



**National Pg 3**  
High-tech crane to be installed at Mtwara Port



**National Pg 4**  
Govt to equip fishers with modern technologies



**National Pg 6**  
Scrap VAT on sanitary pads, girl urges govt



## TATO disowns big firms over forex transactions saga

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) yesterday distanced itself from alleged fraudulent activities by certain tour operators using the Government Payment System (GePG).  
Elirehema Maturo (pictured), the TATO executive director, said at a press conference here yesterday that the association supports the Treasury in its efforts to improve the tourism industry's operational

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## VP dissatisfied at legal forest service 'charcoal revenue'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

VICE president Dr Philip Mpango has expressed dismay at the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) empowering law as acknowledging charcoal business as a source of revenue.  
Officiating the opening of a two-day environment meeting for top officials and environmental experts to discuss the state of environment in the country, he said that the recent National Environment Report shows that Tanzania lost an additional 24,151 hectares of trees and shrubs per year in farm expansion and tree cutting.

Unregulated agricultural and pastoral activities also affect water sources in different parts of the country, causing more environmental risks, he said.

"There is clear indication that the state of environment protection in the country is not satisfying at all," he said, affirming that this needs serious efforts by all stakeholders to improve the situation.

He was disappointed by slow tree planting initiatives compared to the speed of cutting them, pointing at little public awareness and education on tree planting. Probably the models used for public education are not good enough, he said, citing other challenges such as shortage of tree nurseries to meet the demand, along with dumping sites and vehicles.

Recycling industries to absorb substantial portions of waste products were also few, he said, underlining that both farming and pastoralism were grabbing major parts of the land and interfering with water sources.

He pointed out that a total of 7 million

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# Stakeholders want judicial inquiry on murders, torture



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango congratulates pupils of Dodoma's Mnadani Primary School on their spectacular performance in the singing of an environmental conservation song at a meeting held in the city yesterday. Photo: VPO

*The Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) strongly condemned the killing of the party official, stressing that abductions and murders must end, as they are damaging the fabric of society*

By Guardian Reporter

LOCAL and foreign stakeholders including the United States Embassy in Dar es Salaam have called for an independent, transparent and prompt investigation into ongoing abductions and the murder of opposition cadre Ali Mohamed Kibao.

A statement by the embassy issued yesterday pointed at "murder and disappearances, as well as last month's detentions, beatings and other efforts to disenfranchise citizens ahead of elections," insisting that these should have no place in a democracy.

"These brutal acts undermine rights guaranteed by the Tanzanian Constitution," the brief statement intoned, whereas at Tanzania Editors' Forum (TEF), chairman Deodatus Balile appealed to President Samia Suluhu Hassan to form a judicial commission to investigate the wave of abductions and murders.

They began with individual cases and the trend has now escalated, he said, noting that at first it was children who were being abducted and now it is adults being abducted from public transport and murdered.

## Govt in spot solutions at NEC secretary rally

By Guardian Reporter, Simanjiro

TWO ministers were yesterday compelled to make promises to resolve long standing water shortage and healthcare services in the Mererani mining area in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region.

Mohammed Mchengerwa, the Re-

gional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office (PO-RALG), and Jumaa Aweso, the Water minister, were pushed to do as much after Christopher ole Sendeka, the MP, raised the matter at a rally officiated by Amos Makalla, the NEC secretary for Ideology, Publicity

and Training.

The CCM executive was on a tour to inspect implementation of the party's manifesto, assess the strength of its organs and mobilise for public participation in the upcoming local government elections.

He appealed to the Local Governments

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**We are deeply saddened by this event; it should never have happened, especially in our country where we have always prided ourselves on security and peace compared to neighbouring nations**

The Home Affairs ministry needs to review its role amidst these serious allegations and to disclose the names of those conducting the investigations, he said.

Businessman Rostam Aziz, once a departmental head at CCM headquarters, also condemned the recent surge in violence, including abductions, torture and the tragic liquidation of the opposition cadre.

Meanwhile the government pledged to conduct thorough investigation into the Ally Kibao abduction and murder, to bring all those involved to justice.

Home Affairs minister Hamad Yusuph Masauini issued this intention at Kibao's burial at Sahare, on the outskirts of Tanga city, expressing the government's acute concern over the incident.

An investigation report will also address concerns on rampant insecurity in the country, in the wake of the opposition cadre being taken off public transport by armed individuals at Kibo Complex in Tegeta, north of Dar es Salaam on the evening of September 6.

He was travelling to his home in Sahare aboard a Tashrif bus, and on Saturday morning his body was discovered at Ununio area, Kunduchi suburb in Kinondoni District. His body showed severe injuries including facial

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Chadema national Chairman Freeman Mbowe (L) lends a hand in moving the casket bearing the body of Ally Mohamed Kibao shortly before the burial of the opposition party's cadre in Tanga yesterday. Kibao was found dead at the weekend, apparently murdered, only a day after being kidnapped by people yet to be identified from the bus he was travelling in a bus heading to his home village in Tanga Region. Photo courtesy of Chadema



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## Govt in spot solutions at NEC secretary rally

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minister to facilitate the construction of a new health facility in Mererani, who told the rally that he would instruct that experts be sent to assess the situation, while the party is prepared to place 200m/- to commence the building effort.

He also pledged to visit the area as part of efforts to see that funds are allocated for the purpose this financial year, while the Water minister informed the NEC secretary that before the installation of a water pipeline the water supply agency would oversee the use of trucks to deliver water to Mererani residents.

An official of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) advised that residents in the area put up water storage tanks as a temporary measure until assured water supply infrastructure is set up.

The party executive also informed the rally that he had spoken with a representative of the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA), who promised to visit the area after their trip to find how to resolve road transport bottlenecks in the mining area.

He expressed satisfaction with progress in implementing the party election manifesto for polls 2020, insisting that the party is mindful of addressing lingering concerns and

solving existing challenges.

Makalla, formerly a regional commissioner in the region, said that the party had retained trust among the people due to effective policies, asserting that CCM is ranked as one of the strongest parties globally and one of the more entrenched in Africa.

Fakii Lulandala, the DC, was confident of the pace of implementation of the election manifesto, citing progress in electrification and infrastructure development.

The number of villages connected with electricity has increased significantly in the past few years, with substantial funds allocated for water and road projects, he said.

The MP expressed gratitude for the funding received for education sector projects and road building, citing the need to build a dispensary within the Mererani wall area.

Improvements are needed in water services and road surfacing to reduce transportation costs, he said.

James ole Milya, a member of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) pointed at challenges faced by people dependent on tanzanite mining. Diplomatic efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan had raised the country's export channels and elevated the country's global standing, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi test-runs a cargo handling and unloading facility during a tour of Mozambique's Maputo Port on Sunday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## Stakeholders want judicial inquiry on murders, torture

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wounds, reports said.

In the wake of the minister's speech at the burial ceremony, calls for his resignation have followed, with Chadema chairman Freeman Mbowe urging President Samia to set up a judicial commission to investigate ongoing incidents of abduction, torture and murder.

Masauni made an effort to assure the mourners that the government would not let the matter go unattended, underlining that the president's directives were already being worked upon, "with actions being taken against those identified."

"We are deeply saddened by this event; it should never have happened, especially in our country

where we have always prided ourselves on security and peace compared to neighbouring nations," he said, urging members of the public to come up with information about the perpetrators, thus assisting in their identification and prosecution.

The Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) strongly condemned the killing of the party official, stressing that abductions and murders must end, as they are damaging the fabric of society.

Archbishop Fredrick Shoo of the northern diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) and CCT chairman expressed deep concern over the killings.

## UN official says Sudan's war has left at least 20,000 people dead

KHARTOUM

MORE than 16 months of war in Sudan has killed more than 20,000 people, a senior United Nations official said Sunday, a grim figure amid a devastating conflict that has wrecked the northeastern African country.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general of the World Health Organization, gave the tally at a news conference in Sudan's Red Sea city of Port Sudan, which serves as the seat of the internationally recognized, military-backed government. He said the death toll could be much higher.

"Sudan is suffering through a perfect storm of crisis," Tedros said as he wrapped up his two-day visit to Sudan. "The scale of the emergency is shocking, as is the insufficient action being taken to curtail the conflict."

Sudan was plunged into chaos in April last year when simmering tensions between the military and a powerful paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces, exploded into open warfare across the country.

The conflict has turned the capital, Khartoum, and other urban areas into battlefields, wrecking civilian infrastructure and an already battered health care system. Without the basics, many hospitals and medical facilities have closed their doors.

The conflict has created the world's largest displacement crisis. More than 13 million people have been forced to flee their homes since fighting began, according to the International Organization for Migration. They include over 2.3

million who have fled to neighboring countries as refugees.

The fighting has been marked by atrocities including mass rape and ethnically motivated killings that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, according to the U.N. and international rights groups.

On Friday, UN-backed human rights investigators urged the creation of an "independent and impartial force" to protect civilians, blaming both sides for war crimes including murder, mutilation and torture.

Devastating seasonal floods in recent weeks have compounded the misery. Dozens of people have been killed and critical infrastructure has been washed away in 12 of Sudan's 18 provinces, according to local authorities.

A cholera outbreak is the latest calamity for the country. The disease has killed at least 165 and sickened about 4,200 others in recent weeks, the health ministry said in its latest update on Friday.

"We are calling on the world to wake up and help Sudan out of the nightmare it's living through," Tedros said, adding that an immediate cease-fire is urgently required. "The best medicine is peace," he added.



**The scale of the emergency is shocking, as is the insufficient action being taken to curtail the conflict**

## TATO disowns firms over forex transactions saga

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integrity and transparency.

The Treasury said late last week that transactions amounting to \$1m (2.7bn/-) were improperly transacted by tour companies, pointing at Peacock Tours and Safaris Ltd and Kilimanjaro Heroes Adventure Ltd.

He was thankful for being informed about the tour operators involved in using stolen payment cards for government payments, underscoring TATO's commitment to upholding ethical standards within the industry.

The association was also ready to cooperate with government initiatives aimed at eliminating fraudulent practices, he said, while Wilbard Chambulo, the TATO chairman also voiced his outrage.

The fraudulent activities were unpatriotic and in violation of the laws, regulations and procedures

governing the tourism sector, he stated, noting that such behaviour tarnishes the reputation of the tourism industry.

By disowning firms involved in such conduct, TATO was sending a clear message that unethical practices will not be tolerated in the lobby or in the wider tourism community, he declared.

Only two out of 323 active TATO members were implicated in the Treasury complaint, to which TATO swiftly moved to address. It contacted the firms on Thursday, September 5, asking them to visit respective NMB Bank branches to rectify the situation.

"This immediate action demonstrates TATO's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and accountability among its members," he emphasised.

The government needs to ensure

that all tourism service payments are processed through the banks and made in the name of the respective tour company, he stated, objecting to the use of third party payment cards, he said.

This would enhance transparency and accountability in tourism industry transactions and thus safeguard the industry's integrity, he said, at the climax of the body's reaction to a letter by the Treasury dated September 4, signed by Dr. Natu Mwamba, the permanent secretary.

It said that some tour operators processed over \$1m in transactions using fraudulent cards, thus barred from using the payment system (GePG), with the Treasury expressing concern that such fraudulent activities undermine efforts to promote tourism and simplify government payments.

Unchecked, such practices could damage the tourism industry's reputation and harm the country's economy, she stated, noting that the use of stolen payment cards could also lead to international financial institutions reconsidering their co-operation with Tanzanian banks.

This could potentially reduce investment flows and hinder economic growth, deter foreign banks from processing transactions here, thus impacting visa issuance and tourism sector needs, she stated.

Cautioning that tourists might opt for other destinations and deprive the country of foreign currency, Dr. Mwamba urged TATO to advise its members to cease using stolen cards and return illicitly obtained funds to NMB Bank.

This is vital to support efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to promote tourism, she added.



Mkalama District Council executive director Asia Messos (R) sensitises Kikhonda residents on the need for the public to participate fully in later this year's local government elections. She was on a routine tour of the ward yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

## VP dismayed at legal forest service 'charcoal revenue'

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tonnes of hard wastes are produced in the country every year, with 3.7m tonnes correctly disposed of, the Vice President has declared.

Shigeki Komatsubara, the UNDP resident representative applauded the government for efforts to conserve the environment and push

adaptation to climate change, assuring the government of UN support for those efforts.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the Union and Environment state minister in the Vice-President's Office (VPO) said that the meeting brings together experts from the public and private sector, non-government organizations and other stakehold-

ers.

The purpose is to increase awareness on the state of the environment and discuss what needs to be done to improve the situation, she said, listing eight topics lined up for discussion and finding a way forward.

Carbon trading is one of the issues, she said, an aspect that is

consonant with the VP's concern for deforestation and environmental pollution, insisting on the need for more efforts to reverse the trend, including carbon trading commitments.

The fight against environment pollution and degradation faces challenges like conflicting laws and lack of public awareness, he added.





Kavuu constituency legislator Geophrey Pinda (3rd-R), who doubles as Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister, holds the Uhuru Torch shortly before it began its annual cross-country race in Katavi Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

MTWARA Port is set to install a high-tech gantry crane next month to further boost operational efficiency, increase cargo volume and revenues.

Port Manager Ferdinand Nyathi announced over the weekend, during a press briefing, the port's latest progress.

Nyathi explained that the introduction of a new crane will allow the port to accommodate larger vessels, boosting its capacity to handle increased cargo volumes from the Mtwara Development Corridor.

This upgrade is part of the port's ongoing modernization, which began in 2020 following a renovation costing approximately 157bn/-.

The crane installation is a key component of a broader initiative spurred by President Samia Suluhu

## High-tech crane to be installed at Mtwara Port to boost services

Hassan's directives during her visit last September. The President mandated that all cashew exports be routed through Mtwara Port, which is a critical gateway for southern Tanzania, northern Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia.

Nyathi emphasized the port's commitment to meeting the President's directives by upgrading its infrastructure and expanding its workforce. He encouraged stakeholders to continue utilizing the port, citing its efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

"We are also organizing a stakeholders' meeting later this month to strategize on optimizing the port for future crop transportation," he

added.

Nyathi further highlighted a significant achievement this season: the port successfully handled 28 ships carrying over 200,000 tonnes of cashews, underscoring its growing role in Tanzania's export sector.

Looking ahead, the port is poised for further growth, with plans to enhance its capacity for transporting all commercial crops, particularly cashews. Planned upgrades include the installation of new equipment in the 2024/25 fiscal year, as part of the Mtwara Corridor Development Project.

In February, Nyathi announced that 157.8bn/- had been invested in constructing a new 300-metre-long

berth, capable of accommodating ships up to 230 metres long. This new berth, with a water depth of 13 metres, is designed to handle bulk carriers of up to 650,000 dead-weight tonnes (DWT) and includes a 75,807-square-metre yard for storing up to 8,600 twenty-foot containers annually.

Mtwara Port handled 1.629 million metric tonnes of cargo in the 2022/23 fiscal year, a significant increase from 106,170 metric tonnes in the 2018/19 fiscal year. The port's performance for the 2023/24 fiscal year remains strong, with 1.016 million metric tonnes processed in the first seven months alone.

## Z'bar vows to support more library services

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Second Vice President, Hemed Suleiman Abdulla has reaffirmed that the government will continue to take swift and strategic measures to foster a supportive environment for library services in the Isles.

This, according to him, meant to enhance student learning and provide quality education for residents both in Unguja and Pemba.

He made the remarks during the closing ceremony of the Book Festival and World Literacy Day, held at Sheikh Idris Abdulwakil Hall in Kikwajuni, Zanzibar.

Hemed stated that the festival plays a crucial role in promoting a reading culture, encouraging writing, and instilling a love for books within the community. He highlighted that reading opens doors to knowledge, understanding, confidence, and overall development.

The Vice President also revealed that the government is in the process of constructing a large, modern library in the Maisara area which will offer digital services to facilitate easier access to books and broaden reading opportunities for citizens. Additionally, six other libraries are being established across Unguja and Pemba.

He called on the Zanzibar Library Services Board to extend their services to technical college students, orphan care centres, and hospitalised children, ensuring they can continue their education and gain knowledge as part of their fundamental rights.

However, he urged library service providers to strengthen their services further, aiming to inspire more citizens to read and acquire skills beneficial for both personal and community advancement.

Zanzibar's Minister for Education and Vocational Training, Lela Mohamed Mussa, underscored President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi's commitment to investing in the education sector, with the goal of eradicating ignorance in Zanzibar and producing experts in

various fields for the nation's benefit.

The Director of the Zanzibar Library Services Board, Ulfat Abdulaziz Ibrahim, explained that the Book Festival aimed at encouraging the community to utilise library services and build a reading habit, which enhances societal understanding, particularly among school students.

Director Ulfat noted that the celebrations are focused on raising awareness about the importance of reading and encouraging children to develop the habit of visiting libraries to read and gain knowledge and skills for their personal development.

Following the Vice President's inspection of the exhibition booths and library activities at the event, Prisca Mdee, deputy project director (literacy) at Room to Read said that the organisation, in collaboration with the government, is working on a library project that includes establishing libraries in primary schools and creating online libraries.

She said the initiative is part of global efforts to embrace technological advancements, allowing students, parents, the community, teachers, and various educational stakeholders to access books and information through technology.

Prisca also noted that they are preparing high-quality publications, including teaching books for schools, and providing supplementary books with children's stories to encourage independent reading among young learners. "For a child to excel academically, the entire community must be involved in educational development. We are implementing this project in four regions of mainland Tanzania, having already reached more than 390 schools, trained over 700 teachers, and impacted over two million students," she said.

She added that the establishment of school libraries has contributed to reducing truancy and ensuring students receive the education they deserve. Teachers have been motivated and energised, leading to improved student performance.

### PLAN INTERNATIONAL TANZANIA



## Invitation to Tender (ITT)

**SUPPLY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR LATRINES AT BUYAGU, BUFUNDA, MRISHO, KANYALA, BULELA P/S-2 BLOCKS PER SCHOOL- 6 GIRLS AND BOYS STANCES AND ONE HAND WASH FACILITIES.**

**Tender Ref. No. PIT/GEIT/01/FY25**

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organization that advances children's rights and equality for girls. Plan has over 80 years' experience and works in more than 75 countries across the world. Working together with children, young people, our supporters and partners, we strive for a just world, tackling the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children. Plan International Tanzania (PIT) operates in 8 regions with footprints within 16 regions since 1991, currently supporting 25,000 vulnerable children and their families to access health care, quality education, safe sanitation and water, productive livelihoods and protection of their wellbeing.

Plan International Tanzania under sponsorship programme, would wish to enter into an agreement for Supply of Construction Materials for Construction of latrines at Buyagu, Bufunda, Mrisho, Kanyala, Bulela p/s-2 blocks per school- 6 girls' and boys' stances and one hand wash facilities.

Tendering will be conducted through the Local Published Tender (LPTs)

1. Plan International Tanzania invites sealed bids from eligible suppliers for Supply of Construction Materials. Interested eligible tenderers must confirm their intention to tender indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to: tenders@plan-international.org Attn: Head of Procurement and Logistics. Tender

documents in the English language will be sent to interested tenderers by email. Plan Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing, postage or delivery of the tender documents.

2. Tenderers are hereby requested to submit the tenders physically in a sealed envelope by hand to the Country Director:

**Plan International Tanzania  
Country Office  
Plot 96 Mikochei Light Industrial Area, New Bagamoyo Road - Next to TBC1&NECTA  
P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

Or

**Plan International Tanzania  
Geita Programme unit Office,  
P.O Box 448, Geita, Tanzania.**

3. The deadline for submission of the tenders is 5PM East Africa Time (EAT), on **Monday 23/09/2024**. The outer cover should be clearly marked "Tender No. PIT/GEIT/01/FY25 for Supply of Construction Materials. Not to be opened before 5PM, on **Monday, 23/09/2024**, East Africa Time. Late or Electronic bids will be rejected.

**Country Director  
Plan International Tanzania**

### TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



## TENDER No. TP/08/2024/NCB/W/028

**REPAIR OF ROAD TO TIPER JETTY AND POTHOLE ON ACCESS ROAD TO SIDO**

10 September, 2024

- Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Co Ltd (TIPER) is a bulk storage facility for Petroleum Products with its shares divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Oryx Energies SA of Switzerland. The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
- TIPER hereby invites via National Competitive Bidding (NCB) eligible to bid for the Repair of Road to TIPER Jetty and Pothole on Access Road to SIDO.
- Eligible bidders are civil contractors registered by the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) in Class V and above. Bidders MUST have at least five (5) years of experience in similar works.
- Bidders who don't meet condition stated in line 3 above are not eligible to bid for this tender.
- Interested and eligible bidders may request an electronic copy of the tender document by sending their signed and stamped application letter(s) and copies of relevant business license and contractor's CRB registration certificate through the following email: [tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz](mailto:tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz) from date **10 September, 2024 to 20 September, 2024 between 8:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M.**
- Bidders MAY visit the site before bidding. The site visit will be conducted on Friday 13 August, 2024 from 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 A.M. local time.
- During the site visit all bidders will be required to come with their own PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) which meets TIPER standards. This includes Steel Toe Safety Boots, Cotton Overcoat, and helmets. Static Reflective vests are not allowed onto site. Bidders without PPE will not be allowed onto the site.
- Bids MUST be submitted in hard copies only in envelopes sealed with postal seals or fire seals. Softcopies of bids should be submitted via a USB flash driver embedded in the hardcopies of bid submitted. No bid should be submitted by email.
- All bids submitted in plain sealed envelopes in one original plus one copy, properly filled and marked **TENDER No. TP/08/2024/NCB/W/028 FOR REPAIR OF ROAD TO TIPER JETTY AND POTHOLE ON ACCESS ROAD TO SIDO**
- All bids must be delivered physically to; The Secretary, Tender Committee, Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPER), P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam.
- The deadline for submission of Tender documents will be 4.00 P.M. local time on 23 September, 2024.
- There shall be NO public opening of bids.
- Late bids, a portion of bids, and electronic bids will not be considered for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- TIPER is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.

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



## Reserve agency to purchase 55,000 tonnes of cereals

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

THE National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) is set to purchase a total of 55,000 tonnes of cereal crops from various traders in its Dar es Salaam-based Kipawa zone during the current agricultural harvesting season.

This quantity includes 20,000 tonnes of paddy and 35,000 tonnes of maize, to be bought in two distinct phases. So far, approximately 5,000 tonnes have been procured since the start of this year's buying season.

Simon Bikaru, NFRA's Kipawa zone manager said over the weekend in Dar es Salaam that the zone aims to acquire 10,000 tonnes in the first phase, comprising 7,000 tonnes of maize and 3,000 tonnes of paddy.

"The Kipawa zone covers six regions: Tanga, Coast, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Lindi, and Mtwara. These regions are divided into two groups—those with a food surplus and those without. Tanga and Morogoro are among the surplus regions," he explained.

Bikaru added that the zone has established modern warehouses and silos at Kipawa and Chang'ombe, with a combined capacity to store up to 52,000 tonnes of cereal crops.

"We are also collaborating with the private sector to enhance our storage capacity by utilising their warehouses," he said.

The NFRA is primarily sourcing maize from farmers in Morogoro and Tanga, while paddy is being acquired from Morogoro's Mvomero and Kilombero districts.

"Special buying points for maize have been set up at Nanenane (Morogoro), Mkata in Handeni-Tanga) and Chang'ombe in Dar es Salaam. For paddy, purchasing centres are located in Chita, Mlimba, Ifakara, and Malinyi in the Kilombero district of Morogoro region," Bikaru noted.

The government has set favourable prices of 700/- per kilogramme for maize and 900/- per kilogramme for paddy, which has encouraged many dealers to sell their crops to the NFRA.

"The zone has entered into forward contracts with five major crop dealers, who are currently supplying substantial quantities of maize and paddy. We aim to establish similar contracts with additional dealers," Bikaru added.

He highlighted that NFRA has stringent standards to ensure the quality of the maize and paddy, including specifications for moisture content, foreign matter, pest damage, rot and disease, and other factors.

For example, the maximum allowable moisture content is 13.5 percent, while other defects must not exceed specified limits.

Currently, NFRA operates 72 purchasing points across eight regions: Dodoma, Dar es Salaam (Kipawa), Njombe (Makambako), Songwe, Rukwa (Sumbawanga), Arusha (Babati), Shinyanga and Songea.

The purchasing process involves buying grain in quantities of 2,000 tonnes or more from large-scale traders, as well as from cooperative societies where farmers aggregate their produce.

## Invest in cybersecurity to protect SACCOs, E. African govts advised

By Special Correspondent

EAST African governments have been called to ramp up investments in national cybersecurity strategies to safeguard savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOs) from escalating cyber threats.

Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Wycliffe Oparanya emphasized the critical role that SACCOs play in the economic stability of many African nations.

"Governments must prioritize the implementation of national cybersecurity frameworks by fostering collaboration with both local and international stakeholders," Oparanya said in a speech read on his behalf by Principal Secretary Susan Mang'eli.

Mang'eli, who spoke at a forum on SACCOs banking and cybersecurity in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, highlighted the need for increased awareness, capacity-building, and the development of early warning systems to detect and respond to cyber incidents.

She stressed the importance of creating cybersecurity policies, laws, and regulations tailored to the unique needs of SACCOs and similar financial institutions, which are particularly vulnerable due to their reliance on digital platforms.

The Kenyan official called for the establishment of public key infrastructure and intense research and development efforts in cybersecurity, aimed specifically at protecting SACCOs.

SACCOs are designed to serve people excluded from traditional banking services, including low-income earners, small-business owners, and rural communities.

These cooperatives offer financial services without requiring assets as collateral, enabling members to access credit using their deposits and the security of guarantors, Mang'eli said.

In Kenya, SACCOs contribute significantly to the economy, accounting for 30 percent of national housing savings and 40 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), according to government statistics.

The situation is similar in Tanzania, where cooperatives, including SACCOs, contribute around 40 percent to the GDP and provide employment to 94.7 percent of school-leavers annually, Mang'eli said, adding that many of these young people, especially in rural areas, depend on cooperative movements for external financing.



Industry and Trade minister Dr Selemani Jafo (L, facing camera) has a quick word with Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BREGA) board chairperson Neema Mori while on a visit to the agency's offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is BREGA chief executive officer Godfrey Nyaisa. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Govt mulls equipping Tanzanian fishers with modern technologies

By Guardian Reporter

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries Minister Abdallah Ulega has emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts to equip fishers with modern technologies, which is a crucial aspect in driving development of the fisheries sector.

Minister Ulega made the statement in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the opening of the Organisation of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS) meeting attended by fisheries experts from OACPS member countries.

He stated that as the meeting will offer stakeholders in the fisheries sector

an opportunity to exchange experiences and collectively improve their operations, it is important to think on equipping fishers with skills and modern tools.

"The government of Tanzania has made significant efforts to address the challenges faced by small-scale fishers and aquaculture farmers, including improving fishing infrastructure, enhancing technology, providing modern equipment for fishing and aquaculture activities, and creating favourable conditions for access to capital and markets," he said.

He highlighted that hosting the OACPS

meeting in Tanzania will be instrumental in developing robust strategies to enhance the fisheries sector and stimulate the national economy.

"The OACPS meeting aims to address various issues related to the welfare of marine and freshwater resources and to devise strategies to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and the wellbeing of fishers," he explained.

According to Ulega, the OACPS meeting will bring many benefits to the country, including the participating organizations exploring ways to empower small-scale fishers to improve their activities, especially in light of climate

change.

Additionally, Minister Ulega highlighted that Tanzania will continue to diligently oversee efforts to ensure the sustainable management of marine and inland water resources through various strategies, including the Comprehensive Fisheries Sector Plan, the Blue Economy Policy, and ongoing efforts to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The initiatives aim to ensure that water resources, particularly the ocean, lakes, and rivers, remain sustainable and benefit both current and future generations.



Muheza District Council director Dr Jumaa Mhina on a surprise night visit during which he had a first-hand account of the state of hygiene at vegetable and food markets in various parts of the district. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Envoy happy with crude oil pipeline project progress

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE Tanzania's High Commissioner to Uganda, Major General Paul Simuli has said that construction of the Tanzania-Uganda Crude Oil pipeline project is progressing well and remains on schedule for completion.

He made the statement yesterday at the conclusion of his inspection tour on the pipeline infrastructure, which extends from Hoima in Uganda to Chongoleani in Tanzania, with a particular focus on the Tanga Oil Terminal.

He expressed his satisfaction with the project's progress, noting positive developments in both Uganda and Tanzania.

"I have visited all areas from Kagera to Tanga and am genuinely impressed with the progress made. For instance, in Handeni at Misima, pipe-laying has already commenced. The pace of work is commendable, and I am confident that we will complete the project as planned," Ambassador Simuli said.

The envoy urged contractors working on the Tanga section of the pipeline

and those involved in the Oil Receiving Terminal at the Port of Tanga to accelerate their efforts to ensure they meet the project's deadlines.

"I encourage you to increase your efforts to match the progress observed in Handeni. It is essential that all sections advance at a similar pace to ensure timely completion. I have full confidence in your abilities, and with this momentum, we will achieve our goal on schedule," he emphasised.

Residents of Chongoleani Ward also expressed their appreciation for the

project, noting its positive impact on employment and crime reduction in the area.

Ally Mohamed, a resident and fruit vendor in Chongoleani, highlighted that the project has provided numerous job opportunities for young people in the ward.

"We are very thankful. Our youth are now employed, and those who haven't been directly hired have started businesses due to the increased operations in the area. We truly value this project," Mohamed added.





Prisca Mdee (with microphone), Deputy Director of Zanzibar's Room to Read project, briefs Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Hemed Suleiman Abdulla (in jacket), Zanzibar Urban West regional commissioner Idrisa Kitwana (to his right), and Zanzibar's Education minister, Lela Muhammed Mussa (R, in specs), at one of the booths at the Book Festival and International Literacy Day celebrations held in Zanzibar at the weekend. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

# Rights activists, health crusaders: Decriminalise attempted suicides

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

AS the world observed Suicide Prevention Day yesterday, human rights and health advocates have called for the repeal sections of the law that criminalise attempted suicide.

Activists are advocating for increased investment in psychological support and mental health services. Dr Michelle Chapa, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Michelle Chapa Foundation, emphasized that repealing laws criminalizing suicide attempts would help shift the narrative from punishment to support, reducing stigma and focusing on mental health.

Dr Chapa highlighted that many individuals who attempt suicide often suffer from mental illness and should be met with compassion rather than criminalisation. Currently, under Section 217 of the Penal Code, Chapter 16, attempting suicide is classified as a criminal offense, with penalties of up to five years in prison, as outlined in Section 35. Although Section 13 provides some protection for those impaired by mental conditions when committing crimes, the criminalisation of suicide attempts remains a pressing issue.

Speaking during an online discussion hosted by the Mirembe National Mental Health Hospital ahead of World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10, Dr Chapa explained that decriminalizing suicide attempts is a critical step toward addressing mental health, reducing stigma, and ensuring those in crisis receive the necessary support.

"Decriminalising attempted suicide is essential for addressing mental health issues, reducing stigma, and ensuring that individuals in crisis receive the help they need. This year's theme, 'Change the Narrative of Suicide,' emphasizes the importance of viewing mental distress as a societal issue, not a personal failing," Dr Chapa said.

She further noted that cultural stigma often hinders open discussions about suicide, but institutions like Mirembe National Mental Health Hospital are making progress by holding awareness conferences.

"In Tanzania, significant steps toward repealing this law have not yet been taken. We are still in discussions with legal experts, unlike in other African countries such as Nigeria, where bills have been drafted for parliamentary approval. Mobilizing stakeholders to draft and present a similar bill here would be a major step forward," Dr Chapa added.

She also pointed out that the silence surrounding suicide perpetuates recurring issues within families due to a lack of understanding and support. Addressing mental health challenges requires open dialogue and comprehensive support, including psychological, financial, and emotional assistance.

"It's easy to talk about diseases like malaria, but admitting to depression remains difficult because mental illnesses are not always visible. Often, those around individuals can recognize signs of depression. Men, in particular, face cultural pressures to appear strong, which can contribute to higher suicide rates," she said.

Lawyer Jebra Kambole echoed these sentiments, noting that cases of attempted suicide still go to court, with individuals facing penalties under outdated colonial laws that have long been repealed in the countries that introduced them.

"I remember a case this year where a relative was imprisoned for attempting suicide. This law is outdated and inherited from colonial powers, continuing to punish individuals who need help, not imprisonment," said Kambole.

He stressed the need to treat attempted suicide as a mental health issue rather than a crime, advocating for psychological care instead of punitive measures. Kambole suggested introducing a bill in parliament or through the Law Reform Commission to repeal outdated colonial-era laws.

"The government should consider introducing a bill, or allowing a private member of parliament to initiate debate on this issue. These provisions violate the right to life and human dignity," Kambole concluded.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that approximately 700,000 people die by suicide each year, with over three-quarters of these deaths occurring in developing countries. The highest rates are among

individuals aged 15 to 29, underscoring the urgent need for effective community and governmental action.

# Women are 27 times more likely to be cyber bullied, study shows

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN are 27 times more likely to be cyber bullied through digital platforms compared to men, a recent study has revealed.

Miriam Wanjiru, a representative of the Paradigm Initiative (PIN), revealed this information yesterday in Dar es Salaam during a one-day workshop on Digital Security and Data Protection. The workshop, attended by 37 young politicians and women leaders from the Tabora, Singida, and Dodoma regions, was organized by the Tanzania Media for Community Development (TAMCODE) in collaboration with Youth Environmental Justice and Gender Equality (YOGE), with support from PIN—a Lagos-based NGO.

PIN operates in several African countries, including Kenya, Cameroon, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Senegal.

Wanjiru highlighted the importance of the training, noting that politicians need to communicate with their voters through various channels, including digital platforms.

She pointed out that women are particularly vulnerable to harassment and threats via social media, emails, messaging apps, and websites.

"We have also trained women leaders and young politicians in various countries to provide them with the knowledge to use the internet safely, especially during election campaigns," Wanjiru said. "We've equipped female politicians with essential tools to enhance their digital safety and effectiveness during and after campaigns, contributing to meaningful community development."

Wanjiru acknowledged the significant discrimination women face, particularly when pursuing political positions.

Khamida Maftaa, one of the training beneficiaries, expressed her appreciation: "I've learned many valuable skills that will benefit both myself and society. I hope similar training is offered before the General Election next year." Maftaa suggested extending the training to university students, who often post unethical content on social media. "People sometimes share risky photos on platforms

like X, Instagram, and Facebook, which can be misused to damage their reputations," she said.

Silvia Mng'anya, Secretary of Chadema's women's wing in Dodoma District, noted: "I found the training very useful, especially in learning how to protect my personal information and effectively use social media to promote my work and community activities." Mng'anya committed to sharing her newfound knowledge with other politicians, particularly women, and will use social media to encourage voter registration as local government elections approach.

Rose Ngunangwa, TAMCODE Executive Director, emphasized the project's goal to raise awareness about digital security among women leaders. Since its launch in April 2024, with support from Article 19, the project has empowered 80 young politicians, women leaders, and journalists at the local government level. Additionally, 43 women leaders and young politicians from Morogoro, Dar es Salaam, and Coast regions received similar training earlier this year.



## UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2024 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Dear Shareholders,

We present the unaudited quarterly results of Tanga Cement Public Limited Company and its subsidiary for the quarter ended 30th June 2024. In overall, during the first half of the year, the industry was impacted by adverse weather condition as well as the delays from government funded infrastructure projects.

During this period, April - June 2024, Company's revenue declined by 10% compared to the same period in 2023. Operational costs declined by 24% and operating profit increased by 53% compared to April - June 2023. This achievement is attributed to several initiatives taken by the management to improve operational efficiencies and costs reduction.

Loss before tax increased from TZS 2.576 million to TZS 9.923 million mainly due to the impact from the interest expense on borrowing and foreign exchange losses due to the translation of the facility dominated in foreign currency.

Net cash flows from financing activities increased significantly due to additional short-term working capital needs, which were necessary to meet increased working capital requirements. This increase in working capital requirements coupled with decline in revenue led to a net cash outflow from operating activities.

The management is optimistic on the positive market outlook in the second half of the year. Market conditions are expected to improve and infrastructure projects to pick-up during the second half of the year.

### Appreciation

Tanga Cement is grateful to its staff and customers as it strives to achieve its growth strategy. With Tanzania's significant role in the East African construction market, cement output is expected to increase, positioning Tanga Cement to capitalize on regional market growth opportunities. We affirm our commitment to stakeholders through our high-quality cement and clinker and our contribution to Tanzania's sustainable growth.

For and on behalf of the Board.

Hakan Gurdal  
Chairman of the Board

Christian Mikli  
Board Member

Quresh Ganijee  
Company Secretary

	Group		Company	
	Jun-24 TZS '000'	Jun-23 TZS '000'	Jun-24 TZS '000'	Jun-23 TZS '000'
Revenue from contracts with customers	49,358,948	55,030,505	49,358,948	55,030,505
Cost of sales	(31,442,314)	(40,950,893)	(31,456,479)	(40,950,892)
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>17,916,634</b>	<b>14,079,612</b>	<b>17,902,469</b>	<b>14,079,613</b>
Other income	36,753	49,965	32,698	47,863
Other expenses	(138,517)	-	(138,512)	-
Selling expenses	(525,217)	(843,964)	(525,217)	(843,964)
Administration expenses	(5,948,553)	(4,214,232)	(5,920,285)	(4,389,324)
Depreciation charge	(4,974,138)	(4,852,768)	(4,961,654)	(4,870,088)
Impairment and other charges	-	10,224	-	10,224
Decrease/(increase) in expected credit losses	(243,661)	224,779	(243,661)	(26,101)
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>6,123,301</b>	<b>4,453,616</b>	<b>6,145,833</b>	<b>4,008,223</b>
Interest expense	(9,002,080)	(6,341,771)	(9,002,080)	(6,344,028)
Finance income	-	10,774	-	10,774
Foreign exchange and fair value losses	(7,066,197)	(242,244)	(7,067,267)	(251,409)
<b>Loss before tax</b>	<b>(9,944,976)</b>	<b>(2,119,625)</b>	<b>(9,923,514)</b>	<b>(2,576,440)</b>
Income tax (charge)/credit	(293,888)	(294,820)	(293,888)	(294,820)
<b>Loss for the period</b>	<b>(10,238,864)</b>	<b>(2,414,445)</b>	<b>(10,217,402)</b>	<b>(2,871,260)</b>

	Group		Company	
	Jun-24 TZS '000'	Jun-23 TZS '000'	Jun-24 TZS '000'	Jun-23 TZS '000'
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Non-current assets</b>				
Property, plant and equipment	268,460,078	281,560,529	268,457,846	280,828,827
Right-of-use assets	248,844	4,618,068	248,844	4,616,876
Investment property	987,848	503,664	-	-
Investment in subsidiary	-	-	420,995	420,995
Financial asset - Interest rate cap	-	7,864,730	-	7,864,730
<b>269,696,770</b>	<b>294,546,991</b>	<b>269,127,685</b>	<b>293,731,428</b>	
<b>Current assets</b>				
Due from employees' share trust	-	-	1,490,682	773,467
Inventories	68,616,138	87,781,303	68,616,138	87,781,303
Trade and other receivables	11,033,017	4,973,101	11,044,615	5,151,031
Current income tax recoverable	10,588,817	8,689,931	10,052,631	8,186,454
Cash and bank balances	16,706,521	8,532,201	16,571,158	8,453,994
<b>106,944,493</b>	<b>109,976,536</b>	<b>107,775,224</b>	<b>110,346,249</b>	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>376,641,263</b>	<b>404,523,527</b>	<b>376,902,909</b>	<b>404,077,677</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Equity</b>				
Issued capital	1,273,421	1,273,421	1,273,421	1,273,421
Treasury shares	(1,490,682)	(773,465)	-	-
Retained earnings	(1,334,578)	105,239,874	(2,274,827)	104,046,042
<b>Equity attributable to owners of the parent</b>	<b>(1,551,839)</b>	<b>106,239,829</b>	<b>(1,001,406)</b>	<b>105,319,463</b>
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>(1,551,839)</b>	<b>106,239,829</b>	<b>(1,001,406)</b>	<b>105,319,463</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>				
Lease liabilities	273,907	4,508,395	273,907	4,412,199
Provision for site restoration	30,325	30,014	30,325	30,014
Term borrowings - Non-current portion	258,018,093	221,398,551	258,018,093	221,398,551
Deferred tax liability	950,783	950,784	950,783	950,784
<b>259,273,108</b>	<b>226,887,744</b>	<b>259,273,108</b>	<b>226,791,548</b>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Lease liabilities	36,393	673,668	36,393	659,294
Trade and other payables	46,242,512	43,084,354	45,953,725	43,308,995
Contract liabilities	8,387,524	8,636,370	8,387,524	8,996,815
Short-term borrowings	45,512,096	-	45,512,096	-
Bank overdrafts	18,741,469	19,001,562	18,741,469	19,001,562
<b>118,919,994</b>	<b>71,355,954</b>	<b>118,631,207</b>	<b>71,966,666</b>	
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>378,193,102</b>	<b>298,283,698</b>	<b>377,904,315</b>	<b>298,758,214</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>376,641,263</b>	<b>404,523,527</b>	<b>376,902,909</b>	<b>404,077,677</b>

	Group		Company	
	Jun-24 TZS '000'	Jun-23 TZS '000'	Jun-24 TZS '000'	Jun-23 TZS '000'
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Cash generated from operating activities	(2,611,697)	8,966,256	(2,678,204)	9,173,553
Interest income received	-	842,447	-	842,447
Income taxes paid	(2,037,999)	(805,679)	(2,037,999)	(788,637)
<b>Net cash flows (used)/ from operating activities</b>	<b>(4,649,696)</b>	<b>9,003,024</b>	<b>(4,716,203)</b>	<b>9,227,363</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(4,452,006)	(3,356,755)	(4,452,006)	(3,356,755)
<b>Net cash flows used in investing activities</b>	<b>(4,452,006)</b>	<b>(3,356,755)</b>	<b>(4,452,006)</b>	<b>(3,356,755)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Principal repayments - lease liabilities	(176,632)	(155,536)	(176,632)	(155,536)
Interest paid - overdrafts	(1,615,785)	(949,050)	(1,615,785)	(949,050)
Interest paid - term borrowings	(416,024)	-	(416,024)	-
Short-Term Loan proceeds	43,672,061	-	43,672,061	-
<b>Net cash flows from/(used) in financing activities</b>	<b>41,463,620</b>	<b>(1,104,586)</b>	<b>41,463,620</b>	<b>(1,104,586)</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>32,361,918</b>	<b>4,541,683</b>	<b>32,295,411</b>	<b>4,766,022</b>
Net foreign exchange differences	-	(483,249)	-	(727,476)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	(34,396,866)	(14,527,795)	(34,465,722)	(14,586,114)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	<b>(2,034,948)</b>	<b>(10,469,361)</b>	<b>(2,170,311)</b>	<b>(10,547,568)</b>



## Expert: PPP plays crucial role for Tanzania to get swift development

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

PUBLIC-Private Partnerships (PPP) has been cited as a crucial strategy for implementing development projects, if a country is to realise significant development in infrastructure landscape.

PPP projects analyst Alfred Misana made the remarks during a zonal meeting and training session held over the weekend in Mwanza, stressing the need for increased awareness and engagement from the private sector to unlock the full potential of the partnerships.

The meeting, which focused on the PPP Act, Chapter 410, and the Public-Private Sector Act, Chapter 103, also included training on the use of statistics provided by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Misana noted that despite the potential benefits of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), private sector involvement in development projects remains limited, attributing this to a lack of understanding of the PPP concept.

Speaking on behalf of the Mwanza Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Kusirie Swai stated that the Ministry of Finance is conducting training for government executives at regional, city, municipal, and district council levels. This initiative addresses challenges related to implementing the Procurement Act, Chapter 410, and the Public-Private Sector Act, as well as the effective use of NBS-prepared statistics.

Swai emphasized that these executives are expected to share their newly acquired knowledge within their institutions, fostering a deeper understanding of PPP opportunities.

Participants from Mwanza, Geita, and Kagera attended the training, which covered several key topics, including the implementation of the 2023 Public Procurement Act, the Public-Private Sector Act, and best practices for utilizing statistics

in public planning.

Misana explained that the session on the Public Procurement Act highlighted its benefits, such as preferential treatment for community groups, local experts, and domestic companies, as well as the promotion of locally sourced materials.

The discussion on the Public-Private Sector Act, Chapter 103, focused on identifying opportunities for local companies to participate in infrastructure projects, reducing reliance on foreign currency and mitigating the economic impact of external funding dependency.

Additionally, the training emphasized the importance of using statistical data effectively in public sector planning, demonstrating how accurate data can enhance the implementation of public projects.

The event underscored the growing recognition of PPPs as a vital tool for advancing development goals and improving infrastructure across the country.



...despite the potential benefits of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), private sector involvement in development projects remains limited, attributing this to a lack of understanding of the PPP concept



A Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) technicians lifts a high-voltage electrical wire to ensure the safety of motor vehicles moving along Dar es Salaam's Kigogo Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has been urged to exempt tax on sanitary pads to make the products more affordable for school girls, hence facilitating smooth learning.

Arjun Kaur Mittal, a 16-year-old student and founder of the HERNEEDS Initiative, made an appeal during a courtesy call to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Tulia Ackson, in Dodoma. Mittal, currently studying in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, urged the government to waive the value-added tax (VAT) on sanitary pads, highlighting that many girls struggle to access these essential products, which affects their academic progress.

Mittal emphasized that reducing

## Eliminate VAT on sanitary pads, young girl urges govt

the tax would make sanitary pads more affordable for students and improve their distribution, particularly among schoolgirls from low-income families. She pointed out that the high cost of sanitary pads remains a significant barrier for many.

Through the HERNEEDS Initiative, which has garnered support from both local and international donors, Mittal has been providing sanitary pads to schoolgirls in 33 secondary schools in Arusha over the past three years.

Dr Tulia criticized traders for raising the prices of sanitary pads, despite the government's previous VAT exemptions, noting that such practices undermine efforts to make these products more affordable. She praised Mittal, who was accompanied by her father, Atul Mittal, Director of Mount Meru Petroleum and Millers, for her commitment to the HERNEEDS Initiative and encouraged other students to follow her example.

Dr Tulia also assured Mittal that Parliament would continue

to advocate for the reinstatement of VAT exemptions on sanitary pads to improve accessibility for schoolgirls. She expressed optimism that the HERNEEDS program would address menstrual health challenges and enable students to attend classes without interruption.

The government is currently reviewing VAT policies on sanitary products to ensure these essential items are accessible to all students, thereby supporting their uninterrupted education.



Save the Children

### Consultancy Opportunity:

## Enhancing External Communication Materials for Save the Children Tanzania

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

**Objective:** Save the Children Tanzania is seeking a consultant (individual or firm) to elevate its external communication efforts. The consultancy aims to improve the communication of Save the Children Tanzania's program results and impact to external stakeholders.

The consultant will enhance existing materials and develop graphic templates that are engaging, visually appealing, and accessible to various audiences, including children, adults, and individuals with disabilities.

#### Scope of Work: Key responsibilities include:

- Data-Driven Storytelling:** Use quantitative and qualitative data to tell compelling stories about the children and communities being impacted especially integrating statistics with personal stories to show transformation in beneficiaries' lives.
- Impact Dashboards and Visualizations:** Develop easy-to-understand dashboards or infographics that highlight key metrics (e.g., the number of children educated, healthcare services provided, or lives improved) to demonstrate and communicate the breadth and depth of Save the Children's work across various sectors.
- Customized Data Presentations:** Support Save the Children to use reports and data available to reflect donor-specific interests to showcase progress in child survival rates, child protection & Child right progress, education due to Save the Children's interventions.
- Policy and Advocacy Data:** Support Save the Children to present data in a way that addresses pressing national goals to demonstrate how Save the Children's work contributes to broader goals that align with donor mandates.
- Predictive Data Analytics:** Support Save the Children to develop predictive models that help donors understand emerging needs or potential risks.
- Humanitarian Data Analytics:** Analyze program data to package and present the effectiveness and impact of Save the Children's humanitarian responses to crises, such as food

insecurity, flooding, disease outbreaks and refugee response.

- Repackaging existing materials:** Review and enhance current communication materials to clearly convey program results and impact.
- Developing graphic templates:** Create visually engaging templates that align with Save the Children's brand guidelines.
- Enhancing communication products:** Apply new templates to existing and future materials, ensuring professional presentations of program impact.
- Brand alignment:** Ensure all materials and templates adhere to Save the Children's brand guidelines.
- Usability and accessibility:** Design materials that are user-friendly and accessible, including options in English, Kiswahili, and formats suitable for individuals with disabilities.
- Digital integration:** Embed QR codes linking to online repositories for easy access to the latest materials.
- Training and handover:** Provide guidance and training to Save the Children staff on using the new templates effectively.

**Duration and Deliverables:** The consultancy will span 40 days, with key deliverables including an inception report, redesigned communication materials, developed graphic templates, training sessions, and a final report summarizing the consultancy outcomes.

#### Qualifications: Applicants should have:

- A Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design, Visual Communications, or a related field (Master's preferred).
- Proven experience in designing accessible communication materials for diverse audiences.
- Proficiency in design software (Adobe Creative Suite, CorelDRAW).
- Experience working on multilingual projects, with a focus on English and Kiswahili.
- A strong understanding of accessibility standards and user experience principles.
- A portfolio showcasing relevant work.

**Application Process:** To apply, please submit your application, portfolio, and references demonstrating experience in similar projects to [tenders@savethechildren.or.tz](mailto:tenders@savethechildren.or.tz) Applications must be submitted by **20th September 2024**.

## Bilharzia outbreak is reported in South Africa's Limpopo province

JOHANNESBURG

AN outbreak of bilharzia, a waterborne parasitic disease also known as schistosomiasis, has been reported in South Africa's Limpopo province, local authorities said Monday.

The Limpopo provincial government said in a statement that the outbreak has significantly impacted several areas within the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality, located in the province's Mopani District.

"Alarmingly, over 140 learners from Malwandla Primary School have been diagnosed and are currently receiving treatment

with antiparasitic medication," it said. "The rapid spread of this infection has raised serious concerns about health and safety in the affected communities."

The Limpopo provincial government has established a team to coordinate efforts to tackle the outbreak, provide medical care to affected individuals and prevent further spread of the disease, the statement said.

The government advised residents in the affected areas to refrain from swimming in rivers, streams, or any other potentially contaminated water sources, and ensure that any water used for drinking is boiled

or properly treated before use. It also encouraged parents and guardians to closely monitor their children for any symptoms of bilharzia and seek immediate medical attention if symptoms arise.

"Our priority is to contain this outbreak and protect the health of our communities," Basikopo Makamu, the acting premier of Limpopo province, was quoted as saying in the statement.

Bilharzia can present a range of symptoms, which include abdominal pain, fever and chills, bloody diarrhea, blood in urine, urinary tract infections, persistent headaches, and fatigue.



Stanley Kibakaya, a financial management officer with the Finance ministry, sensitises members of the public on the importance of picking registered financial institutions in seeking loans, thus steering clear of predatory lending. It was at a financial education session officials from the ministry ran in Bagamoyo town yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent





It's all vehicular traffic at a standstill yesterday, with passengers on some short-distance commuter buses seeing no option but to disembark before reaching Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Luis bus stand. The reason was given as naughty commuter bus drivers dropping off and picking up passengers arbitrarily along stretches of the city's Morogoro Road. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Trucks deliver 100 tonnes of relief food from Chad to Sudan, says UN

UNITED NATIONS

TRUCKS using the recently opened Adre crossing from Chad yesterday carried 100 metric tonnes of food aid into Sudan for the most famine-risk communities, a UN spokesman said.

"The World Food Programme (WFP) transported over 1,500 metric tonnes of vital food and nutrition supplies, enough for nearly 130,000 people since the crossing reopened on August 20," said Stephane Dujarric, chief spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who added that some assistance was delivered to Mornei, an area in West Darfur at famine risk.

Dujarric said more than 22,000 people in Mornei received emergency food rations, and nearly 4,800 children and pregnant and nursing women received nutritional supplements. The rest of the relief headed to other West Darfur communities at risk of famine and in the Kereneik and Sirba areas.

"The convoys' progress, however, has been slowed by flooded and muddy roads as the peak of the rainy season approaches," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported the world body's acting relief chief, Joyce Msuya, released \$10 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support aid efforts in South Sudan facing massive floods with more than 700,000 people impacted.

Dujarric said floods since May have damaged homes, crops, and critical infrastructure and severely disrupted education and health services.

"Our partners report rising malaria cases, respiratory tract infections, acute watery diarrhea, and snakebites since the onset of the rainy season," he said. "The new funds will support life-saving assistance in the most affected counties that are home

to some 900,000 people in need of emergency aid and this figure is likely to increase with the floods."

The spokesman said flooding compounds the already difficult humanitarian situation in South Sudan.

"In June, we and the Government of South Sudan launched a flood preparedness and response plan and for that we are seeking 264 million U.S. dollars to support 2.4 million human beings," Dujarric said. "That plan has yet to receive any funding."

The spokesman also said Msuya on Friday allocated 1 million dollars from CERF to mitigate the worst impacts of a locust infestation in Madagascar. More than 1.2 million people are already facing high food insecurity in the country.

"Even without the locust infection, we fear that hunger will increase during the lean season which gets underway in October," he said.

"The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with the Ministry of Agriculture in Madagascar to respond to the infestation. The new allocation from CERF will allow for an additional 80,000 hectares of land to be treated, benefiting some 300,000 people."



**The World Food Programme (WFP) transported over 1,500 metric tonnes of vital food and nutrition supplies, enough for nearly 130,000 people since the crossing reopened on August 20**

## Floods displace 1m people in W. Africa

BAMAKO

THE recent heavy rains and floods across Mali, Nigeria and Niger have forced nearly 950,000 people from their homes.

NGO Save the children alerted on Friday about the risk of disease, hunger from crop destruction and disruption to education that the situation incurs to the hundreds of thousands of children now displaced.

While this is normally the rainiest time of the year in West Africa, this year's rains have been

more severe than usual.

Widespread flood have affected 29 of the Nigeria's 36 states. The torrential rainfall has led to the overflowing of dams and rising water levels of the two largest rivers, the Niger and the Benue.

Three Malian regions in the west and Gao in the northeast have been hit. In neighbouring Niger, flooding has affected all 8 regions and floods beginning in May washed away houses and leaving behind a thread of destruction. The Maradi region in the country's south was mostly hit, accord to

Save the Children.

At least 460 people have been killed in the three countries.

The is responding to flood victims' needs in the Segou region of Mali through food security programs, cash transfers, the provision of water, hygiene and sanitation services, and child protection activities. The Segou region is the most affected in Mali, with 15,656 children affected, constituting about 51 per cent of the total affected children population.

In Nigeria, Save the Children

is responding in Adamawa state, distributing foldable mattresses, blankets, and hygiene and sanitation products to the most vulnerable flood-affected households including children and the elderly.

In the global response to the climate crisis, Save the Children has calling for national governments to "rapidly phase out the use and subsidy of fossil fuels and ensure a just and equitable transition in order to limit warming temperatures to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels."

## Rolls-Royce Partners with Karimjee Group to Drive Power Solutions in Tanzania.



Members from Karimjee Group and Rolls Royce Africa during the partnership agreement to drive power solutions in Tanzania. From left to right: Cobus Van Zyl, Chief Marketing Officer, Karimjee Group, Eliud Muchina, East Africa Regional Sales Manager, Rolls-Royce, Rishad Karimjee; Executive Director, Karimjee Group, Cobus Van Schalkwyk, Managing Director, Rolls-Royce Solutions Africa, Pierre van der Westhuizen, Sales Engineer, Rolls-Royce Solutions Africa and Vikram Rathore, Regional Manager, Karimjee Energy.

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania – Rolls-Royce (LSE: RR., ADR: RYCEY) through its Power Systems division, is pleased to announce a strategic partnership with Karimjee Group, a leading conglomerate in East Africa with almost 200 years of history, to deliver advanced mtu power solutions across Tanzania. This collaboration marks a significant step in advancing the country's energy infrastructure, supporting sustainable development, and boosting industrial growth.

Under this partnership, Rolls-Royce will leverage Karimjee Group's extensive market presence, local expertise, and distribution network to offer the full mtu product portfolio – especially power generation systems, a strategic focus of the Power Systems division of Rolls-Royce.

Rolls-Royce, through the mtu brand from Power Systems, is globally renowned for its high-performance propulsion solutions and power generation systems. The portfolio includes diesel and gas systems and battery containers for mission-critical, standby and continuous power, combined generation of heat and power, and microgrids perfectly suited to meet the demanding critical and industrial needs in Tanzania.

mtu engines are known for their low emissions, high efficiency and capability to operate on a variety of alternative liquid and gaseous fuels, including hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO), biodiesel, synthetic diesel, natural gas and biogas.

Sustainable Development: With a focus on reducing carbon emissions, Rolls-Royce's energy-efficient solutions align with Tanzania's sustainability goals while contributing to the country's economic development.

Karimjee Group's deep understanding of the Tanzanian market ensures that customers will receive unparalleled support, including after-sales service, maintenance and technical expertise.

Rishad Karimjee, Director of Karimjee, said:

"We are excited to partner with Rolls-Royce to bring world-class power solutions to Tanzania. This partnership underscores our commitment to driving industrial growth and sustainable development in the region by providing our customers with the most advanced and reliable technologies available."

Cobus van Schalkwyk, Managing Director, Rolls-Royce Solutions Africa, commented:

"Our collaboration with Karimjee is a significant milestone in our efforts to expand our presence in Africa. Together, we will provide Tanzanian industries with the energy solutions they need to thrive in an increasingly competitive global market."

### About Rolls-Royce Holdings plc

- Rolls-Royce develops and delivers complex power and propulsion solutions for safety-critical applications in the air, at sea and on land. Our products and service packages enable our customers to connect people, societies, cultures and economies together; they meet the growing need for power generation across multiple industries; and enable governments to equip their armed forces with the power to protect.
- Rolls-Royce has a presence in 48 countries and customers in more than 150, comprising over 250 commercial large aero engine customers, 160 armed forces and navies and approximately 40,000 active Power Systems customers. We are committed to becoming a net zero company by 2050 and we support our customers to do the same.
- Annual underlying revenue was £15.4bn (55.12trillion TZS) in 2023, underlying operating profit was £1.6bn (5.73trillion TZS) and free cash flow £1.3bn (4.65trillion TZS).
- Rolls-Royce Holdings plc is publicly traded company (LSE: RR., ADR: RYCEY, LEI: 213800EC7997ZBLZJH69).
- Rolls-Royce Power Systems is headquartered in Friedrichshafen in southern Germany and employs more than 10,500 people. The product portfolio includes mtu-brand high-speed engines and propulsion systems for ships, heavy land, rail and defence vehicles and for the oil and gas industry. The portfolio also includes diesel and gas systems and battery solutions for mission critical, standby and continuous power, combined generation of heat and power, and microgrids. With its climate friendly technologies, Rolls-Royce Power Systems is helping to drive the energy transition.

www.rolls-royce.com



## For once, one-sided claims on 'forcible evictions' thrown out

**T**ANZANIA'S Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) has dismissed allegations of human rights violations and abuse at the North Mara Gold Mine.

The charges against the Barrick Gold mine were raised by Mining Watch Canada, a non-governmental organisation.

Few of those aware of the track record of European Union and North American NGOs will have been surprised, as most NGOs are environment militants wishing to hear little even just about plans to expand a mine.

The commission's chairman said in a recent statement that the North Mara mine was in full compliance with legal procedures when it acquired 652 acres of land in Komarera for the expansion of its operations.

The commission expounded on investigations it conducted on the matter this April and May, concluding that no harm occurred in the firm's expansion into Komarera and Kewanja villages in Tarime District, Mara Region.

While those aware of how mining firms conduct their activities could already have guessed this to be the case, it is always more helpful when a competent panel also declares as much.

The panel had to go into details to show that the valuation and acquisition of the land were carried out transparently and with the involvement of all parties concerned, where those whose land was taken were duly compensated.

In that sense, the relocation of the villagers from the zone of mining expansion was valid in procedure, involving no compulsion.

Still, some militants wish that 'indigenous people' may never accept to move so that global capitalist firms expand exploitative extraction activities, etc., in which case the Canadian activist group alerted the world that this was indeed the case!

It is possible that CHRAGG would not need to actually investigate allegations of that sort until it had conclusively established that there was something that needed to be investigated.

This could relate to, say, the extent of land acquired and what was compensated for, the kind and level of involvement by village officials and the villagers themselves, and the methods of payment.

There also would have to be impeccable evidence that there was no cheating or other foul play by any party to the issue.

Claims by Mining Watch Canada that the North Mara mining firm was using force, threats, abuse and humiliation in expanding its activities were discounted not just by the commission but also more focused NGOs operating on the ground, rather than in Toronto.

One such Mining Watch critic has been coordinating Mara Region activities for the Tanzania Community Union - in Tanzania - since 2008.

The thrust has been on improving food security among children and families, providing nutritious school meals and bolstering agricultural growth.

The coordinator said that international activists face challenges with their reports when they do not visit actual sites or locations to meet actual stakeholders.

He said that they instead obtain information from agents or representatives, which can be inaccurate as some activists and politicians provide misleading information for their own benefit.

What they say is intended to boost funding for human rights activities, a broad term that includes anything one may wish - from, say, defending journalists to opposing mine expansion.

In that case, what is reported does not always reflect the true situation but they have clout and therefore it takes time to sort out the facts.

## UWT right in seeking amicable settlement of women's disputes

**T**HE women's wing of the ruling CCM, commonly known by its Kiswahili acronym UWT, is running a campaign that is in part set as a widening of a presidential legal aid campaign and also as a specific innovation focusing on legal aid needs of women and children.

Thus duality can be comprehended in that the new drive is meaningful as an extension of the presidential initiative. However, if it is just stuck there, it risks becoming redundant.

There is another problem: whether it is to assist in out of court settlements or push more effectively into litigation, which doesn't appear to suit the party organ.

The wing says it has wide-ranging private sector support for its efforts, which thus promises to be more focused on educating the public on the need to protect human rights, respect and dignity.

This can be done through legal aid clinics and public meetings, which the Lands ministry was already seeking to do, as cases keep piling up and the courts have no means of clearing them rapidly enough.

Such cases are supposed to be wound up with those concerned gaining right of leave to pursue their activities.

It is hard to say what the wing can achieve with strengthening public access to these rights, while the provision of legal aid by increasing legal understanding on various issues is a cultural uplift.

The rights of women and children will evidently be one of the wing's more credible areas of focus, but the plethora of women's professional

associations in the sphere of advocacy or judiciary demonstrates the pains of gaining rights by litigation.

The campaign may thus revitalise public knowledge of human rights and even how to access such rights, but real gains must involve settling disputes out of court.

But the issues the campaign actually focuses on may also dictate the sort of approaches to use as the wing's legal and rights committee starts business.

Were the focus to be squarely on dealing with traditions and customs in conflict with the country's laws, it could take time to gain anything, as to be sure the laws of the country are scarcely in contradiction or disharmony with customs.

The state takes its mandate from the people, who it is that "own" those customs, and thus the law protects situations like ensuring girls are in school. Those fighting customs skip the schooling and wish early marriages abolished, etc.

The campaign is patterned on the presidential legal aid drive but it needs to assume a community orientation of wishing to clear tears and, where possible, reconcile families.

This may not be able to save marriages but, being less pugnacious about the gender dichotomy, it may help to explore more humanist sentiments or obligations in such situations.

It may not be the preliminary reflex of zealots for upholding the rights of victims and survivors of sexual violence, property rights, etc., but there is still a fair chance of things working better to gain something for them.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

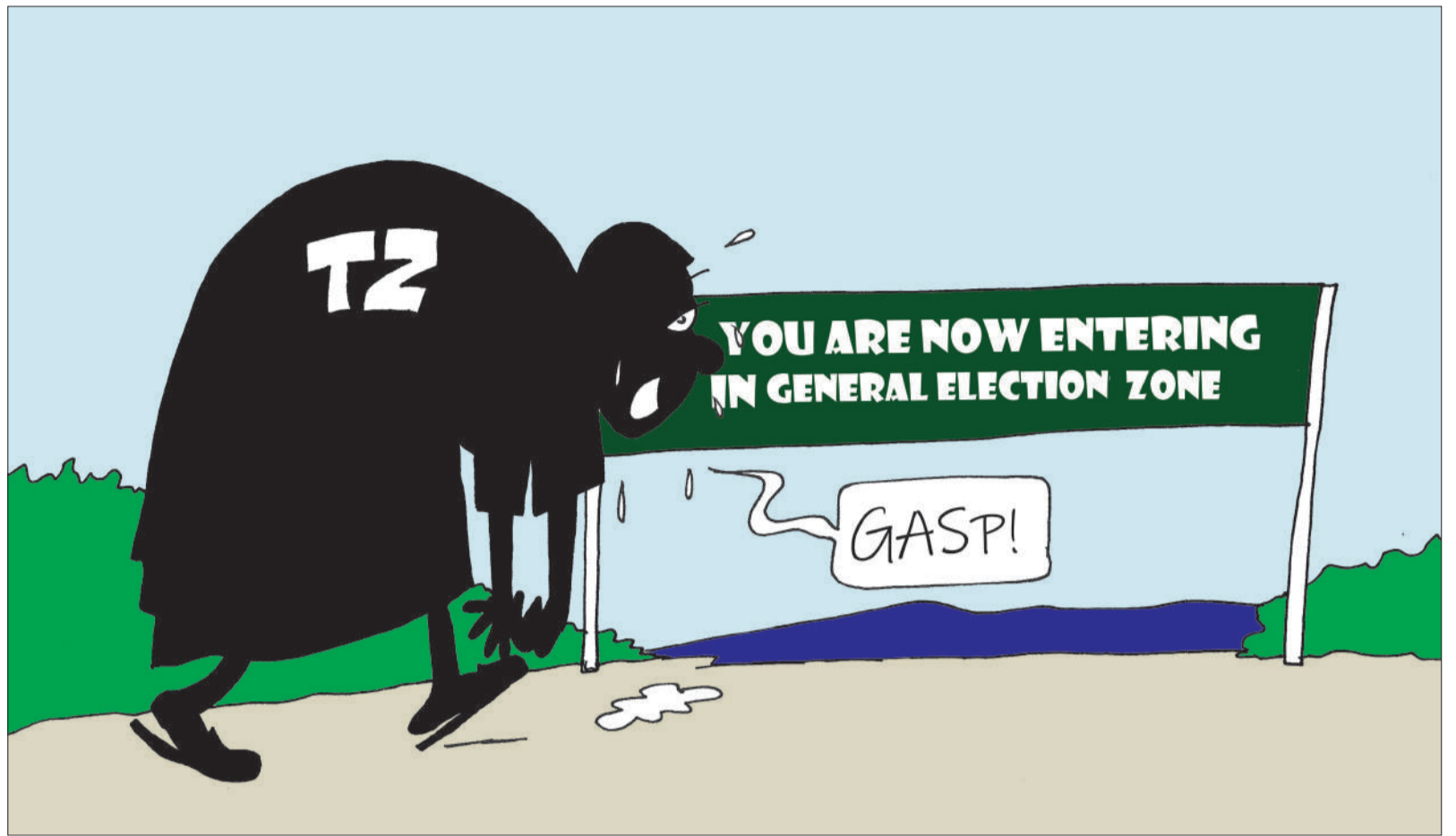
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA  
feedback@guardian.co.tz

### Newsdesk

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

### Advertising

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



By Jeffrey Moyo

**S**IDE-BY-SIDE with fellow male villagers, Enia Tambo uses a white 25-liter plastic bucket to dig out mounds of sand in the Vhombozi River, in Mudzi district located in Zimbabwe's Mashonaland East Province.

The woman, in her late 50s, is digging to reach the water that is lying deep beneath the soil.

The El Niño-induced drought has such a severe impact on the rural area, which is located nearly 230 kilometers east of Harare, the nation's capital, that finding water is a daily battle.

Tambo, wearing a yellow T-shirt emblazoned with a portrait of Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa, had a red, white, black and yellow cloth wrapped around her waist and a white head tie over her head to shield her from the sun as she joined a group of sweaty young men using shovels digging the dry well.

An obviously thirsty herd of cattle, with their equally thirsty gang of small herd boys, waited in the midst of the dry river, hoping to quench their thirst in the scorching heat of this impoverished Zimbabwean district.

In the worst months of the El Niño-induced drought that severely affected Zimbabwe, more often than not, Mudzi villagers dig with their bare hands to access water in dry streams and wells, including the Vhombozi River.

Thanks to the El Niño-induced drought, villagers like Tambo have to do this for themselves and their cattle as they struggle to find the precious liquid.

Desperate for the life-saving resource, Tambo said they have no choice but to scramble for it, competing with their own cattle.

"We have a serious water challenge. We ask for help, at least with water taps and wells. We don't have a dam or any functioning water source. We drink from the same source with our cattle, both women and men, as we find water by digging in the river sand to reach the water below," 59-year-old Tambo, hailing from Mudzi's Nyamudandara village, told IPS.

**No Boreholes, No Taps, Add to Burden**

It never rains but pours problems for the many destitute villagers here. Once they have collected the water from deep in the riverbeds, they also have to struggle walking long distances balancing buckets of water on their heads to their homes.

Batanai Mutasa, a climate change expert doubling as the communications officer for the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association, pinned the blame on soaring temperatures for the drying up of rivers, dams and boreholes.

"The El Niño heat is to blame for the drying up of boreholes

## Water crisis induced by El-Nino drubbing villagers in Zimbabwe



Men have joined the fight to find water in dry rivers like Vhombozi in Zimbabwe's Nyamudandara village in Mudzi district as a result of the severe water shortage. Credit: Jeffrey Moyo/IPS

and rivers. The changing weather patterns triggering floods, very hot conditions and poor rains are also resulting in acute food shortages," Mutasa told IPS.

Reena Ghelani, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Climate Crisis Coordinator for the El Niño Response, commented after her recent visit to South Africa that the April/May harvests had failed, resulting in more than 20 million people experiencing food insecurity, with more than a million children at risk of severe acute malnutrition.

"In the face of such challenges, governments and regional bodies have stepped up, and partners have supported their efforts, including through emergency allocations from the Central Emergency Response Fund (OCHA Financing and Partnerships) and insurance payouts (through the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Group). But more needs to be done," Ghelani said.

In April this year, Elias Magosi, the executive secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), went on record in the media lamenting the poor rains across the region.

"The 2024 rainy season has been a challenging one, with most parts of the region experiencing negative effects of the El Niño phenomenon characterized by the late onset of rains," Magosi said.

According to the SADC block, nearly 68 million people across the region, including in Zimbabwe, where many like Tambo are living in impoverished villages like Nyamudandara in Mudzi, are suffering the effects of an El Niño-induced drought.

**Child Labor, Sexual Exploitation Increase**

In such poor Zimbabwean

villages, even underage children have had to quit their education as they help their parents and guardians find the precious liquid in the face of the grueling drought.

Some women have claimed that they face sexual abuse from powerful rural men controlling the only available water sources, where the women have claimed they are forced to trade sex for water.

"Men demand sex from us before they allow us to fetch water and our children have dropped out of school to help us find water daily," a Mudzi woman who refused to be named fearing victimization told IPS.

Yet the water crisis headache is an ages-old problem in the Zimbabwean remote districts like Mudzi, according to villagers like 52-year-old Collen Nyakusawuka hailing from Mudzi's Nyamudandara village.

But villagers have tried times without number seeking help from government authorities.

"This water problem for us in this village began in 1980 and to this day we still suffer without water, at times lodging our complaints with authorities with no help coming from them," said Nyakusawuka.

Residents of Nyamudandara village in Mudzi, such as 30-year-old Freddy Nyamudandara, have claimed that the water crisis in their community has gotten out of hand and that many people like him are unable to cope.

"We have a real serious water challenge, which has worsened this year. We really need help with water for ourselves and our cattle for we don't have a dam and the only available boreholes have malfunctioned," Nyamudandara told IPS.

**Borehole Promises Not Yet Realized**

In Mudzi district, Kudzai Madamombe, the Medical District Officer says Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa promised to drill boreholes to assist the angry water-starved villagers, saying, "President Mnangagwa came up with the Presidential borehole-drilling scheme through which he said he will drill 70 boreholes for people in Mudzi."

But so far, the community has not benefitted from the government scheme.

In its bid to fend off the mounting water crisis across Zimbabwe's remote areas like Mudzi, UNICEF has also intervened.

Progress Katete, the UNICEF Nutritional Officer, said her organization has appealed for over USD 84 million to address the drought crisis that has ravaged districts like Mudzi.

"UNICEF has been supporting the government in the drilling of boreholes as well as putting in place piped water schemes because, as you can see, some of the communities—the women and men in the community—have to walk very long distances to fetch water and sometimes it's not even safe water. In some instances, school-going children miss school because they have to go fetch water for the family," Katete told IPS.

Mudzi district's Ward 17 councillor, Kingston Shero, noted that there wasn't enough funding for every village to get a borehole. "Due to inadequate resources, just a few villages have managed to get help from the council with boreholes."

The El Niño event, which helped fuel a spike in global temperatures and extreme weather around the world, is expected to return to La Niña conditions later this year, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Ghelani said that the region should receive normal to above-average rains in October–December, which could boost the planting season and help with recovery but could also lead to localized flash floods—especially on dry land—and pest infestations. And without adequate support, families who've sold their livestock and assets won't be able to recover.

In an appeal for funding, she said: "We must provide support now to save lives and alleviate suffering, rather than wait for the crisis to deepen."

For Tambo, until the rains return, her daily grind will involve digging river beds and hoping to get enough water to drink for herself and her family.

IPS UN Bureau Report



By Adonis Byemelwa

# China's US\$150 million avocado market set to elevate Tanzania's agricultural economy

**T**ANZANIA'S avocado farmers are set to reap substantial financial benefits as China, the world's second-largest economy, greenlights direct imports of Tanzanian produce. This landmark decision opens access to China's vast \$150 million avocado market, a breakthrough expected to elevate Tanzania's agricultural economy.

The Ministry of Agriculture, in an announcement made on August 14, 2024, confirmed that China had officially authorized the importation of Tanzanian avocados. This follows years of intensive lobbying by the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), which recognized the potential of China's burgeoning avocado market as early as 2018 and encouraged the government to engage diplomatically.

"We commend the Ministry for their unwavering leadership in this process," remarked Dr. Jacqueline Mkindi, CEO of TAHA. "Their proactive efforts have been critical in securing this vital market." Dr. Mkindi also expressed gratitude to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for its collaborative role in helping Tanzania achieve this milestone, emphasizing that success resulted from collective efforts.

Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe played a crucial role in the deal, reassuring stakeholders throughout the process that the government was committed to finalizing the agreement. The opening of China's market is now projected to be a financial windfall for Tanzania's avocado growers and exporters, tapping into a growing middle-class demand in China for health-conscious food options, including avocados.

Tanzania, currently Africa's third-largest avocado producer after South Africa and Kenya, has faced barriers to international markets due to the absence of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) agreements. This hurdle was finally overcome during President Samia Suluhu Hassan's state visit to Beijing, where she secured an SPS protocol that paved the way for Tanzanian avocados to be exported directly to China.

Dr. Mkindi highlighted the significance of President Hassan's diplomatic efforts, noting that TAHA's previous attempts to access the Chinese market had not borne fruit. "The President's initiative perfectly aligns with our broader vision of increasing the value of horticultural exports to \$2 billion annually by 2030, up from the current \$420 million," she remarked. She further highlighted that this growth would create thousands of jobs, especially for youth and women in the value chain.

The avocado industry is poised for exponential growth. Tanzania exported 26,826.3 metric tons of avocados in 2023, generating \$73 million. However, projections by the International Trade Center (ITC) suggest a remarkable increase in production to 393,669 metric tons by 2033, with exports predicted to reach 236,201.5 metric tons, bringing in approximately \$449 million.

"This surge in production signifies the vast revenue potential for Tanzania," Dr. Mkindi stated. "It will not only raise incomes for smallholder farmers but also encourage investment in advanced agricultural techniques to reduce post-harvest losses and improve overall productivity." The industry's



Tanzania is currently Africa's third-largest avocado producer after South Africa and Kenya.

expansion is expected to fuel broader economic development, creating new jobs and boosting local economies as consumer spending rises.

However, the benefits of this boom will extend beyond avocados. The focus on export-oriented agriculture is likely to spread to other crops, with experts like former Mzumbe University Prof. Honest Ngowi predicting that Tanzania's broader agribusiness sector is on the brink of transformation.

The late Prof. Ngowi emphasized that other high-potential food crops, such as macadamia nuts, passion fruits, and cashew nuts, are well-positioned to penetrate the Chinese market. "Diversifying our export basket is essential for long-term economic sustainability. We've seen other countries succeed with a multi-crop export strategy, and Tanzania can emulate that," he stated.

China's avocado market has been expanding at a staggering pace, with imports increasing by 4,359 percent over the past decade, rising from \$3.4 million to \$151 million in 2023, according to ITC data.

Currently, Peru dominates the Chinese market, supplying 50,000 metric tons in 2023, marking a 79 percent increase from the previous year. However, Tanzania's strategic geographical position offers a significant advantage over South American competitors like Peru and Chile.

Shorter shipping routes mean Tanzanian farmers could potentially deliver fresher produce to China, faster and at more competitive prices. "The direct shipping routes between Tanzania and China are indeed a game-changer," Dr. Mkindi pointed out. "This logistical edge allows us to carve out a larger market share, reducing costs and meeting demand quicker than competitors."

Minister Bashe also highlighted the role of the Njombe Region, a key avocado-growing area in Tanzania. The minister lauded Njombe's farmers for their high-quality produce, which has be-

come a staple in Tanzania's export strategy.

"Njombe avocados are not only bound for China but are already being shipped to several countries globally, reinforcing Tanzania's position as a leading avocado producer," he emphasized. Bashe also noted that improved infrastructure and ongoing investments in agriculture will further bolster exports.

Beyond the logistical advantages and quality produce, Tanzania's success in agricultural exports has also been championed by its former High Commission in China. The High Commission played a pivotal role in fostering bilateral agricultural agreements between Tanzania and China.

Their efforts in pushing for Tanzanian agricultural exports have laid the groundwork for further collaboration and market expansion. "Our embassy in China has been instrumental in promoting Tanzanian produce abroad. They've worked behind the scenes for years to secure these agreements," Dr. Mkindi

added.

Tanzania can also look to other African nations that have excelled in food crop exports. Countries like South Africa and Kenya have successfully penetrated various international markets with a variety of agricultural products, and Tanzania could adopt some of their strategies.

"South Africa's wine industry is a perfect example of how to create a brand that sells globally. Kenya's flower industry is another case in point," said Prof. Ngowi, suggesting that Tanzania has the potential to achieve similar feats in its avocado and broader agribusiness sectors.

The opening of the Chinese market for Tanzanian avocados marks the beginning of a new chapter for the country's farmers. It offers a lucrative opportunity not only to tap into one of the world's fastest-growing fruit markets but also to boost the entire agricultural export industry, including crops like coffee, cashews, and horticultural products. With strategic investments and continued diplomatic efforts, Tanzania is well-positioned to expand its footprint in global markets and solidify its place as an agricultural powerhouse.

Agriculture has been the backbone of Tanzania's economy for decades, employing more than 65% of its population. Despite this, the sector has yet to fully capitalize on its potential due to challenges such as limited innovation and restricted market access. However, the rise of avocado farming is being recognized as a pivotal opportunity that could reshape Tanzania's rural economy and spur sustainable growth.

Prof. John Ngugi from the University of Nairobi in Kenya points out, "The avocado sector in East Africa is poised for significant growth, given the increasing demand in global markets, particularly in Europe and Asia. This growth opens doors not just for large-scale investors, but also for smallholder farmers if they are provided with adequate support in terms of market access and agricultural innovations."

Dr. Emmanuel Tumusiime from Makerere University in Uganda further emphasizes the potential: "With sound government policies, Tanzania can mirror Kenya's success in the avocado export market. Key to this transformation is enhancing infrastructure, particularly cold storage facilities and transportation networks, to meet international standards and maintain product quality."

These insights align with Prof. Ngowi's views, who stresses that avocados' success—and similar high-value crops—depends on a holistic approach. It's not merely about cultivation but also about creating a supportive agricultural ecosystem combining technological advancements, market access, and robust government backing. In Ngowi's words, "This is not just about avocados. It's about a transformative approach to agriculture that can lift millions of Tanzanians out of poverty and propel the country to new economic heights."

# Success in life demands flexibility and positive thinking

By Thomas Lyimo

**P**EOPLE differ in perspectives, opinions, and viewpoints, shaped by their unique environments and upbringings. Those who seek success must develop strategies that enable them to excel.

Success often comes through challenges, and the ability to turn obstacles into opportunities is crucial for anyone aspiring to achieve their goals. It is widely acknowledged that no task is easy—hard work and perseverance are essential before success is attained.

Our views on life's events are often different from others', and our standards may not align with those around us. Given this reality, we should expect diversity in opinions within society.

To avoid unnecessary stress, we must be prepared to face challenges. Anticipating events before they occur helps us navigate a world filled with various perspectives and opinions.

To maintain progress in life, it is wise to "agree to disagree." This approach opens doors for solving social challenges in a positive way. Equipping ourselves with techniques to tackle life's difficulties increases our chances of living a more fulfilling life. Many challenges arise from unresolved social problems, so being prepared for them is essential.

Sometimes, we need to let go of certain things in order to embrace more valuable opportunities. Success is determined by our ability to make wise choices about what to engage in and what to avoid. It's important to be selective when choosing matters or individuals to deal with.

Since no one is perfect, anyone can cause discomfort to another person. If conflicts can be avoided, we should work hard to achieve peace. Managing our lives effectively leads to better health. Acquiring skills that help reduce unnecessary tension and disturbances are vital. All efforts should focus on making improvements in life.

Flexibility and positive thinking are key to advancing in life, both socially and economically. Here are ways to achieve our life targeted goals:

Accepting positive criticism; everyone makes mistakes, and learning from them is crucial to personal growth. It doesn't mean we should intentionally repeat mistakes, but we should expect that constructive criticism will lead to improvement. Embracing feedback is



an opportunity to grow, and it's rare for someone to be criticized without a reason. Most criticisms come from a desire to help. A positive-minded person won't make the same mistake twice, demonstrating the value of accepting criticism.

Being objective; taking things too personally can lead to discouragement and selfishness. It's important to approach societal matters with objectivity and accept help when needed. Prioritizing collective goals over personal concerns allows for greater cooperation and progress in social affairs.

Learning from Others: Success requires continuous learning. Reading books, listening to presentations, and engaging in discussions expand our knowledge and position us to excel. Ideas from others are often catalysts for change, and staying open to new per-

spectives helps us achieve success.

Managing anger; psychologists have established that unmanaged anger can harm an individual's health, leading to conditions like ulcers or high blood pressure. To maintain good health, we must manage our anger effectively. Poor social skills often fuel anger, so improving our ability to interact with others can help. Recognizing what causes anger and working to overcome it leads to healthier relationships and contributes to socio-economic development.

Life involves continuous interactions, where individuals inevitably face challenges and discouragements. Success is achieved by those who can overcome obstacles and move forward. Complaining does not help; instead, seeking alternatives to reach our goals

is the key. While we cannot avoid challenges, we can cope with them successfully. The strength of an individual is measured by the number of obstacles they've overcome, and flexibility and positive thinking build resilience. In life, challenges are inevitable, but by maintaining flexibility and a positive outlook, we can navigate them successfully and achieve our goals.



# Is America ready to elect a Black woman president?

By Emma Shortis



IT'S the big question that has loomed over Kamala Harris' presidential campaign from the start: is the United States ready for a Black woman president?

I get asked this almost every time I speak about American politics. And it's a question that pundits, observers and experts keep asking, without ever landing on an answer.

That's because the question is, in the end, unanswerable. It's so heavily loaded that answering it requires too much history, cultural knowledge, judgment and speculation.

While the question hints at the deeply ingrained racism and sexism that is built into the structures of American politics and culture, it doesn't directly address these things, leaving assumptions about just how sexist and racist the country might be unresolved.

Asking if America is "ready" also assumes that history is progress - that things move forward in a relatively straight line. It assumes that in the past America was not ready for a Black woman president, but at some point in the future it might be. It assumes, as Martin Luther King junior once said so beautifully, that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice".

Like much of King's teachings, this idea has been flattened into an assumption that "progress" is inevitable - that women and people of colour will eventually get equal representation and treatment as society learns, gradually, to become more just, tolerant and accepting.

It assumes that, one day, the United States will live up to its own foundational ideal that "all men are created equal".

But as Harris (pictured) has herself said, the United States has not always lived up to its own ideals. Progress on equality - especially in extending it beyond the original, exclusively white men identified in the Constitution - has been patchy and frustratingly slow. It has also been marred by violence and even war.

History is not a forward march. It does not "progress" to some end point of idealism. It is, more often than not, a fight.

### Are you ready for it?

Many other countries have shown it is possible to be "ready" for a woman leader at various points in their histories, only to return to being not ready again.

India, the largest democracy in the world, elected Indira Gandhi to the prime ministership in 1966. Gandhi served for over a decade, and then again from 1980 to 1984, when she was assassinated. Every leader since then has been a man.

Similarly, the United Kingdom elected its first woman prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, in 1979. After Thatcher resigned in 1990, the UK didn't have another woman leader until Theresa May from 2016-19 and then Liz Truss in 2022 (and that didn't exactly go well).

In Australia, Julia Gillard won a very close election to become prime minister in 2010, only to lose to a man four years later. There has been no real suggestion that a woman, let alone a woman of colour, might ascend to the leadership of either major party in the decade since. And could Australia even be definitively considered "ready" for a woman leader in that period, given how Gillard was treated during her prime ministership?

New Zealand has a stronger record. Jenny Shipley became the first woman prime minister in 1997 by bumping off the leader of the coalition government. Helen Clark was then the first woman to be elected prime minister in 1999, followed by Jacinda Ardern nearly two decades later, in 2017.

While Britain, New Zealand and Australia have some political and cultural similarities with the United States, they have different political structures. Unlike in the US, their leaders are not directly elected, making the specific identity of the leader less explicitly the focus of elections.

Other countries with direct elections, though, have also been "ready" for women leaders at one point or another. In 1980, Iceland became the first country in the world to directly elect a woman to the presidency. Vigdís Finnbogadóttir served for 16 years. Deeply conservative Ireland was also ready 30 years ago, directly electing its first woman president, Mary Robinson, in 1990.

### Structural inequality

For the most part, though, these women are exceptions to ingrained, structural gender inequality in poli-

tics across the world - albeit a reality reflected more starkly in the American experience.

The fact the question of "readiness" remains so prominent reflects the fundamental reality of the unequal representation of women, especially Black women and women of colour, not just in America but in most democracies.

In June this year, UN Women noted only 27 countries currently have women leaders. It said:

At the current rate, gender equality in the highest positions of power will not be reached for another 130 years.

The idea of a "rate" of progress once again assumes the world will be ready for women leaders one day (even if that day might be more than a century away).

Unsurprisingly, the same structural inequality is reflected below the highest levels of leadership. UN Women found only 15 countries where women hold at least 50% of Cabinet minister positions. And when women do get leadership positions, it's often in areas traditionally understood as "women's" or "minority" issues, such as social services or Indigenous affairs.

This general trend is reflected in the US, too. After the most recent US election, the Congress has a "record number" of women. Yet it is still just 28%.

Similarly, in Australia, research by The Australia Institute found women are under-represented in seven of Australia's nine parliaments.

That should not, however, undermine the significant achievements of women and people of colour, who have long fought for a seat at the table of power - often at great personal risk.

According to the Pew Research Center, the current Congress in the US is also the most racially and ethnically diverse in history, with 133 representatives and senators identifying their ethnicity as something other than non-Hispanic white.

And in 2021, Harris became the first woman, the first person of South Asian descent and the first Black woman to be vice president of the United States. In another historic milestone, President Joe Biden appointed the first Native American woman to a Cabinet position - Interior Secretary Deb Haaland.

A milestone was achieved in Australia, too, when Linda Burney became the first Aboriginal woman to serve as minister for Indigenous affairs in 2022.

### Weaponising gender and race

None of this, though, can confirm or deny the "readiness" of the United States - or any other country - to elect a Black woman leader.

There are signs a sizeable portion of the American electorate is decidedly not ready to elevate a woman, let alone a Black woman, to the highest position of power.

A great deal of attention has, rightly, been focused on the current Republican candidates' attitudes towards gender and race. Vice-presidential nominee JD Vance, for instance, has made numerous comments about women, such as his insistence that "childless cat ladies" have too much power. Donald Trump has also repeatedly attacked women with sexist remarks, made obscene comments about women's bodies, and been found liable in a civil court for sexual assault.

In August, Fox News anchor Jesse Watters suggested generals would "have their way" with Harris if she were to be elected.

Trump, Vance and their surrogates use race and gender to delegitimise their opponents, suggesting they are not fit for positions of power.

Such misogynistic attacks are a common experience for women in politics. Decades before Vance's insistence that only people with biological children have a proper "stake" in the future, an Australian Liberal senator suggested Gillard was unfit for leadership because she was "deliberately barren".

As a Black woman, Harris faces attacks on both her race and her gender. Right-wing figures have repeatedly dismissed her as a "DEI" (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) candidate, suggesting she has only made it as far as she has because of special treatment based not on her merit, but on her identity.

Once again adopting a tactic he honed during Barack Obama's presidency, Trump has also repeatedly questioned Harris' legitimacy as vice president and a candidate based on her race.

### Context matters

Not so long ago, many people assumed Hillary Clinton would win the race to be "first". When she accepted the presidential nomination at the Democratic National Convention in 2016, she stood, symbolically, underneath a shattering glass ceiling.

A few months later, that ceiling quickly reformed itself.

But even Clinton's loss in 2016 cannot definitively prove that America was "not ready" for

a woman president. Context is crucial.

Even those voters who might be "ready" for a woman president won't vote for just any woman. They will make decisions based on complicated, interrelated factors, including a candidate's policy.

It's arguable the role both Bill and Hillary Clinton played in the adoption of free-trade agreements - from Bill Clinton's overseeing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to Hillary Clinton's support of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) - alongside economic stagnation in the US, had a much bigger role in Clinton's loss than her gender. And her characterisation of alienated voters as "a basket of deplorables" certainly didn't help.

Clinton had significant political baggage after decades in the spotlight. The political, economic and historic circumstances of the 2016 presidential race - alongside Trump's political ascendancy - are impossible to pull apart.

Similarly, while some Britons might have voted for Thatcher because she was a woman, many also voted for her because of her conservative policy positions, or perhaps because they disapproved of her opponents more.

Decades later and worlds apart politically, Harris is under pressure from a critical section of her own party's base to modify her position on Israel. This is a serious and pressing policy issue that has nothing to do with her race or gender and everything to do with competing visions for the United States' role in the world. And this will have an impact on many voters' decisions in November.

Put simply, it cannot be definitively argued that Clinton lost in 2016 because America was "not ready" for a woman. Or that circumstances have changed enough that the country can be considered ready now.

In a different context, with a different candidate and a different policy platform, America may well have been "ready" in 2016. A different woman - like, say, the unwaveringly popular Michelle Obama - might well have been able to beat Trump. Or not. We simply have no way of knowing.

And even if we did, we still could not know if America was definitively "ready" for a Black woman to lead.

### Kamala Harris' 'firsts'

Nevertheless, at this year's Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Hillary Clinton reflected on the possibility of "firsts" and the progress of American history. She proclaimed that "a future where there are no ceilings on our dreams" had finally arrived.

Harris, too, is focused on the future - but not on her "firsts".

In her first media interview since becoming the Democratic candidate, for example, she dismissed a question about Trump's focus on her race. Her campaign has successfully framed any specific focus on gender or race - and particularly on women's bodies - as "weird".

In this way, Harris' campaign has firmly flipped the focus of identity politics back onto Trump and Vance. Her campaign is showcasing a very different kind of masculinity - one that is entirely comfortable with Black women occupying positions of leadership.

The Harris campaign is reinforcing this framing by focusing not on individual "firsts", but on structural gender and racial inequality and women's basic rights of bodily autonomy. In this way, the campaign is embracing a collective feminism, rather than the more 1990s-style, individualistic, "white women" feminism more redolent of Clinton. Kamala is, after all, brat.

The Harris campaign is explicitly avoiding the tempting shallowness of identity politics, learning the lessons of an often fraught Clinton campaign that appeared to assume Americans would vote for her precisely because she was a woman, or because it was time America did, finally, elect a woman president.

All of this is, implicitly at least, a recognition that "readiness" is not a simple question with a straightforward answer. The Harris campaign recognises it is not necessarily a question of collective "readiness", but of getting enough Americans who are already ready inspired and mobilised.

As Biden has said repeatedly, "women are not without [...] electoral or political power". According to one analysis, in the four years since 2020, Black women's voter registration has increased by 98.4%. Among young Black women, it has increased by 175.8 percent.

Black American women are clearly ready for this moment.

The question has no answer

If Harris is elected this November, many will take this as proof that a threshold has been crossed, that America was indeed collectively "ready" to be led by a Black woman. And that might be true. Up to a point.

The United States once demonstrated itself "ready" to elect its first Catholic president. In 2008, it proved itself "ready" to elect the first Black president. But eight years later, in an historic, world-shaping backlash, it went back to being very much not ready.

The divides of American politics are deep and structural. They have remained unresolved since the country's foundation. The election of the first Black woman would be hugely significant, a remarkable historical development in what has already been an extraordinary campaign.

But the question of whether America is "ready" for this moment cannot be answered by a single individual.

There are two versions of America: one that is ready for this moment (and has always been), and one that will likely never be. These two versions co-exist. And they are, for the moment, irreconcilable.

Both sides know that victory in November is only an indication of where power lies in this moment. It will not be some clear resolution to a centuries-long question about what the United States is and what it wants to be.

## 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



# AGRA hailed for making Africa project clear voice on future of food systems

KIGALI

**R**WANDAN President Paul Kagame has commended the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), for ensuring that Africa projects a clear voice on future of food systems in the continent.

"The production of food is the foundation of our economies, and indeed of life itself. In Africa most of our people work in agriculture and agri-business. Significant gains have been made in recent years to make our food systems more resilient and productive but there is still so much room to grow, and make our farmers more productive and therefore wealthier," Kagame told the gathering who attended the just-concluded Africa Food Systems Forum 2024.

He added: "Higher productivity also means lower food prices for consumers, which has direct impact on poverty and inflation. This forum has highlighted key strategies for speeding up progress, especially digital and tech applications and attracting more private investment into agriculture."

He said Rwanda was proud to host the Africa Food Systems Forum in Rwanda.

Friday marked the successful conclusion of a four-day Africa Food Systems Forum in Kigali, which united over 5,000 delegates, 38 smallholder farmer groups, 97 countries, 302 speakers, 882 youth, 7 former heads of state, 37 ministers and 149 members of the press. Significant commitments were made, partnerships formed, and investments mobilized, marking a renewed commitment to the transformation of Africa's food systems.

The net result of the forum should be to catalyse and sustain inclusive agriculture transformation in Africa by increasing incomes and improving food security for 30 million smallholder households.

There was also a call to shift agriculture from a social sector to a commercial sector, and a focus on policy for the GenZ. Delegates observed that policy should be designed to fit GenZ.

"Old fashion Western ways of designing policies needs to be abandoned. Policies need to be anchored on populations and people that live the policy. Their response, from GENZ to Indigenous communities, must be the real basis of our national policies and implementation mechanisms," an official said.

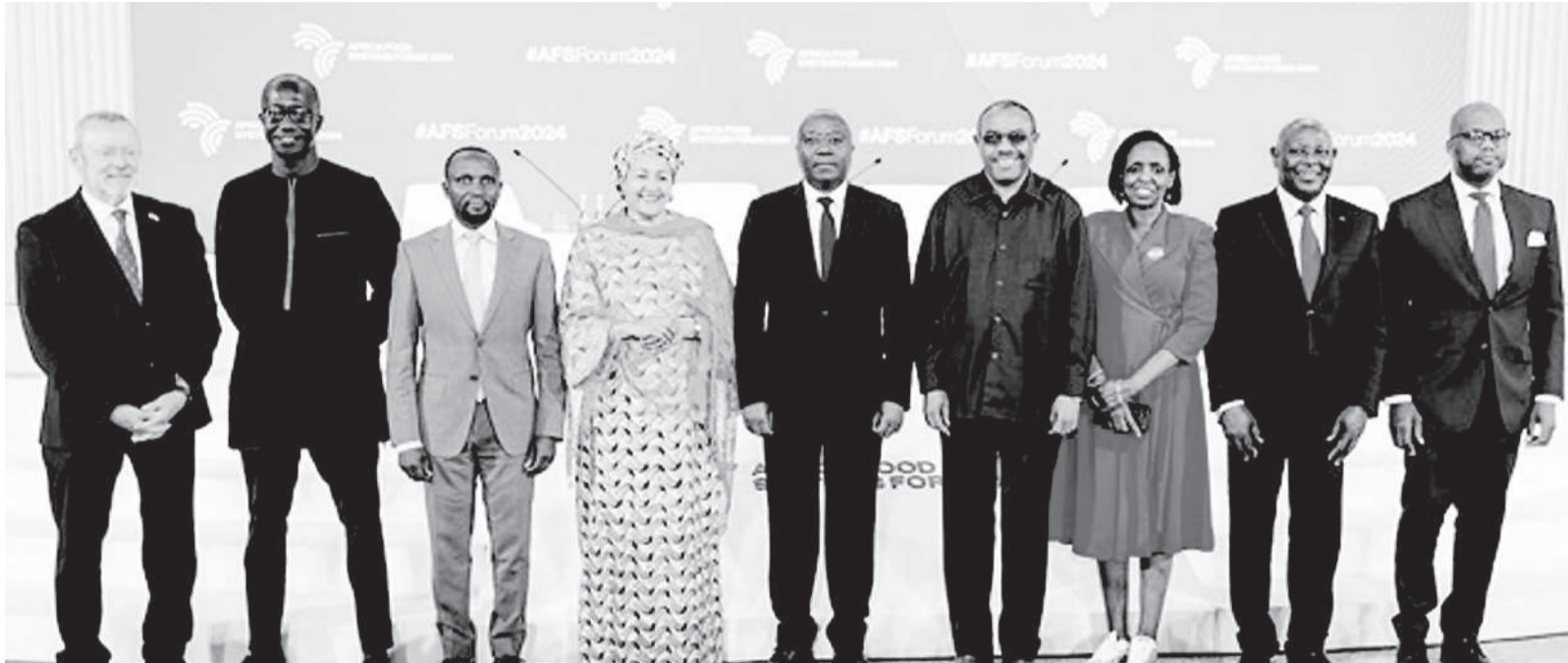
AGRA Board Chair Hailemariam Dessalegn also said: "No single entity can achieve the scale of change required. Transformation requires all of us—governments, private sector, civil society, and international partners—to work together in a spirit of true partnership and collaboration. We must leverage our collective strengths, share knowledge and resources, and commit to sustained and coordinated action."

"Africa Food systems have not received the political commitment and investments it deserves! We must ensure access to health nutritious food to all. We must tap into African youth to help develop and sustain innovation ecosystems in Food Systems" Hailemariam told delegates.

Established in 2006, AGRA is an African-led and Africa-based institution dedicated to placing smallholder farmers at the core of the continent's burgeoning economy. AGRA's mission is to transform agriculture from a mere struggle for survival into a thriving business. In collaboration with its partners, AGRA catalyses and sustains an inclusive agricultural transformation aimed at increasing incomes and enhancing food security in 11 countries.

Last week, Kigali was the epicentre of Africa's agricultural transformation as experts, policymakers, and private sector leaders gathered for a critical roundtable on the African Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan (AFSH-AP) and the Soil Initiative for Africa (SIA).

The event, co-hosted by the Coalition of Implementers of Fertiliser and Soil Health (CIFSH) and AGRA in partnership with the Joint Development Partners, brought to light the pressing challenges and opportunities in securing Africa's agricultural future.



UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohamed (4th left) and AGRA President Dr Agnes Kalibata (3rd right) together with principals at the 2024 Africa Food Systems Forum 2024 that has just ended in Kigali.

"The timely launch of the African Agricultural Status Report is of paramount importance. His Excellency Hailemariam has rightly emphasized its significance as one of the most influential documents in the agricultural sector," said AGRA President Dr Agnes Kalibata.

Dr Kalibata pointed out that Tanzania's legacy program last year, for example, set a strong foundation for food systems, showing how government commitment can drive change. Now, Sierra Leone has the potential to become a powerhouse in food security, she reassured.

"We look at this (legacy programs) as opportunities for countries to step up and work faster - we are at a time where we need each other more than we have ever - where trade is an essential means to how we source our food. When I was minister of agriculture Rwanda benefited from seeds from Zambia - Zambia has advanced in producing seeds and has been a learning hub for other countries," she said.

The Kigali forum also witnessed the launch of the Centre for African Leaders in Agriculture Cohort 4. This initiative calls for an increase in leadership within the agricultural sector, fostering the next genera-

tion of agricultural leaders.

"CALA is an initiative I have personally championed from the outset, and we at AGRA are deeply proud of its achievements. We're also extremely thankful to the African Management Institute (AMI), who act as our delivery, implementation and learning partner across all CALA activities," said Dr Agnes Kalibata.

Across the continent, hundreds of CALA alumni and delegates are now leading transformation programmes within their organisations and countries, advancing food security and sustainable agriculture. Hailing from governments, the private sector and civil society, participants have applied their learning to drive meaningful improvements in agricultural policy, productivity, and community wellbeing.

As the forum came to an end, delegates had a conversation with the youth who had the opportunity to directly ask questions to the leaders. The session touched on how AFS partners can support young people to learn and find jobs in food systems.

Wamkele Mene, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

CEO underscored Africa's current food insecurity crisis driven by external geopolitical factors, stating: "Millions have been pushed into poverty, but African countries have the potential to feed the continent."

He emphasized the need to reduce intra-African trade barriers, particularly on agricultural products, to unlock access to new markets and tackle the continent's food challenges.

James Mwangi, Equity Group Holdings CEO also drew attention to climate change, describing it as the "pandemic of agriculture" for smallholder farmers, calling for governments to address this with the same urgency as the COVID-19 pandemic, saying: "Smallholder farmers cannot be left to fend for themselves."

Lord Collins, UK Minister for Africa highlighted the UK's commitment to economic partnerships with Africa, emphasizing: "Economic growth is how we will feed us all in the future."

He praised the innovation and entrepreneurship showcased at the Forum, encouraging a paradigm shift in African agricultural leadership to fully realize the sector's potential.

Media professionals from across the continent had a session to highlight the role of the media industry in supporting and amplifying the African food systems narrative by amplifying key messages and generating conversations through mainstream and online media platforms.

Affiong Williams, Founder and CEO of ReelFruit was the overall winner of the Women Agri-Prenuer of the Year Award (WAYA) for outstanding contributions that exemplify how enterprise can transform lives and the agribusiness sector proving that sustainable impactful businesses can be built by women, receiving a cash prize of \$40,000.

This year's WAYA awards finalists were selected from a record-breaking 1,535 applications spanning 44 African nations, a significant increase from the 1,430 applicants and 42 participating nations in 2023. This highlights the growing influence and importance of women in Africa's agribusiness sector. The finalists represented diverse countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda.

## 'Human factors drive global food insecurity'

By Guardian Correspondent

**C**ONFLICTS, economic disparities, climate change and environmental degradation are some of the main drivers of global food insecurity, threatening the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Addressing these requires multiple actions by a diversity of actors, including the transformation of our global food systems to sustainably meet the nutritional needs of a growing population while protecting our resource base, says Manuel Barange, Assistant Director-General and Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Aquatic foods – such as fish, crustaceans, shellfish, seaweed, and other marine and freshwater organisms – are essential to this transformation. Rich in high-quality proteins and micronutrients, these foods provide critical nutrition particularly in low-income and vulnerable communities where deficiencies are most prevalent.

Beyond their nutritional value, fisheries and aquaculture sustain the livelihoods of over 600 million people globally, many of whom reside in coastal and rural areas with limited economic opportunities.

"However, while the need for change is clear, the path forward remains complex. How do we decide on the objectives of this transformation, the inevitable trade-offs, and the pathways to success? Part of the answer lies in developing effective partnerships. No single entity – whether an individual, organization or government – can achieve this transformation alone. It requires partnerships built on shared goals and collective action."

The global fish value chain development programme-FISH4ACP project is a prime example of such collaboration. Under the leadership of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), and with support from the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), FAO is implementing this important initiative to drive catalytic change in aquatic food systems. Spanning 12 countries across three continents, FISH4ACP exemplifies the power of evidence-based decision-making, public-private collaborative action, and innovation to strengthen fisheries and aquaculture value chains.

As the project enters its final stage, the Blue Food Forum, to be held in Dar Es Salaam this week, presents a pivotal opportunity to showcase proven solutions and capture valuable lessons from FISH4ACP and related initiatives. Gathering over 200 stakeholders and practitioners, along with more than 16 exhibitors, the Forum offers a unique platform to discuss effective actions, assess economic, social and environmental impacts, and explore how good practices can be scaled for greater impact.

For instance, Zimbabwe, the high cost of fish feed poses a significant challenge for smallholder tilapia farmers, who typically operate with limited financial resources and narrow profit margins. FISH4ACP, in col-



Fish processing (sun drying) site in Kigoma Region: Photo, courtesy of Luis Tato, FAO

laboration with Chinhoyi University of Technology, is testing a locally produced fish feed made from black soldier fly larvae as a cost-effective alternative. This innovative approach has the potential to boost productivity and enhance the livelihoods of local farmers by reducing their reliance on expensive commercial feeds.

In Senegal and the Gambia, FISH4ACP is aiding oyster producers in transitioning from wild harvesting to modern oyster farming practices. Through technical support and stake-

holder connections, this shift is boosting local spat production, reducing costs, and contributing to the protection and restoration of natural oyster stocks.

In Sao Tome and Principe, FISH4ACP is working with a local non-governmental organization to establish self-help groups, primarily women fish traders and fish processors, to enhance their access to credit and microfinance. These groups are receiving training in bookkeeping, record-keeping, and internal saving and lending processes, enabling them

to pool their savings and work towards individual and collective financial goals.

Finally, in the Dominican Republic, FISH4ACP is working with the government to support the artisanal mahi-mahi fishery, establishing a long-term framework that includes social protection programmes for vulnerable fishers and vendors. This safety net is crucial in helping fishing communities cope with the unpredictability of catches and extreme weather events.

The Blue Food Forum is not

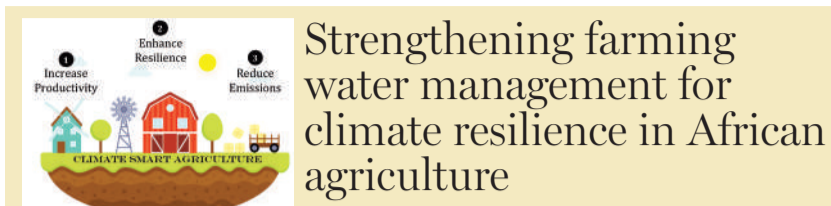
just an event; it represents a crucial platform for dialogue and exchange on leveraging aquatic food systems to address global challenges such as malnutrition, poverty and environmental degradation. As demonstrated by initiatives like FISH4ACP, pragmatic solutions tailored to the needs of local fishing and farming communities have the potential to catalyse significant change.

Whether empowering smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe or advancing oyster farming in Senegal, FISH4ACP and other initiatives exemplify how localized efforts can drive global food system transformation. Ultimately, these initiatives underline the forum's broader message: sustainable aquatic food systems are key to building a more resilient and equitable future, one fish or oyster at a time.



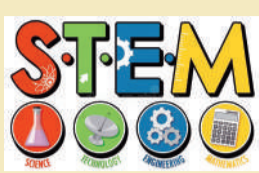






Strengthening farming water management for climate resilience in African agriculture

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Engineers registration board establishes STEM programme

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Global labour income share declines, SDG targets not on track

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## Report: Equity market to experience sell-off in coming weeks

By Guardian Reporter

THE equity market may experience a slight sell-off in the coming weeks.

According to the weekly market wrap up's outlook by Zan Securities Limited, Banking Finance and Investment Index (BI) recently declined by 0.03 percent week-on-week, reflecting a knee-jerk reaction to the recently released financials.

However, domestic equities remain resilient, with the Tanzania Share Index (TSI) delivering a 7.88 percent return year-to-date. Despite this overall strength, we might see some price pullbacks in counters like NICOL and TOL.

NICOL's modest 4.8 percent year-on-year increase in net income has left investors skeptical about the potential for impressive full-year results, while TOL's decision to forego dividend payments and instead use retained earnings to fund ongoing investment projects may also impact its share price.

"As we approach the end of the third quarter, the focus will shift to Q3 earnings reports, expected to be released in the last week of October," the report says.

"These reports will provide crucial insights into corporate performance and are likely to have a significant impact on market sentiment. Companies in the banking and investment sectors, which have performed well throughout the year, are expected to report strong results, potentially boosting investor confidence."

During the trading week ending on September 06th, the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) saw a decrease in turnover compared to the prior week. The total market turnover decreased to 685.79m/- million, reflecting a 2.18 percent downtick from the previous week's 701.06m/-.

There were no activities in the pre-arranged board for the week.

Throughout the week, CRDB dominated trading activities, representing 70.75 percent of the total market turnover, followed by NMB at 17.88 percent and NICO at 3.43 percent.

MBP gained 9.68 percent closing off the week at 340/- per share.

However, NICO lost 2.56 percent reaching 760/- per share and DSE share price decreased by 1.64 percent concluding the week at 2400/- per share.

In terms of market capitalization, there was a general increase in the size of the markets, with total market capitalization increasing by 0.74 percent to 17,678.69bn/- by the week's end.



However, domestic market capitalization decreased by 0.01 percent, reaching 12,299.4bn/-.

The report also shows the debt market is likely to face challenges due to tightening liquidity and rising yields.

The recent oversubscription in the 25-Year Treasury bond auction indicates that investors are seeking to lock in higher coupon rates.

However, as investors begin to shift their focus towards equities, demand for fixed-income securities may decline, putting additional pressure on bond prices and driving yields higher.

On Wednesday 4th September 2024, the Central Bank was in the market offering 206.170bn/- to investors for the re-opening of the 25-Year Treasury bond offering a 15.95 percent coupon rate annually.

The auction was subscribed by 217.82 percent - the auction received bids totaling 449.072bn/- billion and accepted bids worth 335.087b/-.

This is the first re opened 25-year Treasury bond in 2024/25 after the issuance of the new calendar for the first half of the fiscal year 2024/25.

With the amount offered by BOT being 206.170bn/-, the minimum price in this auction has decreased from 105.55 in the previous auction held in June 2024 to 101.4999 and the weighted average yield has seen an increase by 3.72 basis points from 15.3816 percent in June to 15.4188 percent in this auction.

The high subscription rates continue to reflect higher demand for the longer term maturities due to the higher coupon of 15.95 percent and increased yields.

During the week ending on September 06th, market activities saw a decrease compared to the previous week. Overall turnover decreased by 50.93 percent, from 23.2904bn/- to 11.4296bn/-.

However, there was a slight increase in the number of trades, rising from 64 to 65.

Trading activities primarily focused on the long end of the yield curve, with the 20-year and 25-year bonds traded contributing to 95.46 percent of the total turnover.

In the corporate bond segment, there was an increase in activity compared to the previous week. KCB corporate bond KCB-2022/25.

## Policy action, community engagement vital for ending human-wildlife conflicts

By Guardian Reporter

THE atmosphere at Kipugila village in Rufiji district is tense as villagers, armed with traditional weapons, move cautiously toward the Rufiji River.

Their mission is fraught with danger, fueled by a mixture of grief and determination.

The tragic death of 12-year-old Halima Musa, who was killed by a crocodile while fetching water, has spurred the community into action.

This landscape is a blend of rural life and wilderness, where the river represents both a source of sustenance and peril.

The scene exemplifies the complex relationship between the villagers and their environment, where nature's beauty and risks coexist.

As the villagers approach the Rufiji River, anticipation hangs heavily in the air.

The setting sun casts long shadows over the dense vegetation along the riverbanks.

The sounds of the jungle mix with the rhythmic footsteps of the villagers, occasionally broken by hushed murmurs.

Their traditional weapons—spears, machetes, and clubs—gleam in the fading light as they prepare for a confrontation with the predator that has terrorized their community.

At the river's edge, experienced hunters take the lead. They are familiar with the crocodile's territory, having encountered these dangerous beasts before.

The group fans out eyes are scanning the water for any sign of movement.

The tension is palpable as they proceed cautiously, aware of the crocodile's stealth and power.

Hours pass, and darkness falls. Torches are lit, casting flickering flames over the murky water.

Just as hope begins to wane, a ripple disturbs the calm surface of the river.

Shouts of alarm and determination fill the air as the crocodile surfaces, its eyes gleaming in the torchlight.

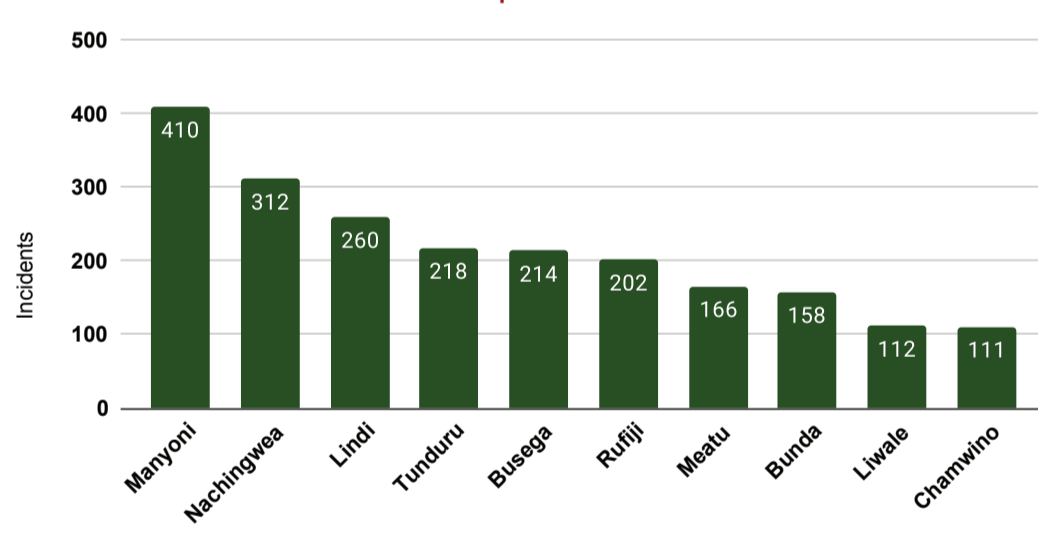
A tense battle ensues, with the villagers attacking the massive creature. After a fierce struggle, the crocodile is subdued and dragged to shore through collective effort.

Village elder Muhsin Said, 70, notes that such incidents have been happening for generations.

The villagers have adopted various precautionary measures, but the river remains home to thousands of crocodiles.

"As we depend on the river as our main source of water, there is no alternative but to fetch water directly from the shore," he

Human-Wildlife Conflicts Hotspots in Tanzania 2023/24



SOURCE: TAWA

said.

Villagers in the Arusha region of Tanzania's Simanjiro district, farmers and pastoralists are facing similar problem, facing people in Rufiji, as stray wild animals, including lions and elephants, have been frequently invading their fields.

Halima is one of many undocumented Tanzanians who have lost their lives due to attacks by predator and non-predator wildlife, as human-wildlife conflicts continue to escalate across various parts of Tanzania.

Human-wildlife conflicts in Tanzania have intensified in recent years, particularly in regions near protected areas like the Selous Game Reserve and Nyerere National Park.

The human-wildlife conflict is rising as farmers and pastoralists, themselves desperate for resources, encroach on protected wildlife areas.

The conflicts are primarily driven by expanding human populations encroaching on wildlife habitats, exacerbated by climate change, which intensifies competition for natural resources.

As human activities like agriculture and settlements move closer to wildlife corridors, incidents of crop damage, property destruction, and even attacks on people have increased significantly.

To address this, Tanzania is implementing the National Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Strategy (2020-2024).

This strategy aims to improve coexistence by focusing on community-based solutions, including the construction of barriers like fences, promoting coexistence education, and utilizing technology for wildlife monitoring.

The approach also encourages rapid response mechanisms to incidents and involves local communities in decision-making to foster conservation efforts.

Data from the 2023/2024 period show that Rufiji district ranked among the top ten hotspots for human-wildlife conflicts, recording 202 incidents. Other high-

risk areas include Manyoni (410), Nachingwea (312), Lindi (260), and Busega (214).

Government data indicates that human-wildlife conflicts have surged from 833 incidents in 2016/2017 to 3,499 in 2023/2024, representing an average annual increase of 28.8 percent.

This rise is attributed primarily to population growth and migration into wildlife corridors for economic activities.

In 2023/2024, 221 animals, including crocodiles, elephants, lions, and baboons, were killed due to conflicts with humans.

Conservation experts believe the actual number of incidents may be much higher, as many go unreported. Human-wildlife conflicts result not only in the loss of lives but also in the deterioration of coexistence between humans and wildlife.

Property is destroyed, crops are lost, and injuries occur, endangering both people and wildlife species.

Elephants account for 80 percent of human-wildlife conflict cases, highlighting the need for targeted interventions.

Now in its final year, the HWC strategy is being implemented by TAWA, the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), the Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, local government authorities, and other key stakeholders.

Isaac Chamba, a Conservation Officer at the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), explains that human-wildlife conflict management is governed by the Wildlife Conservation Policy of 1998 and the Wildlife Conservation Act Cap 283 of 2022.

Chamba notes that various factors contribute to the rise in human-wildlife conflicts, including blocked wildlife corridors, inadequate land-use planning, livestock intrusions into protected areas, climate change, and false beliefs in some communities.

To address the issue, the government and stakehold-

ers have adopted community-based mitigation measures, quick responses to incidents, better management of human-wildlife interfaces, and efforts to increase the benefits of conservation for local communities.

Other measures include educating communities living near wildlife corridors about coexistence, monitoring wildlife movements with technology, relocating animals from human settlements, and conducting research to better understand the conflicts. In areas like Rufiji, the construction of cages along rivers and lakes can help prevent attacks by crocodiles.

The African Wildlife Fund (AWF) is also implementing a project to support Tanzanian farmers to prevent crop raids by wildlife through provision of awareness training and demonstrates an arsenal of humane but effective tools—pressure horns, flashlights, chili bombs, beehive fences, and more.

Regina Kabwogi, an environmental and natural resources governance expert, points out that human-wildlife conflict have significant economic costs, psychological impacts, and safety concerns.

She emphasizes the need for gender considerations in conflict mitigation, as vulnerable groups are often at higher risk.

Dr. Darius Mukiza, a lecturer at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Dar es Salaam, warns that human-wildlife conflicts also pose a threat to conservation efforts and sustainable development.

Tourism, a vital sector of Tanzania's economy, could suffer as a result.

He advocates for stronger policies and increased community engagement in managing conflicts, as well as the promotion of coexistence between humans and wildlife.

Allen Mgaza, an expert in illegal wildlife trade, suggests a multi-pronged approach to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts.

Enhancing data collection through the Problem Animal Information System (PAIS) can be a vital step in mitigating human-wildlife conflict.

This system collects and analyzes data on wildlife incidents, allowing authorities to identify hotspots, understand patterns, and implement targeted interventions.

## Vehicle maker seeks to launch its own assembly plant in Tanzania

By Henry Mwangonde

CHINESE commercial vehicle manufacturer Yutong is considering establishing an assembly plant in Tanzania, following positive market trends since its entry into the country.

Yutong Bus Tanzania Chief Executive Officer Kellen Zou announced this potential expansion during the inauguration of the company's new offices and service center for Yutong buses.

Kellen noted that the Tanzanian and East African markets are growing rapidly, presenting promising opportunities for further expansion as Yutong aims to dominate the region.

"Everything is possible; we started from a very modest position and have now grown into a significant player in the country," he said.

The new service center is set to improve vehicle repair and maintenance, addressing the previous need for bus owners to rely on local mechanics or travel to neighboring countries for repairs.

He emphasized that the center will not only provide essential services but also offer training for local drivers, creating a win-win situation and transforming the sector.

"Tanzania is a key market in the East African Community (EAC) and has demonstrated its capability for further growth," he added.

Issah Nkya, Chairperson of the Tanzania Bus Owners Association (TABOA), welcomed the new center, highlighting its role in addressing the challenges faced by bus owners who previously had to send their vehicles to other countries or deal with unreliable mechanics.



# Strengthening farming water management for climate resilience in African agriculture

By **Tinashe Lindel Dirwai, Petra Schmitter & Barbra Muzata**

AS the realities of climate change reshape agricultural landscapes across Africa, the importance of efficient water management and irrigation systems has never been more critical.

At the Excellence in Agronomy (EiA) Initiative, we recognize that the future of African agriculture depends on our ability to adapt to these changes by co-developing and implementing context specific, regionally differentiated, and scale appropriate innovative irrigation and agricultural water management solutions that enhance both productivity and resilience.

Irrigation is far more than a technical solution; it is a lifeline for millions of farmers across the continent and it is critical for maintaining ecosystem integrity. By optimizing water use, effective irrigation systems have the potential to (1) double or even triple crop yields, (2) provide a vital buffer against the erratic weather patterns that increasingly threaten food security, and (3) mitigate against over abstraction of groundwater, thus ensuring its sustainability.

Key trends shaping the future of irrigation in African agriculture include:

**Context-Specific Irrigation Technologies:** Modern and scale appropriate irrigation and agricultural water management solutions are tailored to the unique conditions of various agro-ecological zones across Africa. These technologies are designed to optimize water use in regions where scarcity is a constant challenge, ensuring that every drop counts. From drip irrigation to advanced scheduling systems, these technologies are making a tangible difference in the lives of smallholder farmers.

**Irrigation as Climate Adaptation:** With the increasing unpredictability of rainfall patterns due to climate change, irrigation is emerging as a cornerstone of agricultural resilience. By providing consistent water supply, irrigation systems help farmers stabilize their

yields and reduce the risks associated with climate variability. This is particularly important in regions where rainfed agriculture is becoming less reliable.

**Collaborative Policy Development:** The success of irrigation initiatives hinges on robust policy frameworks that support integrative and inclusive investments and innovations. At EiA, we work closely with government bodies, research institutions, and international partners to shape policies that foster sustainable irrigation practices. The recent launch of the African Irrigation Policy Dialogue Series, in alignment with the 2024 Nairobi Declaration, is a prime example of these collaborative efforts.

**Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:** Equipping farmers with the knowledge and skills to effectively manage irrigation systems is essential for long-term success. Through training programs and extension services, EiA ensures that farmers are not only able to use these technologies but also understand how to maintain and adapt them to changing conditions. This approach ensures the sustainability and scalability of irrigation practices.

**Integration with Broader Agricultural Systems:** Irrigation does not exist in isolation. It is part of a larger agricultural ecosystem that includes soil health, crop selection, and pest management. By integrating irrigation with other agronomic practices, EiA helps farmers create more resilient and productive farming systems. This holistic approach is key to addressing the complex challenges posed by climate change.

**Real-World Impact:** The impact of effective irrigation on farmers' livelihoods cannot be overstated. From reducing crop failures to increasing income stability, irrigation provides farmers with a reliable means of navigating the challenges of a changing climate. Real-world examples from across the continent demonstrate how these systems are transforming lives and ensuring food security.

The main message is clear: strengthening irrigation investments across Africa is essential for adapting to the yield instabilities brought on by climate change. However, this requires more than just expanding irrigation

infrastructure—it demands reconfiguring and better designing existing irrigation schemes to achieve the desired outcomes. Many current systems are outdated or inefficient, and without significant improvements, the full potential of irrigation as an adaptation pathway will not be realized.

At EiA, we are deeply committed to advancing this agenda of driving the agricultural transformations needed to secure a resilient and food-secure future for Africa. Our work is closely linked to the climate resilience strategies that are vital for Africa's future.

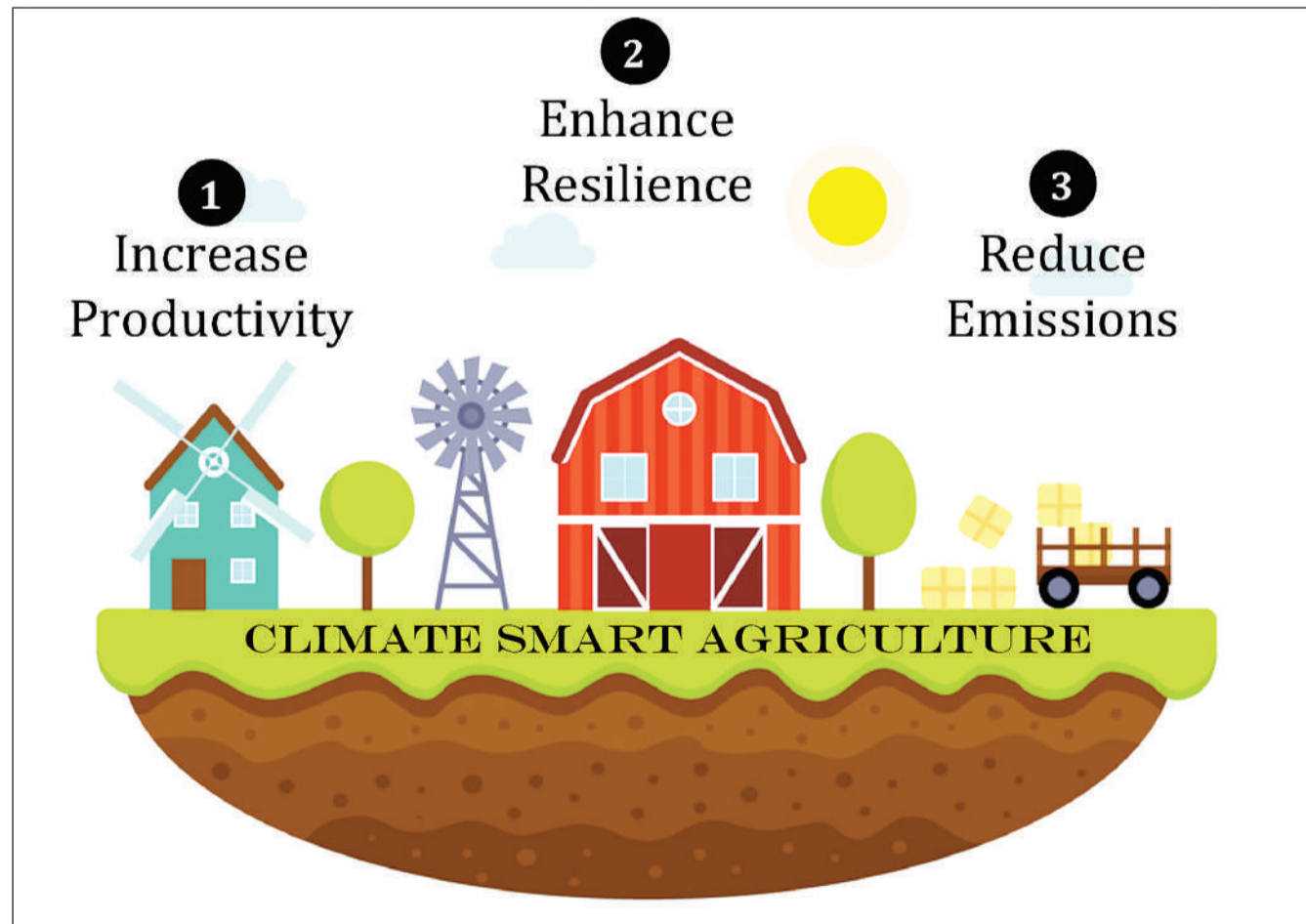
Our work in irrigation is not just about deploying technologies; it is about empowering farmers with the tools and knowledge they need to thrive in the face of climate change. By focusing on scalable, context-specific solutions, we aim to make a lasting impact on African agriculture.

Through our new collaboration with the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Irrigation and Mechanization Systems, we are spearheading efforts to redesign and optimize irrigation schemes across the continent.

This initiative, in partnership with leading research institutions such as the University of Nebraska, is focused on delivering cutting-edge, context-specific irrigation and mechanization solutions that can be scaled up to meet the needs of African farmers.

Ultimately, the path to resilient and productive agriculture in Africa lies in smarter irrigation investments. By focusing on innovative designs and effective implementation, EiA is ensuring that irrigation becomes a powerful tool for climate adaptation, securing food systems, and boosting agricultural productivity for generations to come.

Dirwai is a regional researcher with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and a key contributor to the Excellence in Agronomy initiative. Petra Schmitter is a Principal Researcher – Climate Change Adaptation, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and Barbra Muzata is global communications leader at the CGIAR's Excellence in Agronomy Initiative.



## Engineers Registration Board establishes STEM programme

By Correspondent **Beatrice Philemon**

THE Engineers Registration Board (ERB) has introduced a new initiative called the "Science, Engineering, Technology, and Mathematics (STEM) Support Programme."

This program aims to sponsor volunteer teachers to teach STEM subjects in primary and secondary schools across Tanzania.

STEM, which stands for Science, Engineering, Technology, and Mathematics, is central to the program's objective of increasing the number of highly qualified, gender-balanced students enrolling in engineering courses at universities both locally and internationally. This initiative aligns with the Ministry of Education's guidelines issued in June 2023.

Speaking at the launch of the ERB Run for STEM Marathon 2024, ERB Registrar Eng. Bernard Kavishe emphasized the program's goal of addressing the shortage of STEM teachers in Tanzania.

The marathon, held at the University of Dar es Salaam Academic Staff Assembly (UDASA) grounds, drew engineers and participants from various regions of the country.

To date, the program has deployed 20 volunteer teachers specializing in physics, mathematics, chemistry, biology, and computer science to three secondary schools in the Kagera Region.

These schools include Lt. General Silas Mayunga Secondary School, Kyerwa Secondary School, and Kagera River Girls Secondary School, with each school receiving a dedicated number of teachers.

The selected teachers, who hold

bachelor's degrees and have not yet secured employment, will serve as volunteers for a period of two years. Under the STEM Support Programme (SSP), these teachers will receive monthly allowances, health insurance, books, laboratory equipment, and travel stipends for reporting and holidays.

"We are also promoting a passion for STEM, with a particular emphasis on encouraging girls to pursue these subjects," said Kavishe. He expressed gratitude to the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dar es Salaam, which donated 150m/- to support the program.

Kavishe explained that the decision to introduce the STEM Support Programme followed research conducted in the Tanga, Kagera, Geita, Dar es Salaam, and Katavi regions, which revealed a significant shortage of science teachers in primary and secondary schools. He warned that without serious

efforts to encourage students to pursue science and without the recruitment of STEM teachers, Tanzania could face a shortage of engineers in the future.

"The shortage of science teachers is a nationwide issue, and we need additional support from donors to extend the program to other regions," he added.

The ERB's efforts also align with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's education initiatives, which include the construction of 800 new primary and secondary schools, 26 of which are dedicated to science education for girls. However, many of these schools still face a shortage of qualified science teachers.

The STEM Support Programme, officially launched in April 2023, aims to sponsor at least 100 teachers over a 24-month period, requiring a total funding amount of 1.9bn/-.

As part of the program, students in Form Two and beyond will receive specialized instruction in mathematics, biology, physics, and computer science. The quality of the teaching will be carefully monitored to ensure high standards are maintained.

Eng. Ilham Sharif, a personal assistant to the ERB, explained that the ERB Run for STEM Marathon was initiated to address the shortage of science teachers and enhance science education for girls. The funds raised will be used to

purchase books, laboratory equipment, and provide support for teachers in secondary schools.

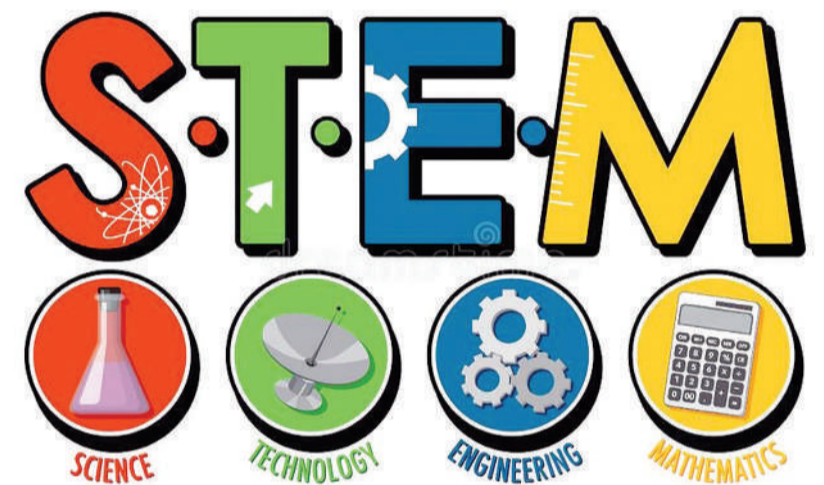
The marathon featured 5km, 10km, and 21km races, which took participants through the UDASA grounds.

The event was graced by the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Adolf Mkenda, who served as the guest of honor. The marathon attracted engineers and individuals from across the country.

Sharif emphasized the importance of sustaining the program and called for continued support from stakeholders. "Every year, about 20,000 students graduate, but many remain unemployed. We need to ensure that students are prepared for the opportunities ahead."

She also highlighted the importance of transparency in the program, encouraging donors to audit the use of their contributions. "Donors can visit the areas where their funds have been used, and they are welcome to bring their own auditors to verify how their money has been spent."

Ultimately, the program aims to equip students with problem-solving skills, encourage innovation, and foster a strong foundation in STEM subjects, preparing them for future opportunities and challenges in an increasingly technological world.



## Technology companies urged to capitalise on sub-marine cable

By **Francis Kajubi**

TECHNOLOGY companies operating in Tanzania interested in improving their internet and data delivery capacities through the 2Africa Cable landing station, administered by Airtel Tanzania have been encouraged to capitalize on the opportunity.

Speaking after a short familiarization trip at the station in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Deputy Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology, Marprisca Mahundi called upon investors in the communication sector to capitalize on the cable with deliberate investments and amplify the benefits of the 2Africa cable system, ultimately achieving Tanzania's goal of becoming East Africa's digital gateway.

According to her, Tanzania is set to experience a significant leap in digital connectivity with the activation of the 2Africa submarine cable landing station, which recently went live.

This milestone, she said, which is managed by the telecom company underscores the importance of deliberate investments in bridging the digital divide in the country.

"The 2Africa submarine cable system spans 45,000 kilometers, making it the world's largest subsea cable project. It aims to improve communication for over 3 billion people across Africa, Asia, and Europe in 43 locations across those continents," said Mahundi.

di.

According to Dinesh Balsingh, Managing Director of Airtel Tanzania, the 2Africa cable will deliver high data capacity, excellent connectivity, resilience, and redundancy to the ICT ecosystem, meeting current and future digital industry demands.

Balsingh asserted that the company services cover 80 percent of rural areas with 4G network technology, and the 2Africa cable will provide a strategic platform for all mobile operators and internet service providers.

"We recently experienced an unforeseen internet outage that negatively impacted businesses. With this cable landing station, that will be history;

The telecom operator is ensuring that the country does not suffer such internet outages in the future because the subsea cable elevates the internet connectivity 10 times more than the capacity speed we were working with," he said.

Balsingh further added, "The rapid launch of the project in Tanzania sets a positive precedent, demonstrating the government's ability to facilitate necessary approvals and licenses. This endorsement is expected to attract further investments;

The telecom company's investments underscore its commitment to reducing Tanzania's digital divide and enhancing digital inclusion through robust broadband connectivity."

## China's consumer prices maintain stable growth in August

BEIJING

CHINA'S consumer prices continued to rise in August amid a sustained recovery of domestic demand, while declines in producer prices indicated more time needed for market sentiment to get fully restored.

The consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, was up 0.6 percent year on year last month, quickening from the 0.5-percent increase in July, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said in a statement. On a monthly basis, the CPI grew 0.4 percent in August, slightly lower than the 0.5-percent increase in July.

NBS statistician Dong Lijuan attributed the price changes last month to factors including high temperatures and frequent rainfall in the summer.

In breakdown, food prices, up 2.8 percent year on year and 3.4 percent on a monthly basis, became the major contributor to the overall price increase. Prices of eggs, vegetables and fruits gained because of downpours in multiple regions, and pork prices also climbed with reduced production capacity and strong market expectations.

Non-food prices remained moderate due in part to falling demand for travel and hospitality as summer vacation was coming to an end.

NBS data also showed China's producer price index (PPI), which measures costs for goods at the factory gate, went down 1.8 percent year on year in August, bigger than a 0.8-percent year-on-year dip registered in July.



# ATAF launches toolkit to strengthen taxation cooperation across Africa

By Correspondent Rachel Mkundali

IN a significant move to bolster tax administration across the continent, the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) has unveiled a comprehensive toolkit aimed at assisting member countries in joining the ATAF Agreement on Mutual Assistance in Tax Matters (AMATM).

This treaty serves as a crucial instrument in the ongoing battle against tax evasion and avoidance, fostering cooperation among African tax administrations.

In today's globalized economy, multinational corporations and affluent individuals can easily shift resources across borders, complicating the efforts of tax authorities to accurately assess and collect taxes.

The AMATM provides a robust

framework for African nations to collaborate on tax matters, facilitating the exchange of taxpayer information, conducting joint audits, and assisting in the recovery of tax debts held abroad.

This treaty aligns with international best practices and is accessible to all ATAF member countries.

The newly released toolkit outlines practical steps for African nations interested in joining the AMATM. It details the necessary procedures, including identifying signatories, delegating authority, navigating the ratification process, and submitting the required instruments to ATAF.

ATAF Executive Secretary Logan Wort underscored the treaty's significance, stating, "The AMATM is a critical instrument for enhancing tax cooperation across Africa. It supports our members in closing information gaps and ensuring that taxes owed are collected, contributing to the de-

velopment of public services. This toolkit will empower our members to take full advantage of the treaty's provisions."

ATAF is urging all member states to utilize this toolkit and join the AMATM, reinforcing the continent's commitment to combatting illicit financial flows and promoting economic integration.

By fostering collaboration and transparency in tax matters, the AMATM represents a vital step towards strengthening Africa's economic resilience and ensuring that all citizens benefit from improved public services funded by fair tax practices.

As African nations continue to navigate the complexities of global finance, the AMATM and its accompanying toolkit stand as a beacon of hope for enhanced cooperation and accountability in tax administration, paving the way for a more equitable economic future across the continent.

# Global labour income share declines, SDG targets not on track

GENEVA

IN its newly-released World Employment and Social Outlook: September 2024 Update, the International Labour Organization (ILO) finds upward pressure on inequality as the labour income share stagnates and a large share of youth remains out of employment, education or training.

The report indicates slow progress on key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the 2030 deadline approaches.

The labour income share is a widely used measure of inequality which measures the proportion of total income in a country that employed people earn by working.

With only six years remaining, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) increasingly seems to be out of reach. This is the case for two SDG indicators that we analyse in this brief - the share of youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET) and the labour income share.

The study reveals that the global labour income share, which represents the portion of total income earned by workers, fell by 0.6 percentage points from 2019 to 2022 and has since remained flat - compounding a long-running downward trend.

If the share had remained at the same level as in 2004, labour income would be larger by US\$2.4 trillion in 2024 alone.

The study highlights the COVID-19 pandemic as a key driver of this decline, with nearly 40 per cent of the reduction in the labour income share occurring during the pandemic years of 2020-2022.

The crisis exacerbated existing inequalities, particularly as capital income continues to concentrate



among the wealthiest, undermining progress towards SDG 10, which aims to reduce inequality within and among countries.

Technological advances, including automation, have played a role in this trend. While these innovations have boosted productivity and output the evidence suggests that workers are not sharing equitably from the resulting gains.

The report warns that without comprehensive policies to ensure that the benefits of technological progress are broadly shared, recent developments in the field of artificial intelligence could deepen inequality, putting the achievement of the SDGs at risk.

"Countries must take action to counter the risk of declining labour income share. We need policies that promote an equitable distribution of economic benefits, including freedom of association, collective bargaining and effective labour administration, to achieve inclusive growth, and build a path to sustainable development for all," said Celeste Drake, ILO Deputy Director-General.

Drawing on the ILO's recently published Global Employment Trends for Youth (GET Youth), the study also identifies the large share of youth outside employment, education and

training as a persistent area of concern.

As GET Youth showed, the global rate of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) registered only a modest decrease from 21.3 per cent in 2015 to 20.4 per cent in 2024 and is projected to remain flat for the next two years.

The female NEET rate - which stood at 28.2 per cent in 2024 - is more than double that faced by young men, jeopardizing SDG 8.

NEET estimates show that large gender inequalities remain in young people's access to education and employment, although there has been moderate progress in reducing gender gaps over the past two decades.

The Arab States region has the highest incidence of youth NEET, at 33.3 per cent, followed by Africa (23.3 per cent), Asia and the Pacific (20.4 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (19.6 per cent), Europe and Central Asia (13.0 per cent), and Northern America (11.2 per cent).

The regions with the lowest initial NEET rates experienced sizeable declines. In contrast, the Arab States region registered only a modest decline, while Africa has shown no progress in reducing the incidence of NEET over the last two decades.

phased out on a monthly basis starting December 1st, 2024."

OPEC+ added the warning that it would still have "the flexibility to pause or reverse the adjustments as necessary", referring to the additions to global supply.

The decision to delay the rise in OPEC+ supply came after oil prices crashed early last week to the lowest level in nine months, and the lowest so far this year. Amid weaker-than-expected Chinese demand, and concerns about near-term Chinese and US demand, the prospect of OPEC+ adding supply as early as October had worried markets that the oversupply next year would be higher than previously thought.

Concerns about oil demand in China, fears of slowing US and European economies, and hopes of a restart of Libya's production halt also added to the bearish sentiment in the market in the past week.

The OPEC+ announcement of the delay to supply boost, however, did little to calm the markets and oil prices slumped on Friday to their lowest levels since June 2023 amid concerns about oil demand.

Crude oil prices began the week with gains as traders took a break after the latest selloff and as a weather system in the Gulf of Mexico could become a hurricane before it makes landfall.

In midmorning trade in Asia Brent crude had added over 1 percent from last Friday's close and West Texas Intermediate was up by some 1.30 percent from last week. The benchmarks lost some 10 percent last week in a selloff that Bloomberg dubbed "brutal".

"Crude oil recorded its biggest weekly fall in 11 months amid a darkening economic backdrop. Weak jobs data in the US on Friday raised concerns over flagging oil demand in the world's biggest consumer," ANZ analysts said in a note cited by Reuters.

The latest jobs report from the Labor Department, released on Friday, showed 142,000 new jobs were added in August, which was below expectations. However, unemployment rose less than forecast in the same month, keeping optimism alive about an interest rate cut soon.

"OPEC+'s announcement to delay the start of its planned output increase signals that the producers' group remains focused on balancing the market," Morgan Stanley analysts said in a note quoted by Bloomberg. "Unless demand weakens more, we estimate Brent likely remains anchored around the mid-\$70s."

It is worth noting that the selloff last week did not pause even after OPEC signaled it would not, after all, start returning supply to the market from October and even after the EIA reported yet another sizable draw in crude oil inventories for the last week of August.

# IRON ore slumps below \$90 as growth fears hit commodities

LONDON

IRON-ORE sank below \$90 a ton for the first time since 2022 as industrial commodities faced sustained pressure from tepid Chinese demand and gathering worries over global growth.

Futures for iron-ore have fallen by more than a third this year as an unresolved steel crisis in China threatens demand for the raw material. But there are broader headwinds too, with base metals and crude oil also retreating in recent weeks as 2024 turns out to be a jittery year across the commodities complex.

"Investors are shifting focus from US inflation to growth fears," said Jia Zheng, head of trading at Shanghai Soochow Jiuying Investment Management Co. "China lacks significant stimulus support and the market is pessimistic."

The more cautious mood in metals was underscored last week by Goldman Sachs Group Inc. hacking about \$5 000 a ton off its long-standing bullish copper forecast - largely because of soft Chinese demand. Uncertainty around the US presidential election in November would keep the global economy subdued and weigh on metals prices, Citigroup said.

Iron-ore fell as much as 2.3 percent to \$89.60 a ton in Singapore, and traded at \$90.60 as of 10:45 a.m. local time. Aluminum dropped 0.3 percent after notching an eighth daily decline on Friday. The LME Index of six metals is now up by only 3 percent this year, compared with 25 percent in mid-May.

Consumption of steel in China has weakened because of the country's protracted real estate slowdown, with the world's biggest steel producer, China Baowu Steel Group Corp, saying the industry could be facing

a worse crisis than the downturns in 2008 and 2015. While exports and growth in other sectors are softening the blow, cuts to steel output have left the iron-ore market saddled with excess supply.

Former People's Bank of China Governor Yi Gang said on Friday that the country should focus on ending deflation, a rare admission by a prominent Chinese figure that falling prices are threatening the growth outlook.

Still, steel-buying typically recovers after the summer months, which could provide a respite for mills.

"We expect iron-ore prices to find some support from mid-September as China's autumn construction season picks up, and on seasonal re-stocking ahead of the Golden Week holiday," said RBC Capital Markets analyst Kaan Peker, referring to a one-week break in China at the start of October.

Global pig iron production in July 2024 increased by 1.1 percent compared to the previous month - to 120.7 million tons.

Compared to July 2023, the figure decreased by 1.8 percent. This was reported by Ukrmetallurgprom with reference to the WorldSteel Association.

World pig iron production by the blast furnace method amounted to 109.9 million tons for the month (+1.2 percent m/m; -2.3 percent y/y), and by the direct reduction method - 10.8 million tons (-0.3 percent m/m; +5.6 percent y/y).

In July, Ukraine produced 621 thousand tons of pig iron, down 1.1 percent month-on-month and 15.5 percent y/y. For 7 months, the figure amounted to 4.09 million tons (+21.2 percent y/y). Thus, the country ranks 13th in the ranking of global pig iron producers.

# OPEC+ to begin oil production increase in 2025

By Tsvetana Paraskova

THE OPEC+ group will begin adding supply to the market in 2025, for the first time since 2022, Jim Burkhard, vice president of research at S&P Global Commodity Insights, said at the Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (APPEC) on Monday.

"We think in 2025 for the first time in a couple of years, first time since 2022, OPEC+ will increase production," Burkhard said at the conference in Singapore organized by S&P, as carried by Reuters.

Last week, the OPEC+ alliance led by Saudi Arabia and Russia decided to delay the unwinding of its production cuts that were planned to begin in October. The first addition to supply, of 180,000 barrels per day (bpd), is now expected for December.

During a virtual meeting on Thursday, the eight OPEC+ members that were planned to start easing the cuts in October agreed that they would extend the current cuts until the end of November, "after which these cuts will be gradually



VIEW FROM THE TOP





## WORLD

## House Republican report blasts Biden over chaotic Afghan exit

WASHINGTON

US House of Representatives Republicans will release a long-awaited report on Monday blasting Democratic President Joe Biden's administration for failures surrounding the chaotic and deadly US withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021.

The report contends that the administration made its decision to evacuate noncombatants far too late, formally ordering it only on Aug 16, failed to communicate between departments in Washington and among officials in Afghanistan, and botched the paperwork for the departure of Afghan civilians eligible to leave the country.

It is the result of a three-year investigation led by Representative Michael McCaul, Republican chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"America's credibility on the world stage was severely damaged after we abandoned Afghan allies to Taliban reprisal killings – the people of Afghani-

stan we had promised to protect," the report said. "And the moral injury to America's veterans and those still serving remains a stain on this administration's legacy."

The withdrawal has become intensely politicized ahead of the Nov 5 US presidential election. Last month, the Republican nominee, former president Donald Trump, shot a video for his campaign at Arlington National Cemetery where he appeared at a ceremony honoring troops killed in the evacuation.

Trump has also attacked Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris over the exit from Afghanistan during campaign appearances, blaming them personally for the deaths at Kabul airport's Abbey Gate. On Aug 26, 2021, as US forces were trying to help Americans and Afghans flee as the Islamist Taliban movement took control of the country, a suicide attack at the Abbey Gate entrance to Kabul's airport killed 13 Americans, compounding the US sense of defeat after two decades of war.



In this image provided by the US Marines, US Marines with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command, provide assistance during an evacuation at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug 20, 2021. AP

Harris is the Democratic presidential nominee.

Democrats have insisted that some blame for the messy end of the war – less than seven months into Biden's presidency – should be laid at the feet of Trump, who began the withdrawal process by signing a deal with the Taliban in 2020.

"When former president Trump took office, there were approximately 14,000 American troops in Afghanistan. Days before leaving office, the former president ordered a further reduction to 2,500," Representative Gregory Meeks, the top Democrat on the Foreign Affairs panel, said in a letter to committee Democrats about the investigation.

Republican committee aides dismissed that contention as partisan politics, saying Biden could have

ignored Trump's agreement or enforced it, accusing officials who served during Biden's presidency of allowing the Taliban to disregard its commitments.

Some 800,000 US servicemembers served in Afghanistan following the US-led invasion triggered by the Sept 11, 2001 attack on the US by Afghanistan-based al Qaeda.

During the war, 2,238 US servicemembers died and nearly 21,000 were wounded. Independent estimates put the number of Afghan security forces and civilians killed at more than 100,000.

McCaul has subpoenaed Secretary of State Antony Blinken three times in connection with the Afghanistan investigation, most recently last week, saying that he wants him to testify in person.

## Putin congratulates Kim Jong Un on North Korea's 76th anniversary – Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin has published Russian President Vladimir Putin's congratulatory telegram to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the republic's formation.

"Dear Comrade Kim Jong Un, please accept my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea," the Russian president's address reads.

Putin noted that relations between the two countries remain at a high level, which was fully confirmed by the recent substantial and fruitful talks in Pyongyang. "I am sure that the comprehensive strategic partnership between Russia and the DPRK will be strengthened in a planned way thanks to our joint efforts," the Russian leader added.



## 'Maybe by the end of this year'

NEW DELHI

UKRAINE'S Ambassador to India, Oleksandr Polishchuk, said yesterday that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy may visit India by the end of the year following an invitation extended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi but the dates of the visit will be decided according to mutual convenience.

"Prime Minister Modi kindly invited my president to visit India, and I'm hopeful it will happen. Maybe by the end of this year, we will be happy to see President Zelenskyy here, as it would mark another step forward in our bilateral relationship. It would also provide a great opportunity for the two leaders to spend more time discussing the peace-building process around the world," Polishchuk told ANI.

The Ukrainian envoy mentioned that Prime Minister Modi's visit to Ukraine was relatively short due to security concerns. However, in India, both leaders would have more time for discussions, he said.

"I know for certain that President Zelenskyy is very keen to visit India. He has never been here," he said, adding that "visit would take place at a time convenient for both sides".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Ukraine on August 23 this year at the invitation of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy. This marked the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Ukraine since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in 1992.

In a joint statement issued at the end of the visit, Prime Minister Modi and President Zelenskyy reiterated their readiness for further cooperation in upholding principles of international law, including the UN Charter, such as respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states. They agreed on the desirability of closer bilateral dialogue in this regard.

The Indian side reiterated its principled position and focus on peaceful resolution of Ukraine conflict through dialogue and diplomacy, as a part of which, India has attended the Summit on Peace in Ukraine, held in Burgenstock, Switzerland, in June 2024.

The Ukrainian side welcomed such participation by India and highlighted the importance of high-level Indian participation in the next Peace Summit.

The Ukrainian side conveyed that the Joint Communiqué on a Peace Framework, adopted at the Summit on Peace in Ukraine, could serve as a basis for further efforts to promote just peace based on dialogue, diplomacy, and international law.

The Leaders appreciated various efforts to ensure global food security, including Ukrainian humanitarian grain initiative. The importance of uninterrupted and unhindered supply of agricultural products to global markets, especially in Asia and Africa, was emphasized.

Prime Minister Modi reiterated the need for sincere and practical engagement between all stakeholders to develop innovative solutions that will have broad acceptability and contribute towards early restoration of peace. He reiterated India's willingness to contribute in all possible ways to facilitate an early return of peace. "Prime Minister Modi thanked President Zelenskyy for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation during the visit and invited him to visit India at a mutually convenient opportunity," the joint statement said.

Zelenskyy had expressed his gratitude over PM Modi's visit to Ukraine. "A very good meeting. This is a historic one... I am very thankful to the PM for coming. It's a good beginning with some practical steps," he said at a press conference later.

"I am happy that PM Modi came to visit us and I believe this is very important... This is the first visit of the Prime Minister of India to Ukraine. We are ready on our part to do the respective steps. We've heard messages from the Indian side that they would be happy to welcome our team to India," he added.

ANI

## Car-free day celebrated in Ugandan capital to create awareness of sustainable urban environment

KAMPALA

KAMPALA, Uganda's capital, has successfully held its second edition of the Car-Free Day event to promote sustainable transport and underscore the need for a sustainable urban environment.

The streets of Nile Avenue, Speke Road, Shimoni Road and Buganda Road were closed off for cars and witnessed an extraordinary transformation, said Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) in a statement issued here late Saturday.

"Instead of the usual traffic jams and the honking horns, the city's streets were filled with laughter, cycling enthusiasts, children playing, and the joyful bustle of a community united for a cause," said KCCA in a statement.

People participated in various events, from bicycle races to walkathons, while street artists turned empty roads into colorful canvases, said the authority. "Families enjoyed an array of street games and exhibitions.

Children laughed and played in a city that had, for once, become their playground," said KCCA.

Among the unique activities was a yoga session, offering a moment of calm amid the lively energy. People gathered on mats, breathing in the fresh air, a stark contrast to the usual fumes from cars and motorbikes.

Justus Akankwasa, KCCA's director of Engineering and Technical Services, said the introduction of the Car-Free Day aims at addressing Kampala's transportation and environmental challenges by encouraging residents to adopt bicycles, walking, and other eco-friendly modes of transport.

"This initiative is part of our broader efforts to improve air quality and encourage active mobility," said Akankwasa, quoted in the statement. "By reducing our reliance on motor vehicles, we are

not only benefiting the environment but also promoting healthier lifestyles," said Akankwasa.

Kampala, like many rapidly urbanizing cities, faces a growing challenge in balancing development with environmental sustainability. The city's increasing traffic congestion has resulted in poor air quality, with vehicle emissions contributing significantly to pollution levels.

"It's refreshing to see Kampala this way," said Sharon Kabatesi, a participant in the walk race. "It feels like the city belongs to us, not just the cars. I hope we can have more days like this where we put our health and the environment first."

According to KCCA, plans are underway to create more dedicat-

ed bicycle lanes, and pedestrian walkways, and improve the city's infrastructure to support non-motorized transport for a more sustainable, healthier city for its residents.

On March 26, 2023, Uganda hosted its first Car-Free Day in Kampala, during which certain parts of the city were closed to cars.

Instead of the usual traffic jams and the honking horns, the city's streets were filled with

## US, India partners to explore semiconductor supply chain opportunities

NEW DELHI

THE US Department of State is partnering with the India Semiconductor Mission of the Union Electronics and IT Ministry to explore opportunities for growing and diversifying the global semiconductor ecosystem under the International Technology Security and Innovation (ITSI) Fund, created by the CHIPS Act of 2022.

This partnership aims to create a more resilient, secure, and sustainable global semiconductor value chain.

Speaking at the event, US

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Trade Policy and Negotiations, J Robert Garverick, from the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs (EB), said,

"The Department of State is partnering with the Government of India to explore opportunities to grow and diversify the global semiconductor ecosystem under the International Technology Security and Innovation Fund.

President Biden signed the CHIPS Act in the US two years ago, establishing the ITSI Fund to promote the development of a secure global semiconduc-

tor supply chain and telecommunications networks."

The initial phase includes a comprehensive assessment of India's existing semiconductor ecosystem and regulatory framework, as well as workforce and infrastructure needs.

He also said, "Insights gained from this review will serve as the foundation for potential joint initiatives to strengthen this critical sector. The US and India are key partners in ensuring that the global semiconductor supply chain keeps pace with the ongoing global digital transformation. Our coopera-

tion underscores the potential to expand the Indian semiconductor industry to benefit both nations and much of the rest of the world. Our global partnership will extend to supply chain logistics."

The US Department of State anticipates that key Indian stakeholders, including state governments, educational institutions, research centres, and private companies, will participate in this analysis, which will be steered by the India Semiconductor Mission.

Akash Tripathi, CEO of the India Semiconductor Mission

(ISM), stated, "To extend our partnership with the US, we are announcing that we will be engaging in and conducting a study with them to access the ITSI Fund.

The US needs to study the entire ecosystem to understand the gaps and needs of the semiconductor industry in India. We are happy to partner with them in facilitating this study. We intend to complete the study in the next couple of months so that we can access the ITSI Fund and further boost our semiconductor ecosystem in its entirety." ANI

CHINA will provide training for some 40,000 African teachers over the next three years, a senior official said, as an initiative on jointly promoting education development and cultural heritage protection was launched in Beijing last week, aiming to enhance cooperation in the education and culture sectors among China, African countries and UNESCO.

Action Initiatives on Collaborative Efforts for Education and Cultural Heritage Protection by China and Africa, along with other cooperative projects centered on educational and cultural exchanges between China and African countries, were announced on Friday during a high-level dialogue.

The dialogue on the sidelines of the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

## China, Africa to boost education development

Summit, which concluded on Friday, gathered ministers from African countries, presidents of Chinese and African higher education institutes, and experts and scholars to share their experiences and seek collaboration in the fields of education and cultural heritage protection.

Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang hailed the significant achievements made through China-Africa cooperation in education and cultural heritage protection.

Ding, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said China will strengthen digital education cooperation with African

countries, sharing high-quality digital resources to help modernize education in Africa.

The country will provide training for 40,000 African instructors over the next three years to help improve their teaching capabilities in African countries, Ding added.

Additionally, the China-Africa Universities 100 Cooperation Plan will be further advanced to deepen partnerships between higher education institutes, he added.

Chinese Education Minister Huai Jinqing said the country is willing to work together with Africa and UNESCO to promote the sharing of digital learning experiences, uplift vocational education and develop teaching skills on the

continent.

To that end, China will collaborate with African countries to establish a development center integrating the education of the Chinese language and vocational skills, a teacher education center and a digital education regional cooperation center, according to the ministry.

Educational cooperation has promoted the socioeconomic development of Africa, with students from 53 African countries studying in China, Huai said. More than half are studying STEM subjects, agriculture and medicine, he added.

Stefania Giannini, assistant director-general for education at UNESCO, said strengthening STEM education is essential, especially for African coun-

tries. The UNESCO Category-1 institute for STEM studies established in Shanghai will play a vital role in expanding education in science, technology, engineering and math, with a special focus on Africa, she said.

Muganga Didas Kayihura, vice-chancellor of the University of Rwanda, said the university has been cooperating with Chinese higher education institutes to cultivate talent in fields such as agriculture, science and technology, and artificial intelligence.

Many of the university's graduates have engaged in related industries in Rwanda, and educational exchanges of students and professionals are expected to increase in the future, he said.

Jin Li, director of the UNESCO International Centre for Higher Education Innovation, said efforts have been made to enhance the digital skills of university administrators and educators in African countries.

"Many of these nations are undergoing rapid transformations in higher education. There is a strong demand for both hardware and the development of knowledge systems," he said.

Jin, who is also the vice-president of the Southern University of Science and Technology in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, said the university has established smart classrooms in 17 African countries to facilitate the digital education of more than 20,000 students and

teachers.

"We collaborate with advanced Chinese companies, including Huawei and BYD, to convert their donated resources into hardware equipment for smart classrooms in African countries," he said.

The university is also working with national education departments in Africa to support the trial use of smart classroom systems in leading institutions, he added.

Many African countries still face challenges in the use of smart devices, with a transition underway from traditional phones to smartphones. Deeper collaboration between Chinese companies and African educational institutions will be realized as digitalization spreads across the continent, Jin said.

Xinhua



## Russia works for preventing major war in Middle East – Lavrov

RIYADH

THE Middle East is on the verge of a major regional war and Russia is working with all sides for preventing it, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a session of the Strategic Dialogue between Russia and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Persian Gulf (GCC).

“The inability of the world community to stop the hostilities in the Gaza Strip and the mass deaths of its residents has led to a sharp



deterioration of the military and political situation in the entire region - from the border of Lebanon and Israel to the Red Sea,” Lavrov said. “At the same time, the confrontation between Israel and Lebanon has reached a new dangerous level. The Middle East is once again on the threshold of a major regional war. It is our common responsibility not to let it happen.”

“We are working with all sides to normalize the situation,” Lavrov said.

Agencies

## EAM Jaishankar, Qatar PM discuss taking forward bilateral ties

RIYADH [SAUDI ARABIA]

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a meeting with Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in Saudi Arabia yesterday. The two leaders discussed taking forward bilateral ties.

Sharing details regarding his meeting with Qatar PM, Jaishankar (pictured) stated, “Began the day with a good meeting with PM & FM of Qatar @MBA\_ALThani\_. Discussed taking India-Qatar bilateral ties forward. Appreciated his insights and assessments on regional developments.”

The two leaders had earlier held a meeting in Doha in June. The two leaders had held talks on strengthening bilateral ties across various sectors and addressing key regional challenges.

Jaishankar conveyed warm greetings and wishes from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Qatar Amir Amir, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and Qatar PM.

He underscored the robust nature of the India-Qatar relationship, emphasising cooperation in political, trade, investment, energy, technology, culture, and people-to-people exchanges.

Notably, S Jaishankar arrived in Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh, for a two-day visit to attend the First India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister for Protocol Affairs, Abdulma-



jeed Al Smari, welcomed Jaishankar in Riyadh.

During his visit, S Jaishankar visited the Saudi National Museum and King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives in Riyadh.

In a post on X, he said, “Visited the Saudi National Museum and King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives in Riyadh. Brought out India's deep historical connect that now serves as a foundation to develop a strong contemporary relationship.”

During his visit to Riyadh, he is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with foreign ministers from GCC member countries, according to a Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) release.

In its release, the MEA stated, “India and the GCC enjoy a deep and multifaceted relationship, in areas including political, trade & investment, energy cooperation, cultural and people-to-people ties.”

ANI

## FOCAC summit writes more splendid chapters of China-Africa relations

THE 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) is ongoing in Beijing. Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the opening ceremony of the summit on September 5 and deliver a keynote speech.

In his speech, Xi will elaborate on the new ideas and propositions on building a high-level community with a shared future between China and Africa, and announce new actions and measures for practical cooperation with Africa.

At the FOCAC summit, China and Africa will announce a new positioning of China-Africa relations and a series of major measures for jointly advancing modernization, thereby drawing a new blueprint for China-Africa relations.

At every critical juncture, the two sides have employed farsighted vision and always succeeded in finding new common ground and growth drivers. China and Africa have both reached critical stages in their respective development, which presents new historical opportunities for cooperation between the two sides.

Today's China is marching forward to realize the Second Centenary Goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization.

The third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was held, sounding a clarion call of the times to open up broad prospects for the Chinese modernization through further deepening reform. The modernization China is pursuing is not for China alone, but for all developing countries through their joint efforts.

Africa is moving at an accelerated speed toward the bright



Kenyan President William Ruto speaks at a meeting on high-quality Belt and Road cooperation of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) at the China National Convention Center in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 5, 2024. The meeting was co-chaired by Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, and Kenyan President William Ruto. Xinhua

prospects envisioned in Agenda 2063, and making all-out efforts to build a new Africa that enjoys peace, unity, prosperity and strength. African countries are experiencing a new awakening and exploring development paths suited to their national conditions, with a firmer determination to keep their future firmly in their own hands. Africa, exploring the path to modernization in an African way, is a continent full of hope.

At a new starting point, the advantages of complementarity between China and Africa have become more obvious and their cooperation is marked by higher quality, greater impact, and brighter prospects.

On the path to modernization, China has all along been a firm supporter, and walking side by side with Africa.

China supports Africa in growing its manufacturing sector and realizing economic diversification; China has prioritized agricultural development and food security in its cooperation with African countries; China and Africa are jointly cultivating talents to support modernization with

talent dividend; China is enhancing its economic and trade cooperation with Africa through high-level opening up to strengthen complementary advantages.

China is committed to integrating its own development closely with Africa's development, to jointly accumulate momentum for modernization.

While joining hands to advance modernization, China and Africa are working together to promote a just and equitable international order, safeguard a peaceful and secure global environment, and build an open and inclusive world economy, so as to create a sound environment for realizing our respective development visions, and gather strength for advancing modernization of the world and building a better future for humanity.

As a new model for human advancement, Chinese modernization has shattered the myth that modernization equals Westernization. African countries attach great importance to drawing development insights from the successful practices of Chinese modernization and actively exploring development paths

suited to their own national conditions.

On the path toward modernization, China and Africa draw wisdom from their respective ancient civilizations and development practices, strengthen the exchange of experience in governance, and deepen mutual learning of civilizations, which will promote their common development and prosperity.

Currently, African countries are more and more willing to strengthen the exchange of experience in governance with China. In response to the eager demands from African countries, China follows the principle of “showing people how to fish than just giving them fish.”

It has hosted the Seminar on Chinese Modernization and African Development, shared with Africa its experience in poverty alleviation, launched seminars on Juncao industry for officials from English-speaking countries in Africa, and offered seminars on sustainable development for African officials.

The theme of the 2024 Summit of the FOCAC - Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future, is in line with the trend of the times and the aspiration of the people.

Taking the summit as an opportunity, China and Africa will remain fellow passengers and good partners on the path to modernization, working together to advance modernization and build a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

China and Africa will work more closely to advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, making greater contributions to advancing modernization of the world and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

## WHO chief vows to mobilize global efforts to support Sudan's health system

KHARTOUM

VISITING World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Saturday vowed to mobilize international efforts to support Sudan's health system, according to a statement by the Sudanese Health Ministry.

Sudan needs more support from partners in the health field, the WHO chief said following talks with Sudan's Health Minister Haitham Mohamed Ibrahim in Port Sudan in eastern Sudan.

Ibrahim said Tedros' visit will strengthen the relations between Sudan and the WHO, which “has made great efforts in providing technical and material support,” according to the statement.

Also on Saturday, Deputy Chairman of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council Malik Agar received Tedros in Port Sudan, during which he briefed the WHO

chief on the health and humanitarian conditions in the country, according to a statement issued by the council.

Media outlets reported that Tedros arrived in Sudan earlier on Saturday for a visit, during which he is set to meet senior Sudanese officials and UN representatives, and inspect health facilities and shelters for internally displaced people.

The Sudanese Health Ministry said Saturday that recent heavy rains hitting parts of Sudan have killed 205 people, while the country has registered 5,081 cholera cases, including 176 deaths.

Since April 15, 2023, Sudan has been embroiled in a deadly conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, resulting in the loss of at least 16,650 lives.

An estimated 10.7 million people are now internally displaced in Sudan, with approximately 2.2 million others seeking refuge in neighboring countries, according to the latest UN data.



People stranded in an inundated area in Tokar in the Red Sea State following recent heavy flooding in eastern Sudan, sit in front of their tent on Sept 5, 2024. AFP

## Greece to tax cruise ship arrivals to protect popular islands from overtourism

ATHENS

GREECE plans to impose a 20-euro levy on cruise ship visitors to the islands of Santorini and Mykonos during the peak summer season, in a bid to avert overtourism, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said on Sunday.

Greece relies heavily on tourism, the main driver of the country's economy which is still recovering from a decade-long crisis that

wiped out a fourth of its output.

But some of its most popular destinations, including Santorini, an idyllic island of quaint villages and pristine beaches with 20,000 permanent residents, risk being ruined by mass tourism.

Speaking at a press conference a day after outlining his main economic policies for 2025, Mitsotakis clarified that excessive tourism was only a problem in a few destinations.

“Greece does not have a structural overtourism problem... Some of its destinations have a significant issue during certain weeks or months of the year, which we need to deal with,” he said.

“Cruise shipping has burdened Santorini and Mykonos and this is why we are proceeding with interventions,” he added, announcing the levy.

Greek tourism revenues stood at about 20 billion euros in 2023 on

the back of nearly 31 million tourist arrivals.

In Santorini, protesters have called for curbs on tourism, as in other popular holiday destinations in Europe, including Venice and Barcelona.

Part of the revenues from the cruise shipping tax will be returned to local communities to be invested in infrastructure, Mitsotakis said.

Agencies

## US presidential candidates' touting of economic plans an election bluff or not?

BEIJING

THE U.S. presidential election campaign is in full swing as Democratic and Republican presidential candidates are busy touting their respective plans for the U.S. economy, striving to outline a promising future to voters.

Reflecting on the previous U.S. presidential campaign, candidates from both parties have been struggling to persuade voters with a raft of economic promises.

However, these promises, however appealing they sounded, always turned out to be nothing but pie in the sky. In a tight race, Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump, both presidential candidates, presented different propositions that appeared to reflect the different philosophies and priorities of their parties but

in fact are election bluffs, a strategy of putting voters' sentiment first rather than addressing real economic problems.

### “OPPORTUNITY ECONOMY” VS “AMERICA FIRST”

Harris outlined her economic plan at a campaign rally in North Carolina in August, calling her agenda a way to create an “opportunity economy.” Harris voiced support for stricter regulation of businesses, more social benefits for the middle class, and higher taxes on businesses and high-income people.

Fighting inflation, reducing housing and health care costs, and reducing the tax burden on middle-class families constitute the three pillars of her economic policy. To address soaring food prices, Harris proposed a federal ban on “corporate

price-gouging” on food and groceries.

“My plan will include new penalties for opportunistic companies that exploit crises and break the rules,” she said. Harris promised to curb the high cost of housing by increasing the housing supply, and to impose strict regulation and antitrust measures on the medical industry to reduce prescription drug prices.

She also advocated imposing more taxes on high-income households and businesses, reducing the tax burden on low- and middle-income households, and increasing government spending on low-income households.

Trump's main economic policies include raising tariffs on imported goods, extending the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, financial deregulation, lowering corporate tax

rates, and expanding domestic oil and gas drilling. These proposals represent a continuation of his “America First” policy of protecting U.S. economic interests through tax cuts, deregulation, and trade protectionism.

On trade policy, Trump proposed imposing tariffs of 10-20 percent on all goods imported from foreign countries, arguing that tariffs will not only bring revenue, but also promote supply chain repatriation, and encourage companies to build factories in the United States.

Trump also advocated extending the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which is set to expire at the end of 2025, lowering corporate income tax rates and promising to lower the prices of cars, homes, insurance, and prescription drugs. Trump said he will drill for oil in the United States, as the nation boasts

one of the biggest oil reserves worldwide. The former president said this will bring down inflation.

### EMPTY PROMISES BORN SIDE EFFECTS

Polls show Harris's economic policies fail to boost support but raise doubts instead. Critics argue that most of her proposals require cooperation in Congress, making them difficult to implement, while others believe that enacting her policies would increase fiscal strain, and that more burden to an already debt-ridden federal government by feeding on empty promises.

Michael Jones, an associate professor and educator of economics at the University of Cincinnati, warned that Harris's proposed price controls could lead to product shortages. On tax cuts,

Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Analytics, noted that the tax credits Harris advocates might ultimately increase the national debt, driving up overall inflation and hurting consumers.

The country's Tax Foundation pointed out that Harris's economic policies could add more than 2 trillion dollars in costs over the next decade, worsening the debt crisis and prompting the Federal Reserve to maintain high interest rates for a longer period.

Experts believe Harris's continued expansion of public spending will inevitably increase budgetary pressure. The partisan battles over the debt ceiling and fiscal year budget are likely to intensify, further hindering Harris's ability to fulfill her economic promises.

Regarding Trump, public opinion widely holds that

strategies like imposing tariffs on foreign goods may encourage some manufacturing companies to return to the United States in the short term.

However, in the long run, these policies are expected to drive up inflation, slow economic growth, and potentially trigger trade war that threaten global economic stability.

Additionally, tariff barriers would raise manufacturing costs, undermining the international competitiveness of U.S. industries. Ultimately, this poisoned-chalice approach could lead to an economic disaster.

A study by the Center for American Progress Action found that Trump's tariff plans would effectively add 3,900 dollars in tax burdens for every middle-income household.

Xinhua



# SPORT

## France waves farewell to its sporting summer at the Paralympics closing ceremony

SAINT-DENIS, France

THIS time, it really is au revoir.

A summer sporting bonanza which started under pouring rain on July 26 with a remarkable opening ceremony for the Paris Olympics on the Seine River ended Sunday with the Paralympics closing ceremony at a rain-soaked Stade de France.

It lowers the curtain on successful back-to-back Games that captivated fans and raised the bar high for others to follow. Good luck Los Angeles in 2028.

As the stadium was lit up in the blue, white and red colors of the French national flag, a trumpet player played the national anthem "La Marseillaise" and Paralympic flagbearers then made their way into the stadium carrying national flags to the sound of "Chariots of Fire" by Vangelis.

"Everyone can see what an inclusive world is like," Tony Estanguet, the head of the Paris Olympics in 2024, said in his closing speech. "Now there is no turning back."

The International Paralympic Committee president Andrew Parsons said France excelled itself as a host in both Games.

"Paris 2024 has set a benchmark for all future Paralympic Games," Parsons said. "For a country famous for its fashion and its food, France is now famous for its fans."

The crowd clapped along to a breakdancing set, before Tony Award winner Ali Stroker performed the American national anthem as a part of the handoff to Los Angeles.

Stroker made history in 2019 as the first person who uses a wheelchair to win a Tony Award for her turn as Ado Annie in the Broadway revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" In another portion of the screened handoff to LA, Venice Beach Skate Park transformed into a 360-degree stage featuring skateboarders and wheelchair motocross riders.

Then, the crowd roared as famed French electronic music composer Jean-Michel Jarre began closing out the ceremony, which was again led by artistic director Thomas Jolly.

The 76-year-old Jarre span tunes as in a Parisian nightclub, oblivious to the rain lashing down on him.

Jolly wanted to turn the stadium into a giant open-air dance party. More than 20 DJs, including Étienne de Crécy, Martin Solveig and Kavinsky, followed

the trailblazer Jarre in a tribute to French electro music to the theme "Journey of the Wave."

Or the wave goodbye from the 64,000 fans, and the city itself, to the more than 4,000 Paralympic athletes.

"Summer vibes kept going After the successful Olympics showcased the vibrancy of fans from around the world and the beauty of the city's iconic venues, there were doubts that the energy would keep going into the Aug. 28-Sept. 8 Paralympics.

Those doubts were dispelled, with athletes enjoying strong support. Not all venues were sold out, but this was also because the summer holiday period was ending and children were returning to school.

A surge of enthusiasm saw 2.4 million tickets of the 2.8 million tickets sold – second only to the 2.7 million sold at the 2012 London Games – and this was some feat considering that by late June only 1 million had been sold.

Large swathes of Parisians vacated – some say fled – the city amid concerns over traffic chaos, political upheaval, social tensions and growing fears over security.

But locals who stayed or French fans coming in from other towns and cities gave their athletes huge support over both Games.

"With the Games we rediscovered our creativity," said Estanguet, a former Olympic canoeing champion. "The France which smiles, which loves itself."

French success on and off the track In the Olympics, France tallied 16 golds among its 64 medals to finish fifth overall in the medal count, and it won 75 medals overall in the Paralympics.

The Games themselves were a success for French President Emmanuel Macron. Transport ran well, there were very few organizational glitches and security issues were appeased, with police even engaging in friendly banter or posing for photos with fans – a rarity in France.

For how long the feel-good factor stays remains to be seen.

An early indication came on Saturday, when thousands took to the streets to protests the president's appointment of a conservative new prime minister.

There were some boos for Macron when he was introduced at the start of the ceremony.

Plus ça change, as the French saying goes.

AP



Wheelchair basketball team players pictured recently during a training session at the Jakaya Kikwete Sports Park in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

SPORTS

## Taifa Stars face a must-win testing battle against Guinea

By Lloyd Elipokea

WITH the 2025 AFCON qualifiers now up and running, there is a sense of disappointment among die-hard Tanzanian football fans over the outcome of the Stars' opening qualifier against Ethiopia last Wednesday.

Fielding a mostly youthful side, the Taifa Stars tellingly lacked a much-needed killer instinct in and around their opponents' 18-yard box.

And, with the Ethiopians largely playing a defensive game, it was not a surprise that the consequential face-off disappointingly ended in a 0-0 stalemate.

Having thus earned a minute single point from their opening AFCON qualifier, Taifa Stars face an all-important, do-or-die football contest against tricky customers Guinea today at the Charles Banny Stadium in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast.

Indeed, considering their arguably shaky start, Taifa Stars cannot afford a gigantic slip-up against Guinea today as more dropped points could prove to be disastrously costly on the Stars' path ahead.

It should be noted that some keen football enthusiasts on the local scene have called for the inclusion of the country's seasoned football stars like the reliably menacing winger, Simon Msuva, for example in the national football team.

One point that should be highlighted is the fact that only time will tell if Taifa Stars are in need of our greatly experienced veterans or not.

What cannot be questioned is the fact that Taifa Stars will need to utterly try their damndest to get the better of the ever challenging Guineans in the key 2025 AFCON qualifier today.

Let us now ponder on Simba SC's CAF Confederations Cup campaign, which is set to commence on September 14 against their hosts Al Ahly Tripoli at the Tripoli International Stadium in Libya. Indeed, following an



uncharacteristically lackluster campaign last season, the Msimbazi Street-based outfit are likely champing at the bit to begin their bid for continental glory.

As they plot the downfall of Al Ahly Tripoli, Simba would do well to remember that their opponents are not to be sniffed at.

As history amply shows, underestimating one's opponents even in these early days of the CAF Confederations Cup is done at one's peril. In light of that, one hopes that Simba will head into their first leg battle against their Libyan hosts with a potent mixture of confidence and an awareness of their opponents' strengths.

Let us now switch our focus to the appalling and hurtful matter of racism, which reared its ugly head roughly around the start of the brand new English Premier League (EPL) campaign.

Indeed, the issue of racism being alluded to here concerns Chelsea's Argentinean playmaker, Enzo Fernandez, who recently live-streamed an insulting racist song on social media that was sung by himself and his fellow Argentinean players about the Gallic players of the French national football team.

For some unfathomable reason, multiple Argentinean national team players took to singing a racist song that taunted the African origins of some players on the French national

football team.

This disgusting incident took place in the hours following Argentina's triumph at the Copa America, and it was rightly condemned by all and sundry.

Indisputably, it is wholly bizarre that Argentina chose to engage in this damnable racist behavior when the European football heavyweights had not even featured in the Copa America.

However, as if that were not enough, what really took the biscuit was the shocking fact that Chelsea's head coach Enzo Maresca deemed it fitting to appoint Fernandes as the skipper of the EPL giants nicknamed the Blues.

Needless to say, this move by the Chelsea head coach justifiably raised the ire of many pundits and football fans alike.

Regrettably, it also demonstrates that we still have an extremely long way to go before we can successfully rid football of the damaging effects of racism.

## 2024 Climate Change Marathon now garners bigger response

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

THE 2024 Climate Change Marathon, slated for September 28 at Pangani District, Tanga, has got government and mass responses whereby 300 runners are set to take part in the showdown.

The showdown is aiming at raising funds for purchasing liquefied petroleum gas cylinders and distributing them free of charge to Handeni communities' women, apart from mobilizing communities' awareness concerning environmental conservation through afforestation, reforestation, and using clean cooking energy to mitigate climate change.

The race will also be a platform for the promotion of Saadani National Park and other tourist attractions located in Tanga.

Tree of Hope's Director Fortunata Manyerese, whose institution is the race's organizer, revealed in an exclusive interview with The Guardian over the weekend that the Vice President's Office, Tanga regional government officials, political figures, jogging groups, Green Samia group, and other prominent persons have confirmed to be part of the showdown.

She said apart from the race, there will be various colourful events featuring various sports competitions for eight schools and a sports bonanza two days before the marathon day.

"There will also be football and netball matches for four primary schools and as many secondary schools as well as pool table matches, tug-of-war, and hen chasing... winners will be awarded trophies and shields. There would further be distribution of sanitary pads to matured school girls," she disclosed.

Fortunata added: "Furthermore, the marathon - one of its kind - will also feature nightlife coastal traditional cuisine, entrepreneurship skills, batik clothes design, exhibitions, and live band entertainment."

The official noted that runners will have an opportunity to visit Saadani National Park, and there will also be a 'Yetu-Wetu' award for champion of environment conservation.

She said the showdown would feature four races, namely 21 km, 10 km, 5 km Fun Run, and a 2.5 km race special for children whereby the winner of the children's race will be awarded five exercise books, pens, and erasers.

She further pointed out that the winner of the 21 km race would walk away with 500,000/-, the second-placed runner would pocket 350,000/-, the third-place finisher would garner 250,000/-, whereas athletes coming fourth to 10th would rake in 70,000/- each.

In the 10-kilometre showdown, the champion will receive 350,000/-, the second-placed runner will garner 250,000/-, and the third-place finisher will take 150,000/-. The contenders ending fourth to 10th will walk away with 50,000/- each.

Fortunata noted: "The 5-kilometre winner would be given 150,000/-, the second-placed contender receives 100,000/-, and 50,000/- will be handed over to the third-place contender. Contenders ending fourth to 10th would receive 20,000/- each and medals."

She also explained that the registration process is taking place online whereby participants will be required to pay 35,000/- each in registration fees.

According to her, they have to visit either [www.gcctc.or.tz](http://www.gcctc.or.tz) or social media accounts for [gcctctanzania](https://www.facebook.com/gcctctanzania) for registration.

She moreover pointed out that the earth is facing climate change caused by human activities like deforestation and industrialization, as well as the use of nuclear power weapons in the war zone countries that emit carbon monoxide that affects the ozone layer.

Recently, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Dunstan Kitandula informed the Parliament that Tanzania is losing 469,000 hectares of forests annually due to human activities, which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and exacerbate climate change.

Kitandula explained that Tanzania accommodates 48.1 million hectares of forests, including those managed by central and local governments, village forests, and private forests.

However, the country faces significant deforestation due to activities such as unsustainable agricultural practices, forest fires, and livestock grazing, resulting in the loss of 469,000 hectares annually.

To overcome the challenges, the government has implemented several strategies to protect existing forests and promote reforestation.

They include the 2024 Forest Conservation Strategy, the 2024 National Tree Nursery Preparation and Maintenance Guidelines, and the 2024 National Agroforestry Strategy.





## Saudi coach Mancini wants his players getting more time in a Ronaldo-dominated league

By JOHN DUERDEN

WHILE the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar thrill supporters of Saudi clubs, Roberto Mancini is concerned that his national team players aren't getting enough time in the league to prepare for World Cup qualifying.

Saudi Arabia was among the high-profile Asian teams that struggled in third-round openers last week in continental World Cup qualifying. The Saudis were held 1-1 by Indonesia, the lowest-ranked of the six-teams in Group C. Tuesday is a crucial match against China at Dalian for coach Mancini's team.

"We have had problems capitalizing on opportunities, which have been evident in the last few games," Mancini said.

With most clubs in the Saudi Pro League using their full quota of 10 foreign imports, Mancini, who left his job as head coach of Italy a year ago to join Saudi Arabia's national team, has complained that local players are not getting enough action.

"Saudi Arabia's national team players must participate as core players with their clubs," Mancini said. "I have 20 players sitting on the bench in local matches."

He said there needed to be greater cooperation between the national team and clubs.

Australia's attempt to qualify for a sixth successive World Cup tournament was damaged by a shocking 1-0 loss to Bahrain at home.

"It's a learning curve for the players. It wasn't our night," Socceros coach Graham Arnold said. "You could see physically they were ready for us. These types of things happen in football, it's how you get over it."

Australia faces a relatively short trip to Jakarta to face a much-improved Indonesia squad that will

be supported by 60,000 fans. "We are not afraid of anyone and we are looking forward to the challenge," Indonesia coach Shin Tae-yong said.

The early pacesetters in Group C meet when Bahrain hosts Japan, which opened with a thumping 7-0 win over China.

The 18 teams in the third round of qualification have been divided into three groups of six. The top two from each automatically qualify for the World Cup. The teams that place third and fourth will advance to a fourth round to compete for two more places.

In Group B, South Korea also started with a disappointing result, a 0-0 draw with the Palestinian team in Seoul. Led by English Premier League stars Son Heung-min and Hwang Hee-chan as well as Paris Saint-Germain's Lee Kang-in, South Korea travels to Muscat to face Oman, which lost 1-0 to Iraq.

Son suggested the poor pitch condition in Seoul was a reason for the result.

"We weren't able to play at a high tempo and I am sure fans were disappointed with that," Son said. "The fact that pitch conditions are better for away matches is a shame, but I also think it's fortunate for us at the same time."

The Palestinians will play Jordan in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as the team is unable to host games at home. Jordan had a 1-1 draw with Kuwait in its opening game and now faces Iraq, the only team in the group to win.

In Group A, United Arab Emirates won 3-1 at Qatar and hosts this week Iran, also with three points already on the board after beating Kyrgyzstan 1-0. Qatar, the 2022 World Cup host has never qualified for the tournament, will take on North Korea.

AP

## Ronaldo scores late winner as a substitute for Portugal as 10-man Spain overpowers Switzerland

By STEVE DOUGLAS

CRISTIANO Ronaldo is showing just why Portugal is persisting with him at the age of 39.

Make that a record-extending 132 international goals for the five-time world player of the year after Ronaldo came on as a halftime substitute and scored home an 88th-minute winner for Portugal in its 2-1 victory over Scotland in the Nations League on Sunday.

Minutes earlier, Ronaldo had struck both posts within a matter of seconds. Indeed, he was an ever-present danger in Lisbon, demonstrating he is far from finished as a force in international soccer - especially against the likes of a struggling Scotland.

Ronaldo failed to score at all in five games at the recent European Championship, but Portugal coach Robert Martinez has kept faith with the country's greatest ever player and is reaping the rewards.

On Thursday, Ronaldo scored his 900th career goal - spanning games for club and country - in a 2-1 win over Croatia.

The quest for 1,000 began three days later and he didn't disappoint, despite only playing one half.

In stoppage time, a spectator got on the field and attempted to get a selfie with Ronaldo, but was stopped by security. That happened repeatedly at Euro 2024.

Scotland went ahead through Scott McTominay in the seventh minute before an equalizer from the edge of the area by Bruno Fernandes in the 54th. \*Enduring Modric

Luka Modric turns 39 on Monday but, like Ronaldo, remains as integral as ever for his country.

The Real Madrid midfielder again demonstrated his enduring quality by clipping home an exquisite free kick from the edge of the box in Croatia's 1-0 win over Poland.

It was Modric's 27th goal in 180 appearances for his country, which left him tied with former Spain defender Sergio Ramos as the second highest-capped European players in men's international soccer - only behind Ronaldo with 214.

Robert Lewandowski, another veteran at age 36, hit the goal frame for Poland, which beat Scotland 3-2 in the first round of Nations League group games on Thursday.

\*Ruiz shines for Spain

Fabian Ruiz scored twice for Spain in its 4-1 win at Switzerland, with the recently crowned European champions emerging victorious despite playing the majority of the game with only 10 men.

Center back Robin Le Normand was shown a straight red card in the 20th minute for bringing down Breel Embolo as the last man, by which time Spain was leading 2-0 thanks to Joselu's header from Lamine Yamal's cross in the fourth minute and Ruiz's goal in the 13th after Nico Williams' shot was saved.

Zeki Amdouni pulled a goal back for the Swiss before halftime but substitute Ferran Torres set up Ruiz for his second goal then scored himself to clinch Spain's first win of its Nations League title defense. The team drew 0-0 at Serbia on Thursday.

\*Eriksson tribute

Swedish soccer fans paid tribute to one of the country's most famous coaches - and then celebrated the further blossoming of the team's new strikeforce.

There was a minute's silence before Sweden's home match with Estonia in honor of Sven-Goran Eriksson, who died on Aug. 26 after battling cancer. An image of Eriksson was shown on the big screens in the Strawberry Arena just outside Stockholm.

AP

## Alex Morgan says goodbye with final match after an illustrious 15-year career

SAN DIEGO

FIGHTING tears, Alex Morgan waved to the crowd and walked off the field for the last time on Sunday as she capped an impactful 15-year career.

The two-time Women's World Cup winner announced on Thursday she was pregnant with her second child and retiring from the game.

She started and wore the captain's armband for the San Diego Wave in her final match, playing for the first 13 minutes against the North Carolina Courage before subbing out of the game to an ovation at San Diego's Snapdragon Stadium.

"I did everything I ever wanted to do and more. With this decision, I feel so at peace because I am ready to start my family and I am ready to hang up the boots and allow the next generation to flourish and just relish in the spotlight," she said afterward. "It's a good feeling."

It was her 63rd appearance for the Wave, commemorated by a No. 63 jersey given to Morgan in a pregame ceremony. Overall, it was her 150th career appearance in National Women's Soccer League play. Before the match, the video scoreboard showed snippets of Morgan's retirement video, along with highlights from her career. Her 4-year-old daughter, Charlie, accompanied her on the field. She had more than 95 family members and friends at the game.

The Wave's starters posed for a photo imitating Morgan's iconic



Alex Morgan waves to fans after the final game of her career Sunday. (agencies)

'tea sipping' celebration, an homage to her celebration of her go-ahead goal to beat England in the semifinals of the 2019 World Cup in France.

Morgan's U.S. national team career was full of accomplishments, including World Cup titles in 2015 and 2019, and an Olympic Gold medal in 2012. In club play, Morgan played for the NWSL champion Portland Thorns in the league's first year and helped the Wave win the Shield in 2023.

Morgan played in 224 matches for the U.S. national team, with 123 goals (fifth on the career list) and 53 assists (ninth). She was named the U.S. Soccer Player of the Year in 2012 and 2018.

When she subbed off, she fought back tears as she removed her cleats at midfield. During the substitution, a tifo in the supporter's section read "For Country, Club, Community."

Despite the nearly 100-degree heat, a crowd of 26,516 fans filled Snapdragon for Morgan's farewell match. Among them was San Diego Padres right-hander Joe Musgrove, who went to the game straight from his start against the San Francisco Giants.

"Twelve thousand tickets were sold in one day when she announced that this was going to be her last game" NWSL Commissioner Jessica Berman said. "That's the power of Alex Morgan."

The North Carolina Courage ultimately won the game, 4-1. Morgan attempted a penalty but it was stopped by Courage goalkeeper Casey Murphy.

But the night was all about celebrating a career.

Wave coach Landon Donovan said his daughter asked him to help her make a sign for Morgan's last game.

"That stuff is immeasurable be-

cause she's now made my daughter, who didn't previously watch sports in general, fall in love with a sport, and women's sports, Donovan said. "That's what Alex has meant to the game and the sport. And it's sad to see her go. Honestly, I don't think there'll ever be another one like her."

Wave fan Amber Brunner attended the match with her family, saying "My girls fell in love with soccer because of her."

Off the pitch, Morgan advanced women's soccer in her fight for equal pay with the men's national team. The U.S. women filed a lawsuit in 2019 that led to a historic agreement in 2022 that paid both the men and women equitably.

She also paved the way for reforms in the NWSL, calling for the adoption of an anti-harassment policy after a coach misconduct scandal rocked the league in 2021.

A young fan at the game held a sign that said "Thank you Alex for all of your hard work for women's sports."

Morgan said she's looking forward to cheering on both the Wave and the U.S. national team, and continuing her advocacy for the players.

"The next Alex Morgan is not only out there in the stands, because I am sure that there are a few of those, but they're there on that field, every single weekend," she said. "It's just incredible what we've been able to do here in the U.S. to really give soccer the best chance for people to buy in as much as we've bought in."

AP

## Real Madrid's problem that Ancelotti must solve - four options on the table

Madrid Universal

REAL Madrid are facing a significant challenge this season, one that manager Carlo Ancelotti must address quickly if the club is to maintain its high standards.

As with any top club, Madrid always aim to stay at the pinnacle of European football, but success depends on more than just the attack. A team's defensive structure is just as vital.

While the club has several high-quality players, there is one position in particular that needs special attention.

A balanced squad, capable of competing on all fronts, is essential. In recent seasons, Real Madrid have invested heavily in both attack and midfield, with players like Jude Bellingham and Aurelien Tchouameni adding flair and strength to the team's spine.

However, a specific defensive issue has emerged, and now, four potential solutions are being considered. Let's explore the possible routes that Ancelotti could take.

### \*Play Ferland Mendy

Ferland Mendy has been one of the more consistent players for Real Madrid at left-back over the past few seasons. His defensive reliability makes him a strong candidate for solving this issue.

Mendy's physical strength, combined with his ability to track back quickly, gives him an edge when dealing with fast-paced wingers.

He has often been seen as a dependable option, especially in big matches, where his defensive awareness has saved Madrid on numerous occasions.

However, there are concerns about Mendy's contribution in attack. While he is solid at the back, his ability to push forward and provide support in the final third has been questioned.

In modern football, especially at a club like Real Madrid, full-backs are expected to be as effective in attack as they are in defence.

Mendy's limited crossing ability and reluctance to take risks in the opposition's half may make Ancelotti hesitant to rely on him as the permanent solution.

Nevertheless, his familiarity with the team and his solid defensive record make him a likely contender to fill the left-back role.

### \*Play Fran Garcia

Another option for Ancelotti is to put his faith in Fran Garcia, a younger and more attack-minded left-back. Garcia's



performances have been praised for his energy, pace, and willingness to contribute offensively.

His ability to overlap with the winger ahead of him offers a more dynamic approach to the left-back position, giving Real Madrid a different dimension in attack.

Garcia's forward runs can help stretch the opposition's defence, which would create more space for the attacking players.

Yet, Garcia's inexperience at the highest level may be a concern for Ancelotti. While he has shown great promise, there's a risk that he could be exposed defensively, particularly in high-stakes games.

Additionally, Real Madrid's defensive structure might be compromised if Garcia pushes too far forward, leaving gaps that more experienced opponents could exploit.

Ancelotti may view this option as more of a long-term solution, giving

Garcia time to grow into the role. However, it remains uncertain whether he is the immediate answer to Madrid's current defensive needs.

### \*A 3-4-3 formation with Eduardo Camavinga at the back

Ancelotti has been inflexible with formations, but one option that he can switch to is a 3-4-3 system. In this setup, Eduardo Camavinga could drop into the back three.

Camavinga, known primarily as a midfielder, has displayed incredible versatility since joining the club, also plying his trade as a left-back. His pace, intelligence, and ability to read the game make him an intriguing option for the backline.

Deploying Camavinga in this position would allow Real Madrid to maintain a solid defensive foundation while providing more balance in midfield.

His composure on the ball and ability to play out from the back could help Real Madrid transition more smoothly

from defence to attack. However, playing Camavinga in the backline would come with risks.

He is not a natural defender, and his occasional positioning mistakes could leave Madrid vulnerable. Additionally, taking Camavinga out of the midfield would deprive the team of his energy and ball-winning abilities in the centre of the pitch.

Therefore, while the 3-4-3 formation is a creative solution, it could have negative repercussions elsewhere on the field.

### \*Push for Alphonso Davies' signing

One of the more exciting possibilities for solving Real Madrid's left-back problem is the potential signing of Alphonso Davies from Bayern Munich in January itself.

The Canadian international has become one of the best left-backs in the world, combining incredible speed, technical ability, and attacking prowess. Davies would undoubtedly provide the attacking threat that Real Madrid have been missing on the left flank.

His ability to cover the entire left side of the pitch, both in defence and attack, would make him a perfect fit for the team.

However, signing Davies would be a long-term project. Not only would it require a significant financial investment, but it would also depend on Bayern Munich's willingness to sell one of their star players midway through the season.

Negotiating such a transfer during the season might be difficult, and Ancelotti cannot wait until the next transfer window to solve this problem.

While Davies would undoubtedly be an ideal solution, it remains to be seen whether Real Madrid can pull off such a high-profile transfer in time.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Alex Morgan says goodbye with final match after an illustrious 15-year career**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Yanga push on with CAF preparations despite squad shortages

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli



YOUNG Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi is intensifying preparations for the much-anticipated CAF Champions League second-round preliminary tie against Ethiopia's CBE, despite the challenge of a significantly depleted squad due to international call-ups.

The defending champions of the Tanzanian Mainland Premier League are set to face CBE on September 14 at the Abebe Bikila Stadium in Addis Ababa, with the return leg scheduled for a week later at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Gamondi (pictured) has been working with a reduced squad, making it difficult to maintain the full intensity of training. Young Africans' Information and Communication Officer, Ali Kamwe, confirmed that while the coach faces difficulties, he remains committed to getting the available players into top shape for the upcoming continental fixture.

"Yanga registered 27 players for this season, but 14 of them are currently on international duty, representing countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania," Kamwe said. "This leaves us with only 13 players in camp, and two of those players are currently dealing with injuries."

Despite these challenges, the club is working to ensure the remaining players stay fit and focused. To maintain momentum during this critical period, Gamondi organized a series of activities, including a behind-closed-doors friendly against Kiluvya FC, which Young Africans won 3-0. The match featured players from the second team due to the shortage of senior squad members.

Kamwe explained that the friendly match was crucial for assessing the players' readiness and keeping them match sharp ahead of the CBE encounter. "The coach needed a friendly game to gauge the players' fitness and keep them sharp," Kamwe added. "It served its purpose well."

In addition to the depleted squad, injury concerns have added to the challenges for Gamondi and his technical team. While Kamwe did not specify which players are affected, he confirmed that the medical staff is working to get them fit ahead of the CBE clash. Training sessions have been adjusted to manage the workload of the available players, while also ensuring tactical preparations continue smoothly.

Young Africans are keen to translate their domestic success into the CAF Champions League. The Jangwani Street-based side's commanding 10-0 aggregate win over Burundi's Vital'O FC in the previous round has given the squad confidence, but Kamwe acknowledged that CBE will be a more formidable challenge.

"We know the match against CBE will be difficult, especially playing away in Addis Ababa, but we are confident in our preparations," Kamwe said. "The technical team has worked hard, and we are determined to get a good result in Ethiopia."

Travel arrangements for the trip to Ethiopia are being finalized, with the team expected to arrive in Addis Ababa a few days before the match to acclimatize and hold final practice sessions at the venue.

Young Africans have set high ambitions for this CAF Champions League campaign, aiming to progress deeper into the competition. After their success against Vital'O, the squad is determined to build on their momentum and make a statement on the continental stage.

"The victory against Vital'O was a great morale booster," Kamwe noted. "It showed we have the quality to compete at this level. Now we're focused on the challenge ahead against CBE, and we believe we can succeed."

With their international players expected to rejoin the squad just days before the clash, Young Africans are hopeful of fielding their strongest lineup for the first leg in Addis Ababa, aiming to secure a positive result and advance to the next stage of the CAF Champions League.

## Kouassi's comeback lifts Yanga as they prepare for CAF campaign

Correspondent: Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans are intensifying their preparations for the upcoming CAF Champions League clash against CBE SA on Saturday at the Abebe Bikila Stadium in Ethiopia.

The return leg is scheduled for September 21 at the Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam. The winner on aggregate will advance to the prestigious group stages.

Should Young Africans emerge victorious, they will qualify for the CAF Champions League group stages in back-to-back seasons, a historic first for the club.

In a significant boost to their campaign, Young Africans' right-back Yao Kouassi has returned to training after recovering from an injury. His comeback has uplifted team morale and brought relief to the technical staff, including head coach Miguel Gamondi.

Kouassi (pictured) sustained the injury during a training session ahead of Young Africans' league match against Kagera Sugar. His recovery is a timely boost as the team looks to make a strong impact in the Champions League.

The Ivorian right-back, now in his second season with the Tanzanian giants after signing from Asec Mimosas, has been a standout performer, earning praise from coach Gamondi.

Known for his defensive stability and attacking contributions from the flanks, Kouassi's performances have been crucial to Young Africans' success. Last season, he contributed one goal and seven assists in the Tanzanian Premier League, playing an instrumental role in their strong campaign.

His return to training is a positive sign as the team gears up for their upcoming fixtures. Kouassi has been working under the guidance of assistant coach Taibi Lagrouni to regain full match fitness.

Coach Gamondi has expressed his satisfaction with Kouassi's progress, emphasizing that the player's recovery ensures the squad is near full strength for their clash with CBE SA.

"Yao has been working hard to get back to full fitness. He is a dedicated player who always gives his best for the team. I believe he has a good chance of being included in the starting lineup for the upcoming match," said Gamondi.

Kouassi is still undergoing fitness assessments to determine if he is fully recovered. The club plans to re-evaluate his condition in the coming week to ensure he is at 100% before returning to full action.

It is worth noting that Young Africans struggled with injuries last season, with key players like Pacome Zouzoua, Khalid Aucho, and Kouassi himself sidelined during their run to the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League. Kouassi's return, therefore, brings immense relief to fans as they hope for another successful campaign.

Young Africans will face CBE SA of Ethiopia in the second round of the CAF Champions League. Both teams advanced from the first round in dominant fashion - Young Africans secured a comprehensive 10-0 aggregate win over Burundi's Vital'O, while CBE SA triumphed 2-1 on aggregate against Uganda's SC Villa.



## Burhani cricketers win 2024 TCA Dar 30 Overs Cup- Division B1 title



Cricketers making Annadil Burhani pose with a trophy after the culmination of the 2024 TCA Dar 30 Overs Cup- Division B1 final which saw the side confront Caravans C in Dar es Salaam recently. Annadil Burhani won by eight wickets. PHOTO: TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

FIROZ Dahodwala put on a stellar bowling showing and guided Annadil Burhani to winning the 2024 TCA Dar 30 Overs Cup- Division B1 title with an eight-wicket defeat of Caravans C in the final last weekend.

The experienced cricketer, who took five wickets, teamed up with fellow bowlers Murtaza Shabbir (three wickets), and Alfred Daniel, who grabbed two wickets, and tormented Caravans C's batsmen, thwarting the performers' efforts to have an upper hand.

The Vineeth Chandran-led Caravans C started to bat in the game played at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's venue and was skittled for a mere 56 runs in 14.4 overs of the 30-over game.

The squad experienced a wobble in the early phase of the clash, as the top-order batsmen made their way back to the pavilion in quick succession.

None of the batsmen returned with two digits, as opener Prabhu Subramani scored six runs, whereas Nandakishan Pottachira, Omary Hilal and Nithin Thomas were out for duck.

The team sought to bounce back

with a spirited showing by skipper Chandran, who notched 10 runs, and the eventual top run-getter, Sunil Adiyodi (18 runs).

They faced yet more blow brought about by the quick exits of Arjun Kumar and Sobin Joseph, who were also dismissed for duck, frustrating chances of ending with a convincing total.

A late surge put to show by youthful performer Kishwabi Ngozi, to some extent, improved Caravans C's total.

The cricketer notched 10 runs not out whilst cracking a six.

The batting team's score was somehow buoyed by nine extra runs leaked by Annadil Burhani's bowlers.

Firoz Dahodwala led Annadil Burhani's bowling onslaught, having ended with a five-wicket haul in 5.4 overs.

In his five-over stint, the cricketer, one of the long-serving cricketers in the outfit, gave away 24 runs and had a 4.24 economy rate. Fellow bowlers Murtaza Shabbir (3-13 in three overs) and Alfred Daniel, who notched two wickets, were equally in great form and played an important part in frustrating Caravans C's efforts to register a bigger total.

Shabbir, who bowled three overs, leaked 13 runs and finished with a 4.33 economy rate. Chasing 57 runs to secure victory, the Lukmanji-led Annadil Burhani cricketers hardly had trouble living up to expectations, having mounted a successful chase whilst losing two wickets in 14 overs.

They were unperturbed by the early exit of experienced opening batsman Murtaza Kardebhai who notched six runs.

The opening performer was caught by Caravans C's Ngozi from Omary Hilal's ball, leaving Annadil Burhani with 22 runs in six overs. Lukmanji that opened the innings with Kardebhai proved his worth at the crease, showcasing solid batting and ensuring the squad gets down to a successful chase.

Mufaddal Seifuddin (13 runs not out, one boundary) forged a solid partnership with Aliasger Pongwe (15 runs not out, two boundaries) to put the game beyond Caravans C's reach.

Annadil Burhani cricketers' pursuit of a victory was made much easier, given their score was boosted by six extra runs leaked by Caravans C's bowlers.

Youthful player Hilal stood out of the rest of Caravans C's members of the bowling unit with his two wickets.

The cricketer who also features for national U-19 cricket team gave away 22 runs and finished with the 3.67 economy rate.

Strikers B outfit's Darpan Jobanputra won the Player of the Series prize and Caravans C's Hilal walked away with the tournament's Best Bowler prize.

Unisoft Rising Stars cricketer Mohamed Simba laid his hands on the Best Batsman prize and the final's Player of the Match prize went to Annadil Burhani's Dahodwala.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

