane via the park's big screen free of charge, as part of a special commemoration.

For Huang Jingya, the daughter of a local donor named Diao Panya, the upcoming Qingming Festival has brought a sense of warmth and solace, thanks to this modern technology.

Chongqing's organ donation management center and Fushouyuan international group teamed up to adopt AI technologies to recreate Diao's image in the digital world exclusively for her daughter.

Looking at her mother's lively "face" and hearing her gentle whispers, Huang couldn't help but burst into tears. Diao Panya donated her kidneys and liver after her passing on June 7, 2023, at the age of 48. These organs were then used to save the lives of three patients.

Sadly, Diao died suddenly, leaving her with no chance to leave any final words for her family members. "Sometimes, farewells come too quickly or too late for us to say goodbye," said Jin Leiyi, vice president of Fushouyuan international group and general manager of its western regional branch.

Last December, the company launched an AI commemoration service in six provincial-level regions, namely, Shanghai, Chongqing, Jiangsu, Liaoning, Henan and Jiangxi, which enables families to view the "digital life" of their departed loved ones, offering some solace to their grieving hearts, according to the company.

Given the consent of their families, by integrating the big data and relevant information of the deceased based on the wishes and memories of his or her relatives and friends, a digital replica of the deceased can be created, available only for the family members.

The practice can satisfy the desire of some family members to "talk" with their loved ones once again, and be further developed into a customized online memorial hall to better preserve their common memories about the deceased. "Her sudden departure from this world left us with eternal regret.

I am so grateful to have the opportunity to see my mother again in this way," Huang said. Such a novel AI application combines AI-generated content (AIGC) and virtual reality technology, which will continue to iterate and optimize multiple technical modules such as character generation, expression, synthetic display, recognition and perception, and virtual reality. In the future, the digital image of the deceased may even "participate" in memorial activities themselves, which is expected to help his or her family members to better move on in the real world, according to the company.

Xinhua

BFA Annual Conference 2024: Common challenges, shared responsibilities

THE Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2024, themed "Asia and the World: Common Challenges, Shared Responsibilities," was held in Boao, south China's Hainan province from March 26 to 29.

In the face of a weak economic recovery, ongoing international instability, frequent extreme weather occurrences and natural disasters, as well as other severe challenges, the world is in urgent need of strengthening global cooperation.

BFA secretary general Li Baodong said the BFA hopes to contribute Asian wisdom and strength to the world economy and global development.

This year's event was arranged around four major topics: the global economy, social development, international cooperation, and scientific and technological innovation, covering dozens of topics in some 40 sub-forums and relevant activities.

Nearly 2,000 participants explored how the world should unite and collaborate, face challenges together, jointly safeguard peace and stability, and achieve common development.

The conference also focused on discussions surrounding topics such as Asian economic integration, green development, technological innovation, and digital economy.

At the first press conference of the BFA Annual Conference 2024, the Asian Economic Outlook and Integration Progress Annual Report 2024 and the Sustainable Development: Asia and the World Annual Report 2024 were released.

The reports said the global economy would continue to experience uncertainties and divergence in 2024; nevertheless, the momentum of Asian economic growth and regional economic integration will remain robust, and a promising overall econom-



The first press conference of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2024 is held. (People's Daily/Wang Xiaobo)

ic performance is on the horizon.

Participants in the event believe that the high-quality development of the Chinese economy and the cohesion of Asian development and cooperation have made various parties optimistic about the prospects for economic growth in the region, and confident in strengthening regional cooperation and sharing development opportunities.

According to the Asian Economic Outlook and Integration Progress Annual Report 2024, the Asian economy will still maintain a relatively high growth rate this year, which is expected to surpass that of 2023, reaching around 4.5 percent. In terms of purchasing power parity, Asia's economic aggregate is expected to account for 49 percent of global GDP in 2024.

The process of regional integration in Asia continues to advance, playing a crucial role in promoting an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

The Belt and Road Initiative, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, and the Concept of Cooperation Between Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States in the Development of Interconnectivity and the Creation of Efficient Transport Corridors have been deeply docked.

The China-Europe freight train service has become a major international transportation artery connecting Asia and Europe. The China-Laos Railway has seen a thriving flow of passengers and cargo. The Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway has maintained a high level of passenger traffic.

Besides, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and other trade agreements have been successfully implemented.

In the face of rising trade protectionism and economic fragmentation, the Asian economies have taken "hard connectivity" of infrastructure and

"soft connectivity" of rules as key approaches to pragmatically promote regional economic integration, support economic globalization, and inject new impetus into the common development of regional countries.

Climate change is one of the major challenges that the world is facing today as a whole, and promoting energy transition and achieving low-carbon development has become a global trend. According to the Sustainable Development: Asia and the World Annual Report 2024, energy transition is the key to embracing the green industrial revolution and achieving green development in Asia.

Zhou Xiaochuan, vice chairman of the BFA, said that Asia possesses the world's core technologies for clean production and has gathered global investments in clean energy. It is actively engaged in green production, infrastructure construction, and finance and technology cooperation, Zhou added.

Nishant Bhardwaj, Global Sector Lead - Renewable Energy at the Global Green Growth Institute, pointed out that China has provided significant support and assistance to other countries, particularly developing countries, in terms of clean energy technology, financing, and infrastructure. It is believed that through international cooperation, China will help these countries accelerate their energy transition, he said.

It is reported that this year's BFA Annual Conference kept embracing a green conference concept and continuously improved its services. The Boao near-zero carbon demonstration zone officially started operation on March 18, integrating various systems into a near-zero carbon operation management system, achieving intelligent operation and management. It ensured that all venues were supplied with pure "green electricity" during the conference.

People's Daily

China's satellite TV aid project enlightens remote rural villages in Africa

NAIROBI

BAKO Auta, a resident of Hulumi village in Nigeria, vividly remembers the transformative impact of China's digital television aid initiative.

"Before that, our lives were limited to the village. The televisions donated by China allowed us to see the world beyond the fence," Auta said about the installation of free equipment by the Chinese digital television operator StarTimes seven years ago.

Auta's experience is similar to that of numerous beneficiaries across Africa who have been touched by the "Access to Satellite TV for 10,000 African Villages" project in remote rural areas. The initiative, conceived during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit in Johannesburg.

South Africa, in 2015, aims to connect 10,000 African villages to satellite television. By December 2023, this China-aided project had successfully completed construction work in 20 African countries, encompassing 9,512 villages and directly benefiting over 190,000 households.

Speaking at the handover ceremony of the China-aided satellite TV project in Mozambique, President Filipe Nyusi praised its role in bridging the digital and information gap between rural and urban populations.

He emphasized its significance in enhancing livelihoods, promoting public education, and fostering social development. Under the project, each recipient village received two sets of solar-powered projector

TV systems and one solar digital TV integrated terminal system for public areas, free of charge, as confirmed by contractor StarTimes.

These installations have become vital conduits for villagers to access information from the outside world.

Murindahabi Augustin, a resident from an assisted village in Rwanda, expressed gratitude.

"Through the TV, we can get information about modern agriculture, government programs, prevention of infectious diseases, and more," Augustin said.

StarTimes broadcasted all 52 matches of the 34th African Cup of Nations (AFCON) in early 2024, garnering widespread acclaim. The inclusion of commentary in local languages such as Kiswahili, Yoruba, and Hausa resonated with fans.

"Thanks to the Chinese enterprises that connected satellite TV signals for our village, we can now finally sit together as a family and watch matches!" said Abissa Kouassi, a villager from Yaou village in Cote d'Ivoire.

Ma Shaoyong, director of overseas public relations for StarTimes Group, highlighted the company's efforts in democratizing digital TV across Africa.

He also emphasized the substantially reduced costs for installation and viewing, making it accessible to average households.

"The installation fee for a StarTimes set-top box stands at a mere 10 U.S. dollars, with subscribers required to pay a monthly fee ranging between 3-5 U.S. dollars, granting access to nearly 30 digital TV channels spanning news, sports, and movies," said Ma.

To ensure the sustainability of the project, StarTimes has trained local technicians in recipient villages to conduct after-sales maintenance.

Nunes Guardagea, a Mozambican technician, finds profound fulfillment in his role. "I'm able to help people in remote areas access information and enrich their lives," Guardagea said.

As the project continues to enlighten remote areas of Africa, StarTimes is advancing its localization strategy. In Kenya, the enterprise has invested in producing local dramas, resonating with audiences by using Kiswahili.

Timothy Owase, CEO of the Kenya Film Commission, applauded these productions as narratives that authentically represent local stories.

Xinhua



Pupils attend class about Ebola using a StarTimes projector at St. Claire Primary School in Kampala, Uganda, Oct. 13, 2022. The "Access to Satellite TV for 10,000 African Villages" project in Uganda is implemented by Chinese satellite television, StarTimes. Xinhua

Bariadi DC applauds Kilimanjaro One for promoting cultural tourism



Bariadi District Commissioner, Simon Simalenga (R), is pictured shaking hands with the Kilimanjaro One Travel and Tours Director, Mohamed Hatibu, when the latter paid the DC a courtesy call at his office to discuss the forthcoming Lake Zone Cultural and Tourism Festival organized by the company in Bariadi, Simiyu. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Guardian Correspondent

BARIADI District Commissioner Simon Simalenga has lauded Kilimanjaro One Travel and Tours Limited for complementing the government's efforts in promoting cultural tourism in Bariadi, Simiyu.

The DC made the remarks when the Kilimanjaro One top officials paid him a courtesy call at his office to brief him about the forthcoming Lake Zone Cultural and Tourism Festival set to take place in Bariadi, Simiyu from July 5-7.

"This event is in line with President Samia Suluhu's ambition to see all district councils prepare such festivals that aim at promoting culture and tourism," he said.

He further pledged the government's support in the festival and reminded the organizers that the Sukuma people richly treasure their culture and are always proud of promoting it to the public.

"We want other people to come and see the Sukuma culture and we believe this will attract a lot of traffic to Simiyu which is rich in cultural heritage and other tourist attractions," he said.

The DC called on all institutions, ranging from parastatals to private ones, operating in the area to ensure

they support the initiative given the festival will go hand in hand with exhibitions hence sponsors will get the chance to promote their products and services.

He also urged the organizers to ensure they promote the event widely via media and public address systems to ensure as many people as possible get the message and turn up.

Kilimanjaro One Travel and Tours Director, Mohamed Khatibu said his company was all set to host the festival, which will be held for the first time, and will later take place annually in the district.

Khatibu revealed: "We hope to bring together about 7,000 people to the festival which will seek to promote the Mbina festival, which is normally the climax of the harvest season among the Sukuma people."

He said the event expects to attract local and international tourists in Bariadi adding that it is high time the world knew about the rich culture that Simiyu as a region holds.

He further told the DC that preparations for the event are on top gear and there will be a series of activities, adding that the event will be free to the public. The official noted: "This will be a big event of international standards."

Gamondi bets on experienced players to help Yanga down Mamelodi Sundowns

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA has been boosted by its three players who have joined the team for the trip to South Africa for this season's CAF Champions League last eight's second leg against Mamelodi Sundowns.

On Monday, 48 supporters of the club left for South Africa by road with their trip fully funded by the government through the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports.

The Jangwani Street club's president, Hersi Said revealed that the government provided 40.8m/- to cover his squad's supporters' trip to and from South Africa.

The NBC Premier League defending champion is today set to come up against Sundowns at Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria for the decider after settling for a 0-0 draw at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Saturday.

Khalid Aucho, Pacome Zouzoua, and Koassia Yao did not feature in the first encounter between the two sides, but they travelled with the team having battled a late fitness test to be cleared for the clash.

Twelve team leaders and technical bench are moreover in the delegation which has 21 players that travelled to Pretoria.

Yanga's head coach Miguel Gamondi will be hoping his key players pass medical tests to feature in the decisive fixture.

Midfielder Jonas Mkude is also highly expected to keep his spot when the two sides meet, having put a great shift in the midfield alongside

Mudathir Yahya in the first leg that took place in Dar es Salaam.

Gamondi said he hopes all players are ready for the match, insisting that is why they decided to travel with all players including the ones that were missing so they can be assessed ahead of the fixture.

The Argentine gaffer said: "We need to be very careful in these matches, choosing the right players per requirements of the match and how we can ensure that we achieve our semi-final spot. I don't have to risk my players because we have many fixtures after this including domestic games."

"Players that did not feature in our previous game are doing well and we hope they are fit and will play a part in the game," Gamondi revealed.

The tactician noted: "Even if they can't compete for 90 minutes, they will have a good run of a few minutes that can be valuable for us with their experience which I rely upon."

Gamondi has on several occasions insisted his team is going for nothing less than the semi-final qualification and despite the draw, he exuded confidence that Yanga will progress.

It will be up to the players to play their hearts out and do enough to avoid crashing out of the quarter-finals.

Sundowns will host Yanga at the Loftus Versfeld Stadium later in the evening, knowing any scoring draw will see them out and, to avoid extra time and an uncertain penalty shoot-out, they will have to win during regular time.

Sabotage allegations prompted Mamelodi Sundowns and Al Ahly to carry food, drinks

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFRICAN football has a long way to go to genuinely attain good results on the pitch.

Numerous incidents have been allegedly identified as efforts by the hosts to sabotage away teams in tournaments involving either national teams or clubs.

In the CAF Champions League, away teams have continued complaining about the treatment they receive from home teams which aims at weakening the former.

It is no secret Tanzania is among African countries with the most intimidating atmosphere to away teams and fans due to local fanatics' huge presence in stadiums during the CAF inter-club showdowns.

Simba SC has reportedly led the way for many years when it comes to intimidating opponents before Yanga followed suit last year, and complaints have increased, with away clubs presenting allegations of mistreatment during the CAF Champions League ties.

Last week, South African giants Mamelodi Sundowns and their Egyptian counterparts Al Ahly carried their food and drinks when they came to Tanzania for their respective CAF Champions League matches against Simba SC and Yanga.



Yanga forward Kennedy Musonda (L) races past Mamelodi Sundowns right-back Khuliso Mudau when the teams met in this season's CAF Champions League's last eight first leg at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Saturday. The teams settled for a barren draw.

Sundowns took on NBC Premier League defending champion, Yanga, in the first leg of their CAF Champions League quarterfinals in Dar es Salaam on Saturday, culminating in a goalless draw.

Al Ahly won 1-0 against Simba SC in the city on Friday, with both matches taking place at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The away sides' arrival earlier in the week sparked some curiosity when both teams touched down with unusually large luggage.

Al Ahly arrived in Dar es Salaam on March 27 while Sundowns touched down a day lat-

er and, in their luggage, they had food, drinks, and water drums.

All these are items that are available locally but the decision by the foreign outfits to carry their food and drinks sparked curiosity in Tanzania.

While it is still not known why they opted to approach such a route, it is believed the two teams were wary of incidents of sabotage following recent complaints from rival teams that visited Dar es Salaam for continental club showpieces' matches.

Early last month, Botswana champions Jwaneng Galaxy ac-

cused Simba SC of applying underhand tactics, including allegations of food poisoning before the two clubs locked horns in this season's CAF Champions League clash in Dar es Salaam.

Galaxy suffered a 6-0 thrashing in Dar es Salaam, as Simba SC sealed their place in the quarterfinals, but the former's head coach Morena Ramoreboli made several allegations, suggesting that Simba SC deliberately frustrated his team's preparations for the match.

The South African coach pointed out: "On Thursday, we had

those fruits and different foods that were also available on the menu that day, there were no complaints."

"I did not eat on Friday, I only drank juice but when I woke up the following day, it was as though I was drunk," Ramoreboli revealed.

The tactician revealed: "About five players could not wake up on matchday as the doctor tried everything to assist. Meaning on Friday, we don't know what but something was done to the food. Not only to the players but also for the members of the technical staff (were affected)."

Ramoreboli noted: "We don't know what happened. We tried to speak to the management of the hotel early on about suspicion of food poisoning only to realize that something had already been done to the food. Unfortunately, we don't know what they did and who did that to the food."

Incidents of sabotage are not new in African football as several teams have complained of bad treatment from their hosts before, during, and after matches around the continent over the years.



Veteran Tanzanian actor Steven Almasi, famously known as 'Dr. Almasi', from the new drama known as 'Dosari' (C), speaks during the launch of the new season, dubbed 'Jiyachie na Mfalme wa Boma', held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. He has been flanked by (R) MultiChoice Tanzania's Head of Marketing Ronald Shelukindo and Relationship Manager, Grace Mgaya. The 'Dosari' drama will start airing on April 20, 2024, and will run every Saturday and Sunday at 3 pm through the Maisha Magic Bongo channel. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

DStv launches 'Jiyachie na Mfalme wa Boma' season

By Guardian Correspondent

EXCITEMENT keeps on building up in the popular Maisha Magic Bongo channel in DStv, following the official launch of new dramas namely 'Jiya' and 'Dosari' through a special campaign, dubbed 'Jiyachie na Mfalme wa Boma'.

The launch confirms DStv's efforts to provide its customers with the best choice of programs and television service at an affordable cost.

The new season of the 'Jiyachie na Mfalme wa Boma' is loaded with several entertainments that are available in various dramas and programs.

This season's entertainment features veteran and famous actors like Gabo, Auntie Ezekiel, Mainda, Single Mtambalike, Almasi, Shamsa Ford, Mary Mtemi, and many others.

Speaking at the launch of the new season of 'Jiyachie na Mfalme wa Boma' in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, MultiChoice Tanzania's Head of Marketing Ronald Shelukindo disclosed this new season has focused a lot on the views issued by the audience about home dramas, noting his firm believes that the audience will enjoy.

"We always pay attention to the opinions of our viewers, that's why in this new season of 'Jiyachie na Mfalme wa Boma' you will witness several changes in programs and home dramas and we are doing so to ensure that our viewers get what they like," Shelukindo said.

MultiChoice Tanzania's Head of Marketing disclosed that one of the changes made includes having stories that reflect the real life of Tanzanians, especially on cultural issues, along with

the new entry of veteran actors who will be seen for the first time through DStv.

The new season of Maisha Magic Bongo episodes has been officially opened with the 'Jiya' drama that officially started airing on Monday.

This exciting drama with various events that reflect the daily life in Tanzania's society will be airing every Wednesday at 1:30 pm through the Maisha Magic Bongo channel- DStv 160 available for 25,000/-!

According to Shelukindo, through the 'Dosari' drama, DStv customers will continue getting home entertainment with drama and exciting events.

The official revealed actors including Single Mtambalike, Mary Mtemi, Mainda, Almasi and others have planned to bring a revolution of entertainment through the drama that will be aired on

Maisha Magic Bongo- DStv 160 every Saturday and Sunday at 3:00 pm.

Shelukindo added that apart from the new season for the dramas, DStv customers will continue enjoying various other shows including popular dramas including 'Jua Kali', 'Huba', and 'Kitimtim'.

He has asked all people who have not joined DStv to take advantage of the special offer currently in the market whereby the customer is getting a complete set of DStv for 99,000/-!

The official said this is a special time offer so it is good for people to get excited about it so they would not miss out on the entertainment through DStv.

He stated that a person wishing to pay for the DStv package should either press *150*53# on his/her mobile phone or call 0659 070707 to join DStv.

Miami, without Messi, falls 2-1 in first leg to Monterrey

MIAMI

INTER Miami, without Lionel Messi, lost 2-1 at home to Mexico's Monterrey in the first leg of their CONCACAF Champions Cup quarter-final on Wednesday with Argentine Jorge Rodriguez scoring a superb 89th-minute winner.

Miami had taken the lead through defender Tomas Aviles in the 19th minute but the game changed when Inter midfielder David Ruiz was sent off in the 65th minute.

Maximiliano Meza equalized four minutes later and then Jorge Rodriguez grabbed the late winner with a superb curling shot into the far corner.

Monterrey, level atop Mexico's Liga MX, will be strong favorites to advance to the last four of the regional tournament when they host the return game next Wednesday.

Miami will be hoping to have Messi fit for the second leg after he was again forced to sit out due to his hamstring injury.

Messi has missed Miami's past three MLS matches with the right hamstring injury but practiced on Tuesday morning, prompting suggestions he might be healthy for the first time since helping Inter reach the quarter-final by beating Nashville on March 13.

Against arguably the strongest opponents the Florida club have played, Inter coach Gerardo 'Tata' Martino set his team up in a defense-minded 4-5-1 formation with veteran Uruguayan striker Luis Suarez as the lone forward.

It proved to be a prudent approach with Miami's five-man midfield able to frustrate Monterrey and then look to break on the counter.

But the breakthrough came from a corner, whipped in low by Julian Gressel and met with a first time shot from Aviles which whistled home.

The Mexican struggled to break down Miami until Ruiz lashed out with his arm at the head of Meza right in front of the referee, who wasted no time in producing a second yellow card and the inevitable red.

Monterrey made the most of the numerical advantage and it took just four minutes for them to draw level when Sergio Busquets deflected a corner towards his own goal, 'keeper Drake Callender parried out but Meza was on hand to fire home the loose ball.

It was backs against the wall from then for Miami as they tried to hang onto the draw, but as they tired mistakes began to creep in and in the penultimate minute of regulation, Diego Gomez failed to control on the edge of the box, Meza fed Rodriguez and he curled a brilliant shot into the top corner past the diving Callender.

Martino said the dismissal would prove to be a learning moment for the 20-year-old Ruiz, who was handed a starting role due to a several injuries.

"It was a difficult situation for him. He did very well while he was on the field and obviously it is going to be a learning experience for him with the dismissal. For young players these are moments that serve you well as you grow in your career," he said.

AFP

Rubiales arrested at airport over alleged federation graft scandal

MADRID

SPANISH police on Wednesday briefly arrested disgraced ex-football chief Luis Rubiales in connection with an alleged graft scandal at the RFEF football federation when he was president.

The 46-year-old was detained at Madrid's Barajas airport shortly after flying in from the Dominican Republic but released shortly afterwards, a Guardia Civil police spokesman said.

Sources close to the probe said he disembarked from the plane under a police escort before being questioned inside the airport.

His arrest came two weeks after investigators searched 11 locations, including the RFEF's Madrid headquarters and Rubiales' house in the southern city of Granada, as part of a probe into alleged corruption and other crimes.

The March 20 raids were part of "an investigation linked to presumed crimes linked with corruption in business, fraudulent administration and money laundering", judicial sources said.

Spanish media reports said investigators were looking into RFEF contracts signed since 2018, including one signed by Rubiales to take the Spanish Super Cup to Saudi Arabia.

The Super Cup contracts are worth 40 million euros a year (\$43.3 million) with the deal brokered by Kosmos, a company owned by former Barcelona and Spain defender Gerard Pique.

According to Cadena Ser radio, Guardia Civil police flew to the Dominican Republic and on Monday searched the premises where Rubiales has been staying, seizing a laptop and a mobile phone following an order by the investigating judge.

Contacted by AFP, the Guardia Civil refused to comment on the report.

A day after the March 20 raids, the RFEF sacked its legal director Pedro Gonzalez Segura, head of human resources Jose Javier Jimenez and terminated its contract with GC Legal, the law firm of the federation's external legal adviser Tomas Gonzalez Cueto.

All three had been arrested by police during the raids.

AFP

Calm win over Luton shows how Arteta has learned from Arsenal's previous title challenge

By Miguel Delaney

A WIN that almost seems like a moment of lightness, ahead of the heaviest period of the season.

Against a Luton Town team facing an injury crisis, Arsenal rested a number of players themselves to easily win 2-0.

Martin Odegaard's inspired finish was the only time they needed to rise above it, although a move that produced an own goal secured the three points that put Arsenal back on top - at least for now.

As regards that, and whether they can be there at the end, the rest for key players while winning is almost as important as the win itself. Arsenal maintained momentum while allowing a bit of a refresh.

This was precisely something they couldn't do last season, illustrating the manner in which they have matured. It was actually almost this point where they started to drop off, and a large reason for that was because Arteta was caught in a dilemma of playing a first XI that was pushed to the physical limit or making changes and seeing their quality level drop off. He ultimately



Arsenal's Martin Odegaard (left) scores past Luton Town's defender Daiki Hashioka during the English Premier League match at the Emirates Stadium in London on Wednesday. (AFP)

tried a bit of both, but the compromise didn't work. Arsenal needed much more to get into a title race with City.

This season's chase, no matter how it ends, has already illustrated that Arteta has learned from that. They now have a few ways of playing and a much deeper squad, giving them options in a few senses.

While an unfortunately depleted Luton Town weren't going to test them too much in terms of needing to offer real creativity to break through, this is where Havertz shows one of the many reasons that Arteta signed him. He offers that tactical versatili-

ty, as well as real quality.

Sure, there is still the odd slip as was seen with one first-half touch, but we are at the point now where a lot of people are going to have to revise opinions on the signing. It was Havertz's pass that opened up this game early on, drawing three Luton defenders to just play it through to Odegaard.

The Norwegian had more space than he should have in the 18-yard box but used it exquisitely. Odegaard struck the ball first-time with the outside of his foot to swerve it past Thomas Kaminski into the bottom corner.

It was divine, and also pretty much decisive. Such were Luton's absences that any Arsenal lead was pretty much the winning of the game.

It can also be the odd thing about this stage of a run-in. There is escalating tension for every game - especially when three teams are involved - but that can immediately evaporate once that crucial first goal is scored.

Arsenal almost immediately followed with a second, Kaminski making another fine block. Arteta's team ensured they didn't get complacent, however, by eventually adding the second. With Reiss Nelson look-

ing to flick the ball in from a flick across goal, it hit Daiki Hashioka to divert past Kaminski.

It could be seen from the celebration that everyone was particularly happy for a good academy graduate like Nelson, and that was the same for the returned Emile Smith-Rowe. The number 10 had set the win in motion by pressing to work the ball to Havertz.

Luton might well have complained that would have been deemed a foul at Kenilworth Road, but they didn't dwell on it. They didn't roll over, either.

This is yet another admirable quality about

Rob Edwards's team. They have a real defiance and resolve, even in defeats like this.

It shouldn't be forgotten that nobody expected them to come up, after all, and fewer still expected them to have any chance of staying.

Instead, they have been by far the most spirited of the promoted sides. One stat sums that up, that this game only furthered.

They have not lost any game by more than three goals, and that has only happened three times, two in the opening two matches. The only other such defeat was a 4-1 away to Liverpool, which is pretty forgivable right now.

Arsenal might have subjected them to worse here had they put out a full team and really needed it, but Luton had a depleted team themselves. They also dug in.

Arteta gave some of his more important players - such as Declan Rice and Gabriel Martinelli - a bit of a run out, although the main point then was to keep a freshness.

Arsenal will need that, ahead of what might be a gruelling period. This was almost the breeze before the storm.

THE INDEPENDENT

Foden's imperious hat-trick against Villa revitalises Man City's title challenge

By Richard Jolly

IF hat-tricks used to be Erling Haaland's personal domain, a rival is emerging. The Norwegian may have the largest collection of match balls at Manchester City but he had a watching brief as Phil Foden scored his second treble of 2024 and his third in 19 months. For someone who isn't a striker, Foden is contriving to outscore virtually all of them - if not his Norwegian teammate - and his evisceration of Aston Villa took him into previously uncharted territory. He now has 21 goals for the season, reaching 20 for the first time in his career.

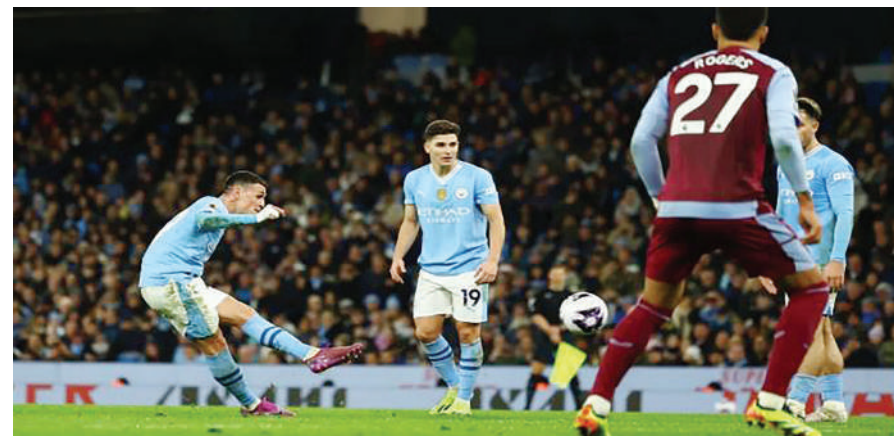
And this was another victory City can attribute to their main men. It is just that it is a description with a difference now. Last season, it would have been a reference to Haaland and Kevin de Bruyne, the players with 52 goals and 29 assists respectively. This year, if the individual honours stay at the Etihad Stadium, the prizes will go not to Haaland but to Rodri or Foden. And as Haaland and De Bruyne watched on from the bench, Rodri and Foden underlined their importance by powering City to a restorative victory. The Spaniard got them underway, consigning the rarity of a first goalless game for City in 57 attempts at the Etihad Stadium to the past. Then Foden took over, his trio banishing another statistic. City had not won a league game against a top-five team this season, until they

did so in emphatic fashion against a team who outshot them 22-2 in December.

The gamble of resting Haaland and De Bruyne - officially because of the proximity of Saturday's early kick-off against Crystal Palace, though Real Madrid may have played a bigger part in Pep Guardiola's thinking - turned into rather less of a risk. Partly because Villa's resources were arguably still more stretched than those of a City team also without Kyle Walker, John Stones, Nathan Ake and Ederson. Yet, because Foden and Rodri remained they sufficed, in ultimately spectacular style.

There was the now familiar script of the Spaniard delivering an important goal; he hardly even seems to deliver another kind and if the teamsheet conferred more responsibility on him, he grasped it. Rodri stole in unchecked to meet Jeremy Doku's low cross to rifle a shot into the roof of the net. The beaten, but blameless, goalkeeper was Robin Olsen, a late addition to the line-up when Emi Martinez withdrew with illness. And while City won the derby of the depleted and while Olsen conceded four, the absence of the World Cup winner scarcely felt pivotal, considering the quality of the finishing.

And, indeed, a costly error. On the stroke of half-time, Foden whipped a free kick through the wall with Nicolo Zaniolo contriving to jump out of the way. Presumably this



Foden's first goal, and City's second, came from a free kick (Reuters)

wasn't what Austin McPhee, Villa's hyperactive set-piece coach, had taught his charges but City's initial irritation that Douglas Luiz had not been given a second yellow card for a foul on Foden gave way to delight at a lead being restored.

It felt symbolic that his second goal, taking the game beyond a sometimes enterprising Villa side, stemmed from a combination of the star men, Rodri strolling forward with deft footwork to set up Foden for a first-time finish. His third was a rising, rasp-

ing shot from 20 yards after winning the ball back himself.

It ensured that Villa remain the last team to beat City, but in December, 24 matches ago, and made this the antidote to Sunday's stalemate with Arsenal; it was a more action-packed affair - though it would be hard to have less goal-mouth action - as City were more fluid and more vibrant. If some second-string players seized opportunities, the decisive roles were played by two of City's cornerstones.

But fresh legs brought

an energy; each side had a spark, even without some of the familiar faces. And Villa's goal came from men usually found on the bench.

A specialist substitute, Jhon Duran was afforded a rare outing from the beginning. The injured Ollie Watkins's deputy compensated for the top scorer's absence in the best possible fashion, finishing adeptly after a one-two with Morgan Rogers. It was just Duran's second Premier League start, only Rogers's third, but the rookies looked undaunted.

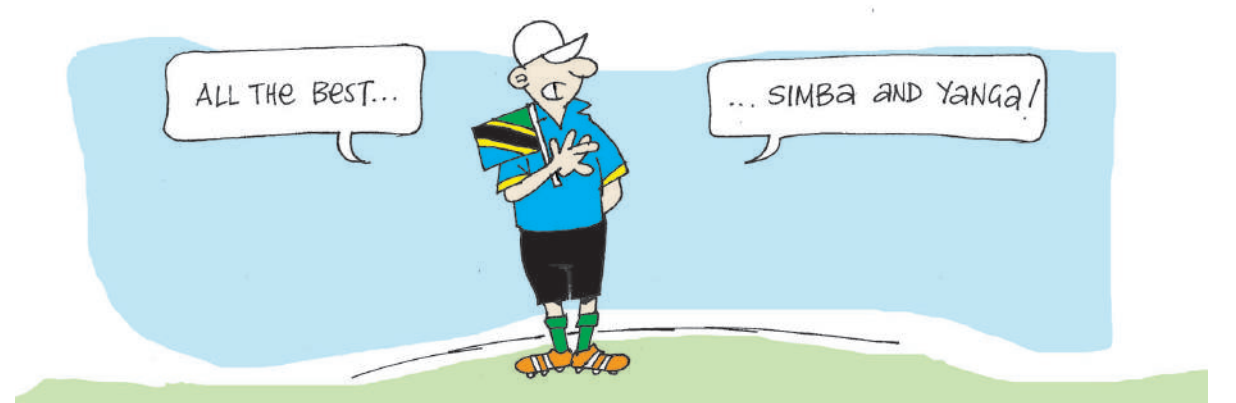
There was an enter-

prising element to Villa but they ended up suffering an 18th defeat in their last 19 league visits to the Etihad Stadium. Arguably, it could have been heavier. With Haaland unused, Julian Alvarez led the line and showed an elusiveness. He hooked a shot into the side-netting after two minutes and perhaps should have scored when released by Rico Lewis, but Olsen made a fine save. The Swedish goalkeeper then tipped his header over. He saved well from Bernardo Silva, too, and was kept busy as City amassed 24 shots, with Sergio Gomez striking the post in injury-time.

But the other second-choice goalkeeper had his moments, too. City needed Stefan Ortega to repel a Douglas Luiz effort and a header from Clement Lenglet in swift succession. A few minutes later, Rodri set up Foden for his second as they proved City's new deadly double act.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Foden's imperious hat-trick against Villa revitalises Man City's title challenge

PAGE 19

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zole Kuntu
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
16:00 Zole Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SPORTS
22:00 Zole Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

5Sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

eastafrika RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Taifa Stars maintain FIFA ranking position

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's national football team, Taifa Stars, has maintained 119th position in the latest FIFA rankings of 2024 released on Thursday.

The Hemed Suleiman-coached squad played two international friendlies, losing 1-0 to highly ranked Bulgaria before thumping lowly ranked Mongolia 3-0 in the newly-launched mini-tournament, termed FIFA Series, played in Azerbaijan last month.

The two games were used as build-ups for the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers that are set to resume in June with back-to-back games against Zambia.

Tanzania is grouped with Morocco, DR Congo, Zambia and Niger, and Seychelles in African qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup.

They began their campaign with a 1-0 away victory over Niger before falling to a 2-0 home defeat in the hands of group favourites Morocco in November last year.

Amongst the African countries, Tanzania also remains 32nd and is the third best ranked in the CECAFA region behind Kenya (107th) and Uganda (92nd).

Morocco continues to maintain its position as the top-ranked team on the African continent, securing the 13th spot globally. They are followed closely by Senegal at the 17th spot.

Nigeria moved to the 30th spot in the world while also making it into the top three in Africa, edging out Egypt who dropped to fourth and at 37th place in the World.

The Egyptian national team fell to 37th place in the world and fourth in Africa.

African champions, Cote d'Ivoire move up to 38th in the world and take up the fifth spot on the continent. Tunisia, Algeria, Mali, Cameroon, and South Africa are the top ten countries in Africa.

The Argentine national team maintained the top spot in the world rankings, followed by the French national team.

Belgium comes in third, England sits at position four with Brazil rounding up the top five nations in men's football globally.

Indonesia is the biggest climber as they moved eight places to 134th while Comoros attained the best-ever rank at 117th position.

Confident Yanga players gear up for crucial CAF CL quarterfinal tie vs Mamelodi Sundowns



Tanzania's Yanga footballers are pictured training in South Africa on Wednesday in preparation for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinals rematch with Mamelodi Sundowns which will be played today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By correspondents Michael Mwebe & Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans SC exudes confidence as the club is ready for the crucial CAF Champions League quarterfinal's return leg against Mamelodi Sundowns slated for today at 9:00 pm EAT in South Africa.

The Tanzanian club's players, currently in Pretoria, are in high spirits ahead of the eagerly anticipated match against their hosts, Mamelodi Sundowns, also known as Masandawana.

Despite grappling with injuries, the team, alias Yanga, shows promising form in preparations.

Yanga's head coach, Miguel Gamondi, underlined the importance of confidence and hard work before their clash.

He emphasized: "We need

to believe in ourselves and work hard as our match against Mamelodi is the most important encounter ahead of us."

The stage is set for an electrifying showdown as the two teams prepare to face off today at the Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria, which has a capacity of 51,762 people.

Last Saturday's goalless draw at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam sets the stage for a tense

and exciting battle, with the rule dictating that the overall winner advances to the semi-finals.

Gamondi extended his wishes to Yanga fans travelled to witness the match, revealing: "I extend my congratulations to our fans who have made the journey to South Africa to support us."

"I firmly believe that today, we will bring them joy by securing our spot in the CAF Champions League

semi-finals," he remarked. Yanga's skipper, Bakari Mwamnyeto, speaking on behalf of his teammates, affirmed the team's high morale amid their rigorous training sessions.

Mwamnyeto noted: "We have arrived safely and sound in South Africa, and we are continuing with our training in high spirits, and the injured players are also progressing well," he stated.

The central defender echoed the team's commitment to giving their all in today's match against Mamelodi Sundowns, aiming for nothing less than victory to secure a ticket to the next stage of the tournament.

The return of several players recovering from injuries adds excitement to the upcoming game, especially considering their absence during the first match at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Among those expected to participate, and who have been observed training with the squad, are Pacome Zouzoua, Khalid Aucho, and Kibwana Shomari.

Midfield kingpin Khalid Aucho comeback from injury is a welcome boost for coach Miguel Gamondi. Kibwana Shomari is also fit,

adding to their defensive line options.

Yanga's right-back injury crisis forced Gamondi to be creative in that area, with Dickson Job shifting as a stop-gap option.

Given he is such a strong one-on-one defender, it would not come as a surprise if he continues in his role if Attohoulou Yao is not declared fit on time.

However, the participation of Kouassi Yao remains uncertain, with a 50/50 chance of the right fullback being involved in the game.

Yanga's Team Manager, Walter Harison, also echoed Mwamnyeto's sentiments, assuring their fans that everything is proceeding smoothly since their arrival and believing the team is going to make history.

"Yanga supporters continue to support us as we believe we are going to make history in today's match," the official said.

With determination and optimism radiating from both players and management, the Jangwani Street-based team is poised to leave an indelible mark in today's encounter as they strive to advance in the prestigious CAF Champions League.

Simba SC chases upset CAF Champions League triumph in dreaded Cairo

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

HISTORY is stacked against Simba SC heading into today's CAF Champions League quarterfinal's second-leg fixture against defending champions Al Ahly at Cairo International Stadium, with kick-off slated for 11 pm.

Chadian referee Alhadji Allaou Mahamat will be in charge of the match. Gabon's Pierre Ghislain Atcho will be in the video assistant referees (VAR) studio and he will be assisted by South Africa's Akhona Zennith Makalima.

Hosts Al Ahly takes a 1-0 aggregate lead into the match. Simba SC put in an impressive display in the first leg at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Simba SC was however ultimately undone by a first-half goal netted by Ahmed Koka following a costly error by left fullback Mohamed Hussein and central defender Henock Inonga in the first-leg.

A fourth quarterfinal exit in five seasons awaits the Tanzanian outsiders, should their Cairo comeback mission end in failure, and, on their four previous trips to Al Ahly's turf, they have avoided defeat only once.

However, Simba SC head coach Abdelhak Benchikha has not thrown the towel though he ad-



Simba SC players are pictured participating in training in Cairo recently, shaping up for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinals rematch against Al Ahly slated for today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

mits it is a tough mission to get a good result in Cairo.

"We have not given up. We want to use the second leg away in Cairo. As much as it will be tough, we will have to push to the end," Benchikha said.

Not one Simba SC player was missing from Benchikha's squad through injury

against Al Ahly, and the Algerian coach should have a fully fit contingent available again, save for the absence of shot-stopper Aishi Manula.

Moroccan goalkeeper Ayub Lakhred will continue taking his place between the posts on the back of an excellent first-leg performance.

Hussein, Shomari Kapombe, Inonga, and Che Malone will form the back four tasked with stopping Al Ahly from scoring and inflicting damage.

In this fixture, Simba SC will need their players to fight and put an impressive work rate in midfield.

Benchikha will be hoping that Sadio Kanoute, Babacar Sarr, and Fabrice Ngoma will do the work in the engine room.

Simba SC needs to score to advance to the semi-finals, they will look to the front three of Kibu Denis, Saidi Ntibazonkiza, and Clatous Chama.

Al Ahly has nine wins and two draws in the last 11 home outings in the CAF Champions League.

They also remain unbeaten in the CAF Champions League this season, having secured three wins and three draws to finish atop Group D before putting Simba SC to the sword.

History on Marcel Kohler's side as they look to complete the job against Simba SC in their quest for a record-extending 12th CAF Champions League title.

The aggregate winner will take on either DR Congo's football powerhouse TP Mazembe or Angolan champions Petro Luanda in the semi-finals.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

