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TANZANIA

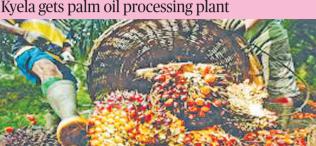
THURSDAY 18 JULY, 2024

National Pg 3
DCEA creates database for drug kingpins



National Pg 4

Kyela gets palm oil processing plant



National Pg 6
EACOP lauded for training youth



AfDB sovereign portfolio Page 13

US, India set to join triangular local renewable energy drive

By Guardian Reporter

A UNIQUE partnership is being forged between Tanzania and development agencies in the United States and India in a triangular energy infrastructure development partnership.

Alex Klaits, the acting mission director US Agency for International Development (US-AID, said in a statement yesterday that the partnership is intended to strengthen energy infrastructure and promote renewable energy development in Tanzania.

"This unique clean energy alliance is the first of its kind on the African continent,' he said, noting that the trilateral partnership is being implemented by the US-based nonprofit organization, The Asia Foundation.

It will leverage each country's relevant capacities, resulting in a stronger grid, improved regulatory and policy frameworks, reliable regional interconnections and the development of utility-scale solar projects in the country, he stated.

He explained US readiness to strongly partner with Tanzania to accelerate electrification, so that communities across the country can access clean and reliable energy, pointing at the Obama-era initiative in 2013.

At that time the USAID's Power Africa pro-



Together we can accelerate the development of renewables and a stronger grid in **Tanzania**

gramme was started, enabling Tanzania to make significant progress in the energy sector by increasing connections from just about 1.2m then to over 4.5m late last year, he as-

USAID is forging a partnership with the India Centers of Excellence, involving the Grid Controller of India Ltd and the NTPC School of Business, tied with the National Thermal Power Corporation as a major energy producer, to help uplift renewable energy locally.

Experts at the business school will engage local policymakers, regulators, utilities, academia and the private sector, to obtain their collaboration in efforts to expand the use of renewable energy and promote climatesmart energy investments, he stated.

"We are now embarking on an important new partnership, together with the government of India, which broadens energy collaboration with Tanzania. This collaboration will strengthen local capacity and expand bilateral trade opportunities for American firms to conduct business in Tanzania," he

He expressed satisfaction with the partnership with India to support the country's "emergence as a net regional energy exporter in East Africa," while Manoj Verma, the chargé d'affaires at the Indian High Commission applauded the partnership.

"It is a matter of pride that the first India-US

TURN TO PAGE 2





Dar es Salaam-based members of the Shia Community march in the city on Tuesday to mark the death anniversary of their spiritual leader, Imam Husayn ibn Ali, a grandson of Prophet Muhammad's. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Small miners await govt to give them ex-licensed area

THE government has revoked 45 out of 102 exploration licences supplied for mining investors in Rukwa Region after the holders failed to meet the requirements, raising hopes that the area will be allocated to small miners.

Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde said this at a meeting with mining stakeholders in the region, explaining the move as arising from a request from leaders of small miners in Sumbawanga District in the region to expand their operational area, which would clash with existing licences for minerals exploration.

Revoking licences afford the govern-

We also urge the government to strengthen the data on exploration area so that miners do not rely on guesswork as they do

ment an opening to reallocate these areas by rearranging spheres allocated to small-scale miners and to prospective large investors, where they are ready to actually invest, he said.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan has given clear instructions to ensure that licenses issued are put to use and that individuals do not hoard large areas without developing them, to stimulate mining activities and growth in the mining sector," he declared.

The 45 licenses covered a vast area of 812,383 acres, larger than the entire Sumbawanga District spread over 667,641 acres, he said, pointing out that mining in

TURN TO PAGE 2

Samia wants teachers to instil morals, care values

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan appealed to teachers to take a leading role in instilling good morals in students to become responsible future citizens fully contributing to national development.

Speaking on the final day of a threeday tour in Rukwa Region where she laid foundation stones for the Rukwa

Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST), Rukwa Campus.

There was also a foundation stone laying event for the construction of a tarmac road to Kaengesa Seminary, where the president spoke to residents at the Mandela Mazwi Stadium in Sumbawanga municipality.

"It is your duty to ensure that you mould them into responsible people

Region Girls' Secondary School and the to help build this country," she implored when laying the foundation stone at Rukwa Girls' Secondary School.

The president asked teachers not only to focus on teaching but seek to nurture the students with a sense of belonging and concern, so that they take up appropriate role models to become a success-

ful future generation. The construction of the school is part

TURN TO PAGE 2



CDC-T lauds HIV care, scaling up method benefits

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA has made significant progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS following the introduction and scaling up of approaches that combine prevention, care and treatment, a specialist has declared.

George Mgomella, associate director of programmes at the local branch of the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) affirmed this at a science communication engagement event with journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, organised ahead of the Tanzania Health Summit slated for Zanzibar in October.

Noting that Tanzania was close to overcoming HIV as a public health emergency, he said the scaling up had resulted in 83 percent of Tanzanians knowing their HIV status, being linked to care and achieving virus suppres-

"We have made substantial progress, which is a crucial starting point. We need to learn from other countries and develop local solutions to the main challenges we face, particularly funding for ensuring sustainability," he

Through these approaches, a large number of HIV/AIDS patients are linked to care with significant virus suppression, underlining that when people achieve virus suppression, it marks a significant success.

"Back in 2017, half of the individuals had achieved viral suppression whereas now



These include reducing the number of new infections among youths aged 15 to 24 as it is one the rise

we are discussing eight out of ten," he explained, noting that among strategies employed is the status neutral approach (SNA) used in the scaling effort.

It is a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention and care that prioritises high-quality care to engage and retain people within sight of the services, regardless of whether the services are for HIV treatment or prevention, he stated.

A start up 83 reproductive and child health clinics (RCH) were included in the outreach services from October 2023 to March 2024, with a total of 314 new sero-discordant couples initiating pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), medicine taken to prevent getting

It is a highly effective medicine for preventing HIV when taken as prescribed, served for people in unreliable affectionate situations or compulsive injection drug use, as part of CDC supported effective interventions to reduce HIV spread.

The CDC executive said that achieving the goal of ending HIV/AIDS infections as a public health threat by 2030 is an ambitious but attainable goal, as evaluation research demonstrates concrete interventions to maintain health, prevent HIV transmission and sup-

TURN TO PAGE 2

US, India set to join triangular local renewable energy drive

FROM PAGE 1

triangular cooperation on the African continent is taking place in Tanzania,' he said, adding that this collaboration exemplifies the strong strategic partnership between Tanzania and India.

"Focusing on renewable energy development and grid management, this partnership will boost Tanzania's efforts as it nears the completion of flagship energy projects and connects its grid with countries in the region," he said.

The triangular development partnership will play a pivotal role in

leveraging India's extensive experience in the renewable energy area, sustainably improving the lives of Tanzanians, he further noted.

Dr James Mataragio, the Energy deputy permanent secretary noted that the ministry was 'excited' to be part of the collaboration, affirming that the country will greatly benefit from US and Indian experience and learning on developing its solar and wind energy capacities.

"Together we can accelerate the development of renewables and a stronger grid in Tanzania," he add-

CDC-T lauds HIV care, scaling up method gains

porting people living with HIV to lead healthy lives is working.

Suggesting that there are still many local people who do not know their HIV status as the only way to ascertain HIV status is through testing, he said that knowing one's HIV status provides valuable information for couples to stay healthy.

"If your test result is positive, you can take medication to treat HIV, enabling you to lead a long, healthy life and prevent transmission to others," he further noted.

Through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEP-FAR), CDC supports interventions to increase HIV testing, the director said, elaborating that it helps to implement strategies to prevent HIV transmission.

"These interventions focus on reaching key and vulnerable populations. They include index testing

(IT) programmes, HIV self-testing (HIVST), status-neutral approach, and adolescent peer educators (PEs), he said.

Implementation of tailored interventions has led to increased testing coverage and HIV prevention strategies such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), he said, acknowledging that there are still gaps to address.

These include reducing the number of new infections among youths aged 15 to 24 as it is one the rise, he said, underlining that successes have been registered in the past seven years in the wake of significant investments from PEPFAR and local political commitment.

Through these approaches CDC introduced a monthly supply for eligible HIV patients with six months sufficient medication to not visit health centres thus enabling them to focus on economic activities, he

added.

Samia wants teachers to instil morals, care values

of the government's strategy to establish special girls' science schools in each region to provide ample opportunities for them to study these subjects, she said.

Encouraging the students to study hard, she said that those who excel in Form Six stand an excellent chance of receiving scholarships for higher education, pointing at the Samia Scholarship Fund for both domestic and foreign higher learning institutions.

Teachers need to nurture the children with care sentiments so that they grow up well and seek to develop others, she stated, stressing similar values when laying the foundation stone for the MUST Rukwa Campus.

The president remarked that the presence of the university will advance higher education services, increase financial circulation and add to development, noting that the institution's engineering department can elevate local youth with technology for making bricks from local resources.

Pointing at such techniques in some foreign countries, she said that despite the region having resources for making bricks from local materials, houses built using these bricks do not meet the required standards. Some nearby areas like Mbinga District were doing better, she said.

At Kaengesa, the president said road construction is likely to be completed by the year's end, urging the residents to increase efforts in production activities so that the country can earn more revenues.

She also reminded the public of improved grain weighing equipment used by the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA), now using electronic scales, likely to help farmers by accurately weighing and purchasing grains, curbing most complaints.

She also demanded Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe to increase the buying price of maize from farmers to 700 per kilogram to ensure they can obtain a decent profit.

In the next farming season, maize seeds must be subsidized to ease the burden on farmers and motivate them to increase acreage and

yields, he said, similarly urging citizens to provide views on the National Development Vision 2050 so that it reflects expectations of the public at large when it is published.

Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office (PO-RALG) said the construction of the special girls' school for talented students is part of his directive to build one science school for girls in each region. So far 25 regions were completing construction and children already starting classes, he said.

Prof. Adolf Mkenda, the Education, Science and Technology minister, said the new campus will help to build agricultural technology to advance the sector, as part of higher education reforms.

MUST and the campus focuses on agriculture as it is the main economic activity in the region, with a view to increase crop production and promote the local economy, he

> **Pointing at** such techniques in some foreign countries, she said that despite the region having resources for making bricks from local materials, houses built using these bricks do not meet the required standards. Some nearby areas like Mbinga **District were** doing better



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has an audience at Zanzibar State House yesterday with a delegation from the Zanzibar Research Centre for Socio-Economic and Policy Analysis led by the centre's executive director, Juma Hassan Reli.

FROM PAGE 1

the region is still low.

It is therefore the responsibility of the regional mining office to ensure that mining activity is stimulated he said, to which the regional minerals officer, Joseph Kumburu expressed high confidence in implementing this directive.

He vowed to promote mining activities as the region is endowed with various types of minerals and

Small miners await govt to give them ex-licenced area

has considerable potential for success, a view reflecting an assessment of the situation in a report compiled by the Rukwa Region Miners Association (RUREMA).

Masie Mwambegele, the entity's chairman, appealed to the government to allocate to small-scale miners licenced areas where no work is

"We also urge the government to strengthen the data on exploration area so that miners do not rely on guesswork as they do now," he

as yet being done. added.



Industry and Trade minister Selemani Jafo (2nd-L) has a first-hand account yesterday of the production of insecticides meant to destroy mosquito larvae. He was on a tour of a National Development Corporation factory at Kibaha in Coastal Region. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Medical staff in South Sudan start Chinese language course

THE fourth Chinese language course for medical staff in South Sudan commenced Wednesday, attracting about 100 students eager to learn and seize opportunities that come with learning Mandarin.

In his opening remarks, Isaac Maker, medical director of Juba Teaching Hospital, encouraged the students to learn one of the most important languages globally.

Maker said that proficiency in the Chinese language would create opportunities for medical practitioners to advance their studies and acquire new knowledge under the people-to-people exchange programme being currently implemented by the Chinese and South Sudan governments.

"I would like to express my sin- and traditional culture. cere thanks to the work being done by the Chinese doctors in Juba Teaching Hospital. They are really helping the people of South Sudan and I thank the Chinese government for sending doctors here and across Africa," Maker said in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

Gift Gibson Natana, deputy director-general of Juba Teaching Hospital, noted that learning Chinese presents opportunities for enhancing career development for medical practitioners at the hospi-

According to Mu Jianjun, the counselor for Economic and Commercial Affairs at the Chinese Embassy in South Sudan, the people in the African country have warmly welcomed the Chinese language

Mu noted that the Chinese language course aims to help the staff of Juba Teaching Hospital better communicate with the Chinese medical team, understand the Chinese language and culture, and deepen the friendship between China and South Sudan.

"The Chinese medical team has been known and loved by more and more people in South Sudan. The second phase of the Juba Teaching Hospital project, built with China's assistance, was officially opened on Monday, marking another milestone project in China-South Sudan medical and healthcare cooperation," he said.

Chen Si, team leader of the 11th batch of the Chinese medical team, said the Chinese language course

aims at deepening mutual understanding and enhancing friendship between the two countries and peoples.

The course will see students attend two lessons each week from July to August, Chen noted, adding that they have provided a regular training schedule for each student that covers food, music, sports and other aspects of the programme.

"Through this cultural exchange, we hope our colleagues here can have a basic understanding of China, especially those who are about to visit China for further training, enabling them to familiarize themselves with China in advance,"

Chen said. Since 2021, the medical staff of Juba Teaching Hospital has been attending Chinese language classes.





This is the debris of buildings housing at least 100 kiosks at Masasi Town Council's main market gutted by fire on Tuesday night. No details on the incident

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has prepared a database that includes names of all suspected drug kingpins who operate both from within and outside the country for easy tracking.

DCEA Commissioner General Aretas Lyimo announced yesterday in Dar es Salaam when briefing journalists on the new development, adding that the database will be an essential tool in the operations of the agency.

"We have established the database and embarked on an investigation on those people. We have realised that many of them have been identified to operate within the country while others outside the country," Lyimo said.

In another development, the anti-narcotics authority announced that it has nabbed a man, a resident of Manzese in Dar es Salaam, who allegedly produces 'heroin' by mixing medicinal drugs and expired hazardous chemicals, something

DCEA creates a database for all suspected drug kingpins

which puts drug users at high

Detailing, Commissioner General Lyimo noted the suspect identified as Shaban Adam (54) was also arrested with 19,000 litres of expired hazardous chemicals that he used to mix with medicinal drugs to produce illegal drugs.

He said the suspect was arrested on 11th June while producing the illegal drug that he introduced as

When interrogated, Lyimo admitted to transporting the narcotics by upcountry buses as parcels to various parts of the country, particularly to big cities.

"These narcotics with a mixture of medicinal drugs and hazardous chemicals have serious health effects, causing, among others, cardi-

liver disease, mental illnesses and addiction," he explained.

The suspect revealed to the DCEA that in the past he also used to produce such drugs in Asian countries and was serving as a drug mule and he continued with such crime even after returning back to Tanzania.

He said the suspect Adam resolved to produce illegal drugs locally after the authority successfully destroyed networks of drug smugglers through its intensive operations.

The operations largely managed to control the smuggling into the country the illegal drugs, hence creating a shortage of such substances in the market which forced him to produce locally.

"This fake heroin he produces has been a factor of serious health ac diseases, kidney disease, cancer, concerns among the users, includ-

ing sudden deaths," he explained. On the other hand, he said, due to good regional and international cooperation, the DCEA was also holding a Tanzanian called Ndoba Issa who was arrested at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport in Bujumbura, Burundi, with 3.8kg of

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), local-

ly known as 'Skanka' while he was

en route to Dubai.

In his remarks Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) Executive Director Prof Mohamed Janabi said illegal drugs made of expired chemicals are dangerous to human

"We at Muhimbili conduct dialysis to 150 patients a day. One of the reasons for this disease is improper use of medicinal drugs to produce fake illegal drugs," Prof Janabi stat-

WHO decries growing toll of road fatalities in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICA has become an epicenter of deaths arising from road accidents, exerting strain on the continent's public health infrastructure, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said in a report.

Despite accounting for 15 percent of the global population and 3 percent of vehicles, the African region recorded one-fifth of all road accident deaths in the world, according to the 2023 status report on road safety in the WHO African region.

According to the report, Africa lost 250,000 lives in road accidents in 2021 alone, while the continent's road-related fatalities increased 17 percent between 2010 and 2021, while global rates fell 5 percent during the same period.

A myriad of factors, including lethargic enforcement of traffic laws, potholed roads, speeding and drunk driving, limited safety education targeting road users, have been cited by the report as leading causes of traffic injuries and deaths on the continent.

"The findings of this report point to a serious public health concern for African countries, with hundreds of thousands of lives being lost unnecessarily," said Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO regional director for Africa.

Moeti said the WHO is working with partners across Africa to tackle the scourge of road accidents that has taken a toll on the productive segment of the population.

The WHO report says that men aged between 15 and 64 form the bulk of road accident victims in Africa, while vulnerable users, including pedestrians, people living with disabilities, children, cyclists and motorcyclists, have also been affected disproportionately.

In addition, limited investments in alternative modes of transport, including cycling and walking, have fueled road-related fatalities on the continent, according to the report,

which observed that only 13 percent of countries have national strategies to promote walking or cycling.

Abdourahmane Diallo, the WHO representative in Kenya, said that for Africa to reduce the burden of road accidents, countries should revamp transport infrastructure, retrain motorists, and promote safety education targeting motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.

Diallo added that sharing best practices on road safety, policy reforms, enforcement of existing legislation, and improving data collection are key to minimizing road fatalities on the continent.

Chiara Retis, the team leader for Violence and Injury Prevention at WHO Africa, called for investment in post-crash care and the reskilling of first responders while encouraging the use of safety belts and helmets to reduce fatalities on the con-

... men aged between 15 and 64 form the bulk of road accident victims in Africa. while vulnerable users, including pedestrians, people living with disabilities, children, cyclists and motorcyclists, have also been affected disproportionately

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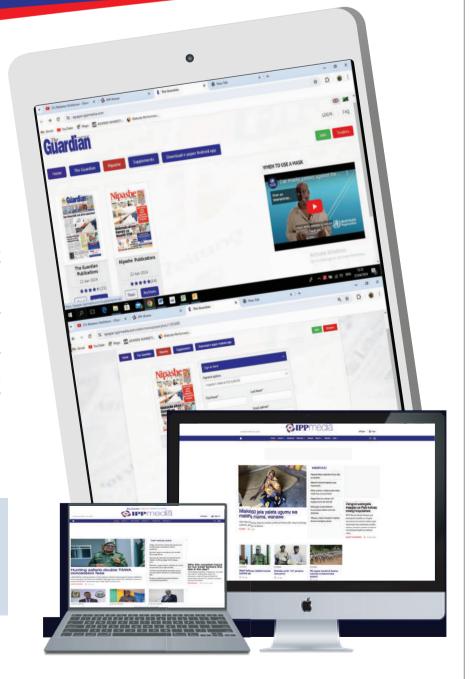
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- the amount after allowing the transaction from your mobile account. When the payment is completed, you will receive a payment confirmation email and SMS, then login into your account and start reading the publication of your choice
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Local processing to help Kyela's oil palm farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

OVER 10,000 oil palm farmers in Kyela District, Mbeya Region, will benefit more from the crop due to the establishment of an edible oil processing factory.

The factory, Covenant Edible Kyela Cooking Oil, is set to start its operation next week in the district, which is one of the oil palm farming areas in Tanzania.

Oil plant director Babylon Mwakyambile said that the factory will employ thousands of women and youths from within and outside the district.

Mwakyambile said that the factory would be a saviour for the farmer. They have started forming groups with more than 10 thousand people,

ICOP Global Health

sell palm oil at an indicative price while more than 100 young people hope to find employment.

"We expect the torch of freedom to launch this country, but for the time being we have started to buy oil to start production in parallel with providing education to the established groups," he said.

One of the palm oil farmers in the district, Lutufyo Mwambola said the coming of the factory will increase the value of the farmer as they are forced to sell at a low price due to the lack of market.

He said that palm oil farmers have been transporting palm oil to Dar es Salaam for more processing to get better prices.

Currently, 20 liters of palm oil

who will enter into an agreement to is sold at 43,000/-, but with the establishment of the processing factory, the price may go up and benefit farmers of the edible oil

> Authorities in Kyela District recently distributed 33,000 quality palm oil seedlings for free.

The idea is to enhance farmers' incomes as well as address the country's edible oil shortage.

"We expect the torch of freedom to launch this country, but for the time being we have started to buy oil to start production in parallel with providing education to the established groups"



Residents of Laela ward in Sumbawanga Rural District, Rukwa Region, follow proceedings as President Samia Suluhu Hassan addressed a rally yesterday. The president is on an ongoing working visit of the region. Pho

CCM recommends 'recipe' for peace at Mwenge bus terminal

By Guardian Reporter

THE ruling CCM has instructed that the new Mwenge terminal bus stop project in Kinondoni Municipality, Dar es Salaam, must be inclusive to resolve conflicts among traders and stakeholders.

Amos Makalla, the party's secretary for ideology, publicity, and training, issued the directive yesterday during his visit to the project as part of a regional tour to inspect ongoing projects.

Makalla commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for advancing the project after it had been halted by an investigative commission.

business. There may be various challenges and misunderstandings, but we all need shops here," he said. Makalla added: "Everyone wishes

"The aim of this project is to boost

to continue providing education and ensure inclusivity for various groups providing services at this terminal.'

Jabir Chilumba, an economist at Kinondoni Municipal, stated



The aim of this project is to boost business. There may be various challenges and misunderstandings, but we all need shops here

to be part of the project. I urge you that the project, upon completion, is expected to cost 12.283bn/funded from the municipality's revenue. The implementation costs under the 'Force Account' period amounted to 2.216bn/-, with construction costs during the contracting period at 10.067bn/-.

> Chilumba mentioned that the building, which has a total of three floors with 148 frames, can be used for various commercial purposes. "The municipality anticipates collecting 1.093bn/- annually, where the investor is required to pay 612.744m/- and the remaining frame tenants are to pay 480.623m/-," he

"As of June 2024, collections have amounted to 1.039bn/- with the investor having paid 612.744m/- and frame tenants in the online auction system having paid 426.397m/-."



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

"HOUSEHOLD RESILIENCE SURVEY" JGITZ- RFP No. USAID-TKV/JGITZ/04/2024'

- 1. The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is a global community conservation organization that advances the vision and work of Dr. Jane Goodall by conserving chimpanzees and inspiring communities to conserve the natural World we all share, we improve the lives of people, animals, and the environment. We strongly believe everything is connected and everyone can make a difference. The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) is a reputable and rapidly expanding non-governmental organization committed to wildlife research, conservation, socio-economic development, and environmental education. The JGI Tanzania in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), The President's Office Regional Administrations and Local Governments (PORALG) and its partners makes a difference through community cantered conservation, chimpanzees research projects, youths' environmental education, the innovative use of science and technology, works closely with local communities in Tanzania, inspiring hope through a collective power of individual action. The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania has received funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support implementation of a 5-year USAID Hope Through Action/ Tumaini Kupitia Vitendo Project. (USAID HTA Project)
- 2. JGI-TZ under USAID HTA Project has set aside funds for operations during the year 2023 -2028. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be used to cover eligible payments under the contract for Consultancy work of the "Household Resilience survey."
- 3. JGI-TZ now invites proposals from Eligible Consultants to offer professional services for the Survey-Households Resilience. Interested Consultants are encouraged to request for a full Request for Proposal Document with the Scope of work and Terms of Reference through an email address applications@janegoodall.or.tz
- 4. JGI-TZ will send the RFP documents via email, no charges will apply for the bid documents. Consultants must confirm receipt of the documents and participation. JGI-TZ will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the RFP documents. ALL inquiries for clarification should be addressed to the application email address provided, phone calls are strictly not allowed.
- 5. ALL consultants proposal application documents should be submitted electronically to the applications email address applications@janegoodall.or.tz Attn: Tender Board Secretary, Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania with a captioned subject: "RFP No. USAID-HTA/JGITZ/04/2024'. The deadline for submission acceptance is Thursday, 1st August 2024, 5PM EAT.
- 6. Late and portion applications shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Tender Board Secretary Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania Plot No. 375, Serengeti Road-Mikocheni P.O.Box 70723 - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



PROCUREMENT REFERENCE NUMBER ICAP/TZ/6/2024. MSPH Tanzania LLC, known as ICAP, is a non-governmental organization operating in Tanzania since ef (PEPFAR) through the

Introduction	2004, with funding mainly from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the
	U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). MSPH Tanzania LLC is supporting
	comprehensive HIV services in Geita and Mwanza regions through a a five-years' PEPFAR-funded
	cooperative agreement and intends to procure assets for FIKIA+ project under PEPFAR/CDC awarded
	funding.

General Installation of solar power system to power health facility in Mwanza and Geita regions (42 health

Capacity Required Solar panel capacity required for single facility will be as below

S/N	DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS	Specs	QUANTITY
1	Solar Panel	550Wp	4
2	Solar Inverter	3000VA/48V/24V	1
3	Solar Battery	200Ah/12V	6
4	Charge Controller	50A/48V	1
5	Battery Rack and Solar Mounted Structure	2.2KWp	1
6	Installation Material Kit		1
7	Installation Labor		1

General Requirements:

- a) The system shall be designed to withstand harsh weather conditions, including heavy rainfall, high temperatures, and strong winds.
- b) The supplier shall provide training to the health facility staff on how to operate and maintain the solar
- c) The supplier shall provide a comprehensive warranty for the solar power system, including all components and parts.

Solar Panel Requirements:

- a) The solar panels shall be high-quality, durable and potential damage.
- c) The solar panels shall come with a minimum warranty of 5 years.

Battery Requirements:

- a) The battery capacity shall be sufficient to store the required power to provide backup power for a minimum of 12 hours in case of a power outage.
- b) The battery shall be of high quality and able to withstand frequent charging and discharging cycles.

c) The battery shall come with a minimum warranty of 5 years.

Inverter Requirements:

- a) The inverter shall be able to convert the DC power generated by the solar panels to AC power suitable for powering the health facility.
- b) The inverter shall be of high quality and able to handle the power capacity of the solar panels.
- c) The inverter shall come with a minimum warranty of 5 years.

Mounting and Wiring Requirements:

- a) The solar panels shall be mounted securely and in a position that maximizes solar exposure. b) The wiring shall be installed safely and correctly to minimize the risk of electrical accidents.
- c) The mounting and wiring shall be done by certified and experienced professionals.

Documentation Requirements:

- a) The supplier shall provide all necessary documentation, including technical specifications, installation instructions, and warranty information.
- b) The supplier shall obtain all necessary permits and approvals from relevant authorities before the

Testing and Commissioning Requirements:

- a) The supplier shall conduct a comprehensive test of the solar power system before commissioning to ensure that it meets all requirements and specifications.
- b) The supplier shall provide a commissioning report detailing the installation and testing process.

Bidders will be required to submit the following documentation.

Business introduction letter, Company profile, Valid business license, Tax identification number (tin), Valid tax clearance certificate, Value added tax registration certificate (if any), Certificate of incorporation (if any), Article of association (if any), Manufacture authorization, Memorandum of association (if any), Experience justification & a recommendation letter from reputable organization.

Note

The public tender opening will be made in the presence of all bidders or their official representatives, we encourage all bidders to attend through zoom call and Zoom Call link that will be sent to all those who submitted their bids in advance of the meeting. Bids not received and opened in public at the public bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances. The tender validity period is 14 days. Selection criteria will be lowest price, technically evaluated/ acceptable based on technical specifications and other criteria described above. MSPH Tanzania LLC reserve the rights to disqualify any offer based on failure to follow solicitation instructions. MSPH reserves the rights to waive minor proposal deficiencies that cannot be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition, MSPH will be contacting all those that have submitted quotes to confirm contact person, address and to confirm if the bid was submitted for this solicitation. The evaluation of bids will be

Application procedure

Important

Interested and eligible vendors should email their electronic proposals/bids via email to procurement

department at TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu

conducted as per MSPH Tanzania LLC Procurement Guidelines.

The Internal Tender Committee (ITC), MSPH Tanzania LLC - ICAP at Columbia University, Alfa Plaza 7th Floor - Chaburuma Road, P.O Box 80214, Dar es salaam, Tanzania, all quotes must be in Tanzania Shillings. The deadline for the submission is 10:00am East Africa Time on 31st July 2023. No tender fee charged for this invitation

MSPH Tanzania LLC, 7th Floor, Jangid Plaza, Plot No. G6, Chaburuma Road (Off-Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road) P.O. Box 80214, Dar es Salaam, email: icap-tz-info@columbia.edu phone: +255 (0) 22 270 0719+255 (0) 22 270 0725

UN agency praises Tanzania on role in transforming of its healthcare delivery

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Tanzania commended the government for its dedication to transforming healthcare delivery, with a special focus on maternal and neonatal

Lawrence Oundo, UNICEF-Representative to Tanzania observed that this commitment is crucial in addressing the significant challenge of maternal mortality which continues to claim many lives due to preventable complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

He was speaking during the official handover of the newly constructed and renovated Haneti, Soya, and Chipanga health centers in Chamwino, Chemba, and Bahi Districts in Dodoma Region, respectively, terming the event not just a handover of facilities as it symbolizes hope and offers a lifeline towards a brighter future for Tanzanian families.

These facilities are equipped with state-of-the-art amenities, including 50-bed maternity wards, postnatal care units, modern laboratories, theatres and much more to ensure that every woman and child receives the critical care they need.

The project was implemented by UNICEF in collaboration with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

The UNICEF boss said this milestone represents a significant step forward in joint efforts to improve healthcare access for mothers, newborns, and children throughout Tanzania.

He observed that the project exemplifies joint efforts among the government, development partners, and the local community to improve the well-being of families.

"UNICEF reaffirms commitment to working with the government and partners to support sustainable delivery of quality maternal health services through these new facilities," he noted.

Oundoaddedthathisorganization is to extend collaborations with the government to strengthen health systems and partnerships, promote behaviour change for improved healthcare access, and advocate for gender equality and inclusion.

of Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) services at every health facility is essential for promoting safer childbirth practices.

"We must ensure that these services are accessible, encouraging women to deliver in well-equipped facilities and thus reducing the risks associated with home births," he

Oundo also commended KOICA) for their generous support in transforming these projects into beacons of hope and also acknowledged the unwavering dedication of regional and local leaders who have wholeheartedly embraced this initiative.

KOICA Country Director, Manshik Shin also commended the government for the efforts to improve the provision of health services in the country, saying his country is ready to keep supporting the initiatives.

He said women and children are at the centre and key in KOICA projects. "Investing in women and children is crucial in sustainable development," he said.

The Deputy Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration Local and Government (PO-RALG), Dr Festus Dugange, thanked the two organizations for their support, saying they contribute towards

He expressed the government's commitment to ensuring that the facilities will be used as intended, calling on health workers to ensure proper use.

> **UNICEF reaffirms** its commitment to working with the government and partners to support sustainable delivery of quality maternal health services through these new facilities



POINTE-NOIRE

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board has approved the disbursement of approximately 43 million dollars to the Congolese government under the extended credit facility initiated in 2022.

This approval comes after four reviews of the three-year program, highlighting the economic effectiveness of the structural reforms implemented.

According to Alphonse Ndongo, an economic journalist, "The International Monetary Fund, contrary to popular belief, does not give us money to carry out our development. The IMF helps improve the quality of our financial credibility. This means that we become credible, and when you are credible, you can then raise the funds you need on the international financial market. Congo is above the community standard of 3 percent; Congo's inflation is at 3.7 percent, indicating an improvement at the macroeconomic level.'

However, this positive outlook is not universally shared. Several civil society members and political actors express concerns about governance issues. They argue that the ongoing crisis and current cash flow tensions in Congo highlight significant shortcomings.

Clément Mierassa, President of the Congolese Social Democratic Party, voiced his concerns: "I regret that in terms of major reforms that could have helped Congo out of the crisis, very little has been done. With a corruption perception index of 22/100, which is truly mediocre, nothing has been achieved. Pensioners have 41 months of pension arrears, students have 3 or 4 years of scholarship arrears, and Marien Ngouabi University is on strike. I believe this is due to poor governance."

While the IMF forecasts a Congolese growth rate of around 3.5 percent, many Congolese citizens feel disconnected from these positive indicators. They argue that they are bearing the brunt of the IMF's structural reforms.

Despite these criticisms, the Congolese government remains optimistic. It has assured the public that by next year, Congo could finally see significant improvements and emerge from its current economic challenges.

As the debate continues, the reality of Congo's economic and social situation remains complex, with progress and challenges coexisting in a landscape marked by both hope and scepticism.



Dr Festo Ndugange (C), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), cuts the ribbon in Dodoma city yesterday to hand over newly constructed and renovated health facility buildings. Photo: Polycarp Machira

SA appeals to donors to delay its climate targets, minister says

SOUTH Africa told climate donors that it would miss its 2030 emissions goals, but was committed to "net zero" by mid-century as it races to remove financial and other hurdles to rolling out renewables, the new energy minister said.

"We have shared with the partners as late as this morning ... that we'll not be able to meet those targets by 2030, highly unlikely," Ramokgopa said, adding: "If you use a long horizon of 2050, we will not move (from) that."

Under the Paris Climate Accords,

South Africa was committed to than France, Italy or Turkey. cutting emissions to between 350 and 420 million tonnes by 2030, from 442 million tonnes in 2020, on the way to net zero.

Ramokgopa said that from next week he would also meet with lenders and private power providers to hear their "frustrations" at project delays, to accelerate investment into green energy and catch up on its climate commitments.

Owing to its heavy reliance on coal for electricity, South Africa is the world's most carbon-intensive major economy and its 15th biggest

After years of power cuts, South Africa had to prioritise energy security by boosting output from coal-fired power stations, Ramokgopa said.

"But we are committed over a (longer) period and we can say to them, this is how we'll achieve it," he said, referring to rich nations including the United States and several European countries that are offering \$12 billion in funding, mostly loans, towards South Africa's energy transition.

New policies he said would greenhouse gas emitter - higher speed things up included removing

bureaucratic hurdles to existing private tenders, expropriating land from farmers holding up the power grid build-out, and re-pricing deals with power providers that failed to close after the Ukraine war jacked up component prices.

South Africa has abundant sun and wind, and the partly donorfunded plan to gradually wean itself off coal is being seen as a test case for such assistance to developing countries.

"We have been moving at a slow pace, we need to be more aggressive and I'm committed to that," Ramokgopa said.



Shangwe Ayo, opposition ACT-Wazalendo's Information, Publicity and Public Communication deputy secretary, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on plans by the party's officials to tour 22 regions. She said the idea was to register 10 million members. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Mi

Seaweed farmers bring the ocean's bounty to the world

By Special Correspondent

AS the sun rises over Pemba Island in Tanzania, Shajia and other seaweed farmers head towards the water to harvest their seaweed at

When Shajia first started farming seaweed in 1995, she did it largely along the shore. In the decades since, conditions have changed.

"Due to the high temperatures caused by climate change, the seaweed was not doing well on the shores," she explains. "We were forced to go deeper into the ocean."

The IFAD-supported LDFS

project is helping Shajia adapt

receiving equipment, she's learned how to grow seaweed along ropes. This ensures a plentiful harvest that is easier to gather and is protected from the tides.

At midday, the boats return to shore, laden with their glistening produce. The seaweed is then sorted and spread out on drying racks at the local collection centre.

The dried seaweed is then exported for use in medicines and processing into carrageenan, a gelling substance that is used in everything from shampoo to soy milk. With government plans to establish a processing plant on purchase equipment to process

to the new normal. As well as Pemba, farmers will soon be able Pemba-grown seaweed into to move up the value chain and get higher profits for their produce.

Twenty-six-year-old Saumu has been farming seaweed on her underwater plot for two years. After receiving training and equipment through LDFS, she increased her vield to 290 kilos. She uses her earnings to pay for her children's education and to purchase iron

sheeting to build a new home. Saumu is also part of a collective of young women who produce a rich seaweed skincare oil. While they currently use imported powdered seaweed, they plan to powder themselves.

Saumu is a role model for other young women. "We need to take advantage of the opportunities in front of us, like the seaweed farming, which can benefit us and our families."

For centuries, the islands off the east African coast have been part of a vast oceanic network spanning the Indian Ocean, with sailors following the trade winds all the way to Southeast Asia. Today, rural people in the region are sustainably harvesting the ocean's bounty before it sets out across the

NATIONAL.NEWS

Govt praises EACOP for training Tanzanian youth By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha "We want to see local youths

THE government has praised the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project for offering welding training to 50 young Tanzanians through its contractor, China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering (CPP). This initiative aims to create local employment opportunities within the pipeline project.

The first phase of training, currently ongoing at the Arusha Technical College (ATC), focuses on Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) and involves 25 students. The second phase, scheduled for the end of August, will involve another batch of 25 students.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony yesterday, Asiadi Mrutu, the EACOP Project Coordinator from the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), highlighted that EACOP, through various contractors, has been providing training to Tanzanians to prepare them for work on the project. "This project has made significant investments in equipment for technical colleges across the country, training both students and instructors with expertise from abroad," Mrutu stated, expressing the government's satisfaction with the progress achieved and the strong emphasis on local content.

Mrutu added that the EACOP project has now reached 38.2 percent of its projection and has provided employment to 4,274 Tanzanians so far through various services implemented by project contractors.

"We aim for the EACOP project to have a significant multiplier effect, not only on job creation but also in producing professionals that the country can be proud of," he emphasised during the opening ceremony of the 12-week theory and practical training sessions.

EACOP's Local Content Manager, Neema Kweka, reiterated that the project prioritises three key aspects Tanzanians: employment, capacity building, and the provision of goods and social services.

seizing professional opportunities in the project implementation," she said, highlighting the importance of training for Tanzanian youth.

George Kabelwa, Economic Analysis Manager at the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), praised EACOP and CPP for their ongoing training and investment in technical colleges in Tanzania, which produce professionals in various fields, including welding.

Monica Mbelle, Director of the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) in the Northern Zone, noted that the authority has been mandated by the EACOP project to train local professionals to work on the project. VETA is responsible for training 147 youths in various disciplines to work on major projects, including EACOP, for national development.

"Young people should take this valuable, high-cost training seriously to continue producing professionals for large-scale projects like EACOP," Mbelle stressed.

Cai Xiaolong, Deputy Project Manager from CPP, stated that through these training programs, their company aims to produce skilled local professionals who will work on welding the 24-inch pipeline transporting crude oil from Hoima, Uganda, to Chongoleani in Tanga.

Speaking on behalf of his peers, Joseph Raphael, one of the youths, thanked the EACOP project and CPP for providing them with additional skills and job opportunities in pipeline construction.

The pipeline passes through eight regions in mainland Tanzania: Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Manyara, and Tanga, encompassing 24 districts, 134 wards, and over 180 villages. The project shareholders are TotalEnergies (62 percent), Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) (15 percent), China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) (8 percent), and the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) (15 percent).



Tanga city deputy mayor Rehema Mhina (C), who doubles as chairperson of the city council's HIV control committee, pictured yesterday having a word with people living with HIV (not in the picture) engaged in various income-generating activities. The council had just presented them with 30m/- to empower them economically. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

CONSTRUCTION progress of the Sino-Tan Industrial Park has reached a good stage of construction and is expected to be completed soon.

The facility is expected to have nearly 300 industries and will create more than 100,000 jobs once it starts operating.

This was availed yesterday when Industry and Trade Minister, Dr Selemani Jafo, visited the area in Kibaha District, Coast Region to inspect the construction progress.

Dr Jafo was happy to see the great work being done and it is a great comfort that the completion of the construction of the industrial park will lead to many jobs for Tanzanian

Jafo said the government will make plans to ensure that the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) has its station in Kwala area to make it easier for the people who will be working in

Sino-Tan Industrial Park due to create at least 100,000 jobs

the park to travel to and from their Sino Tan Industrial Park said the park," he said.

He said that the area has already been provided with 10 Megawatts of electricity and the government is continuing efforts to ensure that the area is provided with enough electricity that will reach 50 Megawatts so that the factories that will be built can get reliable electricity.

"We want all the factories designated here to start working soon, so we will ensure that all the challenges of this area, including water and electricity problems, are solved immediately because the concrete level road has been completed up to here," said Jafo.

construction of the park started two years ago and that they have completed the first phase of construction involving 500 acres.

He said that the park has 2,500 acres and will be the largest industrial park in East and Central Africa, adding that the vision is to have more than 200 industries in the park.

"We thank the government of Tanzania for putting in place all the basic infrastructure including roads, and electricity, the government is giving us great cooperation in this construction and we are cooperating with the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) to find investors who Janson Huang, Chairman of will come to set up factories in this

He said that until now 10 industries have started investing in the area and that they continue to encourage many investors to come to Tanzania because the environment in the area is good.

He said they have been promoting the area in China and neighboring countries, and many investors have shown interest in investing in it.

The Industrial Park intends to build a chain of industries that will have the capacity to produce \$6 billion per year.

Completing the industrial park will cost \$320 million and is expected to create 100,000 direct jobs and 500,000 indirect jobs for natives who will work in those industries.

In-Country Grants Officer - Tanzania Location: Dar Es Salam, Tanzania Job Reference: GO/PD/TZ/07/2024



AGRA and its Work to Transform Agriculture

AGRA is an African-led institution that actively supports the drive towards inclusive agricultural transformation and sustainable food systems. We do this by empowering the continent's 33 million smallholder farming households to transform their agriculture from a struggle to survive to profitable businesses. The continent's farmers regularly face challenges, and we aspire to provide uniquely African solutions that respond to their agricultural and environmental challenges, leading to increased harvests for reduced hunger and more income.

Working in alignment with the development priorities of our focus countries, we enable farmers to access improved and high-yielding seeds, gain knowledge on sustainable farming, and linkages to profitable markets.

In our work, we aspire to build the alliances, partnerships, and networks required to drive an inclusive agricultural transformation. We work with our partners to create an equitable youth-friendly environment that harnesses the youth dividend on the continent to drive growth and facilitate open employment opportunities for young women and men. We achieve our key objectives through a focus on the following four areas of intervention:

- 1. Policy and state capability We support governments in creating an enabling environment for private sector involvement in agricultural transformation.
- Seed systems We trigger higher productivity by increasing the availability and access to improved seeds by farmers allowing them to increase their harvests for food security and better incomes.
- 3. Sustainable farming We support farmers in building resilient farming systems for sustained high yields through interventions such as mechanization and irrigation.
- Inclusive markets and trade We work to increase the linkages between farmers, and other market actors for a positive, sustained cycle of commercialization and reinvestment.

Why Join Us?

People are the heartbeat of our organization and remain the true drivers of our delivery, impact, and success.

We have cultivated a workplace that fuels Depth in Collaboration, Excellence in Execution, Constructive Engagements, and a spirit of being Increasingly Entrepreneurial; all underpinned by our cherished I-RISE Values (Integrity, Respect, Innovation, Stewardship and Equity)

We work with incredible people and partners who have roots in farming communities across the African continent combined with an inclusive, diverse, and talented workforce from over 25 nationalities. Our commitment to a call to action goes beyond ourselves as we arise to catalyze African Food Systems transformation and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

We are looking for people who are passionate about being part of a mission-driven team that is making a real difference on the continent; love to work on cutting edge Ag technologies; and able to grow their skills, expertise, and experience career growth, while enjoying very competitive compensation and benefits.

Are you ready to embark on this exciting transformative journey with us?

The Position

In-Country Grants Officer - Tanzania Job Reference: GO/PD/TZ/07/2024

The In-Country Grants Officer is responsible for working flexibly and collegially in offering support to the Country Director, grants and programs staff as well as in processing grants and maintaining a grants database.

S/he will oversee the grants monitoring and evaluation processes in the assigned Country, and efficiently manages the flow of grants as per donor rules and regulations and in compliance with AGRA's internal policies and processes and uses technology to achieve the set turnaround times.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- · Manage day to day project and grants management of grantees within their portfolio.
- · Creates and maintains a grant tracking database through the AGRA management information system (AMIS) and other tools to monitor the flow of project proposals from the time full grant documentation is received in the grants unit to the time a grant award is issued, and the first payment is made.
- · Identifies grantees requiring technical assistance and provides relevant training on AGRA grants compliance and reporting requirements.
- · Conduct pre-award due diligence for potential grantees including organization capacity assessments.
- Ensure adherence to donor compliance requirements by grantees during the life of the grant post grants issuance. Provide advice to the country leadership on grants compliance requirements.
- Provide grants portfolio performance reports to country leadership and provide corrective actions on parameters that include commitment budget uptake, disbursement, and burn-rate, closures, and implementation of audit recommendations etc.
- Collaborates with country leadership, and HQ regional grants officers in implementing systems, policies, and procedures related to grants administration in the designated country.
- Collaborates with the program staff to analyze, revise and formalize any necessary modifications and/or amendments to grants and contracts.
- Builds capability of the AGRA grantees within priority countries through providing trainings and technical backstopping on M&E systems and tools
- Advocates for compliance with donor and AGRA-specific regulations for grant making and all applicable delegation of authority policies, as they relate to signatory powers and thresholds.
- · Track grant-making pipeline, Request for Concept Note processing and Grants Agreement Letter issuance.
- Ensure complete and accurate expenditure support documentation is uploaded by grantees and AGRA to AMIS in compliance with MCF and other donors as appropriate. Organize grants charter reviews and compiles grant materials for Grants
- Committee review.
- Delivers training to grantees and other In-Country users of grants tools and

- e-platforms e.g. AMIS and maintains a log of problems and gathers information to contribute to continuous enhancement of the database.
- Conduct grantee monitoring and portfolio performance health checks.
- Prepare and conduct start-up orientation workshops for new awards and coordinate monthly / quarterly meetings with project staff to ensure grant contract clauses and all project-related requirements are complied with.

Key Qualifications and Experience required:

Essential

- o Bachelor's degree in a commercial domain or equivalent experience in a related field
- Desirable
- o Working knowledge of key donor agencies including MCF, USAID, The Rockefeller Foundation and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- o Fluency in English and French and experience in a grant making environment.
- o Computer proficiency in: Word, Excel, Outlook, Internet search skills, PowerPoint. o Ability to learn new applications quickly.

Technical Competencies

- o Database management
- o Training and Coaching o Negotiation
- o Evaluation

Behavioral Competencies

- o Ability to drive collaboration through inclusive and agile teaming, breaking siloes, sharing information celebrating joint successes.
- o Ability to execute excellently by delivering high-quality work at speed, committing to decisions and plans, and increasing accountability to deliver impact at scale.
- o Ability to be sincerely constructive in interactions with others by demonstrating trust, sincerity, and care, in recognition of our joint
- o Ability be increasingly entrepreneurial by breaking hierarchies, embracing learning and innovation to unlock the potential of diversity and ideas.

If you believe you are the right candidate for this position, kindly submit your application with a detailed CV (including your e-mail and telephone contacts) to recruit@agra.org. Please quote the job reference number in the subject line of the application e-mail.

Applications must be received on or before 24th July, 2024. Due to the large volumes of applications, we usually receive, we will only be able to contact those candidates who are shortlisted.

For more information on the AGRA, visit www.agra.org.

AGRA is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Cultivate culture of planting trees in all your areas, Tanzanians urged

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Khamis Hamza Khamis has asked Tanzanians to cultivate a culture of planting trees to save the environment.

Khamis made the call yesterday during a tree planting exercise organized by Mkuza Girls' Primary School in Kibaha district, Coast Region as part of the commemoration of the birthday of Vice President Dr Philip Mpango.

Khamis said that it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that they participate fully in the preservation and care of the environment, stressing that in terms of environmental care, the community should fully participate in the exercise of planting trees, especially fruit and shade trees, to unite the country and reduce environmental damage.

"I ask my brothers here that we remember the birth of the Vice President by doing a tree planting exercise, and the people to have a culture of planting trees as we celebrate our birthdays and other events," he said.

Khamis said that the government started the 'Soma na Mti' (Read with the Tree) campaign for primary, secondary and college students to increase the scope of tree planting and the result is to help deal with the effects of climate change.

He also appealed to Tanzanians to develop the use of clean energy for cooking and abandon the use of wood and charcoal which contribute to deforestation.

So far, the government has prepared a National Strategy for the Use of Clean Energy for Cooking which provides the direction for the country to move to the use of clean energy for cooking to ensure that 80 percent of Tanzanians use this energy by 2034.

Khamis also asked the citizens to take care of the water sources so that they bring benefits to the present and future generations.

Chediel Lwiza, assistant Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Eastern and Coastal Diocese (ELCT - ECD) said that the tree planting exercise is to complement the government's efforts to ensure that environmental conservation becomes sustainable.

Lwiza said that taking care of the environment is a sign of recognizing God's creation, so if man destroys the environment, he will be going against God's creation.



I ask my brothers here that we remember the birth of the Vice President by doing a tree planting exercise, and the people to have a culture of planting trees as we celebrate our birthdays and other events

Interpol holds 300 people in a global crackdown on W. African crime groups

By Special Correspondent

IN a global operation targeting West African organized crime groups across five continents, police arrested 300 people, seized \$3 million and blocked 720 bank accounts, Interpol said Tuesday.

Operation Jackal III, which ran from 10 April to 3 July in 21 countries, aimed to fight online financial fraud and the West African syndicates behind it, the agency said in a statement.

"The volume of financial fraud stemming from West Africa is alarming and increasing," said Isaac Oginni, director of Interpol's Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre. "This operation's results underscore the critical need for international law enforcement collaboration to combat these extensive criminal networks."

One of the targeted groups was Black Axe, one of the most prominent criminal networks in West Africa. Black Axe operates in cyber fraud, human trafficking, and drug smuggling, and is responsible for violent crimes both within Africa and globally, the agency added.

Black Axe used money mules to open bank accounts worldwide and is now under investigation in over 40 countries for related money laundering activities, the agency said. The suspects include citizens from Argentina, Colombia, Nigeria and Venezuela.

In Argentina, following a five-year investigation, the police cracked down on Black Axe and seized \$ 1.2 million in high-quality counterfeit banknotes, arrested 72 suspects and froze approximately 100 bank accounts.

Interpol, which has 196 member countries and celebrated its centennial last year, works to help national police forces communicate with each other and track suspects and criminals in fields like counterterrorism, financial crime, child pornography, cybercrime and organized crime.

The world's biggest if not best-funded police organization has been grappling with new challenges including a growing caseload of cybercrime and child sex abuse, and increasing divisions among its member

Interpol had a total budget of about 176 million euros (about \$188 million) last year, compared to more than 200 million euros at the European Union's police agency, Europol, and some \$11 billion at the FBI in the United States.



Mkalama district commissioner Moses Machali addresses residents of Mwangeza ward yesterday, part of the thrust being the challenges they commonly grapple with.

Zambia's free schools lead to surge in pupil numbers

A FREE education programme in Zambia has led to a huge increase in student enrollment. A lack of infrastructure, however, means that the quality of education remains low.

The Zambian government introduced free primary and secondary school education in 2021.

Three years later, an additional two million students are filling classrooms across the country.

positive step towards a brighter future for secondary stages.

young Zambians, a lack of simultaneous investment in infrastructure threatening educational quality.

Congested classrooms, a lack of teachers, and a shortage of desks or textbooks means that pupils are not reaching key educational targets set by the government, according to the UN's children agency, UNICEF.

While 87.9 percent of children are enrolled in primary school, net enrollment in secondary school is just 42.9 percent with a 67.5 percent While the initiative is widely seen as a transition rate from primary to

"Education is the best economic policy"

The overall increase in enrollment reflects a trend across sub-Saharan Africa, with more children in school than ever before, according to UNICEF.

The African Union in February launched its "Year of Education 2024" and called on governments across the continent to "accelerate progress towards achieving quality education for

A key focus for policymakers now should be ensuring that the quality of that education is improved, UNICEF has he says.

With over \$1bn already invested in Zambia's education sector since 2021, the country's government says it plans to build over 170 new schools and recruit 55,000 new teachers by 2026. So far, 37,000 teachers have already been

Despite the challenges, Education Minister Douglas Syakalima says that overcrowding is "a good problem", with education "the best economic policy."

"I'd rather let the children be in a congested classroom than in the street,"



Peter Stephen (R), acting Coast regional administrative secretary, holds talks with National Council of NGOs member Prisca Ngweshemi (L) who went to introduce herself at the regional commissioner's office at Kibaha yesterday. Looking on is regional community development officer Roseline Kimaro. P

LAGOS

THE United Arab Emirates has lifted a 21-month long visa ban on Nigerians.

Nigeria's information minister Mohammed Idris said Monday that the UAE's decision to lift the ban that has been in place since October 2022 came after "mutually beneficial negotiations" between both governments. He referred to "updated controls and conditions" that prospective Nigerian visitors to the UAE must abide by.

Instead, travellers will be required to submit documents proving their identity and showing travel history, among other things, to generate a verification number

UAE lifts 2022 visa ban on Nigerians that would then be used to apply for Air Peace fly thrice a week to Dubai, a visa. An exception is granted for

applicants 13 years or younger, according to a website of the Emirati government.

The UAE's ban was premised on a number of factors, including allegations of improper conduct and attempts to circumvent visa rules. The row escalated when the Nigerian government cut back Emirates Airlines's flights to Nigeria from 21 times a week to just once. It was supposedly in retaliation for the UAE's refusal to allow Nigerian airliner approving only one weekly flight.

Emirates suspended its flight operations to Nigeria late 2022, blaming an inability to repatriate tens of millions of dollar earnings away from the country. But on taking office in May 2023 Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu began meeting with authorities, including Emirati president Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to resolve the impasse.

The lifting of the ban this week was preceded by Emirates's announcement

in May that it would resume daily flights between Lagos and Dubai later this year in October.

"The Lagos-Dubai service has traditionally been popular with customers in Nigeria," Adnan Kazim, deputy president and chief commercial officer for Emirates said in May. A feature of the resumption of the service is that Emirates will offer "more than 300 tonnes" of weekly cargo capacity in its passenger aircrafts' lower deck in and out of Lagos.

The www.ippmedia.com

THURSDAY 18 JULY, 2024

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Steel, soda ash drives laudable, with market feasibility certified

HE National Development Corporation (NDC) is under instruction to quickly revive the integrated Liganga and Mchuchuma coal mine and iron ore project in Ludewa District, Njombe Region, so that it can start work and help the country earn foreign currency.

There is an equally explicit directive that the NDC proceed with the Engaruka soda ash project in Arusha Region by identifying people who need to be compensated for the project to start.

A recent session heard the respective minister cite the Engaruka project as similar to Liganga and Mchuchuma as a stalled strategic project.

While the minister recollected assertions about Mchuchuma and Liganga as not having changed since entering the issue landed in the National Assembly in 2010, many of us have memories taking the story further back in time.

That was nearly 30 years earlier - when the government was thinking of the basic industries development plan.

This plan did not take off and the projects found no takers starting in the mid-1990s when the changed financial sector environment and investment regulation ostensibly made it a usable project in that regard. Yet it did not work; and now the issue resurfaces - close to 30 years later.

In between there were plans like the Dangote Cement Co. being granted leave to install a power station to use coal to obtain electricity for the industry, while disputes arose with the NDC.

The Lake Natron soda ash project was in a sense the victim of pervasive environmental concern, mainly that it would severely disturb the

HE National Development natural environment for flamingos Corporation (NDC) inhabiting the area.

Such pressures have a way of blending with other issues and if the government turns a deaf ear to issues raised by global environmentalists it risks finding the doors closed for its other agenda. Such situations could well develop into a series.

That is why it is vital that more elaborate work be conducted for the directives to be implemented in a beneficial way instead of depending on statutory procedure.

The minister stressed the results expected, demanding that the NDC take care of the matter to ensure the project starts producing steel.

The NDC board is now tasked with presenting a roadmap "on how we are going to ensure that we get out of where we are". It would definitely be a good thing, on condition of respecting the basics.

As the recent public economic organisations working session had the participation of the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (Tantrade), that may be a good starting point for trade experts to provide a substantive view of the feasibility of the two projects.

They would presumably not have to start afresh as in routine consulting but only examine if previous consultancy results were still valid.

Dangote Cement wanted to produce electricity largely for its own industrial outlays. NDC or for that matter the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) would rather have preferred the firm to provide the cash to set up such facility, hand it to the state and use electricity to recover its costs - as the facility remained with and under NDC.

With such prerogatives, leading to what is known in bureaucratese as a win-win situation, there stood the risk of some projects stalling.

With some funds, volunteer medical teams could freely treat people often

N a matter of weeks, the public has witnessed various sorts of medical teams visiting several urban centres and administering free diagnosis and treatment.

It has not been just 'generalist' medical personnel but specialist teams capable of examining even the most acute and hidden ailments.

The latest example is a Chinese naval hospital ship now anchored at the Dar es Salaam Port and starting to provide free humanitarian medical service.

It is a five-day gesture of solidarity as Sino-Tanzanian cooperation attains 60 years, having started in earnest with the founding the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

Something can be noticed in the frequent medical teams visiting regions, including a recently completed initiative inspired by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, in like manner - a legal aid campaign.

Looking at the matter closely, it is evident that there are substantial amounts of unused energy in the likes of naval forces equipped with medical teams but without a combat situation anywhere to engage their capabilities.

Stretching the matter a little further, one needs plenty of such capacities not just in massive public institutions like the military but also out there in the streets - dotted by hordes of unemployed people.

Public authorities often speak of the many doctors and teachers or other professionals having all the relevant documents for useful employment positions but with the government lacking the revenues to hire even a portion of them.

By the time the government can offer employment to 10,000 doctors or teachers, nearly 40,000 more would already have graduated. It means that charity initiatives can

N a matter of weeks, the public from time to time use such energies while paid modest allowances and nothing more.

There is evidently need for arranging for occasions like this one - implemented as part of the commemoration of 60 years of Tanzania-China bilateral cooperation.

A cardinal building bloc here is engagement between the Tanzania People's Defence Forces and the Chinese People's Liberation Army cemented in the course of seeking friends out there in the wake of the Zanzibar Revolution and ardent

support from 'eastern bloc' countries.
Other countries have national days tied to big themes enveloping a message of actual empathy and solidarity with people around the world, and with a facilitating structure say in the Prime Minister's Office, various brief but useful interventions can be arranged.

Such events are equally helpful in helping to consolidate attitude bridges already in place but, as opportunities are still limited, there is a reluctance of being forthright in showing solidarity in times of need.

It is fine if members of the Chinese naval medical corps treat people freely but it is a different matter if a Chinese turns up as a small trader, or small miner somewhere, as then it is a matter of sharing out poverty or

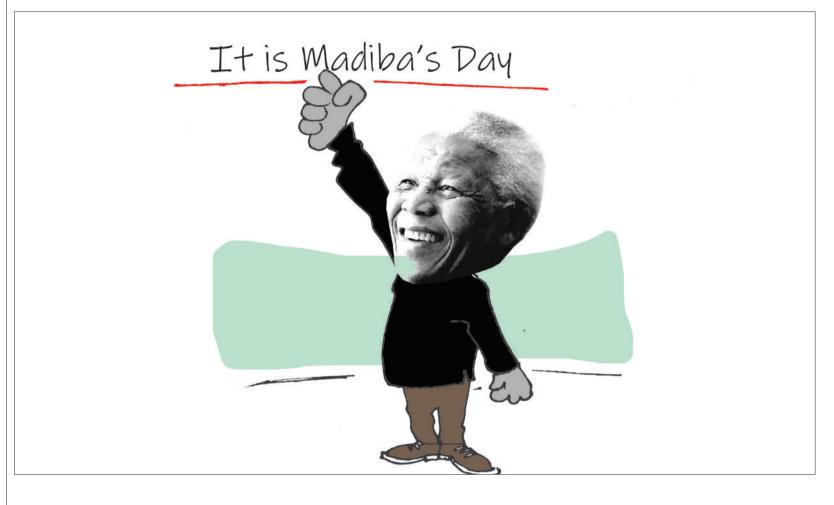
Were it that a Chinese buys a cluster of houses in a low-lying area say at 200m/- per house, and the family shares out 50m/- apiece to move elsewhere, this would help shift attitudes as their presence starts being seen as a boon rather than an additional blot.

While we have accepted this arrangement for the Diaspora, there are eager people in other lands who could make a difference in many people's lives, with cash beyond charity.

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Kanak ambition for independence is defiant following political turmoil in New Caledonia

NOUMEA, New Caledonia

T'S been 26 years since a peace agreement, the Noumea Accord, was signed following an outbreak of conflict in the 1980s between Kanak islanders and French armed forces in the French overseas territory of New Caledonia.

But the eruption of turbulent protests and unrest again two months ago has shown that the cleavage of indigenous political grievances with the French state remains deep in this group of islands located east of Australia in the southwest Pacific.

The centre of New Caledonia's capital, Noumea, a popular holiday destination in the Pacific Islands, is usually abuzz with tourists patronizing sidewalk cafes. But many of the streets, now patrolled by French police, are deserted and eerily quiet.

The protests, which began in mid-May, escalated to armed clashes between activists and French security forces, resulting in ten deaths. And the destruction of homes, public buildings and looting of shops and businesses has had a devastating impact on the small island society. The cost of the damage is estimated to be more than USD 1 billion; at least 7,000 people have lost jobs and incomes, and the territory's economy has suffered a major downturn.

The unrest has revealed the gaping fracture between France's determination to retain control of the territory and the indigenous Kanak islanders, who are riled at lack of progress toward their call for self-determination.

"We protested in the streets. We wanted to say to the French state, you must respect the Kanaks because France voted for the reforms without consent from us," Jacques (his name has been changed), a Kanak activist in Noumea, told IPS.

He was speaking of the adoption of electoral changes in New Caledonia by the French Parliament, which would have opened the electoral roll to tens of thousands of recent migrant settlers, the majority from Europe.

About 41 percent of New Caledonia's population is indigenous and many believe it would have led to the declining influence of their vote against rising numbers of Loyalists in future elections and referendums. The changing demographic balance between Kanaks and non-Kanaks is a longstanding grievance.

The uprising in the 1980s was



Kanak Pro-Independence supporters display the Kanak flag during a rally in the streets of Noumea prior to New Caledonia's first referendum on Independence in 2018. Credit: Catherine Wilson/IPS

driven by grievances about land dispossession, poverty, inequality, the absence of civil and political rights, and France's policy of promoting migration from France

to New Caledonia.
While French President
Emmanuel Macron suspended the
electoral reforms in mid-June, many
Pro-Independence supporters are

unappeased.

Jacques is among a group of Kanak activists who have set up a campaign site next to a main road on the outskirts of the capital. They are sitting around a table under a marquee, surrounded by flags and banners.

"We want our country to be decolonized, as it is written in the Noumea agreement. The French state is only interested in dominating the population here. If the French state stays here, we will have more violence," Jacques claims

The French government agreed in the 1998 Noumea Accord to grant New Caledonia more governing powers, recognition of Kanak culture and right to consultation, restrictions on the local electoral roll allowing only Kanaks and long-term residents to vote and the holding of referendums on its future political status.

But by 2021, three referendums had been held, all with majority outcomes, to remain part of France. There was a 43.33 percent vote for Independence in the first referendum in 2018, which increased to 46.74 percent in the second in 2020. But Kanaks, severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, boycotted the third referendum in 2021. The overwhelming Loyalist vote of 96.5 percent has never been accepted by Pro-Independence political parties, such as the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS).

"We firmly support the call by have a high school certificate FLNKS for the UN to declare the are indigenous, and the Kanak

result of the third referendum null and void due to the non-participation of the people of Kanaky. Voter turnout was below 50 percent of registered voters; hence, it cannot be taken as the legitimate wish of the silent majority," the sub-regional inter-governmental organization, the Melanesian Spearhead Group, stated in 2021.

Kanak separatists' determination to keep their aspirations alive, even though options for changing the political status quo through referendums have been exhausted, has led to an increasingly polarized political landscape. entrenched Loyalists believe that the French state should "take over the New Caledonian government because of all the political problems that we have," Catherine Ris, President of the University of New Caledonia in Noumea, told IPS. And, "on the Pro-Independence side, we do not hear the moderate people anymore."

The recent mobilization of the Field Action Coordinating Cell (CCAT) by the Pro-Independence Caledonian Union party was a sign of some Kanaks' belief that their demands are not being met through the political process. The core group of activists were a major force behind the recent protests and the Cell's leader, Christian Tein, is currently being held in a jail in France on charges related to the unrest. Similarly, the major presence of youths on the streets in May is evidence that a new generation has lost faith in the pace of social and political change.

"The younger people want the change now because in their lives they have experienced and seen a lot of hardship—the persecution of the Kanak people, the difficulties of getting a job," Jacques emphasized. An estimated 45 percent of people in New Caledonia who don't have a high school certificate are indigenous, and the Kanak

unemployment rate is reported to be as high as 38 percent.

Yet the representation of Kanaks in the territory's government and politics has steadily increased over the past two decades. The number of seats held by Pro-Independence politicians in New Caledonia's 54 seat Congress rose from 18 to 25 between 2004 and 2014, while Loyalists witnessed a decrease from 36 to 29 seats, reports Australia's Lowy Institute for International Policy.

In 2021, Louis Mapou, the first Kanak Pro-Independence President of the government, was elected. And, following the French national election this month, Emmanuel Tjibaou, a Kanak leader from the rural North Province, was voted in as one of New Caledonia's two members of the National Assembly in Paris.

In the wider region, New Caledonia's self-determination movement has the international support of other Pacific Island countries, especially those that have indigenous Melanesian populations, such as Papua New Guinea and Fiji, as well as Azerbaijan and Russia. And the French overseas territory has been on the United Nations' Decolonization List since 1986.

Yet there are New Caledonians who are concerned about the viability of a New Caledonian state. The territory relies heavily on France's fiscal support, which amounts to 20 percent of the local gross domestic product (GDP) and pays for public services, local economic development programs and civil service salaries.

"We have a good economy here," Marcieux, a Frenchman who has lived in New Caledonia for 30 years, told IPS in Noumea. "It is easy to speak of independence, but, in reality, it is very difficult. You need a way to make independence."

But, until the yawning political divisions laid bare by the events of May are addressed, it will be difficult for New Caledonia's leaders to present a united will to President Macron and the French Parliament located more than 16,000 kilometres away.

However, Tjibaou, the new member of the French National Assembly, is the focus of hope that meaningful dialogue can emerge from the recent conflict. He told local media soon after his election this month that "we all have to offer a framework for discussions to resume between the three partners, which are France, the FLNKS and the Loyalists... we have to capitalize

n tnis. **IPS UN Bureau Report**

speaking the same language it is easier to move together. Unity and collective effort produce tremendous impacts in a short period of time. For a developing country like Tanzania a quick pace of development is needed as most things need to be put into a proper manner.

Development must originate from people and it is their understanding that matters. What someone may hear depends on what they know as voices that do not convey a message to someone may mean disturbance. It is obvious that the government speaks frequently and that is its responsibility. The government gets into power through elections where there are a lot of promises made by candidates during political rallies.

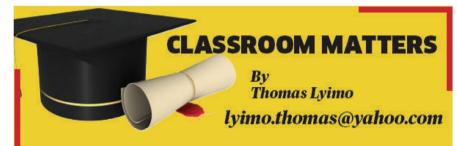
Sometimes government leaders get frustrated not because what they say is not important but because there is little response to sensitive messages. It is true that the government cannot put money into pockets of citizens but only creating good policies which can enable people to work and generate a good income for their development as well as the nation. Leaders should only consider putting into place good policies and plans and wait for the rest of the work to be done by the citizens.

For citizens to value good policies above financial resources understanding of the society is an important factor. People cannot do what they have not understood. Unnecessary resistance to policies put into place by the government may sometimes result from ignorance because in today's world, ignorance does not only mean inability to read and write. This can be evidenced when we see what was called primary education needs to be extended to what we held as lower secondary education.

Since the government has succeeded in a number of campaigns such as

Innovations: Need for the government to embark on nationwide reading campaign





those for vaccination, it can also succeed in sensitizing people on the importance of reading because books are everywhere as newspapers.

It is agreed that knowledge is power and that power is in books. Therefore there is a need for the government to empower her people as knowledge enables individuals to be self-reliant as they can

see opportunities and acquire greater control of themselves and their environment. If the government embarks on a massive countrywide reading program the following benefits will be experi-

One of the benefits of a reading campaign is stimulating creativity and innovation. Increased thinking capacity leads to creativity and innovation. It is reading that promotes thinking capacity. For someone to think and act in a different way they must have been exposed to different ideas which are found in books.

The government needs to sensitize people on the importance of reading. When individuals read they become creative and innovative, thus improving their productivity. When citizens are innovative enough to come up with their ideas, the burden of the government to assist individuals is reduced as they become self-reliant.

Another benefit of conducting a reading campaign is prevention of diseases. Among the sectors which consumes much of the national budget is the health sector. When individuals read on how to prevent some diseases it helps the government to save a substantial amount of money which would have been allocated for treatment cost. Such monies can be directed on execution of their development projects.

Development is attained when unnecessary expenditure is avoided. For instance there are societies in Tanzania which are hit by malnutrition due to poor eating and not due to lack of food containing nutrients. Situations like these necessitate the need to educate people and this can easily be achieved through massive a reading campaign in the country.

Having a reading campaign will promote economic growth. Through reading people will be enlightened on ways of saving and investing in different economic enterprises. Economic growth results from increased production which may enable the country to achieve the favorable balance of trade and eventually favorable balance of payment. People will get knowledge on areas to invest and availability of markets and even securing of loans. All of these insights promote the productivity of individuals and economic growth.

Again reading campaign helps to eradicate unnecessary conflicts and misunderstandings. There are people who get into conflicts because of poor beliefs. There are those parents who instead of taking their children to hospitals when they fall sick they take them to witch doctors. This results in deaths of innocent individuals.

People choose witch doctors instead of expertise medical treatment mostly over lack of knowledge. Apart from deaths, relatives accuse one another of involvement in causing some individuals illness. This situation endangers peace and harmony in the society. Therefore reading campaign will help to do away with this problem.

Reading is leading. To succeed in any venture one needs to see what is coming forth before others. The visionary ability to predict what is forth-coming depends on ability and willingness of someone to read. The secret of developed countries' advancement is hidden in knowledge which is in books. Reading is emancipation.

Kenya protests show citizens don't trust government with their tax money

By Eric Magale and Mario Schmidt

ACH year, the Kenyan government tables a finance bill outlining measures for funding the national budget. In the past, these bills have scarcely attracted public attention. This changed dramatically in 2023, with President William Ruto's first budget following his election victory the year before.

Ruto inherited an economy battling high food and fuel prices in addition to a heavy debt burden. His budget policy response, however, added to the crisis by doubling the tax on fuel, increasing income taxes and introducing a levy to fund his pet project of affordable housing. He justified higher taxes as a necessity imposed by high debt repayment costs.

Even though there was clear public outrage with the Finance Bill 2023, government-allied legislators used their majority in parliament to pass the bill with little debate. The new taxes set off the first popular tax protests mobilised by opposition parties. The demonstrations fizzled out but public debate continued with regular fuel price increases and more new levies proposed.

The Finance Bill 2024 prescribed yet more tax pain to fund the KShs 3.9 trillion (US\$30.5 billion) budget for 2024/25. Social media posts were quick to point out that a sizeable chunk of tax revenue was carved out for the luxury and comfort of a few government elites.

The tabling of the Finance Bill 2024 in parliament sparked one of the broadest protest actions in Kenya's history. President Ruto was forced to withdraw the bill, raising new questions as to how the budget would be funded and what compromises would be made.

The 2024 tax protests coincided with the conclusion of our research into the 2023 protests and the aftermath. Our ethnographic fieldwork, interviews and focus group discussions give us a way to see the context of this second wave of Kenyan tax protests. At the core of these protests is the idea of a fiscal social contract, that is, a "deal" in which citizens willingly pay taxes in return for government using these resources to provide services such as education and

In Kenya that contract has been breaking down gradually and culminated in the storming of the parliament and the killing of protesters. The gap between government and citizens has been widened too by



Police intervene with tear gas against antitax protestors marching on the Kenyan parliament in Nairobi in June 2023.

International Monetary Fund, who have been unwilling to renegotiate or even cancel the debt as demanded by some economists.

Finance Bill 2023

The most controversial of tax measures in 2023 were a mandatory housing levy and an 8% increase in value-added tax on fuel. The first appeared to many as yet another slush fund for corrupt politicians. The tax on fuel was expected to raise the price of commodities, thus increasing the costs of living for households with already meagre incomes.

The Kenya Revenue Authority then hired 1,400 assistants to enforce tax compliance. They aimed at small and medium enterprises, many of which operate informally and are therefore "invisible" to the tax authorities.

The revenue authority also introduced a system for businesses to generate and transmit electronic tax invoices. Previously, businesses would self-declare their monthly sales and purchases, which would allow some degree of misreporting. The new system aimed to plug any tax revenue

Our study examined ordinary Kenyans' understanding of taxes

external actors, particularly the and how they position taxes among other obligatory payments, such as money requested by family members, tithes, or bribes. We found that many likened taxes to bribes due to their obligatory and coercive nature. We also looked at how these understandings changed shortly after the enactment of the unpopular Finance Act 2023. We learned that some Kenyans had begun to find ways to avoid paying taxes, giving the high cost of living and waning public confidence in the political leadership as their reasons for doing so.

> workarounds Their ditching mobile money payments and filing nil returns - claiming to have no taxable income. Some employers, on the other hand, kept two payrolls, official and unofficial, to reduce their tax burden.

Such forms of "fiscal disobedience" laid the groundwork for the 2024

Finance Bill 2024

The 2024 finance bill contained some harsh tax proposals. Perhaps the most contentious was a 2.5% motor vehicle circulation tax, which implied that motorists generated income simply by being on the road.

Other controversial provisions included, a proposal to raise excise taxes on internet data and money transfers via telcos (M-Pesa and others) and banks from 15 percent to 20 percent, a 25 percent excise duty on edible (cooking) oils and a 16 percent value-added tax on bread, financial services and foreign exchange

Among the controversial allocations in the budget were billions of shillings for foreign travel, the president's advisors, confidential expenditure, renovations of the president's offices and the deputy president's residence, as well as motor vehicles. There were also separate allocations to the offices of the spouses of the president and deputy president.

For many Kenyans, this was "budgeted corruption" and at odds with Ruto's mantra of "living within our means". Kenyan taxpayers were also angered by corruption scandals and the public display of wealth by some politicians and public officers.

The bill also proposed extending the electronic tax invoice management system to farmers and small traders. Different stakeholders came out strongly to dissuade government from pushing forward with the bill,

noting the possible effects on local manufacturing, employment and the cost of living.

Making public participation work

The big question is how Kenya can renew the fiscal social contract and at the same time expand its democracy to allow greater public involvement in the tax policy decision-making. Kenyans used to silently agree on most taxation laws in the past. Those times are over.

Ruto's attempts to bring the youth into a dialogue on the way forward have so far failed on account of lost trust. There might be an opportunity to retrace the path back to Kenya's constitution, which seeks to damp down the excesses of government and protect taxpayers through public participation.

The results of our 2023 study, however, indicate that public participation tends to be a tick-box exercise just for show and to satisfy a legal requirement. We would like to highlight, instead, the need for a public participation law which sets out exactly what is expected from it and how to achieve it. It must be accompanied by goodwill and prudence on the part of government, monitored by vigilant taxpayers.

Whiteleg shrimp farms threatening Mexico's mangroves and the jaguars that inhabit them

By Sarah Brown

MONG the spindly saline roots of the mangrove trees that line western Mexico's coast, the jaguar is the ecosystem's apex predator. Yet despite being at the top of the food chain, its existence is threatened by the abundance of another, much smaller species: the whiteleg shrimp.

Aquaculture of whiteleg shrimp (Litopenaeus vannamei), or Pacific white shrimp, has boomed along Mexico's Pacific coast in the last couple of decades, in the process clearing swaths of mangrove forests and jeopardizing crucial habitats for jaguars (Panthera onca) in the western states of Sinaloa, Sonora and Nayarit.,

"With shrimp farms in Mexico, you see the destruction of the jaguars' habitat," Alfredo Quarto, co-founder of Mangroves Action Project, a conservation NGO, said. "But also of fish, crabs and other animals and birds. It's very important to have a highly biodiverse supportive habitat."

Habitat loss and poaching have shrunk jaguars' distribution across Mexico by 54 percent, with about 4,000 to 5,000 of the big cats left in the wild today. In Nayarit, a 2022 study of a nearly 6,300-hectare (15,500-acre) wildlife corridor considered important for jaguar conservation found mangrove coverage there decreased from 35 percent to 26 percent, while land used for agriculture and aquaculture rose from 38 percent to 50 percent over a 20-year period.

Amid the habitat loss, a small reserve in Nayarit offers a haven for jaguars. La Papalota was a 368-hectare (909-acre) farm that in 2008 became the first private area in Nayarit that was voluntarily dedicated for conservation under a federal government program. The reserve is covered in thick mangrove forests to the south, with a mosaic of tropical deciduous and secondary forests elsewhere.

The area is too small to provide an entire home region for jaguars, which need thousands of hectares to maintain a viable population, according to Victor Hugo Luja, a conservation biologist and researcher studying the jaguars in La Papalota. But it provides a refuge for at least six jaguars that frequently use the territory to feed, mate and raise their young. The reserve has also provided a haven for about 12 jaguar births, according to Ignacio Vallarta, the landowner.

It's an example of how small areas of protected land can act as a "stepping stone," an important link between larger high-priority conservation spots for jaguars, allowing the species to move safely between big reserves. La Papalota sits between Marismas Nacionales Biosphere Reserve, a 133,854-hectare (330,761-acre) protected area that's home to about 20 percent of Mexico's mangroves, and the mangroves of San Blas farther south. It lies squarely in the corridor that was the focus of the 2022 study.

There are eight such biological corridors in Mexico's northern Pacific region, and nationwide there are 581 reserves just like La Papalota, private land that's been voluntarily given over to conservation. According to Luja, this patchwork of ADVC areas, as they're known locally, spans a combined 1.14 million hectares (2.81 million acres) in 28 states, and are essential



A jaguar walks through the mangroves in the La Papalota reserve. Although the territory in the reserve is too small to sustain a jaguar population, it provides a refuge for them to rest, eat, and

for providing mobility for wildlife like jaguars and ensuring the viability of their populations.

"Nobody disturbs [La Papalota]," says Mauricio Cortes Hernandez, regional coordinator of Pronatura Noroeste, a conservation NGO working with mangroves and jaguars. "The owners of La Papalota protect the jaguar, they monitor it, and we support them with cameras. That makes the jaguar survive."

Yet outside the reserve, the remaining mangroves are under threat by encroaching urban development and shrimp farming, even in protected areas such as Marismas Nacionales Biosphere Reserve. Mangroves are legally protected in Mexico, but that hasn't stopped people from clearing them to set up shrimp ponds. Authorities frequently fail to take action, conservationists said.

"Every time we visit the study site, we see new farms, new houses, new roads, and those rates of change are difficult for the jaguar populations to resist," Luja said. "If the trend continues without taking action, I believe that in the space of 10 years, we could no longer have jaguar populations in the mangroves in Nayarit."

The growth of shrimp farming

Mexico is Latin America's secondlargest shrimp producer, trailing only Ecuador. In 2021, it produced more than 200,000 metric tons of shrimp, 80 percent of which was farmed; by 2023, this rose to more than 243,000 metric tons. Over the last 28 years, the total surface area of shrimp ponds along Mexico's Gulf of California increased by more than

1,100 percent between 1993 and 2021, to more than 114,000 hectares (282,000 acres), according to a 2023

"Shrimp farming is a rampant industry that's growing really rapidly," Quarto says. "The value of shrimp is so high that there's a competition between countries to get the most shrimp exported as possible. We have been fighting this industry for many years.'

The west coast of Mexico is key for shrimp farming, yet according to Luja, more than 40% of the shrimp farms don't comply with federal regulations. With 980 shrimp farms in Nayarit alone, that would make nearly 400 of them noncomplying.

"These farms are not sustainable," Quarto says. "They destroy the very environment that supports them."

Shrimp farming's surged over the past decade is linked to cartels. which use the farms for criminal activities such as money laundering, according to experts. This complicates regional conservation efforts and endangers environmentalists who face threats from criminal groups for opposing aquaculture expansion.

There's violence associated with shrimp farming industry, threats to people that protest," Quarto says. "Local people have little they can do about this threat. They often don't want to speak out for fear of their lives.'

Saving the jaguars Conservation efforts have largely focused on establishing parks, reserves and protected areas across Mexico. However, experts emphasize the importance of connecting these areas through biological corridors and safe havens, like La Papalota, to ensure the long-term survival of jaguars.

These corridors are increasingly threatened by urban expansion, deforestation and agricultural growth. Environmentalists propose strengthening the protection of these sites by offering landowners financial incentives to preserve biodiversity through payment for ecosystem services. Educating local communities, whose livelihoods are tied to these areas, also promotes coexistence between people and

"We work with communities to influence their practices," Luja says. This includes teaching farmers about livestock protection to prevent retaliatory killings, and creating conservation zones for jaguars while allowing sustainable resource extraction by local communities.

Nonprofits and conservation groups, such as Mangrove Action Project and Pronatura Noroeste, continue to advocate for the protection of Mexico's mangroves and jaguars, and to call for stricter regulations on the activities that threaten both. However, challenges persist, as disagreements between federal and state authorities on enforcement responsibilities complicate efforts to curb the expansion of shrimp farms.

"There is no coordination between different authority levels," Octavio Aburto Oropeza, a marine ecologist and professor at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in the U.S., tells Mongabay. "Municipality, state and federal authorities blame one another. This lack of coordination is one of the main things we need to solve."

Some environmentalists accuse political authorities of taking bribes from cartels to turn a blind eye to shrimp farming and its associated criminal activities, highlighting the challenges of tackling illegal aquaculture. Additionally, mangrove deforestation is often reported only after it occurs, giving authorities an easy out to claim ignorance of its occurrence, Aburto Oropeza says. To address this, researchers are developing a "mangrove threat index," which will predict mangrove loss risks in advance.

"It will be a game changer," Aburto Oropeza says. "If these mangroves disappear, we can hold the government accountable, because they knew it would happen and they didn't do anything."

They also put hope in Mexico's incoming environment minister, Alicia Bárcena, a biologist who takes office on Oct. 1 and has pledged to prioritize mangrove protection. Experts view her appointment as a promising step for mangrove conservation and, consequently, for the protection of jaguars and other species that depend on these ecosystems.

"Jaguars are very adaptable and resilient," Luja says. "The only thing we need is to give them the space to continue carrying out their activi-

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME

05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM

09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA

13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO

16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA

18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME

20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI

14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101

18:00-18:10HRS HABARI

21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS

TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME

05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM

09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA

13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO

16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA

18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME

14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101

18:00-18:10HRS HABARI

21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS

22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI

MCHAGANGANYIKO)

WEDNESDAY 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 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS

22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI

THURSDAY 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

21:00-23:00HRS

22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI

FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME

05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 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

SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME

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)

SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME

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

18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI

01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI

22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

MCHAGANGANYIKO)

18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS

MALUMBANO YA HOJA

22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO 👩

Guardian

Ethiopia eyes value addition to harness coffee potential

ADDIS ABABA

IN a bustling coffee processing plant filled with the aroma of topnotch Arabica coffee in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, a group of women were busy sorting out defective green coffee beans to ensure that only the finest-quality beans move on to the roasting and packaging stages.

One of these dedicated women can sort defects from up to 150 kg of raw coffee beans each day at the Hadero coffee processing plant. The sorted green coffee beans would then pass through the inspections, roasting, grinding, and packaging stages before they are ready for buyers on the shelves of supermarkets and coffee shops in Ethiopia and

around the world. Named after a small coffee-producing town in southern Ethiopia, Hadero is among the rapidly growing list of coffee processing businesses in Ethiopia that are specialized in coffee sector value addition, as part of a broader push to transform the country's coffee industry.

"We are a home-grown company, and we aspire to increase Ethiopia's earnings from the export of coffee through value addition and proper marketing," said Mubarek Ahmed, the company's director of business development.

Ethiopia stands as Africa's largest producer of Arabica coffee, with coffee production serving as a linchpin of the country's agriculture-led economy. There are about 5 million smallholder coffee growers in Ethiopia, and more than 25 million people in the country are involved in coffee production, processing, and sales for their livelihoods, according to official figures.

During the just-concluded Ethiopian 2023/2024 fiscal year that ended on July 7, the country earned 1.43 billion US dollars in revenue

from the export of 298,500 metric addition efforts. tons of coffee, an increase of about 20 percent in volume compared to the previous fiscal year, according to the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA).

For comparison, coffee's export revenue normally constitutes more than one-third of the country's entire export revenue, which stands around 4 billion U.S. dollars annu-

Ethiopia, which is known as the origin of Arabica coffee, is recognized worldwide for its rich coffee quality, variety of flavours, and aroma, making the country's coffee in great demand across the globe.

The Ethiopian government and experts, however, often cite the lack of value addition in Ethiopia's coffee sector as a major bottleneck that prevents the country from fully benefiting from its rich coffee resources, as it mainly exports raw coffee beans to the international market.

Amir Hamza, chairperson of the African Fine Coffees Association, said Ethiopia and other coffee-producing African countries need to concentrate on value addition and apply better marketing strategies to boost their earnings from coffee exports.

"Africa has the best coffees, but they are not marketed as they should be. After the green beans are exported from Africa, they will be blended and roasted by companies outside the continent, particularly in Europe and the United States, and then they will be sold in the Middle and Far East as coffee products from other origins," said

Amid the urgent need to transform the coffee sector and boost the country's earnings from its coffee resources, Ethiopia has introduced initiatives aimed at promoting private sector engagement in value-

"Ethiopia has been exporting green coffee beans for many years. We have to add value to it, as the price for value-added coffee is much higher than for green coffee. This will contribute more to the Ethiopian economy," Ahmed said.

He said that as a value-addition company, Hadero is continuously trying to expand the export of its processed coffee by improving the standard of its products. "We are sourcing the best green beans from the market. Our packaging, which we import from China, is also unique and helps keep our products fresh and of very good quality."

ETHIOPIAN COFFEE GAINING FOOTHOLD, POPULARITY IN CHI-

Ethiopian coffee is recently gaining a foothold in the rapidly-expanding Chinese market, registering an annual growth of 27 percent over the past few years, as more and younger people develop a habit of drinking coffee in a country that is dominated by tea culture.

Over the past two years, China has been importing up to 20,000 metric tons of Ethiopian coffee annually, making it the eighth-largest importer of Ethiopian coffee, up from 33rd place just a few years ago, according to latest data from the ECTA.

Adugna Debela, director-general of the ECTA, in a recent interview with Xinhua, attributed the surge in Ethiopia's coffee exports to China to a significant increase in Chinese coffee buyers who import coffee directly from Ethiopia.

Chinese platforms, such as the China International Import Expo and various e-commerce platforms, serve as effective gateways for overseas brands to enter China, providing opportunities that are harnessed by Ethiopian coffee exporters like Hadero.



ZAMBIA CARGO & LOGISTICS LIMITED

Plot No. 237, Kurasini Area Near Dock Yard P.O Box 105638, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania **Mukuba Depot**

Phone: +255 22 2851471/4 Mobile: 0715 022200 Email: info@zamcargo.co.tz

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: 18th July 2024

TENDER NO. ZCL/IFB/HR/2024 FOR PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SCHEME SERVICE FOR ZAMBIA CARGO AND LOGISTICS LIMITED.

- 1. Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited (ZCL) is a freight and forwarding service provider established in April 2001. The Company was incorporated in Tanzania on 10th August 2005 and is wholly owned by the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) and is supervised on behalf of the Zambian government by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) based in Lusaka.
- 2. Zambia Cargo and Logistics Limited has set aside funds for its Operations in the Financial year 2024 and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Provision of Consultancy services for the development of a scheme service for Zambia Cargo and Logistics Limited, same as the one indicated in the bidding Data Sheet. Bidding is on Open Bidding Method Procedures as stipulated in The Zambia Public Procurement Act No. 8 of 2020 and the Public Procurement Regulations of 2022.
- 3. The primary role of the Consultant is reviewing, assessing and recommending the best scheme of service for Zambia Cargo and Logistics Limited.
- 4. Interested bidders are required to purchase a complete set of Bidding Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TZ50,000/= to ECOBANK, ACCOUNT NUMBER; 7045000597, NAME; ZAMBIA CARGO AND LOGISTICS LTD and submit bank slip to ZCL Cashiers Officer who will then issue a ZCL receipt for collection of bid documents from Procurement Unit.
- 5. Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited now wishes to invite all interested bidders to visit Zambia Cargo & Logistics offices from 18th July, 2024 and 23rd July, 2024 in order to collect bid documents.

Secretary, **Procurement Committee,** Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited.



A Member of the IDC Group of Companies

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF ZANZffiar 192 TUNGUU ROAD, P.O.Box 146 Tel:+255773333167 72214 Kati, Zanzibar- Tanzania E-mail: vc@suza.ac.tz



CHUO KIKUU CHA TAIFA CHA ZANZffiAR 192 BARABARA YA TUNGUU, Simu: +255773333167 72214 Kati, Zanzibar-Tanzania E-mail: vc@suza.ac.tz Web site: www.suza.ac.tz

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

COUNTRY: TANZANIA

NAME OF PROJECT: EXPANSION OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF ZANZIBAR PROJECT

: UYII Loan No

ASSIGNMENT TITLE: PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DESIG

NAND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF FACILITIES AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF ZANZIBAR MAIN CAMPUS, TUNGUU

Reference No: SUZA/BADEA/CS.I/2023/24

The Government of United Republic of Tanzania represented by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar under the State University of Zanzibar has received a loan from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) towards the cost of THE EXPANSION OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF ZANZIBAR PROJECT, and intends to apply the proceeds of this loan to finance the proposed construction of the following facilities at the State University of Zanzibar, Tunguu main campus:-

- New Administration block
- Students' centre
- Education and Language block
- Staff Quarters
- Sports facilities

1. The eligible Consultant should be Arab, African or Arab-African Firms.

The general assignment shall comprise consulting services in ArchitecturaL Engineering and Quantity Survey disciplines. The works involved is mainly designing and supervision of construction of facilities proposed for the project.

The consultant shall review the Master Plan, ESIA report and related documents. Thereafter design, produce Bills of Quantities, Specifications, Schedule of works and Tender documents.

Carry out supervision of construction works from the beginning (site handover) to completion of the works (practical completion) and finally to the end of defect liability period (completion).

Implementation period for Designing Phase is Four (4) Months, the construction phase is Eighteen (18) months, and the defect liability period is I'welve (12) months from the date of contract signing.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following websites: www.suza.ac.tz, www.badea.orq or upon request to the following email address pmu@suza.ac.tz

The State University of Zanzibar now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- A. Be in construction activities as consultant as his Core Business and must be in that business for at least 10 years
- Relevant similar experience, which should specifically include the following
 - i. Experience of at least five (5) similar assignments in the past 10 years Information to be provided should include name of assignments, names and full contact addresses of the clients, contract value of consultancy (in equivalent US dollars) and period (dates) of execution of assignments.
 - ii. Demonstration of experience of work in similar conditions.
- C. Technical and managerial capability of the firm

The Consultant must provide the structure of the organization, general qualifications, and number of Key staff. (Do not provide CV of the Key staff.

NB. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage

The consulting firm should be registered by recognized professional boards and authorities recognized internationally and upon commencement of the project the consultant must be registered by recognized professional boards and authorities in Zanzibar-Tanzania.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a Joint Venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a Joint Venture, all the partners in the Joint Venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours (08:00 to 16:00 hours).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) on or before by 19th August 2024.

TRANGLED DUILDING, Room no. TRO 5 PDMU Office The State University of Zanzibar 192 Tunguu Road, P.O.Box 146 Tel: +255 784 601 916 72214 Kati, Zanzibar - Tanzania E-mail: vc@suza.ac.tz, pmu@suza.ac.tz Web site: www.suza.ac.tz

> Dr. HASHIM H. CHANDE FOR VICE CHANCELOR, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF ZANZIBAR

Guardian www.ppmsda.com

FEATURE

PEACE AND SECURITY

ECOWAS at age 49: Successes in regional integration, despite emerging challenges

HE Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was founded in 1975 to promote economic integration in the region. Forty-nine years later, the regional bloc boasts significant successes in integration, peace and security and good governance, but also faces some challenges. ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Ambassador Abdel-Fatau Musah, participated in a high-level event at the UN headquarters in New York in June 2024, focusing on regional unity, peace and security in West Africa. In an interview with Kingsley Ighobor following the event, Ambassador Musah, speaking on behalf of ECOWAS, highlighted the organization's achievements and challenges, as well as ongoing efforts to strengthen integration. These are excerpts from the interview.

ECOWAS was founded on 28 May 1975. What are its achievements so far?

The achievements of ECOWAS over the last 49 years can be encapsulated in one key point: we have transitioned from creating an organization to building a community.

ECOWAS was created at the very height of the Cold War. The only possible area for people to come together and find common ground was economic integration, not political or ideological.

The protocol on the free movement of persons, goods and services (1976) permits citizens the right of abode in any member state and has been an ECOWAS calling card over the years. It is a major achievement that people in West Africa do not have to think about a visa when they cross borders within the re-

There was a lot of turmoil in Africa post-Cold War; without ECOWAS the whole region could have been engulfed in fratricidal wars. If you remember, a war started in Liberia towards the end of 1989 and continued throughout the 1990s, spreading to Sierra Leone and affecting Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

There is a lot the region can be proud of the fact that ECOWAS is now a trademark, a pioneer in regional integration on the conti-

ECOWAS intervened through its multilateral armed forces, the Economic Community of West African States Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), which stabilized the situation and eventually provided a soft landing for the United Nations peacekeepers who came in subsequently.

On economic integration?

On economic integration, we can talk about many achievements. It is not just about the free movement of persons; it is also about creating a common market for the region. It is about helping countries develop infrastructure-energy, internet connectivity, and building road networks across the region. This is ongoing. However, learning from the sad events of the 1990s characterized by civil wars and the implosion of States, ECOWAS had no choice but to pivot to security matters and good governance.

Today, the values of democracy and human



Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Abuja, Nigeria, July 7, 2024.

rights are very much embedded in West African culture, and ECOWAS is part and parcel of that process. West Africa is the only region in Africa that does not have an open, high-intensity conflict, despite the activities of Violent Extremist Groups.

There is a lot the region can be proud of-the fact that ECOWAS is now a trademark, a pioneer in regional integration on the continent. It provided a lot of the basis for the African Union's frameworks.

ECOWAS morphed from an ecoand political union. Is this correct?

Yes, it is. Some ECOWAS members have indicated their intention to pull out of the group. Are there efforts to ensure

they remain? ECOWAS is a community. We have solidarity. We may have challenges or differences, but pulling out is not the answer. The countries intending to pull out talk about their Pan-African ambitions and other things, but the basis of Pan-Africanism is integration. Given that disintegration will not promote Pan-Africanism, we are doing everything we can to have them remain in the fold.

However, it is important to note

that a country cannot just decide one day to withdraw from ECOWAS. There are procedures to follow, by Article 91 of the ECOWAS Treaty.

Several diplomatic engagements are going on behind the scenes to reunite the ECOWAS bloc.

What gives you hope these efforts will succeed?

What gives us hope is that ECO-WAS held its extraordinary summit in February 2024 and lifted the severe sanctions against Niger, and we further encouraged them to return nomic bloc into both an economic to the Community. We hope they understand that the advantages of being together far outweigh the disadvantages.

> Talking about advantages, what further incentives do you provide these countries to encourage them to maintain their membership?

I spoke earlier about ECOWAS' free movement of people, goods and services. About 10 million citizens of these countries are spread across the region. As we speak, 4.5 million Burkinabe citizens live in Côte d'Ivoire alone. If they withdraw from ECO-WAS, the status of their citizens will change dramatically. They will have to regularize their stay, and those who cannot regularize will need to return to their countries.

We talk about trade liberalization. Intra-African trade is just about 15 percent. Within the ECOWAS region, exports from these three countries to other parts of West Africa do not go beyond 17 percent. What ECOWAS gets from them is meat products, vegetables and so on. Whereas they get energy and many manufactured goods from the other countries with virtually no tariffs attached.

The values of democracy and human rights are very much embedded in West African culture, and ECOWAS is part and parcel of that process.

Do not forget the three countries are landlocked. They will need outlets to the sea, which is being provided today under very favourable conditions within the framework of regional integration. If they pull out, they will have to find alternative outlets or pay higher freight charges and tariffs. It will take a lot of time and resources

We are also about community solidarity, which is something people take for granted. In fact, the three countries together consume more than 52 percent of the ECOWAS strategic food reserves, which is about 15,000 tonnes of food. Landlocked countries or those ravaged by cyclical droughts need such support.

Finally, the most effective way of combating violent extremism is by sharing intelligence and cross-border military cooperation. If they separate from us, how do they effectively fight violent extremists? We need them back in the family and I hope they rescind their decision.

Could their withdrawal have reputational consequences for ECOWAS?

A withdrawal will neither be good for them nor for ECOWAS because in international diplomacy today, strength lies in numbers. If we remain 15 member states, our influence in international diplomacy is greater. If they leave, ECOWAS will be weakened. This is something we must consider.

Remember that ECOWAS is an organization of solidarity. If you are seeking positions in international organizations like the UN and others, ECOWAS comes together and backs a candidate. For the sake of solidarity, we will back those who are within the

So diplomatically speaking, security-wise, politically, it is bad for both sides. But on balance, it is very much not in their favour.

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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 ZANGU
21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF
21.03 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24
HRS)
22.15 HRS NEWS BRIEF
23.03 HRS RAFIKI I
01:00 - 05:00 MUZIKI
MCHANGANYIKO

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One 🧿











THE DIFFERENCE **BETWEEN ISLAM-IC BANKING AND CONVENTIONAL BANKING**

Page 14

Thursday 18 July 2024

Banks record 1.69trn/- net deposits by March 2024

By Guardian Reporter

s deposits continue to account for the largest share of their assets for lending businesses, banks recorded a net deposit of 1.69trn/- during the end of March this year, a decrease of more than 50 percent compared to 3.42trn/- recorded during the end of March 2023.

This trend caused by the higher increase of loans issuance than the increase of deposits.

Provisional data by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) show that the stock of banks deposits increased by 3.4trn/- to 31.42trn/during the end of March from 27.99trn/- recorded at the end of March last year against an increase of loans by 5.16trn/- to 29.7trn/- from 24.5trn/- respectively.

The sharp increase of lending resulted from improved business environment, which has caused increased demands for new loans by various sectors of the economy.

Bankers say the increased banking assets quality, specifi-

cally the rate of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) has also decreased below regulatory benchmark of five percent, which has increased the banks trust to lend more to the market.

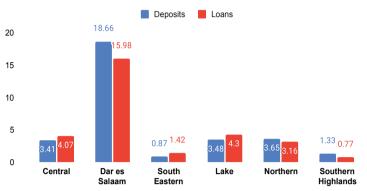
"Demand for credit is expected to remain high, attributable to the improving business environment and supportive policies, public investment in infrastructure, and normalization of the global economy," BoT said in its monetary policy report for April.

This is also fueled by further decline of overall lending rates, as the central bank reported that rates are expected to continue moderating owing to measures geared towards addressing the structural impediments in the market coupled with low and stable inflation.

However, the report shows Dar es Salaam northern and southern highland zones of Tanzania recorded positive stock of net deposits, while the remaining zones including Lake and Central recorded a negative net deposits stocks.

The Dar es Salaam Zone,

ZONAL BANKS' STOCKS OF DEPOSITS/LOANS AS AT MARCH 2024 IN **TRILLION SHILLINGS**



Source: Bank of Tanzania

which accounts for 53 percent of total stock of loans and 59 percent of total stock of deposit, recorded a net stock of deposit amounting to 2.7trn/-, as the stock of deposits amounted to 18.6trn/- against loans amounting to 15.9trn/- at the end of March this year.

However, the amount was lower than the net deposit amounting to 3trn/- recorded at the end of March last year and a net deposit of 4.2trn/recorded at the end of December

recorded net deposit was Southern Highlands which the stock of deposit amounted to 1.33trn/- at the end of March this year, against the stock of loans amounting to 0.77trn/-.

provisional date, the second zone to

The Northern zone of Tanzania also recorded net banks deposits of nearly 500bn/- during the period, as the stock of deposits at the end of March this year amounted to 3.65trn/- against the stock of loans amounting to 3.16trn/-.

The report shows Lake and cen-According to the central bank's tral zone of Tanzania mainland agriculture and manufacturing ac-

recorded a deficit in deposits after the loans issued being less than the amount of mobilized deposits.

In the central zone of Tanzania, which accounts for 10.9 percent of total deposits and 13.7 percent share of total loans; the stock of deposits at the end of March this year amounted to 3.11trn/- but the stock of loans were 4.07trn/-.

The report shows the stock of deposits in Lake Zone amounted to 3.48trn/- while the stock of loans amounted to 4.30trn/- at the end of March this year.

In its monetary policy report for July this year, the Monetary Policy Committee of BoT said the banking sector was liquid, profitable, and adequately capitalized, recording growth in deposits and assets.

The increase in assets was in tandem with deposits, enabled by the agent-banking model, proliferation of financial products, and digital banking services.

At the end of May, the report shows total loans, advances and overdraft amounted to 33.9trn/while the total deposits of 40trn/-. About 68.3 percent of banks' loans were extended to personal, trade,

The expansion of loans was attributable to the improved business

Liquidity in banks was adequate and enough for loan provision, with the ratio of liquid assets to demand liabilities, as well as to total assets hovering above the regulatory requirements.

Asset quality continued to improve, as reflected by the decline in non-performing loans to gross loans (NPL ratio) ratio to 4.4 percent in May 2024 from 5.5 percent in 2023.

"This trend is expected to continue as the economy recovers from the global shocks and banks implement measures to improve the quality of assets," BoT said in its policy report.

According to the report by Fitch Solutions, after slowing from 24 percent y-o-y at end-2022 to 21.6 percent in June 2023, loan growth by Tanzanian banking sector will continue to soften to 18.0 percent at the end of 2024.

Fitch Solutions also expects 20 percent growth of banks deposits this year from 23 percent last year due to slowdown in the shilling de-



African banking stress test flags systemic risks posed by nature loss

JOHANNESBURG

A stress test of five of Africa's banking systems has found some lenders in the region could face collapse if nature loss slashes the profits of agriculture and forestry firms they have lent to.

The analysis in Zambia, Ghana, Rwanda, Morocco and Mauritius showed that firms in certain sectors could see profits as much as halve over the next two decades if impacts like deforestation and the loss of pollinators like bees continue to

"Africa is reliant on nature...if we don't co-ordinate in terms of how we are handling the risks that are coming from nature, from climate change, we could start seeing some systemic risks and contagion effects on the financial sector in Africa," said Oswald Mungule, a senior analyst at Bank of Zambia who was involved in the study.

The warning comes ahead of the UN's Cop16 biodiversity conference in Colombia in October where world leaders are under growing pressure to prevent further destruction of key ecosystems.

Expanding on an initial analysis done in 2022, the new stress test - is the first since a global deal struck at Cop15 in Toronto that year to look at how economically destabilising biodiversity loss could be.

The World Economic Forum estimates that nearly two-thirds of Africa's economic output is either highly or moderately dependent on

the natural environment.

The stress tests, co-ordinated by the African Natural Capital Alliance (ANCA) alongside British development agency FSD Africa and consulting firm McKinsey, showed the agriculture, mining and food sectors faced the most acute chal-

If little is done over the next 25 years, Ghana's agriculture firms and Zambia's mining firms are expected to suffer a 50 percent and 32 percent drop respectively in their profits, creating negative feedback loops for banks.

"The cumulative expected credit losses (across the five countries) could increase by up to 21% by 2050 if no nature positive actions are taken," Dorothy Maseke head of ANCA and FSD Africa Nature Lead said. "It paints a very dire picture." Problems ahead

Zambian central bank official Mungule explained that another big issue was the risk of food shortages, which history shows drive up both inflation and interest rates.

A severe drought in Zambia over the past year has led to a surge in food prices, which represent over 50 percent of the country's CPI bas-

Coming on top of a national debt crisis only now being resolved, it means almost 14% of the loans that Zambia's commercial banks have lent to agriculture and forestry firms are now "non-performing", a number that is likely to rise.

Agriculture traditionally contrib-

utes less than 4 percent of Zambia's GDP according to IMF data, but the mining sector, which the study warned could suffer a more than 30 percent drop in profits over the next couple of decades, has a much bigger 17.5 percent share.

To try and limit these problems, Zambia's central bank is pushing for fewer loans to be given to mining firms and more to those with greener, more nature-friendly activities.

The central bank wants to also conduct regular climate-stress tests on the banking system and is applying to join the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), Mungule added.

Maseke said ANCA now has 'memorandums of understanding' with four African countries, including Zambia, to help with policymaking, and aims to be supporting eight in total by the end of the year.

Stress test results for individual banks were not disclosed but they assessed three main scenarios: one assuming no additional action to address nature and climate risks; a second where governments toughen rules but companies are slow to act; and a third where they take coordinated action together.

If companies are able to reduce their impact on nature and adjust prices in response to the costs they face, the hit to profits could be between 78 percent and 27 percent lower, the study showed.

AfDB sovereign portfolio retains top spot in 2024

By Guardian Reporter

Publish What You Fund, the global campaign for aid and development transparency, has once again named the African Developthe most transparent.

The portfolio emerged first out of 50 global development institutions with a top score of 98.8 in its 2024 Aid Transparency Index released today.

The Bank's sovereign portfolio climbed four places in the ranking in 2022 to top the Index, setting the standard for high-quality data publication. For a second time running, the result highlights the Bank's continued effort and prioritization of good quality data publication.

The Aid Transparency Index has tracked the transparency of the largest international aid organisations over the last 12 years.

The 2024 Index assesses six sovereign (public sector) portfolios and six non-sovereign (private sector) portfolios of development finance institutions (DFIs).

The sovereign portfolios of development finance institutions occupy three of the top five positions in the ranking with the African Development Bank coming first, the InterAmerican Development Bank second and World Bank International Development Association

"I am delighted by this recognition from Publish What You Fund. It is a testament once again to the commitment of the Bank's Board, management, and staff to continuously improve the disclosure of aid flows by providing consistent, high-quality, and easily accessible data," said Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank.

"This achievement is especially significant given the new, more rigorous assessment standards and transparency requirements for development financial institutions. The rating of our sovereign portfolio as the most transparent development organization in the world for the second consecutive time, is simply extraordinary. I commend Publish What You Fund for the vital and much needed work it does, a portal which helps stakeholders in making aid and development efforts more transparent and effective," Adesina said.

Topping the 2024 Index, the African Development Bank's Sovereign ment Bank's sovereign portfolio as Portfolio demonstrated its commitment to publishing very good, high-quality data about its activities, the report noted.

It used as an example data published about the Zambia - Lusaka Sanitation Program - Climate Resilient Sustainable Infrastructure Project.

The report commended the Bank for detailed publication of project objectives, impact appraisal documents, environmental studies and evaluation reports - a total of over 29 documents in both French and English.

"We congratulate the African Development Bank as it continues to lead the Aid Transparency Index with its sovereign portfolio. This is the result of a persistent focus on transparency, meaningful involvement with the Aid Transparency Index process, and pro-active engagement with the IATI community," said Publish What You Fund's **CEO Gary Forster.**

"AfDB has demonstrated that progress can be made swiftly and effectively by adhering to best practices and ensuring the availability of information. The AfDB's desire to provide useful and timely data doesn't end with what we measure in the Index, we're also impressed by their investment in Map Africa -

locate and learn about individual projects," said Forster.

Alex Tilley, who researched and authored the report, said: "It's important to explain why now, aid transparency is more important than ever. Not least because we're facing global challenges which need a coordinated response between donors. But also because we're seeing aid and development data increasingly used for decision making by policy makers and those looking for influence policy. As such if a donor is not transparent their role and impact will be misunderstood at best, or invisible at worst."

This year's Index focuses on the prominence of development finance institutions as vehicles for international aid.

"The ongoing Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) reform agenda promises to increase resources. allow higher risk investments, streamline business processes and improve coordination between banks. In most cases the growth of the banks will be from greater borrowing on the capital markets rather than use of aid money," the report said.

The African Development Bank's non-sovereign portfolio was assessed for the second time and separately in the 2024 Index.

It is non-sovereign portfolio ranked 13th among the 50 global development institutions under



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ISLAMIC BANKING AND CONVENTIONAL BANKING

By Kelvin Mkwawa

here are different banking systems in the world but the most famous and common one is conventional banking. The main function of a conventional bank is to borrow and to lend. They borrow in the form of deposits and lend this money to earn interest.

There is another form of banking system known as Islamic Banking. Islamic banking is an alternative to conventional banking that is available to anyone who seeks a different approach to banking services.

Islamic banking is not only for members of the Muslim community but for anyone who wishes to operate his/her banking services in line with Islamic (Shariah) laws. Islamic banking is considered an ethical banking system where a customer (individual or corporate) isn't just a customer but is a partner with the bank. Although Islamic and con-

ventional banking systems have many similar products, the two differ conceptually. Banks in the conventional banking system earn their money by charging interest and fees for their services while banks in the Islamic banking system earn their money by profit and loss sharing. To say that Islamic banks are different from conventional banks because the former don't charge interest is accurate, but it's only the tip of the iceberg.

Islamic banking is unique in the way that it helps individuals and businesses build tangible assets and also encourages the spirit of entrepreneurship amongst its customers.

In addition, Islamic banks cater to the public interest first; their primary objective is to ensure halal (lawful) economic growth whereas conventional banks focus solely on making a profit and the interest of the bank comes first. Below I share some of the differences between Islamic banking and conventional



banking:

Sharing Loss - In conventional banking, interest is charged even when the bank suffers losses hence there is no concept of sharing loss. Meanwhile, in Islamic

banking, the loss is shared when the organization suffers loss. Additionally, in conventional banking, when a corporate loan goes bad it is written off and categorized as a non-performing loan, while in Islamic banking, the management of that company can be taken over by the bank and the bank will appoint a new management team to manage the business. In addition, in Islamic banking, they have no provision for charging any extra money from defaulters while in conventional banking, there is an additional charge (penalty and compound interest) in case of defaulters.

Assets Principle -One of the main functions of a bank is to lend. These two banking systems have a fundamental difference in lending. In Islamic banking, the bank (creditor) should not take advantage of the borrower. According to the Islamic principle, when money is lent out on the basis of interest, more often it leads to some kind of injustice hence there are no interest charges on loans issued to customers. On the other hand, conventional banking considers interest to be the price of credit hence charging interest on loans is a normal business practice. Liability Principle - Another

main function of a bank is to take deposits from the general public (consumers) and offer investment facilities to its clients. In the conventional banking system, a bank accepts deposits from its clients and uses them to extend facilities with interest to other clients who require financing. The interest that accrues on those facilities is distributed amongst the depositors as interest earned on their deposits and the bank as income earned. On the other hand, in the Islamic banking system, a bank receives deposits on the basis of Musharakah or Mudarabah and invests these funds in a Shariah-compliant manner. The profit that is earned on those deposits is shared amongst the bank and the depositors based on a preagreed profit-sharing ratio.

To summarize, there are two banking systems; normal banking known as conventional banking, and Islamic banking system. We have seen that although Islamic and conventional banking systems have many similar products, the two differ conceptually. Banks in the Islamic banking system do not charge interest on loans while banks in the conventional banking system do

In addition, in the Islamic banking system, the profit earned on deposits is shared amongst the bank and depositors based on a pre-agreed profit ratio while in the conventional banking system, the depositors are earning interest on their deposits but the profits earned from those deposits belong only to the bank. Lastly, Islamic banking has no provision to charge any extra money from defaulters while in conventional banking, defaulters incur additional charges (penalty and compound interest).

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The future of fintech and its impact on business banking

WASHINGTON

Fintech isometric composition with 3d text surrounded by isolated banking cash and payments icons with people vector illustration

Fintech is all about ease, access, convenience, transparency, affordability, and customer experience. One way it achieves this is by making finance invisible, embedding it in everything we do. Embedded finance is very interesting in every other sector, especially in business banking.

It has become a bit of a buzzword in recent years, revolutionising the way that we interact with money and challenging traditional banking systems. In this post, we'll look a bit deeper into fintech overall and how it impacts business banking.

How it all started

Let's start off with some interesting facts that might highlight the growth and impact fintech has on the world. In 2020, global investment into fintech startups exceeded US\$105 billion. Over 100 of those companies were valued at over a billion dollars.

The global mobile payment transaction value is projected to surpass 4.7 trillion dollars by 2025, and it's currently experiencing a growth rate of more than 25 percent per year.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of digital banking. It's now estimated that 76 percent of users in the Western world now conduct their banking via digital services compared to traditional banking services.

The global peer-to-peer lending market is projected to reach 1163 billion in value by 2027.

The arrival of fintech has brought a seismic shift in the traditional banking landscape by either reshaping the financial landscape as a

whole, making traditional banking redundant in certain areas, or forcing traditional banking systems to adapt to these new methods. This

has occurred in several keyways.
4 things fintech is changing in business banking

As much as you don't want to admit it, people hate banks. Do you remember the last time that you went to your bank branch? Seven out of ten millennials would rather visit their dentist than their local bank.

When people are in control of their finances, they feel like they can fulfil their goals. They feel more optimistic. We're happier when we know we can book a trip or afford that next big purchase. Banks must support that positive mind-set—which the fintech industry has been doing for years now.

1. It revolutionise the loans

Applying for a business loan is a great example of how traditional banks were drowning in bureaucracy. Fintech has demonstrated its potential for improved efficiency and cost reduction. Now it's possible to find a range of apps and websites that help you compare prices of credit card loans in a way that

For entrepreneurs, peer-to-peer (P2P) lending platforms also offer an alternative to traditional bank loans. These platforms connect individual investors with borrowers and can often offer lower interest rates and more flexible terms than banks

2. They improve spending de-

If you're one of those business owners who finds it difficult to make the right decisions when it comes to money, we've got good news for you. It could be fintech that saves the day. That's because one area of fintech that's been getting lots of users is finance apps.

With so many apps, you can use budgeting functions to help you better manage and track your spending. For business account services with small teams and little purchasing oversight, this is very helpful. You can replace errorprone manual tasks (like physically tracking receipts or manually entering credit card purchases) and avoid breaking your budget too easily.

3. The cross-border payments are now way faster

Global money transfer services continue to evolve rapidly, and fintech is playing a considerable role. Digital banking platforms are trying to obviate the need for traditional

They let you make instant payments in real-time to other countries for people who don't have bank accounts (imagine that kind of system 20 years ago!). Thanks to fintech firms like Genome, you can now quickly send money all over the world without having to worry about international transfer fees or delays.

4. Traditional banks are worried about it

And with good reason, too. That's because until a few years ago, banks had a tight hold on pretty much anything we did involving money. Being the huge, bloated dinosaurs that banks are, there wasn't exactly much incentive for them to innovate or be competitive.

Fast forward a few years and a few leaps ahead in digital technology, and it was time for smaller, more agile players to make an entrance. You got it: fintech. And in the last ten years, they've been hitting your favourite bank a run for their money.

UK turns to private financing to boost infrastructure investment

By Peter Sedgwick

Given the constraints on public sector borrowing in the UK, the new Labour government wants a substantial increase in private sector infrastructure investment. This could include investments under licence, investment in privatised utilities and public-private partnerships to invest in public services and develop new technologies to further the green transition.

For investment to take place on any scale, non-government investors will need to be confident of adequate returns. To achieve desired returns investors will need reassurance on the prices of these services, which in turn will probably mean that consumers pay more than they currently expect unless the government subsidises consumer charges (which would frustrate the objective of relieving the pressure on public sector finances).

A significant increase in privately financed investment in infrastructure makes even more urgent the need for a marked improvement in the performance of regulators, particularly in monitoring and controlling the financial strength of service providers. The collapse of several energy providers following the rise in world fuel prices and the current financial weakness of some water companies would not have occurred if their finances had been adequately supervised.

The government will have to take care how its investments are scored by the statistical authorities. Some transactions could be classified as adding to government borrowing, even though that is not always the case in comparable economies, thus frustrating the aim of controlling the public finances.

The government is right to be cautious about borrowing even more than currently envisaged given the high level of the UK's debt to gross domestic product ratio. Once markets lose confidence in the soundness of government policy - as in the run up to recourse to the International Monetary Fund in 1976 and briefly during the Liz Truss episode in 2022 - it is difficult for the government to increase borrowing even to finance investment.

There may be some tax increases that do not break manifesto pledges and some other changes (notably to its financial arrangements with the Bank of England) that increase fiscal 'headroom' and make possible some modest increases in public investment. But such changes are unlikely to be sufficient to finance anything like the desired increase in infrastructure investment.

Advocates of privately financed investment have emphasised the benefits flowing from private sector expertise in the provision of services. There is another powerful argument for financing investment other than purely through gilt sales. Involvement of the private sector in the delivery of services makes possible recourse to other forms of finance - equity as well as senior debt - and providers of finance that might have a limited appetite for UK gilts, for instance sovereign funds, large pension funds (not necessarily from the UK) and a variety of banks.

Such investors will only contribute to increasing infrastructure investment if they



can earn what they consider appropriate returns on capital, which in turn will involve large price increases. The 2023 auction for offshore wind licences failed because the price offered was too low. The water industry believes that it needs to invest much more than is currently proposed by the regulator if it is to deal adequately with wastewater and sewage. This in turn would involve significantly higher price rises than the regulator or government want. If private finance is to be used to ramp up investment in hospitals and schools, potential private sector partners will want assured returns over the life of their investments, which will be a charge on future health and education

The National Wealth Fund - a relatively modest £7.3 billion over five years - is intended to lever in around £20bn of private sector investment. While the new fund, introduced by Chancellor Rachel Reeves, may finance the riskier early stages of projects, the private sector will still want a reasonably assured return on its investment.

assured return on its investment.

It is worth noting that the activities of the UK Infrastructure Bank, which will manage the new fund, would not come near to replacing the pre-Brexit lending by the European Investment Bank. According to a study by UK in a Changing Europe, EIB investment in UK infrastructure averaged around £6bn per annum in real terms while the UK was in the EU (Figure 1).

Annual investment into the UK including private and public loans, equity investments and guarantees by development banks in real terms in £bn

Particularly in the energy and water sectors, adequate returns for private investors will depend overwhelmingly on the ability to raise prices for consumers. This will be difficult because consumers tend to think that they are already paying - or even overpaying - for the services that increased investment will make possible even when they are not. There is a real danger of falling between two stools with a combination of increased but insufficient investment and unpopular price increases.

Peter Sedgwick was a senior UK Treasury official, Vice President of the European Investment Bank from 2000-06, Chair of 3i Infrastructure PLC from 2007-15 and Chair of the Guernsey Financial Stability Committee 2016-19.

China increases appetite for gold purchase

LONDON/BEIJING

hina still has plenty of appetite for official gold purchases despite pausing in May and June, as its bullion holdings remain low as a share of reserves and geopolitical tensions persist, according to a policy insider, industry experts and

Beijing's gold buying, which helped the spot price rally in April and May, is no longer perceived to be immune to price sensitivity, but ongoing geopolitical risks are expected to keep its longer-term programme to diversify exposure from US dollar-denominated assets

China's gold reserves need to rise in absolute and relative terms because they do not match the status of the world's secondlargest economy and gold's share of its reserves is the lowest of any major economy, said a Chinese policy insider involved in internal discussions who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the

"But we need to look at prices it's impossible for the central bank to maintain a constant amount of purchases each month," the insider

said, adding that geopolitical factors spurred by the Russia-Ukraine war and the Middle East conflict were among drivers of China's gold demand in recent years.

Officials at the central bank, the People's Bank of China (PBOC), have never publicly commented on what prompted a resumption in gold buying in November 2022 after a more-than three-year pause.

Eight months after Western sanctions froze \$300 billion of Russia's official reserves, about half of Moscow's total, the PBOC started reporting gold purchases and kept doing so for 18 months, forming a pillar for global gold prices to hit record highs in 2024.

The PBOC was the world's largest single buyer of gold in 2023, with its net purchases of 7.23 million ounces the most by China for at least 46 years, according to the World Gold Council.

But when it made no purchases in May and June this year, spot prices came under pressure, leaving the market guessing about China's future appetite.

The policy insider attributed the pause in buying to "high prices". The spot price, which regained ground after a dip in June, hit a record high during trading on



Wednesday on improved U.S. rate

The PBOC and foreign exchange regulator State Administration of Foreign Exchange did not respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

China has the world's largest foreign currency reserves, at \$3.22 trillion in June. But gold's share of China's overall reserves, which include its reserve position and special drawing rights (SDRs) at the International Monetary Fund, while at a record high of 4.9 percent is low

compared to the global average of

Developing and emerging market countries typically have a much lower share of gold in reserves than advanced economies, which have smaller currency reserves.

"Given that base and very large scale of FX reserves we believe the PBOC will be buying gold at higher volumes for decades," said Nitesh Shah, commodity strategist at WisdomTree.

Demand from investors in China

amid a prolonged property crisis and as central bank purchases give confidence in gold as a store of

"The official sector buying is a free advertisement for gold in China," said Shaokai Fan, global head of the central banks sector at the World Gold Council. "In the sense that if the central bank is buying gold, maybe I, as a retail investor, shall buy some too."

Putting more reserves in gold is a matter of security because bullion can be stored onshore - safe from

Officially, Russia's gold is 30 percent of its \$597 billion reserves. but in terms of accessible assets the share is much bigger as half of Russia's reserves were frozen by Western countries in reaction to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in

That precedent, in which Russia's central bank kept access only to investments in yuan-denominated assets and gold, has served as a cautionary tale for China, which has an estimated 60% of its reserves in US dollar-denominated assets, according to analysts.

"The main motivation of the PBOC is to be less dependent on

is also set to stay strong, he said, the US dollar and - in an extreme case - to be less susceptible to US sanctions," said Carsten Menke, analyst at Julius Baer.

15

He expects China's desire to diversify reserves to persist as "the geopolitical tensions between China and the United States are unlikely to disappear anytime soon, independent of the outcome of the US presidential elections."

It took China nine years to raise the share of gold in its total reserves to 4.9 percent from 1.8 percent in

China holds 72.8 million ounces of gold worth about \$170 billion. If it eventually lifted the share of gold in its reserves even to 10 percent at current reserve levels and prices, the purchases would total another \$170 billion.

For comparison, Russia's central bank stopped active buying of the precious metal in 2020 when gold reached 20 percent of its total reserves. Gold's share has since grown due in part to its rising price.

The PBOC has sometimes reported past gold purchases well after they occurred, according to the World Gold Council, leading analysts to caution the latest statistics may not provide the full

Sterling needs more than higher UK rates to stay in the fast lane



LONDON

he pound hit its highest in a year on Wednesday, driven by investors who are scrambling for juicier returns as global interest rates start to fall, but strategists say it will take more than higher rates for sterling to retain that sparkle.

Data on Wednesday showed UK inflation is proving more stubborn than many expected, prompting traders to axe their bets on an August rate cut and sending the pound above \$1.30 for the first time since

Unlike the euro and even the dollar, the pound has not been shaken by domestic politics, but rather has got a boost from a new government that many hope will be able to draw a line under years of unpredictable policies and volatile UK markets.

Growth in Britain has also started to improve. On Tuesday, the International Monetary Fund raised its estimate of UK economic growth to 0.7 percent this year, from 0.5 percent in its last set of global forecasts

But at the heart of this latest leg higher in the pound is the belief that British interest rates will take longer to decline than those elsewhere.

Many big central banks have started cutting rates. The Bank of England and the US Federal Reserve are among the last dominoes standing, although the most recent signals from the latter are that September is crystallising as the starting point for US rates to fall.

"It really depends on what you think is driving the pound -- is it BoE

rate cut expectations being pushed back or Fed rate cut expectations being pushed forward?" Geoff Yu, senior macro strategist at BNY Mellon, said.

"The fact that cable is above \$1.30 and sterling has risen against the euro suggests there has been a repricing.'

On Wednesday, Britain's King Charles set out Prime Minister Keir Starmer's plans to revive the economy, with a focus on delivering new homes and infrastructure projects. Rallies everywhere

The rally in sterling has been broad, driving the euro, which fell 0.1 percent to 83.93 pence, on Wednesday, to its lowest in two years. The pound is up 2.3 percent this

year against the dollar, comfortably in pole position among major currencies, the runner-up - the euro - is still down 1 percent.

On a trade-weighted basis, the pound has recovered all of the losses incurred since the Brexit referendum in late June 2016.

So on paper, the backdrop is looking more favourable.

One major issue is Britain's fiscal situation. UK public debt is expected to exceed 100% of gross domestic product and the government has little room to raise taxes or cut spend-

"We are in the most rate-sensitive market I can remember, and the latest UK CPI numbers do not encourage hopes for an August rate cut," Kit Juckes, head of FX Strategy at Societe Generale, said.

"I don't think sterling is going very far as the economy does not have that much legs, but there's so much uncertainty in the world that there is stability with a new government (and that's helped (the pound)," he

A hung parliament in France and political upheaval in the U.S. presidential race, with the attempted assassination of Republican candidate Donald Trump and the doubts around the ability of incumbent President Joe Biden to serve another four years in office, have added to the jitters across global markets.

The BoE meets on Aug. 1 and traders are attaching less than a 40 percent chance of a rate cut, compared with around 50 percent on Tuesday.

UK rates are projected to end this year around 4.75 percent, down from 5.25 percent, above US rates, which are seen in a 4.50-4.75 percent range, and euro zone rates, priced at roughly 3.30 percent.

Higher UK rates mean investors can enjoy higher returns on UK assets than they would in another jurisdiction, which is helping cement the pound's position as top dog - for now at least.

"Despite the opportunities, we still find it difficult to forecast a more significant strengthening of the pound," Commerzbank strategist Michael Pfister said, citing uncertainty over the government's ability to really turn things around for the economy and the possibility the BoE might take a less cautious approach to rate cuts.

"Given these risks, we expect the pound to strengthen only slightly. However, if it becomes clearer that these risks are less likely to materialise, the pound should benefit (even



Minister assures reliable electricity to industrial park

By Correspondent Joseph Mwenda-

The Minister of Industry and Trade, Selemani Jafo (pictured), has announced that the government will ensure the provision of electricity and water to the factories being established at the Modern Industrial Park in Mlandizi. Coast Region.

With a total investment cost of \$1.4 billion, the park is expected to generate 30,000 direct jobs and 200,000 indirect jobs upon completion. The annual turnover is projected to reach \$2.8

Minister Jafo made these remarks during a visit to the construction site to assess the progress and address any challenges.

"I instructed during my visit to Mkuranga that regions should designate industrial areas. The Coastal Region has already made significant progress by establishing multiple industrial areas. Other regions should follow this example," he stated.

He highlighted that a local investor has acquired 1,077 acres and installed essential infrastructure to attract industrial investments.

"I have observed the infrastructure you have implemented. preparations are extensive and reflect a serious commitment. With over 222 industries planned for this area, this is a remarkable achievement, and I commend you," he added.

"I will not tolerate any hindrances to industrial development. Rest assured, you are in safe hands. Our priority is to facilitate industrial growth, and I have instructed my team to minimize unnecessary bureaucracy," Jafo emphasized.

He further noted that the activation of these 222 industries will provide employment opportunities for many Tanzanian youths, addressing the challenge of university graduates seeking employment.

"We understand the critical need for electricity and water for industrial operations. My colleagues and I in the ministry will work tirelessly to ensure these services are available," he assured.

Tumaini Kabengula, Chief Operations Officer of the Modern Industrial Park, stated that the park is located 71.5 kilometers from Dar es Salaam city

"The project includes various land uses such as heavy industries, general industries, special industries, commercial facilities, social facilities, and public land uses," he explained.

Kabengula reiterated the total investment cost of \$1.4 billion, the creation of 30,000 direct and 200,000 indirect jobs, and the projected annual turnover of \$2.8 billion.

He also mentioned that the standard gauge railway (SGR) from Dar es Salaam to East African countries will connect to the Modern Industrial Park via the Ruvu terminal. A railway line from the Ruvu terminal will link directly to the park through the dry port.

"The upcoming dry port, spanning 90,022 square meters, will be used for loading and unloading raw materials and finished goods from the industries. It will offer a range of services, including customs clearance, to streamline cargo processes," Kabengula elaborated.

"This facility will play a crucial role in supporting industrial park development, fostering trade, and promoting economic growth," he concluded.

Guardianwww.ippnedia.com

WORLD

Four in five Americans fear country is sliding into chaos'

WASHINGTON

AMERICANS fear their country is spiraling out of control following an assassination attempt on Donald Trump, with worries growing that the Nov 5 election could spark more political violence, a Reuters/Ipsos poll that closed on Tuesday found.

The two-day poll found Republican presidential candidate Trump opening a marginal lead among registered voters - 43 percent to 41 percent - over Democratic US President Joe Biden, an advantage that was within the poll's 3 percentage point margin of error, suggesting the attempt on Trump's life had not sparked a major shift in voter sentiment.

But 80 percent of voters - including similar shares of Democrats and Republicans - said they agreed with a statement that "the country is spiraling out of the control." The poll, which was conducted online, surveyed 1,202 US adults nationwide, including 992 registered voters.

Trump narrowly avoided death on Saturday when a would-be assassin's bullet grazed his ear as he spoke at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania. Blood trickled across his face and he defiantly pumped his fist in the air,

mouthing the words "Fight! Fight!" as he was rushed offstage. A rally attendee was slain and two others seriously injured.

The shooting brought back memories of turbulent political periods such as the 1960s, when Democratic President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, followed by the killing of Democratic presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy in 1968.

Some 84 percent of voters in the poll said they were concerned that extremists will commit acts of violence after the election, an increase from the results of a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted in May that showed 74 percent of voters having that fear.

Fears of political violence became more prominent in America after thousands of Trump supporters attacked the US Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in a bid to overturn Trump's election loss to Biden. Four people died on the day of the attack, and one Capitol Police officer who fought against the rioters died the next day.

While Americans said they feared violence, few condoned it. Just 5 percent of respondents said it was acceptable for someone in their political party to commit violence to achieve a political goal, down from 12 percent tion.



US former President and 2024 Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump points at the conclusion of the second day of the 2024 Republican National Convention at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Tuesday. AFP

in a Reuters/Ipsos poll from June 2023.

Some 67 percent of respondents in the latest poll said they were concerned about acts of violence against their community because of their political beliefs, compared to 60 percent in a Reuters/Ipsos poll from June 2023. Bipartisan majorities in the latest poll said they were concerned Americans could resort to violence instead of coming together peacefully to solve disagreements.

The attempt on Trump's life has dominated media headlines and fueled discussion among some of his conservative Christian supporters that he was protected by God.

In the Reuters/Ipsos poll, 65 percent of registered Republicans said Trump's survival showed he was "favored by divine providence or God's will." Eleven percent of Democrats agreed.

The United States stands out among rich nations for its embrace of religion, with evangelical Christians largely aligned with the Republican Party in recent decades. Some 77 percent of Americans surveyed in 2022 said they believed in God, compared to 56 percent of Canadians and 39 percent of British respondents, according to a poll by the Gallup International Associa-

More nations interested in joining BRICS

NAIROBI

FOLLOWING its expansion at the beginning of this year, BRICS is increasing its appeal to developing nations, which analysts said reflects the common desire of the Global South to build a more just and equitable world order against Western dominance.

Last month, Zimbabwe announced its interest in joining the BRICS grouping for an opportunity to access new markets and investment opportunities as well as grow its economy.

Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri, the country's defense minister, made the announcement at the "World Majority for a Multipolar World "international inter-party forum with BRICS and partner countries held in Russia.

She said Zimbabwe has a strong conviction in BRICS' potential to counterbalance the dominance of Western powers, by challenging their unilateral decision-making and promoting a more balanced global landscape, as quoted by Zimbabwe's The Herald newspaper.

Cavince Adhere, a Kenyan expert on international relations, said BRICS formation provides Zimbabwe with a family that respects its own unique internal conditions but at the same time allows it to play on the global

In addition, by joining BRICS, Zimbabwe will be provided with alternative markets for its natural resources, as the country is unable to do business with Western countries due to sanctions,

"Zimbabwe has to seek new



BRICS provides that framework for the country to engage," he

Just like Zimbabwe, some other developing countries have expressed interest in joining BRICS recently. In January, the grouping welcomed five more countries, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Iran and Ethiopia, expanding to a 10-member organization.

Paul Frimpong, founder and executive director of the Africa-China Centre for Policy and Advisory, said more than 40 countries have expressed interest in joining BRICS, indicating the attractiveness of the bloc.

"BRICS attracts a diverse group of potential members because of its primary-driven shared desire to create a more equitable global landscape that many countries believe is currently biased against them," he

Frimpong said the BRICS countries' push to represent a collective voice for the Global South in international forums like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, or IMF, is one of the reasons coun-

> He said BRICS offers a chance for member countries to have a greater influence on global issues and policies as well as push back on the West's economic dominance.

tries are interested in joining the

The grouping's emphasis on a multipolar world, an international system that better advances emerging market country and developing country interests appeals to nations desiring a more balanced global order, he said.

This is in addition to establishing alternative financial institutions like the New Development Bank to provide financial support to member countries, offering an alternative to the IMF and the World Bank, which are traditionally dominated by Western nations.

These initiatives reflect an effort by BRICS members to reduce their vulnerability to Western economic policies, and create a multipolar world reflecting the interests of emerging economies, he said.

"Additionally, shared development challenges and goals among BRICS members offer a platform for collaboration on issues like poverty and sustainable growth, presenting significant trade, investment, and economic development opportunities for prospective mem-

Significant shift

Frimpong said BRICS expansion represents a significant shift toward a more inclusive and balanced global governance structure, with the inclusivity promoting multilateralism, encouraging cooperation and dialogue among a diverse set of

Economically, the expansion stimulates growth and stability through enhanced trade and investment among member states, which collectively possess substantial economic potential.

He said BRICS initiatives in energy, trade networks, and infrastructure projects can significantly boost economic development and connectivity, contributing to global prosperity and sustainable development.

By addressing critical global issues such as climate change through a multilateral approach, BRICS can foster a more equitable and sustainable world, he

"By providing a platform for the Global South to voice its concerns and priorities, BRICS contributes to the creation of a new world order that is more reflective of the diverse economic and political realities of the modern world," Frimpong said.

"This shift toward a more balanced and inclusive global governance system has the potential to address long-standing inequalities and promote a more just and equitable international order"

Melha Rout Biel, executive director at the Institute for Strategic and Policy Studies, based in South Sudan, said BRICS expansion means a lot to the international system.

"The fact that many developing countries are joining in a big number is sending a signal that something might have been wrong with the current world system and that different ways of doing things must be found," he said. Agencies

Rwanda's ruling party coalition regains parliamentary majority

THE Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), the ruling party, and its allied parties is on course to retaining its parliamentary majority in the lower chamber of Parliament, according to partial results announced by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) yesterday.

The RPF and its coalition won 62.67 percent of the 53 seats representing political parties and independent candidates after this week's legislative election, with more than 96 percent of the votes counted, NEC said in a statement.

This could translate to at least 33 seats out of 53 seats in the Chamber of deputies elected through direct adult suffrage. The opposition Liberal Party (PL) led by Donatille Mukabalisa, a former speaker of Parliament, won 10.97 percent of the vote while the Social Democratic Party (PSD) led by former Foreign Minister Vincent Biruta garnered 9.48 percent, the results showed.

Other parties, including the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda, Ideal Democratic Party (PDI) and PS Imberakuri that fielded parliamentary candidates won 5 percent each, according to the partial results.

Out of roughly 9.5 million eligible voters, 8.7 million votes in the parliamentary elections had been tallied as of Tuesday. the commission said.

A total of 589 candidates contested for the 80 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of the bicameral national legislature of Rwanda. *Agencies*

'Ukraine may cease to exist by 2034'

MOSCOW

UKRAINE may cease to exist by 2034, the year when its admission to NATO is allegedly scheduled, Deputy Chairman of Russia's Security Council Dmitry Medve-



dev (pictured) told aif.ru in an interview.

"It's no coincidence that NATO Secretary General [Jens] Stoltenberg said openly that it would be a positive scenario if Ukraine joins the alliance in 2034. Which means that it never will," the Russian security official

"By that time none of NATO's current leaders will remain on their posts," he said. "It's quite possible that [Ukraine] will no longer exist as well." **Agencies**

Higher Q2 production puts Barrick on track to deliver 2024 targets

BARRICK Gold Corporation has reported preliminary O2 production of 948 thousand ounces of gold and 43 thousand tonnes of copper, as well as preliminary Q2 sales of 956 thousand ounces of gold and 42 thousand tonnes of copper.

As previously guided, Barrick's gold and copper production in 2024 is expected to progressively increase each quarter through the year with a higher weighting in the second half. The Company remains on track to achieve our full year gold and copper guidance.

The average market price for gold in Q2 was \$2,338 per ounce while the average market price for copper in Q2 was \$4.42 per pound. Preliminary Q2 gold production was higher than Q1, as a result of increased production at Turquoise Ridge, following the completed maintenance at the Sage autoclave in Q1, continued successful ramp up at Porgera and significant increases at Tongon, North Mara and Kibali.

These increases were partially offset by planned lower production at Cortez and Phoenix.

Pueblo Viejo production was flat sequentially as throughput is ramped up with a shift to recovery rate optimization in H2 2024. Compared to Q1, Q2 gold cost of sales per ounce1 and total cash costs per ounce2 are both expected to be 0 to 2% higher. Absent the increase in the gold price in Q2, and consequential increase in royalties, total cash costs per ounce2 would have been lower compared to Q1. All-in sustaining costs per ounce2 are expected to be 1 to 3% higher. Costs are expected to drop in the second half of the year as production ramps up.

Preliminary Q2 copper production was higher than Q1, driven primarily by higher grades and recoveries at Lumwana following the ramp up in stripping activities in Q1 as well as the planned shutdown in Q1. Compared to Q1 2024, Q2 copper cost of sales per pound1 is expected to be 4 to 6% lower, C1 cash costs per pound2 are expected to be 8 to 10% lower, while all-in sustaining costs per pound2 are expected to be 1 to 3% higher primarily due to increased waste stripping at Lumwana. Costs are expected to drop in the second half of the year as production ramps up.

Delivered by India' emerging as symbol of trust, says EAM Jaishankar

PORT LOUIS

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar, during his official visit to Mauritius, said that 'Delivered by India' is now emerging as a symbol

His remarks came as he visited the site of the Civil Service College project in Reduit.

"Delivered by India' emerging as a symbol of trust. Happy to interact with those making this a reality at the site of the Civil Service College project in Reduit. Laud their commitment and professionalism," Jaishankar said while sharing a post on

"They keep the flag flying high abroad," he further added.

During his two-day visit to Mauritius, Jaishankar called on Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jagnauth in Port Louis and appreciated the further broadening of the special and enduring partnership between both nations.

He also conveyed the warm greetings of PM Narendra Modi to Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jagnauth.

Yesterday, Jaishankar attended the ground-breaking ceremony of the "Maitree Udyan.'

He also thanked Mauritian Foreign Minister Maneesh Gobin for joining the ceremony.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets the Mauritian Leader of Opposition Dr Arvin Boolell, in Port Louis yesterday. ANI

"The 'Maitree Udyan' is a symbol of our everlasting friendship. Appreciate FM @ManeeshGobin for joining in its Ground-Breaking Ceremony. #Plant4Mother is now rooted in Mauritian soil," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

Jaishankar's visit comes around a month after PM Jugnauth visited India for the swearing-in ceremony of PM Modi, along with his new cabinet and Council of Ministers.

The visit marks one of Jaishankar's first bilateral engagements following his re-appointment in the PM Modiled government. Previously, Jaishankar visited Mauritius in February 2021.



During his two-day visit to Mauritius, Jaishankar called on Mauritius Prime Minister **Pravind Kumar Jagnauth in Port Louis and appreciated** the further broadening of the special and enduring partnership between both nations

China's open sci-tech cooperation benefits humanity

By Yan Yu

URRENTLY, countries around the world are facing global challenges such as climate change, food security, and energy security. To overcome common development challenges, humanity needs international cooperation, openness, and sharing more than ever before.

At the same time, the world has entered an era of "big science," where scientific research and technological innovation have become more complex, systematic, and collaborative. No country can be an independent innovation center or enjoy the benefits of innovation alone. International cooperation has become an inevitable choice to promote technological innovation.

China has always been a participant in and a beneficiary of open cooperation in scientific and technological development. In recent years, China has proposed an international science and technology cooperation initiative, led several large international cooperation projects, and implemented the Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation



A contestant competes in an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) maintenance competition during the second Belt and Road International Skills Competition in southwest China's Chongqing municipality, June 25, 2024. (Photo by Sun Kaifang/ People's Daily Online)

Cooperation Action Plan. China's influence as an important global innovation hub continues to grow.

China has been continuously expanding its "circle of friends" in the global innovation network. As of October 2023, China has established scientific and technological cooperation relationships with 161 countries and regions and signed 117 intergovernmental cooperation agreements on scientific and technological cooperation.

It has engaged in practical cooperation with various countries in areas such as climate change, clean energy, and health, building a

multi-level, comprehensive, and wide-ranging new pattern of open cooperation in scientific and technological development.

China has deeply integrated into the global technology governance system. As of October 2023, the country had joined over 200 international organizations and multilateral mechanisms, and participated in nearly 60 large international cooperation programs and projects. Its contribution and influence in these organizations have significantly increased.

Additionally, China has taken the initiative to set global technology innovation agen-

das, leading the Green Powered Future Mission (GPFM) and launching an international technology innovation and cooperation program on carbon neutrality.

China is continuously expanding its opening up in science and technology, creating a favorable environment for open innovation. In recent years, China has set up a globally oriented scientific research fund, stepped up the opening-up of the national science and technology programs, and encouraged and supported foreign scientists in addressing global challenges.

It has strengthened exchanges and interactions with governments, scientific communities, and industries of various countries, promoting the smooth flow of innovative factors of talents, technology, capital, and data. It also supports joint research and development among scientists from different countries, so that they can work together on research programs that contribute to global sustainable development

Openness brings opportunities, and cooperation drives development. Reviewing China's scientific and technological progress in the



A Long March-2C rocket carrying an astronomical satellite, the Space-based Multi-band Variable Object Monitor (SVOM), a result of China-France cooperation, blasts off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan province, June 22, 2024. (Photo by Chen Haojie)

new era, one can see new breakthroughs in basic and cutting-edge research, new leaps in strategic high-tech fields, and new achievements in innovation-driven highquality development, such as translating human somatic cells back into pluripotent stem cells using the chemical cellular reprogramming technique, the superdeep boreholes drilled by China's most advanced land-based drilling rig Crust 1, and the expedition of China's deep-sea manned submersible Fendouzhe (Striver) into the depths of the ocean, the commercial operation of China's self-developed large passenger aircraft, and China's new energy vehicles (NEVs) providing new momentum for the global auto industry. These successes paint a vivid picture of how China has enhanced its innovation capabilities through

open cooperation.

China shares its wisdom and achievements in open cooperation. From the Fivehundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST) exploring the mysteries of the universe, to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)

project striving to bring unlimited clean energy to humanity, and to the Ocean Negative Carbon Emissions (ONCE) plan aimed at providing intelligent solutions for global ocean carbon sinks, Chinese scientists are actively involved in major international scientific programs and projects. They work hand in hand with scientists around the world, contributing Chinese wisdom to major global scientific challenges.

Today, China's space station has extended invitations to space explorers worldwide, the Chang'e-6 probe has carried four international payloads to the moon, and the FAST is open for international cooperation.

Regardless of the complexity of the international environment, China consistently maintains an open-minded approach, keeps its doors open, and remains committed to ensuring that science and technology better benefit all of humanity.

International science and technology cooperation is a major trend. China's technological advancement is becoming increasingly interdependent with the rest of the world, and global technological progress is also increasingly reliant on China.

A busy day at North China's Tianjin Port

By Weng Yufei, Jin Bo

ORTH China's Tianjin Port is always bustling with vitality. Every day, the port welcomes a steady stream of over 100 colossal container ships, with more than 20,000 heavy-duty trucks thundering across its vast expanses.

According to Wang Bin, a manager with China Ocean Shipping Agency Tianjin Co., Ltd., the cargo and container throughput of the port has been rising steadily.

"We are obviously busier this year than the last," said Wang, who has been working at the

port for two decades.

Ports are a "barometer" of the economy. As a gate to the sea of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region in north China, Tianjin Port handled 9.58 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in the first five months of this year, up 5.1 percent year on year, hitting a historical high.

At the crack of dawn, Wang arrived at the Yuanhang International Ore Terminal, the largest ore terminal of Tianjin Port, where the massive bulk carrier "Cape Asia" was ready to discharge its mammoth cargo of 171,400 tons of iron ore.

Since November 2023, the terminal has witnessed a dramatic surge in its operations. From February to April this year, the terminal's monthly throughput has maintained double-digit growth compared to the same period last year, reaching a new high in the last five years.

Completing his work at the ore terminal, Wang immediately made his way to the roll-on roll-off terminal, or ro-ro terminal, to handle relevant procedures

rocedures. "This year, we have seen a rapid increase in the number of ro-ro vessels, so I have to make more frequent trips to the terminals," said Wang

As a major auto import and export hub in north China, Tianjin Port exactly mirrors the surge in China's automotive exports.

After lunch, Wang rushed back to his office. "I need to handle the work for the liner service between Tianjin Port and Ethiopia, and coordinate the container operations," he explained

Wang noted that the liner service has seen a notable increase this year, leading to a container shortage caused by the high volume of cargo. As someone who routinely liaises with Ethiopian shipping companies, Wang said this was an unprecedented situation for him.

Tianjin Port maintains trade connections with over 500 ports in more than 180 countries and regions worldwide. It has close ties with "old friends" and is also gaining more "new friends." On May 6, Tianjin Port launched a direct container shipping route to the east coast of South America. On May 15, a direct route to the east coast of the United States was opened. On May 16, it launched a new direct shipping route to Central America.

"Tianjin Port remains committed to expanding its shipping routes and will never cease its steps of opening up," said Liu Yakun, Wang's colleague who is responsible for container shipping businesses. According to Liu, enterprises have been showing a strong demand since the launch of the three new routes.

The port's increasing regional presence has unleashed its potential for transshipment to and from the inland.



Photo shows the bustling activities at the smart zero-carbon terminal of north China's Tianjin Port. (Photo by Guo Junfeng/People's Daily Online)

At 4:00 P.M., Wang arrived at the Huisheng Terminal. Across the street, heavy-duty trucks loaded with containers were departing the Tianjin Xingang North Container Central Station for destinations as north as Jilin and as west as Xinjiang. Cargoes from 14 provinces were being shipped out from Tianjin Port via sea-rail intermodal transportation.

On the other side, a project to expand the station is currently underway. "The uptick in foreign trade in specific inland provinces has boosted the need for sea-rail intermodal transportation, creating a highly optimistic market outlook." said an employee of the station.

As dusk fell, Wang concluded his work at the

Huisheng Terminal and made his way to the world's first smart zero-carbon container terminal at Tianjin Port. While the three 200,000-ton berths of the terminal were occupied by massive vessels, not a single staff member was visible. Instead, Level-4 autonomous artificial intelligence (AI) transport robots hauled containers, with operators in the central control room maneuvering levers and buttons based on real-time video feeds to load and unload containers. Several wind turbines were spinning vigorously outside the central control room, supplying electricity to the terminal. The terminal has achieved self-sufficient green power supply, resulting in zero carbon emissions throughout the entire process.

Currently, all container and dry bulk cargo berths at Tianjin Port are covered by shore power, and multiple terminals have achieved self-sufficient green power supply.

"When I started working here some

"When I started working here, some of the terminals were just dirt lots; 20 years later, the terminals have been increasingly intelligent and clean," Wang said.

Tianjin Port has been constantly enhancing its smart port construction with the continuous growth of ships and gradual expansion of the port. This year, the port launched an intelligent container terminal control system with fully autonomous and controllable software and hardware. It has also introduced China's first integrated intelligent system for general cargo with independent intellectual property rights

Intelligent systems have greatly improved the operational efficiency of the port. For instance, the maximum daily unloading volume of the traditional berths at the Yuanhang International Ore Terminal increased by nearly 90 percent following its transition to automated operations.

Deep into the night, Tianjin Port's terminals were still bustling with activities, marked by increased throughput volumes, a constant flow of vehicles and vessels, and intelligent machinery working tirelessly. The activities of a single day at Tianjin Port vividly showcase the dynamic momentum and robustness of the Chinese economy.

China sets exemplary model for world in high-speed rail technologies

By Li Xinping

ODAY, China's Fuxing bullet train has become the world's fastest commercially operated train with the most diverse operating scenarios. By the end of 2023, Fuxing bullet trains had operated 2.34 billion kilometers safely and transported a total of 2.2 billion passengers.

From the initiation of the train's development in 2013 to its impressive debut in 2017, the Fuxing bullet train epitomizes China's innovative prowess.

In 2004, faced with the country's surging demand for a railway speedup, China began to track high-speed rail technologies from around the world and successively introduced technologies from Japan, France, Canada, and Germany.

Three years later, the Hexie highspeed train officially went into service, and subsequently, a series of products were developed and put into mass production.

With the remarkable performance of the Hexie series, why was there a need to develop the Fuxing bullet trains?

The total mileage of high-speed railways in China is unparalleled in the

world, and no county has such a complex operating environment.

"Some imported train models inevitably face challenges in adapting to the local conditions and require further innovation," said Ye Yangsheng, chief engineer of China Railway.

Every upgrade or modification on foreign technology platforms inevitably involves software updates, and sometimes even requires the assistance of foreign experts, Ye explained.

Although China mastered the technologies of the Hexie series, and many of the technologies were developed and improved through independent innovation, due to the use of foreign technology platforms and adoption of foreign standards, further development was constrained, said former chief engineer of China Railway He Huawu. Therefore, it was imperative to develop high-speed trains with Chinese standards.

"A high-speed train traveling at a speed of 350 kilometers per hour includes over 40,000 parts, covering various technical fields such as mechanics, metallurgy, materials, power electronics, chemical engineering, and information control," said Wang Jun, chief scientist of China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC).

Besides, with China's super large railway network, complex geographical and climatic conditions, and long-distance and continuous high-speed operation, the independent development of high-speed trains faced unprecedented challenges, Wang added.

To reduce noise, more than 3,000 tests were conducted on different materials and structures for



A Fuxing bullet train runs on the Beijing-Guangzhou high-speed railway in Zhengzhou, central China's Henan province. (Photo by Wang Wei/People's Daily Online)

sound insulation. As a result, the Fuxing bullet train is able to run at a speed of 350 kilometers per hour with a minimum noise level of 65 decibels in the train compartments.

To reduce vehicle resistance and energy consumption, over 40 different solutions were analyzed through simulation and wind tunnel tests. As a result, aerodynamic resistance was reduced by 14 percent, and energy consumption per passenger per 100 kilometers was cut by 20 percent.

To achieve optimal harmonic control for the entire vehicle, the research and development team went through numerous cycles of design,

analysis, testing, and optimization. This process ultimately led to the development of an innovative control module that has reached world-class standards.

During the independent innovation of the Fuxing high-speed train, the research and development team has made breakthroughs in core control technologies such as traction, braking, and networking, as well as key technologies in wheel, axle, and gearbox design and manufacturing.

Among the 254 important standards adopted by the train, 84 percent are Chinese. The overall design of the train, as well as key technolo-

gies such as the train body and bogie, were independently developed, and the software was entirely self-developed, possessing complete independent intellectual property rights.

After undergoing over 10,000 simulations, ground tests, and line trials, the Chinese-standard high-speed train Fuxing obtained its model certificate and manufacturing license in 2017. In June of that year, the Fuxing bullet train made its debut.

Three months later, the train started commercial operation with a speed of 350 kilometers per hour on the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway, and in December 2019, it also achieved a speed of 350 kilometers per hour on the Beijing-Zhangjiakou high-speed railway, operating in autonomous driving

In June 2021, the Fuxing train, powered by internal combustion and electric power, extended its services to Lhasa, Xizang autonomous region, marking that the train has reached 31 provinces, municipality.

palities and autonomous regions in China.

Additionally, it had participated in 249 international standard development and revision projects.

All 11 system-level UIC international standards in the field of high-speed rail were formulated by China.



Guardian



Simba midfielders now acknowledge intense competition within the team

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club, currently in Egypt for pre-season training, has made significant changes to its squad, especially in the midfield, as they prepare for the 2024/2025 campaign. Only two midfielders from last season, Fabrice Ngoma and Mzamiru Yassin, remain on the team.

To bolster their midfield, Simba have signed five new players: Yusuph Kagoma, Augustine Okejepha, Debora Mavumbo, Jean Charles Ahoua, and Omary Omary. Additionally, Awesu Awesu is reportedly set to join the club soon. These additions bring the total number of midfielders to eight, marking a significant shift from the previous season.

To accommodate the new recruits, Simba parted ways with several midfielders, including Sadio Kanoute, Babacar Sarr, Clatous Chama, and Saido Ntibanzokiza. This overhaul reflects the club's ambition to strengthen its squad and improve its performance in the upcoming season.

Yusuph Kagoma (pictured), one of the new signings, acknowledged the intense competition within the team due to the increased squad depth. However, he remains undeterred and is determined to earn his place on the

"There is always talk about the number of players in a squad, but that doesn't bother me. I am here to work hard and convince the technical bench to give me a chance," Kagoma

Discussing the upcoming season, Kagoma expressed confidence in the team's prospects, citing the quality and strength of the squad.

"I believe we will do well because of the quality and strength we have. Competition is inevitable when you have many players, but that's what makes a team stronger," he stated.

"Personally, I am not afraid of competition. We are all here to fight and help the team succeed. Simba SC fans

have high hopes this season, and we plan to make sure we bring them happiness," Kagoma added.

Kagoma also shared his excitement about joining Simba, a dream he has harbored since childhood.

"Choosing Simba was an easy decision for me. Playing for Simba has been a dream of mine since I was a child, and when the opportunity came, I didn't hesitate," he said.

Similarly, Nigerian midfielder Augustine Okejepha, another new addition to the squad, expressed his satisfaction with the team's preparations in Ismailia, Egypt. Despite being new to the team, he praised the warm welcome he received from his teammates, which has boosted his confi-

"I feel at home because I have been well-received by my colleagues. The preparations are going well, and all the players are showing their determination to fight for the team next season," Okejepha remarked.

Okejepha joined Simba from Rivers United in Nigeria and has previously played for Kano Pillars and Warri Wolves FC. Reflecting on the preseason training, he noted the positive atmosphere within the team.

"Since we started training for the new season, the motivation has been great. This includes the players, the technical bench, and the leaders. Everything is going well, and the leaders have been with us shoulder to shoulder, ensuring we give our best for the fans. I believe the next season will be good, and what makes me proud is how everyone is performing in practice," Okejepha added.

Simba's ambitious revamp of their midfield is a clear signal of their intent to dominate the upcoming season. With the new signings, the team is poised to bring a fresh dynamic to their gameplay, aiming to meet the high expectations of their fans and secure success in the 2024/2025 cam-

Alliance Caravans storms into 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup final

LLIANCE Caravans have boosted their quest for the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup title, cruising to the final after commanding an emphatic eight-wicket victory over Park Mobile Lions in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The Jitin Singh-led Alliance Caravans, also the tournament hosts, met Park Mobile Lions in the weekend's final match of the showdown's Super 4 stage at the Leaders Club venue in Ki-

A win for Alliance Caravans was bound to have the outfit secure a spot in the tournament's final, a goal cherished by all of the club's supporters.

However, standing in their path were the formidable Park Mobile Lions, who had breezed through the group stage.

Park Mobile Lions won the toss and opted to bat first and, despite their strong form earlier, they struggled against the disciplined bowling put on by Alliance Caravans.

Apart from opener Ejaz Aziz, Mohamad Jawed, and Yash Hirwania, who managed to reach double figures, most of Park Mobile Lions' batsmen faltered.

Alliance Caravans' bowling attack, spearheaded by Jerry Mathew, ran rings all over the opponents' batting unit.

The in-form Mathew claimed three wickets for just nine runs in his four overs to walk away with the Automark Purple Cap.

Mathew was ably supported by skipper Akhil Anil (3-14 in four overs) and Yalinde Maurice



Alliance Caravans' Jerry Mathew (R) receives the Ras Logistics Man of the Match award from a represent nd. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

mere 78 runs.

With qualification seemingly assured, Alliance Caravans needed to maintain composure over the next 20 overs.

Openers Prakash Nair (43 runs not out off 30 balls) and Jitin Pratap Singh (22 off 33 balls) set a solid foundation with a 41-run partnership before Jitin fell to Park Mobile Lions' Umar Shaikh.

All-rounder Kassim Nassoro departed soon after without scoring, but Ganesh Giri's quickfire 11 runs not out off three balls sealed the victory (2-17 in four overs) to bundle and confirmed Alliance Cara-Park Mobile Lions out for a vans' place in the final.

Mathew's exceptional bowling performance earned him the Ras Logistics Man of the Match award.

Nair's aggressive batting, par-

ticularly his onslaught against Mohamed Jawed's bowling, was celebrated as the Medinova Moment of the Match.

The tournament is an annual T20 cricket showdown organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Alliance Caravans, Aurobindo AKSC, Delaware Upanga SC, Balakrishna Foundation Aces, Flashnet Strikers, Park Mobile Lions, Harab Motors Pak Stars, Econo Lodge Lions, Azania Bank Pak Stars, and Generics

Gymkhana are taking part in the showdown.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors of this tournament include Alliance Insurance, Ras Logsitics, Medinova Healthcare, Automark, Pepsi, Ashton Media, MFI-Vertiv, Jiuzhou, SmarDTV, Intek-Korea, ASAS, Colourflex, and Delaware.

Aurobindo, Balakrishna Foundation, Park Mobile, Harab Motors, Flashnet, Generics, Econo Lodge, Azania Bank, Horizon Teleports, TATA, The Works, MO Bajaj, and Seacliff Hotel are also the showpiece's sponsors.



2024. (AP Photo)

TROON, Scotland

TIGER Woods is playing all four majors for the first time since 2019, which at the start of the year would have been cause for great optimism.

The results paint a different

He set a Masters record by making his 24th consecutive cut at Augusta National. And then he was gone by the weekend at the PGA Championship and the U.S. Open. He hasn't broken par since a 69 in the second round of the 2022 PGA Championship, and he needed that simply to make the

His performance is starting to raise questions of how much longer he will play – how much longer he should play – to avoid lasting memories of a great champion slapping it around.

Leave it to Colin Montgomerie to put those thoughts into words found in a Times of London interview ahead of the British Open, when he said at

one point, "What the hell is he doing?'

The entirety of what Montgomerie told the Times: "I hope people remember Tiger as Tiger was, the passion and the charismatic aura around him. There is none of that now. At Pinehurst he did not seem to enjoy a single shot and you think, 'What the hell is he doing?' He's coming to Troon and

he won't enjoy it there, either." Woods already has enjoyed one aspect of his stay at Royal Troon. That came Tuesday when he was asked about Montgomerie's comments. Woods relishes a chance to push back on criticism, particularly when the source is someone known for never winning a major.

"Well, as a past champion, I'm exempt until I'm 60," Woods said, speaking to his time at the British Open. "Colin's not. He's not a past champion, so he's not exempt. So he doesn't get the opportunity to make that decision. I do."

It brought up memories of an

Analysis: Tiger Woods is playing all the majors. But for how much longer? Third some 20 years the 54-hole lead at Royal Bir

ago. Stewart McDougal was the press officer at the time, and he would ask Open champions who came into the press center to sign the table. At the end of the week, McDougal auctioned off the table for charity.

Montgomerie came in one day, saw all the signatures on the table and reached for pen.

"I'm sorry, Colin," McDougal told him. "It's only for Open champions.'

Poor Monty.

The questions are fair enough, but there is something to be said about golfers being able to decide when their time is done. And given all that Woods has done in the game, it's probably not the best idea to show him the door no matter what num-

bers he is posting. His 82 in the third round of the Masters was his highest in a major. The 78 on the Old Course two years ago in what likely will be his final time at St. Andrews.

He still draws the biggest crowd and generates the loudest buzz. And two numbers worth remembering are four and 15. He had four surgeries on his lower back, the last one to fuse his spine, and two years later he won his 15th major at the Masters.

Another number worth noting is 59 - the age of Tom Watson when he was an 8-foot par putt away from winning the British Open at Turnberry in 2009. The year before, Greg Norman was 53 when he had

Courses for the U.S. majors might be getting too big for the 48-year-old Woods, whose body is held together by hardware. But there is something about links golf that is timeless.

"The older you get, the less you can carry the golf ball," Woods said. "But over here, you can run the golf ball 100 yards if you get the right wind and the right trajectory. ... You can play on the ground. You can burn it on the ground with a 1-iron, 2-iron, 3-wood, whatever.

"I think that's one of the reasons why you see older champions up there on the board because they're not forced to have to carry the ball 320 yards."

Woods always will be linked with Augusta National because of his watershed win at age 21 when he won the 1997 Masters by 12 shots, and it is the major he has won the most times. But for all his power as a younger man, no one hit irons like Woods. The flight of his shots was ideal for the links golf. It still is.

Woods showed up Tuesday wearing shorts, with a black compression sleeve covering his right leg. That was a clear reminder that age isn't as big an issue as health. Woods has been forthright in explaining his dilemma. His body won't allow him to play a full schedule, and when he shows up at the majors, he has to deal with competitive rust.

AP

FA willing to wait for Pep Guardiola as England manager to replace Gareth

By Miguel Delaney

THE Football Association would consider the idea of appointing an interim in order to try and coax Pep Guardiola as England manager if he does decide to leave Manchester City in 2025.

While it is not the federation's first choice to wait, the Catalan represents such an outstanding candidate that it would at least bring a re-assessment if there was any chance of getting him.

Gareth Southgate's resignation was announced on Tuesday morning, just two days after the Euro 2024 final defeat to Spain, putting into action a long-prepared FA plan for his departure.

The priority now is for a manager who understands the culture of the national team, which Guardiola fits into perfectly having spent eight years in England and supplied so many players.

He has naturally been high on any ideal list, but the feeling was previously that it would be near impossible to get him out of City for such a job.

There is now a feeling within the English champions that Guardiola might leave at the end of the 2024-25 season. Complicating his future is the ongoing Premier League investigation into City over the hundred-plus charges for alleged breaches of rules on financial regulation. The club stress their innocence.

Guardiola has previously expressed interest in going into international management, although primarily on the romance of coaching Brazil.

In such a scenario that he might be interested, the FA would seek to play up the idea of ending England's long wait for an international trophy.

Guardiola does not have particular interest in managing Spain due to identifying as a Catalan.

One problem is that the 53-year-old may not even make a decision until the end of the 2024-25 season, as has been the case in recent campaigns. That may not prove completely off-putting, how-

While the FA have stressed their intention to make a quick decision, that can involve an interim. Qualification for the 2026 World Cup doesn't even start until late March.

Under-21 manager Lee Carsley would be seen as someone ready to step up, given he is currently a candidate for the senior job. Any success in such games could even see him promoted if Guardiola does not ultimately leave City or want the job.

Figures with knowledge of the situation have also pointed out that the FA were prepared to wait for Sarina Wiegman on the women's team, because they felt she was absolutely the right

As regards candidates the FA would seek to go for immediately, Newcastle United have already let it be known that they would work to keep Ed-

THE INDEPENDENT

Easily one of the best' - Bellingham leads Southgate tributes

By Sam Drury

JUDE Bellingham praised Gareth Southgate as "easily one of the best coaches in the history of the national team" in a heartfelt tribute to the outgoing England manager.

Southgate resigned on Tuesday after nearly eight years in the role, with England's 2-1 loss to Spain in Sunday's Euro 2024 final his last match

In a post on Instagram, Real Madrid midfielder Bellingham described Southgate as "an unbelievable human being".

"I'd like to thank Gareth and his staff for the great memories during his tenure," Bellingham wrote.

"From the point of view of a fan who has become a member of the squad, it's been a rollercoaster of amazing emotions that has instilled hope and joy back into our country.

"It was a privilege being lead by someone who is so dedicated and passionate, not only is Gareth easily one of the best coaches in the history of the national team but also an unbelievable human be-

"Thank you for everything and all the best in the next chapter, Gaffer."

BBC Sport pundit and former England striker Alan Shearer was also among those to pay tribute to Southgate, who took charge of 102 games and led his country to back-to-back Euros finals.

"It was a huge job for him [Southgate] to take on," Shearer told the BBC.

"He did that and turned everything around, we went from rock bottom to playing in semi-finals and finals. That is now the expectation with England and he played a huge part in that."

He added that the 53-year-old will be remembered for "creating this incredible spirit and for players again wanting to represent their country". Gary Lineker expressed his thanks to Southgate

On 'incredible day,' Kylian Mbappé welcomed by Real Madrid fans at packed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium

MADRID

YLIAN Mbappé finally put on a Real Maon Tuesday, fulfilling his childhood dream in front of a packed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Nearly 80,000 fans were in hand at the Bernabeu to welcome the 25-year-old France star during his official presentation as the club's newest player.

After signing his fiveyear contract with the Spanish powerhouse alongside club president Florentino Pérez, Mbappé entered the stage set up at the Bernabeu to loud cheers by the Madrid fans.

Wearing the No. 9 jersey, Mbappé smiled broadly and waved to the fans who chanted his name, then embraced Pérez and former Madrid player and coach Zinedine Zidane, who invited Mbappé to visit the Spanish club for the first time when he was just a teenager.

"It's an incredible day for me," Mbappé told the crowd, in good Spanish. "Since being a kid I dreamed about playing for Madrid and today I'm here. It means a lot to me.'

Mbappé finished his speech by asking the crowd to join him and chant "Hala Madrid," similar to what his childhood idol - and "now friend" - Cristiano Ronaldo did when he arrived at the club. Mbappé then kissed the club's shield and went around the Bernabeu kicking balls to the crowd in the



Kylian Mbappe, of France, stands with his parents, former players Zinedine Zidane, left, and Jose Martnez Pirri, right, and Real Madrid President Florentino Perez, 2nd right, after being presented to fans as a new Real Madrid player at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Tuesday, July 16, 2024. (AP Photo)

stands.

"Now I have another dream, which is to live up to the history of this club, the best club in the world," he said. "I'll give my life to this club and to this shield.'

The record 15 European Cups won by Madrid were on display on the stage where Mbappé was introduced. His relatives, club officials and several former players were also by the stage.

"I see my family happy, I see my mother crying," said Mbappé, who earlier Tuesday underwent his physical with Madrid's doctors.

The message "Welcome, Mbappé" was shown on the large video boards at the newly revamped Bernabeu, which had its roof closed for the midday ceremony in the Spanish capital.

remarks, which are con-

trary to the values of

sport and human rights,

the FFF president has

decided to contact its

Argentinian counterpart

and FIFA directly to file

a legal complaint for racist and discriminatory

remarks," the French

soccer federation said in

a statement on Tuesday.

single out France players

of African heritage, from

several countries, and

holding a French pass-

French Football Federation, Philippe Diallo,

condemns in the stron-

gest terms the unaccept-

able racist and discrimi-

"The president of the

port.

The derogatory chants

most iconic moments were also shown while the song "Nessun Dorma" was played on the loudspeakers. Images of Mbappe's career were also displayed, as well as photos including Mbappé wearing Madrid's uniform as a kid and posing alongside former club star Ronaldo.

"It's was a historic day for me and my family," Mbappé said later in his news conference, already wearing a suit and tie. "It was even greater than I had expected it to be. It's a privilege and an honor to be a Real Madrid player."

Pérez called Mbappé's presentation a "historic act" for the club.

"Today we welcome an exceptional player who today is fulfilling his

Some of the club's said. "Today you are adapted to the squad so here because it's something that you wanted. Thank you for making a great effort to be able to wear this white jersey."

Kids linked to Mbappé's foundation were also on hand and Mbappé made a point to send a message to children everywhere. "With passion and a

dream, you can achieve anything you want," he said. "I'm the one here today, maybe next time it can be one of you." Mbappé is a World

Cup winner with France but is yet to win a Champions League, the club competition in which Madrid has been dominant in the last decade. "There's no better

place to win titles than at Real Madrid," he said. "My priority is to get childhood dream," Pérez back to training and get sign the young player,

I can help the team win." Mbappé met with

coach Carlo Ancelotti

and many of his new

teammates before being

introduced to the fans at the Bernabeu. He said his France teammates who play for Madrid and Brazil forward Vinícius Júnior had been among those trying to get him to join the

Spanish club. "I'm excited to get to play with everyone," Mbappé said. "I'll play wherever the coach wants me to play. I don't care about the position."

Mbappé's presentation came after he played at the 2024 European Championship, where France lost to eventual champion Spain in the semifinals.

After years trying to

Madrid finally reached a deal with him in June when he opted not to stay with Paris Saint-Germain and became a

free agent. Mbappé had played club soccer only for French teams – first at Monaco before joining PSG and staying there for the past seven sea-

Pérez made signing Mbappé a strategic club priority since the powerhouse failed to lock him up when he visited the club's facilities as a young teenager and instead joined Monaco's youth academy.

In 2021, Madrid was rejected after offering PSG a bid of 180 million euros, the same amount PSG paid Monaco for a teenage Mbappé years earlier.

French federation files complaint after 'racist and discriminatory remarks' by Argentina players

THE French soccer federation pledged Tuesday to file a complaint with FIFA over "racist and discriminatory remarks" by Argentina players in post-match chants about France's team after their Copa America title win.

Argentina beat Colombia 1-0 on Sunday at Miami Gardens, Florida. A video posted on Instagram by Argentina midfielder Enzo Fernandez, who plays for Chelsea, and widely viewed on X showed Argentina players appearing to sing about French players with African heritage.

One of Fernandez's Chelsea teammates, France defender Wesley Fofana, posted the Argentina team video on his social media accounts Tuesday and called it "uninhibited racism."

Fofana, who has family ties to Ivory Coast, is among several French players who are Black in the Chelsea first-team squad.

The same chants – by some Argentina fans emerged before France and Argentina met in the World Cup final two years ago, which Argentina won.

"Given the serious-

BBC



Argentina kitman Mario De Stefano holds up the trophy as he celebrates with players after defeating Colombia in the Copa America final soccer match in Miami Gardens, Fla., Monday, July 15, 2024. (AP Photo)_

ness of these shocking natory remarks made the France team as part ers and supporters of against the players of of a song sung by play- the Argentina team," the

FFF added.

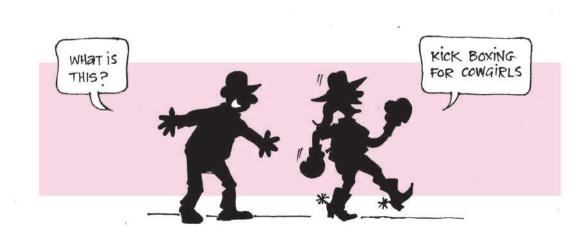
Diallo is a member of the executive committee of European soccer body UEFA with a growing reputation in the game's politics.

FIFA could not immediately confirm Tuesday if the French complaint had been filed.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino has said soccer and its 211 national federations must have a zero tolerance approach to racism and in May committed to relaunching a task force to monitor incidents.

AP

GWIII by David Chikoko



Guardian www.ippmedic.com

Yanga lodge application for extension of time for Trustees case review

On 'incredible day,' Kylian Mbappé welcomed by Real Madrid fans at packed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium



Aisha Masaka now signs for Brighton & **Hove Albion**

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIAN forward Aisha Masaka has joined English Women's Super League side Brighton and Hove Albion.

Aisha (pictured) has put pen to paper to serve the English topflight side on undisclosed terms as she signs from Swedish side BK Häcken, a club she spent two and half years with.

A Brighton and Hove Albion statement read: "We are delighted to announce the signing of striker Aisha Masaka from BK Hacken on undisclosed

terms, subject to the usual regulatory processes." Zoe Johnson, managing director of Brighton and Hove Albion women's and girls' football, said,

"We're really excited to welcome Aisha to Brighton. "She's competed at a high and testing level in Sweden and represented Hacken in the Champi-

"She's a physical striker who is dominant on the ball and a natural goalscorer. We're looking forward to welcoming her to Albion ahead of the new

The 20-year-old joined Hacken in 2022 from Young Africans in Tanzania, having previously played for Alliance FC of Mwanza.

In her two seasons at Hacken, the forward helped them finish second in the Swedish Women's League and they reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA Champions League last season before losing

Upon leaving BK Häcken, Aisha said: "I am very sad to leave BK Häcken, but now I have an opportunity to gather new experiences. I am leaving BK Häcken now but it will be my club forever.

"It is a fantastic club where we have the same conditions and facilities as the men. We have played good football and it is a professional club where I have really felt at home."

During her time in the Tanzanian Premier League, Aisha won 'Best Goal Scorer' in the 2020/21 campaign after netting 35 goals in 20 matches for Young Africans.

At international level she has won 15 caps for Tanzania, scoring nine goals since making her Twiga Stars debut in 2021.

Aisha also played for Tanzania at the under-17 COSAFA Cup when Serengeti Girls won the tournament and she finished top goal scorer.

She was also part of the Tanzania squad that qualified for AWCON 2024 and will head to Moroc-

The 2024/25 English Women's Super League season will start across the weekend of September 21-22.



Africans acknowledged receiving a judgement regarding the non-recognition of the club's Board of Trustees following the decision issued on August 2, 2023, by the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's

The judgement stems from a case filed on August 4, 2022. by plaintiffs Juma Ally and



lenging the legitimacy of the Board of Trustees appointed under the 2010 constitution, which they claim lacks legal qualifications.

Young Africans' Legal Director, Simon Patrick, stated that the club has requested an extension from the Kisu-

Geoffrey Mwaipopo, chal- tu Resident Magistrate's Resident Magistrate's Court Court to file an application for a review of the judge-

> "On November 6, 2022, two individuals, Juma Ally and Geoffrey Mwaipopo, who identified themselves as Young Africans members, filed a case in the Kisutu

against Board of Trustees members Mama Fatma Karume, Abeid Mohamed Abeid, and Mzee Jabir Katundu," said Patrick.

"They alleged non-recognition of the Board of Trustees of the Young Africans SC

"Due to not recognizing the 2010 constitution, they claim that the Board of Trustees members are invalid, and consequently, all club leaders and their memberships are invalid.

"This includes the club president, vice president, members of the Executive Committee, and all other officials employed based on their memberships.

"They are also demanding the handover of financial reports and assets.

"We have verified that the complainants are indeed legitimate members of our club. If we had known earlier, we would have taken steps to defend the club.

"Currently, we are making efforts to gather more details. Since the plaintiffs have returned to court to seek enforcement of the judgement, we will request a review because the club was not aware of the proceedings and deserves the right to be heard."

CECAFA Dar Port Cup 2024 semi-final line-up complete

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE semifinal line-up is complete at the CECAFA Dar Port Cup 2024 after the final matches in Group C were played on Tuesday, leaving two tasty ties in the last four clashes to be staged tomor-

Rwanda's APR will take on Sudan's Al Hilal in the first game at 4 pm, before another Sudanese side Hay Al Wadi FC battle with guest side Red Arrows from Zambia in the second game at 7 pm.

Both matches will be played at the Azam Chamazi Com-

Al Hilal defeated Kenya;s Gor Mahia 2-0 to keep their perfect winning record in the regional tournament.

After a goalless first half, Salah Eldin Adil gave Al Hilal the lead in the 56th minute.

In-form striker Mohamed Abdelrhman Yousif then netted a second for the Sudanese two minutes before normal stoppage time.

It was his fifth goal of the campaign, two more than his closest challenger in the top scorer race.

Red Arrows needed a win to ensure they would advance to the last four as the best second-placed team ahead of Uganda's SC Villa who finished with five points.

This comes after they beat Djibouti Telecom 1-0 to finish second in Group B with six points behind Sudanese side Al Hilal who topped the group with nine points after winning all their group games.

Anthony Shipanuka scored the only goal of the game in the 21st minute off a Godfrey Ngwenya corner.

Shipanuka was also named



Sudan's Al Hilal and Kenya;s Gor Mahia players fight for the ball during their CECAFA Dar Port Cup 2024 match at Azam Chamazi Complex in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Al Hilal won 2-0.

the player of the match and walked away with Tsh 300,000.

APR FC were the first team to qualify for the semifinals after picking a 1-1 draw against SC Villa to top Group C on Monday.

Hay Al Wadi topped Group A after picking a 1-1 draw against Coastal Union in a match played at the Azam Complex, Chamazi on Mon-

Mohamed Hassan gave the Sudanese team the lead immediately after the break before Abdallah Dennis equalized for Wagosi wa Kaya five minutes later.

The draw moved Hay Al Wadi to seven points, three more than second placed Coastal Union.

Clubs are using the regional tournament as preparation for the upcoming season, where Al Hilal, APR and Red Arrows will represent their countries in the CAF Champions League while Hay Al Wadi FC will play in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

