



ACT urges removal of the early voting system



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AWLN (T) urges women to vie for posts in polls



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African banks face high currency risk exposure, recent report finds



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Tanzania, Belgium mark 40 years of links

Enabel, its cooperation agency, marks 25 years of engagement

By Getrude Mbago

Belgium has reaffirmed its commitment to support Tanzania's development priorities while utilising various investment and trade opportunities facilitating sustainable development.

Peter Huyghebaert, the Belgian ambassador, said at an occasion to mark 40 years of bilateral links between the two countries that cooperation programmes are intended to contribute to addressing challenges of social economic inequalities, climate change and urbanisation.

The event similarly took up marking the Enabel, the Belgian development agency overseeing cooperation projects the country initiates all over the world, was formed as a public-law company with social purposes, by a parliamentary act of December 21, 1998 with online chroniclers saying 'Enabel' is a Belgian variant of the English verb 'enable.'

Belgium and Tanzania set up diplomatic ties four decades ago, working to address shared challenges and seizing opportunities for growth and prosperity, he said, pointing at the rail network where Belgium aided in its revamping in the 1980s, providing technical assistance and equipment.

Transport (railway and port) were key areas of cooperation along with health (mostly HIV/AIDS prevention), education, water and sanitation, along with agriculture, natural resource management and public finance management, the envoy explained.

"Our support for the port sector dates to the beginning of our bilateral relations. In 1984 (and even before then), Belgium supported the construction and rehabilitation of ships on lakes Victoria and Tanganyika and provided technical assistance and training to the then Tanzania Harbours

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Former prime minister Frederick Sumaye speaks at the 29th CRDB Bank annual general meeting held in Arusha city on Saturday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Sumaye: Review term limits for bank CEOs

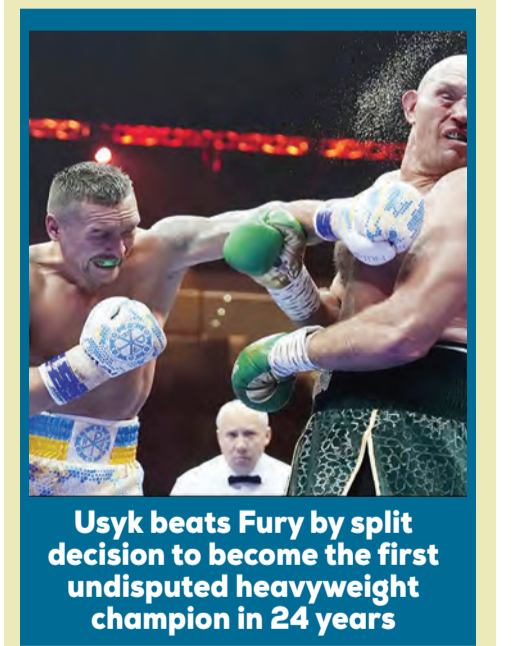
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SPORTS Page 20



TCA mourns departed ICC Regional Development Manager for Africa

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Usyk beats Fury by split decision to become the first undisputed heavyweight champion in 24 years



Shinyanga regional commissioner Anamringi Macha (arm raised) has a first-hand account at the weekend of progress in an expansion project at work the inspects the expansion of Salawe health centre. He is reported to have found substandard doors already fitted, and demanded immediate repairs. Sources further said the work has already eaten up 1.2bn/- while there is no money left for the purpose and the centre is yet to resume services. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

PM hands gender hero prize, urges 2022 Census use

By Guardian Reporter

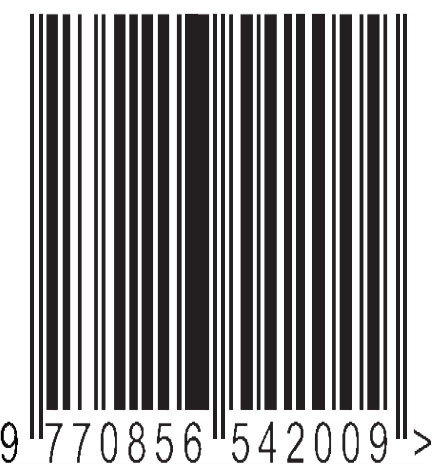
PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has urged development stakeholders to utilise well statistical information from the 2022 Population and Housing Census in preparing plans and strategies on empowerment of women countrywide.

The premier made the remarks yesterday at the 'Strong Women' award ceremony in Mwanza, urging stakeholders to prepare their plans based on government pri-

orities to achieve sustainable and inclusive development.

He handed Khadija Mfaume Liganga the award as overall winner in the ceremony conducted under its commercial tag as 'Malkia wa Nguvu.' It is explained in an online entry as a cross-cultural collaboration between scholars at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Dar es Salaam.

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Mikumi revamping road to 'Barack Obama' tourist site

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Mikumi

TOURISM authorities are working to upgrade the road leading to an important tourist spot inside the Mikumi National Park, the 'Barack Obama picnic site.

David Kadomo, senior conservation officer and head of operations

at the park, said at the weekend that he spot located at a remote place dubbed 'Millennium' was prepared for ex-US president Barack Obama during his state visit to Tanzania in 2014, but he did not find time to visit the place. He said the management is working to upgrade the road and other facilities at the site, under the World Bank funded Resilient Natural Resource

Management for Tourism and Growth (REGROW) in the Southern Highlands regions, with the facility's improvement being tied to expansion of the Kikoboga aerodrome nearby.

'Millennium' attracts groups of tourists and prides of lions, with Ibrahim Kassim, designated tour guide at Mikumi, saying that there is a man-made lake trapping water

at the spot, a task that was done as the year 2000 was approaching.

The large pool with its assortment of hippos and crocodiles is the major attractions at the spot, alongside a giant baobab tree with a hollow trunk in which poachers used to hide in the past, he said, intimating that the baobab tree is said to be aged up to one millennium (1000 years).

Local communities relate magical happenings around the tree as it was for many years used as a sacrificial shrine, he said, noting that the spot is regularly visited by lions, a prime viewing item for tourists, which makes the picnic site

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Sumaye: Review term limits for CEOs of banks

By Guardian Correspondent

FORMER premier Fredrick Sumaye has expressed the need for the Bank of Tanzania to review term limits for top cadres of commercial banks where the government has shares.

The veteran leader received cheerful applause from shareholders attending the CRDB Bank annual general meeting, saying that CRDB Bank and NMB Bank are important to the economy of this country.

Expressing appreciation for competent bank leadership of the managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela, he pointed at the various reforms conducted in the country's largest bank, since he took over from the founding CEO, Dr Charles Kimei.

Sumaye made the remarks after the presentations of the bank's board of directors' report, the audited financial statements and proposed dividends for the year ended in December 2023, which all indicated strengthening of CRDB Bank and strong growth of shareholders investments.

Fredrick Nshakanabo, the bank's chief finance officer, said in the report that the bank and its subsidiaries' balance sheets grew to 13.3trn/- at the end of 2023, representing a 121 percent growth from 2018, when the current CEO took over.

Strong growth was recorded in various indicators, including 560 percent growth of net profit in five years to 422bn/-, resulting in growth of dividends' growth by 900 percent to 50/- per share in 2023, from 5/- in 2018.

The former premier raised a note of concern, asking the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to review regulations that disallow bank CEOs to extend their functions beyond the ten years limit, when examining the report due to the fact that it showed strong growth of special subsidiaries, namely CRDB Congo, CRDB Bank Foundation and CRDB Insurance Co. Ltd.

Sumaye, a founding shareholder with the bank, said Nsekela has shown excellent capacity in leading the bank to achieve the record breaking performances, well beyond earlier achievements since the bank was established.

"Dr Charles Kimei, the former managing director took this bank from its inception, building it to reach where Nsekela took over," he stated, recalling that he once told ex-BoT governor Prof Florens Luoga, who was at the meeting, that banks are sensitive institutions where a small mistake can occasion a huge impact.

"For the largest banks such as CRDB and NMB, if their managing directors have good visions, they should be left to implement them without time limitations."

"I know that BoT has a limitation of ten years for bank CEOs to serve. I think it should authorize some CEOs of the banks to serve beyond the limitation of ten years to allow them to fulfill their dreams," he told the members of the AGM, in the presence of senior BoT officials.

Sumaye who served as premier from late 1995 to late 2005 under the late Benjamin Mkapa, the country's third president, said it was necessary to retain visionary leaders for the prosperity of the banking sector and the wider economy.

The former premier appreciated CRDB Bank's effort in extending service delivery not just in the domestic market, but also in neighbouring countries. He pointed at the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where CRDB Bank presence opens up economic opportunities for the Tanzanian business community.

Advising caution when implementing the bank's expansion programme, he expressed satisfaction with CRDB Bank's positive outlook on the development of the technology. The bank needs to take precautions on investment in physical branches and their future productivity is limited in scope.

"We need to observe the long term benefits," he said, noting that as familiarity with the use of technology grows, banks should invest in a few branches and enhance the use of agents.

Supporting the views by the former premier, Dr Charles Kimei, the MP for Vunjo, said Nsekela has managed to fit his shoes to excess, which has led into strong growth for CRDB Bank.

It was during Sumaye's time as premier that various bank sector institutions came up with the splitting and privatization of the former National Bank of Commerce as well as the privatisation of the former Cooperative and Rural Development Bank (CRDB). Speaking during the AGM, Nsekela said the new business strategy remained the major driver of success of CRDB Bank and created a roadmap to improve operations.

Nsekela said CRDB has invested heavily in financial inclusion among small businesses, specifically youths and women, through iMbeju programme, managed by CRDB Bank Foundation, while partnering with bilateral and multilateral institutions to finance development projects across the country.

He said of future plans as directed at ensuring the bank and its established subsidiaries improve services to customers through enhanced investment in innovative digital solutions, proper management of risks and good governance.

During his assumption of office on October 10, 2018, Nsekela listed five priorities including improving the service delivery system, improving professionalism and competence among employees, investing in modern technology and expansion of business activities.



China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian, (C) addresses a conference held under the theme: 'Maintain the original will to establish diplomatic relations, officially adhere to the one-China principle'. It was held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Mikumi revamping road to 'Barack Obama' tourist site

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"a spot to reckon with while touring Mikumi."

Ex-president Obama is yet to visit the park, despite that he briefly came to the country 2017 after completing his second term in office, landing at the Kilimanjaro International Airport and

then travelling to Arusha, later flying to Maswa Game Reserve.

Three former US presidents have so far visited Tanzania, in office or outside their presidential terms, namely Obama, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, with conservationists at the park still expecting that the former US leader may still fulfil his Mikumi National Park tour

plan.

Ex-president Clinton visited Tanzania in August 2000 just before leaving the presidency, participating in the culmination of Burundi peace talks in Arusha, accompanying ex-South African president Nelson Mandela, who had taken over the Burundi peace baton from the late Tanzanian leader, Mwalimu Nyerere.

Clinton has been coming to the country once in a while, with officials saying his favourite destination is the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, while the Serengeti, arguably the most acclaimed of national parks in the region, has regularly received famous Americans, including the popular TV host and film actor, Oprah Winfrey.



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (L) has a word in Arusha city yesterday with Uganda's Planning minister, Amos Lugolobi (C). This was at the end of the 16th East African Community's Sectoral Council meeting on Finance and Economic Affairs and the Budget consultative meeting of the EAC's Finance and Economy ministers. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

PM hands gender hero prize, urges 2022 Census use

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The project was originally directed at educating people about the varied experiences of college women survivors of gender-based violence, supporting survivors' voices, promoting change by decreasing gender-based violence, where in the first phase of the project five digital stories highlighting women survivors' experiences were developed.

"We are now investigating

survivors' healing process and the role of activism in that process," with the premier affirming that that using the census results is the best way to speed up the welfare and development of women.

At the start of the new financial year, the government will issue a new procedure for operations of and granting loans to women, youth and people with disabilities, he said, asking the various concerned groups to take note of the procedure

that will be given.

"Let me remind them that the funds given are loans and not grants, so all beneficiaries have to ensure that they repay within the scheduled timeframe," he emphasised, insisting that the government was not losing focus on prioritising economic empowerment initiatives.

The government had during fiscal 2023/2024 set aside 18.5bn/- for providing loans at seven percent interest, reaching agreement with NMB Bank

to enable small businesspeople, including women, to obtain loans with low interest.

He said the collaborative initiative behind those awards motivates women to invest in various areas by fully utilizing available opportunities, pointing at the friendly environment for investors. All local investors including women have to make good use of investment opportunities for them to grow economically, he stated.

He alluded to opportunities

in the blue economy and digital space which if well used can be of great benefit to women, expressing relief that there is a large increase in business participation by marketing their products through applications loaded on Instagram, WhatsApp, Telegram or Tiktok.

Liliane Masuka, chairperson of the ceremony awards committee, said the project seeks to increase business opportunities among women to bring positive change in society.

Tanzania, Belgium mark 40 years of links

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Authority and the National Shipping Agencies Corporation," he remarked.

Koenraad Goekint, Enabel's country representative, said the agency is committed to fostering gender-balanced environments for the youth and entrepreneurs, collaborating

with the relevant stakeholders to provide vocational training aligned with market needs.

It also seeks to promote the growth of young entrepreneurs capable of generating employment opportunities, he said, citing the signing last year of a new five-year programme for girls' empowerment.

It targets empowering young people, especially girls and young women, in specified districts of Kigoma Region through secondary education, skills development, entrepreneurship and the creation of a safe and gender equal environment, he explained.

Enabel is also involved in

sustainable agriculture projects in water and sanitation in the region, together taking up 20m euros. Ambassador John Ulanga, international trade and economic diplomacy director for the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry, expressed gratitude on the efforts of the agency to support

the country towards sustainable and inclusive development.

The bilateral ties need to be maintained to utilise opportunities in various areas including investment and trade to further promote development as Belgium is emerging as one of the country's biggest trading partners, he added.



Barrick North Mara Gold Mine official Daniel Paul pictured at the weekend addressing students of higher learning institutions attending a career fair in Arusha city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ICT training for people with disabilities wows Majaliwa

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has been impressed by Information and Communication Technology (ICT) training offered to people with disabilities (PwDs) by the Open University of Tanzania (OUT).

Majaliwa expressed the pleasure on Friday when he visited OUT's pavilion during the Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology exhibition at the parliament grounds in Dodoma.

The premier urged the varsity to make efforts to expand ICT training for special groups so that it can reach other parts of the country to benefit more people with disabilities.

He said that enrolling PwDs in the ICT training programmes helps enhance their participation in lifelong learning benefit from various technological opportunities and thus improve their quality of life.

Dr Catherine Mkude, Director of the Institute of Educational and Management Technologies at OUT expressed gratitude to the Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology Nape Nnauye for inviting the institution to participate in the exhibition.

Dr Mkude added that the exhibitions have broadened the ICT understanding to people with disabilities, leaders and members of parliament.

She said during training, PwDs use tools fitted with assistive technology that best suit their needs to enable them to understand well.

She noted that lifelong learning is important in the era of technological advancement that requires training and re-training for new job skills.

She noted that providing people with disabilities with proper education makes them independent and able to support themselves and their families.

Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga, Director General of the Information and Communication Technologies Commission (ICTC) said that the exhibitions have widened the opportunities for cooperation between organisations in order to enhance efficiency in delivering ICT services in Tanzania.

The exhibitions aimed at providing various ICT organisations opportunities to showcase their services to leaders and members of parliament.

ACT calls for removal of early voting in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE opposition ACT-Wazalendo national chairman Othman Masoud Othman has called for removal of early voting system for certain groups in the isles, claiming that it fuels tensions and chaos during elections.

According to the Zanzibar Election Act No 1 of 2018, Defence and Security personnel and the electoral

body officials in Zanzibar vote days before the Election Day in order to enable them to fulfil their obligations during polling day.

Othman who is also Zanzibar First Vice President made the call when addressing the party's leaders in Unguja North Region while winding his tour to thank members for completing the internal election of the party.

"We need to remove this system; there is no need of setting two days

for election; only one day is enough and all people can vote," he said.

According to him, if this is addressed ahead of the General Election next year, ACT-Wazalendo will not take part because such procedure ruins democracy by allowing deception in votes. "When ACT-Wazalendo agreed to form the Government of National Unity, there were a number of issues which we agreed with the government that should be

changed including reforms in the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC)," he said.

He said the agreement involved removal of ZEC's secretariat and come up with a new system to get commissioners and other leaders who are competent and ethical in a transparent manner.

The first VP further wanted the government to remove expenses in obtaining birth certificates for the

people in order to ensure that all Zanzibaris exercise their right to vote. "All these should be done before the 2025 General Election because without doing so, there is no need of having the government of national unity," he said.

Masoud said that the party's leadership committee had already submitted its stance to the government on the major issues which should be considered.

He said that due to the continued

delay in the implementation of the agreed issues, the party's leadership committee is expected to meet this month to make an assessment before making a decision on whether to continue in the GNU or withdraw.

Ismail Jussa Ladhu, ACT-Wazalendo Vice Chairman (Zanzibar), said that the party has prepared a strategy to go door-to-door to identify and register ACT-Wazalendo members and put records right.

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Karim Shaaban (R), managing director of Egyptian firm Rosetta, and Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation director general Mussa Makame sign an agreement on a mini-LNG project to be executed by TPDC. The event took place in Dar es Salaam on Friday. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

Contractor ready to start building UDSM's latest campus in Kagera

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) has signed a 13.4bn/- contract with China Jiangxi Corporation (CJC) for the construction of four buildings for its new campus in Kagera Region.

The agreement was signed in Dar es Salaam on Friday by the UDSM Vice Chancellor Prof William Anangisye and CJC representative Zhao Yang.

Prof Anangisye said the construction is part of the implementation of the Higher Education for Economic Reforms (HEET) project.

He further said that the implementation of HEET project objective is linked to various university strategic plans which conform with national strategic priorities.

"Our university's strategic investment plan has been designed to contribute to the UDSM vision 2061 and the five-year rolling strategic plan as investing in students, staff and the community is the priority of the university," he said.

He said the university has continued with the monitoring and evaluation of the project to achieve the set project development objectives, he said.

"The management commends the project implementation unit for its relentless efforts in ensuring timely and effective delivery and with this I urge the contractor and consultants to implement their duties while observing all the contractual terms and making national interest their first priority," he said.

In relation to infrastructure development and upgrading the curricula, the project is geared toward procuring teaching and learning resources to be installed in the newly constructed buildings," he said.

Speaking at the event, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Prof Carolyne Nombo called upon the contractor and project managers to make sure the project is completed on time.

Kagera Regional Commissioner Fatma Mwasa said that the region is going to benefit from the construction of the buildings where a number of students will be able to get education.

HEET is a five-year project and is implemented by the government through funding from the World Bank with the aim of improving higher education in the country.

Govt signs agreement for mini-LNG project

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE government has signed Head of Terms (HoT) for a joint venture agreement with Egyptian company Rosetta Energy Solutions and Africa 50 to execute mini liquefied natural gas (LNG) project.

The project represents the culmination of efforts in promoting natural gas distribution across the country.

Gracing in Dar es Salaam at the weekend on behalf of Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of

Energy, Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (Ewura) director general Dr James Mataragio said the project is expected to expand the scope of LNG distribution in the country.

"The mini LNG project is not just a project; it's a revolution in natural gas access in Tanzania set to change this landscape. It's a beacon of hope for reaching more areas than ever before," he said.

In particular, he said that the project significantly supplements the government's initiative towards providing clean cooking

energy.

He directed Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) to continue to explore the possibility of delivering natural gas to Zanzibar.

He said the presence of the project is a testament to the power of collaboration between the private sector and public institutions.

"It also underscores the government's credibility and trust in attracting foreign direct investments," he said.

Dr Mataragio said the investment demonstrates how the gov-

ernment continues to leverage various mechanisms in the international financing system to catalyse investments in the country.

"We invite other state-owned enterprises to our ministry to join us in accelerating project implementation through private-sector collaboration, ensuring a win-win situation that protects the national interest," he said.

Karim Shaaban, managing director of Rosetta Energy Solutions, said the project plays a critical role in expanding Tanzania's gas pipeline network by enabling

scalable demand through movable and modular LNG solutions.

"With a target investment portfolio of more than \$100 million, we are strongly focused on transferring our knowledge and expertise to the Tanzanian market and creating multiple jobs throughout the project value chain," he said.

The agreement signed by TPDC and Rosetta Energy solutions comes a few days after President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched a strategy seeking a smooth and accelerated transition to clean cooking energy.

TPDC director general Mussa Makame said that the mini LNG project is cheaper and takes less time than a pipeline, adding that the project will significantly expedite the delivery of natural gas, ensuring early access for industries, households and vehicles.

"The signing of the HoT will ignite, among other things, the undertaking of the preliminary activities for project implementation including project feasibility study, site selection and initial design planning," he said.

Expose all these who slaughter donkeys, urges deputy minister

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Alexander Mnyeti, has called on the public to expose people who engage in banned donkey trade and slaughter.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to save donkeys in the

country, noting that donkeys - also known as beasts of burden - have served in some of the most challenging conditions.

Mnyeti made the statement in Dodoma while officiating at the National Donkey Day. He said the government is aware that there is a real risk of donkeys falling into extinction if they

continue to be slaughtered for their skins, meat and other parts.

"Anybody engaging in illegal donkey business risks legal measures including jail term as the government strives to help save the friendly and useful animals," he said.

He called on stakeholders to increase public education on the importance of the animals in the country, adding that just like other animals, donkeys also deserve decent treatment.

The deputy minister stressed the importance of donkeys as working animals and not meant for consumption.

"We have seen donkeys working everywhere; of late they work in the mines too but unfortunately they are unfairly slaughtered and their meat sold," he said.

According to Mnyeti, this year's theme 'Year of Donkey Species Preservation in Africa' reflects on the agreement reached during Pan-African Donkey Forum held in Dar es Salaam in June 2022 where African countries banned slaughtering of donkey.



Frederick Mlowe (L), a soil researcher with the Uyole centre of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute centre at Uyole in Mbeya Region, pictured at the weekend "lecturing" farmers from the southern highlands regions on the use of soya beans vaccines. It was a field class held in Namtumbo District, Ruvuma Region. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa



High Commission of India
Dar es Salaam

Date: 15.05.2024

Subject: Tender for supply and installation of access control devices in the Chancery-cum-Residential building of the High Commission of India Dar es Salaam

High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam invites sealed quotations from reputed, experienced and financially sound Companies registered under relevant Tanzanian Companies Law which can supply and install the Access Control Devices in the Chancery-cum-Residential building of the High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam Building. The Tender document inviting bids for this work can be downloaded from the Mission's website <https://hcindiatz.gov.in> in the What's New Section under the heading "Tender for supply and installation of access control devices in the Chancery-cum-Residential building of the High Commission of India Dar es Salaam"

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The World Donkey Day is celebrated on 8th May every year in dedication to recognizing donkey and bringing attention to their many amazing characteristics.

The celebration in was organized by Inades Foundation Tanzania, a non-governmental organization affiliated to the international association of Inades Formation and operating in Dodoma Region in collaboration with the Arusha-based Arusha Society For the Protection of Animals (ASPA).

Speaking during at a conference ahead of the Donkey Day, Inades Formation Tanzania Managing Director Mbarwa Kivyo said Tanzania like other African countries has stopped donkey business, terming it a good move but should also declare donkeys as being the verge of extinction.

"Let the government include donkey among the endangered species of animals in the country as part of

the efforts to expand the animals' protection", he said.

ASPA Chief Executive Officer Livingston Masija echoed the same sentiment, noting that donkey is the second profitable domestic animal after cow.

He applauded the government for the ban on slaughtering donkey saying.

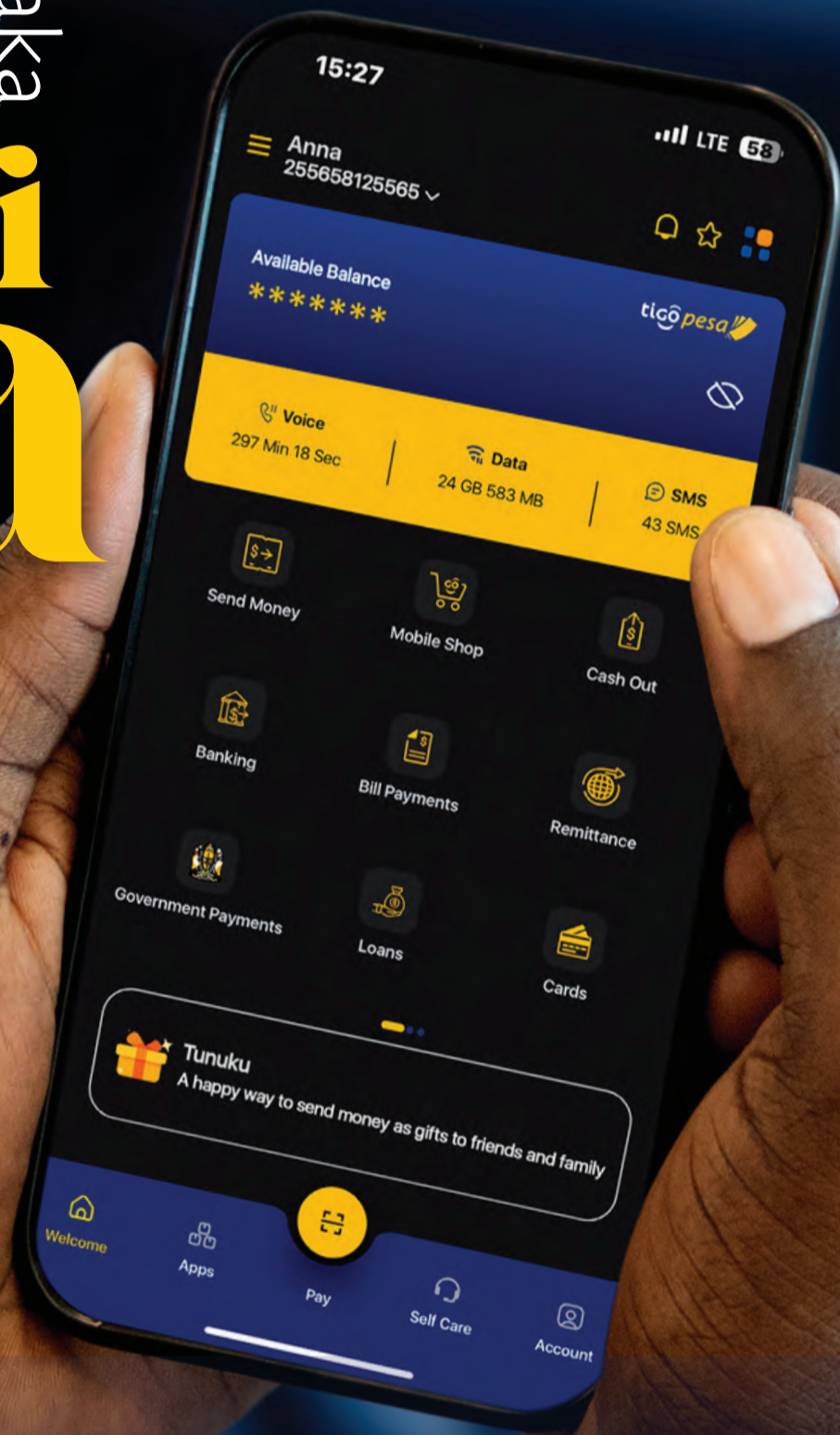
"Through the ban the government has acknowledged the importance of the animal that helps rural based population to improve their economic welfare and economy," he said.

Donkey Day is celebrated as a show of respect for one of the most enduring and respectable animals that has survived and thrived even in areas with harsh climates and tough terrains.

Donkeys are known for their endurance and persistence. This makes them respected and loved animals.

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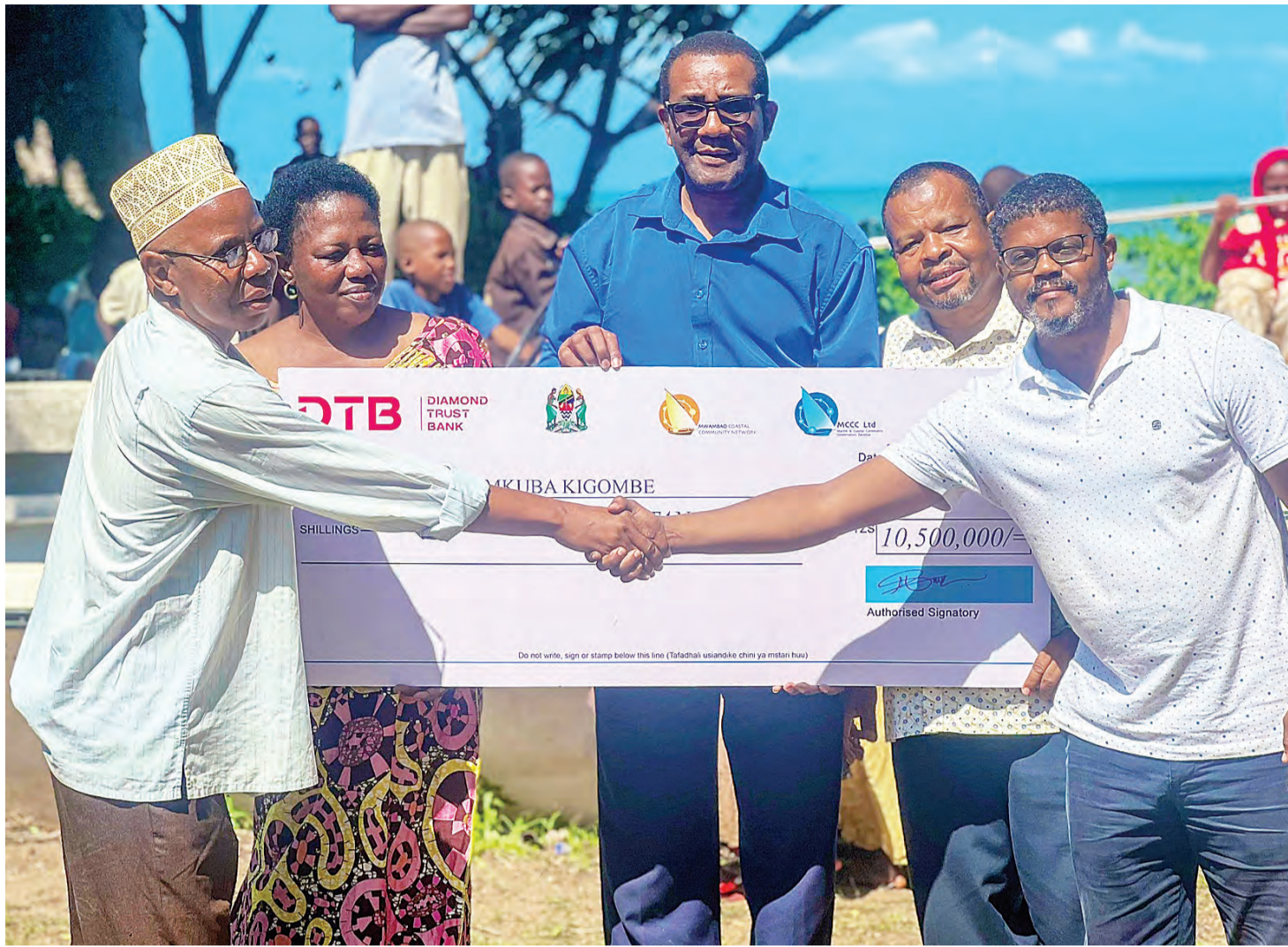


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Muheza district council director Stella Kategiro (2nd-L) pictured in Kigombe ward on Saturday presenting a dummy cheque for 10.5m/- to five Marine Conservation Strategy groups. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

World Hypertension Day: Doctors get over 700 scholarships for post-graduate studies

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

A TOTAL of 760 scholarships for post-graduate diploma and master's degree in preventative cardiovascular medicine, diabetes, endocrinology, obesity and weight management have been provided to doctors from 52 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America including Tanzania.

A press statement issued at the weekend by Merck Foundation's Chief Executive Officer Senator Dr Rasha Kelej said the foundation in partnership with African First Ladies and ministries of health and medical societies provided one-year post-graduate diploma and two-year master's degree.

Dr Kelej made the statement when the organisation joined others to commemorate the World Hypertension Day on Friday.

The 760 scholarships are part of a total 1810 scholarships Merck Foundation provided to doctors from 52 countries in 42 critical and underserved medical specialties such as oncology, sexual and reproductive care, acute medicine, respiratory medicine, embryology and fertility specialty.

Others are gastroenterology, dermatology, psychiatry, emergency and resuscitation medicine, critical care, paediatric emergency medicine, neonatal medicine,

advanced surgical practice, pain management, general surgery, clinical microbiology and infectious diseases, internal medicine, trauma and orthopaedics.

"We mark World Hypertension Day by improving access to quality and equitable hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular preventive care, which are all correlated, in Africa, Asia and Latin America," said Kelej.

The scholarships have been provided to the young doctors to form a strong platform of experts nationwide and not only from capitals or big cities.

Dr Kelej added that the foundation recently launched new fellowship programmes of one-year clinical cardiovascular care and one-year clinical diabetes onsite training programme in India for African doctors.

"These programmes will help us to further improve cardiovascular, hypertension and diabetes care in Africa and other developing countries," she

Also the foundation has released the first animation films Mark's Pressure, and Sugar Free Jude which are adapted from their children story books to raise awareness about early detection and prevention of hypertension and diabetes which are correlated and promote healthy lifestyle amongst children and youth in Africa and beyond.

AWLN Tanzania Chapter urges women to vie for posts in polls

By Correspondent Ananilea Nkya

AFRICAN Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Tanzania Chapter has urged political parties in the country to nominate many capable women to vie for posts of chairperson of hamlet and mitaa in the local government elections later this year.

AWLN Tanzania Chapter members' meeting in Dar es Salaam at the weekend noted with concern the negligible number of elected women leaders at local government level, suggesting that democratic values which include gender equal-

ity is yet to become a reality in the country.

Presenting a paper titled 'Women's Political Participation Trends in Tanzania' to AWLN members' meeting, political specialist Dr Victoria Lihuru said out of 11,916 Village chairpersons in the country, women are only 246 which is equivalent to 2.1 percent.

Similarly, in towns and cities where one would expect increased number of elected women leaders at local level, the trend is more like in villages because out of the 4,171 towns and cities, women mtaa chair-

persons are 528 which is equivalent to 12.6 percent while out of 58,441 hamlets, women chairpersons are 4,171 (6.7 percent)

The data suggest that there are a few women leaders who can advocate for resources to trickle down from the councils to solve issues affecting women and children's lives such as lack of clean and safe drinking water.

After presenting the data, Dr Lihuru said: "The broad picture which the data give us is in Tanzania there are very few elected women leaders at local level."

AWLN Coordinator Mary Ndayo said to ensure that local government elections scheduled for later this year make a difference in the increase of elected women leaders, the polls should be top on the agenda of women leaders' network.

Gertrude Mongela who is one of the pioneers of AWLN encouraged all women who believe that they have leadership qualities to vie for elective posts because it is their right.

Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, another AWLN pioneer said for AWLN to make a difference in transforming women leadership in the

country three key issues namely ideas, organization and money should be seriously considered.

The issue of money was further amplified by co-chairpersons of AWLN Mary Rusimbi and Rebeca Gyumi who thanked development partners whose financial support made AWLN Tanzania Chapter members' meeting a reality.

Delivering a solidarity message through video link to the meeting, Bineta Diop, AWLN Convener and AU special envoy on women peace and security said when women leaders strategize and work together,

have the power to inspire the future.

AWLN Tanzania Chapter is led by a strategic steering committee and its members are from across the country.

AWLN is movement of African women leaders which aims to enhance leadership of women in transformation of Africa in line with Africa agenda 2063 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals/

It was launched in 2017 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and is supported by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations (UN).

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REF: 0269/GEN/2024
7th MAY 2024

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT Board of Directors

Are you passionate about shaping the future of education in Tanzania? Do you possess the skills and expertise to guide a dynamic educational institution towards greater success? Genesis Schools Tanzania Limited (GNS) invites visionary leaders to apply for vacant positions on its Board of Directors, effective from the 1st day of August 2024.

About GNS: Established in 2002 under the laws of Tanzania, GNS is committed to providing quality education to empower the next generation. With our registered office located at Ali Bin Said Road, Oyster Bay, P.O. Box 3550, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, we stand as a beacon of educational excellence in the region.

Join a Managed and Passionate Board: At GNS, we believe in effective governance and prudent management. Our Board boasts a manageable size, ensuring efficient decision-making and impactful leadership. We seek individuals who are driven by integrity, dedicated to GNS's interests, and committed to serving without personal bias.

Qualifications Needed: We are seeking individuals with specific expertise to complement our Board's composition:

Board's composition:

- One member with a PhD or Master's in Law, possessing expertise in legal matters related to educational institutions.
- Another member with a PhD or Master's in Education, bringing extensive knowledge of international education, particularly the Cambridge curriculum.
- The third member should be a CPA holder with PhD or Masters in Finance/Accountancy with a background in business management and leadership, along with experience in school accounting systems, tax, and business laws.

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Key responsibilities include:

- Defining our mission and purpose.
- Selecting key personnel and providing oversight.
- Ensuring financial stability and resource allocation.
- Upholding legal and ethical standards.
- Engaging in strategic planning and organizational development.
- Enhancing our public image and stakeholder relations.
- Monitoring and improving our curriculum and services.
- Supporting and evaluating the performance of our principal.

Adherence to Ethical Standards: Board members at GNS are expected to uphold the highest standards of conduct and accountability, including fulfilling the duty of care, loyalty, and obedience outlined in our Code of Ethics.

Join Us in Transforming Education: If you are ready to make a difference in the lives of students and contribute to the growth of our community, we invite you to apply for a position on the GNS Board of Directors. Together, let's embark on a journey of educational excellence and innovation.

To apply, please submit your resume and a cover letter detailing your qualifications and motivation to serve on our Board. Applications should be sent to principal@genesisschools.co.tz by Thursday, 30th May 2024.

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Looking for Office Space up to 700m² in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

GIZ is a federally owned enterprise operating worldwide, assisting the German Government in achieving its policy objectives in the field of international cooperation. It offers demand-driven, tailor-made, and effective services for sustainable development worldwide. In Tanzania and across the region GIZ supports the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the EAC in attaining their development goals.

GIZ Tanzania is looking for a suitable office space between 500m² to 700m² to rent in the vicinity of Upanga, Masaki, and Oyster Bay area to different project offices in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Therefore, GIZ would like to request companies or landlords or authorized agents, to send their Expression of Interest (EoI) as per below details:

DETAILS OF DOCUMENTS:

Your documents must consist of the following information:

1. A clear physical address and Contact address (Telephone number, email address, physical address).
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3. Property and Ownership documents
4. Describe your rate per sqm.
5. Business Registration Certificate/ Trade license in that field if applicable.
6. TIN / VAT Registration Certificate if applicable.
7. Valid latest tax clearance certificate from Revenue Authority if applicable.

After evaluation of EoI, GIZ may contact the selected companies or landlords or agents for further process.

Submission of EoI

Please submit your EoI document to tz_procurement@giz.de (tz underscore procurement at giz dot de) latest by the 31.05.2024

For those who have submitted their interest in response to the earlier EoI, due to technical reasons, are kindly requested to resend it again.

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New project all out to uplift coastal communities in Kilwa

By Jenifer Gilla

KILWA District Council in Lindi Region has launched a project that seeks to boost fisheries and im-

prove coastal environment management and economy of local communities.

The initiative will involve extensive research, empowering

community members with knowledge and methods necessary to enhance ocean management and amplify involvement of youth and women in various ocean-related

economic activities.

Speaking during the launch of the project recently, Kilwa District Commissioner Mohamed Nyundo said that the project's objective is to drive management of marine resources in conjunction with coastal communities.

He said that the project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through Chemonics and implemented by Aqua Farms Organization (AFO) seeks to fortify resilience against effects of environmental degradation and mitigate impacts of climate change which are detrimental to the prosperity and availability of marine resources.

"I understand that the essence of collaborative management is the cooperation and consultation between officials and community members. Therefore, it is essential to ensure communities continue to be extensively involved as it was before," he said.

He urged Kilwa residents, particularly those reliant on the ocean for their livelihood such as fishermen and fish vendors, to take advantage of the project to enhance their lives through participation in the planned training sessions.

Anord Shoko, AFO Project Coordinator said that through the project, they intend to equip communities with educational resources and tools to enable sustainable use of marine resources and resilience

against the impacts of climate change..

Shoko said the project's goal is to achieve a substantial increase in individual income and a 75 percent improvement of ocean environment management by 2027, thereby restoring the ocean's quality and productivity.

"We also aim to reduce environmental pollution levels and initiate activities to address climate change so that the communities can benefit from marine resources in their areas," he said.

Ali Bakari, Chairman of Songosongo fish landing, site said the project is good news for fishermen because they will be given education and safe fishing resources, thus uplifting their economic status.

"Through this, fishermen will be taught safe fishing methods that do not harm the ocean and its creatures, thus increasing fish production, which is beneficial to us," he said.



I understand that the essence of collaborative management is the cooperation and consultation between officials and community members



Zanzibar's Education and Vocational Training Deputy minister, Ali Abdugulam Hussein (R), has a quick word with Global Education Link director Abdulmalik Mollie (next to him) and other people at the Zanzibar House of Representatives grounds at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Diplomats for stronger ties between Tanzania, China

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A CROSS section of diplomats and political experts have emphasized the importance of upholding relations between China and Tanzania that have lasted for 60 years to bring about sustainable development in various areas of cooperation.

They spoke during a Symposium titled 'Uphold the Original Aspiration of Diplomatic Relations, Firmly Adhere to one-China Principle' that was organized by Chinese Embassy in Dar es Salaam at the weekend.

Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, former Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation said that China has made tremendous sacrifices for Tanzania.

"We reaffirm the government's unshaken commitment towards friendship and common interest," she said.

Chinese Ambassador to Tanza-

nia Chen Mingjian said in the past 60 years, the Tanzanian side has always implemented the original aspiration of diplomatic relations by supporting China in that area.

She said that early this year, after the Taiwan region's election, President Samia reaffirmed Tanzania's basic position of one-China principle.

"in a bid to consolidate the original intention of diplomatic relations between China and Tanzania, let the melody of justice on unswerving adherence to the one-China principle sing louder and louder," she said.

Ambassador Omar Mjenga, President and CEO of the Centre for International Policy - Africa, said that one-China principle is the universal consensus of the international community.

He said to-date, 181 countries including most European countries have established diplomatic relations with China on the basis of the

one-China principle.

Mjenga said recently, more than 170 countries openly reaffirmed their commitment to the one-China principle, and the UN Secretary-General stated to continue to adhere to General Assembly Resolution 2758.

"We all know that the One-China principle has a clear and unambiguous meaning that there is but one China in the world," he said

Joseph Kahama, Secretary General of China-Tanzania Friendship Promotion Association, called on states and non-state actors that give unfortunate and un-wanton credit, acknowledgement or recognition some territories of China as a state to stop doing so.

Gallus Abedi, Political Advisor to Chairman of the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation, recommended expanding areas of research for mutual benefits and encouraged enhanced people-to-people cooperation.



THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING



Specific Procurement Notice Request for Bids

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Project: | Zanzibar Improving Quality of Basic Education (ZIQUE) |
| Contract title: | SUPPLY OF BRAND-NEW VEHICLES: THREE (3) 4WD DOUBLE CABIN PICK-UP AND TWO (2) STATION WAGON TO SUPPORT (ZIQUE) PROJECT. |
| Country: | United Republic of Tanzania |
| Credit No.: | IDA- 72580-TZ |
| RFB No: | TZ-MOEV-421072-GO-RFB |
| Issued on: | 15 th May 2024 |

1. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania represented by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar under the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Zanzibar Improving Quality of Basic Education Project (P178157). Subsequently, (ZIQUE) intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to cover eligible payments under the contract for which this Request for Bid (RFB) is issued.

2. Now, The Zanzibar Improving Quality of Basic Education (ZIQUE) Project on behalf of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar invites sealed Bids from Company local, Special Groups, Manufacturers, and, eligible Bidders to submit your price Quotation for supplying motor vehicles as described in the schedule below.

| Description of Goods | Quantity | Final Destination (Project Site) | Delivery Period |
|--|----------|---|-----------------|
| Supply of Brand-New vehicles: three (3) 4WD Double Cabin PICK-UP and two (2) Station Wagon to support the (ZIQUE) Project. | 5 units | The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Mazizini Area, Zanzibar Improving Quality of Basic Education (ZIQUE) Project. Unguja-Zanzibar. | 60 days |

3. Bidding will be conducted through National competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" Fourth edition November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

4. Interested eligible Tenderer may obtain further information at the **Secretariate of Tender Board of Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Mazizini, room No. 26** to the office of (ZIQUE) Project or Email: **pmu@moez.go.tz**, from 900HRS to 1500HRS on Monday to Friday except on public holidays.

5. The bidding document in **English** may be purchased by interested Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TZS, 250,000.00 (**Tanzanian Shillings Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Only**) or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency. The bidders shall obtain the control number by requesting it from this email **pmu@moez.go.tz** or at room # 26 at the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Mazizini. Note that: Evidence of payments (Bank Pay slip) of the fee mentioned above must be attached to the bidding document during the submission of bids.

6. All bids must be accompanied by All Bidder must be accompanied by a bid security (Bank guarantee) of **Tanzanian Shillings 5,000,000.00** each in an acceptable form in the amount of the Banker's cheque or Bank guarantee valid for twenty-eight (28) calendar days beyond the bid validity period, i.e. 148 calendar days after the bid's submission deadline marked "Procurement of **FIVE Vehicles to Support Project Implementation**" **TENDER No. TZ-MOEV-421072-GO-RFB for Supplying Brand New vehicles: three (3) 4WD Double Cabin PICK-UP and two (2) Station Wagon** at room number #26.

7. The deadline for submission shall be on Friday 28 June 2024 at 9:30 am. Quotations shall be opened at 9:45 am promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend the opening at the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Mazizini Area.

8. Late Quotation or Quotation that is not opened in public shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances and Electronic Bidding will NOT be permitted.

9. The bidding document will be shared through email after proving that payment has been made for the purchase of the bidding document. Please note that the Proof of payment should be enclosed on the first page of the bid submission envelope.

10. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.

Principle secretary
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training,
P.O Box 394,
Mazizini, Airport Road
ZANZIBAR.



THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING



Specific Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR QUOTATION

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Employer: | Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. |
| Project: | Zanzibar Improving Quality of Basic Education (ZIQUE) |
| Contract title: | SUPPLY 19 PCS OF LAPTOPS AS PER SPECIFICATION. |
| Country: | United Republic of Tanzania |
| Credit No.: | IDA- 72580-TZ |
| RFB No: | TZ-MOEV-421238-GO-RFQ |
| Issued on: | 15 th May 2024 |

1. The United Republic of Tanzania /Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has received credit from the International Development Association (IDA)(the "Bank") towards the cost of Supply of 19pcs of Laptops, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to cover eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation for Quotation is issued.

2. Now, The Zanzibar Improving Quality of Basic Education (ZIQUE) on behalf of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar invites you to submit a priced quotation for supplying the goods as described in the Specifications and Schedule of requirements.

3. All Quotations in one original plus two (2) copies, properly filled in and enclosed in plain envelopes marked: Supply 19pcs of Laptops: must be delivered to the Procurement Management Unit located at the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Mazizini Area, room No. 26.

4. A complete set of the bidding documents (in English) is available to interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tanzanian Shillings One Hundred Thousand Only (TZS 100,000.00) or its equivalent in freely convertible currency. The method of payment will be by Bank through the control number by requesting it from this email **pmu@moez.go.tz** phone +255 777 785 070 or contact Secretariat at room # 26 at the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Mazizini.

5. The deadline for submission shall be on Wednesday 26th June 2024 at 9.30 AM in room no 27. Quotations shall be opened promptly thereafter at 9:45 am in public and in the presence of Supplier's representatives who choose to attend the opening at the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Mazizini Area on the first-floor room, No. 37.

6. A late Quotation or Quotation that is not opened in public shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances and Electronic Bidding will not be permitted.

7. The bidding document will be shared through email after proving that payment has been made for the purchase of the bidding document. Please note that the Proof of payment should be enclosed on the first page of the bid submission envelope.

Principle secretary
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training,
P.O Box 394,
Mazizini, Airport Road
ZANZIBAR.

Eliminating taxes on sanitary pads positive in easing access highroad

A CERTAIN amount of interest group activity is going on while the country prepares for the national budget in less than a month from now.

Girls' rights stakeholders have urged the government to exempt tax on sanitary pads, asking for 64bn/- in yearly allocations for the purchase of the feminine products for onward free supply to girls in public schools. It is unlikely to succeed but is all the same a move in the right direction.

A gathering of activists based in non-state actors ranging from pastoralist women, media women and a girls' initiative last week brought together journalists for training on the subject in Dar es Salaam.

Facilitators asked the government to regulate the products' prices so that this becomes no longer a 'punishment' for poor young girls who struggle every month to access the products. It isn't a new demand and no one can say it lacks validity, the question being how it can be reconciled with tax and other market matters.

Presentations focused on value added tax (VAT) on the particular commodity, as its lack of ease of access impedes girls from ensuring regular class attendance.

How far this intervention has changed the perception of the matter is unclear, as the organisers said the training session was intended to equip journalists with a comprehensive understanding of interconnected issues of menstruation period stigma, 'period poverty' and their impact on girls' education.

There is expectation that easier access will be assured when the tax part is dealt with but that, as that would not be in and by itself enough, a general

subsidy on the items would come

in much handier.

How legislators hearing this appeal will react is hard to predict, as there was an effort in that direction in the past decade but the results were by and large disappointing.

After tax on sanitary pads was removed during the previous budget, the government - and the legislature - moved to re-impose the tax as prices had not come down owing to the tax waiver.

A pundit could say that tax is but only one factor in price determination but supply and demand matter more, and prices can be insensitive to waivers.

One reason for this situation is the possibility that there are few brands, or one brand of the produce has near monopoly presence in the market. Thus, the waiver could be ignored with no other supplier overtaking it in sales or significantly diminish its market share.

That leaves the 64bn/- asked for in subsidy as the real solution, though it can be that 'period poverty' is not intense enough to warrant steep budgetary allocations for the purpose. In addition, 'period stigma' is an inconvenience of seeking alternative methods but is not always an impediment to class attendance, while real pains at times associated with the situation could.

In that case, it is plausible that activists have sought out the highroad to removing 'period stigma' and inconveniences relating to low access to pads for girls in poor households but have largely failed to make a case for either the waiver or the subsidy, despite their usefulness.

There has previously been conducted campaigns in some media houses working alongside private sector entities especially businesses, as many have a philanthropic element in their work ethos.

Artificial intelligence won't be much regulated, just as internet

JUST how far educational and other uses of artificial intelligence (AI) can be explicitly set out in guidelines to coordinate its use is the new agenda with the matter having moved out of just trending in social media on 3G and 4G internet use and become a matter of institutional importance.

Stakeholders in the higher learning sphere are urging the government to consider formulating such guidelines, which in this context looks pretty interesting whether what is being gunned for is guidelines or regulations.

When it is a matter of guidelines, there is an effort at facilitating individual action, whereas regulations set boundaries. A number of university staff and student organisations recently held a panel discussion on the unlocking of the potential of artificial intelligence in higher learning institutions.

It was hosted by the Sokoine University of Agriculture and screened on various social media and it saw one lecturer say that AI was becoming increasingly attainable in every sector of the economy and in higher education.

The don noted that AI was enabling enhanced outward reach inside and outside the classroom, with administrative tasks including admissions, student support services or virtual academic assistants much easier to organise.

While AI tools are being used to provide all-round support to students and staff, appreciably reducing the workload of administrative staff, easing quality oversight by analysing students' performance data and identifying areas where improvement is needed, it not altogether without its limitations.

What this implies is that when it is clear that such functions can be handled at a single office somewhere, the rest of line staff will be out of work.

That is why it is a bit complicated to figure out how the government sets out guidelines, strategies and policies to guide institutions of higher learning on what they can do now in that regard.

There is perhaps no doubt that AI is revolutionising education as the scholars pointed out, the difficulty being in the sort of implications they drew or sought to make out from that situation.

One don sought to underline that, with great power comes great responsibility in integrating AI into higher education, where the key issue is to do so responsibly and ethically, ensuring fairness, transparency and accountability.

That is all well said, that is, as to how learning institutions can exercise vigilance in ensuring that AI is used for the benefit of all, without compromising on ethical standards. But just how far is this everyone's key objective?

Nor is the whole gamut of AI potential in institutional applications entirely realistic from an analytical or rather outside viewpoint in alluding to formulating policies and regulations to guide its implementation through critical thinking, practical insights and collaboration. The don felt that it is possible to empower stakeholders to navigate the complexities of the digital age and drive positive change in higher learning.

Yes, but is the opposite not also possible - that is, getting AI to bring the right answers instead of reading books?

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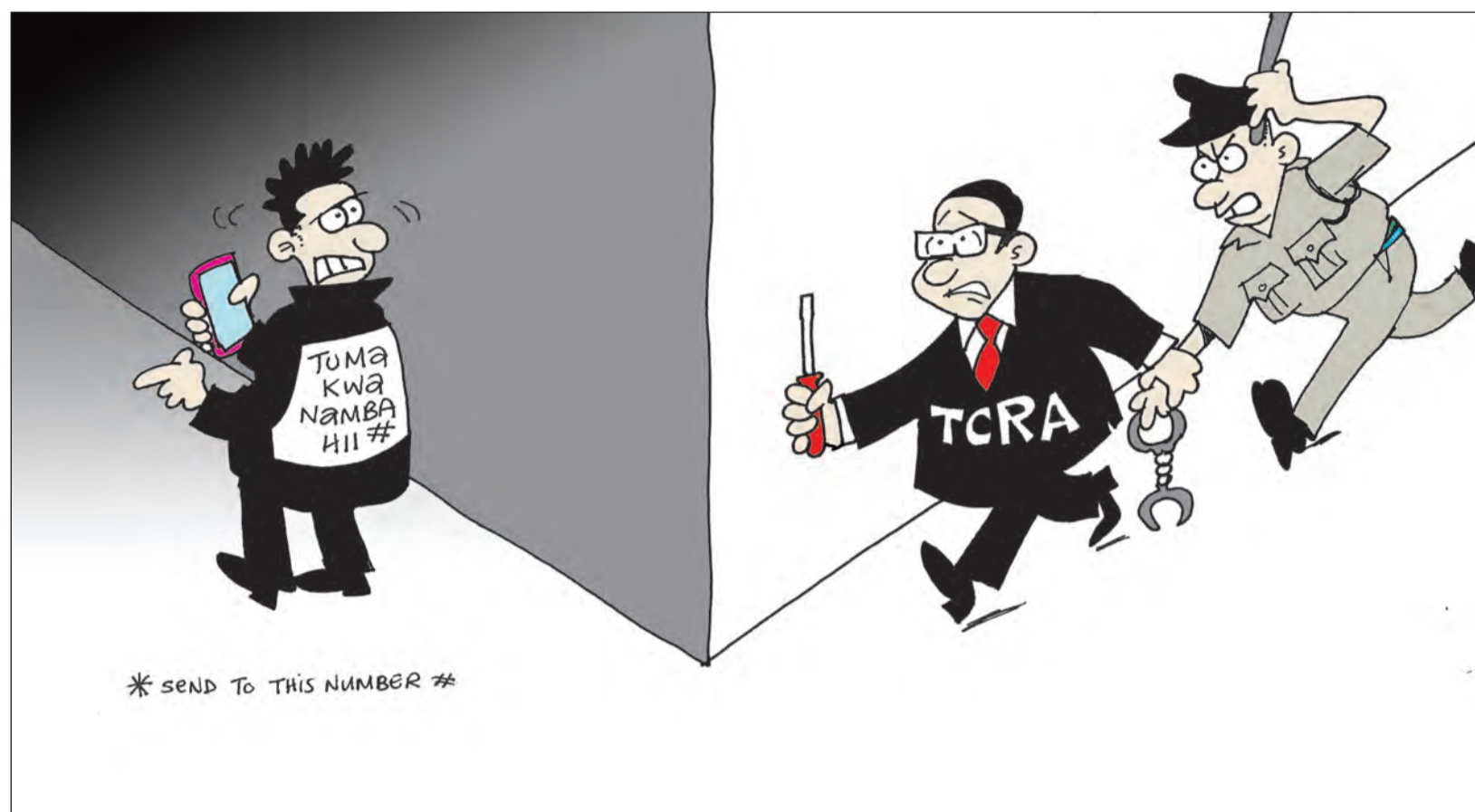
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Egypt caught between rock and hard place as Israel escalates attacks on Rafah

By Peter Fabricius

ISRAEL'S deadly assault on Gaza - including the recent escalation with attacks on the southern city of Rafah - continues to reverberate across the region and the world.

It is straining the hitherto rock-solid friendship between Israel and the United States (US) and could cost President Joe Biden the White House later this year as young Democrats increasingly protest against his continued support for Israel. This support has weakened the US's international standing relative to its global adversaries, Russia and China, in the eyes of many in the global south.

Egypt has found itself in a particularly awkward position. As Gaza's only neighbour besides Israel, it's feeling the repercussions of the war more than most. This has come to the fore with Israel's attack this month on Rafah. The Rafah Crossing to Egypt is Gaza's only exit other than to Israel.

Egypt and Israel have a longstanding and pragmatic cooperation on security issues, particularly over Gaza. Before this war, Egypt maintained tight control over movements through Rafah as a result of the decades-long conflict between Israel and Palestine.

Cairo was particularly concerned about a possible flow of Palestinian refugees into the Sinai - partly from fears of a possible jihadist insurgency revival in the Sinai. But also because a mass exodus from Gaza would facilitate what Egypt suspected was Israel's intention to depopulate Gaza of Palestinians and destroy hopes of a Palestinian state.

The Rafah attack is exacerbating these fears and straining security arrangements with Israel, mainly because it's increasing the likelihood that many thousands of Palestinians - who have nowhere else safe to go - will move into Egypt.

Egypt is also incensed by Israel not controlling the Gaza side of the Rafah Crossing, according to Chatham House. "To mitigate this scenario, Egypt is adopting what officials in Cairo call a 'containment strategy,'" it says. "This includes ratcheting up international pressure on Israel by conditioning the reopening of the Rafah Crossing (the main conduit for humanitarian aid into Gaza) on the [Israel Defense Forces'] withdrawal from the area and returning control over the crossing to Palestinians."

Humanitarian aid, traffic complications

Egypt and Israel have begun trading tit-for-tat accusations over Rafah. Most of the international community has long accused Israel of besieging Gaza and severely restricting the inflow of humanitarian aid. But now Israel seems to be taking advantage of Egypt's restrictions on the Rafah Crossing by say-



Following the Israeli army's ground incursions into neighbourhoods east of Rafah, Palestinians residing in the area continue to migrate from the eastern neighbourhoods of the city towards the west of Khan Yunis. 9 May 2024. (Photo: Ashraf Amra/Anadolu via Getty Images)

ing Cairo could if it chose, allow aid to pass through.

Cairo retorts that it is Israel's military activity on the border that is preventing humanitarian traffic. Israel replies that its presence is necessary to prevent Hamas from hijacking the aid. Egypt has also accused Israel of being responsible for the impasse in the internationally brokered peace talks with Hamas in Cairo earlier this month.

In an explicit expression of growing tensions, Cairo announced on Sunday that it intended to formally intervene in support of the case of genocide that South Africa has brought against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

A statement by Egypt's Foreign Affairs Ministry said, "Israeli atrocities ... including direct targeting of civilians, the destruction of infrastructure in the Strip, and pushing Palestinians towards fleeing and displacing them outside their territories ... has led to the creation of an unprecedented human crisis that caused unliveable conditions in the Gaza Strip" in violation of the Geneva Convention (IV) of 1949. Egypt called for a ceasefire, an end to military operations in Rafah, and necessary protection for Palestinian civilians.

Cairo joins The Maldives, Turkey, Ireland, and Belgium in declaring its intention to support South Africa's ICJ case. Libya, Colombia and

Nicaragua have gone further by formally applying to intervene on South Africa's side. So far, no countries have taken steps to intervene on Israel's side, though Germany announced in January that it intended to.

By supporting South Africa's case, Egypt is also piggybacking Pretoria's concordant understanding of what is happening around Rafah. In its latest initiative in the case, Pretoria asked the ICJ on 11 May to order Israel to take further urgent provisional measures to prevent more harm to Gaza's citizens. This is South Africa's fourth approach to the court requesting provisional measures.

In January, South Africa persuaded the ICJ to order Israel to prevent genocide in Gaza and increase humanitarian aid to the territory. The request to order Israel to suspend its military operations in Gaza was declined.

In its latest request, South Africa said Israel's recent assault on Rafah had created a risk to the survival of the Palestinians in Gaza and to the supply of humanitarian aid. This was because Rafah was "now effectively the last refuge in Gaza for 1.5 million Palestinians from Rafah and those displaced by Israeli action".

And by seizing control of the Rafah and Kerem Shalom (Karem Abu Salem) crossings in the south,

Israel was now in direct, total control of all entry and exit to Gaza, and had "cut it off from all humanitarian and medical supplies, goods and fuel on which the survival of the population of Gaza depends, and is preventing medical evacuations".

In light of this changed situation, South Africa, in its oral arguments on 16 May, asked the ICJ to order Israel to specifically stop its assault on Rafah and cease fire throughout Gaza in light of new Israeli assaults to the north. The fact that Rafah is the last refuge for Palestinians, and that Israel has largely ignored the court's previous orders, might persuade the judges to order a ceasefire.

Though relations between Egypt and Israel are apparently more strained than they have been in decades, observers don't believe they are at breaking point yet. Africa Confidential, for example, notes that Egypt has become quite dependent on Israeli gas, particularly at a time when its economy is vulnerable. Yemeni Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping have reduced its Suez Canal earnings by at least half a billion dollars.

Conversely, Israel needs all the regional allies it can get, even difficult ones, at a time when its Gaza assault has alienated so many people around the globe.

By Telesphor Magobe

Tanzania meets criteria for graduation from LDCs status 'for the first time'

TANZANIA has for the first time this year met criteria for graduation from the status of United Nations (UN) least developed countries (LDCs) since the establishment of the LDC category in 1971.

At that time, Tanzania was categorised as a LDC and was one of the 25 initial LDCs. Tanzania will be assessed again during a triennial review in 2027 by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), according to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) report of May 2024.

"The CDP is mandated to make recommendations to ECOSOC on countries that qualify to be added to the LDC category and those that are candidates for graduation therefrom. The recommendations are based on analyses undertaken every three years at triennial reviews of the LDC category," says the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

The DESA also says that CDP does the following: 1) monitors the development progress of LDCs that are graduating and of countries that have graduated from the category, 2) conducts reviews of the LDC identification criteria, 3) reviews the application of the LDC category by the UN development system, and 4) undertakes analytical studies on LDC issues.

The UN defines LDCs as low-income countries suffering from structural impediments to sustainable development. "Measures in favour of LDCs include exclusive access to specific international support in the areas of trade, development assistance, and general support."

The report says if Tanzania meets the criteria again after the next review in 2027, it could be recommended for graduation after the endorsement of the recommendation by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN General Assembly and after a preparatory period.

During its triennial review of the list of LDCs in New York on March 4-8, 2024 the CDP found that "Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania had fulfilled the criteria for graduation for the first time. These countries will be considered for graduation at the next triennial review in 2027," says the 2024 ECOSOCO report.

Until May this year, 45 countries worldwide, including Tanzania, are categorised as LDCs. In the East African Community (EAC) the list of LDCs includes Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

A World Trade Organisation (WTO) report of 2020 titled "Trade impacts of LDC graduation" suggests that graduation from the United Nations (UN) LDC category "is seen as an important milestone in the development path of each LDC." According to the report, graduation



Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

demonstrates strong performance in key macroeconomic indicators and broad-based social developments. "At the same time, the phasing-out of benefits associated with the LDC status could present challenges for graduating LDC governments to integrate into the global economy."

Criteria for graduation from LDC status, according to the UN, include 1) an income criterion, based on a three-year average estimate of the gross national income (GNI) per capita in US dollars, using conversion factors based on the World Bank Atlas methodology. For the 2024 triennial review, the threshold for inclusion is set at \$1,088 or less, while the threshold for graduation is set at \$1,306 or more.

A human assets index (HAI), consisting of a health sub-index and an education sub-index. The health sub-index has three in-

dicators: under-five mortality rate, maternal mortality ratio, and prevalence of stunting.

The education sub-index has three indicators: lower secondary school completion rate, the adult literacy rate, and gender parity index for lower secondary school completion. The thresholds for inclusion and graduation have been set at 60 or below and 66 or above, respectively, for the 2024 triennial review.

An economic and environmental vulnerability index (EVI), consisting of two sub-indices: economic vulnerability and environmental vulnerability. The economic vulnerability sub-index has four indicators: a share of agriculture, forestry and fishing in gross domestic product, remoteness and land-lockedness, merchandise export concentration, and instability of exports of goods and services.

The environmental vulnerability sub-index has four indicators: a share of population in low elevated coastal zones, a share of the population living in dry lands, instability of agricultural production, and victims of disasters. The thresholds for inclusion and graduation have been set at 36 or above and 32 or below, respectively, for the 2024 triennial review.

In 2021, 46 countries were designated by the UN as LDCs. However, in 2023 Bhutan graduated from the LDC status and 2024 Sao Tome and Principe graduates this year as the UN General Assembly has issued a resolution on its graduation. Countries which previously were in the graduation process, but no longer meet the graduation criteria are Angola, Timor-Leste and Zambia.

"The LDC category comprises the most disadvantaged of the developing countries, which comprise about 14 per cent of the world's population, but account for less than 1.3 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP) and for about 1 per cent of global trade." The majority of LDCs are in sub-Saharan Africa, according to Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) data of 2021.

The UN General Assembly formally endorsed the list of 25 LDCs in 1971 in its Resolution 2768 (XXVI), as a result of the acknowledgement by the international community that special support measures were needed to assist the least developed among the developing countries. It requested the Committee for Development Planning to review and refine the criteria used for identification. It also requested international organisations within the UN system to take into account the special needs of LDCs when formulating their programmes of activities.

According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the initial list of LDCs comprised 25 countries. Then, 28 other countries were added to the list in subsequent years, as countries gained independence and faced severe development challenges—in some cases compounded by the effects of independence, war and conflict—and/or faced a sustained deterioration of economic conditions.

New Education ministry budget brings hope to nation's development

By Adonis Byemelwa

THE recent approval of Tanzania's educational budget has ignited a spectrum of emotions, blending optimism with apprehension among stakeholders. With a substantial allocation of 1.97trn/- directed towards the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, there's a glimmer of hope for a renaissance in the country's education landscape. Yet, amid the jubilation over this budgetary milestone, lurking challenges threaten to cast shadows on its potential impact.

During budget deliberations, legislators directed complaints and suggestions toward the education minister, although some of their concerns were intended for the President's Office, Regional Administration, and Local Government (PO-RALG). This discrepancy raises questions about the overlapping roles of the two entities, with one focused on policy formulation at the ministerial level and the other tasked with infrastructure and practical implementation. The confluence of hope and skepticism highlights the complexity of Tanzania's educational trajectory.

While the Minister of Education, Science, and Technology, Prof Adolf Mkenda emphasized the importance of policies, curricula implementation, and vocational education, the chronic shortage of university lecturers casts a shadow over these efforts. With universities struggling to fill vacancies and maintain academic standards, the quality of higher education

is at risk.

Prof. Mkenda stressed the importance of enhancing the quality of education at all levels, but the reality on the ground presents a stark contrast. Dr Oscar Ishengoma, Member of Parliament for Southern Muleba, drew attention to the shortage of professors at the University of Dar es Salaam, revealing that the institution lacks nearly half of the required faculty members.

"The University of Dar es Salaam has only 93 professors instead of the required 161," Dr. Ishengoma stated, highlighting the severity of the issue. "This shortage not only affects the quality of education but also undermines our efforts to compete internationally."

This sentiment was echoed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who expressed frustration with the competence of graduates entering the workforce. "We must ensure that our graduates are equipped with the skills necessary to contribute meaningfully to national development," President Hassan emphasized during a speech in Dar es Salaam.

The shortage of lecturers not only affects the quality of education but also hampers the country's ability to compete in the global job market. With approximately 100,000 students graduating from higher education institutions each year, the lack of qualified lecturers raises concerns about the employability of Tanzanian graduates.

"We have reached this point because we value politics over other important matters," remarked a senior lecturer at one of the country's universities, speaking

on condition of anonymity. "Lecturers in developed countries do not rush into politics. They focus on publishing, mentoring others, and developing theories to leave a legacy."

The sentiment of frustration and disillusionment among lecturers is palpable. Many feel undervalued and under-compensated for their contributions to academia. Despite the rigorous qualifications required to ascend the academic ladder, including years of study and publication requirements, lecturers in Tanzania often struggle to make ends meet.

"It takes about nine years for an assistant lecturer to meet the criteria to become a senior lecturer and eventually a full professor," the anonymous lecturer explained. "But even then, the salaries and benefits are inadequate compared to other professions."

The lack of financial support for academic research further exacerbates the challenges facing Tanzanian lecturers. Unlike their counterparts in developed countries, Tanzanian lecturers often have to cover their own research expenses, including publication costs.

"I was told that the publications lecturers submit to international journals are unpaid," the lecturer continued. "In such an environment, it's no wonder that many talented academics are drawn to other professions where their expertise is better rewarded."

The phenomenon of academics transitioning into politics or other lucrative endeavors further exacerbates the lecturer shortage. Many experienced scholars are lured away from academia by the promise of better compensation and benefits, leaving universities scrambling to fill vacancies.

"It is disheartening that these experts are involved in politics, enjoying the benefits of the nation because politics in developing countries is more lucrative than academic work," lamented the anonymous lecturer.

To address these challenges, Tanzania must prioritize the revitalization of its education sector by investing in lecturer training programs, enhancing research support, and offering competitive salaries and benefits to attract and retain qualified academics. Additionally, there is a need for greater collaboration between academia and government to ensure that educational policies align with the evolving needs of

the job market and society.

Tanzanian universities, including the esteemed University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), are grappling with a harsh reality: a decline in global recognition and competitiveness. According to the latest Webometrics rankings, which assess universities based on their web presence, academic excellence, and research impact, Tanzanian institutions are trailing behind their international counterparts. Specifically, UDSM, once hailed as a beacon of academic excellence in East Africa, has seen its continental and global rankings plummet.

In the realm of university rankings, UDSM's slide to the 37th position in Africa is alarming, especially when juxtaposed with the leading universities in neighboring countries like Kenya and Uganda. The University of Nairobi and Makerere University reign supreme in East Africa, leaving UDSM lagging. Despite its historical significance and academic pedigree, UDSM finds itself struggling to maintain its competitive edge on the global stage.

The decline in UDSM's rankings raises questions about the factors influencing the quality of education in Tanzanian universities. While UDSM boasts a rich history and diverse academic offerings across its ten faculties, including engineering, humanities, and social sciences, the university's inability to keep pace with global standards is concerning.

Additionally, the prevalence of academic dishonesty and corruption within Tanzanian universities exacerbates the challenges facing higher education in the country. From lecturers selling exam papers to students exchanging sexual favors for passing grades, the integrity of Tanzania's education system is under scrutiny.

The rot in Tanzanian universities extends beyond academic dishonesty to issues of credential fraud and qualification integrity. Dodoma University, in particular, faced allegations of hiring staff with forged degrees, casting doubt on the credibility of its academic programs.

Likewise, the quality of education in Tanzania's primary schools, the foundation of the education system, is also called into question. The emphasis on rote learning and examination performance perpetuates a culture of academic dishonesty and undermines the

development of critical thinking skills among students.

In light of these challenges, stakeholders in Tanzanian education must confront the systemic issues plaguing the sector. Addressing the root causes of academic dishonesty, credential fraud, and inadequate primary education is essential to restoring the integrity and competitiveness of Tanzanian universities.

While university rankings like Webometrics provide valuable insights into the global standing of higher education institutions, they are not without limitations. The emphasis on web presence and publication output may overlook qualitative aspects of education, such as teaching quality and student outcomes.

Moving forward, Tanzanian universities must embark on a journey of transformation, prioritizing academic integrity, innovation, and excellence. By investing in faculty development, modernizing curricula, and fostering a culture of intellectual inquiry, Tanzania can reclaim its position as a beacon of knowledge and learning in East Africa.

It's time to turn the page and write a new chapter in Tanzanian education—one defined by excellence, integrity, and a relentless commitment to empowering future generations. Let's seize this opportunity to shape a brighter future for our nation, where every student has the skills and knowledge to drive national progress and prosperity.



Prof Adolf Mkenda, Minister for Education, Science and Technology.

By Carolyn Cowan

New database unveils role of Asian hornbills as forest seed dispersers

BIOLOGISTS have long known hornbills are supreme long-distance seed dispersers. The iconic forest birds are capable of transporting tree seeds over vast distances – up to 10 kilometers, or 6 miles, for some species.

In so doing, they distribute tree populations across increasingly fragmented tropical forest landscapes. But actually observing hornbill seed dispersal behaviour in the wild is notoriously difficult.

"If you're collecting data in the field, it's very hard to observe hornbills interacting with plants, not to mention finding out where the bird flies to when it leaves the fruiting tree," Hanci Liang, a doctoral candidate at the National University of Singapore (NUS), said. While a lot is known about the eating habits of hornbills, many mysteries still remain.

To pinpoint where such observational data is needed most, Liang and her colleagues from Singapore and Malaysia have brought together all existing research data on the fruit-eating habits of Asian and New Guinean hornbill species into an open-source digital database.

Published in a new study in *Global Ecology and Conservation*, the database represents the largest continually updatable repository of hornbill frugivory and seed dispersal research in the region. The team says it hopes the resource will enable hornbill specialists and prospective students to quickly identify where information is lacking so that they can target their efforts and limited resources to fill knowledge gaps.

Understanding the dynamics of seed dispersal enables biologists to investigate the role of different types of fruit-eating animals within ecosystems. And for tropical trees, long-distance seed dispersal courtesy of hornbills is particularly beneficial.

It gives seeds distance from the parent tree, which saves it from being crowded out by its siblings or eaten by a herbivore. It also helps tree populations maintain their genetic diversity and move across fragmented landscapes to keep pace with environmental change.

"The kind of interaction data we have on what the birds are feeding on, in what season, which seeds they're dispersing, how far they're dispersing them ... comes from isolated studies," Rohit Naniwadekar, a hornbill specialist at the Nature Conservation Foundation in India, who was not involved in the study, said. "This new study has brought all this knowledge together very clearly."

To demonstrate the versatility of the database, the researchers also present an analysis of beak morphology and frugivory data sets to confirm that hornbills are capable of eating and dispersing particularly hefty seeds that far outsize the gape of other avian frugivores.

Jun Ying Lim, an assistant professor at NUS and co-author of the study, said this indicates that hornbills could be the sole dispersers of many large-seeded tree species, especially given hornbills can swallow such massive tree seeds whole without crushing, mashing or otherwise damaging them. "This new database will allow us to better triangulate which of these plant species that uniquely depend on hornbills might be under threat if we lose hornbills," Lim added.

Island mysteries remain

To collate the database, the team processed a total of 2,365 records of hornbill-plant interactions from 71 peer-reviewed sources from across the region, comprising information on 26 of the region's 32 hornbill species and more than 470 plant species.

Just three species of hornbill accounted for 44 percent of the records: great hornbills (*Buceros bicornis*), oriental pied hornbills (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) and wreathed hornbills (*Rhyticeros undulatus*). The latter were the prime seed dispersers, the study says, documented as eating and dispersing the fruits and seeds of 162 species of plant.

Plants from the fig family (Moraceae) were the most consumed, being eaten by all but one of the 26 hornbill species. However, the dietary records featured many other large-seeded plants, including Myristicaceae, a group of trees that contain nutmegs; Meliaceae, a hardwood family that includes mahogany; and Annonaceae, which yield large fruits like custard apples and soursops.

While the authors uncovered a wide array of plants in hornbill diets, they point to a lack of information about the ultimate fate of the seeds ingested by hornbills. Just 1 percent of the research records had measured the viability, or ability to germinate, of "deposited" seeds, according to the study.

Information gaps also exist in certain geographic areas. Records were only available for four of the 11 hornbill species that occur in the Philippines, many of which are not only endemic, occurring in no other country on the planet, but also restricted to just a few islands.



A male rhinoceros hornbill feeds the female some collected fruits next to the Kinabatangan River in Sabah, Malaysia, in June 2023.

The paucity of data on the island-endemic species is worrisome for Naniwadekar, who has studied Narcondam hornbills (*Rhyticeros narcondami*), a species restricted to its namesake island in the Andaman Sea. He said island ecosystems are particularly shaped by the interactions of plants and frugivores like hornbills compared to the mainland, so it's crucial to study them.

"Every island ecosystem will have its own story to tell," Naniwadekar said. "But for many island-endemic hornbill species, we still don't know how they're helping shape those island communities. And on top of that, we are losing those hornbills, so we are going to forever destroy something that is so unique and so different. If those interactions are not studied, we don't even know what we are losing."

Besides the Philippines, information was also lacking from several other countries that boast diverse assemblages of hornbills. Myanmar, for instance, is one of the most hornbill-rich countries in the world, home to 10 species of hornbill, yet the research team found no hornbill frugivory studies from the country. Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam were similarly lacking information.

The authors suggest the disparities in research effort across Asia and New Guinea could be down to differences in institutional capacity and funding. Worryingly, it could also reflect intense pressures on wild hornbill populations in these countries. "High past and ongoing hunting pressure and political turmoil, especially in Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar, may at least partly explain the lack of hornbill research in those countries," the study says.

Intense pressures

Twenty-one Asian and New Guinean hornbill species are

listed on the IUCN Red List as threatened with extinction. Deforestation and habitat degradation devastate hornbill populations, partly because all species require large, old trees with suitable nesting cavities. They're also captured from the wild for live trade and targeted by poachers for their highly sought-after head casques, a pressure that has led to the extirpation of some species, such as helmeted hornbills (*Rhinoplax vigil*), from parts of their range.

If hornbills continue their trajectory of decline, it could be disastrous for tropical forests, according to Naniwadekar. "When hornbills are lost, the nature of the forest will change over the next few decades and centuries, because those plants that hornbills are feeding on and dispersing will become filtered out," he said. There would also be knock-on effects on forest carbon storage. Studies have shown that large-seeded trees typically have a greater ability to store carbon in their slower-growing, higher-density wood. "With loss of hornbills, you will have a loss of large-seeded plants which will eventually have other cascading consequences on carbon sequestration," Naniwadekar said.

"For me, the hornbill is a true Carbon Superhero that works silently helping tropical forests to maintain their health integrity [and] to store more carbon," Yoki Hadiprakarsa, founder of the Indonesian Hornbill Conservation Society (Rangkong Indonesia), who was not involved in the new study, said. As a member of the IUCN's Hornbill Specialist Group, Yoki said hornbill research in Indonesia tends to be plagued by a lack of funding opportunities. As a result, he frequently sees promising researchers opt to work with what he calls "celebrity species," like orangutans and tigers, which are typically better funded. He added that the hornbill-plant interaction



A male oriental pied hornbill eating an Annonaceae fruit in Pulau Ubin, Singapore, in February 2024.

database is a useful resource that could help fast-track limited labour and funding toward forest conservation and hornbill research initiatives.

A boost for reforestation efforts

The new frugivory database could also prove useful for reforestation projects, many of which increasingly recognize the importance of planting figs and other food plants to attract natural seed dispersers, which in turn help to regenerate the forest further.

John Payne, executive director of the nonprofit Bringing Back Our Rare Animals (BORA) in Malaysian Borneo's Sabah state, has spent many years rewilding an oil palm landscape with orangutan food plants. "There is a need to demonstrate what plant species are the most important for hornbills and other frugivores," Payne stated, commending the "specificity, precision and quantification" of the information in the new database.

Payne, who was not involved in the new study, said clear and up-to-date information about which plants seed dispersers feed on could help reforestation initiatives to avoid wasted money and effort. A prevailing practice that concerns him, for instance, is reforestation initiatives planting common, hardy tree species that would otherwise regenerate naturally.

"Reforestation work should serve to diversify the ecosystem and to favour the natural seed dispersers," Payne said. "There are many relevant plant genera, but *Ficus* [the fig genus] is the most obvious, because there are 150 species in Borneo (for example) and they can be propagated not only by seed but also vegetatively in the nursery."

To support fig-based reforestation efforts, Payne and his colleague at BORA, Zainal Zainuddin, manage the world's largest collection of figs at the Sabah Ficus Germplasm Centre in Tabin Wildlife Reserve. They also recently compiled a habitat restoration manual focused on fruit-eating wildlife together with WWF-Malaysia.

Just the beginning

The hornbill database is just the starting point for a much larger body of work, according to Lim. He and his team at NUS are compiling similar data sets for other key frugivore vertebrates, including bats, civets, bears, elephants, tapirs and other bird groups like barbets, pigeons, bulbuls and corvids.

"My hope is that once we can put this [data] together, we can answer a lot of very interesting questions," Lim said. "Like how do all these different frugivores coexist with each other? Do they feed on different kinds of resources? And do they have unique or complementary effects on promoting biodiversity in forests?"

While hornbills are clearly crucial to the health of both existing and future forests, their appeal for lead author Liang extends beyond their ecological function. Growing up in mainland China, far from the natural range of hornbills, Liang said her fascination with the giant birds was only sparked last year when she witnessed the pairing bond between a male and female rhinoceros hornbill (*Buceros rhinoceros*) on the banks of the Kinabatangan River in Sabah.

"We heard a female rhinoceros hornbill calling from one side of the river," Liang said. "And then her boyfriend, or husband, flew from the other side of the river to her. He jumped along the branch to the female and regurgitated all the fruit he had in his crop to feed [her]. It was so amazing, you could really feel something like human emotion between them. They have this intelligence, wisdom."

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

| MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME | TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME | FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME |
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Extreme weather pummels the world

By Special Correspondent

SEVERE weather has been pummeling parts of the world with flash floods and heatwaves recorded in Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, the Americas, and several countries in Asia.

Globally, heavy rainfall events have become more frequent and intense over most land regions, according to the UN's climate body, the IPCC.

AFRICA

Heavy rains and flash floods have affected nearly 1 million people in East Africa including over 300,000 displaced, in Kenya, Somalia, Burundi, and Tanzania according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Additionally record temperatures, especially at night when it just won't cool down have hit many parts of Africa.

Niamey the capital of Niger had its hottest May night and Burkina Faso's capital has had its hottest night for any month.

In Chad, in north-central Africa,

temperatures were expected to linger above 114 degrees (45.6 Celsius) by mid-May.

AFGHANISTAN

On Saturday, flash floods from heavy seasonal rains in western Afghanistan left at least 50 people dead. Authorities have warned the death toll may rise as dozens of people remain missing.

The exceptionally heavy rains there have killed more than 300 people and destroyed thousands of houses according to the UN.

EUROPE

Moving across the Atlantic, Europe is facing its own weather crisis.

In the southwest of Germany, heavy rainfall particularly in the Saarland, led to flooding, impacting many houses and cars and warranting some evacuations in Lebach on Saturday.

The fire department prepared its boats and distributed sandbags to protect houses amid the floods. Authorities have warned the rain will continue into the night and Sunday.



Meanwhile in Russia, over 2,000 people have been evacuated from the Omsk after flooding affected over 200 homes and nearly 400 other structures, mostly used in farming, according to the Russian Emergency Ministry.

Russian state TV shared footage of one villager, Galimzhan Taushev, who lost his house to the flooding.

INDIA

While in South Asia, climate experts say extreme

heat during the pre-monsoon season is becoming more frequent. On Saturday, parts of northwest India sweltered under scorching temperatures, with the capital New Delhi under a severe weather alert as extreme temperatures strike parts of the country.

India's weather department expects heat wave conditions to persist across the north for the next few days and has put several states on high alert.

There is however some glimmer of hope.

Scientists say the powerful El Niño weather event which along with climate change has helped push global temperatures to new highs, has ended, but also warn that that the months after the end of El Niño will give a strong indication as to whether the recent high temperatures are due to accelerated climate change or not.

Mobile networks attracting more smartphone users with Ghana striving to close digital gap

ACCRA

ANITA Akpeere prepared fried rice in her kitchen in Ghana's capital as a flurry of notifications for restaurant orders lit up apps on her phone. "I don't think I could work without a phone in my line of business," she said, as requests came in for her signature dish, a traditional fermented dumpling.

Internet-enabled phones have transformed many lives, but they can play a unique role in sub-Saharan Africa, where infrastructure and public services are among the world's least developed, said Jenny Aker, a professor who studies the issue at Tufts University. At times, technology in Africa has leapfrogged gaps, including providing access to mobile money for people without bank accounts.

Despite growing mobile internet coverage on the continent of 1.3 billion people, just 25% of adults in sub-Saharan Africa have access to it, according to Claire Sibthorpe, head of digital inclusion at the UK-based mobile phone lobbying group GSMA. Expense is the main barrier.

The cheapest smartphone costs up to 95% of the monthly salary for the poorest 20% of the region's population, Sibthorpe said. Yet many are not daunted. Many are finding means to buy one.

In Ghana, a vegetable farmer in a village called Atabu in Ghana's Volta region****believes his business has the opportunity to expand now he's able to use the internet on his phone.

Cyril Fianyo is being shown how to navigate apps that interest him, including a third-party farming app called Cocoa Link that offers videos of planting techniques, weather information and details about the challenges of climate change affecting cocoa and other crops. Previously he was restricted to calls and texts. Now he's registered with a company called Uniti Networks.

Fianyo uses his identity card to register with the firm, he's put own a deposit of 340 Ghanaian Cedis (\$25) for the smartphone and will pay the remaining 910 Cedis (\$66) in install-



Anita Akpeere, who uses her mobile phone to run her business, prepares food at her restaurant in Accra, Ghana, Tuesday, April 23, 2024. While preparing the food in Ghana's capital a flurry of notifications for restaurant orders lit up apps on her phone.

ments.

Fianyo, who previously planted according to his intuition and rarely interacts with farming advisors is optimistic that the technology will help him increase his yields.

"I like searching on the phone so much," he says.

"When I got it, I saw that this phone is very smart, so I don't find it difficult to get some information that I want."

At a training session in Hohoe market Uniti Network's Rita Quansah teaches a digital literacy workshop to a small group of men and women.

"For those of us who are market women we have an app called Oze. The Oze app is going to help you record your sales and your expenses," she tells them."

Hohoe is in Ghana's volta region, where most of the population speaks Ewe.

Many of the people who benefit from Uniti Network's project lack formal education and don't speak English.

Quansah explains, "there are video tutorials as well in the app in Ewe so that those who are not able to even understand the English will be able to watch the videos in their local language."

The mobile lobby group GSMA says the mobile internet has enabled the sub-Saharan region to "leapfrog" certain infrastructure and service gaps by providing access to mobile money where formal banks have failed.

Less than 50% of the population has access to a bank account, according to the World Bank.

GSMA says mobile money contributed \$170 billion, 8.1%, to sub-Saharan Africa's GDP in 2022.

Though Uniti Networks aims to reach low income populations, the importance of mobile internet and apps to carrying out busi-

ness in Ghana stretches across the socioeconomic spectrum.

Far from Hohoe, in the bustling capital Accra, Anita Akpeere runs a busy catering business with multiple employees.

She says it would not be possible without her phone.

"I get my orders from Instagram, Tiktok, Facebook, Whatsapp, and normal text messages," she says.

As she scrolls through her Whatsapp, there are a seemingly endless amount of orders for kenkey, a traditional Ghanaian fermented dumpling.

"I don't think I can work without a phone," she says. "Because even if I'm asleep, I still get orders."

Anxious Zimbabwean migrants and smugglers keep a close watch on South Africa's elections

By Calvin Manika

A Toyota Hilux with South African plates parks on the roadside in Nkwana village in Zimbabwe's Matabeleland South province and honks its horn. An elderly woman makes her way to the car where the driver hands her parcels containing groceries, a blanket and a small envelope with an undisclosed amount of cash.

The driver, Thulani Ncube, 42, whose real name we are not using to protect his identity, is "oMalaicha", an Ndebele word for the cross-border drivers who ferry goods between South Africa and Zimbabwe. Fortnightly, he makes deliveries to villagers in the border region - most of it smuggled. Stipend

"There are goods we declare, but some we smuggle them in and out," Ncube said. "With most of our clients in low-paying jobs in South Africa and in the villages in Zimbabwe, we don't want to add extra charges included in declaration of goods, so bribes come into play at border controls."

Zimbabweans have been fleeing across the border into South Africa for decades - most as a result of political crisis, harsh economic conditions and chronic underdevelopment at home.

There are more than a million Zimbabweans living in South Africa, according to the country's census data and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which also notes that many have entered the country without proper documentation.

The situation has created business opportunities for Malaicha, who not only smuggle goods but also people wanting to enter South Africa illegally.

Ncube, who has been oMalaicha for 11 years, said he charges "one beast" - one cattle, or the equivalent cost of \$300-\$400 - per person he takes across.

But now, with South Africa's upcoming general election on May 29, a vote expected to be the most competitive one since the end of apartheid 30 years ago, Ncube is worried about what the outcome may mean for business.

What he is sure about, he said, is that even if the next government tightens South Africa's immigration policy, he will not stop his work but move it further underground.

Connected across borders

In Gohole village, 161km (100 miles) from the Beitbridge border with South Africa, village head Courage Moyo, 64, stays glued to his television these days, closely watching election debates and developments in the neighbouring country.

Despite xenophobia and flare-ups of violent attacks against foreign nationals in South Africa, Zimbabweans still flock there to give themselves and their families back home a better life.

"I have lost seven cattle paying oMalaicha to transport my children to South Africa," Moyo said. "They had no documents, I could not afford the passports for them, so they had to cross illegally."

"Every month I receive groceries and money from South Africa to sustain ourselves. I pray for them every day," he said.

Now he is worried that any unfavourable outcome in South Africa's immigration policy will affect Zimbabweans living there as well as the millions back home who depend on them for remittances and support.

Moyo is in a local WhatsApp group chat with other parents and neighbours who have children in South Africa. The 310 members, including relatives across the border, use the platform to analyse the elections.

Some of the members in South Africa are considering rethinking their immigration plans if a new party takes power, with some contemplating moving to Botswana.

But for many in Matabeleland South, the links to South Africa are the strongest. The border province even favours using the South African rand, which people prefer to the local currency or the US dollar, which is popular elsewhere in Zimbabwe.

"Our families are part of that country," Moyo said about how interconnected people are. "Nowadays elections in SA are the topical issue."

The immigration issue

In April, representatives from five of South Africa's leading political parties took part in a televised town



People smuggle goods into Zimbabwe from South Africa near the Beitbridge border post.

hall panel discussion on immigration that Moyo watched snippets of on the show Elections 360. Among the millions of immigrants in South Africa, Zimbabweans took centre stage as a case study.

Speaking on the panel, South Africa's Minister of Home Affairs Aaron Motsoaledi said the governing African National Congress (ANC) would "overhaul the whole immigration system" to deal with the issue of irregular and illegal migration.

The ANC has proposed repealing existing legislation to introduce a unified citizen, refugee and migration law.

Last month, the government also gazetted a Final White Paper on Citizenship, Immigration and Refugee Protection. Among other things, it proposes a review and possible withdrawal from some international treaties, including the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, which compelled South Africa to accommodate migrants and refugees without much restriction.

Motsoaledi said at the time that when the treaties were acceded to in the 1990s, it was done "without the government having developed a clear policy on migration, including refugee protection".

Now South Africa "does not have the resources" to meet all of the requirements of the 1951 Convention, the minister added.

On the Elections 360 panel, Motsoaledi said overhauling the immigration system would resolve job issues among locals, which Zimbabweans and other nationals have been accused of taking over, and help bring skilled labour into the country.

However, Adrian Roos, a member of the official opposition Democratic Alliance (DA), said the problem was not the laws but that they were not being implemented effectively.

Gayton Mackenzie from the right-wing Patriotic Alliance (PA) blamed Zimbabweans for taking jobs while 60 percent of young South Africans were unemployed.

"It's very hard to go to any restaurant and find a South African working there. It's very hard to go into the security industry and find a South African ... Every house has got illegal foreigners working there," he said, urging "mass deportation" of people.

Funzi Ngobeni, from the right-leaning political party ActionSA, pointed to the root of the issue, saying the ANC government was "propping up" the ZANU-PF government in Zimbabwe, which was the cause of people fleeing over the border, to begin with.

Mzwanele Manyi of the left-wing Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), meanwhile, took a more positive stance on migration, saying a government under their rule would look at Africa as a whole, beyond "the Berlin Conference borders of the imperialists" - with one passport for Africa and all Africans welcome.

"I am happy that there are diverse voices on this issue, which makes us a bit hopeful and hope for the parties with friendly immigration policies to win," Moyo told Al Jazeera about what he had heard.

ZEP permits

Not all Zimbabweans in South Africa are undocumented.

In 2009, South Africa provided special dispensation for Zimbabweans affected by the crisis next door. Over the years, that evolved into what is now called the Zimbabwe Exemption Permit (ZEP).

In 2021, the Department of Home Affairs decided to end the special dispensation, but Minister Motsoaledi has since faced a litany of liti-

gation from civil society organisations challenging the decision to terminate it by 2023. After court orders and mounting pressure, the ministry extended the permits to November 2025.

ZEP holders are allowed to work, seek employment and conduct business. But they cannot apply for permanent residence and the new permits will not be renewable. A permit holder can also not change their status in the country and must register all their children born and staying in South Africa.

Outside of the courts, the hope for the approximately 178,000 ZEP holders is in the outcome of this election.

Delight Mpala, 36, who initially crossed the border to South Africa without documents in 2012, was deported a year later. After three years at home, she obtained a passport and managed to go back. While in South Africa, she successfully got a ZEP. However, her fears remain high.

"Under the ANC government, we have managed to stay in the country. But it's a fight, not the gesture of the governing party. We believe that they are parties which if South Africans vote for, it will be better for us. But if [it] goes the other way, then we are doomed and our families back home," Mpala said.

In a recent ground up survey on immigration - that members of Moyo's community WhatsApp group in Gohole village also discussed - different political parties shared their views on the ZEP.

While the ANC did not answer the survey's questions, the opposition DA said it would allow current ZEP holders to apply for alternative visas they qualified for, including permanent residency for some, but the provisions would not immediately include the right to work.

The right-leaning Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) said it supported Motsoaledi's decision to bring the ZEP to a close. On the future of Zimbabweans in South Africa, it said: "They should ideally return to their homeland, unless they successfully apply for and obtain alternative visa categories that allow them to stay."

ActionSA expressed concern about the ex-

tension of the ZEP, saying it was essentially opposed to the permit and its extension was "a mockery of our constitutional democracy".

'Border jumpers'

While South African politicians debate immigration, Zimbabwe's government has tried to discourage emigration, by, for instance, placing prohibitive prices for the issuance of passports.

The cost of getting a passport in Zimbabwe is about \$200 - with fees paid only in USD and no provision for local currency. Meanwhile the average Zimbabwean earns between \$200 and \$250 per month, making the travel documents largely unaffordable.

Against this backdrop, irregular migration to South Africa continues.

Although Beitbridge is the only formal land border between the two countries, the border region is more than 200km (124 miles) long.

When crossing illegally, some Zimbabweans pass through the official border with the help of smugglers and bribes, while others choose the more precarious route by "border jumping" via the Limpopo River; many migrants have lost their lives this way.

In Nkwana village where Ncube works, there are five Malaicha serving the route, with more servicing other routes across the Matabeleland region.

Ncube said on average each smuggles one to two people across per month, while other migrants find their way themselves.

If, after the election, South Africa's immigration policy gets more restrictive, he will smuggle people only via the Limpopo River, he said, despite it being unsustainable and more dangerous than his current business.

"Despite xenophobic attacks and the risks of deportation, young people are eager to relocate to South Africa," he told Al Jazeera. "These are uneducated people in informal spaces who are not eligible for the ZEP and permanent residence permits."

"Many times, you see our young people roaming at no man's land near the Beitbridge border post. They want to go," said Ncube.

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

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African banks face high currency risk exposure, recent report finds

By Guardian Reporter

Seven out of ten African banks consider themselves significantly exposed to currency risk, stemming mainly from the imbalance created by securing funds in strong foreign currencies, while issuing loans in local currencies, a recent report reveals.

Around 60 percent of African banks view financial products designed to mitigate exposure to exchange rate fluctuations, such as forward contracts and currency swaps, as costly, according to a report released by the Making Finance Work for Africa Partnership (MFW4A).

The latter is an initiative launched in 2007 by the G8 to support the development of financial systems in Africa.

Titled "FX Risk in the African Banking Sector: Survey Report, the study is based on a survey conducted between July and December 2023 involving 31 banks and 5 non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) across various sub-regions of the continent (19 in West Africa, 7 in Southern Africa, 6 in East Africa, 3 in North Africa, and 1 in Central Africa).

Of these institutions, 69 percent acknowledge significant exposure to currency risk, primarily stemming from the asymmetry created by

securing funds in strong foreign currencies while issuing loans in local currencies.

These banks procure funds in US dollars and/or euros from international investors, multilateral financial institutions, or development finance institutions (DFIs), while their loans are primarily denominated in local currencies.

The majority of surveyed institutions (58 percent) extend loans denominated in both local and foreign currencies, while 36 percent lend exclusively in local currency

and 6 percent only in foreign currencies.

The latter operate in countries where the economy is heavily "dollarized," such as South Sudan and Somalia.

However, 65 percent of banks and NBFIs lending in foreign currencies report that less than 25 percent of their loan portfolios are denominated in those currencies.

On the liability side, over a third of surveyed institutions state that 50 percent or more of their funds and deposits are denominated in strong currencies, with one-fifth indicating that

between 25 and 50 percent of their holdings are in foreign currencies.

Consequently, the proportion of funds and deposits collected in strong currencies exceeds that of loans denominated in foreign currencies, resulting in a significant gap between foreign currency assets and liabilities. As a result, funds obtained in strong currencies are primarily converted into loans in local currencies.

Developed in collaboration with the Currency Exchange Fund (TCX), a fund established in 2007 by several development finance

institutions and donor countries to provide its members and their clients with hedging solutions against exchange rate risk inherent in operations in developing countries, the report indicates that using funds raised in strong currencies to issue loans in local currencies may negatively impact the solvency of African banks.

They could face repayment difficulties due to the appreciation of the strong currencies in which they have mobilized a large part of their resources, compared with local currencies.

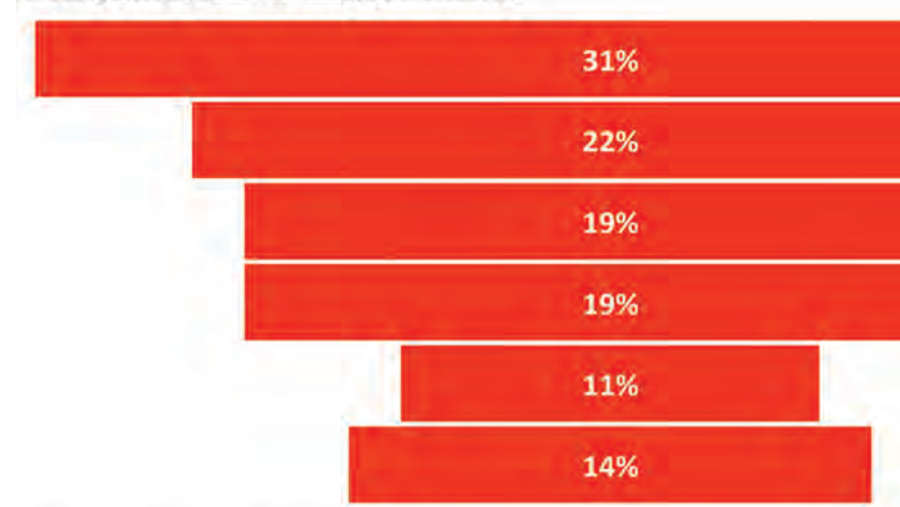
Of the 36 African financial institutions covered by the survey, 22 saw the currency of the country in which they operate depreciate against strong currencies in recent years, and 18 encountered difficulties in repaying debts denominated in foreign currencies.

The primary tools used by African banks to monitor their currency risk are tracking systems and market analysis software.

They also conduct regular evaluations and tests of their currency risk.

Only 25 percent of banks and NBFIs manage currency risk using hedging strategies, which involve using hedging instruments against the negative effects of expected currency fluctuations, including forward contracts, currency options, and currency swaps.

seeking foreign currency financing



able to select multiple answers. Combination of factors: Availability, simultaneously.



Dr Sophia Kashenge, the Agricultural seeds Agency CEO

Seeds agency surpasses 2023 production targets

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Tabora

THE Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA) has successfully managed to surpass the seeds production targets for 2022-2023 season, set by the Tanzania Food Systems Resilience Programme (TFSRP) Program.

The US\$300 million program financed by the International Development Association (IDA), is aiming at supporting the implementation of three result areas under the government's wider Agriculture Sector Development Program II (ASDP II).

During the said growing season, 2022/23, the state-owned seeds Agency planned to produce at least 6,000 tons of kernels from its all seed estates, but successfully, it raised a total of 7,600 tons.

ASA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Sophia Kashenge revealed the vital metamorphosis in the seed production sector during a brief training to capacitate the agriculture officers, and the seeds production machineries operators.

The training was held at the ASA's Kilimi-based seed farm in Nzega District of Tabora.

She said: "The Agency, through the PPP model with the private seed com-

panies, has worked tirelessly to surpass the seeds production estimations under the Tanzania Food Systems Resilience Program (TFSRP)- Program for Results (P4R)".

She said as per the program's special evaluation, the Agency has managed to surpass the set seeds production targets by at least 128 percent.

"We're really appreciating the good works and collaborations we have kept on receiving from the private companies we work with, and the smooth working system which has enabled us to achieve this milestone towards seeds production," said Dr Kashenge.

She said the set seeds producing target for 2023/2024, is to raise a total of 9000 tons, to be produced by ASA plus its private seeds companies partners.

"In the current season, we're envisioning to produce 8,500 tons of various crops, which means, in addition with the seeds to be produced by the private companies that work under ASA, we will stand a possible chance to meet the set targets," she added.

With a mandate to produce the government's seed, ASA, ranked 8th out of 167 seed companies in the country and its land resources contribute to at least 28 percent of all seeds produced in Tanzania.

Govt seeks to enhance white cement production

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has said it will direct efforts to enhance local production of white cement to reduce reliance on imports and save foreign exchange.

Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Exaud Kigaha made the commitment over the weekend in Mkuranga district, when he was launching Fortune Cement Plant, which specifically produces white cement.

He said the construction of the factory will not only create job opportunities and foreign exchange earnings through exports of produced white cement, but also stimulate the local economy.

More than half of the raw materials required for the factory's production are sourced locally.

With the exception of white clinker which is imported, the locally available raw materials include Dolomite and gypsum.

He said the construction industry will reduce the cost of importing raw materials, creating more jobs for Tanzanian youth and the government will earn foreign currency through exports.

"Let me assure you



Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Exaud Kigaha (C) cuts the ribbon to launch the Fortune Cement Plant in Mkuranga District, Coast Region, at the weekend. Photo by Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

that the government, through the Ministry of Industry and Trade, will collaborate closely with you to ensure that your products are being exported to other African countries under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

He said the government continues to encourage investment in industrial sectors by enhancing enabling infrastructure such as the Uhuru railway, the construction of a modern Standard Gauge Railway, improving efficiency in cargo handling at ports and constructing a new state-of-the-art airport in Dar es Salaam capable of accommodating airports larger aircraft.

"We are also investing to ensure reliable gas and electricity sup-

ply both in urban and rural areas and we are finalizing the construction of the Mwalimu Nyerere Hydroelectric Power project, which upon its completion, will have the capacity to generate 2,300 MW of electricity," he said.

He said the government acknowledges that the industrial sector is crucial in fostering the economic growth of the country and improving the lives of the people.

"The industrial sector serves as the catalyst for the rapid development of various nations," he said.

"The country and the region in general has been depending on the importation of white cement as the result the region spends large proportions of its budgets every year to import these products from abroad,"

he said.

Mkuranga district commissioner Khadija Nassir said the district is estimated to have 120 industries, but it still does not have enough electricity to meet the needs at the moment.

She said that the electricity demand currently reaches 60 Megawatts per day, but only an average of 50 Megawatts is available.

She advised the government through the Tanzania electric Company Tanesco to do what is possible to ensure that they get enough electricity quickly.

"If we get enough and reliable electricity we will continue to attract more investment in our district because electricity is the biggest need for industrial production," she said.

Foreigners dominate DSE activities on week's ending

By Guardian Reporter

Foreign investors dominated the equities market during the last trading session of the ended week, after changing hands Tanzania Cigarette Company (TCC) shares through block trade pre-arranged market board.

The daily market report shows during the day, foreign investors changed hands a total of 195,000 shares valued at 1.17bn/- on

the cigarette producer's counter, which was nearly half of the value of shares they have purchased since the start of the current quarter.

Local investors' participation during the day accounted for 5.06 percent of total values of shares in both buying and selling.

Last Friday's deal has also elevated the share of foreign investors' participation on DSE since the start of the current quarter to

10.53 percent of total value of shares bought at the end of the week from 5.9 percent during the start of the week.

On selling activity, the deal has also raised the share of foreign participation to 22.5 percent of total value of shares sold from 18.55 percent recorded during the start of the week.

The report shows during the reported day, a total turnover of 1.23bn/- was recorded

through the transactions of 303,564 shares traded in 174 deals.

Other top movers during the day were CRDB Bank counter, which recorded the transaction of 84,101 shares valued 40.9m/- traded at a price ranging from 480/- to 500/- per share in 102 deals, followed by Vodacom counter, which transacted 6,520 shares valued 4.8m/- traded at a price of 740/- per share in five deals.

Top mover was Mkombozi Commercial Bank (MKCB), which its share price closed at 630/- from previous 620/-.

The market report shows, since the start of the current quarter, foreign investors have bought shares valued 2.5bn/-, which is more than half of the value of shares sold during the first quarter of this year, and sold shares valued 5.3bn/-, about 20 percent of total value of shares sold in Q1, 2024.

Study shows hurdles barriers to adoption of natural gas use in vehicles

By Francis Kajubi

THE absence of supportive policies and laws on Natural Gas (NG) as an alternative fuel for vehicles is among the barriers holding back the shift from petroleum products consumption by both the government and individuals.

The Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI) study for 2023 dubbed "Compressed Natural Gas as an Alternative Vehicular Fuel in Tanzania" states that Tanzania's Natural Gas Policy 2013 does not specify Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as a vehicular fuel.

However, the Oil and Gas Revenues Management Act Chapter 328, R.E 2019 also does not specify CNG as the main vehicle fuel in Tanzania.

Moreover, the Insurance Act 2015 which applies to date recognizes petrol and diesel as only vehicle fuels in Tanzania. As a result, Natural Gas Vehicles (NGVs) are yet to be insured as petrol and diesel vehicles in case of incident occurrence.

"There is also a conflict of interest. The government greatly relies on petroleum products as one of its major sources of revenue. Oil importers, suppliers and entrepreneurs consider CNG as a threat to the oil business, which is not the case," reads the MDPI study in part.

Another barrier cited in the study is the prevailing presence of incompatible engine technologies as there are many vehicles on Tanzania's roads which were made in 2010 and above. Most of these vehicles have already been used in other countries.

The MDPI study states that technologies such as Direct Inject 4 (D4) engine and Gasoline Direct Injection (GDI) are incompatible with the sequential kit except for Variable Valve Timing Intelligence (VVTI) technology.

It further states that the old technologies hinder installation of CNG systems in gasoline vehicles, especially those man-

ufactured ten years ago.

MDPI states that there is insufficient pool of natural gas vehicles (NGVs) components and conversion centers across the country. Currently, all conversion kits are imported from Europe and far-East Asia.

It underlines that the conversion is only undertaken in Dar es Salaam with inadequate Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) pipeline infrastructure.

MDPI recommends that on the way forward, the government needs to create green policies that could benefit the local industries to manufacture or assemble natural gas vehicles, high-quality spare parts, construction of enough CNG filling stations and a well-connected natural gas distribution infrastructure.

The vehicle conversion cost to a CNG system is another highlighted obstacle in the study especially for individuals who wish to convert their vehicles.

Engineer Gerutu Bosinge, CNG Workshop Manager at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) said that policies to shift to CNG consumption needs to be put in place and promoted for the private sector to play a major role in the fuel transformation agenda.

According to him, to convert a vehicle into a CNG system one needs to pay between 1.8mn/- and 2.5mn/- depending on the engine capacity of the vehicle.

He asserted that since 2018 to date there are 4,500 vehicles that have been converted into using CNG countrywide. Of these vehicles, DIT converted 3,200 vehicles.

Bosinge explained that the vehicle converting cost is affordable due to government's interventions in waiving and deduction of levies and taxes related to conversion materials importations such as VAT and the excise duty.

If it weren't for the government's interventions, a person would have paid between 3mn/- and 4mn/- to convert one vehicle.

"Thousands of vehicles are imported on a daily basis



A vehicle using CNG

through the Dar es Salaam port. With only 4,500 vehicles that have been converted to using CNG, it means that more concerted efforts are needed through serious investments by the government and the private sector in getting all imported vehicles converted to CNG systems," said Bosinge.

According to the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) annual reports, as of December 2022, over 2,000 vehicles were offloaded on a daily basis throughout the year at the port of Dar es Salaam.

The 2022 annual report shows that 40 percent of the imported vehicles are destined in Tanzania while the remaining 60 percent are transferred to neighboring landlocked countries.

With 40 percent of vehicle imports it means that 800 vehicles were on a daily basis destined to Tanzania as of December 2022. It further translates that 292,000 vehicles were destined to Tanzania throughout the 365 days of the year 2022.

Emmanuel Gilbert, Gas Business Manager for Tanzania Petroleum Development Corpo-

ration (TPDC) said that there are only five CNG filling stations found in Dar es Salaam.

"We are lobbying for the private sector to invest in the construction of CNG filling stations countrywide. We are still negotiating with six foreign and domestic investors for them to establish CNG filling stations in the regions of Dodoma, Manyara, Morogoro, Lindi and Mtwara. All regions will be covered as investors come in," said Gilbert.

On September 12th 2021, when the then Energy Minister Dr. Medard Kalemami inaugurated the Mtwara town CNG filling station said that Dangote Cement Tanzania had imported 250 natural gas lorries for its logistics operations in the country and the region.

Dr. Kalemami said that the use of Lorries that use CNG could cut the company's operational cost by 40 percent alongside environmental conservation from carbon emissions.

Speaking of the continuous importation of used vehicles in the country particularly those utilizing petroleum products, Professor Kitila Mkumbo, Min-

ister for Planning and Investment in the President's Office when graced the partnership event between GF Automobile and Mahindra on December 5th 2023, said that in 2024 the government will review the current used vehicles importation policy in protection of the environment from carbon emissions and the interest of foreign direct investments in the mobility sector.

But, the ministry's 2024/25 budget speech tabled in April in the National Assembly does not mention the policy review in the list of policies to be reviewed. Esther Matiko, Special Seats Member of Parliament was of the view that there isn't political will by government officials in shifting to CNG consumption.

"Think of the stakeholders in the fuel business value chain who do whatever it takes to ensure that things come their way in whatever government's decision. They can't allow such shifts just like that," said Matiko.

This is the case when the Motor Vehicles (Tax on Registration and Transfer Act, 2019 allows importation of used ve-

hicles into the country particularly those manufactured from 2010 and above.

In July 2023, the National Assembly approved a restriction of imported used vehicles to not exceed the age of eight years from the date of manufacturing. The age of imported used vehicles was cut down from the previous ten years.

Setting a consumer and business fairground, the National Assembly further decided that if a vehicle is older than eight years then it will face additional excise duty upon importation.

The excise duty rate was set to be 25 percent for regular vehicles and five percent for utility vehicles.

Beyond the eight-year limit, there may also be additional fees, often referred to as dumping fees.

Finance Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba clarified that the age restriction particularly applies to standard cars and trucks, not to specialized machinery, cargo in transit, or heavy equipment such as bulldozers and agricultural machinery.

The Energy and Utilities Regulatory Authority

(EWURA) report for the year ended June 2022 states that Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) imports increased to 252,023 metric tons in 2021/22 up from 217,149 metric tons imported in 2020/21.

David Mathayo, Chairperson Energy and Minerals Committee urged the government to start converting its vehicles to using CNG and lead the way for the private sector and individuals.

Mathayo said that the committee had last November visited India and learnt that CNG consumption on government vehicles is higher compared to petroleum products.

According to him, the Committee had learned that 65 percent of Indian government vehicles use CNG while the remaining 35 percent use petroleum products and the shift is ongoing.

"The Committee has already advised the government to create supportive incentives and provide subsidies that will cut down costs for converting vehicles into using CNG which currently fetches 2mn/- per vehicle," said Mathayo.

He asserted that government entities responsible for the gas sector face a critical shortage of Tanzanian specialized gas infrastructure and technology experts.

Mathayo suggested that Tanzanian young graduates in the gas sector value chain should be given special priority to share their knowledge in the government's gas projects.

"We need to utilize to the fullest the 57 trillion cubic feet of the natural gas reserve that God has blessed our country. Tanzanians have the right to enjoy the privilege of natural resources including gas," said Mathayo.

In Africa, countries such as Nigeria, South Africa and Egypt have already aligned the use of natural gas vehicles in their energy policies.

In recent years, Kenya and Rwanda have emerged as leading countries in the East African Community (EAC) that are spearheading the shift to CNG vehicles.

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

Tabora RC warns tobacco farmers over adulteration

Tabora Regional Commissioner Paulo Chacha has said at least 30million kilogrammes out of the expected 170million kilogrammes of tobacco leaves have been sold in the country, since the commencement of tobacco procurement from the farmers two weeks ago.

The RC cautioned tobacco farmers against malpractice of adulteration of the tobacco leaves during grading, prior to taking it to the market, in order to purportedly get better prices based on mixing and nesting of tobacco and adding illusive excess weight in order to cheat the process so as to obtain good prices.

He said by doing so, they were causing losses to tobacco buying companies as well as tarnishing the image of their tobacco bales, once it is finally revealed that their consignment contained non-tobacco related materials, nesting and mixing of grades.

He gave the remarks during his official visit and subsequent inaugural of the consolidated tobacco sales market warehouses, recently built and occupied by Alliance Tobacco Tanzania Limited (AOTL) at Inala area in Tabora.

"I am informed that the farmers' malpractices include the tendency of mixing some very low-grade tobacco leaves with a little bit of high-grade tobacco leaves on top of the bales, in a wake to lure tobacco classification officers from Tanzania Tobacco Board into awarding them high grades tobacco instead," he said.

He mentioned another uncouth behavior blatantly seen in the sub sector perpetrated by some irre-



Tabora RC Paulo Chacha (C) examines tobacco leaves as he visits the centralised market place owned by Alliance One Tobacco Company in Tabora. Second right is the company's Leaf Production Director David Mayunga and the rest in the picture are farmers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

sponsible farmers, for side selling of the tobacco crop, which was meant to be sold under the production and buying contract's terms, where all matters related to inputs' loans for the season are closely monitored.

"You are all aware that the government has started working towards clearing this mess, I hope you are very aware of these stern measures,

and we will leave no stone unturned until we bring an end to this irresponsibility that is trying to downplay the sub sector economically," he said.

Tabora region heavily depends on tobacco as a major means of its economy, therefore the RC said his secretariat would always endeavor to create and maintain an enabling

environment for investors and good-mannered farmers alike.

"Most of these farmers are in the youth bracket, we will closely help them by making sure they produce the crop with minimum cost of production, while offering them readily available farm input and as well as reliable markets for their farm produce," he noted.

AOTL Leaf Production Director David Mayunga said his company had strategically supported the investment of a total of 26.8bn in the newly built warehouses.

He said the new warehouses were important in such a way that they consolidated all tobacco buying chains from farmers around the region under the one roof approach

and these central markets create a quick buying and selling environment to both parties.

"Farmers can now bring all their tobacco here, as we can easily and quickly complete the markets in a relatively shorter span of time compare to traditional markets which used to take more than six months to complete a buying season which the later used to work in detrimental of the growers in times of post-harvest losses and accrued bank interests," he said.

Mayunga mentioned challenges that farmers encountered during this year's crop season, such as presence of some sub-standard fertilizers and other input, which penetrated the market at the expense of the quality of the crop.

"We also had too much rain this year, which was frequently washing away the applied fertilizer immediately after application. In other areas the rain water wreaked havoc on tobacco curing barns as they fell down altogether, hence complicating the tobacco curing process," he explained.

AOTL Spokesperson Advocate John Magoti said, in order for them to continue to make a better living from tobacco farming and for the country to benefit economically, they should diligently observe all farming guidelines as stipulated under the Tobacco Act and its regulations without forgetting adherence on teachings on agricultural good practices provided to them by the field extension officers.

On their part, Tausi Juma, a farmer from Ibushi in Nzege district said the new markets would enable them to sell their crop in relatively shorter time, unlike in the past seasons in which almost two months were used to finish selling their crop.

Emmanuel Kadeshi, a farmer from Isikizya village in Nzege congratulated AOTL for enabling them to work with them via contract farming in which both are equally benefiting.

WORLD

WikiLeaks' Julian Assange faces US extradition judgment day

LONDON

A British court could give a final decision today on whether WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange should be extradited to the United States over the mass leak of secret US documents, the culmination of 13 years of legal battles and detentions.

Two judges at the High Court in London are set to rule on whether the court is satisfied by US assurances that Assange, 52, would not face the death penalty and could rely on the First Amendment right to free speech if he faced a

US trial for spying.

Assange's legal team say he could be on a plane across the Atlantic within 24 hours of the decision, could be released from jail, or his case could yet again be bogged down in months of legal battles.

"I have the sense that anything could happen at this stage," his wife Stella said last week. "Julian could be extradited, or he could be freed."

She said her husband hoped to be in court for the crucial hearing.

WikiLeaks released hundreds of thousands of classified US military documents on Washington's wars in Afghani-



Supporters of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange display banners at a demonstration outside the Ecuadorian Embassy in London on April 11, 2024, on the fifth anniversary of the arrest of Julian Assange by British police at the Embassy. AFP

stan and Iraq - the largest security breaches of their kind in US military history - along with swathes of diplomatic cables.

In April 2010 it published a classified video showing a 2007 US helicopter attack that killed a dozen people in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, including two Reuters news staff.

The US authorities want to put the Australian-born Assange on trial over 18 charges, nearly all under the Espionage Act, saying his actions with WikiLeaks were reckless, damaged national security, and endangered the lives of agents.

His many global supporters call the prosecution a travesty, an assault on journalism and free speech, and revenge for causing embarrassment. Calls for the case to be dropped have ranged from human rights groups and some media bodies, to Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and other political leaders.

Assange was first arrested in Britain in 2010 on a Swedish warrant over sex crime allegations that were later dropped. Since then he has been variously under house arrest, holed up in Ecuador's embassy in London for seven years, and held since 2019 in Belmarsh top security jail, latterly while he waited a ruling on his extradition.

"Every day since the seventh of December 2010 he has been in one form of detention or another," said Stella Assange, who was originally part of his legal team and married him in Belmarsh in 2022.

If the High Court rules the extradition can go ahead, Assange's legal avenues in Britain are exhausted, and his lawyers will immediately turn to the European Court of Human Rights to seek an emergency injunction blocking deportation pending a full hearing by that court into his case at a later date.

On the other hand, if the judges reject the US submissions, then he will have permission to appeal his extradition case on three grounds, and that might not be heard until next year.

It is also possible the judges could decide that Monday's hearing should consider not just whether he can appeal but also the substance of that appeal. If they find in his favor in those circumstances, he could be released.

Stella Assange said that whatever the outcome she would continue to fight for his liberty. If he is freed she plans to follow him to Australia or wherever he was safe. If he is extradited, she said all the psychiatric evidence presented at court had concluded he was at very serious risk of suicide.

"We live from day to day, from week to week, from decision to decision. This is a way that we've been living for years and years," she told Reuters.

"This is just not a way to live - it's so cruel. And I can't prepare for his extradition - how could I? But if he's extradited, then I'll do whatever I can, and our family is going to fight for him until he's free."

Agencies

JULIAN ASSANGE

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| July-Oct 2010 WikiLeaks releases around 500,000 classified US documents on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq | Nov 2010 Sweden issues European arrest warrant for Julian Assange on sexual assault charges. He denies the claims | Dec 2010 Assange turns himself in to British police and is released on bail | 2012 Assange seeks asylum in Ecuador's embassy in London to avoid extradition to Sweden |
| May 2019 Assange is jailed in Britain for 50 weeks for jumping bail. Washington charges Assange with violating the US Espionage Act | April 2019 Assange is arrested at Ecuadorian embassy after Ecuador withdraws asylum and served with a US extradition warrant | May 2017 Sweden closes assault case | 2016 WikiLeaks publishes 20,000 hacked emails from the US Democrats' presidential election campaign |
| January 4, 2021 UK magistrate court blocks Assange's extradition, saying he faces "oppressive conditions" in US jail, and is at risk of suicide | December 10 US wins appeal at UK High Court against January ruling blocking Assange's extradition | April 20, 2022 UK court issues formal order to extradite Assange to US. Decision now with interior minister although Assange may still appeal | January 24, 2022 Assange wins permission to appeal a decision to extradite him to the US, where he could face a lifetime in jail |

AFP Photo: London, April 20, 2022.

HANDS OFF ASSANGE
DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER

AUSTRALIAN FOUNDER OF WIKILEAKS

'Attempted coup' suppressed by defense forces in Kinshasa, says Congolese army

KINSHASA

AN "attempted coup" in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), was suppressed yesterday by defense and security forces, said Sylvain Ekenge, spokesperson for the Congolese army.

"The army reassures that the situation is under control and asks Kinshasa residents to freely go about their business," the spokesperson said in a brief message broadcast on public television, specifying that several perpetrators of the act were arrested.

At least three deaths were reported in incursions early yesterday by a group of attackers in neighborhoods where politicians and diplomatic missions reside in Kinshasa, according to local media.

According to witnesses, "violent gunshots" were heard around 4:30 a.m. yesterday near the residence of Vital Kamerhe, a federal legislator and a candidate for speaker of the National Assembly, the lower house of the country's bicameral parliament.

Three people, including two police officers, were killed in the clashes, local media reported, citing security sources.



The attackers also entered the Palais de la Nation, the symbolic headquarters of the DRC presidency in Kinshasa, and said via a livestream on Facebook that they were "fighting for the country."

DRC President Felix Tshisekedi (pictured) works primarily at the Cite de l'Union Africaine (City of the African Union), a government complex in the Ngaliema commune of Kinshasa. The army spokesperson did not provide details on the situation of the president or Kamerhe.

Michel Moto Muhima, Kamerhe's spokesperson, said on the social media platform X that Kamerhe and his

family were "safe and sound" and that "their security has been reinforced."

The attackers, dressed in military uniform and displaying the Zaire flag, claimed in videos circulating on social media that they wanted to "change things in the management of the republic." Zaire, officially the Republic of Zaire, was the name of the DRC from 1971 to 1997 under the regime of Mobutu Sese Seko.

In the circulating videos, a man presenting himself as the leader called himself Christian Malanga. He is a former DRC politician who formed the United Congolese Party (UCP) in 2010 and has been pleading for the return of Zaire. In 2017, Malanga created a government in exile in Brussels, Belgium, giving birth to the so-called "New Zaire."

"The Congolese and foreigners involved have been put out of action, including their leader. The security forces have the situation under control," said Ekenge without giving further details.

Agencies

Russian MFA describes Putin's China trip as defining for world's future

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin's recent visit to China is set to determine the future of the world, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

The trip laid the groundwork for many years to come, she said on TVC television.

"These are momentous steps that will determine the future not only of our region, but also of the entire planet," the diplomat said.

Zakharova (pictured) also said relations between Russia and China is seen by the world-majority countries as an alternative.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said earlier on Saturday that Putin's visit to China reaffirmed that relations of comprehensive partnership between the countries surpass in their quality the traditional alliances of the past era and continue to play a key role in maintaining international security and balanced world development.

Agencies



WFP seeks 523 million USD to scale up humanitarian response in East Africa

NAIROBI

THE UN World Food Program (WFP) said Friday it requires 523 million U.S. dollars for its humanitarian response in East Africa.

WFP said the money will be used for relief, nutrition support for vulnerable local people and service provision in Burundi, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda to cover the needs from May to October, including for flood response.

It said people whose lives and livelihoods have been severely affected by the devastating flooding sweeping across the region require immediate assistance to meet basic needs.

"Food security and nutrition needs will continue to be elevated as families and communities rebuild their livelihoods," WFP said in its Floods Update released in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

According to the UN agency, about 774,278 people have been affected by heavy

rains and flash floods in the region since March.

More than 350,155 people have been displaced across the five countries. WFP said it is responding across the region, meeting humanitarian needs stemming from the heavy rains and flooding by providing food and nutrition assistance to over 207,794 flood-affected people.

"The scale of the crisis surpasses the current response capacity, underscoring the urgent need for additional support for WFP to effectively reach the flood-affected people with life-saving food and nutrition assistance," WFP said.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Applications Center (IC-PAC) has predicted wetter than usual conditions over most parts of the northern sectors of the East African region, including much of Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Uganda, and western and coastal Kenya. **Xinhua**

Rwanda's Kagame announces candidacy for upcoming presidential election

KIGALI

RWANDAN President Paul Kagame on Friday officially declared his candidacy for the presidential election scheduled for July 15.

Kagame, who has served as president since 2000, was nominated as the candidate of the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF-Inkotanyi) following the party's endorsement at its congress in March.

The upcoming election will feature both presidential and parliamentary seats. According to the electoral calendar, candidates have until May 30 to submit their applications.

According to the National Electoral Commission, about 9.5 million Rwandans are eligible to vote in this year's elections. **Xinhua**



Aerospace technologies widely applied in China to improve people's livelihood

AEROSPACE technologies serve as a mirror of a country's sci-tech capabilities and overall national strength, while also propelling the development of related high-tech industries.

Today, China's aerospace industry has become a new driver for economic and social development, with the technological achievements being rapidly applied for the public good.

One afternoon, Guo Yufei, a researcher with the Intelligence Technology Academy of China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation (CASIC), was testing a camera developed by his team.

"Traditional cameras are limited by exposure synchronization technology, often resulting in unclear imaging when capturing scenes with varying levels of brightness," Guo said.

As he pointed the camera towards the sun outside the window, a display next to him immediately showed a clear and sharp image.

Equipped with a neuro-morphic sensor, the camera could capture images with "asynchronous" exposure just like human eyes to precisely render scenes with significant variations in brightness.

Guo told People's Daily that this technology was initially

employed in space observation and other aerospace fields, but it is now finding applications in everyday scenarios such as smartphone photography and smart driving.

In recent years, over 4,000 items of achievements obtained through China's space program have been used in such industries as biology, medicine, agriculture, and natural resources in Beijing, bringing aerospace technologies closer to the daily lives of the people.

A vehicle-road-cloud collaborative automated driving system, developed by the Intelligence Technology

Academy of CASIC through long-term research, is now operational in the Wuhu Comprehensive Bonded Zone, east China's Anhui province. It connects all the self-driving shuttle buses that run along the 7.2-km-long loop road, providing commuting services for more than 100 employees of the bonded zone.

"It used to take about 25 minutes to walk from the subway station to the office building, but with the unmanned shuttle buses, the commuting time is reduced to just eight minutes," said Jiang Fan, a researcher with the Intelligence Technology Academy of CASIC.

"Apart from high precision, the smart driving system is also safe, efficient, and operates around the clock," Jiang added. In Gangwan village, Huangpi district of Wuhan, central China's Hubei province, driverless rotary tillers were working in the paddy fields of Yongwang agricultural cooperative, neatly turning over the soil ridges.

Tao Zhe, an operator of intelligent farm machinery, was controlling these driverless rotary tillers using a phone app enabled by the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS). According to Tao, these tillers were all equipped with the BDS, ensuring precise opera-

tion along the routes.

The BDS technology has made work easier for Yongwang agricultural cooperative, from planting to management, and to harvesting.

"We have installed sensors in different parts of the paddy fields and use 5G, BDS, Internet of Things, and cloud computing to monitor real-time data on pH, temperature, wind speed, and other factors for each plot," said Hu Dan, head of the cooperative.

Compared to traditional production methods, the digital agricultural production model enabled by technologies such as the BDS can save more than 90 percent of

manual labor in farm management, Hu explained.

In recent years, Hubei province has been accelerating the adoption of the BDS technology in the agricultural sector. As of now, more than 40,000 sets of BDS-enabled agricultural machinery terminals have been installed in the province, covering a total operating area of 112 million mu (approximately 747 million hectares).

Apart from agriculture, Hubei province has extensively applied the BDS technology in electricity, water conservancy, and transportation sectors.

People's Daily

Tariff stunt undermines US economic security rather than enhancing it

BEIJING

WITH a claimed purpose of enhancing America's economic future and national security, Washington has launched a fresh round of tariff war against Chinese products, which industry insiders and experts say will actually cripple US economic resilience and could even put American lives at risk.

Once on shore, pray no more

Of more than a dozen categories of newly-targeted Chinese goods with an aggregate value of \$18 billion, medical supplies once badly needed in the US battle against COVID-19 stand out, as they face unreasonably high tariff adjustments this year despite a significant decline in their sales to the world's largest economy.

"This round of US tariff hikes was retaliatory and doesn't make sense," Wang Jie, head of a leading medical supplies manufacturer in central China's Hubei province, told Xinhua.

China has been the largest supplier of epidemic prevention products to the United States. From January to October 2020, the latter imported \$11.1 billion of epidemic prevention materials from China, accounting for 67 percent of its total imports of such goods.

Among them, face mask imports from China hit \$6.3 billion, accounting for 85 percent of its total imports of face masks, according to the Office of Textiles and Apparel of the US Department of Commerce.

If the new additional tariff rate, a jump from 0-7.5 percent to 25 percent for face masks, was imposed at that time, Americans had to foot an extra bill of at least \$1.1 billion on their personal protective equipment expenditure.

In April 2020, at the peak of the global battle against COVID-19, the US government banned exports of respirators, masks and gloves, all deemed as "scarce and threatened materials." Export detentions at airports and customs were frequently reported, drawing outcries from other countries.

Wang recalled her company, specialized in producing personal protective equipment, including masks, protective suits, and medical caps, had worked overtime to meet surging demand of masks for the United



Visitors watch the demonstration of a battery swap station of Chinese brand NIO at the 2024 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition in Beijing, China, April 30, 2024. XINHUA

States during COVID-19.

Dangerous tariff stunt

To the affected Chinese mask manufacturers, the tariff move has shown a willful America dropping its benefactors as soon as their help is not required.

"Some US politicians and businesses believe China profited significantly from mask sales during the pandemic, turning a blind eye to the increased costs due to emergency response measures during that time," Wang explained.

As the pandemic has gradually waned since 2021, the company saw a sharp decline in overseas orders. Currently, masks account for less than 10 percent of the company's exports to the United States.

"The impact of higher tariff rates on our goods is minimal," Wang said. "Ultimately, the raised tariffs will not be paid by China, but by

US importers and consumers."

Observers said that the US move had been driven by politicians' fear of the country's excess dependence on the Chinese industry, as US-based medical mask and glove makers have largely flamed out after surging during COVID-19.

It was reported that the Federal Government had funneled \$1.2 billion to help boost domestic production of key medical supplies like masks and gloves. But domestic customers willing to pay the price of made-in-the-US alternatives have been hard to find.

US mask makers have been lobbying for federal support to tackle with the huge inventories they can't sell. The Biden Administration claimed its actions are "carefully targeted at strategic sectors" and will "protect American workers and businesses."

Ironically, some major US clients of Wang's

company have already protested to the US government, as using tariff barriers to shore up domestic manufacturing has proven to be an unwise move.

It is more of a political stunt failing to address any real challenge smothering the industrial growth on US turf. Serious considerations are needed to clear deep-rooted obstacles, from the persistent demand deficiency, high costs, modest profits to the absence of long-term plans on coping with the need of strategic stockpiles for public health emergencies.

Putting up tariff barriers and scapegoating China will do no good to the United States, as such moves could translate into a self-inflicted cutoff of Chinese supplies in any future crisis, observers said.

If mutual trust in trade and economic cooperation is damaged, how can Washington expect China to give a helping hand again in case of an epidemic resurgence, they questioned.

Setback in green transition

Another hole in the US tariff politics relates to its unwise stance concerning the EV sector which is dampening its green transition.

Bill Russo, founder & CEO of Automobility Limited, a Shanghai-based strategy and investment advisory firm, said tariff walls do nothing to improve the competitiveness of US domestic carmakers. Worse, it creates a

security blanket and extends the life of their gas powered vehicles.

As a result, US domestically produced goods may struggle to compete in international markets, ultimately jeopardizing the longevity of these businesses in a fiercely competitive landscape, Russo added.

"Despite all these losses, the US continues to expand the policies that created them," Josef Gregory Mahoney, a professor from East China Normal University, told Xinhua.

Their objective is to increase economic pressure on China to induce popular discontent, frustrate China's structural reforms, push China into a middle income trap, and derail China's increasingly vanguard positions in tech and green innovation, said Mahoney.

He doesn't think the US tariff policy will help the country develop new manufacturing capacities, because "what helped China's EV industry was making it internationally open and competitive."

The reality is that the new tariffs are the latest in a succession of anti-trade initiatives, which, taken together, are pushing the United States even further to the outside of norms of free-trade-based protocols, said Ker Gibbs, who led AmCham Shanghai during three US administrations and who is now executive-in-residence at the University of San Francisco.

Xinhua

In Canada, bodies go unclaimed as costs put funerals out of reach

TORONTO

SOME Canadian provinces have logged a jump in unclaimed dead bodies in recent years, with next of kin citing funeral costs as a growing reason for not collecting loved ones' remains.

The phenomenon has prompted at least one province to build a new storage facility. Demand for memorial fundraisers has surged. The overall cost of a funeral in Canada at the top end has increased to about \$8,800 from about \$6,000 in 1998, according to industry trade group estimates.

In Ontario, Canada's most populous province, the number of unclaimed dead bodies rose to 1,183 in 2023 from 242 in 2013, said Dirk Huyer, the province's chief coroner.

In most of those cases, next of kin were identified but unable to claim the body for a variety of reasons, the most common being money. Finances went from being the reason for 20 percent of the total unclaimed bodies in 2022 to 24 percent in 2023.

"It's distressing because it's a person who has passed and there's



Mount Pleasant Funeral Center, Toronto, May 15, 2024. REUTERS

nobody - family, friends, or others - that are in a position to be able to provide instructions or plans for that person after their death," Huyer said.

Officially, in Ontario, a body is deemed unclaimed after 24 hours. But the coroner's office staff may spend weeks trying to locate next of kin, he said. If the relatives confirm they are unable to claim a body, the local municipality works with a funeral home to provide a simple burial.

In the meantime the body is kept in a morgue or temperature-controlled storage facility.

"There's always been families that are in need of additional assistance. (But) I've never seen the number of unclaimed remains that currently exist," said Allan

Cole, owner of the Toronto-based funeral home MacKinnon and Bowes.

In Quebec, the number of unclaimed bodies grew to 183 in 2023 from 66 in 2013. In Alberta, the number of bodies for whom no next of kin could be located to claim them rose to 200 in 2023 from 80 in 2016.

Historically, the Health Sciences Centre in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador did not encounter enough unclaimed remains to warrant long-term storage, a spokesperson for Newfoundland Health Services told Reuters.

Now, in the wake of an uproar over unclaimed bodies kept in freezers outside the hospital, the province is constructing a perma-

nent storage unit to hold remains.

"People weren't claiming bodies because they realized they couldn't afford to bury them," said Jim Dinn, leader of the province's opposition New Democratic Party. "It's not about building a bigger storage unit: It's about addressing the underlying cause causing the accumulation of bodies and removing the barriers so people can have a dignified burial."

Location matters: An adult single grave with the Mount Pleasant Group on average costs \$2,800, but the price in midtown Toronto was \$34,000 as of April 1, according to the website of the cemetery, funeral and cremation provider across the Greater Toronto Area. The price excludes opening and closing of the grave, funeral, tombstone, taxes and other items.

A funeral can cost C\$2,000 to C\$12,000, said Funeral Services Association of Canada President Jeff Weafer, up from about C\$1,800 to C\$8,000 in 1998.

The number of memorial fundraisers on crowdfunding site GoFundMe has ballooned to 10,257 in 2023 from 36 in 2013, a spokesperson for the site said.

Government support for funerals has failed to keep pace with rising funeral costs, advocates have said. The federal government announced a C\$2,500 top-up to the C\$2,500 death benefit in the Canada Pension Plan in the April budget.

"Losing your life partner or spouse is devastating for a senior. It can also be an immense financial burden after a lifetime of hard work," Katherine Cuplinskas, press secretary for Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, wrote in an email.

"That is why we are strengthening the Canada Pension Plan to provide a top-up to the death benefit."

"That is not enough, Weafer said. "This is not a respectful end for Canadians," he said. "The reason deceased individuals are going unclaimed by their families is about affordability."

Agencies

FAO highlights potential of AI, digital revolution to transform world's agrifood systems

ROME

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence and the ongoing digital revolution will inevitably transform the world and its agrifood systems, making it all the more urgent that the transformations they drive benefit everyone and contribute to solving global challenges, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), QU Dongyu, said Friday at the Business Federations of the G7 (B7) meeting in Rome.

Artificial Intelligence is not just a technological shift but is driving a fundamental economic and social transformation at the broadest level, Qu said, noting that FAO recognises its power to bring potential benefits to a wide range of populations and to contribute to improved efficiency and sustainability.

He noted that "Digital agriculture can revolutionise how we produce, distribute and consume food," he said, highlighting that potential benefits for farmers and stakeholders across agrifood systems include improved pricing data, minimizing food loss and waste, enhancing food safety and stimulating adoption of better seeds, fertilizer and sustainable practices.

The event took place at the Rome headquarters of Italy's main business association, Confindustria. The B7 comprises the main business and industrial federations of the G7 members and the European Union. Once a year, the B7 presents its recommendations

on selected priority topics to the G7 presidency, which this year is held by Italy. The event was also attended by Italy's deputy Prime Minister, Antonio Tajani, and a wide array of chief executive officers from international private companies.

The FAO Director-General spoke at a session focused on charting new courses for cross-border global cooperation, joined by Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

To broaden the positive impact of such enabling innovations, FAO is working closely with all partners, including governments, academia, the private sector, civil society and international organizations, advocating for a robust approach with targeted, coherent and comprehensive strategies and actions implemented in synergy and in compliance with ethical principles.

Another absolutely critical area for collaboration and harmonisation of approaches is in the energy sector. Decarbonisation by 2050 is "simply not possible" without addressing energy consumption across agrifood systems, the Director-General said.

Qu also urged private-sector actors to increase their ambition for climate action and to show more accountability towards their supply chains and the communities in the countries from which they source, buy and sell their products.

ANI

China's large-scale AI models boost industrial development

THE industrial application of China's large-scale artificial intelligence (AI) models has seen rapid development in recent years.

For instance, Chinese tech-firm Shengshu Technology and Tsinghua University recently unveiled their self-developed text-to-video AI model Vidu, which can generate a 16-second 1080p video clip with one click.

At the 2024 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition, Chinese carmakers launched multiple new models integrated with AI systems, enhancing driving experience with multisensory interactions and autonomous driving capabilities.

Humanoid robots integrated with large-scale AI models for task scheduling and application development have quickly learned how to fold clothes and sort items.

According to incomplete statistics, China has developed over 200 large-scale AI models, spanning across different sectors with expanding application scenarios.

As indicated by the latest data released by the Cyberspace Administration of China, China had validated 117 generative AI services as of March this year.

China's large-scale AI models have entered a period

of rapid development, making significant advancements in technology branches such as natural language processing, machine vision, and multimodal capabilities.

With the joint efforts of enterprises, universities and research institutions, China has developed systematic R&D capabilities that encompass theoretical methods and software and hardware technologies. A number of influential large-scale AI model applications have emerged in China, establishing a technology cluster that remains at the cutting edge of innovation worldwide.

The industrial application of large-scale AI models in China follows two major paths. The first is to develop cross-sector general-purpose AI capability platforms, known as general large-scale models. These models are being adopted in a wide range of areas, from office settings and daily scenarios to healthcare, industry, and education.

The second focuses on industry-specific large-scale AI models in vertical sectors such as biopharmaceuticals, remote sensing, and meteorology. These models can leverage their expertise to provide high-quality and specialized solutions for specific business

scenarios. Liu Shijin, former deputy director of the Development Research Center of China's State Council, believes that the application of new technologies in China's huge market brings more development opportunities for digital economy. According to Liu, an increasing number of market players are driving innovation by competing in the market, which in turn provide more application scenarios for technology and engineering.

Large-scale AI models are primarily classified into cloud-side models and edge-side models, based on how they are deployed. Unlike cloud-side models that primarily cater to industrial applications, edge-side models mainly serve individual users. Since this year, Chinese manufacturers have been rolling out consumer electronics and smart terminal products equipped with large-scale AI models.

Early this year, Chinese mobile phone manufacturer Honor launched a new generation of all-scenario operating system, featuring a large-scale intelligent question-answering model that sees 15 million monthly uses and peaks at 850,000 daily.

With the ability to automatically summarize key points from phone conversations and engage in natu-

ral dialogue to create content for video production, this model is set to elevate smartphone capabilities to a new height and drive growth in the smartphone market.

As a new generation of intelligent terminals, large-scale AI models are massively employed on intelligent connected vehicles. In addition to enabling more natural interactions with passengers in smart cabins and recognizing people and objects inside and outside vehicles more accurately, the models can also enhance the efficiency and safety of autonomous driving systems.

Industrial application has become one of the important advantages and a key driver of China's AI industry, featuring cutting-edge mobile applications, abundant data resources, diverse application scenarios, and a complete industrial chain.

An Xiaopeng, vice president of Alibaba Cloud, believes that the application of large-scale AI models in different industries can boost product competitiveness and generate new added value. Additionally, it can enhance the efficiency of enterprise innovation by improving processes and decision-making in broader and more complex scenarios. **People's Daily**

Mgunda pours praise on Simba duo after win over Dodoma Jiji

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER a 1-0 win against Dodoma Jiji at Jamhuri Stadium on Friday, Simba SC interim head coach Juma Mgunda has poured praise on his two players after their excellent performance that contributed to their second-place push.

Simba won their last away game of the NBC Premier League season through their Ivorian striker Freddy Kouablan who scored the solo goal in the ninth minute of the game.

Third-choice goalkeeper Hussein Abel made his debut for the club and produced a couple of saves that earned Simba a clean sheet.

Speaking on the duo's performance, Mgunda said he had various conversations with Kouablan in training grounds days before the game on the importance that he carries for the club with his role as the main striker.

"Freddy (Kouablan) and I had conversations heading into this game. Together with the technical bench, we told him about the merits of this game and that our win was in his hands.

"We knew we wouldn't get many chances into the game because playing away from home is always very tough. We wanted to play fast and to run in spaces so that we could reach inside their box quickly and get chances to score goals. And we managed to score one goal.

"I told the rest of the team, we need an early goal otherwise it will be very tough to score in the late stages of the game. Honestly, with the type of the pitch it was tough to

play our playing style," said Mgunda.

The gaffer also lauded Abel after making his debut in the NBC Premier League for the Msimbazi Reds after playing in the Mapinduzi Cup in January.

"Many people don't know that I promoted Abel and he is like a son to me. I gave him his first debut in the NBC Premier League when he was an under-23 goalie at Coastal Union. I know his ability. Starting him today was not a surprise because he was ready for this match.

"Having many options in goal is remarkable. The way he performed and ended with a clean sheet is a boast for him. He needs to keep on showing up in training and his chances will arrive," said Mgunda.

The former Coastal Union coach also talked about the importance of all players to be focused and ready for the upcoming fixtures to close the gap on goal difference and clinch the CAF Champions League berth.

Following the victory, Simba have accumulated 60 points from 27 matches, which is the same as Azam in terms of points and outings.

Both are competing for the second slot, which grants the privilege to represent the country in the CAF Champions League.

However, it remains a tense race between Simba and Azam, with each targeting to secure the second slot. The remaining three matches will be decisive in determining the outcome.

Simba play their last three games at home against Geita Gold, KMC and JKT Tanzania.

Mashujaa desperate for a win over Prisons to avoid relegation

By Guardian Correspondent

IN a crucial NBC Premier League encounter today, Tanzania Prisons will face off against Mashujaa, with both teams eyeing different objectives as the season draws to a close.

With Tanzania Prisons aiming to end their winless streak and Mashujaa desperate to salvage their season, this match promises to be an intriguing battle.

Hosts Tanzania Prisons have endured a torrid run of results, failing to secure a win in their last eight games since their famous 2-1 away victory against Simba in March.

They extended their unwanted winless run without scoring to three matches last week when they suffered a 1-0 home defeat against Ihefu.

Heading into the final three matches of the league campaign, Wajelajela currently occupy the sixth position in the standings, seven points ahead of Mashujaa who lie in the relegation playoff spot.

Ally Hamad's charges are five points behind fourth-placed Coastal Union. With their chances of securing a top-four finish appearing slim, they will now turn their attention to confirm their top-flight status.

A win is potentially enough for Wajelajela to rubber-stamp their spot in the top flight for the next campaign before they travel for their two end-of-the-season tough assignments to Namungo and Young Africans.

Samson Mbangula, on eight goals,

will be eager to add to his tally for the hosts as they seek to end their home campaign with a win.

On the other hand, Mashujaa find themselves in a precarious position in the standings, currently sitting in the relegation playoff spot.

However, they still have a chance to secure safety, with Singida Fountain Gate and Dodoma Jiji holding a four-point lead.

With two home games still to play, Mashujaa believe destiny is within their hands in their fight to avoid relegation in the remaining rounds of the season.

First, Mashujaa will hope to beat Prisons to move within one point of Singida Fountain Gate who are not in action as they have played one more game.

However, the Kigoma side has won just one of their last five league games, highlighting the challenges they face in their battle for survival.

To make matters worse, Mashujaa has struggled to find the back of the net in their recent away fixtures, failing to score in their last four away games.

Their away record further compounds their woes, with Mashujaa managing just one win in their last 14 away matches in the NBC Premier League.

In their most recent league outing against fellow strugglers Tabora United, Mashujaa fell to a 1-0 loss to extend their winless run on the road to four consecutive games.

Simba resumes pursuit of Togo star Marouf Tchakei

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club is renewing its efforts to acquire the services of Marouf Tchakei, a talented winger and attacking midfielder from Ihefu FC.

After a failed attempt to sign Tchakei during the January transfer window, the club is determined to bolster its squad for the upcoming competition season.

Sources within Simba indicate that the club has devised a strategic plan to enhance its team, with Tchakei identified as a key target.

The Togolese midfielder, who plays a pivotal role in attacking, is seen as a critical addition to Simba's roster.

An insider at Simba revealed the club's optimism about securing Tchakei this time around.

"We missed out on him during the last transfer window, but we are confident that we can bring him on board now. Tchakei is eager for a new challenge, although he is still under contract with Ihefu," the source said.

Negotiations, however, will be crucial. A representative from Ihefu FC confirmed that Tchakei remains bound by his current contract.

"If Simba wants him, they will need to negotiate with us," the Ihefu representative stated.



Marouf Tchakei

During the January transfer window, Simba faced obstacles in securing Tchakei's transfer, with Ihefu proving to be a tough negotiator.

"We had hoped to sign him during the January transfer window, but his club made it difficult. Tchakei was keen to join us and asked us to wait until the end of the season when he would be free.

"We are prepared to move forward, but if complications arise, we will reassess our options. He is a talented player, well-acquainted with the Tanzanian league, and we believe he can greatly contribute to our team," the insider added, choosing to remain anonymous.

Ihefu FC preemptively extended Tchakei's contract on January 24, shortly after Simba's

initial attempt to sign him fell through.

Tchakei's journey to prominence began when he joined Singida Fountain Gate at the start of the season from AS Vita Club of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

His subsequent transfer to Ihefu saw him maintaining a high level of performance, contributing significantly to his team with nine goals this season.

Simba's Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, acknowledged the ongoing rumors surrounding player registrations but emphasized that official announcements would follow the conclusion of the NBC Premier League.

"You can't always stop rumors about registrations, but we are indeed planning to sign new players. For now, it's a matter of waiting. Simba has its procedures for announcing new signings," Ahmed stated.

As the season draws to a close, the anticipation surrounding Simba's transfer activities grows.

The club's fans eagerly await official confirmation of new additions, with Tchakei being a top priority.

Simba's ambition to strengthen its squad and remain competitive in the league is evident, and the potential acquisition of Tchakei could be a significant step in achieving their goals.

Usyk beats Fury by split decision to become the first undisputed heavyweight champion in 24 years

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia

OLEKSANDR Usyk has been shorter, lighter and older than all of his opponents since he moved up to the heavyweight division.

Usyk's heart and skill are enormous, and he overcame a major size disadvantage against Tyson Fury to become the world's first undisputed heavyweight boxing champion in 24 years.

Usyk defeated Fury by split decision yesterday, knocking down his hulking opponent in the ninth round and eventually earning a narrow win on two scorecards. The 37-year-old Ukrainian is the first heavyweight to hold every major title belt since Lennox Lewis.

Usyk (22-0) added Fury's WBC title to his own WBA, IBF and WBO belts with a spectacular late-round rally in a back-and-forth matchup between two previously unbeaten champions from a strong era of heavyweight boxing. Two judges favored Usyk, 115-112 and 114-113, while the third gave it to Fury, 114-113.

"It's a great time. It's a great day," said Usyk, who is 6 inches shorter than Fury and weighed in 30 pounds lighter this week.

Usyk started quickly, but then had to survive while the confident, charismatic Fury dominated the middle rounds. Usyk surged in the final rounds, just as the Olympic gold medalist has done so many times in his career, taking control with a dominant eighth and nearly stopping Fury in the ninth.

Usyk hurt the 6-foot-9 Fury (34-1-1) with a left hand and eventually sent him sprawling into a corner in the final seconds of the



Britain's Tyson Fury, right, takes a blow from Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk during their undisputed heavyweight world championship boxing fight at the Kingdom Arena in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Sunday, May 19, 2024. AP

round, getting credit for a knockdown right before Fury was saved by the bell. Fury struggled to mount a consistent attack after nearly getting stopped, and the knockdown turned out to be the decisive factor in the decision.

"Thank you so much to my team," Usyk said while fighting back tears in the ring. "It's a big opportunity for me, for my family, for my country. Slava Ukraini!"

Fury kissed Usyk on the head after the final bell, and Usyk hugged Fury several moments after the decision was read. Fury also said he wants the rematch in October.

"I believe I won that fight," Fury said. "I believe he won a few of the rounds, but I won the majority of them, and

I believe it was one of those what-can-you-do, one of them ... decisions in boxing. We both put on a good fight, best we can do.

"You know, his country is at war, so people are siding with a country at war. But make no mistake, I won that fight, in my opinion, and I'll be back. I've got a rematch clause."

Usyk is the first undisputed heavyweight champion since Lennox Lewis held the honor for five months in 1999 and 2000. He is also now the lineal heavyweight champion by beating Fury, who beat Wladimir Klitschko to earn that distinction in 2015.

After moving up from cruiserweight, Usyk upset Anthony Joshua to win three title belts in 2021. He kept them

through a rematch and another defense while angling for the ultimate payday of a fight against Fury in Saudi Arabia.

Usyk landed 41% of his 407 punches, while Fury landed just 31.7% of his 496 punches, according to CompuBox statistics. Usyk both threw (260 to 210) and landed (122 to 95) more power punches.

Usyk has now joined the elite club of fighters who held every major world championship belt at heavyweight – and he is the first to do it in the four-belt era, which began in 2007. The list of undisputed champions includes Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Floyd Patterson, Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier and Mike Tyson.

The most recent undisputed heavyweight

champ was Lewis, who beat Evander Holyfield in late 1999 and enjoyed a five-month reign. He soon lost a title because of the territorial squabbles that have beset boxing for the past quarter-century and routinely prevented the biggest fights from happening.

Fury and Usyk both asked for this matchup, and they finally got together in the ring largely because of the involvement of Saudi Arabia, which made the financial rewards simply too great for the fighters' typically recalcitrant promoters and the sanctioning bodies to reject. Fury will reportedly make more than \$100 million for the bout.

To reach the lucrative Western pay-per-view audience, the bout didn't begin until 1:45 a.m. on Sunday morning at Kingdom Arena.

Usyk was aggressive from the opening bell, repeatedly getting inside his taller opponent's defenses to land body shots. Fury was his usual carefree self, even putting both arms on the ropes in a corner and pretending to dodge punches when Usyk advanced.

But Fury picked up his attack from the third round, working his size advantage and his typically unpredictable movement to throw right hands behind his sharp jab. Fury appeared to hurt Usyk with body shots right at the belt, and he rocked Usyk twice in the sixth with vicious uppercuts.

AP

Klopp joins social media to cement Liverpool 'love affair'

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp has joined social media to ensure his "love affair" with Liverpool does not end when he leaves the "incredible" club after Sunday's emotional farewell game against Wolves.

Klopp will bring the curtain down on his remarkable nine-year reign when the final whistle blows at Anfield.

The German established himself as a Liverpool legend by winning the team's first Premier League title for 30 years in 2020.

Klopp led the Reds to Champions League glory in 2019 and also lifted the FA Cup and the League Cup during his time at the club.

The charismatic 56-year-old has a strong bond with Liverpoolians, who embraced his passionate personality.

Keen to ensure his link with the city endures long after he leaves Merseyside, Klopp ignored his suspicion of social media by unveiling his own Instagram account on Saturday.

The account is called 'Kloppo' and labels him 'the normal one', in a reference to former Chelsea and Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho's self-styled 'special one' nickname.

Klopp's social media venture gained 376,000 followers within two hours of his debut post -- a typically emotional video address to Liverpool fans.

"Dear Liverpoolians, we're getting closer to the end. I would call it a love affair. From the first day, it was an absolutely incredible time," Klopp said.

"I've wondered always that it feels like we write a story together and that's how it feels today. It's a good book. And if we read it in the future, we will have a smile on our face.

"Leaving this incredible place is hard, but I want to stay in contact with you. And even when I'm not a social media guy, people told me social media helps with that. So, here we go. See you!"

Klopp's video featured clips including his iconic fist pumps, trophy celebrations and press conference quips.

He also wrote an open letter to the Liverpool Echo newspaper on Saturday in which he praised "the city with open arms" for taking him to their hearts.

"A place that welcomes you like a son and does not care where you come from...I could not be prouder that you allowed me to have that incredible privilege," he wrote.

"It will be really strange" -
"On and off the pitch we have created memories between us that will live with me for ever.

"But when I think of this city and its wonderful people, the biggest lesson I will take with me is that giving up is definitely not in the Scouse dictionary...I love this more than I could ever say."

As his departure fast approaches, Klopp has spent the last week saying his goodbyes to staff around Anfield and the club's training ground.

Liverpool's players gave him their own send-off at a barbecue on Thursday, while Klopp was pictured sitting on his own in Anfield's famous Kop stand as he reminisced about past triumphs and near-misses.

When Klopp made the bombshell announcement of his decision to leave in January, his side were chasing the quadruple.

Liverpool won the League Cup final against Chelsea in February, but crashed out of the FA Cup against Manchester United and the Europa League at Atalanta. AFP

'We want it over', says Mueller after Bayern hit 13-year low

BERLIN

BAYERN Munich veteran Thomas Mueller said "we just want the season to be over" after his third-placed side fell to their lowest finish in 13 years with a 4-2 loss at Hoffenheim on Saturday.

With Xabi Alonso's unbeaten Bayer Leverkusen celebrating their first-ever league title -- and on course for a possible treble -- Mueller finished the season without silverware for the first time since 2011-12.

"We are very unhappy. We just want this season to be over and to start again in the summer," Mueller told Sky after Bayern's eighth loss of the season.

"It's out of the ordinary for us to lose so many games. We'll try and put it behind us now."

Bayern, who were without the injured Harry Kane who left Germany for treatment on his back ahead of England's Euro 2024 campaign, were 2-0 up after six minutes through goals from Mathys Tel and Alphonso Davies.

Hoffenheim hit back immediately, with Maximilian Beier scoring two minutes later. Bayern were blown off the park after the break as Andrej Kramaric hit a second-half hat-trick to grab control of the match.

Mueller praised outgoing coach Thomas Tuchel, who confirmed Friday he would leave at the end of the season, saying the manager "had to clean up some mess that he did not produce under not very easy circumstances."

Tuchel himself said he "had an explanation" for Bayern's troubles, but said "it's not to share with the public." AFP

Ahly stay on track for 12th title after holding Esperance

TUNIS

AL Ahly of Egypt stayed on course for a record-extending 12th CAF Champions League title by holding hosts Esperance of Tunisia to a 0-0 draw on Saturday in the first leg of the final.

In a match dominated by defences there was only one goal attempt on target in Rades -- an 88th-minute shot by Houssein El Shahat for Ahly that was comfortably saved by Amanallah Memmiche.

A goalless stalemate was a predictable outcome as both clubs had kept 11 clean sheets in 12 qualifying, group and knockout matches en route to the title decider.

They meet again next Saturday in Cairo, where Ahly have won five and drawn six of 11 Champions League matches against Esperance.

Ahly coach Marcel Koller started with goalkeeper Mostafa Shobeir, who had not conceded in eight matches leading to the final when deputising for captain Mohamed El Shenawy.



Emam Ashour (C) of Al Ahly attacks during the CAF Champions League final first leg against Esperance in Tunisia. AFP

El Shenawy has recovered from a shoulder injury sustained during an Africa Cup of Nations group match against Cape Verde in the Ivory Coast last January and sat on the bench.

Leading Ahly scorer El Shahat was recalled after being an unused substitute in the semi-final victory in Cairo over TP

Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Esperance coach Miguel Cardoso chose a predictable line-up that included two Brazilians, two Algerians a Togolese, and outstanding 20-year-old Tunisian Memmiche.

This was the third time the north African giants had met in the final of the premier Af-

rican club competition with Ahly winning in 2012 and Esperance succeeding six years later.

The atmosphere in the Stade Hammadi Agrebi, the 60,000-capacity national stadium near Tunis, was electric with home supporters singing, chanting and waving huge flags.

The closest the home side came to scoring in the opening half was after five minutes when Brazilian Rodrigo Rodrigues headed a cross by Houssein Tka across the goal and wide.

Ahly suffered a blow soon after when veteran Ali Maaloul, one of the best overlapping full-backs in Africa, limped off injured and was replaced by Karim Fouad.

Egyptian Emam Ashour complained to the Algerian referee about rough treatment as he made runs from midfield, but his protests were brushed aside.

With half-time approaching, Esperance were awarded a free kick just outside the area and captain Ghaylene Chaalali was not far off target with his attempt.

As the second half reached the halfway stage the crowd grew louder, but there still had not been a goal attempt on target.

Both coaches made numerous changes in the closing stages, but none of the eight replacements could deliver a match-winner.

AFP

Leverkusen become first team to complete Bundesliga season unbeaten

BERLIN

BAYER Leverkusen on Saturday became the first team in Bundesliga history to go through an entire season unbeaten after a 2-1 home win against Augsburg extended their undefeated streak in all competitions to 51 games.

Crowned champions for the first time in April, goals from Victor Boniface and Robert Andrich put Leverkusen -- who play the Europa League final against Atalanta and the German Cup final this week -- on course for victory.

"Totally deserved. It was our goal after winning the title against Bremen. Very proud of the team -- very satisfied and very happy," said Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso.

"We can enjoy it just a little bit -- and recover tomorrow."

Elsewhere on the final day of the league campaign, Cologne were relegated after a 4-1 loss at Heidenheim.

Union Berlin scored in stoppage time against Freiburg to win 2-1 and beat the drop, leapfrogging Bochum who will play a two-legged relegation play-off against second-division Fortuna Dueseldorf after losing 4-1 at Werder Bremen.

Leverkusen took the lead after 12 minutes when Amine Adli forced Augsburg goalkeeper Tomas Koubek into an error, winning possession before squaring for Boniface to tap in from close range.

Midfield star Andrich doubled Leverkusen's lead, backheeling in a rebound after 27 minutes.

Augsburg teenager Mert Komor pulled one back on his first start for the visitors with a stunning strike on the 62nd-minute mark, but Leverkusen held on to win ahead of what could be an historic week.



Champions: Bayer Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso and his players celebrate with the Bundesliga trophy. Agencies

At the other end of the table, Union -- who were playing in the Champions League against the likes of Real Madrid as recently as December -- were locked 1-1 at home to Freiburg in stoppage time and headed for a relegation playoff clash with Dueseldorf.

Union had been reduced to 10 men when Michael Gspurning was red carded with four minutes remaining but won a penalty just into stoppage time.

Kevin Volland missed the spotkick but Janik Haberer was there to turn in the rebound and save Berlin.

Bochum, who looked to have secured top-division football with a 4-3 win at Union Berlin two weeks ago, will now need to beat Dueseldorf in a home and away play-off.

The loser will join relegated Cologne and Darmstadt in the second division.

- Bayern's 'series of large mistakes' -
S e r h o u
Guirassy scored a brace

as Stuttgart won 4-0 at home against Borussia Muenchengladbach, leapfrogging Bayern Munich, who lost 4-2 to a Andrej Kramaric-inspired Hoffenheim, into second spot.

Despite being without the injured Harry Kane, Bayern were 2-0 up after just six minutes thanks to goals from Mathys Tel and Alphonso Davies.

Maximilian Beier, selected as part of Germany's Euros squad on

Thursday, cut the deficit two minutes later, capitalising on an error by goalkeeper Manuel Neuer to make it 2-1.

Kramaric then scored three goals in 20 minutes to turn the match on its head.

Bayern finished outside the top two for the first time since 2010-11.

"We made a series of a large, individual mistakes and gave the game away. We brought the opponent into the game, defended absolutely

inadequately and gave up a 2-0 lead," outgoing manager Thomas Tuchel said. "This has happened to us far too often."

Borussia Dortmund veteran Marco Reus signed off in impressive style in his last home match, scoring a goal and laying on another in a 4-0 win over Darmstadt.

In Dortmund's last competitive outing before June's Champions League final with Real Madrid at Wembley,

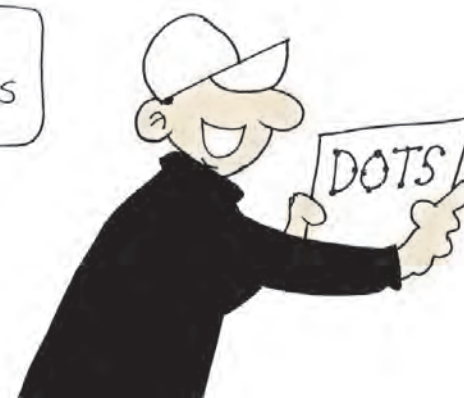
Reus set up Ian Maatzen for the opener after 30 minutes, then added one of his own from a free kick eight minutes later.

J u l i a n Brandt and Donyell Malen added second-half goals to seal the win.

Eintracht Frankfurt came from two goals down to draw 2-2 at home with RB Leipzig, while Mainz came from behind to win 3-1 at Wolfsburg. AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko

so, you have JOINED THE DOTS



SPORT

Ahly stay on track for 12th title after holding Esperance

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The late International Cricket Council (ICC) Development Manager for Africa, Patricia Kambarami. AGENCIES

TCA mourns departed ICC Regional Development Manager for Africa

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA Cricket Association (TCA) leadership has expressed its heartfelt condolences after the death of reputed International Cricket Council (ICC) Regional Development Manager for Africa, Patricia Kambarami.

Patricia, the South Africa-based Zimbabwean cricket administrator, passed away recently, leaving behind a remarkable legacy that spans decades of influential work in cricket administration on the continent.

In a statement issued by TCA in Dar es Salaam recently, the association revealed it extended its deepest condolences following Patricia's death.

The Tanzania cricket governing body pointed out that Patricia's recent visit to the country during the ICC U-19 World Cup Africa Qualifiers showcased her exceptional character.

She graciously mingled with cricket stakeholders in Tanzania, spent time on the ground, and engaged with everyone, regardless of their positions. The association stated her warmth and genuine interest uplifted spirits and inspired all.

The statement noted: "Her legacy of inclusivity and excellence will continue to guide and inspire us in our cricketing journey."

The association remarked that domestic cricket stakeholders' thoughts and prayers are with Patricia's family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time.

Patricia's journey in cricket began with her rise to Chief Operating Officer at South African cricket outfit, Titans, where she served as Chief Operating Officer.

Her tenure was marked by significant achievements, including leading the team to win the Cricket South Africa award for the best-administered union for three years in a row.

In 2015, Patricia's outstanding contributions were recognized when she won the prestigious sport Woman of the Year award, a testament to her excellence and commitment.

In 2017, Patricia took on the challenging role of ICC Regional Development Manager for Africa.

Her vision and leadership were instrumental in advancing the growth of cricket across the continent, particularly women's cricket.

She tirelessly worked towards her dream of seeing Africa achieve the target of having two million cricket participants, with a significant focus on increasing women's involvement in the sport.

Her extensive experience also includes serving as Development Manager for Africa at Cricket South Africa (CSA) and later becoming the ICC Regional Development Manager for Africa, a position she held until her untimely passing.

Patricia's efforts led to historic milestones, such as the ICC Cricket World Cup trophy tours to Rwanda and Nigeria, empowering associate member boards and promoting cricket's growth.

Under her stewardship, Rwanda emerged as a shining example of success, winning the Best Women's Initiative of the Year and Spirit of Cricket awards at the 2018 ICC Development Awards.

Across her career, she masterfully managed top-tier international sporting events, from the Champions League Twenty20 (CLT20) to the FIFA World Cup Fan Park and the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Dabo reveals how Azam exploited Coastal Union to book Federation Cup final spot

The Senegalese coach was speaking to the press after the game and was happy to disclose parts of his tactical approach as Azam won 3-0 at the CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza on Saturday.

Abdulhamis 'Sopu' Suleiman scored the first goal for Azam from the spot kick in the 42nd minute before Feisal Salum added a second in the 68th minute.

COACH Youssouph Dabo has shared the tactical secrets which helped Azam cruise to victory in the CRDB Bank Federation Cup semi-final against Coastal Union.

Sopu put the game beyond Coastal Union's reach with a third goal in the 79th minute in an overwhelming win for Dabo's men to cruise into a second consecutive final.

Dabo attributed Azam's overwhelming victory to their ability to exploit the inherent weakness in an otherwise good defensive system of Coastal Union during the game.

"This is the third time we play against Coastal Union and like I said to my players we just need to keep the ball and let them run behind the ball.

"We knew before that it is a team who have a good defensive organisation but sometimes they leave big space," Dabo said after the game.

"To find that kind of space we need a quiet build-up, to

put pressure and after that, if you succeed to enter in their block, you need to go fast. I think we succeeded.

"In the first half, it was more difficult because of the weather, it was very hot. We decided to keep the ball, to play slowly and we pushed them to run behind the ball. Physically, if you run behind the ball it is difficult.

"Before the final, we have an important game against JKT Tanzania on Thursday. We need to prepare very well for this game. With this result, it can boost our confidence. We need to continue being strong.

"As I say to my players every time, in football you win, lose or draw. When you win you can say what you want because you win. And when you lose it is not possible to talk but our process is not just one game.

"We need to continue to grow, use each game to learn. We are here to learn and we continue to learn," he said.

If Azam will take on Young Africans in the Federation Cup final next month, then it will be a repeat of last year's final in which the Chamazi side lost 1-0 at Mkwakwani Stadium.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (C) warming up with other participants of the Pugu Half Marathon held in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. The race was organized by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Relegation-favourites Mtibwa have no room for errors against Namungo

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TWO sides with contrasting NBC Premier League ambitions will face off in the afternoon, with relegation-favourites Mtibwa Sugar taking on Namungo at Manungu Complex.

The hosts look destined for the drop this season, currently languishing at the foot of the table, while the visitors are in eighth place and still in with a shot of CAF Confederation Cup qualification.

With three games left in the season and 10 points separating them from safety, it will require a miraculous turn of events for Mtibwa Sugar to find a way to avoid returning to the

championship this term.

The only glimmer of hope for Mtibwa Sugar to secure safety is through the promotion/relegation playoffs.

Realistically, they need maximum points from their final three games this term to have a shot at beating the drop through the playoffs.

The Millers have been exceptionally poor this season, managing just five wins in 27 league matches, five draws and 17 losses.

They have also conceded a whopping 46 goals to date, eight more than any other side in the league.

In a match with major ramifications for their survival, Zuberi

Katwila's side suffered a demoralising 3-1 home loss to champions-elect Young Africans last week, marking the 13th league match that the side had conceded two or more goals in a game this season.

While on paper this is probably the only game where they have the best chance of winning, it is difficult to get excited.

Losing three of their last five on home soil does not inspire much confidence in supporters, who have seen their team fire blanks in two of those games.

Meanwhile, Namungo have struggled for consistency this season but are still in the running for a top-four

spot.

However, they are only four points from safety making this game a crucial one in their fight to avoid the relegation playoffs.

Despite their inconsistency, Namungo will enter this match with confidence, as they have only lost one of their last nine matches in all competitions against this opponent (W5 D3 L1), and that was in the 2020-21 season.

When the teams met earlier this season, at Majaliwa Stadium in December, 2023, Namungo claimed a 1-0 home victory thanks to a first-half strike from Burundian centre back Derrick Mukombozi.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

IS IT DRAUGHTS OR CHECKERS?

JOIN THE DOTS!

