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Govt scraps VAT on fertiliser, gold sold to refineries, edible oil seeds

"This measure is intended to ensure constant availability of sugar in the country and manage hoardings of sugar products..."

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has proposed a number of tax reforms which among other things, zero rate Value Added Tax (VAT) on fertilizer manufactured locally for a period of one year to zero rate VAT on textile products (fabric and garments) made using locally grown cotton.

Tabling the 49.35trn/- national budget for the 2024/25 fiscal year yesterday in the National Assembly, Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba.

Earlier budget profiles showed that recurrent expenditure will rise to 32.1trn/- up from 29.23trn/- during fiscal 2023/24, allocating 15.74trn/- for debt servicing, slightly over a third of total recurrent expenditure.

Last week the minister informed MPs

15.74 TRN/-
Spending will include 15.74trn/- for servicing public debt and other consolidated fund

that the government's 2024/25 budget is expected to total 49.35trn/-, a noticeable increase from 44.39trn/- in the outgoing fiscal plan, partly tied with currency depreciation.

Grants and concessional loans amounting to 5.13trn/- are expected in the 2024/25 budget from development partners, chiefly multi-lateral and bilateral lenders.

Noticeable tax changes include zero rating VAT on gold supplied to domestic refineries to promote the growth of domestic refineries, plus subsidising agricultural inputs including fertilizers, farming equipment, pesticides and quality seeds.

The minister proposed exempting VAT on supplies of double refined edible oil from locally grown seeds conducted in local industries, to stem increased price of edible oil in the global market.

The government also aims to provide relief to farmers and consumers as well as abolish VAT on supply of precious metals, gemstones and other precious stones at refineries.

Strategic fiscal measures will be im-

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EAGERLY AWAITED DRAFT GOVT BUDGET... Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba displays the briefcase containing the Government's Budget estimates for financial year 2024/2025 while heading to the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday to table them. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

DESPITE efforts by human rights activists to reach out to the majority of the public through digital platforms, women still lag behind in the use of social media to access public information compared to men, a new report shows.

Dr Anna Henga, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) made this assertion in an annual report launched yesterday, showing that parity in human rights and social support facilities via digital platforms between men and women is unbalanced.

While indicating key achievements that LHRC attained last year, the report says that a public education programme last year reached 16.8m people, via 790 community radio shows and online television.

Haki TV attracted 272,423 viewers through Facebook, twitter and Instagram, the report

Raw materials processing top of government 2024/25 plans

By Correspondent Paul Mabeja, Dodoma

REDUCING exports of raw materials from land, forests and water and proceeding with processing and value addition is the focus of the National Development Plan 2024/25 presented to the National Assembly yesterday.

Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, the Planning and Investment state minister in the President's Office, made this affirmation in his state of the economy for 2023/2024 and national development plan 2024/25.

He said there is a need to set a policy and legal framework to ensure that resources are processed and added value locally before being exported, explaining this is tied to ensuring that the growth of the national economy is inclusive.

It is on this basis that it will reduce poverty, create jobs, bring prosperity and stimulate the export of value-added products abroad, thus requiring placing strategies to cement this agenda, he said.

He was optimistic on government efforts in agro-sector investments by encouraging and enabling the use of quality seeds, fertilizers, irrigation agriculture and modern farm equipment.

During the past three years, the leadership has put in place conditions allowing business to flourish, implementing a strategy to stimulate investment in industries.

The intention is to make the country self-sufficient in the demand for essential products while promoting exports of value-added products, he said, emphasizing that in the short and medium term, many Tanzanians will be relying on agro-sector self-employment.

Improving the business and investment environment will help to stimulate private sector growth to strengthen small and medium businesses, he said, pointing at the need for sustainable use

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Govt acts on retirees lump sums demands



By Henry Mwangonde

PENSIONERS with the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) will now receive 40-percent of their retirement benefits in the wake of a lump sum increase of seven

percent.

Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said in the National Assembly when tabling central government budget estimates for fiscal 2024/25 that this provision applies for retirees who earlier were paid 50 -percent of total benefits before the merging of pension schemes in 2018.

The budget also proposes a two percent increase to reach 35 percent for retirees who earlier were paid 25 percent of their total savings before the merging of the various pension schemes.

The changes will be used for retirees from financial year 2022/23 and main-

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LHRC: Women still lagging in legal aid digital platforms

noted, highlighting gender differences in those reached in the digital platforms.



Positive case outcomes were dominant with 68 percent of cases won on behalf of male clients and 32 percent were won for female clients

Twitter fielded 80 percent men among those accessed and on Instagram the proportion was 73.3 percent for men, she stated, attributing the differences to culture, ability to own a smartphone and parenting.

These are some of the reasons for women in the country not achieving digital equality goals, she said, noting that data from the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) indicates that men are in the lead in digital usage.

The number of individuals reaching LHRC for legal assistants are predominantly male, she stated, elaborating that LHRC

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Govt scraps VAT on fertiliser, gold sold to refineries, edible oil seeds

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posed to contain rising prices of imported crude edible oils to local producers to increase production, reduce prices and increase employment, he said.

To increase agricultural production and productivity and relieve farmers, excise duty on locally produced bottled water with HS Code 2201.10.00 and 2201.90.00 is cut from 63.80/- to 58/- per litre in order to support the growth of small scale factories producing water in the country, provide relief to consumers, and promote the use of clean and safe water.

VAT on the supply and importation of agricultural implements with HS Code 8201.10.00 (spades and shovels) and HS Code 8201.30.00 (mattocks and picks) is abolished to reduce acquisition cost of agnet, to support the growth of the agriculture sector, ensure high productivity, good yields and improve livelihoods.

He proposed to amend the Sugar Industry Act, CAP 251 to give power to the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) to buy, stock and reserve sugar as a national food reserve requirement to cover domestic consumption during seasonal sugar gaps.

"This measure is intended to ensure constant availability of sugar in the country and manage hoardings of sugar products by manufacturers without compromising the protection of local industries," he stated.

Tax and levy reforms that the budget proposes are intended to promote growth particularly in agriculture, industry, enhancing purchasing power, boosting government revenues.

Priority areas for the proposed 49.35trn/- 2024/25 budget includes debt servicing, preparations for coming elections and preliminary readiness for the 2027 African Cup of Nations (AFCON).

An increase of 11.2 per cent in the budget is mainly driven by debt increase associated with shilling depreciation, rise of interest rates and maturity of loans, alongside new employment arrears, he stated.

Spending will include 15.74trn/- for servicing public debt and oth-

er consolidated fund expenses; 11.77trn/- for salaries, including recruitment and promotion of employees and 2.17trn/- for railway, roads, water and REA funds.

Other expenditure will include 1.19trn/- to finance higher learning education and tertiary colleges student loans, and the fee free primary and secondary education programme.

In preparation for hosting AFCON 2027, the government will start constructing and rehabilitating soccer stadiums.

Implementation of the 2024/25 national budget may be affected by risks associated with changes in economic, financial, budgetary, political, and diplomatic situations, he said.

Other risks relate to cross-cutting issues including climate change, natural disasters, outbreaks of diseases and geopolitical tensions.

Some of the impacts of the aforementioned risks include failure to achieve revenue collection targets; slow pace of project implementation; increased cost of production; plus debt servicing and borrowing costs.

Decrease of grants and concessional loans from the development partners, rising budget deficit, decline in agricultural production, infrastructure damage and larger claims and arrears from suppliers and service providers are also anticipated.

Measures to mitigate the potential risks in order to achieve goals and targets of the 2024/25 budget implementation include overseeing requisite monetary and fiscal policies plus enhancing electronic revenue collection systems.

Other measures are improving the investment environment for domestic and foreign investors and overseeing the implementation of the Loans, Grants and Guarantees Act, CAP 109.

Monitoring the national risk management framework for Public institutions, strengthening the management of the National Disaster Fund; enhancing good governance and the rule of law, plus implementing the national strategy for strengthening availability of foreign currencies are envisaged, he added.

Govt acts on retirees lump sums demands

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tained up to 2029/30, after which the government will decide on the formula to be followed, he said.

Current pension arrangements are set at 33 percent of savings in lump sum, followed by indefinite monthly pensions, after amending Section 25A of the Social Security Benefit Schemes (Regulations).

The regulations effected on July 1, 2022 explained by an annual accrual factor of 2.07 percent and com-

mutation factor set at 12.5 per cent.

In 2018, President John Magufuli directed that pension funds revert to the old pension payment formula under which pensioners were paid 50 percent of their total savings instead of the 25 percent stipulated in highly controversial proposals.

The proposed regulations were followed by the merger of five public pension schemes into the PSSSF, sharing the field with the National Social Security Fund (NSSF).

Raw materials processing top of govt 2024/25 plans

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of natural resources including gas, minerals, forests and lakes.

The government intends to invest in ensuring that the country has quality human resources that meet global standards, thus education and training will be a priority in development plans, he stated.

Construction and maintenance of infrastructure will require the collaboration of the private sector, while strengthening electricity generation to anchor a developing industrial economy, while implementing the clean cooking energy strategy, he further noted.

As 65percent, of the population

is rural, the government was pursuing an integrated economic strategy laying emphasis on stimulating value addition in rural areas, he said.

Building roads and communication facilities in rural areas via the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) is a priority, along with a review of the agricultural, livestock and forestry products sale procedure.

This will simplify the business environment in rural areas, augmented by financial and tax incentives to attract investors for agricultural, livestock, fishing and forestry products to be processed without distant haulage, he added.



Inspector General of Police Camilius Wambura (L) takes up the rotating chairmanship of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Coordination Organisation from his Zambian counterpart, Graphel Musamba, at the SARPCCO meeting held in Lusaka yesterday. Photo courtesy of Police Hqs

National foreign currency reserve reaches \$5.3billion

By Henry Mwangonde

THE national foreign currency reserve has reached \$5.3 billion which is sufficient to import goods for a period of 4.4 months, slightly above the threshold of not less than 4 months.

Minister for Finance Dr Mwigulu Nchemba made the revelation in the National Assembly yesterday when tabling national budget estimates for the year 2024/25.

Dr Nchemba said by promoting exports and reducing imports of locally available products, the government managed to reduce the deficit in balance of trade from \$5.3 billion in 2022 to \$2.7 billion for the period ending February 2024.

"Despite the reasons I mentioned earlier, we also escalate the problem of shortage of US dollars by some people demanding payments or making payments for

goods and services provided within the country using foreign currency; that is, dollarization," he said.

He said there are institutions in the country, and perhaps even government institutions, that sell services to Tanzanians and demand payments in dollars.

"Other institutions want citizens to pay fees in dollars, pay house rent in dollars, work permits, licences, and so on in dollars. We make citizens struggle to look for foreign currencies to buy services provided within the country," he added.

The minister said that the situation causes unnecessary demand for foreign currency which deprives those in need of foreign currency to pay for essential goods and services from abroad.

"Selling domestic goods or services using foreign currency is an offense according to section

26 of the Bank of Tanzania Act of 2006, which stipulates that the Tanzania Shilling is the only legal tender for domestic payments," he added.

The minister directed all stakeholders including public institutions, businesspeople, civil societies, international organizations and all citizens who used to quote prices of goods and services in foreign currencies to stop immediately and ensure that prices are quoted and paid in Tanzanian shillings.

He further directed institutions that charge levies in foreign currencies to amend their regulations, to ensure all levies; goods and services are paid in Tanzanian shillings.

"I direct BoT and other relevant authorities to continue regulating and monitoring forex transactions," he said.

The minister said however that the country was not utilizing properly available opportunities for value addition of domestically produced commodities before being exported so as to increase foreign currency.

"On the other hand, the production of goods and services in the country does not meet domestic consumption and thus necessitate to spend a significant amount of foreign currency to import goods and services," he said.

He said in addressing the challenge of availability of foreign currencies, the government has approved the national strategy which aims at strengthening production and increasing value addition of goods and services for export; to reduce the use of foreign currency; and improving investment environment to attract foreign investors.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday swearing in Zuhura Yunus Abdallah, until recently Director of Presidential Communications at the State House, as Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities). Photo: State House

LHRC: Women still lagging in legal aid digital platforms

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was placing more efforts in reaching women for legal assistance.

This is being conducted at usual areas of group presence such as market places, maternity wards and clinics, she said, explaining the effort from the lack of digital devices on the part of many women.

LHRC expects to reach more women by using simple language in an effort to raise awareness, she said, explaining that LHRC significantly expanded its legal aid services during the past year.

The centre assisted 29,491 clients,

a 50 percent increase from 2022 and surpassing its client outreach target with 147 percent performance, she said, noting that reflecting a growing demand for legal assistance.

Gender breakdown shows that 65 percent of clients were male, while this expanded reach contributed to LHRC winning 209 court cases, an improvement from 173 cases won in 2022.

Positive case outcomes were dominant with 68 percent of cases won on behalf of male clients and 32 percent were won for female clients, she specified.

A mobile phone application enabled LHRC to respond to 50 percent of reported human rights violations out of 1,919 incidents, with women being the majority of victims at 56 percent.

Men were victims in 44 percent of cases where LHRC exercises its commitments to improving access to justice and safeguarding human rights in the country, she further asserted.

LHRC observed a notable increase in women aspiring to be candidates in the coming local government elections in Coast Region in places like Rufiji, Mkuranga,

Kisarawe, Mafia, Kibaha, Bagamoyo and Kibiti. This was due to the empowerment initiatives by women councillors, the director affirmed.

Collaborative efforts between LHRC and the government have enabled the formulation of the national marriage reconciliation guidelines, she said, underlining that it is an essential tool in matrimonial disputes, to stem increasing rates of divorce.

LHRC has documented 30 years of multiparty democracy in a book launched on 'Democracy Day' last year to serve as a historical reference and advocacy tool, she added.



Khamis Yussuf Mussa, recently elected legislator for Zanzibar's Kwahani constituency, pictured in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday taking the oath of office. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

JKCI heart surgery camp: President Samia hands 900m/- for 30 children

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has contributed 900m/- to support treatment of 30 children with heart problems who are unable to afford treatment costs.

The funds are intended to cover costs for children who have been waiting for treatment at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) through a special camp.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Director of Surgical

Services at JKCI Dr Angela Muhozya said that the open surgery on 30 children will be performed for a period of two weeks by the institute's experts.

"We are thankful that since we started this camp, it has been successful because surgeries we perform save the lives of children," she said.

"We are very grateful to President Samia for her support to children who receive services in our institute," she said.

Dr Felix Shonyela, heart surgeon

for children at JKCI, said the camp provides services for children with single problems and those with more than one heart problem.

"We hope that after undergoing heart surgery, the children will continue with their activities as usual," he said.

He appealed to parents that when they observe that their children have signs of tiredness, swollen fingers, and blue colour on the fingers as well as poor growth, they should take them to JKCI for examination.

He said that many child patients are taken to hospital too late, causing some treatments to be difficult.

Prisca Theophil, a parent of a child who underwent surgery at the camp, thanked President Samia for helping children with heart problems from needy families.

Theophil said that she found out that her son had a heart problem in 2022 and started receiving treatment at JKCI but she was unable to pay for the surgery due to her low income.



Sophia Mjema (in green and yellow), President Samia Suluhu Hassan's advisor on women's issues, joins women, youths and members of special groups in the course of a National Economic Empowerment Council empowerment meeting in Njombe Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Hilary Komba

Call for urgent action as waste chocks Nile River in S. Sudan

By Sheila Ponnio, Juba

THE Nile River is the second-longest river in the world. It provides crucial resources to 11 countries, including South Sudan, the world's youngest nation.

As dawn breaks each day over the Nile, its waters carry a silent plea at the centre of a 21st century environmental challenge.

"The river cries out, choked by the very hands it feeds," said Lueth Reng Lueth, executive director at Community Action against Plastic Waste South Sudan. "We stand here today to silence that cry, to transform habits, and to introduce sustainable solutions for our people."

Community Action against Plastic Waste is a youth-driven nongovernmental organization. Lueth, the organization's

founder, said this once majestic, ancient lifeline for civilizations is now facing a severe environmental threat.

"The Nile is bleeding red – not with blood, but with plastics and waste that suffocate its waters," said Lueth. "Our town, river and future are all interconnected. The situation here in Bor is dire, and it's our duty to act."

Environmental experts predict that more frequent and intense heat waves could cut the Nile's flow by 75 percent, spike conflicts over water resources and food insecurity, and heighten health risks related to inadequate water supply and sanitation.

Joseph Africano Bartel, South Sudan's undersecretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Management, explained the importance that water

quality has for those who live and work near the banks of the Nile.

"People drink water directly from the Nile or from the streams, resulting into cholera, diarrhea and other waterborne diseases," said Bartel.

"So, the only solution to improve the quality of water in South Sudan is to establish liquid, solid and medical waste management."

Lueth believes a good beginning would be for the government to facilitate workshops to teach effective waste management, implement policies that discourage single-use plastic consumption, and provide trucks to regularly collect waste from people who live along the riverbank.

"We are supposed to clean the river sides," said Elijah Mau, who lives along

the riverbank. "It is our lifeline."

In the longer term, Community Action against Plastic Waste envisions regular waste collection, plastic levies and fines for littering to enforce environmental awareness. But for now, those changes aren't on the government's immediate horizon.

"As a country, we have joined with the U.N., United Nations Environment Program," said Bartel. "Through the intergovernmental negotiating committee, we're coming up with a treaty that will ban plastic pollution globally."

Lueth said "The story of Bor and the Nile is at a crossroads." And the path they choose today will determine if the river continues to sustain life or becomes a relic.

Government and partners launch initiative to lessen maternal, newborn deaths

By Getrude Mbagu

THE government in collaboration with the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) and other partners yesterday launched the second phase of the Newborn Essential Solutions and Technologies (NEST360) programme backed by investment of \$7.1 million (18bn/-) to further cut newborn deaths.

The launch of the programme which will be implemented for the next five years builds on the government's commitment to improving maternal health and newborn survival.

Speaking during the launching event in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health Dr Grace Magembe said the initiative which involves procurement and supply of modern medical tools, medicines as well as training to personnel, is set to reach 21 facilities, including district and strategic health centres.

She said health facilities on the list are based in Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Kilimanjaro and Mwanza regions as well as three hospitals in Zanzibar.

She thanked partners that have funded the programme, saying that their aim is to save lives and bring smiles on faces of families.

Dr Magembe noted that nearly half of all childhood deaths occur during the first four weeks of life, with the riskiest day being the first day after birth, so the programme will address the situation.

According to her, previously only one public hospital (Muhimbili National Hospital) had a special ward for neonatal services in Dar es Salaam Region before the service being established in other hospitals.

"The situation was bad and deaths were surging, but today we can all testify that a number of major hospitals in the city have the capacity to serve over 80 new-borns with challenges unlike the capacity of serving five to seven newborns," she said.

Dr Mohamed Mang'una, Dar es Salaam Regional Medical Officer said over 430 children are born every day in the region with over 100 of them requiring extra newborn care due to various challenges.

He said the project which will be implemented in various areas including health centres and district hospitals will greatly improve service provision to the newborns.

Dr Honorati Masanja, IHI Chief Executive Director and NEST360 Country Lead, said the initiative focuses on three critical pillars to ensure implementation of a health systems package that encompasses not only the provision of life-saving equipment but also effective utilisation and integration for sustainability.

He said the investment will be employed for infrastructure renovations, medical equipment procurement, capacity building for clinicians and biomedical engineers.

Reginald DesRoches, Rice University President, said that newborns face very different chances of survival around the world, simply due to where they were born.

UPU strategy development summit kicks off in Arusha

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Universal Postal Union (UPU) strategy development regional round table for Africa kicked off here yesterday discussing how to keep postal services relevant and contribute significantly to the continent's economy.

Maryprisca Mahundi, Information, Communication and Information Technology Deputy Minister officiated the opening of the two-day meeting.

The forum includes presentations, panel discussions and group sessions aimed at exploring deep into interactive and inclusive discussions on the proposed strategic framework, the underlying goals and their implications for the African region.

The key goals of the proposed strategic framework include leveraging the single postal territory, enhancing global connectivity and cooperation; innovations in the global postal ecosystem, driving transformation and growth; and facilitating postal development through enhanced cooperation and building resilience and inclusivity.

The forum reflects an aspiration to develop a robust strategy that positions the global postal sector at the forefront of worldwide communication and commerce, with a peculiarity for Africa region.

Mundi reaffirmed Tanzania's readiness to always cooperate with UPU and other international organizations to promote Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the welfare of the global community.

"I urge every one of us to dedicate ourselves fully to this work with passion, dedication and a zeal of collective effort. Your contributions are vital to ensuring that our discussions yield productive outcomes and a strategic framework that will guide us into the future," she said.

Mahundi lauded UPU International Bureau (IB) for organizing the UPU strategy development regional round table for Africa, focusing on the development of UPU's postal strategy for 2026-2029.

"This significant event marks an important step in our collaborative efforts to enhance the postal sector productivity," commending the UPU IB for the initiative, which is part of a series of six regional strategy round tables held worldwide in 2024," she said. "This approach promises to ensure that the UPU's strategy is drafted by considering comprehensive, well-informed stakeholders' needs and the aspired future of the African Posts. I am aware that the forum will dissect the regional needs of the UPU's key stakeholders from ministries, designated operators, and regulatory agencies."

She acknowledged efforts made by the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) Secretariat to the African region, saying the union has always been instrumental in championing one post, one African territory.

Zanzibar favours renewable energy for hospitality sector

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MINISTRY of Water, Energy and Minerals in Zanzibar and USAID's Power Africa initiative yesterday hosted the Zanzibar Renewable Energy Workshop bringing together hospitality industry stakeholders and renewable energy companies.

According to a statement issued yesterday by the US embassy in Dar es Salaam, USAID supports the hospitality industry in Zanzibar by ensuring that the most profitable sector in Zanzibar economy has reliable access to energy for hotels and resorts which receive thousands of visitors annually.

The workshop promoted renewable energy solutions for Zanzibar's hospitality industry, connecting hotels with companies offering customized energy solutions. Panel discussions and presentations on off-grid renewable energy by industry experts were followed by an exhibition showcasing the solutions.

"USAID and Power Africa were pleased to collaborate with the government of Zanzibar on promoting the use of renewable energy solutions for the hotel industry," said Plato Hieronimus, USAID/Tanzania Economic Growth Deputy Office Director.

"We hope that the deliberations

that took place during the workshop will yield actionable results that Zanzibar can use to create an enabling environment for development."

Zanzibar government has identified renewable energy generation as critical for growth in this important sector. Relying on renewable energy sources will ensure a stable and affordable power supply for hotels, which can be scaled up or down based on seasons and demand, providing both cost and resource savings.

"We are excited about the use of renewable energy as an alternative source of energy to power our hotels and cater for the needs of the tourism sector," said Shaib H. Kaduara, Minister for Water, Energy and Minerals.

"The use of renewable energy will keep our hotels powered, lit and functioning, which will in turn strengthen the tourism sector and Zanzibar's economy."

As the world seeks to meet its ever-growing demand for energy, and with the threat of climate change looming, Zanzibar is working towards achieving energy autonomy and reliability by exploring the opportunities presented by renewable energy.

"USAID and Power Africa are proud to promote the adoption of clean, affordable and reliable sources of energy."



Tanzania Electricity Supply Company Limited (Tanesco) managing director Bonifacio Gissima Nyamo-Hanga (L) exchanges documents with Shaker Consultancy Group CEO Dr Ismail Shaker in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday shortly after they signed an agreement under which the Egyptian firm will provide consultancy services in connection with the supervision and management of the implementation of a 220-KV Benaco-Kyaka transmission line project in Kagera Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



MO ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 Tshs'000	Restated 2022 Tshs'000
Insurance service revenue	27,894,086	23,028,089
Insurance service expenses	(45,810,709)	(17,523,736)
Net income/(expenses) from reinsurance contracts	20,486,722	(3,008,341)
Insurance service result	2,570,079	2,486,012
Interest revenue from financial assets not measured at FVTPL	1,669,524	1,393,579
Other investment revenue	429,338	380,104
Net impairment loss on financial assets	(33,687)	(40,948)
Investment return	2,065,175	1,732,735
Net finance income from reinsurance contracts	(286,897)	-
Net finance expenses from insurance contracts	209,203	-
Net financial result	1,987,481	1,732,735
Other income	(5,202)	16,900
Administrative and other expenses	(632,348)	(499,854)
Other finance costs	(6,930)	(2,741)
Profit before tax	3,913,080	3,743,052
Tax charge	(1,164,851)	(1,023,268)
Profit for the year	2,748,229	2,719,784
Other comprehensive income:		
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss		
Equity investments at FVOCI	326,640	11,597
Deferred tax on equity investments at FVOCI	(97,992)	(3,479)
Surplus on revaluation of property, plant and equipment	4,000	58,680
Deferred tax charge on revaluation on property, plant and equipment	(1,200)	(17,604)
	231,448	48,194
Total comprehensive income for the year	2,979,677	2,768,978

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 Tshs'000	Restated 2022 Tshs'000	Restated 1-Jan-22 Tshs'000
Shareholders' Equity			
Share capital	2,620,000	2,620,000	2,620,000
Contingency reserve	3,135,828	2,586,182	2,118,273
Fair value reserves	299,964	71,316	63,198
Revaluation reserve	459,112	468,868	440,348
Retained earnings	11,780,184	9,569,045	7,304,614
Total Shareholders' equity	18,295,088	15,315,411	12,546,433
REPRESENTED BY:			
Assets			
Deferred tax	83,847	-	-
Property, plant and equipment	1,039,811	1,051,792	1,017,704
Right-of-use assets	52,876	37,692	7,512
Investment property	991,000	987,000	967,000
Intangible assets	88,724	116,461	285,089
Financial investments measured at amortised cost	19,324,689	15,854,236	13,157,981
Financial investments measured at fair value	1,865,178	1,200,075	887,654
Reinsurance contract assets	33,822,354	7,410,497	9,904,705
Other receivables	2,757,558	1,016,031	869,835
Cash and cash equivalents	2,921,739	3,262,795	1,731,202
Total assets	62,947,776	30,936,579	28,828,682
Liabilities			
Deferred tax	-	114,058	179,452
Tax payable	220,470	77,475	223,558
Insurance contract liabilities	42,463,906	14,121,263	14,909,439
Lease liabilities	56,046	38,626	7,512
Other payables	1,912,266	1,269,746	962,288
Total liabilities	44,652,688	15,621,168	16,282,249
Net assets	18,295,088	15,315,411	12,546,433

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Ordinary Share capital Tshs'000	Contingency reserve Tshs'000	Fair value reserves Tshs'000	Revaluation reserve Tshs'000	Retained earnings Tshs'000	Total Tshs'000
Year ended 31 December 2023						
Restated balance at 31 December 2022	2,620,000	2,586,182	71,316	468,868	9,569,045	15,315,411
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	2,748,229	2,748,229
Other comprehensive income						
Fair value gain on valuation on revaluation of property, plant and equipment and unquoted equity instruments	-	-	326,640	4,000	-	330,640
Tax effects on fair value gain valuation on revaluation of Property, plant and equipment and unquoted equity instruments	-	-	(97,992)	(1,200)	-	(99,192)
Amortisation of revaluation reserves	-	-	-	(12,556)	12,556	-
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	548,846	-	-	(548,846)	-
At end of year	2,620,000	3,135,828	299,964	458,112	11,780,184	18,295,088
Year ended 31 December 2022						
Balance at 1 January 2022, as previously reported	2,620,000	2,118,273	500,850	440,348	6,944,409	12,623,880
Adjustment on initial application of IFRS 17, net of tax	-	-	-	-	47,531	47,531
Adjustment on initial application of IFRS 9, net of tax (Note 11a)	-	-	(437,692)	-	372,676	(124,979)
Restated balance at 1 January 2022	2,620,000	2,118,273	63,158	440,348	7,304,014	12,546,433
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	2,719,784	2,719,784
Other comprehensive income						
Fair value gain on valuation on revaluation of property, plant and equipment and unquoted equity instruments	-	-	11,597	58,680	-	70,277
Tax effects on fair value gain valuation on revaluation of Property, plant and equipment and unquoted equity instruments	-	-	(3,479)	(17,604)	-	(21,083)
Amortisation of revaluation reserves	-	-	-	(12,556)	12,556	-
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	467,909	-	-	(467,909)	-
Restated balance at 31 December 2022	2,620,000	2,586,182	71,316	468,868	9,569,045	15,315,411

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 Tshs'000	Restated 2022 Tshs'000
Cash from operations		
Reconciliation of profit before tax to cash from operations:		
Profit before tax	3,913,080	3,743,052
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	34,688	93,812
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	18,227	11,972
Amortisation of computer software	63,221	169,383
Interest on lease liabilities	6,930	2,741
Fair value gains on investment property	(4,000)	(20,000)
Fair value gain on financial investments measured at fair value	(333,704)	(289,162)
Cash flows from operating activities before changes in working capital	3,698,442	3,711,798
Changes in working capital:		
(Decrease)/increase in reinsurance contract assets	(26,411,857)	2,494,208
Increase/(decrease) in insurance contract liabilities	28,342,643	(788,176)
Decrease in other receivables	(1,741,527)	(126,166)
Increase/(decrease) in other payables	642,520	307,458
Cash from operations	4,530,221	5,599,092
Interest paid on lease liabilities	(6,930)	(2,741)
Tax paid	(1,318,952)	(1,255,828)
Net cash generated from operating activities	3,204,339	4,340,523
Cash flows from investing activities		
Cash paid for purchase of property, plant and equipment	(18,707)	(69,220)
Cash paid for purchase of intangible asset	(35,484)	(20,755)
Right issue on shares from Tanzania National Reinsurance Corporation	(4,759)	(11,662)
Increase in financial assets	(3,470,454)	(2,696,255)
Net cash used in investing activities	(3,529,404)	(2,797,892)
Financing activities		
Payments of principal portion of the lease liability	(15,991)	(11,038)
Net cash used in financing activities	(15,991)	(11,038)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(341,056)	1,531,593
Movement in cash and cash equivalents		
At start of year	3,262,795	1,731,202
Increase/(decrease)	(341,056)	1,531,593
At end of year	2,921,739	3,262,795

The financial statements on pages 21 to 86 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of directors on 20 May 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Hassan Dewji
Director

Gregory Fortes
CEO

TIC workers in investment promotion drive in Nigeria

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has pitched tent in two Nigerian cities in a drive meant to attract investors from the West African country into Tanzania.

TIC Board Chairperson Dr Binlith Mahenge led Tanzanian delegation to the events which kicked off yesterday.

Organised by TIC in collaboration with the Tanzania's High Commission in Nigeria, the conferences which were held in the cities of Lagos and Enugu aimed at explaining to Nigerian investors various investment opportunities available in the country.

He said Tanzania has made major reforms to the laws and regulations governing investment and has set various incentives for local and foreign investors.

"In promoting economic diplomacy, the government of Tanzania has succeeded to a large extent in improving the investment and business environment and this has attracted many investors from various countries," he said.

He said at the conference, the TIC delegation held meetings with their colleagues from Lagos Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mining and Agriculture (ECCIMA).

He said many Nigerians who attended the events were impressed with the various investment opportunities in the country and promised to come and engage private sector partners.

The conference discussed the manufacturing sector, construction, tourism, pharmaceutical, blue economy, forestry, livestock, financial services, oil and gas and food processing.

African nations wary after UK's Labour Party commits to hunting trophy banning

By Mqondisi Dube, Gaborone

THE countries said, however, that unlike the Conservative government, the Labour Party has "at least pledged a full consultation on a policy with significant ramifications for conservation programs in our countries."

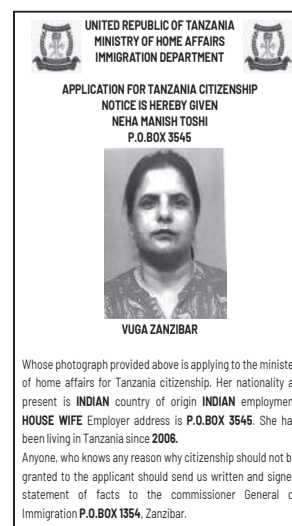
SOME Southern African countries pushing against the United Kingdom's anti-hunting efforts have suffered a blow after the Labour Party, expected to form the next government, committed last week to support a ban on hunting trophy imports.

Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe said in a joint statement that they are disappointed Britain's Labour Party will attempt to ban hunting

trophies. Botswana, with the largest elephant herd in the world at more than 130,000, has been at the forefront of a campaign against efforts by the U.K. and other European nations to ban hunting trophies from Africa.

Adam Hart, a UK-based ecologist and conservation scientist specializing in southern Africa, told VOA he was disappointed with the Labour Party's move.

"It shows that perhaps they have not listened to the sides that have gone in front of the Conservative Party, and they have not listened to the voices of the affected nations," he said.



Whose photograph provided above is applying to the minister of home affairs for Tanzania citizenship. Her nationality at present is INDIAN country of origin INDIAN employment. HOUSE WIFE Employer address is P.O.BOX 3545. She has been living in Tanzania since 2006. Anyone who knows any reason why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant should send us written and signed statement of facts to the commissioner General of Immigration P.O.BOX 1354, Zanzibar.



Independent National Electoral Council chairman Judge Jacobs Mwambegele (C) vice chairman Mbarouk Salim Mbarouk consult in the course of a meeting with journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on preparations for the updating of the national Permanent Voters' Register. Right is INEC director Ramadhan Kailima. Photo: John Badl

Opposition party IFP agrees to join national SA unity government

By Danai Nesta Kupemba, Johannesburg

THE leader of South Africa's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) has said his party has agreed to form part of a government of national unity that includes the African National Congress (ANC) and the biggest opposition party, the Democratic Alliance (DA).

Velenkosini Hlabisa told reporters at a media briefing in Durban on Wednesday: "The only options were to become part of the government, or part of the opposition." "The people of South Africa who voted said that political parties must find a common ground," he said.

South Africans have been eagerly waiting to know who would form the next government after the ANC lost its majority in last month's elections.

This is the first official indication that a government of national unity has been agreed, although the DA and ANC have not yet commented.

The ANC has previously said it wanted to form a unity government and had engaged with all of the country's opposition parties.

The new parliament is due to be sworn in on Friday, after the country's top court dismissed a bid by former President Jacob Zuma's party, MK, to stop its first sitting.

This is when the parliament is expected to elect a president, so the ANC would hope to have agreed a deal by then. It insists that Cyril Ramaphosa must remain the country's leader.

The ANC vote fell below 50 percent for the first time since Nelson Mandela led them to victory in 1994 and ended the racist system of apartheid, forcing them to look for coalition partners.

The ANC got about 40 percent of the vote, with the centre-right Democratic Alliance (DA) on 22 percent, the MK party on 15 percent and

the radical Economic Freedom Fighters on 9 percent.

The IFP, which is a conservative party with a strong Zulu base, got about 4 percent of the vote share in the election.

Many ANC activists would prefer to do a deal with the EFF and MK, which are both led by former senior ANC officials.

However, such a coalition would alarm investors because these parties favour seizing white-owned land without compensation and nationalising the country's mines.

The business community would prefer a coalition between the ANC and DA.

Bringing in other parties, such as the IFP, would help deflect criticism that the ANC leadership was "selling out" by working with the DA, seen by some South Africans as representing the country's white minority.

The DA opposes two of the ANC's core policies - its black empowerment programme, which aims to give black people a stake in the economy following their exclusion under apartheid, and the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill, which promises universal healthcare for all.

"We will participate in the government of national unity for the sake of our country and for the sake of our people, who want life to continue with a stable government that will address their challenges," he said.

Hlabisa assured IFP supporters the party would not "lose its identity" as they have worked in a coalition government before.

Following the historic 1994 elections, Mandela's ANC worked with his former enemies in the National Party, which was responsible for the implementation of apartheid, as well as the IFP, whose supporters had frequently clashed with ANC activists, leading to thousands of deaths.

Mining commission eyes 1trn/- next financial year

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE mining Commission has set a target of collecting 1trn/- in the next financial year and to boost its contribution to the government coffers.

Yahya Samamba, Mining Commission executive secretary, yesterday opened a management meeting aimed at reviewing the commission's performance for the year 2023/2024 and put in place strategies for the upcoming financial year.

He urged the commission's staff to work diligently through team work so as to achieve the target.

He said from July 1, 2023 to June 12, 2024, the commission managed to collect 703.9bn/- which is equivalent to 79.8 percent of the target to collect 882.12bn/- during the 2023/24 financial year. "For the ending year, we are on track. We have done well in revenue collection. However, we are required to make more efforts to attain the target of collecting 1trn/- during the forthcoming year," he said.

He also urged the management to come up with tangible strategies to ensure that they address loopholes leading to loss of revenue.

"Mining officers should be serious

in ensuring that you control revenue loss loopholes in your areas so that you don't face punitive measures over failure to supervise revenue collection," he said.

"Resident mine officers must be vigilant to ensure all potential revenue loss avenues are closed. Any revenue shortfalls in your region will be your responsibility, reflecting a failure to manage collections properly," he said.

He emphasized the need for creativity to enhance work efficiency, improve working environment and safeguard employee interests.

"We must ensure a balanced, cooperative and harmonious atmosphere among employees at all levels. This includes ensuring offices that we supervise embrace equality, cooperation and understanding among staff to enable us achieve the target," he said.



Resident mine officers must be vigilant to ensure all potential revenue loss avenues are closed

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SALE OF USED VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

Catholic Relief Services - CRS is inviting bids for the purchase of various used office vehicles and equipment.

ITEM	MAKE	YEAR	CONDITION	LOCATION
T418 BDF	Toyota Land V8	2009	Running Duty not paid	DAR
T188 CKX	Toyota Land Cruiser hard top	2013	Running Duty not paid	MBEYA
T187CKX	Toyota Land Cruiser hard top	2013	Running Duty not paid	MBEYA

The vehicle and equipment are sold "as is where is" basis. Kindly deposit your bid in the CRS tender boxes in the Dar es Salaam and Mbeya offices or through the email address: (tz_quotations@crs.org), indicating the respective registration number of the vehicle marked "Tender for Purchase of Used Vehicles and Equipment" to be addressed to:

The Country Manager
Catholic Relief Services - Tanzania Program
Block No.12 Hamza Azizi Ali Street, Masaki, Dar Salaam

Viewing: The vehicle may be viewed as indicated at the respective location after the first appearance of the advert from 09:00 to 14:00 hours at CRS premises - Block No.12 Hamza Azizi Ali Street, Masaki, Dar Es Salaam, and Kaunda Street block No. 3 plot No.115 Uzunguni, Mbeya.

Contact Person: Elizabeth Sendama in Dar Es salaam and Neema Mwalusamba in Mbeya.

Closing date: Friday 25th June 2024 at Noon.

Opening date: Bids will be opened internally on 27th June 2024 at 10 am at the CRS Dar es Salaam office and A successful bidder will be contacted.

Terms of Payment: The successful bidder will be required to pay a non-refundable deposit of 10% of the total bid amount within 2 days of receiving notification of their successful bid. This deposit ensures commitment to the purchase and secures the bid. The remaining balance must be paid in full within 14 days from the date of the notification. Failure to meet these payment deadlines may result in the forfeiture of both the bid and the deposit. If the successful bidder fails to comply with these terms, the opportunity may be awarded to the next highest bidder. The successful bidder must adhere strictly to these timelines to avoid any loss of the bid.

Failure to comply with this condition will automatically nullify the sales without notice.

A successful bidder will be required to collect the equipment immediately after full payment has been made and the provision of customs clearance certificates.

Note that it is the duty and responsibility of the buyer to follow up and ensure prompt payment of all relevant duties and taxes (TRA/Customs) as per the prevailing laws and regulations of the United Republic of Tanzania.



JOB ADVERTS AT PASADA

ABOUT PASADA

Pastoral Activities and Services for people with HIV/AIDS Dar es Salaam Archdiocese -PASADA TANZANIA is a Tanzanian faith-based organization operating since 1992 in Tanzania and owned by Catholic Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam having over 25 facilities. PASADA TANZANIA reaches all the poor, under privileged, infected, and affected by HIV and AIDS including communicable and non-communicable diseases. We provide the needy people with a comprehensive range of services along with the continuum of care including medical, spiritual, psychosocial, and palliative care services through deploying community-based approaches in the provision of healthcare and livelihood improvement activities. We also engage in resilience building to vulnerable community members (including but not limited to Children & Adults, OVC, Adolescents and their Caregivers) in addressing the structural drivers of the epidemic to control and mitigate its adverse effects. Although sponsored by the Catholic Church, the services offered by PASADA TANZANIA are available to all individuals without discrimination of any sort in Tanzania. Additionally, educational and awareness raising programs are carried out at facility and community levels with the objective of reducing stigma and discrimination and promoting behavioral change, thereby limiting the spread of the virus.

PASADA ACHIEVE PROGRAM

PASADA Tanzania is awarded a grant to implement the ACHIEVE Project in seven councils of Mbeya DC, Chunya DC, Busokelo DC, Mbeya CC, Mbarali DC kyela DC, and Rungwe DC in the Mbeya region. ACHIEVE uses a comprehensive, family-centred case management approach led by community-based case workers to provide a broad package of services to households with orphans and other vulnerable children in close coordination with the Government of Tanzania's health and social services and other service providers. With support from CNHF, Pact through her sub grantee, PASADA Tanzania will also build on the ACHIEVE platform to provide additional, critical early childhood care and development services to improve the well-being and future prosperity of infants and young children. To maintain high-quality level services and to meet our clients' and donors' expectations, we wish to invite applications from qualified and suitable candidates to fill the following positions.

1. Program Manager (1 post)
2. Project Accountant (2 Positions)
3. Procurement Officer (1 Position)
4. Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator (1 Position)
5. Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (1 Position)
6. Health & HIV Officer (4 Positions)
7. Early Childhood Development Officer (7 Positions)
8. Economic Strengthening and Livelihood Officer (2 Positions)
9. Case Management Officer (3 Positions)
10. Case Management Coordinator (14 Positions)
11. Youth Interventions Officer (2 Positions)
12. Assistant Youth Interventions Officer (5 Positions)
13. Data Clerks (44 Positions)
14. Driver (1 Position)
15. Administrative Assistant (1 Position)

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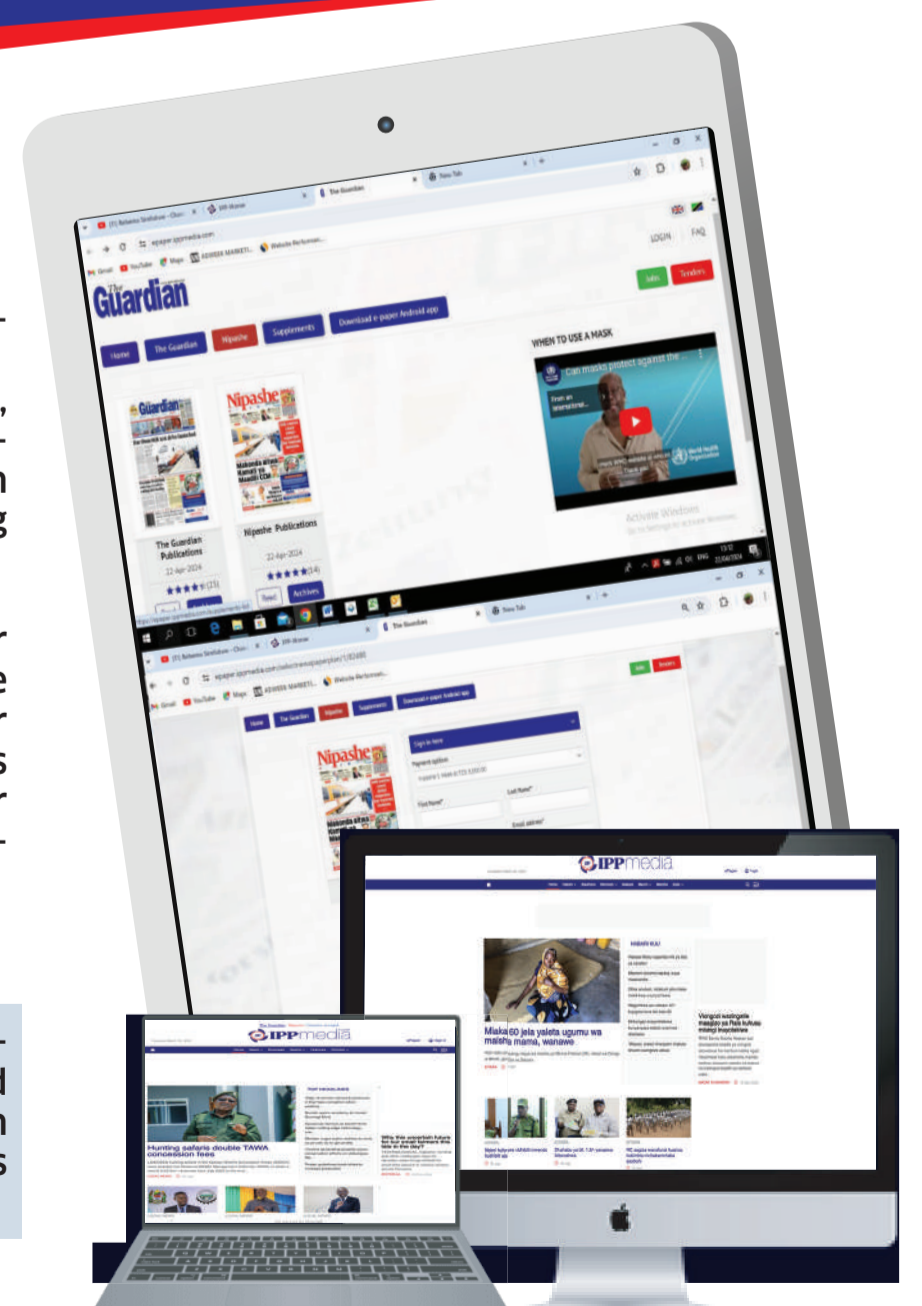
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Bank inaugurates nationwide blood donation drive to address shortage

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank Tanzania has launched a nationwide blood donation drive aimed at alleviating blood shortages in hospitals and other health facilities.

This critical initiative, in partnership with the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS) will take place across six major regions namely Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mwanza, Arusha, Mtwara and Mbeya.

In Dar es Salaam, donation centers will be conveniently situated at Mnazi Mmoja, Mbezi Mwisho and Mbagala to ensure easy access for all donors.

In celebration of World Blood Donor Day today themed: '20 years of celebrating giving; thank you blood donors', Exim Bank extends its efforts to highlight the importance of blood donation. This nationwide blood donation drive is part of a global effort to accelerate progress and make safe blood transfusion universally accessible.

Stanley Kafu, Exim Bank's Head of Marketing and Communications made the remarks in Dar es Salaam recently during the event launch.

Kafu stated: "Our enduring commitment to community health and wellbeing drives us to support critical initiatives like this. We've made significant strides in aiding those in need, and we look forward to continuing this vital work to positively impact the lives of Tanzanians."

He added: "We encourage everyone to participate in this life-saving blood donation drive. Donating blood is a simple act of kindness that can make a significant difference in someone's life. Together, we can ensure that our health facilities are well-equipped to handle emergencies and provide essential care."

Exim Bank's commitment to corporate social responsibility and community engagement is evident through its diverse range of initiatives aimed at fostering social, health, economic and gender empowerment in Tanzania. This blood donation drive is part of a broader effort to enhance health services and support those in need across the nation. The bank has a history of supporting health-related initiatives, including previous blood donation drives and various health campaigns.

NBTS representative Fatma Mjungu expressed gratitude for Exim Bank's contributions, saying: "We deeply appreciate Exim Bank's unwavering support for this life-saving initiative. Their dedication to community health and wellbeing is clearly demonstrated through their active involvement in the blood donation drive. With their support, we can ensure our health facilities are well equipped to handle emergencies and provide essential care."

In Tanzania, blood donation status reveals a significant shortfall in meeting the national demand for blood. According to Ministry of Health data from 2020, the country requires approximately 540,000 units of blood annually to adequately support its population. However, in 2016, only less than 200,000 units were collected, leading to a shortage of more than 300,000 units. Additionally, about 15 percent of the collected blood was deemed unusable due to various reasons, further exacerbating the shortage.

Day of African Child: residents create awareness about autism

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

SOME residents of Moshi Municipality in Kilimanjaro Region have begun creating awareness through training sessions on best ways to take care of children with autism and other brain disabilities.

This unfolds as Tanzania readiness to join other countries in marking International Day of the African Child this Sunday.

The week-long training sessions are meant to improve sustainable Inclusive quality education for all children in the region in particular and Tanzania as a whole.

Speaking at one of the training sessions here yesterday Brenda Shuma who is an occupational therapist said the initiative was meant to shine a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism face every day.

"We're working in collaboration with different NGOs to mark the International Day of the African Child by training people from different backgrounds on how to address autism and other brain-related challenges," she said.

She added that this year's International Day of the African Child focuses on challenges children in African countries face in receiving quality education.

Shuma said that most African communities tend to hide children with disabilities at home, particularly those suffering from brain disorders.

"Children with autism and hyperactive brain disorders are less acceptable in the society due to lack of inclusive policies and awareness. That is why we came up with this training programme for special needs teachers and caregivers," she said.

She added that most parents are unaware that the condition can be treated by special treatment, including rehabilitation.

The International Day of the African Child, also known as the Day of the African Child has been celebrated on June 16 every year since 1991 when it was first initiated by the Organisation of African Unity, now African Union. It honours children who participated in the Soweto Uprising in 1976 on that day. It also raises awareness of the continuing need for improvement of education provided to African children.

The theme for the Day of the African Child in 2024 is 'Education for all children in Africa: the time is now'.



Mbeya regional commissioner Juma Homera (3rd-R) joins Mbarali District residents and officials at the weekend in carrying stones in preparation for the launch of the construction of a tourism college at Mulungu village. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Participatory grant project model impresses villagers

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

RESIDENTS of Wilunze Village in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region have expressed gratitude for implementation of a project that saw two primary schools in the area get 140 desks, 22 teachers' tables and 14 chairs.

While the project has helped solve challenges both teachers and pupils faced at the learning facilities, they are happy with the speed of implementation of the project, thanks to guidelines provided to a local

women's group that received a grant to implement the project.

Ujirani Mwema is one of the two groups in the village that sought a grant to implement a pilot project on participatory grant-making.

Participatory grant-making aims to give local people and communities more say and control over what is funded in their areas. Community members help design and drive programmes, set goals, make decisions about how to allocate resources and evaluate progress.

It involves ceding grant-making power to beneficiary community members, placing them at the centre of grant-making by giving them power to decide who and what to fund.

The system aims to give local people and communities more say and control over what is funded in their area.

Villagers told this paper that as per the project in Wilunze, the group received funding from the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) and was a pilot project to see how effective participatory grant-making works.

George Nahani, chairperson of the advisory committee said one task of the team was to provide guidance and close monitoring of the project.

"The capacity building training we got at FCS office in Dodoma helped us a lot in supervision of the project and we ensured it was implemented as per the set standards and timely," he said.

It all started when the foundation thought of implementing participatory grant projects in partnership with its partner organizations operating at community level.



A grader levels a stretch of an unpaved road in Dar es Salaam's Kitunda Machimbo suburb yesterday pending its tarmacking. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Over 80 passengers killed in latest boat accident in DRC

KINSHASA

A BOAT carrying more than 270 passengers has capsized on a river near DR Congo's capital Kinshasa, leaving more than 80 dead, President Félix Tshisekedi has announced.

It was the latest deadly boat accident in the central African country where

overloading is often blamed, including in February when dozens lost their lives after an overloaded boat sank.

A statement quoting Tshisekedi on Wednesday said the locally made boat capsized late Monday in Mai-Ndombe province along the Kwa River.

The boat was carrying 271 passengers to Kinshasa when it broke down due to

an engine failure, according to the U.N.-backed Radio Okapi, citing Ren Maker, the water commissioner in the Mushi district where the accident happened.

Eighty-six of the passengers died while 185 managed to swim ashore, some 70 kilometers (43 miles) near the closest city of Mushie, Maker said. He said the boat hit the edge of the river

bank and broke.

Congolese officials have often warned against overloading and vowed to punish those violating safety measures for water transportation. But in remote areas where most passengers come from, many are unable to afford public transport for the few available roads.

Zanzibar confidence in BoT methods helps Union spirit

QUESTIONS on the scarcity of the US dollar have undertones of fiscal versus monetary management, at least in the context of Tanzania, where fiscal issues are largely non-Union and monetary matters are entirely under the Union authorities.

Some members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives have recently raised worries in that sphere, seeking to find out what the authorities are doing about it.

One of the questions raised had to do with monetary aspects as it was strictly related to scarcity of foreign exchange and what is being done there - not impact of fiscal policy or government expenditure and its impact in forex availability, as a fiscal issue.

A deputy minister with the Finance and Planning 'wing' in the Zanzibar President's Office expressed satisfaction with measures being taken by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to control dollar scarcity. That included sales of foreign exchange through the interbank foreign exchange market (IFEM).

The deputy minister explained at some length what BoT was doing in that regard, and it is apparent that this explanation was largely satisfactory for the House.

One could want to know whether the issue was raised spot on or perhaps post hoc, in the sense that the crisis has all but been eclipsed within the context of the market situation prevailing.

It is however apparent that the matter is still boiling in certain sectors, such as tourism, where the manner in which foreign exchange is obtained, held and deposited is subject to policy review.

While the deputy minister did not address that aspect of issues, its relevance is apparent. Technically, what was at hand was explaining BoT's implementation of foreign

exchange intervention policy.

The demands could be in the form of wanting to know steps the government has taken to address the scarcity of the dollar and stabilize the foreign exchange market.

The core element of the response was that BoT had during this period sold US \$555million through the interbank foreign exchange market to address dollar scarcity. There was a change in the manner in which banks and financial entities participate in the foreign exchange market.

All these changes date just to January 2024 and to that extent they are still being evaluated for the outcome, the level of market stability attained, with 18 banks benefiting from reworked evaluations of foreign currency transactions.

The figures given are that oil obtained 20.35 per cent of BoT based transactions, with business accessing 24.4 per cent and industry 6.16 per cent.

On the whole, the deputy minister indicated that no Zanzibar-specific measures came up, apparently as the issue was systemic and not one of representation.

It is vital that key Union institutions can work out solutions to fiscal or monetary problems which leave no space for doubting the probity of what is taking place.

One significant aspect was the granting of new foreign exchange trade licences, which came with new regulations for foreign exchange shops.

One could safely say this was a revolution relative to the 2018-2019 intervention in the trade. The mood for trading foreign exchange is decidedly better even with dollar scarcity.

With increased investments, as well as the widening of export performance generally, the outcome isn't quite a matter of guesswork.

Competition crucial for metal pipe firms to abide by quality standards

VARIOUS government institutions including the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) have for quite a while been engaged in consultations with metal industry stakeholders.

Top TBS officials appealed to producers of flat bars as well as square and round metal pipes to make products that meet set standards, explaining that as vital in saving the public from health and economic challenges.

Were it that TBS was out to ascertain that rules of competition were functioning rather than the more loved rules of protecting local industry, it would be easier to assume that those toeing the line would have no problem accessing the market, and doing optimal business.

The tinge of the remark was on the other side of issues, though - namely, readiness to extend a usable level of protection either with a condition of meeting quality standards or imploring them to do as much.

This raises the issue of whether it is a workable strategy, not for protection but for quality, in relation to the public interest as the TBS official emphasized.

That is why current policies for sorting out conditions for doing business often imply one thing for those already in the market and a different one for those wishing to enter the market.

The pendulum of economic rationality would likely swing in the direction of those wishing to enter the market.

The tone of those established in the market is always protection, especially by citizenship-related criteria, and this not just in the metals industry with its regular protection

demands but even with wholesalers. TBS appears out to make inspections in factory yards and conduct tests on products of metal industries to see if they abide by the rules put in place for ensuring quality products.

One such requirement is branding, with the official having said one of the requirements for production of quality products suitable for use was to indicate the name of the producer and the size.

When firms don't wish to identify their products, it means they want builders to obtain metal products almost at random just by looking at the prices, while the structural liability is forbidding.

So far, the level of protection envisaged between TBS and metal industry stakeholders seems to be working - even as TBS says that despite efforts it has made to ensure that the products come with important information, some manufacturers are reluctant to comply.

Whether or not TBS will hesitate to take appropriate action against anyone producing flat bars, square pipes and round pipes contrary to the requirements is easier said than done.

Facing bureaucrats is usually easier than "confronting" the market. The best way out may be to get notable investment groups or chambers of commerce in industrial states to set up shop and produce brand products.

That would likely compel other producers to take cues from established firms ready to meet TBS criteria for quality products. Whatever the scenario, though, compliance with the respective procedures, regulations and laws remains easily the safest way to move.

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African activists call upon the west to finance climate action



Activists at Bonn accuse developed countries of frustrating the process on climate finance. Pictured are Danni Taaffe, Head of Communications at Climate Action Network (CAN), Mohamed Adow of Power Shift Africa and Sven Harmeling, Head of Climate at CAN. Credit: Isaiah Esipisu/IPS

BONN

AS the technical session of the global climate negotiations enters the final stretch in Bonn, Germany, climate activists from Africa have expressed fears that negotiators from the developed world are dragging their feet in a way to avoid paying their fair share to tackle the climate crisis.

"I think we will be unfair to the snail if we say that the Bonn talks have all along moved at a snail pace," quipped Mohammed Adow, the Director, Power Shift Africa.

"Ideally, there will be no climate action anywhere without climate finance. Yet what we have seen is that developed countries are frustrating the process, blocking the UAE annual dialogues, which were agreed upon last year in Dubai, to focus on the delivery of finance so as to give confidence to developing countries to implement climate actions," said Adow.

According to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Arab Emirates (UAE) dialogue was created to focus on climate finance in relation to implementing the first Global Stocktake (GST-1) outcomes, with the rationale of serving as a follow up mechanism dedicated to

climate finance, ensuring response to and/or monitoring of, as may be appropriate and necessary, all climate finance items under the GST

The two-week Bonn technical session of Subsidiary Bodies (SB60) was expected to develop an infrastructure for the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), a climate change funding mechanism to raise the floor of climate finance for developing countries above the current \$100 billion annual target.

In 2009, during the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) of the UNFCCC in Copenhagen, developed countries agreed that by 2020, they would collectively mobilize \$100 billion per year to support priorities for developing countries in terms of adaptation to climate crisis, loss and damage, just energy transition and climate change mitigation.

When parties endorsed the Paris Agreement at COP 21 in 2015, they found it wise to set up the NCQG, which has to be implemented at the forthcoming COP 29, whose agenda has to be set at the SB60 in Bonn, providing scientific and technological advice, thereby shaping negotiations in Azerbaijan.

However, activists feel that the agenda being set in Bonn is likely

to undermine key outcomes of previous negotiations, especially on climate finance.

"We came to Bonn with renewed hope that the NCQG discussions will be honest and frank with all parties committed to seeing that the finance mechanism will be based on the priorities and needs of developing countries and support country-driven strategies, with a focus on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)," said Memory Zonde-Kachambwa, the Executive Director, FEMNET.

"Seeing the devastation climate change is causing in our countries in terms of floods, storms, and droughts, among other calamities, it was our hope that the rich countries would be eager and willing to indicate the Quantum as per Article 9.5 of the Paris Agreement so as to allow developing countries to plan their climate action," she said.

So far, negotiators from the North have been pushing for collective "mobilization of financial resources," which African activists believe is merely the privatization of climate finance within NCQG, thus surrendering poor countries to climate-debt speculators and further impoverishing countries clutching onto debt.

Also in the spotlight was the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), where the activists feel that the means of implementation is being vehemently fought by the parties from developed countries.

"Adaptation must be funded from public resources and must not be seen as a business opportunity open to private sector players," said Dr. Augustine Njamshi, an environmental policy and governance law expert and the Executive Secretary of the African Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access. "Without clear indications on the means of implementation, GGA is an empty shell and it is not fit-for-purpose."

According to Ambassador Ali Mohammed, the incoming Chair for the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), the SB60 is an opportunity to rebuild trust in the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

"That trust can only be rebuilt if we come out of Bonn with a quantum that adequately covers the needs of the continent," he said, noting that the figure Africa is asking for, which is to be part of the agenda for COP29, is USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2030.

By Correspondent Abdallah Bakari, Ruvuma

Silent bullets: Poachers devise new method of killing elephants mutely

'SILENT bullets' is a new phrase being used -albeit silently- in the murky world of wildlife poaching. The terminology refers to the killing of elephants and other wildlife without the usual loud gunshot sound.

This means poachers can commit their crime just a few meters from rangers but without attracting their attention. The deadly technique is a milestone for poachers but a catastrophe for wildlife and conservationists.

Investigation conducted by this writer in collaboration with Internews Earth Journalism Network found that the new poaching technique is widely known by residents of Barikiwa, Mpigamiti and Kikulyungu villages in Liwale District, Lindi Region and Kiuma, Uria and Kiparang'anda villages in Tunduru and Namtumbo districts in Ruvuma region.

According to residents neighbouring Nyerere National Park and Kiparang'andu Game Reserve, the giant African elephants are being killed through inexpensive means designed to evade detection.

This writer worked with former ivory dealer-turned conservationist and informer who sought anonymity for his safety. He said poachers use poison extracted from



An elephant pictured walking around a cashew farm in Tunduru District, Ruvuma Region recently. Photo courtesy of Tunduru District Council

acokanthera plant to inject into fried bread (maandazi) and feed elephants, then wait for the animal to die.

He said the poison injected into pastries is lethal enough to kill an elephant in a few hours or minutes without raising any alarm.

"You will never hear any noise but for sure you will find dead elephants and their ivory chopped off," he said.

"This method is simple to use, cheap and less risky to the bad guys," he said.

He said people who did not know that he had reformed recently approached him with several kilogrammes of ivory at

Kiuma Village. He was also offered several kilogrammes at Uria Village.

"I changed my ways and became an informer working with authorities since 2012 so I know a lot," he said.

He claimed that the poison which is known locally as kupicha is purchased from a neighbouring country to the south where the plant that contains it is plenty.

"One needs only four small bottles of acokanthera poison which go for 50,000/- to inject it into maandazi, feed the elephant and wait for it to lie down, dead," he said.

Dunia Almasi, Tunduru Dis-

trict Natural Resource and Environment Officer, confirmed the use of poison to kill elephants but not the new method. However, he did not rule it out.

"What I have heard is the use of pumpkin and watermelon in which poachers inject poison and an elephant dies a few hours after consuming the same," he said.

"So, it's quite possible for them to use poisoned pastries to kill jumbos. Remember, this is one of the places with high elephant population in the country and poachers know that and they always come up with new methods to facilitate their crime."

Almasi said human activities

near and within protected areas have made conservation even more difficult.

"Elephants nowadays live near people's residences which might fuel poaching incidents. So, we need to shift from managing wildlife to managing people's movements," he said.

Ephraim Mwangomo, Nyerere National Park Assistant Conservation Commissioner, said his office had no information about the use of the silent bullet but he promised to take action to establish the facts.

"What I know is the injection of poison into pumpkins and watermelon which we managed to control," he said.

"Any illegal business always has its unique techniques. As we explore the best ways to stop poachers, they also come up with other ways to escape detection. Since 2019 we have recorded low poaching incidents due to enhancement of security measures."

Namtumbo District Natural Resources and Environment Officer Prisca Msuha said poaching incidents recorded low in 2023. However, she was unaware of the new poaching method.

"Many elephants these days enter human settlements. If there is such kind of poaching by using poison, I am not aware of it, probably because it is done secretly," she said.

But this silent gun is not being used here in Tanzania alone. Felix Micheni, Kenyan veterinary specialist, confirmed the exist-

ence of the natural poison which kills elephants.

In his article published by The Sheldrick Wildlife Trust last year, he said that the natural and easily extracted acokanthera poison is a typical example of historical poisons with the ability to kill an elephant in a matter of minutes.

"(It is potent) if fresh and well prepared, whilst being incredibly difficult to treat or detect through conventional means, which is why such a brutal age-old method of poaching is still used today and is still killing hundreds of majestic elephants" reads the article.

In the former Kalulu Game Reserve in Tunduru District and Namtumbo Game Reserve which merges with Nyerere National Park, elephants normally move from Mozambique to Tanzania and vice versa, which makes it a hotspot for poaching.

In February 2019, Tanzania marked a great move in fighting illegal poaching and trafficking after sentencing Yang Fenglan, a Chinese businesswoman nicknamed the "Ivory Queen", to 15 years in jail for smuggling hundreds of elephant tusks.

Yang was accused of operating one of Africa's biggest ivory-smuggling rings, responsible for smuggling \$2.5m (£1.9m) worth of tusks from some 400 elephants. Two Tanzanian men were also found guilty of involvement in the ring.

Ivory poaching is said to have caused a 20 percent decline in the population of African elephants in the last decade.

But according to Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Angela Kairuki the number of elephants has mounted from 43,330 in 2014 to 60,000 in 2023 due to conservation efforts.

The illicit trade is reportedly fuelled by high demand of ivory from China and South East Asia, where it is used to make jewellery and ornaments.

By Mutayoba Arbogast

Carbon trade funds help villagers to fight hunger, malnutrition among school children in rural areas

IN a bid to fight against hunger, malnutrition challenges and environmental degradation in rural communities across the country, villagers are teaming up with organizations to find innovative solutions.

One such initiative which is gaining momentum is the use of carbon credits to bolster school feeding programs, with a focus on rural areas.

The scale of the challenge is huge; with approximately 60 million African pupils relying on school feeding programs for their daily meals. In the global fight against hunger and climate change, a symphony of voices and initiatives harmonizes toward a brighter, more nourished future for the children.

Science of Early Childhood Development pays attention for children under eight years of age because it is during the initial eight years of life, the human mind develops important cognitive and social-emotional skills that lay the foundation for everlasting learning and achievement.

Beyond providing immediate relief from hunger, the programs adopted by villagers hold the potential to empower generations of African children, ensuring they have the energy and resources to pursue their dreams and contribute meaningfully to society.

Abdallah Obedi, Country Manager, Care for Africa Foundation says they are currently providing breakfast to over 6,000 children a day in Tarime District, Mara Region.

Obedi adds that long journeys to and from school, leaves pupils exhausted and unable to



concentrate on their studies. He said with empty bellies pupils can hardly listen and understand what is being taught by teachers.

"Children need food so they have the energy to learn," he emphasizes, adding the organisation works in 9 primary schools as a pilot whereas they have been providing porridge to pupils.

He said their work aligns with the country's National School Feeding Guideline introduced in 2021. He said the guidelines want pupils in pre-primary classes to be served first before upper classes. He told the Guardian that they are sensitising villagers on environmental and forest conservation so that they reap millions of money through carbon trade.

According to Obedi, the carbon trade is likely to enable them to earn a lot of funds, of which; part of it can be allocated for implementation of the school feeding programme.

"We have a number of recorded

successes through the breakfast programs as pupil's academic performance has improved. With provision of meals, the performance would improve further," he adds.

One of the beneficiaries of the programme is Dorkas Peter, a determined young girl who walks miles each day to attend school despite facing numerous obstacles.

Her family's financial struggles and the absence of her father compound the challenge she faces. Without support and initiatives such as the breakfast programme by Care for Africa, Peter and countless others would have been staying hungry at school for the whole day.

Peter and her siblings are among the privileged pupils attending a school that offers the breakfast programme. With access to nutritious meals, Peter finds the energy to pursue her dreams of becoming a nurse and giving back to her community.

However, the reality remains

grim for over 100,000 other children in Tarime who continue to attend school without this vital support. John's resilience and the harsh realities she is going through highlight the urgency of expanding such initiatives.

Neema Lugangira, Special Seats legislator and founder of the Kagera based Agri-Thamani Foundation, stands as a beacon of hope amidst the storm and challenges associated with the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

With unwavering determination, Lugangira champions an initiative for education and nutrition, spearheading Tanzania's entry into the School Meals Coalition, a monumental step towards ensuring every child's right to a nutritious meal at school is successfully attained.

Under Lugangira's leadership, Tanzania joins other 90 nations in a global coalition to expand school feeding programmes. With her guidance, this collaborative effort

flourishes, providing meals to an additional 30 million children worldwide, a testament to the power of unity in times of adversity.

Lugangira's dedication resonates across the Commonwealth, where member states rally behind the clarion call to elevate and enrich school meal programs. From the hallowed halls of India's pioneering mid-day meal initiative to the ambitious endeavours of Kenya's government in leveraging carbon credits, the Commonwealth pulsates with innovation and determination to uplift the next generation.

Yet, amidst the triumphs, challenges persist. Millions of children still languish without access to the sustenance they need to thrive. However, hope flickers brightly on the horizon, embodied in initiatives like the Scalable-School Meals Program in Bukoba and Misenyi districts, Kagera Region.

The Agri-Thamani Foundation stands as a beacon of hope, illuminating the path toward a future where no child will know the ache of an empty stomach.

Amina Said, a retired teacher from Mugeza Deaf Primary School in Bukoba Municipality said: "For many children, the meals they eat at school may be their only source of nutrition."

She added: "By expanding these programmes we can ensure no child goes hungry."

William Asiko, Vice President for Africa at the Rockefeller Foundation said that international collaboration provides opportunities for learning and knowledge exchange.

"By harnessing the potential of carbon credits and drawing on lessons from global experiences, Tanzania can pave the way for a brighter, more equitable future for its students," stated Asiko, adding the foundation

is committed to advocating for the expansion of school feeding programs across Africa.

He added: "We aim to empower communities to address hunger and climate change simultaneously, creating sustainable solutions that benefit both present and future generations. With the support and guidance of organizations like the Rockefeller Foundation, Tanzania can unlock the transformative potential of school feeding programmes."

The push for school feeding programmes in Tanzania requires a comprehensive approach that addresses both immediate and long-term needs. Drawing lessons from developed nations, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, can offer valuable insights into effective strategies for implementation.

Policy advocacy is crucial in garnering support from government officials and policymakers. Emphasizing the benefits of school feeding programs in improving educational outcomes and fostering community development can help elevate these initiatives as the national agenda.

Community participation is equally essential, as local buy-in is key to the success and sustainability of these programs. Engaging parents, community leaders and stakeholders in the design and implementation process ensures cultural relevance and ownership of the initiatives.

Public-private partnerships play a significant role in mobilizing resources and expertise. Collaboration between government agencies, private sector entities, and civil society organisations can unlock innovative financing mechanisms and expand the reach of school feeding programs.

Afghanistan needs international assistance to ensure people adapt to the 'new normal'

By Alexander Matheou

TRUCKS painted bright blue, yellow, and purple dot the arid emptiness of Spin Boldak in southern Afghanistan. Their roofs are laden with the entire possessions of families who have returned from Pakistan after decades of displacement. Hundreds of thousands have preceded them in recent months following a ruling that undocumented migrants must leave or face deportation. Most have never been to Afghanistan before. They must build new lives from scratch.

Many are so poor that they don't know where their next meal is coming from. They certainly don't have the capital needed to start a livelihood. When they arrive in Spin Boldak, they receive medical care, some food, and a little cash from humanitarian agencies. They are grateful, but when I ask them what they want, they all underline the same thing - jobs, start-up capital - a chance to survive economically.

Very few will get such help. Not because humanitarian agencies don't want to support them but because international aid in Afghanistan is still largely geared towards survival, not resilience. This is true for returnees from Pakistan and for responses to floods and earthquakes. As a result, there is a growing divergence between donor strategies and the expressed needs of Afghans facing climate and poverty-related exclusion and displacement risks.

That there is divergence is not surprising. Many of the major donors of international aid are from Europe and the United States. Memories of conflict are still fresh. On top of that, clashes in values with Taliban authorities, particularly regarding access to work and education for women and girls, make tension inevitable and necessary.

What is disappointing though is that the framing of much international assistance remains essentially negative, the emphasis being on not helping the Taliban. Whereas, what is needed is a people-first, positive framing that asks what institutions, structures, skills, and attitudes are most likely to contribute to sustained wellbeing and peace in Afghanistan, given the specificity of the context.

Some will protest that such a framing is impossible while half the population is excluded from education and the workforce. There are two main flaws to this argument.

The first is that it is not entirely true. While restrictions on women are unacceptable and severe, there are exceptions and workarounds that can support women, and these are opportunities to help.

The second is that restricting aid hurts everybody, including women and girls, who, as well as aspiring for themselves, also want their fathers, brothers, and husbands to have an income and an education. In other words, everybody loses from non-engagement, including those the nonengagement is



People walk near their damaged homes after heavy flooding in Baghlan province in northern Afghanistan Saturday, May 11, 2024.

intended to support.

What would a more positive framing consist of in practice?

For a start, it would consider the institutional capacity in Afghanistan to provide social protection and opportunities for its citizens rather than focusing on parallel, international structures. For the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, this means supporting the country's leading national, humanitarian institution - the Afghan Red Crescent. But there are plenty of other institutions critical to the well-functioning of the country that would benefit from support too.

Second, it would think long-term. Instead of endlessly emphasising an urgent need for food, it would design support aimed at livelihood recovery and job creation, for men and women. This

is not an assertion that relief aid is never needed, only that it should be supplementary to a strategy of promoting household economic independence. This is far from where we are now.

Third, it would invest in the country's capacity to cope with the endless climate risks. Heavy rains and flooding have killed dozens of people in both southern and northern provinces of Afghanistan over recent weeks. Cattle, agricultural land, trees, and bridges have been destroyed, pushing thousands of some of the world's poorest people into destitution.

Relief aid is needed, but so are check dams and early warning systems. Yet such development support that may provide sustainable protection remains unacceptable to many donors who see it as somehow aiding the de facto authorities. Such policies are

helping no one.

Fourth, it would focus on all possible learning opportunities. There is rightly indignation at the lack of secondary education for girls, but we should not give up on learning altogether. Every feasible opportunity for alternative education, vocational education, skills development, and learning should be supported for both men and women. Of all the crises Afghanistan is experiencing, the least visible and most severe may well be a mental health crisis rooted in trauma from the past and a lack of hope in the future. Relief aid is a weak strategy to address that. Supporting self-development is a strong one.

Finally, even a new framing must distinguish between engagement and endorsement. There are many good reasons why endorsement is problematic, but engagement to enable the

right sort of investment that works in the best interests of the people of Afghanistan is critical.

After August 2021, many donor countries didn't know how to respond to the shock of the change in leadership in Afghanistan. To their credit, some continued to respond to humanitarian imperatives even if they did hold back any development financing and engagement.

As we approach the third anniversary of the Taliban's return to power, and begin to witness a relatively stable "new normal" under the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan leadership, it is time for more donors to move from a reactive strategy to a proactive one. One that aims, as much as possible and despite daunting challenges, to lay foundations not just for bare survival, but for wellbeing and hope.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Programme gears up to stimulate crop production in Njombe Region

By Guardian

Correspondent, Njombe

THE National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) through the Strengthening the Economy with Mama Samia programme aims to reach and empower women, youth and special groups to join and utilise fully the available economic platforms to stimulate socio-economic development in the country.

The initiative will enable youth spot opportunities and increase production of crops which their market is big globally.

Beng'i Issa, the NEEC Executive Secretary made the remarks yesterday here when addressing women, youth and special groups that the programme aims to provide empowerment for the crops they produce to be a source of forex.

"Njombe Region is a strategic area because the people produce commercial products whose market is high outside the country and this helps to bring foreign currency into our nation, the programme has plans to em-



The Executive Secretary of the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC), Beng'i Issa addressing women groups, youths and special groups during the launch of the 'Strengthening the Economy with Mama Samia' programme in Njombe Region. Others are Njombe Regional Commissioner, Athony Mtaka (3rd L), Njombe regional administrative Secretary Judica Omar (2nd L), advisor to the President on women issues, children and special groups Sophia Mjema (3rd R) and Njombe District Commissioner, Kissa Kasongwa (2nd R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

power them so that they can increase their production," she said.

She said that the crops that are produced and exported to foreign markets include wood, avocado as

well as potatoes among many others.

She noted that the Njombe region received the programme positively and many came out to register with the council database compared to

other regions in order to get empowerment procedures and approximately 700 citizens participated.

Issa explained further that the region has four district councils and each council was well repre-

sented to get education on how to join empowerment programmes to increase their commercial production.

She underscored the need for empowerment is to help them produce

more and add value to tap international markets.

Issa cited an example of wood products whose waste can be used to produce other products.

She also said that many producers of avocado sell

it without adding value and it is high time for them to change their mind sets and invest in adding value to what they produce to increase income.

"This programme aims to facilitate the acquisition of machines to increase the value of the crop by making various products of it," she added.

Njombe Regional Commissioner Athony Mtaka said the programme has come at the right time and his region planned to implement it and ensure its fruits reach to the ordinary people.

"Our president always talks about business and economy, likewise it is our duty to help her so that this nation can move forward economically," he emphasized.

Citing an example, he said that the areas that employ many people are agriculture, poultry, fishing and the government has provided subsidies for Tanzanians to use these various opportunities available in the region to develop their capital and eventually become rich.

RC Mtaka further asked leaders and various employees in the region to

use the skills gained from the programme to educate ordinary people on the importance of using the opportunity to produce crops commercially and get rid of poverty.

He said that in Njombe region's women were strong and real fighters as they are able to go themselves in farms to cultivate, harvest and produce something which gives him more confidence that the initiative will produce positive outcomes in the region.

"What is needed is to inform them on existing opportunities. Financial institutions should join President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts to lift up people economically," he added. Sophia Mjema, an Advisor to the President on Women's Issues, Children, and Special Groups suggested the needs to use the programme in order to be empowered to improve business activities and financial gain.

Sala Kile, a Njombe District resident said that they hope that the programme will help transform livelihood as well as their economic activities.

GENEVA

GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance today announced that the lower-income countries it supports can now apply to introduce four additional vaccines: preventive Ebola, human Rabies vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis, Multivalent Meningococcal Conjugate, and Hepatitis B birth dose.

These four programmes were previously approved by the Gavi Board but put on hold either due to the COVID-19 pandemic (in the case of human rabies for post-exposure prophylaxis and hepatitis B birth dose), pending availability of suitable products (multivalent meningococcal vaccines), or appropriate policy recommendations (preventive vaccination against Ebola).

The latest expansion of Gavi's vaccine portfolio is in line with Gavi's commitment to ensure lower-income countries have access to impactful vaccines as soon as possible. The portfolio will be further expanded in Gavi's next strategic period, from 2026-2030, which will seek to protect more people, against more diseases, faster than ever before.

The continuation of all Gavi-supported programmes after 2025 is contingent upon successful fundraising for the Alliance's next strategic period.

In a historic milestone for global health security and the protection of healthcare workers and frontline workers, Gavi will begin funding preventive vaccination against Ebola in countries most at risk of outbreaks of the deadly viral disease.

The move was made possible by a decision by the World Health Organization's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization last month to officially recommend the use of the two licensed Ebola vaccines for preventive use in populations at high risk of being exposed to Ebola through their duties as first-line care providers and in response to outbreaks.

The decision was based on new data on effectiveness, duration of protection and supply availability.

Gavi first committed to supporting Ebola vaccination in 2014, during the deadly 2014-16 West Africa outbreak - thereafter facilitating the use of investigational doses for outbreak response and accelerating the pathway to prequalification and the establishment of a global stockpile, which was launched in 2021.

In addition to supporting outbreak response from the Gavi-funded global stockpile, Gavi will now make available vaccines for preventive vaccination, and will continue to additionally fund operational costs for vaccination delivery in lower-income countries.

Ebola virus is a rare but severe illness in humans, with the average Ebola case fatality rate around 60 percent - in some cases much higher depending on the response to an outbreak.

However, the availability of safe and effective vaccines has dramatically reduced the number of cases and deaths during

Gavi launches preventive Ebola, other diseases' dose inoculation programmes



outbreaks - helping to bring them quickly under control.

The additional support for preventive vaccination of those at highest risk is significant as data increasingly indicates that, in addition to risk of spillover events from infected animals to humans, viral resurgence in survivors of Ebola virus disease can also trigger new outbreaks several years later. Preventive vaccination will ensure critical frontline professionals are already protected against infections and death before outbreaks begin - saving lives and avoiding the disruption of services in healthcare facilities - thus decreasing the risk of further spread among communities.

"Gavi's ability as an Alliance to protect health and save lives hinges on its ability to ensure vaccines are accessible, as quickly as possible, to those that need them the most. The new programmes launching today demonstrate the impact of this work," said Dr Sania Nishtar, CEO of Gavi, and the Vaccine Alliance.

"For example, Ebola is a terrible disease that can lay waste to whole communities. In one decade we have been able to progress from having no approved vaccines during a deadly outbreak, to having

a global stockpile that has helped cut down cases and deaths - and now vaccines are even used preventively to protect those at highest risk."

In July 2023, a new multivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine that protects against the five main serogroups of meningococcal meningitis impacting Africa - meningococcal serogroups A, C, W, Y, and X - received WHO prequalification. It is the only vaccine that protects against serogroup X.

The vaccine, MenFive®, is available in the global Gavi-funded stockpile of meningococcal vaccines and has already been used in campaigns aiming to protect over 5 million people in response to meningococcus serogroups C and W outbreaks in Nigeria and Niger. With the opening of today's application window, countries at high risk can officially roll out this new vaccine through routine programmes and preventive campaigns.

Meningococcal disease causes hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, limb loss or other disabilities and death every year. It is particularly prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa's "meningitis belt" of 26 countries. Over the years, Gavi has worked with countries to support

vaccination against meningococcus serogroup A, reaching nearly 400 million people through campaigns and routine immunisation. These efforts have helped Africa defeat meningitis A, with no new cases detected since 2017.

The addition of MenFive® into health systems' toolkits holds out the possibility that the other circulating serogroups could also one day be defeated.

Gavi's 2018 Vaccine Investment Strategy also identified human rabies vaccines for post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) as a highly impactful vaccine to add to the portfolio. With implementation delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gavi and partners have been working since 2018 to prepare for the launch of the programme, which will support the provision of human rabies for PEP in Gavi-supported countries that are rabies endemic. Rabies is a serious public health problem in more than 150 countries, mainly in Asia and Africa, causing tens of thousands of deaths each year. Children between 5 and 14 years account for almost half of all fatalities. Once someone is symptomatic after exposure to the rabies virus the disease is 100 percent fatal,

meaning that vaccination in high-risk areas is critical, especially as access to rabies immunoglobulin is unlikely in most countries.

Similarly, Gavi's 2018 VIS recommended the inclusion of the hepatitis B birth dose vaccine within the Gavi portfolio. Gavi-supported countries already provide routine vaccination against hepatitis B through the pentavalent and hexavalent vaccines, which are delivered to children as part of the primary series of vaccinations. However, increasing evidence has shown that a dose given at birth provides critical additional protection. Hepatitis B kills an estimated 884,000 people a year. Newborn babies are most at risk of hepatitis B and nine out of ten infected infants will develop chronic hepatitis B, while a quarter develop severe liver disease. Vaccination is critical, because while the virus can be transmitted in body fluids, many infants become infected in the womb or during delivery when their mother is carrying the virus. Children can be silent carriers of the infection that doesn't become symptomatic until their 40s or 50s, when they discover they have liver failure (as the inflammation causes cirrhosis) or liver cancer.

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NO.	NAME OF DEFAULTER	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES TO BE SOLD	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	DAY AND DATE OF AUCTION
1	ADOLF ANTHONY MSELLE	PROPERTY SITUATED ON PLOT NO. 306, CT NO. 36880, IT IS UNDER THE NAME OF ADOLF ANTHONY MSELLE	GLOIRIEN AREA ARUSHA CITY	SATURDAY ON 28/06/2024 STARTING AT 10:00 AM
		PROPERTY SITUATED ON PLOT NO. 456, BLOCK 'J.F', CT NO. 25195, IT IS UNDER THE NAME OF ADOLF ANTHONY MSELLE	GLOIRIEN AREA ARUSHA CITY	SATURDAY ON 28/06/2024 STARTING AT 10:00 AM
		PROPERTY SITUATED ON PLOT NO. 516, BLOCK 'J.F', CT NO. 33301, IT IS UNDER THE NAME OF ADOLF ANTHONY MSELLE	GLOIRIEN AREA ARUSHA CITY	SATURDAY ON 28/06/2024 STARTING AT 10:00 AM
2	ONESPHORY BALTAZARY CHAMI	PROPERTY SITUATED ON PLOT NO. 457, BLOCK 'J.F', CT NO. 26386, IT IS UNDER THE NAME OF ONESPHORY BALTAZARY CHAMI	GLOIRIEN AREA ARUSHA CITY	SATURDAY ON 28/06/2024 STARTING AT 10:00 AM

CONDITION OF AUCTION:-

- The auction shall be held at the respective location
- The successful bidder must deposit 25% of the auction price immediately after the fall of hammer, the remaining balance to be paid within 14 days from the auction date. Failure by the buyer to pay the remaining balance within the stipulated time will lead to the forfeiture of the amount paid earlier and re-auction the property.
- All expenses related to the inspection especially transport shall be borne by the buyer, (3). Transfer of ownership shall be done by the buyer
- The properties shall be sold 'as is and where it is'.

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By Mark Tomlinson

Cultivating a culture of play in children nurtures the path of liberal democracy

MOST of us have some understanding that play is not only about fun, but that it might also be part of something much bigger and more important - particularly for young children. But equally, if pushed, we might find it difficult to articulate that larger role of play.

In two books, *(The Philosophical Baby and The Gardener and the Carpenter: What the New Science of Child Development Tells Us About the Relationship Between Parents and Children)*, developmental psychologist Alison Gopnik has described the capacities and minds of babies, the role parents play in the lives of their children, and the role of play for children (and adults).

Play is that thing you do when you are not working, and for many, it is all about fun, without real purpose, and, perhaps, according to Gopnik, even useless. But for Gopnik, play is all about being useless on purpose - she sees play as the most sophisticated and important characteristic of human abilities.

Play is fundamental to child development, and creates powerful learning opportunities - intellectual, social, emotional and physical. Through play, children make connections with others, build leadership skills, develop resilience, navigate challenges and conquer their fears.

Play is also ubiquitous across the animal and even insect kingdoms. Anyone with a dog will appreciate the extent of play between sibling dogs, but few people know that baby wasps engage in a form of rough and tumble before leaving the hive. And young comb-footed spiders engage in a complex form of sex play.

Rhesus macaques have been observed lining up on a branch above a river or lake and diving into the water with great delight before returning to the queue for another go.

Outside of primates, it is rats that engage most frequently in rough and tumble. Sergio Pellis and his colleagues at the University of Lethbridge in Canada have shown how, if rat pups are denied the opportunity to engage in play more generally and rough and tumble more specifically, they are unable in later life to tell the difference between "fighting and courting".

Without wishing to drift into hyperbole, it is not hard to see such misattribution as potentially disastrous. But perhaps even more interesting was the fact that the brains of rat pups deprived of play have less brain plasticity, a key capacity to re-wire in an ever-changing environment.

The first-ever International Day of Play takes place on 11 June 2024. In preparation for this, Unicef partnered with the Lego Foundation to outline some key components of



the science of play.

They describe how the seemingly innocuous act of a child building a tower of blocks involves an understanding of spatial understanding, physical skills and even a rudimentary sense of turn-taking and patience as they decide when and how to place the next block.

The science of play shows how hide-and-seek is about learning to cope with frustration, learn problem-solving, and develop the cognitive strategies of planning and flexible thinking.

It is through play and engagement with peers that children learn to "read the mind" of their peers and to problem solve. It is also a key domain where children begin to learn how to regulate their emotions and about the give and take of relationships.

In his book, *Free to Learn: Why Unleashing the Instinct to Play Will Make Our Children Happier, More Self-Reliant, and Better Students for Life*, psy-

chologist Peter Gray makes the case for the importance of consent in play. Unless all children engaged in a game are prepared to resolve conflicts - and keep the other "players" sufficiently happy - the game will end.

If one child has been hurt or needs a break, she may signal her need for a short break. A playing partner that fails to read the signal, or even worse, uses this as an opportunity to gain some advantage, will quickly learn that the next time they want to play, their friend will be a little less likely to agree.

Flexibility and not always being able to have your "own way" are foundational to the kind of cooperation that is so integral to a healthy, functioning society. The capacity to cooperate is laid down in early play interactions.

You may be thinking, this is all very interesting but what does it have to do with me?

The economist Steven Horwitz, in an article titled *Coop-*

eration Over Coercion: The Importance of Unsupervised Childhood Play for Democracy and Liberalism, argues that unsupervised children's play is an essential element of a functioning democracy.

For Horwitz, it is through unsupervised play that children learn informal rulemaking as well as what is needed to follow rules without coercion.

Following rules by coercion is a key hallmark of authoritarian societies, while liberal democracy is built on the capacity for informal rules and enforcement. One of the reasons (among many others) for the declines in democracy and liberalism that we have seen in the last 10 years, might be linked in some way to the decline in free play coupled with the rise of the use of mobile phones.

In a recent bestseller, *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*, Jonathan Haidt describes the wiping out of "play-

based childhoods", resulting in what he calls the "rewiring of childhood".

In-person, play-based spaces have constricted our children (and us). We are becoming increasingly atomised, sitting alone at home on our devices with fewer and fewer opportunities for human connection where we can test out our limits and test the limits of others.

The loss of free play means fewer opportunities for practising rough-and-tumble play; for the types of interaction that help us learn that sometimes keeping everybody somewhat happy may be better than everybody trying to have all their needs met - and the lesson that sometimes holding your tongue in an interaction may be a good thing.

For the strong men of global politics, like Vladimir Putin, Donald Trump, Viktor Orban and Xi Jinping, the loss of free play and the rise of "phone-based childhoods" are heaven-

Without the creativity - the slow and nuanced learning that takes place during unsupervised play - and the sophisticated give-and-take that emerges from countless interactions in the real world, people will increasingly depend on them, the so-called "strong men", to tell them what to believe (irrespective of the facts and reality); what to do (storm the Capitol); which groups to marginalise (migrants), and which groups to dehumanise (Palestinians). Coercion over cooperation every time.

Liberal democracy is terrifying to the authoritarian and goes beyond the ballot box. Like play, liberal democracy acknowledges the deep uncertainty and complexities of everyday life.

Liberal democracy offers questions; authoritarians provide answers.

As David Graeber says, "Play is the ultimate expression of freedom for its own sake."

DM



RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS AFRO TIZI 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS AFRO TIZI 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09:00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MTA WA MAGOMA 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO 18:00 HRS SPOTI LEO 18:30 HRS BONGO TEN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMASHA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18:00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MBAVU ZANU 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS RAFIKI I 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00-05:00 MUZIKI (MCHANGANIKO)	

AI'S IMPACT ON MODERN CONSTRUCTION UNLEASHED

By Sumana Rao

GLOBALLY, individuals and businesses spend over \$10 trillion per year on construction-related activities -- and that's projected to keep growing by 4.2 percent until 2023. Part of this enormous amount of spending is on, and enabled by, rapidly-moving technological advancements that touch all areas of the ecosystem.

In a recent report dubbed: "The Next Normal in Construction: How Disruption is Shaping the World's Largest Ecosystem," McKinsey identified a growing focus on solutions that incorporate Artificial Intelligence (AI).

AI in construction has the potential to help players realize value throughout project lifecycles, including design, bidding, and financing; procurement and construction; operations and asset management; and, business model transformation.

In fact, AI in construction helps the industry as a whole overcome some of our toughest challenges, including safety concerns, labor shortages, and cost and schedule overruns.

As market barriers to entry steadily lower, and advancements in AI, machine learning (ML), and analytics accelerate, you can expect AI (and allocation of resources funneled towards AI) to play a more significant role in construction in the coming years.

What is AI and machine learning in construction?

AI is an aggregative term for describing when a machine mimics human cognitive functions, like problem-solving, pattern recognition, and learning. Machine learning is a subset of AI. Machine learning is a field of artificial

intelligence that uses statistical techniques to give computer systems the ability to "learn" from data, without being explicitly programmed. A machine becomes better at understanding and providing insights as it is exposed to more data.

As applied in construction, the 'questions' and algorithms get significantly more complex. For instance, a machine learning program may track and evaluate progress in a grading plan to identify schedule risks early. The algorithms might 'ask questions' about cut and fill volume measurements, machine uptime and downtime, weather patterns, previous projects, or any number of inputs to generate a risk score and determine if notifications need to be made.

AI and machine learning for smart construction

The potential applications of machine learning and AI in construction are vast. Requests for information, open issues, and change orders are standard in the industry. Machine learning is like a smart assistant that can scrutinize this mountain of data. It then alerts project managers about the critical things that need their attention. Several applications already use AI in this way. Its benefits range from mundane filtering of spam emails to advanced safety monitoring.

The following are the benefits of using AI in construction.

Prevent cost overruns

Most mega projects go over budget despite employing the best project teams. Artificial Neural Networks are used on projects to predict cost overruns based on factors such as project size, contract type and the competence level of project managers. Historical data



Welding robot arm on jobsite. File Photo

such as planned start and end dates are used by predictive models to envision realistic timelines for future projects. AI helps staff remotely access real-life training material which helps them enhance their skills and knowledge quickly. This reduces the time taken to onboard new resources onto projects. As a result, project delivery is expedited.

AI for better design of buildings through generative design

Building Information Modeling is a 3D model-based process that gives architecture, engineering and construction professionals insights to efficiently plan, design, construct and manage buildings and infrastructure. In order to plan and design the construction of a project, the 3D models need to take into consideration the architecture, engineering, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) plans and the sequence of activities of the respective teams. The challenge is to ensure that the different models from the sub-teams do not clash with each other.

The industry uses machine

learning in the form of AI-powered generative design to identify and mitigate clashes between the different models generated by the different teams to prevent rework. There is software that uses machine learning algorithms to explore all the variations of a solution and generates design alternatives. Once a user sets up requirements in the model, the generative design software creates 3D models optimized for the constraints, learning from each iteration until it comes up with the ideal model.

Risk mitigation

Every construction project has some risk that comes in many forms such as quality, safety, time, and cost risk. The larger the project, the more risk, as there are multiple sub-contractors working on different trades in parallel on job sites. There are AI and machine learning solutions today that general contractors use to monitor and prioritize risk on the job site, so the project team can focus their limited time and resources on the biggest risk factors. AI is used to automatically assign priority

to issues. Subcontractors are rated based on a risk score so construction managers can work closely with high-risk teams to mitigate risk.

Project planning

One construction intelligence company launched in 2017 with the promise that its robots and artificial intelligence hold the key to solving late and over budget construction projects. The company uses robots to autonomously capture 3D scans of construction sites and then feeds that data into a deep neural network that classifies how far along different sub-projects are. If things seem off track, the management team can step in to deal with small problems before they become major issues. Algorithms of the future will use an AI technique known as "reinforcement learning." This technique allows algorithms to learn based on trial and error. It can assess endless combinations and alternatives based on similar projects. It aids in project planning since it optimizes the best path and corrects itself over time.

AI makes jobsites more productive

There are companies that are starting to offer self-driving construction machinery to perform repetitive tasks more efficiently than their human counterparts, such as pouring concrete, bricklaying, welding, and demolition. Excavation and prep work is being performed by autonomous or semi-autonomous bulldozers, which can prepare a job site with the help of a human programmer to exact specifications. This frees up human workers for the construction work itself and reduces the overall time required to complete the project. Project managers can also track job site work in real time. They use facial recognition, onsite cameras, and similar technologies to assess worker productivity and conformance to procedures.

AI for construction safety

Construction workers are killed on the job five times more often than other laborers. According to OSHA, the leading causes of private sector deaths (excluding highway collisions) in the construction industry were falls, followed by struck by an object, electrocution, and caught-in/between. A Boston-based construction technology company create an algorithm that analyzes photos from its job sites, scans them for safety hazards such as workers not wearing protective equipment and correlates the images with its accident records. The company says it can potentially compute risk ratings for projects so safety briefings can be held when an elevated threat is detected.

AI will address labor shortages

Labor shortages and a de-

sire to boost the industry's low productivity are compelling construction firms to invest in AI and data science. A 2017 McKinsey report says that construction firms could boost productivity by as much as 50 percent through real-time analysis of data. Construction companies are starting to use AI and machine learning to better plan for distribution of labor and machinery across jobs.

A robot constantly evaluating job progress and the location of workers and equipment enables project managers to tell instantly which job sites have enough workers and equipment to complete the project on schedule, and which might be falling behind where additional labor could be deployed.

An AI-powered robot such as Spot the Dog can autonomously scan a jobsite every night to monitor progress - making it possible for a large contractor like Mortenson to get more work done in remote areas where skilled labor is in short supply.

Off-site construction

Construction companies are increasingly relying on off-site factories staffed by autonomous robots that piece together components of a building, which are then pieced together by human workers on-site. Structures like walls can be completed assembly-line style by autonomous machinery more efficiently than their human counterparts, leaving human workers to finish the detail work like plumbing, HVAC and electrical systems when the structure is fitted together.

To be continued...

Sumana Rao is Global Product Marketing Leader at Buildings Content.

Uganda signs contract with Turkish for construction of Hoima stadium

Kampala

THE government of Uganda has signed a contract with M/S SUMMA, a Turkish Company, for the construction of a 20,000-seater Hoima multi-purpose stadium ahead of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations.

Hoima Stadium is among those that Uganda plans to host matches during the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), which it will co-host with Kenya and Tanzania.

According to the contract, the stadium will be constructed within 18 months and is required to be ready by December 2025.

The Ministry of Works and Transport, supported by the recently inaugurated Africa Cup of Nations Sub-Committee on Infrastructure, will supervise this project.

The contract signing ceremony was hosted by the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs. Janet Museveni, at State House Nakasero.

Bernard Patrick Ogwel signed on behalf of government and the National Council of Sports in his capacity as the Secretary General of NCS, while Selim Bora signed on be-

half of M/S Summa Construction Company.

The process was guided by John Bosco Suza, the Director of Legal Advisory Services, who represented the Attorney General.

Prior to the contract signing, the Minister of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development, Judith Nabakooba, handed over a land title of 34.9 acres for the

Hoima City Stadium.

The title, in the name of the National Council of Sports, was given to the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs. Janet Museveni, who then handed it to the Chairman of the National Council of Sports, Ambrose Tashobya.

Mrs. Museveni appreciated all the people who have been proactive in the process of developing sports infrastructure in preparation for the Africa Cup of Nations 2027.

"Today marks the culmination of the tireless efforts of various people from both the government and the private sector who have gone beyond the call of duty to ensure that we begin the process of developing sports infrastructure in

preparation for the Africa Cup of Nations 2027," said Mrs. Museveni.

She said that, following advice from President Museveni, M/S Summa was secured to undertake construction works for the stadium in Hoima City within 18 months.

She said the Turkish company was chosen because it is highly recommended as the contractor that has changed the face of sports infrastructure in Rwanda, Senegal, and other countries across the world.

Mrs. Museveni appealed to M/S Summa to ensure that Uganda has a 20,000-seater multi-sport stadium of international standards ready for inspection by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) by December 31, 2025.

"Do not let Ugandans down because hosting the Africa Cup of Nations is a golden opportunity whose benefits go beyond football to a country," she stressed.

She emphasized the need to ensure value for money in this project because we are all accountable to the taxpayers of Uganda.

Agencies

AfDB approves \$8.6m grant for boosting of South Sudan's non-oil revenue mobilisation

By Guardian Reporter

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) has approved a grant funding of \$8.6 million to South Sudan to advance the second phase of the Non-Oil Revenue Mobilization and Accountability Project (NORMA II).

A bank's statement released yesterday and shared to this journalist indicated that the African Development Fund (ADF), the Bank Group's concessional window, will provide \$6.62 million, while \$1.98 million will come from the ADF's Transition Support Facility.

Themba Bhebhe, the Bank's Country Manager for South Sudan, said NORMA II will enhance the capacity of South Sudan's National Revenue Authority (SSRA) to boost non-oil revenue mobilization and accountability.

This phase complements the ongoing Bank-supported NORMA I project and the Institutional Support Project for Strengthening Economic Governance in South Sudan. The two initiatives seek to address inefficiencies in broader public finance man-



AfDB extended additional financial support to enable South Sudan to increase its non-oil revenue mobilization. Photo Courtesy of AfDB

agement, including budget framework, public sector spending efficiency, financial controls, reporting and accountability. Both projects are supported by ADF resources. Key interventions of the NORMA II include developing the SSRA's IT systems to improve revenue administration, tax collection, promoting tax compliance, and enhancing tax audits and investigations, among them

studies of taxpayer perceptions.

The project also aims to expand the implementation of existing tax policies while exploring new areas to broaden the tax base, particularly value-added tax, hotel tax, and property tax. It will also consolidate training for project personnel from the first phase.

The project is expected to procure IT equipment for

the tax authorities, whereas officials will receive technical assistance and on-the-job support from embedded advisors. They will also benefit from capacity building at the local and regional levels.

SSRA and the Ministry of Finance and Planning will also receive technical assistance to improve their ability to mobilize non-oil revenue and acquire equipment for internal training.

HOUSING DEFICITS IN AFRICA: A CHALLENGE FOR STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION

By El-hadj M & Bah Issa Faye & Zeke-bweliwai F. Geh

THE rapid urbanization rates and lack of urban planning have resulted in very large housing deficits, defined as the difference between the number of households and the number of permanent dwellings.

The deficit can be estimated for a given period of time (flow), for example, an annual deficit, or it can be at a given date in which case it is sometimes referred to as housing backlog (stock).

Without an up-to-date census of dwellings in African countries, accurate information on housing backlogs is not readily available; however, various estimates are cited by government officials and housing professionals for several countries.

Following extensive research and interviews with stakeholders in several countries, we assembled the largest existing database of Africa's housing backlog, with estimates for 42 countries.

Although the table uses the latest information available, the estimates in some countries are a few years old.

Moreover, annual shortages are



often not added to the backlog; therefore, the numbers presented should be viewed as very conservative baseline estimates.

The current housing backlog in the continent accounts for at least 51 million units, with large variation across countries. Countries such as Tunisia, Botswana, and Mauritius do not have an overall deficit as there are more

dwellings than households, but deficits exist for the lowest income categories. On the other end of the spectrum, Nigeria—the most populous country, with an urbanization rate of 4.8 percent since 2000—is estimated to have a deficit of at least 17 million. This figure has been cited since 2010. However, given the annual demand of

700,000 units and annual supply of less than 100,000, the current backlog should be at least 20 million.

Whether 17 or 20 million, reducing the housing backlog in Nigeria requires a fundamental change in housing delivery. Three other countries have backlogs of at least 3 million housing units: the Democratic Republic of Con-

go (DRC), Egypt, and Tanzania.

All three countries have large populations but different urbanization trends. Egypt is the most urbanized, with an urban share of 43.1 percent in 2015. Its urbanization rate for 2000-2015 was 1.7 percent, and that figure is expected to increase slightly to 1.8 percent in the next 15 years.

The DRC, with an urban share of 42 percent in 2015, has experienced an urbanization rate of 4.0 percent since 2000.

However, this trend is expected to slow down to an average of 3.6 percent in the next 15 years. Combined with an annual housing deficit of 240,000 units (mid-2000s estimate), the housing situation is expected to worsen.

Tanzania started with a low urban share but has experienced one of the highest urbanization rates, at 5.2 percent, since 2000. Another group of countries, comprising Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, and South Africa, have housing backlogs of at least 2 million units.

This figure is increasing annually, given the large supply shortfall and high urbanization rates. Overall, 17 African countries have housing deficits of more than 1 million units.

If nothing is done to dramatically change the situation, poor urban planning and inadequate housing supply will severely constrain Africa's structural transformation. The shortage of housing will lead to an increase in slums, which are associated with a number of social problems: overcrowding, poor sanitation, and high crime rates.

Beyond the social consequences, housing shortages have economic consequences as they decrease labor participation in the formal sector and reduce productivity.

Indeed, the economic benefits of agglomeration are realized only if people have the opportunity to fully participate in economic activities and firms can benefit from economies of scale.

An adequate shelter is one of the basic needs of humans, along with food and clothing. Most of the countries in Africa have one way or the other included access to a decent shelter in their Constitution.

The social development aspect of housing is recognized by Goal 11 of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable."



Logistics obstacles in sub-Saharan Africa's fuel supply chain revealed

By Liz Bains

A new report by Switzerland's Puma Energy highlights inadequate logistics infrastructure as a major challenge to efficient, secure and affordable fuel supply in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The report, produced in partnership with the UK's CITAC and titled *Fuelling Africa's Potential: Bridging the Gap in Energy Infrastructure*, states that port congestion and an overreliance on trucks for transportation are causing increased fuel costs for governments and citizens, which is impairing the region's socio-economic development potential.

Nearly 60 percent of Africa's 170 berths have draft restrictions lower than the 10 metres required for 35,000dwts vessels, which is typically the minimum size for international oil trade.

The shallow drafts limit product importers to supply by barge and small tankers, which restricts economies of scale, constrains import rates, and often requires ship-to-ship transfers, adding US\$20-30 a tonne to the landed price of the cargo.

The report says further port capacity is essential to support the region's continued economic growth and to improve the efficiency of import/export operations. It also says product storage facilities

need to be expanded.

Sub-Saharan Africa has 317 coastal storage facilities with clean product capacity of which just 18 are classed as world-scale (>150,000 cubic metres). This prevents efficiencies of scale, hampers the discharge of large cargoes, and limits the scope for maintaining security stocks. Although seven new storage facilities are under construction, just two will be world-scale.

The report estimates that US\$1.4 billion of investment is required in the expansion of primary storage capacity by 2040 to meet rising demand for oil products.

About 83% of Sub-Saharan Africa's oil products are evacuated from import terminals and refineries by truck due to the limited coverage of railways and the absence of pipelines. Elsewhere in the world, trucks are mostly used for last-mile deliveries from inland storage facilities and distribution hubs.

According to the report, there are nine oil product pipeline networks in Sub-Saharan Africa running for 13,000km combined, but not all are in service. The challenge associated with pipelines in Africa has typically been under-maintenance leading to leaks and poor security along the length of pipelines resulting in thefts.

Meanwhile, rail is used in just seven Sub-Saharan Af-

rican countries for primary evacuation, and is typically slower than road transportation, with schedules limited by locomotive and rail car availability, and maintenance issues of both equipment and lines. Key complaints from market participants include insufficient and poorly maintained rail cars, lack of locomotives for hauling and shunting, and terminals having insufficient loading/offloading arms, resulting in long delays.

The report states that rail has significant potential to debottleneck supply chains, lower emissions and achieve economies of scale in the distribution of fuels and presents an attractive option for African countries.

A typical road tanker carries around 32 tonnes and generally emits 30-40 grammes per kilometre tonne depending on fuel consumption. A long-haul diesel train can carry up to 1,800 tonnes and will emit around 7-12 grammes per kilometre tonne (depending on fuel consumption). Other benefits also include reduced road usage and fewer traffic accidents.

The report calls on governments to drive the uptake of rail by investing in locomotives and rolling stock and ensuring the more efficient management of networks. It estimates the construction of sufficient siding space, additional loading bays and load-

ing arms and pumps for efficient loading of rail tank cars will cost US\$4-6 million per terminal, with an additional investment of US\$20,000 per rail tank car to obtain and refurbish a dedicated fleet of rail cars.

The report highlights Côte d'Ivoire as a success story, having diversified its onshore liquid fuel supply chains to use a combination of road tankers, rail and pipeline. This has been achieved through government directives mandating minimum usage quotas.

In 2022, the use of rail and pipeline saved 152 daily truck outs from Abidjan, where the country's production and imports are concentrated.

"The Ivorian example illustrates how pipeline and rail, with the support of a strong political will, can effectively debottleneck an otherwise congested region," the report states.

In 2022, oil product demand in Sub-Saharan Africa totalled 91.3 million tonnes. Consumption is expected to climb by 56 percent to reach 142 million tonnes by 2040 driven by economic expansion, population growth, and urbanisation, making addressing the current infrastructure bottlenecks all the more urgent.

Liz Bains is the Chief Content Officer for Construction Africa, she can be reached via social media.

UAE approves \$457m housing aid package

DUBAI

The UAE Cabinet, chaired by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, approved a new housing approval package for citizens valued at AED 1.682 billion. The package includes 2,160 decisions for beneficiaries of housing assistance in June 2024 under the Sheikh Zayed Housing Program.

The Cabinet also approved the launch of the "Manzili" bundle for beneficiaries of the Sheikh Zayed Housing Program. This bundle offers 18 housing services to citizens through collaboration with 24 federal and local government entities, simplifying the customer journey and the required documents by reducing the involved entities from 11 to 1 and the documents from 14 to 3. The procedures are reduced from 14 to 3 steps, and the service fields from 32 to 5.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said: "We approved during the Cabinet meeting, 2,160 new housing decisions for citizens under the Sheikh Zayed Housing Program valued at AED 1.682 billion. We also approved a project to simplify and reduce procedures within the program in collaboration with 24 government entities. This will streamline the process, reducing the number of required documents for housing loan approval from 10 to 2. We thank the teams working tirelessly to eliminate bu-

reaucracy, re-engineer all government procedures, simplify them, and ease the lives of our citizens."

These decisions coincide with the upcoming Eid Al-Adha and aim to achieve social stability. They align with the UAE's ongoing policies of support and empowerment, ensuring a dignified life and suitable housing for all citizens. Additionally, the "Manzili" bundle enhances the quality of digital government services, ensuring speedy delivery and simplified procedures for citizens.

The launch of the "Manzili" bundle aligns with the objectives of the upcoming phase, which includes eliminating 2,000 government procedures within a year, reducing the time needed to complete government services by 50%, and re-engineering them to offer a new generation of proactive integrated services, making the UAE government the best globally.

The "Manzili" bundle offers 18 housing services in collaboration with 24 federal and local government entities, simplifying the customer journey and required documents. This involves dealing with one entity instead of 11, reducing the documents from 10 to 2, and procedures from 14 to 3. The service fields are reduced from 32 to 5.

Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, stated: "The bundle supports the goals of advancing digital transformation and adopting technological solutions in designing future services. This ensures the achievement of national objectives and strategies by providing integrated digital services, improving the lives of community members, and delivering leading services that enhance the happiness of citizens and facilitate their transactions."

Eng. Mohamed Al Mansouri, Director General of Sheikh Zayed Housing Program, explained that the bundle embodies the UAE's commitment to accelerating the achievement of national housing objectives under the 'We the UAE 2031' vision. It highlights the UAE's commitment to achieving sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life for its citizens.

The AED 1.682 billion housing package includes 437 housing decisions worth AED 297.65 million, following the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, to complete all previous housing grant requests through the President's initiatives with a total amount of AED 2.3 billion. It also includes 1,654 housing financing decisions worth AED 1,301,609,308 as part of the new housing policy plan in collaboration with national banks and financial institutions. It also includes 69 government housing decisions worth AED 82.8 million.



CONSTRUCTION

By Guardian Reporter

DODOMA and Zanzibar have been ranked as top ten cities with the highest rental yields in Africa, the factor that may become a magnet for property investors across the world.

The findings by theafricaninvestor.com, the property investment specialists, released recently show Zanzibar is being ranked 7th, behind Lagos, Lubumbashi, Dire Dawa, Kinshasa and Yaounde, while Dodoma, the country's capital city, is being ranked 9th.

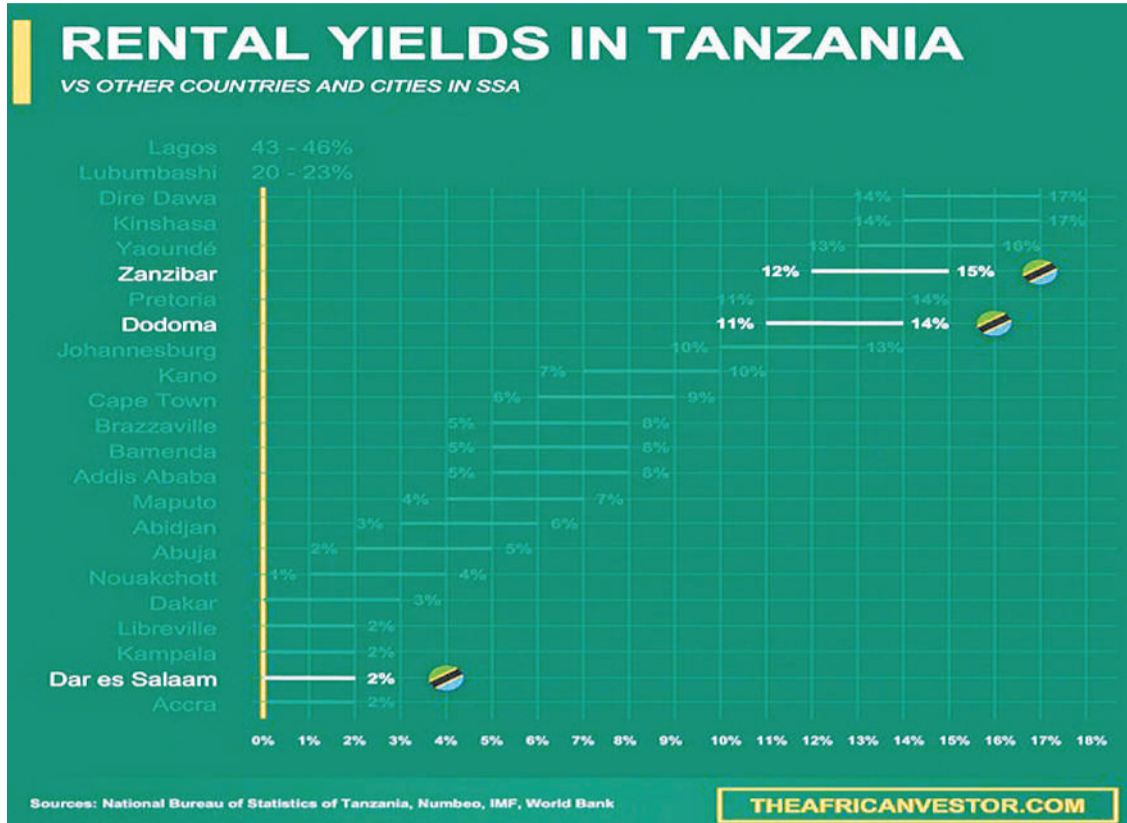
The yield for two cities are more than double of the national average of 5 percent, the findings show, although according to Numbeo, world's largest database of user contributed data about cities and countries worldwide, the rental properties in Tanzania offer gross rental yields ranging from 0.0 percent and 2.7 percent.

According to the findings, which were compiled from official reports and statistics available on government websites, IMF and World Bank, rental yields in Zanzibar is ranging from 12 to 15 percent, while Dodoma ranges from 11 to 14 percent.

The rates in Zanzibar and Dodoma are also highest than 2 percent in Dar es Salaam and Kampala, 10 to 13 percent in Johannesburg and five to eight percent in Addis Ababa.

Lagos, the commercial city of Nigeria, has the highest rental yield of between 43 and 46 percent, followed by Lubumbashi in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which its yields range

ZANZIBAR, DODOMA LEAD WITH HIGHEST PROPERTY RETURNS



from 20 to 23 percent, and Dire Dawa city in Ethiopia is third with the yield of 14 to 17 percent.

Theafrica.com findings report has therefore recommended that Tanzania is a conducive country for investors in property market, due to its stability and strong economic growth.

"If you want to invest in properties, prioritize stability, as it safeguards against economic downturns and minimizes volatility," it says.

"These days, Tanzania is experiencing a notable degree of stability. The last Fragile State Index reported for this country is 78.2, which is an acceptable

number."

The report notes that Tanzania benefits from strong political leadership and a stable democratic system, which has helped to create a peaceful environment and foster economic growth.

Additionally, the country has maintained strong international

relations, which has helped to maintain peace and stability both domestically and abroad, with strong economic growth prospects.

According to the IMF's estimations, Tanzania will end 2023 with a growth rate of 5.2 percent, which reflects the country's accelerated progress. As for 2024, the experts say the economy is projected to grow at the rate of 6.2 percent.

"That's not all - this impressive growth will keep going on since Tanzania's economy is expected to increase by 28.1 percent during the next 5 years, resulting in an average GDP growth rate of 5.6 percent," the report notes.

"The expected massive growth in Tanzania is a very good thing for someone who wants to invest in real estate because it indicates a strong economy and increased demand for housing, which can lead to greater returns on investments."

The growth of population and increase of GDP per capita have also been identified as the factor that will ensure good returns for property investors.

"A growing population means more people needing homes and higher GDP per person means people have more money to spend on housing, which can lead to increased property value over time," it says.

"In Tanzania, the average GDP per capita has changed by 4.5 percent over the last 5 years. Despite being minimal, there is still some observable growth. Furthermore, the Tanzanian population is growing (+3 percent in 5 years)."

The demand for rentals is also likely to go up in other Tanzanians cities, such as Ddar es Salaam and Arusha, in 2024.

The report further says the year 2024 presents a potentially advantageous window for property investment in Tanzania, driven by several favorable factors.

In Zanzibar, an investor who purchases real estate in the country can obtain a residence permit for two years, famously known as the "Golden Visa." The investor will receive a residence permit Class C visa for a fee of USD 500 if not a citizen of the East Africa Community states and USD250 for East Africans and the diaspora.

The qualifying conditions for such a Golden Visa are; the value of the purchased property should be above USD \$ 100,000, and the application shall be coupled with an endorsement by the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA).

The granted permit covers the investor(s), their spouse, and up to four children below 18 years of age. It is worth mentioning that, this applies only to the designated projects approved by ZIPA.

However, legal experts have identified legal implications on land ownership and investment of which the government need to take measures to address barriers to allow foreign investment in property market.

Expert determination as an agency for solving construction disputes in Africa

By Bernd Ehle

CONSTRUCTION disputes can take very different forms. Some are complex and involve multiple claims. Others revolve around a specific technical problem. Arbitration is undoubtedly the preferred method of resolving construction disputes in Africa.

And rightly so, as arbitration is designed to resolve disputes in their entirety, including all factual, technical, economic, and legal issues (see Morris Muriu's recent Case for arbitration as the appropriate mechanism for resolution of construction disputes on ACL).

However, depending on the nature and complexity of the dispute, other mechanisms may be equally or even better suited to achieve effective dispute resolution. An often forgotten and underestimated tool is expert determination.

It is designed to be used when a dispute is primarily about a specific technical or factual issue. Expert determination can be used instead of, or in conjunction with, arbitration proceedings to resolve the disputed issue through a specialized third-party neutral.

Expert determination clauses are rarely found in construction contracts for projects in Africa today. This article aims to raise awareness of this additional tool in the dispute resolution toolbox which, in the right circumstances, can prove to be the most efficient and cost-effective solution.

What is expert determination all about?

In expert determination proceedings, the parties instruct an independent expert to make a binding decision on a specific - narrow - issue in dispute. In the context of construction disputes, this can be a technical or factual issue that may arise in a project, such as the compliance of the construction with performance tests or the existence or causality of a defect.

The expert, a specialised, neutral third party, makes a decision on the specific issue in dispute in a way that binds both the parties and the subsequent arbitral tribunal, if any. The expert is usually a professional from the industry or construction sector who has the necessary technical



qualifications, knowledge, and experience to reach a fair and technically correct determination.

What is the content of an expert determination clause?

Expert determination is entirely consensual in nature and founded in contract. It is only very rarely regulated by statute, in Africa and elsewhere. The parties to a construction contract agree on expert determination in a specific clause or a separate agreement, either as a stand-alone dispute resolution mechanism or as part of the multi-tier steps the parties have to go through before arbitration.

There is, of course, nothing to prevent the parties from agreeing on an ad hoc expert determination; however, experience has shown that this is difficult in the event of a dispute.

An expert determination clause should be carefully drafted to ensure a successful and smooth procedure. It typically specifies the poten-

tial technical issues that may arise and the required field of expertise of the expert.

The clause also regulates the procedure for the (joint) selection, appointment and possible replacement of the expert, as well as the expert's duty to act independently and impartially. It is advisable to clarify in the clause that the expert is acting as an expert and not as an arbitrator to avoid any confusion and unnecessary controversies between the parties about the expert's powers and the nature of his or her decision.

In addition, an expert determination clause usually specifies how the decision will be rendered (in writing, with or without reasons) and that the determination is final and binding, except in cases of fraud or manifest error.

Finally, the clause or, better still, the terms of reference drawn up at the start of an expert determination procedure, should specify the expert's mandate and competence as well as their limits and the details of the procedure, including the language

of the proceedings and the place of meetings.

How are expert determination proceedings conducted?

The process of expert determination is generally more informal and less "legalistic" than arbitration. Thus, in an expert determination, unlike arbitrators, the expert is not strictly obliged to follow the rules of natural justice.

The expert may conduct the proceedings as he or she sees fit, but of course always within the limits of the parties' agreement and the expert's terms of reference - and any subsequent agreement with the expert. It is up to the parties to decide to what extent they wish to delegate to the expert the power to lay down procedural rules.

Certain aspects of the procedure can also be delegated to an (arbitral) institution. Institutions can also be instrumental in making proposals for the appointment of an expert and in monitoring deadlines and controlling costs.

The proceedings usually proceed in the following main steps: request for expert de-

termination, answer to the request, appointment of the expert and drawing up of terms of reference and a procedural timetable, further submissions and/or a meeting or a site visit before the expert makes his or her determination or a proposal for an amicable settlement.

The time limits are generally fixed so that the proceedings can be completed within a few months. However, the timetable must allow sufficient time for the parties to fully present their views to the expert, and for the expert to properly consider the submissions and the evidence, to schedule and hold one or more meetings and to prepare the determination.

The parties' submissions will usually be accompanied by documentary evidence only and no witness statements. The expert, who is vested with inquisitorial powers, may request additional information or documents at any time. However, the expert should refrain from holding separate meetings with the parties (caucusing) to avoid any appearance of bias or unfairness.

What are the advantages of expert determination?

Expert determination is by no means an equivalent to arbitration and is not suitable for every kind of dispute, especially fact-heavy and complex disputes (or breaches of contract or differences in interpretation where testimony is required).

Moreover, there are limited grounds for challenging an expert's determination and, importantly, expert determinations cannot be enforced like

arbitral awards, which are subject to special worldwide enforcement rules under the 1958 New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards.

In the right circumstances, however, expert determination offers the following advantages such as quick resolution of disputed technical issues without lengthy proceedings and thus much more cost-effective.

On the other hand, determination of key technical issues in dispute can pave the way for the parties to amicably resolve other outstanding issues as part of an overall settlement; great flexibility as the expert is not strictly obliged to follow the rules of natural justice and, if authorised to do so by the parties, can freely apply his or her own knowledge and experience, without having to account to the parties for the outcome of the investigations. If successful, significant cost savings due to the shorter duration of proceedings and streamlined proceedings, as extensive pleadings, document production, and witness statements are not required; potentially less confrontational than arbitration and suitable for parties who are culturally inclined to avoid heated disputes with their business partners and to maintain good relationships; and a confidential process (as opposed to court litigation) that allows parties to maintain the confidentiality of their contractual relationships and their disputes.

Given the limited grounds on which an expert determination can be challenged, it is unlikely that the existence of an expert deter-

mination procedure and the resulting determination will become public knowledge.

Expert determination is gaining in popularity as a tool for resolving construction disputes and as part of a multi-tiered dispute resolution procedure. There is no reason why it cannot be successfully used for construction disputes in Africa. It is a particularly useful option where a dispute turns around one or two technical issues for which real expertise is required - especially when a quick and cost-effective determination of these issues can pave the way for a global settlement or disburden a subsequent arbitration. However, expert determination is not the appropriate dispute resolution mechanism if the dispute revolves around legal rather than technical issues or if it is too fact-heavy to be adequately resolved by expedited determination without witness testimony.

The successful and smooth conduct of an expert determination procedure depends to a large extent on the careful drafting of a bespoke clause and on the conduct and cooperation of the parties during the proceedings. Parties are also well advised to introduce arbitration as the final step of their agreed dispute resolution process, not only to have a mechanism to resolve a comprehensive and multi-layered dispute, but also to 'enforce' the expert's decision if necessary.

Dr Bernd Ehle (pictured), a partner at LALIVE, where he specialises in international arbitration. He has extensive experience as both counsel and arbitrator.

WORLD

Climate change funding talks stuck ahead of COP29 summit

BONN

WITH just five months to go before this year's UN climate summit, countries cannot agree on the size of a global funding bill to help the developing world fight climate change - let alone how to split it.

The decision is set to dominate the COP29 climate talks in Azerbaijan in November, where nearly 200 countries need to agree on a new annual financing target for helping poorer countries cut their emissions and protect their societies in a harsher, hotter world.

The new target will replace the yearly \$100 billion that rich countries had pledged in climate finance from 2020. That goal was met two years late.

But preliminary talks this week in Bonn, Germany, have yielded no major breakthroughs. Instead, the talks ending on Thursday have again exposed the unyielding rifts among the world's biggest economies over who should be paying most to fight climate change - and how much.

Representatives from climate-vulnerable nations said it was hard watching wealthy nations fall late with past payments of climate finance while quickly approving new funds for military responses to war or spending billions subsidising CO2-emitting energy sources.

"It seems like money is always there when it's a more 'real' national priority for the country," Michai Robertson, negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States, told Reuters.

"It's really tough to see that," he said. "Getting the number right

The new financing target is the core tool that global climate talks can deliver to fund projects that reduce planet-warming emissions - such as renewable energy or low-carbon transport.

With all countries due to update their national climate targets next year, negotiators fear failure could lead to weaker efforts.

"How are you going to move forward if there's no financing?" said South African climate negotiator Pemy Gasela. Her country is among many developing nations warning they cannot afford to cut emissions faster without more financial support - in South Africa's case, to swap a heavy reliance on CO2-emitting coal for clean energy.

Yet wealthy countries are wary of setting a target too high and risking it going unmet. The missed \$100 billion target became politically symbolic in recent UN climate talks, stoking mistrust between nations as developing countries argued the world's economic powers were abandoning them.

Diplomats in Bonn have circled the issue of how much money to put on the table.



In this file photo dated Nov 7, 2022, pollution rises from the BASF chemical plant in Ludwigshafen, Germany. AP

While countries agree \$100 billion is too low, there is little chance they would agree to summon the \$2.4 trillion per year that the UN climate chief in February said was needed to keep the world's climate goals within reach.

Neither the European Union or the US have suggested a number for the goal, although both acknowledged this week that it must exceed \$100 billion. The 27-country EU is currently the biggest provider of climate finance.

The elephant in the negotiation rooms, some diplomats told Reuters, was the upcoming US presidential election, in which Donald Trump is seeking to return to office.

The previous Trump administration pulled the world's biggest economy out of the Paris climate agreement. Negotiators said they worry a future Trump administration could halt US climate finance payments, leaving it to other wealthy nations to meet the annual pledge.

But some countries in Bonn have made suggestions.

India, and a group of Arab countries including Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt, have said the over-

all financing target should exceed \$1 trillion per year, to reflect the spiraling needs of poorer countries as climate change worsens.

The Arab countries propose that rich nations provide \$441 billion in public funding per year in grants, to leverage a total \$1.1 trillion per year from broader sources.

Small island countries vulnerable to climate change have also pushed for stricter rules on what counts toward the target, suggesting preventing loans with interest rates above 1 percent, to avoid adding to poor nations' already-high debts.

Most public climate funds provided by developed nations are loans, according to the OECD.

Countries are also at odds over who should contribute. There are about two dozen, long-industrialized countries currently obliged to contribute to UN climate finance. That list was decided during UN climate talks in 1992.

As talks continue beyond Bonn, some negotiators said government ministers could raise the issue at higher level meetings such as G20 ministers' gatherings in Brazil ahead of COP29. **Agencies**

Global South role stressed at BRICS meet

NIZHNY NOVGOROD

CHINA'S Foreign Minister Wang Yi has highlighted the role of the Global South and called for efforts to strengthen unity and cooperation in addressing global challenges and improving global governance.

Wang (pictured) made the remarks during the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Dialogue with Developing Countries, or BRICS+, in Nizhny Novgorod in Russia, which assumed the chairmanship of BRICS in January.

The dialogue saw participation from BRICS countries and 12 major developing countries with regional influence, including Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Belarus, Türkiye, Venezuela and Bahrain.

Wang said BRICS+ serves as a vital dialogue platform for

the BRICS nations toward the broader emerging markets and developing countries, and has become a flag of South-South cooperation.

While the North-South divide is widening and the global economic recovery is facing setbacks, the collective rise of emerging markets and developing countries significantly drives the process toward a multipolar world, Wang said.

A new wave of technological and industrial revolutions is emerging, propelling numerous countries onto a fast development track, he noted.

The foreign minister stressed that the Global South is no longer a silent majority, but a new awakened force.

Wang called on developing countries to resolve disputes and conflicts through dialogue



and consultation, and promote security through cooperation in order to inject more stability into international affairs.

He also urged efforts to prioritize development and deliver development benefits to all countries. Developing countries should safeguard true multilateralism, work for an equal and orderly multipolar world, and make their collective voice louder and their collective strength stronger for improving global

governance, Wang said. China supports BRICS to open arms and welcome more like-minded partners to join in so as to seek development and push for cooperation.

Wang Youming, director of the Department for Developing Countries Studies at the China Institute of International Studies, said many developing countries have shown a willingness to join the group, which shows that China's advocacy of equal and orderly multipolarization, as well as open and inclusive economic globalization, has been recognized by the majority of the Global South.

While the Western camp continues to monopolize the international order, only a scaling effect can make the voice of the Global South louder and more influential, he said.

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While the Western camp continues to monopolize the international order, only a scaling effect can make the voice of the Global South louder and more influential, he said.

He added that the BRICS+ meeting demonstrated the openness and inclusiveness of the BRICS mechanism. "It shows the positioning of the mechanism, which represents emerging countries and developing countries, and speaks for the Global South."

During the meeting, the participants agreed that the BRICS+ model facilitates unity and cooperation among developing countries, and is conducive to enhancing the Global South's influence and building a more just and reasonable international order.

They pledged to uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, oppose unilateralism and hegemony, and promote political solutions to international hot spot issues. **Xinhua**

US, Ukraine expected to sign long-term security agreement at G7 Summit

ROME

THE US and Ukraine are expected to sign a bilateral security pact on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Italy on Thursday, in a deal that lays out a path for Washington's long-term security relationship with Kyiv, CNN reported citing people familiar with the matter.

The agreement follows months of negotiations between the US and Ukraine and is expected to commit the US for 10 years to continued training of Ukraine's armed forces, more cooperation in the production of weapons and military

equipment, the continued provision of military assistance, and greater intelligence sharing.

However, the pledge is expected to be an "executive agreement," CNN reported citing sources, making it less formal than a treaty and not necessarily binding for any future presidents. So, there is the possibility of the deal being undone by future US administrations.

Former President Donald Trump, who is also the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, has not explicitly said whether he would continue support for Ukraine if he wins in November.

But, he has repeatedly affirmed that he would negotiate a quick end to the Russia-Ukraine war without explaining how.

He has also pushed European countries to contribute more to their own defence and said he'd "encourage" Russia "to do whatever the hell they want" if Europe didn't increase its defence funding.

The US-Ukraine agreement does not make a specific monetary pledge to support Ukraine's defence, two of the sources familiar with the agreement said.

An annexe in the agreement will lay

out how the Biden administration plans to work with Congress on the implementation of the security commitments, one of the sources said, specifically the long-term funding that will be needed to support Ukraine's defence.

National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said on Tuesday that the US' commitment to Ukraine "will continue to be right up front and clear" at the G7 and that Washington "will take bold steps to show Putin that time is not on his side and that he cannot outlast us, as we support Ukraine fight for freedom." **ANI**

Slovenia applauds Moroccan autonomy plan as 'good basis' for final settlement

RABAT

SLOVENIA commended the Moroccan Autonomy Plan as "a good basis for reaching a final and consensual solution" to the regional dispute over the Moroccan Sahara, under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy.

This position was expressed in a joint communiqué issued following talks held on Tuesday in Rabat between Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita, and the Slovenian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Tanja Fajon.

Slovenia reiterated its country's constant support for the UN-led process and hailed Morocco's serious and credible efforts to achieve a realistic, pragmatic, lasting, mutually acceptable and compromise-based political solution to the Moroccan Sahara issue, the joint communiqué said.

The two ministers, added the same source, expressed their common position on the exclusive role of the United Nations in the political process, reaffirming their support for UN Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2703 of October 30, 2023.

They reiterated their respective countries' support for the efforts of the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to move the political process forward on the basis of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, as well as their support for MINURSO.

This constructive stance by Slovenia, the 16th European Union country to support the Moroccan Autonomy Plan, is part of an international dynamic that has seen over a hundred UN member countries lend their support to this initiative.

The Slovenian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs is paying an official visit to Morocco, at the invitation of Bourita, to mark the 32nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Slovenia. **Agencies**

Rwanda's civil society organisation to deploy 310 observers for upcoming elections

KIGALI

THE Rwanda Civil Society Platform (RCSP) is set to deploy 310 observers for Rwanda's upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections, according to a platform official.

Rwandans will go to the polls on July 14-15, and campaigning for approved candidates will begin on June 22 and end on July 13. Angélique Kabeza, executive secretary of the RCSP, told local reporters on Wednesday that the platform has prepared a list of 310 observers to be deployed in all districts of the country and scheduled them to undergo refresher training next week.

"The observers will be deployed to different parts of the country to ensure that elections are transparent, free, and fair," she said.

According to Kabeza, the platform emphasizes the importance of its members' involvement in observing elections to protect citizens' rights. "We have requested accreditation from the National Electoral Commission for our observers."

This will be followed by refresher training. The observers will monitor various aspects, including the preparation of polling rooms, voter privacy, security at polling stations, and any issues of intimidation or rigging, she said. "There are different criteria that observers will be looking at to ensure voters' rights are respected."

As the premier body in the country's civil society sector, the RCSP was established in 2004 to act as a framework for coordination and knowledge exchange, promoting synergy among its members and strengthening their capacity to be impactful at national, regional, and international levels.

Rwanda's National Electoral Commission last week released a provisional list of candidates to contest in the upcoming presidential and legislative elections, indicating three candidates were approved to run in the presidential race.

Those approved include incumbent President Paul Kagame, representing the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front, Frank Habineza, founder of the opposition Democratic Green Party of Rwanda, and Philippe Mpayimana, an independent candidate.

According to figures provided by the country's electoral body, an estimated 9.5 million Rwandans stand poised to exercise their franchise in these pivotal electoral proceedings. **Xinhua**

China, Central Asian countries join hands to seek common development

A signing ceremony of an intergovernmental agreement on the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project was held in Beijing on June 6. Chinese President Xi Jinping, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev congratulated the signing of the agreement via video link.

Xi said the signing of the intergovernmental agreement will provide a solid legal basis for the construction of the project, marking the transition of the railway from a vision into a reality, and demonstrating to the world the firm determination of the three countries to promote cooperation and seek development together.

The China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway is a strategic project of connec-

tivity between China and Central Asia, and a landmark project of the three countries' cooperation efforts under the Belt and Road Initiative.

It was originally proposed back in 1996 by Uzbekistan. In the past nearly three decades, the three countries held multiple rounds of negotiations and discussions on the project. The feasibility study of the project was completed in May 2023, which put the implementation of the project on a fast track.

The signing of the trilateral intergovernmental agreement was a remarkable phased achievement of the project.

Japarov said the railway is a flagship project of the three countries in jointly

building the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Once completed, it will become a new transport route linking Asia to Europe and the Persian Gulf countries, which is of great significance to promoting connectivity and strengthening economic and trade exchanges among the countries along the route and in the region as a whole.

Mirziyoyev said the railway will become the shortest land route connecting China and Central Asian countries, and open up the big markets in South Asian and Middle East countries. This will help further expand regional countries' cooperation with China and deepen friendly ties among the countries, which serves the long-term interests of all the countries, Mirziyoyev

added.

The signing of the trilateral intergovernmental agreement on the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project demonstrates that China and Central Asian countries are fastening their steps of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

It was in Central Asia that the BRI was first announced. Central Asia is a demonstration zone of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. China has signed Belt and Road cooperation documents with all five countries in the region.

The Horgos International Border Cooperation Center on the China-Kazakhstan border in Horgos, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur auto-

nous region, opened the gateway to the Pacific for Central Asian countries.

The Qamchiq Tunnel on the Angren-Pap railway line, the longest tunnel in Central Asia, holed through by a Chinese company, local residents no longer had to travel up and down the mountains or go around them via neighboring countries.

The China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Highway has officially opened, becoming an important transport artery that runs smoothly through the regions' mountainous terrain. Now, nearly 80 percent of the China-Europe Railway Express trains run through Central Asia, they are hailed as a "steel caravan" on the Eurasian

continent.

China and Central Asian countries have reaped tangible and fruitful results in Belt and Road cooperation that benefited the region and its people in various ways.

At the first China-Central Asia Summit held in May last year, all parties highly praised the important significance of the BRI in leading international cooperation. They vowed to further align the BRI and the development strategies of the five Central Asian countries, and deepen pragmatic cooperation in various fields, so as to form a new pattern of cooperation characterized by a high level of complementarity and mutual benefit.

People's Daily

NATO does everything to prepare for clash with Russia – senior diplomat

MOSCOW

EVERYTHING NATO is doing today is a preparation for a possible clash with Russia, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko told Izvestia.

“Everything NATO is doing in this area today, to put it bluntly, is the alliance's preparation for a possible military clash with Russia,” he said.

And the exercises that are being conducted show how all concepts of cooperative security have now been discarded and NATO has returned to Cold War-era security schemes,” he pointed

out.

Grushko added that the alliance has launched a hybrid war against Russia. “In the economic sphere, thousands of illegal sanctions have been imposed against our country, in the ideological sphere, the demonization of Russia is taking place, and one of the latest obvious examples is the announcement that if NATO is defeated in Ukraine, the next day Russia will definitely invade Poland and the Baltic states, whose independence was recognized back in the USSR,” the diplomat pointed out.

China, Japan hold seminar on tourism cooperation in Nagoya

MAJOR tourism-related institutions from China and Japan have held a seminar on tourism cooperation in the Japanese city of Nagoya, seeking to further strengthen the cultural and tourism cooperation between the two countries in the future.

At the seminar held on Tuesday, China's Jiangsu Province and Dunhuang City and Japan's Aichi Prefecture, Ishikawa Prefecture and Gifu City introduced their local tourism and cultural resources. More than 180 people attended the event, including representatives of tourism-related enterprises and institutions of China and Japan and people from bilateral friendship groups.

Yang Xian, Chinese consul general in Nagoya, said in her speech that cultural and tourism exchanges between China and Japan are an important form of mutual learning among civilizations and an important bridge to promote the building of China-Japan relations that meet the requirements of the new era.

The seminar reflected the expectation of the central region of Japan and the local provinces and cities in China to strengthen exchanges and cooperation, Yang said, adding it is hoped that the event would enhance the mutual understanding between the two peoples and promote deeper people-to-people exchanges and mutually ben-

eficial cooperation in a wider range of fields.

Ouyang An, director of Tokyo office of the China National Tourism Office, said that through cultural and tourism exchanges, Chinese and Japanese people can visit each other's countries and not only experience different cultural histories, but also feel the warmth and friendliness of the people.

Japanese guests including Aichi Governor Hideaki Omura and Yoshinobu Ota, tourism director at Chubu District Transport Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, attended the seminar. They said the central region of Japan has long attached great importance to relations with China, and the two sides have frequent friendly exchanges, active cultural exchanges and close economic and trade cooperation, noting central Japan is willing to actively leverage its local advantages to further strengthen friendly exchanges with various parts of China, deepen cultural and tourism cooperation, and expand personnel exchanges.

Representatives from Japan's travel agencies also said that the richness and quality of China's tourism resources are among the best in the world, and they are exploring how to make good use of social media to showcase the charm of modern China to Japanese young people.



A group of tourists take pictures with the background of the landmark Tokyo Skytree (center) at Sumida Park, near the famous tourism spot of Asakusa district in Tokyo on April 10, 2024. AFP

India sends relief material for Papua New Guinea amid devastating landslide

NEW DELHI

INDIA sent around 19 tons of relief material for the people of Papua New Guinea in the aftermath of devastating landslides that struck the island nation last month inflicting huge casualties and heavy damage to the infrastructure.

A flight carrying the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) supplies as part of India's announced USD 1 million assistance departed for Papua New Guinea today. The aid includes food, temporary shelters, and medicines.

“India-Papua New Guinea standing together in times of difficulty. In the wake of devastating landslide in Enga province of Papua New Guinea, had announced immediate assistance of USD 1 million to our close FIPIC partner.

Pursuant to the announcement, a flight carrying approx 19 tons of HADR supplies departed for today,” Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated in a post on X.

“The aid comprises 13 tons of disaster relief material including temporary shelter, water tanks, hygiene kits, meals ready to eat, and 6 tons of emergency use medicine, medical equipment including dengue and ma-

laria diagnostic kits, baby food etc,” he added.

Earlier on May 28, India announced immediate relief assistance worth USD 1 million for Papua New Guinea. India expressed solidarity by announcing relief assistance to the island country which was hit by a massive landslide in Enga Province, burying hundreds of people and causing major destruction and loss of life.

“As a close friend and partner under the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) and as a gesture of solidarity with the friendly people of Papua New Guinea, Government of India extends an immediate relief assistance of US\$ 1 million to support relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts,” the MEA said in a press release.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep condolences and conveyed India's readiness to extend all possible support and assistance to the Pacific island country in its time of difficulty.

India has throughout stood by Papua New Guinea during times of difficulty and devastation caused by natural disasters, including in the wake of the earthquake in 2018 and volcanic eruptions in 2019 and 2023.

ANI

Internal and external reactions over the Wad Al-Noura village massacre in Sudan

KHARTOUM

AUTHORITY in Sudan has revel with facts the reactions of the massacre in Wad Al Noura near the capital of Khartoum.

The village of Wad Al-Noura is located in the state of Al-Jazira, a state next to Khartoum state, the Capital of Sudan. Most of its residents are from a tribe called Al-Kawahla.

The so-called rebel Rapid Support Forces RSF, last week on 5/6/2024, raided the village by motorbikes and TLC trucks.

IT had attacked it several times and had been confronted by the popular resistance. This had upset the militia, so it attacked the area with vengeance and ferocity this time, using sophisticated weaponry such as Doscan and SPG-9 cannons to break the defense of the popular resistance, which was stationed at a distance 6 km west of the village.

After entering the area, the RSF looted more than 20 vehicles, medicines, and food supplies and transported them to areas under their control. They killed all members of the resistance and doctors at the hospital. The number of martyrs exceeded 150, with more than 100 wounded transferred to the nearby town of Al-Manaqil. The rebels re-entered the village on June 6, and although they were not attacked, they killed eight citizens.

Most of the village residents fled to distant villages for fear of the village being attacked again.

The RSF militia justified its attack on the village by claiming that the Mujahideen Brigades and the Sudanese Armed Forces SAF (they call the Burhan militia) had mobilized large forces at three camps arourothe village to attack their rebel forces at Jabal Awliya (Khartoum).

Political parties and organizations, Coordination of Civilian Democratic Forces (Progress): In that regards the political parties and organisations through official spokesman for the Coordination,

Bakri Al-Jak, condemned the grave violations committed by the RSF against civilians in the villages of Al-JaziraState, in which more than (100) people were killed, and called on the both warring parties to stay away from civilian areas and stop attacking civilians or recruiting and arming them in all combat zones, renewing the call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and initiating arrangements to protect civilians, starting with the withdrawal of the forces of both parties from cities and villages and entering into dialogue to reach a comprehensive solution that ends the war.

In the side of The Sudanese Congress Party in a statement, it condemned the massacre and described it as a heinous crime and demanded an end to the violations and an end to the war through peaceful and negotiated means.

National Umma Party held the rebel Rapid Support militia fully responsible for the massacre and considered it a war crime, and appealed to human rights organizations to condemn these violations.

On the side of Popular's Congress Party Dr. Amin Mahmoud's group condemned the world's silence regarding the crimes of the



The funeral of Wad Al-Noora villagers killed after an attack by the RSF on June 5, 2024

Janjaweed (RSF) genocide against the Sudanese people, and called for mobilization and support for the oppressed and support of the armed forces.

The Unionist Assembly it condemned the attack, noting the violation of the limits of protecting civilians in conflicts. It called for the formation of an independent fact-finding committee by the Security Council, the United Nations, and regional and international courts.

Future Movement for Reform and Development it stated that what had happened to the citizen of the village of Wad Al Noura is closer to revenge campaigns and that the clear definition of this behavior is terrorism that requires group cohesion.

The National Movement for Building and Development, has belittled the expressions of condemnation, denunciation, and denunciation and said that they are insufficient to describe what is done by the aggressors. It called for jihad and carrying of weapons and sent a message to the armed forces, other forces, and popular resistance to protect civilians.

The Revolutionary Charter to Establish People's Authority stated that the people have disapproved the militia's narrative about the presence of military activity in the village of Wad al-Noura. They also downplayed the statement of the official spokesman for the armed forces and his call to the international community to condemn the Janjaweed.

The National Movement, reiterated that what had happened in the village of Wad Al-Noura is a war crime, and called on the Sudanese political forces not to limit themselves to condemnation, but to move with human rights organizations to besiege the militia.

The Movement to Support Sharia and the State of Law, called on the leaders of the armed forces to arm the popular resistance to support the oppressed, and considered the delaying of arming as a high treason.

Popular Resistance, said that what happened in Wad al-Noura accelerates the empowerment of popular resistance and the mobilization of youth to confront the militia threat, and that the only option is the popular armed resistance and uprising.

It appreciated the role played by the armed

forces and their sacrifices and called on them to make more efforts.

The Sudanese Islamic Movement, also called on all the people of the country to stand with the armed forces, sharpen their resolve, empower the popular resistance, arm it, and strike with an iron fist. And the side of The Republican Party, some party leaders described what happened in the village of Wad al-Noura as a battle between the RSF and the Popular Resistance and had nothing to do with unarmed civilians. The Muslim Brotherhood organization bears the burden of this criminal act under the pretext that the village of Wad al-Noura is the village of Dr. Hamid Mumtaz who is responsible for mobilization.

However on the side of external reactions the international organisations also claims several issues where by United Nations General Secretariat last week on 6th June, 2024, it issued a statement by the official spokesman, Stephane de Jarric, in which it strongly condemned the attack by the Rapid Support militia on the village of, which left more than 100 dead. The statement referred to the Secretary-General's appeal to all parties to refrain from attacks that could affect civilians and infrastructure, and expressed his concern about the suffering of the Sudanese due to the conflict, and called for silencing the guns. He also affirmed the United Nations' commitment to working with international mediators and all parties in order to put an end to the conflict.

The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator residing in Sudan, Clementine Nkwita, issued a statement on the Wad Al Noura massacre, on 6/6/2024, in which she stated that the Rapid Support Forces publicly confirmed that its members participated in the ground operations on 6/5. Clementine stated, “Wars have rules.”

It must be respected whatever the circumstances. Armed clashes and the use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas must be avoided at all costs. Civilians can never be a target. She called for taking all possible precautions to protect civilians, in line with international humanitarian law and the Jeddah Platform commitments.

Agencies

China, Central Asia see remarkable achievements in green cooperation

RECENTLY, a cargo train carrying 50 twenty-foot equivalent units of photovoltaic (PV) modules departed from Wuhan, central China's Hubei province for Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan.

As the first PV products-dedicated freight train between Wuhan and Central Asia, it will further promote China-Central Asia green cooperation.

Green has become the defining feature of the Belt and Road cooperation between China and Central Asia, as reflected by the efforts made by China in recent years to assist Central Asian countries in advancing energy transition and ecological conservation, from contracting green energy infrastructure projects to promoting water-efficient irrigation techniques, and to engaging in the ecological governance of the Aral Sea.

Central Asia boasts rich wind, solar, water and other renewable energy resources. As of the end of 2022, the total installed capacity of renewable energy projects invested and built by Chinese enterprises in Kazakhstan, including the 100-MW Zhanatas wind farm, Turgusun hydropower plant, and a wind project in Akmola Region, had exceeded 1,000 MW.

The 220 MWac Samarkand solar PV plant constructed by a Chinese company in Uzbekistan, is expected to provide electricity to 264,000 local households and reduce approximately 237,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

“With accelerated development



Chinese researchers undertake an ecological investigation near the Aral Sea. (Photo from ts.cn)

of renewable energy projects and increased attention to environmental protection in the traditional energy sector, green development has become a highlight of China-Central Asia energy cooperation,” said Yang Jin, a researcher with the Institute of Russian, Eastern European & Central Asian Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CAAS).

Besides, Chinese new energy vehicles (NEVs) are favored by people in Central Asian countries, Yang told People's Daily, adding that some Chinese automakers have set up factories in Central Asia for localized production in cooperation with local enterprises.

The Aral Sea, located in the border region between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, was once the fourth largest lake in the world. It faces a severe ecological crisis due to global warming and multiple human factors. According to statistics, the Aral Sea's

area has decreased by over 90 percent since 1960, with a large portion of the lakebed turning into bare land and salt flats, or covered by salt crust.

Remarkable progress has been made in the cooperative efforts of China and Central Asia to promote the ecological restoration of the Aral Sea. China has set up automatic meteorological and water quality monitoring networks in the Aral Sea drainage basin, planted halophytes to lower the salt content in local soil, promoted drip irrigation techniques and established big data analysis centers and joint labs with local universities. Chinese solutions to the ecological treatment of the Aral Sea have been recognized and welcomed by regional countries.

Yang attributed the prospering China-Central Asia cooperation on green development to their shared strategic vision of developing green economy and enhancing sustainable

development capabilities, along with their high complementarity.

He said Central Asian countries, boasting abundant traditional energy reserves and great potential for developing renewable energy, are seeking to transition from an extensive and high-energy consumption development model to a green and low-carbon economy. China has a vast energy consumption market and stands ready to engage in international cooperation on green development.

With the technological edge in sectors such as solar energy, wind energy, hydropower, and electric vehicles, China can support Central Asian countries in their green transition, Yang noted. He said that the two sides share the same vision and can leverage their respective strengths in green cooperation, which resonates with the global trend of green development.

China and Central Asian countries are friendly neighbors and comprehensive strategic partners. The deepening collaboration between the two sides in recent years has paved the way for a more holistic approach to green cooperation.

Coastal Union now target Shabani and Ntibanzokiza ahead of CAF campaign

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN a bid to bolster their squad for the upcoming CAF Confederation Cup, Coastal Union are eyeing the signatures of former AS Vita and Young Africans defender Djuma Shabani and Simba's top scorer Saido Ntibanzokiza.

Shabani, who spent the entire last season without a team, is a free agent and an attractive prospect for Coastal Union as they prepare for the CAF competition.

Shabani's recent history includes a brief stint with Azam. However, he was unable to register with the club due to their quota of 12 foreign players being filled.

This left Shabani without a team for the season, making him available for Coastal Union's ambitions. And now the Tanga-based club views his experience and defensive skills as vital assets as they aim to compete at a higher level.

Coastal Union's pursuit of Shabani is part of a broader strategy to strengthen their squad in preparation for the CAF Confederation Cup next season.

This tournament will be significant for the club, marking their return to international competition since their participation in the 1989 African Cup Winners' Cup, where they were eliminated in the first round. The competition was later merged with the CAF Cup to form the current CAF Confederation Cup in 2004.

In addition to Shabani, Coastal Union are also said to be in talks with Ntibanzokiza, Simba's top scorer for the 2023/24 season.

Ntibanzokiza scored 11 goals last season, leading Simba's scoring charts. His striking abilities make him a valuable addition to any team, and Coastal Union's management sees him as a key player to bolster their attack.

Reports suggest that Ntibanzokiza has not renewed his contract with Simba, making a move to Coastal Union a strong possibility.

The addition of Ntibanzokiza would significantly enhance Coastal Union's offensive capabilities, complementing their efforts to assemble a formidable squad for the CAF Confederation Cup.

Simba, having finished third in the league last season, will also participate in the CAF Confederation Cup. The competition will be fierce, and Coastal Union are determined to build a squad capable of competing at the highest level.

Their proactive approach in the transfer market reflects their commitment to achieving success in the upcoming season.

Coastal Union's fourth-place finish in the domestic league standings secured their spot in the CAF Confederation Cup for the 2024/25 season. This achievement has generated excitement among the club's supporters and heightened expectations for their performance in the international arena.

The club's management is keenly aware of the challenges ahead and is focused on maintaining high standards while building on this season's achievements.

The club's return to international competition is a milestone that underscores their progress over the years. The last time Coastal Union competed on a continental stage was more than three decades ago, and their re-entry into the CAF Confederation Cup signifies a new chapter in their history.

To ensure they are well-prepared, Coastal Union is not only targeting key signings but also focusing on overall team development. The management understands that a balanced and cohesive team is essential for navigating the rigors of international competition.

By blending experienced players like Shabani with proven goal-scorers like Ntibanzokiza, Coastal Union aim to create a squad that can compete effectively and bring pride to their supporters.

Miguel Gamondi's Yanga contract extension good for both parties

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MIGUEL Gamondi will remain as Young Africans head coach. That was confirmed last week at the club's Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC).

The highly respected Argentine coach was officially announced as the new head coach of Young Africans during the club's Annual General Meeting last year. He signed a one-year contract as a replacement for Nasreddine Nabi, who led Young Africans to the CAF Confederations Cup final.

He has overseen a fantastic title-winning 2023/24 campaign that has been a record-breaking one in many regards.

The three-time in-a-row champions won seven successive matches to finish the season with 80 points, eleven clear at the top of the Premier League. The record extending 30th league title was secured with three games to spare.

On the final day of the season, Young Africans came from behind to beat Tanzania Prisons 4-1 to set a new record for most points accumulated in a 30-game league season.

Gamondi's men broke their own record for number of victories in a 30-game league season by winning 26 matches. They also won all their 15 home league games.

The Federation Cup was retained to complete a third domestic double in a row.

He reached the quarter-finals of the CAF Champions League, where Young Africans were eliminated by South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns via penalty shootout.

Given his achievements, it is a no brainer the Tanzanian giants were keen on extending his reign even further.

There were rumours that the former CR Belouizdad coach was looking to leave Wananchi after the end of the campaign, but it is now evident the club wants him to stay put and continue with the good work he has done.

Gamondi and Young Africans have been like a perfect match. The recent contract extension



Young Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi with Premier League and Confederation Cup trophies. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

on the African football map. The club came close to lifting the CAF Confederation Cup in 2023, losing in the final to Algeria's USMA.

The extension allows Gamondi to further enhance his already legacy at the club. Another successful season particularly at the continental stage will give him legendary status at the club.

A subsequent successful campaign will raise his stock even further just like it did to his predecessor. African elite clubs will certainly take note of him once again.

Before joining Young Africans, Gamondi's major achievement was in 2008 when he guided South Africa's Platinum Stars to the round of 16 stages of the CAF Confederation Cup. This is possibly a career-high opportunity to cement his coaching legacy in Africa.

For Gamondi, he believes Young Africans have just started to register their name

on the African football map. The club came close to lifting the CAF Confederation Cup in 2023, losing in the final to Algeria's USMA.

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The same applies to the club. Most likely, the feeling about the renewal will be mutual. That the Young Africans faithful both in the boardroom and at the stands believe in and trust Gamondi to deliver is a given.

Young Africans' move to extend Gamondi's reign shows their ambition to maintain their position as a dominant force in Tanzanian football.

Their approach is in stark contrast to the uncertainty engulfing Simba, highlighting the contrasting paths the two Tanzanian giants are currently on.

Wananchi are striving for stability and continuity with Gamondi, while their archrivals Simba face turmoil on and off the pitch.

Clearly, the overwhelming majority of the fans around are loving life under Gamondi. And the man himself loves the Young Africans dugout too.

Tatum, Brown help Celtics hold off huge Dallas rally for 106-99 win, 3-0 lead in NBA Finals

DALLAS

JAYSON Tatum and Jaylen Brown shared a long hug after helping Boston avoid the biggest collapse in an NBA Finals game since at least 1997.

The reward? The Celtics stars are on the brink of joining the litany of big-name predecessors to put a banner above the parquet floor back home.

Tatum scored 31 points, Brown had 30 and the Celtics held off a furious Dallas rally to move to the verge of a record 18th championship with a 106-99 victory over the Mavericks on Wednesday night for a 3-0 lead.

Brown finished with eight rebounds and eight assists as the Celtics extended their franchise record with a 10th consecutive playoff victory and moved to 7-0 on the road this postseason. They can win the series and break a tie with the Lakers for most NBA championships with a victory Friday in Dallas.

And Boston can forget about nearly blowing a 21-point lead with 11 minutes to go.

"Not really trying to look too much into it," Tatum said. "The game of basketball is about runs. It's never going to go like you expected. If you want to be a champion, you have to be resilient in those situations, and we did that tonight."

Boston also improved to 10-1 in these playoffs without Kristaps Porzingis after the 7-foot-2 Latvian was ruled out before the game because of a rare tendon injury in his lower left leg sustained in Game 2.

The status of Porzingis for the rest of the series appears in doubt, but it might not matter. None of the previous 156 teams to face a 3-0 deficit has rallied to win an NBA playoff series.

The Mavs almost pulled off a crazy comeback to avoid the big hole - 13 years after Dallas had the biggest fourth-quarter rally in the play-by-play era of the NBA Finals (since 1997) when a 15-point comeback in Game 2 started its run to the franchise's only title against Miami.

Boston led 91-70 at the end of a 20-5 run early



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum reacts after scoring a basket against the Dallas Mavericks during the first half in Game 3 of the NBA basketball finals, on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, in Dallas. AP Photo

in the fourth quarter before Dallas answered with a 22-2 spurt to get within a point with 3 1/2 minutes remaining.

Problem was, Luka Doncic picked up his sixth foul with 4:12 remaining when a challenge was unsuccessful before Kyrie Irving, who scored 35 points, hit a jumper to get Dallas within one.

Tatum and Brown saved the Celtics from

there, with some help from Derrick White, who scored 16. Those three combined for the remaining 13 Boston points to get the Celtics within a victory of their first title since 2008, and just the second since 1986.

The Celtics have led 3-0 in the NBA Finals the only once, finishing off the Lakers in a sweep in 1959.

The first step for Dallas is trying to avoid getting

swept in a seven-game series for just the second time in franchise history.

"We just got to make history," rookie Mavs center Dereck Lively II said. "We got to go out there and we just got to play like our lives are on the line."

In a game that seemed over early in the fourth, the score was stuck on 93-90 for more than three minutes. That included when Doncic was called for a blocking

foul on a driving Brown.

The Mavs had nothing to lose with the challenge, since it meant trying to save their superstar from disqualification.

Without Doncic, P.J. Washington Jr., Irving and Tim Hardaway Jr. each missed a 3-pointer in the final minute as Irving's personal losing streak against his former team reached 13 games.

"We had a good

chance," Doncic said. "We were close. Just didn't get it. I wish I was out there."

An energized Dallas crowd was ready for its first finals game in 13 years, with Super Bowl-winning quarterback and Mavs fan Patrick Mahomes of the Kansas City Chiefs frequently getting out of his seat near mid-court.

The Mavs used the needed boost coming off two losses in Boston, taking their biggest lead of the series while running out to a 22-9 lead. Doncic and Irving drove for buckets while also hitting a 3 apiece.

The Celtics answered with a 21-9 finish to the first quarter. Sam Hauser hit two of his first-half 3s - on three attempts - to help wrap up a run that started with four points from Brown and a 3 from Tatum.

Defense dominated the start of the second quarter, Boston holding a 5-2 edge nearly six minutes in before Irving and Tatum traded 3s to start a scoring burst.

"They came out swinging," Tatum said. "That was to be expected.

They were at home, the crowd was behind them. We expected their first punch." Once they withstood it, it appeared the Celtics would coast after outscoring the Mavs 35-19 in the third quarter, before the Mavs' late rally. And the answer from Tatum and Brown.

"We've been in those moments a lot," Brown said. "And we've been in those positions, and we've lost. It was great to overcome that with my brother, Jayson, and with our team. That was special."

After it was over, pockets of Celtics fans screamed with delight in a mostly empty arena, seemingly starting the celebration of the inevitable.

To everyone but the Celtics.

"You've got to understand we are just as vulnerable if not more vulnerable than they are," coach Joe Mazzulla said. "When you understand that you're vulnerable and your back's against the wall, you've got to fight. And so that's the mindset that we have to have."

UEFA promises more clarity for fans and players on refereeing decisions at Euro 2024

MUNICH

CLARITY for players and spectators and zero tolerance for serious foul play and dissent – that's what referees have been tasked with at the European Championship.

UEFA had already announced last month that it would do more to explain decisions to teams, requiring in turn that only captains can approach the referees to discuss them.

And that was emphasized on Wednesday at a media briefing on refereeing guidelines for Euro 2024 that took place at Munich's Allianz Arena, two days before host nation Germany kicks off the tournament in the same venue against Scotland.

"Only the captain will approach the referee, the other players they have to think about (playing). That's it, finish," UEFA managing director for refereeing Roberto Rosetti said.

UEFA has promised that the referees will attempt to give the captains an explanation of key incidents during the match, including what was discussed with VAR.

Any teammate ignoring his captain's role and approaching the referee showing any sign of disrespect or dissent will receive a yellow card.

Fans, meanwhile, will also get a better understanding of VAR decisions as they will be broadcast on the giant screens in stadiums.

"This is something new. I think it's very, very interesting," Rosetti said. "So we want to give, after the opinion of VAR, a technical explanation for the public. In live, simultaneously, the UEFA expert will prepare the explanation, a technical explanation about what happened in the specific situation."

"For example, on-field review, the referee awards a penalty for handball...technical explanation: Germany number nine touch the ball with his left arm which was in an unnatural position above the shoulder and making his body bigger."

Rosetti has met with all the teams participating at Euro 2024 and their coaches to present the refereeing guidelines for the tournament, including hammering home that any dangerous tackles will be severely punished.

"One of the most important priority in refereeing guidelines is to protect the players," Rosetti said. "To protect the image of the game, but in particular to protect the safety of the main actors of the games."

"We showed them a couple of clips that we are asking to the referees to be very strong in these kind of situations," he added. "So for such situations we asked to the referees to be zero tolerant because this is something that we cannot accept."

Hooligan fears shadow Euro 2024. German police are set for their biggest deployment ever

BERLIN

CLASHES between weapon-wielding fans. Organized fights between hundreds of supporters. Late-night attacks. Life-threatening injuries.

A recent surge in violence around soccer games is contributing to concerns over security when Germany hosts the European Championship.

"We're readying for all imaginable dangers with high levels of deployment from all security authorities," said German interior minister Nancy Faeser, who said the country is preparing for all manner of threats, from hooligans, to terrorists, to cyber criminals. "The police will have a very visible presence," she said.

Faeser's ministry confirmed some 22,000 police officers will be on duty each day for the tournament, with no vacations.

"For the federal police it's the largest deployment since it was founded in 1951," ministry spokesman Lars Harmsen told The Associated Press.

German police will be supported by police from countries participating in the tournament, and internal border controls have already been temporarily reintroduced.

A formidable challenge Euro 2024 features matches in 10 cities, including four in the densely populated Rhine-Ruhr metropolitan region – easily accessible from neighboring countries with some of the best rail links in Europe.

The tournament presents multiple opportunities for soccer-related violence, which has been increasing steadily around Europe since 2021. Last season, one fan in Greece and one in



Supporters of the Eintracht Frankfurt soccer team set a police car afire as they clash with police in Naples, southern Italy, on March 15, 2023. A recent surge in violence around soccer games is contributing to alarm over security when Germany hosts the European Championship. AP Photo

France were killed in fights. The season started and ended with attention-grabbing clashes and even saw intense soccer rivalries carried into other sports.

British police in 2022 reported more arrests in any season since 2013-14, and in 2023 they reported issuing more banning orders than at any time since 2010-11, as well as an increase in arrests from the season before. In France, more than 100 police officers were injured in soccer-related incidents during the 2022-23 season. The violence continued last season with multiple incidents, including pre-arranged fights and coaches transporting fans being pelted with objects.

Among the recent incidents, rivals from Lyon and Paris Saint-Germain fought a pitched battle at a motorway stopoff before the French Cup final last month. That same weekend, fans of Dutch club Utrecht clashed violently with police. One officer needed hospital treatment and others were treated at the scene.

Also that weekend, soccer rivalry spilled into EuroLeague basketball finals in Berlin with coordinated late-night attacks by Olympiakos fans and Serbian allies from Red Star Belgrade against supporters of Olympiakos' Greek rival Panathinaikos. Police arrived to find blood-covered men, with many injured from baseball bats and batons and one in a life-threatening condition. Red Star were not even playing at the tournament and arrived undetected.

Growing alliances Alliances among hooligan firms are one of the hazards facing German authorities at Euro 2024. Cross-nation club rivalries carrying into the international scene make it harder to identify and control troublemakers.

Italian ultras from Atalanta joined Eintracht Frankfurt fans to fight Napoli supporters before a Champions League game. The Atalanta fans helped Eintracht fans circumvent a travel ban to enter Italy through a club ally in Calabria.

The season began with the death of a fan in Athens after heavy clashes between supporters of Greek club AEK and Croatian side

Dinamo Zagreb before a Champions League qualifier. Dinamo fans were joined by supporters of Panathinaikos, a fierce rival of AEK, underlining dangerous alliances.

"Hooligan firms who are keen on fighting it out, they're much more organized than before," German soccer researcher and author Christoph Wagner told the AP. "Red Star coming down with Olympiakos, that's the kind of thing people don't have on their monitors."

High-risk games England's game against Serbia on June 16 in Gelsenkirchen stands out since both fan groups have a history of domestic and international violence.

Euro 2016 in France was marred by violence as Russian hooligans roamed Marseille attacking English fans. Many known English hooligans were absent because more than 2,000 were banned from traveling. But many of those bans will have elapsed before Euro 2024.

Gelsenkirchen's location in the Rhine-Ruhr region could be a factor. Fans staying in Cologne can reach Gelsenkirchen within an hour. Those staying in Düsseldorf, Wuppertal, Essen or Duisburg are even closer and could arrive by car.

British newspaper The Daily Telegraph, citing German police intelligence, reported Tuesday that up to 500 Serbian hooligans planned to arrive.

Other high-risk games involve Poland, Croatia, Romania, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic.

Hooligans from Poland are among Europe's most violent. Last November, police arrested 46 Legia Warsaw fans before a Europa Con-

ference League game against Aston Villa. Four police were injured.

German groups, such as Eintracht Frankfurt or Schalke 04 from Gelsenkirchen, may look for confrontation when teams are playing in their city.

Tensions with police Rival hooligan groups have a common enemy – the police. Some 155 officers were injured in clashes with Dynamo Berlin and Energie Cottbus supporters last month. Most injuries were from tear gas, suggesting the police struggled to control the situation.

During the disturbances with Utrecht fans, police drove a van at fans to disperse them.

"You would think a police force with more powerful resources available should actually step back," Wagner said. He added that police are not always accountable and sometimes remove identification before going into clashes.

Avoiding police is easier fighting the night before games, or very early. In May, 200 Schalke and Hansa Rostock supporters fought before 6 a.m. in Gelsenkirchen.

Monetizing violence Soccer violence seems to have its own market.

Some people filming fights post them online, and there are specialized social network sites dedicated to showing them.

There's also a hooligan video game. "Dive into the world of street football hooligans, epic battles," it promises.

Hooligans can buy a t-shirt with the logo "Euro 2024, Festival of Violence," while one Instagram account tracking hooligan fights pledges to report "events outside the stadium."

AP

Pulisic offsets Rodrygo goal as US gains 1-1 tie against Brazil in last Copa America warmup

ORLANDO, Fla.

FOUR days after one of their worst matches, Christian Pulisic and the U.S. soccer team stopped an 11-game losing streak to Brazil with a spirited 1-1 draw that left them with a positive mindset heading into the Copa America.

Pulisic scored in 26th minute to offset Rodrygo's 17th-minute goal and Matt Turner had 11 saves, the most for an American goalkeeper since Tim Howard's 15 in the second-round loss to Belgium at the 2014 World Cup.

"It's obviously a huge bounce back performance for us," Turner said. "We really stared in the face of adversity and we were able to bounce back a few days later. And in tournament play that's so, so important because not every result, not every call is going to go your way and you have to be able to put things behind you."

Rebounding from a 5-1 loss to Colombia last weekend, the Americans are now 1-18 with the draw against Brazil, getting their only win in a 1998 CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal. The Seleção had 61% of possession, outshot the U.S. 24-12 and had a 9-0 advantage in corner kicks.

"We feel like we made a little step. It's not a huge step, but it's a little step to be able to play against an amazingly talented Brazil team and bend but not break and I think give them problems, as well," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said.

Among six invited guests to the Copa America, the U.S. opens against Bolivia on June 23 and then plays Panama and Uruguay. Brazil, which last won the South American title in 2007, has first-round matches against Costa Rica, Paraguay and Colombia.

"It just puts us in a good place," American defender Tim Ream said. "Obviously, it's a good result going into tournament play and I think that's what we needed."

The game drew a mostly pro-Brazilian crowd of 60,016 to Camping World Stadium, the largest attendance for a U.S. national team game in Florida

SAO PAULO

LIONEL Messi is undoubtedly the face of this year's Copa America.

But there are other players to watch when the South American soccer championship starts this month in the United States with 16 teams from the Western Hemisphere competing.

VINICIUS JUNIOR, BRAZIL

With Neymar out injured, Vinicius Júnior will have his first chance to be Brazil's main focus during a major tournament. The Real Madrid player has become a better striker, rather than just a great dribbler, in 2024, which has made him a serious candidate for this year's Ballon d'Or award. He scored 15 goals in the Spanish league this season, five more than in the previous campaign. The 23-year-old Vinicius also scored key goals in his team's Champions League title campaign, including one in the final, and combines to help Rodrygo excel up front. Vinicius will also have another opportunity to spread his anti-racism message, which has given him more fans back home.

FEDERICO VALVERDE, URUGUAY

Federico Valverde is



Argentina's Lionel Messi goes for the ball during the World Cup final soccer match against France at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022. AP Photo

the past, present and future of both his national team and Real Madrid. The 25-year-old midfielder has established himself as a pacemaker for the Spanish giants, a role that Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa seems eager to give him with the national team. This season, Valverde has scored only three goals and contributed eight assists for his club, but he continues to be one of the best passers in the game.

ALEJANDRO GARNACHO, ARGENTINA

Madrid-born left winger Alejandro Garnacho was one of the few positives for Manchester United this season – something that has given hope to Argentina as

well. The 19-year-old Garnacho scored one of his team's goals in the 2-1 win over Manchester City in the FA Cup final. The teenager scored 10 goals in 50

KENDRY PÁEZ, ECUADOR

Kendry Páez has played at home for Independiente del Valle for two years, with long shots and dribbles that turned into great goals. The 17-year-old striker, who will join Chelsea next year, scored five goals in 29 matches in his first professional season and became the youngest to score in the Ecuadorian league. Last year, Páez had an assist in his Ecuador debut, a 2-1 win over Uruguay, in the second round of South American World Cup qualifying. This year, he became a starter and a key player of Independiente del Valle.

CHRISTIAN PULISIC, UNITED STATES

Christian Pulisic just had one

of his best seasons in Europe, scoring 12 goals with nine assists in Italy for AC Milan. The 25-year-old striker's career now looks less promising than it did several years ago when he played for Borussia Dortmund as a young right winger, but he can still score goals, give smart passes and read the game. Pulisic also proved this season he could play on the left and even in the midfield as a sort of playmaker.

SANTI GIMENEZ, MEXICO

Santi Gimenez had a prolific season at Dutch club Feyenoord, making some Mexican watchers believe the team has a shot at winning the Copa America. The 23-year-old Argentina-born striker scored 23 goals and had six assists to help his team finish second in the Dutch league. His coach, Arne Slot, just joined Liverpool and could well take the target man to Anfield. Gimenez has skill, power, speed and calm in front of opposing goalkeepers. Dutch players have compared him to a young Robin van Persie.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Hooligan fears shadow Euro 2024. German police are set for their biggest deployment ever

PAGE 19



Biashara United gaffer Aman Josiah. Agencies

Coach Josiah elated with Biashara United dominance in promotion playoff final

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER winning 1-0 in the first leg of the promotion/relegation playoff final against Tabora United at Karume Stadium in Musoma, head coach of Biashara United Aman Josiah has lauded his players' dominance albeit missing clear-cut chances.

Biashara United capitalized on Tabora United's lack of confidence and took their advantage with a 90+9 minutes goal registered by Herbert Lukindo to seal the first match win.

The Musoma-based side most recently met Tabora United in the Championship last season when the Bees won the reverse fixture en route to promotion, but this time both sides have much more to lose on this occasion.

On Wednesday, Tabora United were under the tutelage of assistant coach Bernard Fabiano after their head coach Masoud Djuma Irambona was suspended.

The Burundian coach has been suspended by the club due to poor results.

The Bees have failed to win any of their 16 Premier League games on the road and will now have to fight hard to break that streak to make the most of their second chance on Sunday.

The two-legged games will be decided on June 16 with both clubs' fate yet to be decided for next season as Biashara United seek a return to the elite while Tabora United try to retain their place in the top flight.

Biashara United have only lost once in 16 home fixtures this season. They have won five of their last 13 home league games, so head coach Josiah was elated after notching a first-leg advantage in front of their fans.

Speaking after the match, Josiah said he was delighted his side dominated the match in both halves and created many chances but failure to score more goals heading into the second leg is a setback for his side.

"In games like this where we are not fighting for three points, it is devastating not to create a huge goal difference gap, although overall I am delighted we played well. We knew they needed a draw as their game plan due to their previous results.

"Heading into the second match, the players have to keep the strong mentality. Winning against a Premier League team is not easy, we have to score an early goal or score first against Tabora on Sunday," he said.

It should be noted that Tabora United are without a win in their last six recent games in all competitions.

"We managed to defend well and play with discipline. With the quality we have, we can win in Tabora. We won today so they missed an opportunity to get a draw, which means they will play more openly in the second leg," said Josiah.

The Biashara United tactician asserted that they need to be clinical against Tabora in the reverse fixture and exploit them as they did against Mbeya Kwanza.

After a late stumble saw them miss out to Pamba for automatic promotion, Biashara United finished third in the final Championship table.

They edged out Mbeya Kwanza in a two-leg playoff affair to earn themselves direct entry into the playoff final.

Biashara United thrashed Mbeya Kwanza on a 4-0 aggregate, after winning 2-0 at their home turf Karume Stadium, in Musoma on May 19 and later replicated the same score line at Nangwanda Sijaona where Mbeya Kwanza played their home games on May 26.

Azam FC 'withdraw' from CECAFA Kagame Cup to focus on pre-season

Kagame Cup winners have decided to sit out of the regional tournament to focus on their pre-season preparations ahead of an expected gruelling 2024/25 campaign.

According to a press release by CECAFA earlier this week, Azam were among 16 teams to take part in the tournament that was last held four years ago in Dar.

The club's head of media department, Thabit 'Zaka Za Kazi' Zakaria, confirmed the news in an interview with Azam TV.

Zakaria said that Azam have not withdrawn from the tournament but instead have requested the organisers to reschedule it to a later date in August due to

pre-season logistical issues.

"Actually, we have not withdrawn from the competition, but we find the tournament dates are not friendly. So we have requested that the tournament be rescheduled. It's not that we have withdrawn, it's because on those dates there are other preparations that we must do for the rest of the season.

"The competition is scheduled to start on July 6, we will start training for the new season on July 5. On July 4, all our players will report for camp and on July 5 we start training.

"For players coming out of the holiday break, their initial training sessions do

not include playing football but to build up their fitness and get them in shape. So you can spend the first two weeks just for that.

"Pre-season preparation is generally required to last for at least six weeks. Due to the difficult schedule that might not be possible, but at least it should not be less than four weeks. So we need four weeks, and that is the whole of July for just training before we start to play in any kind of competition.

"Therefore, we have asked if it is possible for the competition to be moved to August. They should fix a new date in August and onwards so that we can refuel our tanks ahead of a long-

season journey," he said.

Azam clinched second place in the Premier League standings, edging out Simba on goal difference, with a 2-0 away victory against Geita Gold on the final day of the campaign at Nyankumbu Ground.

This result ensured Azam the right to join champions Young Africans as Mainland Tanzania's representatives in the CAF Champions League next season.

Azam's first competition for the new season will be the Community Shield, which kicks off on August 8, 2024, followed by the 2024/2025 CAF Champions League Preliminary Round scheduled between August 16-18, 2024.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM have withdrawn from the Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) Kagame Cup tournament set for next month. The two-time CECAFA

By Guardian Correspondent

ROTARY Club of Bahari Dar es Salaam has stepped up its efforts to back community initiatives after hosting a fundraising golf tournament at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) course recently.

The 13th edition of the annual showdown aimed to transform education at the Mtakuja Beach Secondary School located in Kinondoni District in the city.

The Rotary Club of Bahari Dar es Salaam, according to its officials, sought to raise 70m/- from the fundraising golf tournament to revolutionize the teaching and learning environment at the school.

The Rotary Club of Bahari, the officials stated, is continuing to sustain its comprehensive initiative at Mtakuja Beach Secondary School, aiming to uplift both the educational standard and the overall well-being of the students and community.

Mtakuja Beach Secondary School, serving nearly 1,750 pupils in the Kunduchi area, is set to undergo a transformative change through a collaborative effort between the Rotary Club of Bahari, the local government authorities, the business community, Rotary Foundation, school teachers and students as well as the local community.

The focus will be on rehabilitating the school's well water and sanitation systems, providing reduced salt-based Water to students and the nearby community, thereby mitigating the risks of waterborne Diseases.

Dar club organises golf tourney to support community initiatives

Improved water systems not only enhance health but also significantly boost School attendance and academic performance.

Furthermore, the club is committed to enriching the educational experience through the Introduction of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) programs.

Through teacher training workshops and establishing STEAM clubs, Students will be equipped with a diverse skill set essential for thriving in an increasingly competitive and innovation-driven global landscape.

Rotary Club of Bahari president for 2023-2024, Rotarian Jumana Zavery, revealed the club is reinforcing its commitment to environmental sustainability, collaborating with its youth-based ROTARACT clubs, student-based INTERACT clubs, and community members.

The club is spearheading tree planting activities enhancing the natural beauty of the surroundings.

This initiative serves as a platform for raising awareness about the critical importance of Environmental conservation and instilling a sense of responsibility towards the planet among students and community members alike.

Recognizing the intrinsic connection between health and education, the club also organizes medical camps to pro-

vide essential healthcare services to students, parents, and community members.

By prioritizing health and well-being, these outreach efforts ensure that all stakeholders within the school's ecosystem are supported in their journey toward holistic development and success.

Through these concerted efforts, the Rotary Club of Bahari aims not only to elevate the educational standards at Mtakuja Beach Secondary School, but also to foster a resilient and empowered community equipped to tackle the challenges of the future.

Rotarian Jumana emphasized the project's goal of forging effective partnerships between the school management, Kinondoni Municipal Council, parents, and the Rotary Club of Bahari.

The objective, Jumana noted, is to ensure sustainable improvements, leading to lower dropout rates, reduced disease transmission, and overall educational enhancement.

The official revealed in the past years, the club has also conducted STEM Boot camps for over 700 students in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar and provided menstrual health programs benefiting 800 girls with reusable sanitary pad kits and awareness sessions for 800 boys.

Jumana envisions the school as a beacon of educational excellence in the region, showcasing

the power of community-school partnerships.

She further pointed out that the school's success will inspire and support other educational institutions to reach more students.

Over the past decade, the Rotary Club of Bahari's annual golf tournaments have raised over 300m/-, contributing to various community service projects and making a significant impact, particularly in supporting underprivileged individuals.

Past initiatives have included literacy programs, the construction of 20 new toilets and science laboratories, the construction of school libraries, the provision of textbooks, and youth economic empowerment.

Minet Insurance has generously again this year sponsored a pre-owned vehicle, for the golfer who achieves a hole-in-one on the 10th hole, adding an exciting dimension to the event.

"It promises to be another extraordinary year, and together with

Premium sponsors for this year's tournament are the National Bank of Commerce, Augusta Energy, ASAS, Minet, Toyota, Pepsi, Swift, and Flight Link.

Standard sponsors include Ethiopian Airlines, DHL, Clear Services, Bank of India, Ashton Media, Tarmol Industries, Neel Salt, KLM, Superdoll, Air France, NCBA, ABBA Motors, F&J Limited, and Liquid Intelligent Technologies.

Minet Insurance has generously again this year sponsored a pre-owned vehicle, for the golfer who achieves a hole-in-one on the 10th hole, adding an exciting dimension to the event.

"It promises to be another extraordinary year, and together with

incoming president Murtaza Versi, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors for their unwavering support in this noble endeavour," the Rotary Club of Bahari president, who disclosed the showdown involved around 100 golfers, stated.

The DGC golfer David Jansen emerged as the overall winner after carding a 73 gross score in the tournament that involved the club's golfers and their counterparts from Lugalo Golf Club, also located in the city.

The hosts' other golfer, Maryanne Mugo, triumphed in the women's category of the tournament after posting 86 gross.



JMK youth team player Majidi Tamimu fights for the ball with Tuangoma player Arafat Tichumu during their friendly match at the Jakaya Kikwete grounds in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Correspondent Jumana Juma

Flexibles by David Chikoko

U Attempted suicide is a crime by law; punishable by death

