



National Pg 3

M2M communication tech gains ground, says TCRA



National Pg 4

Dr Ndugulile to start his new job in March 2025



National Pg 6

Initiative to curb rare birth defects in children



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured shortly after jetting into China's Beijing International Airport yesterday ready for the 2024 (September 3 to 8) Heads of State and Government Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. Photo: State House

Baboon intrusion: Wildlife officials inactive, pointing at mpox aversion

...No compensation is expected to be provided by the government even as the animals pose a major threat to people in the area

By Guardian Correspondent, Biharamulo

CONSERVATION authorities are not going to remove baboons invading a scatter of villages in Biharamulo District as the game officials fear for monkeypox.

Athanas Sumbuso, the Ruziba ward councillor, said here yesterday that he had recently gone with fellow councillors from Bisibo ward to offices of the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) in Biharamulo, as the ward faces similar challenges.

"We were informed that the baboons cannot be removed at this time due to the threat of monkeypox," the councillor said,

expressing frustration at this response. If the baboons are not promptly removed from residential areas, there is a risk of the community contracting diseases linked to baboons, including monkeypox, he stated.

The situation is compounded by some residents engaging in ritualistic practices involving the baboons, where they consume crops before they are harvested by the community, residents said.

David Mwenenkundwa, the ward councillor for Biharamulo town, said that with baboons taking over some residential ar-

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'African nations losing 5pc of GDP to climate change'

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN nations are losing up to five percent of gross domestic product (GDP) annually due to a heavier burden than the rest of the world from climate change, a new report has stated.

Celeste Saulo, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) secretary general, said in a statement on Monday that a new meteorological report on Africa covering 2023 says it was the third in sequence of three hottest years.

Many African nations are spending up to 9.0 per cent of their annual estimates for revenues and expenditure on climate adaptation efforts, the report noted, asserting that the trend has been developing over a long period of time.

"Over the past 60 years, Africa has observed a warming trend that has become more rapid than the global average," the meteo SG intoned, cautioning that it is affecting everything from food security to public health, and peace.

While Africa emits less than 10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions it is the most vulnerable region to extreme weather events including droughts, floods and heat waves, he stated.

WMO urged African governments to invest in early warning systems as well as more focused meteorological services. If adequate measures are not put in place, up to 118m people in the continent will be exposed to droughts, floods and extreme heat by the end of the dec-

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Scrap metal drivers block border road, await NEMC

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

DRIVERS of 150 trucks transporting scrap metal from neighbouring Malawi to Uganda and Rwanda through Tanzania have temporarily blocked the Kasumulu border post in Kyela District, Mbeya Region.

Interviewed drivers said they are demanding that the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) issue permits for their transit cargoes, affirming that for up to six weeks the drivers have been unable to proceed on the road at the Kasumulu border post, as NEMC has not issued the



Therefore, the continued blockage at this border results in a loss of revenue for the government

necessary permits for transporting scrap metal.

Omary Salmini, a truck driver, expressed frustration with NEMC for halting their journeys, stating that they are waiting for the required permits to transport scrap metal to Uganda and Rwanda.

The drivers say they have previously transported goods through the border post without hiccups, but are surprised by the new requirement to wait for permits.

Trucks have been stalled for a month with no progress, he said, explaining that

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Trucks transporting scrap metal from Malawi to Uganda and Rwanda via Tanzania parked at the Kasumulu border in Kyela District, Mbeya Region, as found last week. The vehicles have reportedly been held up there for about a month now, with Tanzania's National Environment Management Council demanding relevant transit documents. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



TCU opens second window for new 2024/25 admissions

"Those who fail to get the notification on time are required to go to the admission system and request for it, to obtain the PIN"

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) yesterday opened the second window for admission of undergraduate students for the 2024/2025 academic year.

Prof Charles Kihampa (pictured), the TCU executive secretary, said at a press conference here yesterday, noting admission of 98,890 students out of 124,286 applicants during the initial opening.

The new window will enable those who did not apply or failed to obtain admission in the first round for any reasons to reapply in alternative higher learning institutions, which are being asked to publish notices of available undergraduate admission openings after the first round of admissions.

The window opened yesterday will remain open until 21st September, upwards of three working weekdays, he said, noting that admissions relate to 86 higher learning institutions.

A total of 856 applicants are expected to be approved for the 2024/25 compared to

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Scrap metal drivers block border road, await NEMC

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drivers parked trucks on August 1 here after being stopped by NEMC.

They have to wait to obtain permits for transporting the scrap metal, he said, pointing at the difficulties they face, lacking the money to sustain themselves on the spot.

"We have left our families behind who depend on us. Our health is at risk because the environment is not conducive for prolonged stay," he emphasized.

Abdulmalik Kanoti, another driver, said that the permit issuance process was supposed to be swift, but progress has been slow due to NEMC lacking an office at the border post/ No one is available to address the matter promptly, he specified.

"We are asking the authorities to assist us on this issue. We need to continue with our journeys," he stated, noting that the drivers are tired of being stuck there.

"Life has become hard, and we have no money to sustain ourselves," he further complained, highlighting that the rucks and drivers transporting the scrap metal are mainly from Tanzania.

"Therefore, the continued blockage at this border results in a loss of revenue for the government," he said.

Josiah Murunya, the NEMC zonal manager for the Southern Highlands, said that the council is working on the issue. Once the permit procedures are completed the drivers will be allowed to pursue their respective destinations, he added.

TCU opens second window for new 2024/25 admissions

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809 for the 2023/24 academic year, as admission slots have increased to 19,986 in 2024/25 compared to 186,289 in 2023/24.

This means 12,697 more openings for study, as 98,890 applicants or 79.6 percent of applicants in the first window secured openings where they applied, with more admissions expected during the second window, he said.

Applicants who obtained admissions in more than one institution need to confirm their admission in one of them up to the closure of the second window, he said.

Confirmation needs the special personal identification number (PIN) sent to respective applicants through mobile phone numbers or email addresses used to file in applications, he said.

"Those who fail to get the notification on time are required to go to the admission system and request for it, to obtain the PIN," he said,

referring to applications lodged in the commission's website at www.tcu.go.tz.

Student registration is being conducted in three phases for this academic year, with the first phase involving students holding the relevant Form Six qualifications, while the second phase involves students with ordinary diplomas or its equivalent.

The third phase will involve students with foundation certificates from the Open University of Tanzania (OUP), he said, underlining that applicants are supposed to read about the requirements from bachelor's degree admission guidebooks for the 2024/2025 academic year at the TCU website.

Interested applicants can send their applications directly to the relevant higher learning institutions where they will receive relevant information on the process of joining and qualifications required, he added.

'African nations losing 5pc of GDP to climate change'

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ade, the report explains.

In sub-Saharan Africa the costs of adapting to extreme weather could be \$30bn to \$50bn collectively per year over the decade, it elaborated.

The effects of climate change have been harrowing, it said, pointing out that during September and October 2023, up to 300,000 people across West Africa were affected by floods, while Zambia experienced the worst drought in 40 years, affecting nearly six million people.

The pattern of extreme weather events in Africa is unabated during 2024, as in the Sahel region adjacent to the Sahara, flooding has already affected over 716,000 people, on the basis of United Nations data.

In Mali, authorities last week declared a national disaster over floods which have affected 47,000 people since the beginning of the rainy season, as West Africa experienced an unprecedented heat wave earlier this year that led to a surge in deaths, it affirmed.

'Climate action crucial to safeguard Africa's SDGs'

LUSAKA

THE negative effects brought by climate change may derail Africa's progress toward achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals unless urgent measures are taken, a senior Zambian government official has said.

Mike Mposha, Zanzibar's Minister for Green Economy and Environment said on Monday that extreme weather events in Africa were intensifying and impacting the continent's socio-economic development, a situation that requires urgent attention to protect the continent from the devastating effects of climate change.

"Africa is uniquely vulnerable to climate change, with its high dependence on rain-fed agriculture and limited adaptive capacity. Rising temperatures, sea-level rise and erratic rainfall are already causing widespread harm to human health, ecosystems and livelihoods," he said in remarks commenting on the release of the State of Climate in Africa 2023 report released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), according to a statement.

According to him, the report provides valuable insights that could inform policy decisions and guide future actions to protect Africa from the devastating effects of climate change.

Mposha, who is also the first vice president of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology, said the report serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for climate action in Africa as well as the assessment of the continent's climate situation.

He noted that rising temperatures, severe heatwaves, accelerating sea-level rise and erratic rainfall are all contributing to a worsening climate crisis, affecting agricultural productivity, food security and overall well-being.

He said the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology is playing a pivotal role in addressing Africa's climate challenges through its integrated African strategy which focuses on enhancing climate services, strengthening partnerships and building capacity to support climate adaptation and resilience.

He said by implementing the strategy, Africa could improve its ability to deliver early warning systems and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The minister further said it is important to continue advocating for increased investments in climate adaptation and resilience ahead of the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday congratulating Kigamboni constituency legislator Dr Faustine Nduunguile (R). The latter, a former cabinet minister, had shortly earlier expressed his gratitude to the government and the legislative body for standing behind him during the campaign that led to his recent election as Director of the World Health Organisation's Regional Office for Africa. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

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ease, this poses a significant risk of monkeypox for those living near the Burigi-Chato National Park.

Thomas Mahenge, the district natural resources officer, confirmed the incident involving the child, saying all the same that efforts are being organised to remove the baboons.

A request has been placed on the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) to design appropriate relocation methods, he said, noting all the same that the monkeypox threat may deter officials from proceeding promptly.

There was an initial effort to prevent crop damage by the migrating baboons, he said, pointing to investigations that revealed that the baboons in the area are not related to those found in the wild.

"They belong to a completely different troop, being found in rocky areas, unlike the baboons found in the forest," he said, while Dr. Anna Yusuph, the district epidemic control officer, affirmed that while Tanzania has not reported any cases of monkeypox, proactive measures are being taken to control the dis-

Baboon intrusions: Wildlife officials inactive, pointing at mpox aversion

ease and protect public health.

Regions at high risk of mpox infection include Katavi, Rukwa, Kigoma, Songwe, Mbeya, Dodoma, and Dar es Salaam, she stated, advising that residents in these areas need to avoid contact with or consumption of bush meat and wildlife.

These efforts started as baboons fleeing from the Burigi-Chato National Park to the vicinity of homes in Biharamulo District, Kagera Region started raising mpox scare among the residents.

Interviewed residents in adjacent villages talked of a widespread fear of mpox contracting as the invading beasts aren't confined to borders of conserved areas.

Bigiri-Chato shares ecosystems with the likes of Ibanda-Kyerwa and Rumanyika Karagwe national parks and that of neighboring countries like Rwanda's Akagera national park in Kyerwa and Karagwe districts respectively, along with Uganda's Kikati game reserve, a rangeland are

to the north of the Katungo River and the Lake Mburo National park.

The large animals have been invading homes, injuring people, damaging crops and reducing public safety to chaos, a situation leading to worries as mpox has been reported in Uganda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) apart from Kenya, more distant from the area.

Fortunatus Ibembe in Ruhita village expressed anxiety and apprehension over baboon intrusions and human-wildlife contacts in a chaotic way that has often led to people being infected with one or other deadly disease.

He appealed to the government and conservation authorities to control the wild animals from getting into villages as fear is rampant of contracting the disease as it is just around the corner.

Angela Sylivanus, another villager, said that people are worried with what is being heard from neigh-

boring countries about mpox, thus demanding that the government take prompt action on the issue.

Petro Kizuluja, the Nyarubungo ward councillor, underscored the gravity of the situation with a recent incident in Lusabya village, where a child was taken by baboons but was rescued by villagers who intervened.

The child sustained injuries to the face and ears, with the abduction occurring while the child's mother was scattering leaves on a nearby banana farm, he said, noting that a cry for help from the community worked as people managed to rescue the child. The injuries were significant all the same, he stated.

The baboons pose not only a threat to safety but also a risk of food shortages with extensive crop damage and livestock feed. No compensation is expected to be provided by the government even as the animals pose a major threat to people in the area, he added.



Mohamed Mchengerwa, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday gracing the launch of smart cards for use by passengers on the city's rapid transit buses. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Reference bureau billed to ease human resources management

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A NEW human resources management portal in Tanzania called the Employees Reference Bureau (ERB) was launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Speaking at the launch, Godwell Wanga, Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) executive secretary, said that it was the first private initiative that resonates with the country's five-year digital transformation agenda.

He said the government will use both its public employment and the private portal launched to recruit employees and leaders.

"Recently, the Head of State has

been appointing leaders from the private sector; the new ERB will help the government get qualified people," he said.

"The ERB will be a gateway to Tanzanians seeking jobs beyond the country's borders."

Dr Wanga said that the ERB will also attract new investors since it assures them of the security of employees' data and other information.

According to him, ERB will also increase the government's trust in stakeholders in and outside the country, attracting more investments.

He said that the government's digital transformation agenda pri-

oritises strategic use of technology to enhance governance, streamline public services and foster economic growth.

ERB has been established by the Dar es Salaam-based company Peak HR Solution.

Capt. Philemon Kisamo, Peak HR Solutions managing director, said the innovative platform was designed to streamline human resources operations, enhance data security and ensure compliance with the highest standards of accuracy and privacy.

He said ERB collects detailed information from various resources, including previous employers, educational institutions and pro-

fessional organisations, ensuring a complete and accurate record of an individual's employment history.

Furthermore, the system offers a secure, regularly updated database that stores all collected information, allowing HR managers easy access to the most current data.

He said the system includes audit trails that document every action taken within ERB, ensuring transparency and accountability in managing employee's records.

Employers can generate detailed reports that summarise key information such as job titles, responsibilities, dates of employment, reasons for leaving, and professional qualifications.



This is a scene from a just-ended three-day free eye screening and treatment camp held in Korogwe District with Mo Dewji Foundation sponsorship. A total of 4,228 people were examined, 376 surgeries performed and 1,999 people issued with reading glasses. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

By Guardian Reporter

Machine-to-machine communication technology gains ground, says TCRA

AUTOMATED communication between machines is advancing in Tanzania, with sim cards for Machine-to-Machine (M2M) communication rising by 4.3 percent in the past three months. Latest report by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) shows that in June 2024, there were 962,928 M2M sim cards in use, up from 937,257 in April. Vodacom leads the sector with 551,541 M2M sim cards, representing 57.3 percent of all M2M subscriptions, followed by Airtel with 34.2 percent, and Halotel holds 6.0 percent. The Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited (TTCL) which had 299 M2M sim cards in April; this year has reported none in the category.

M2M communication technology enables devices to automatically exchange data without human intervention. Examples include smart electricity meters that track energy consumption in real-time and wearable devices that monitor physical activity, heart rate and other metrics, transferring data to smartphones and networked computers. TCRA statistics indicate that as of June 2024, there were 7,721 wearables in use in Tanzania. Overall, mobile subscriptions for Person-to-Person (P2P) and M2M communication have grown by 58.5 percent from 47,685,232 in 2019 to 75,588,006 in June 2024. Additionally, data bundle tariffs

decreased by 0.6 percent between April and June. Average call tariffs within the same network (on-net) and to other networks (off-net) have converged since 2020 due to gradual reductions. On-net call charges fell from 149/- in 2019 to 26/- in June 2024 while off-net tariffs decreased from 189/- to 28/-. From 2019 to 2023, off-net traffic grew at a rate seven times faster than on-net traffic. On-net minutes increased from 55,812,036,633 in 2019 to 77,770,241,513 in 2023 while off-net minutes surged from 11,570,993,820 to 67,100,445,506. This growth is attributed to the significant drop in interconnection charges which fell from 15.6/- in

2018 to 1.76/- in January 2024. M2M communication refers to communication between entities which can be objects, devices or things that exchange information and carry out actions with minimal or no human intervention using existing or evolving communication networks. They are technologies that allow both wireless and wired systems to communicate with other devices of similar ability. In M2M, sensors attached to machines relay information of the events that the machines experience to an application that analyses the data and makes decisions in real time or near to real time.

Ugandan judge replaces retired Kenyan at African court, Arusha

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

UGANDAN High Court member of judiciary who is also an alumnus of the University of Dar es salaam has been sworn in to serve as the new judge of the African Court on Human and People's Rights in Arusha. Justice Duncan Gaswaga from the High Court of Uganda takes over the cloak from former ACHPR Judge Ben Kioko who served the regional facility for the last twelve years. "Being one of the eleven judges of the coveted Pan African Legal facility is a great honour," he said, adding that the continent faces a number of issues especially those pertaining to human rights and good governance. "But I am up for the challenge, having gathered experience from various areas including Europe and elsewhere in the world," he said. The President of the African Court Justice Iman Aboud said Gaswaga brings new experience and adds to the list of the team of judges who are now six. "The court is usually made up of a panel of eleven judges," she said, pointing out that Gaswaga replaces a retiring one. Based in Arusha, the African Court is set to deliver six judgments at its main seating in the city within the course of this week. The court held a public hearing on application number 019 of 2018 (Centre for Human Rights and Others versus United Republic of Tanzania) on Tuesday 10th September 2024. All the proceedings are among the events taking place at the court premises in Arusha held during the 74th Ordinary Session of the court which runs from the second day of September 2024 to the 27th. At the High Court of Uganda, Justice Gaswaga headed circuits and divisions including the executions and bailiffs and the commercial divisions for the last eleven years. He is also attached to the

International Crimes Division (ICD) of Uganda which deals with international crimes and was one of the four judges who concluded last week a case of Uganda Vs Thomas Kwoyelo (a former abductee, and later, Lord's Resistance Army top commander), charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity. This was the first case of its kind on the African continent to be conducted under the complementarity principle of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Justice Gaswaga is also a fellow of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute, Halifax, Canada and an international resource person in many areas of law. He is an inspirational speaker and offers career guidance to law students and young professionals internationally. Justice Gaswaga holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law (LLB, Hons) University of Dar es Salaam, Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, LDC Uganda, Master's Degree (LLM) with Distinction in Human Rights Law, University of Pretoria, South Africa and Master's Degree (LLM) in International Criminal Law, Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), Ohio in USA. He also holds a string of diplomas and certificates from Institutions in Africa, India and Europe. Justice Gaswaga was appointed the first Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption Commission of the Republic of Seychelles (2016 to 2021) and by the end of his tenure, as per the Corruption perception index of Transparency International, 2021, Seychelles was the least corrupt Nation in Africa and ranked 43 in the world.

“The court is usually made up of a panel of eleven judges”



South African Airways (SAA)Ltd.

The National carrier of South Africa is inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) from Cargo Agents or Organisations for representation as General Sales Agents in Tanzania.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES ARE:

- Promote the Airline's cargo products and services to grow its business and market share in the territory.
- Provide a suitably qualified sales team and physical office(s) dedicated to servicing SAA Cargo and its customers in Tanzania.
- Provide input for marketing the department to maximize the SAA brand exposure and presence on the market.
- Manage the relationships between SAA Cargo and its customers in Tanzania.

THE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Financial Criteria

- 3-year audited financial statement.
- Provision of current budgeted income statement and cash flow signed by the Company Director.
- Written permission for SAA to carry out a credit check on your organization.

Business Experience

- Existing Agents with at least 3 years of proven business experience in the cargo industry.
- Good understanding of Sales and Marketing principles.
- Company profile with contactable references in the cargo industry.
- Understanding of SAA product and Network.
- CVs of qualified personnel in the organization.

Qualifying Criteria

- EOI documents submitted after the closing date will be ineligible for processing.
- All shortlisted candidates will be required to do a presentation of their business plan focusing on sales and marketing for SAA to a selected panel at a specific date.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited and scheduled for interview with the SAA team.
- A Prospect Sheet which forms part of the EOI document will be emailed to shortlisted candidates.

Suitably qualified and interested parties are welcome to apply via email to the email address below:

nontobekomohube@flysaa.com ; tholoanatsotetsi@flysaa.com
Applications must be submitted from 04 - 09 September 2024

Ndugulile set to take up WHO job in March, to keep MP seat

By Augusta Njoi, Dodoma

KIGAMBONI legislator Dr Faustine Ndugulile, the newly appointed Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the African region is officially set to begin his tenure in March 2025.

This comes after he was given a six-month preparatory period to strategise and set his vision for the role which will focus on several key areas critical to Africa's health sector.

Speaking in the National Assembly yesterday, Dr Ndugulile expressed his gratitude for the support he received from parliament.

Ndugulile emphasized that despite his new role, he remains the MP for Kigamboni and will continue to serve his constituency.

"Africa has made notable progress in health but challenges persist. With six years remaining to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), visionary leadership is crucial for Africa's success," he said.

During his campaign, he stressed the need for a leader with a combination of academic, leadership and political skills to place the ordinary African citizen at the heart of healthcare delivery.

Dr Ndugulile outlined four main areas of focus: ensuring accessible healthcare services across Africa, enhancing preparedness for major emerging crises like COVID-19, strengthening collaborations between institutions across the continent and integrating African parliaments into the WHO's work.

He plans to use the six-month preparation period to familiarise himself with the organization's operations, refine his vision and ensure readiness for his official start in March 2025.

"I am fully committed to this role and ask for the support of MPs. This responsibility carries significant weight and the hopes of our continent. Africans have high expectations," he said.

He expressed his appreciation

to the Tanzanian government, MPs, and everyone who supported his candidacy, vowing to remain available for feedback and advice during the transition period.

"This position is a collective achievement for all Tanzanians and the entire African continent. As the first Tanzanian and East African to hold this role, I will serve as the leading health official for African countries," he said.

He will be serving a term of five years, with the possibility of re-election for another five years, impacting the health of 1.5 billion Africans.

The Parliament extended its congratulations to the lawmaker, acknowledging that his appointment not only honours him but also brings further recognition to both the parliament and the country.

National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mussa Zungu said: "This victory enhances our country's political, regional and international standing."

He however said that such achievements are made possible by the support of the government.



Africa has made notable progress in health but challenges persist. With six years remaining to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), visionary leadership is crucial for Africa's success



Ura Saccos general manager Assistant Commissioner of Police Kim Mwemfula (2nd-R) and ALAF Limited Tanzania marketing manager Isamba Kasaka exchange documents in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after signing an MoU on the strength of which Ura Saccos members will acquire ALAF roofing products. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA, home to some of the world's most significant ecosystems, has designated approximately 33 percent of its land as protected areas, showcasing its commitment to biodiversity conservation.

Biodiversity conservation is essential in providing essential ecosystem services that bolster resilience against climate change, thus contributing significantly to the country's economic development.

However, coexistence of humans and wildlife is becoming a challenge. The rapid growth of Tanzania's human population has driven demand for land and natural resources, leading to a surge in human-wildlife conflicts particularly in protected areas and wildlife corridors.

Conservation stakeholders to discuss how to address HWC

To enhance the media's role in addressing human-wildlife conflicts (HWCs), Journalist Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) in collaboration with Mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflict in Tanzania project has organized a two-day consultative meeting with editors to equip them with the necessary knowledge and tools to report more effectively on HWC and biodiversity conservation.

The Mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflict in Tanzania project is implemented by GIZ on behalf of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

JET Executive Director John Chikomo said yesterday that the editors' forum to be held in Bagamoyo on Thursday and Friday will create an interactive platform for them to engage with conservation experts. A total of 25 participants, including editors, conservation experts, and reporters are expected to attend.

"We aim to increase editors' understanding of HWC issues, improve quality of media reporting and ensure that skills and knowledge gained during the training are effectively utilised," he said.

He added that discussions will

cover key topics, including the impacts of illegal wildlife trade, the role of gender-related reporting in mitigating conflicts and evidence-based reporting on HWC, particularly from the Ruvuma landscape.

The Mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflicts in Tanzania project is implemented in the Ruvuma landscape as it is identified as a HWC hotspot.

"By improving the quality and depth of reporting on the issues, we can help change attitudes towards conservation and highlight the importance of sustainable coexistence," he said.



BARRICK
BULYANHULU

Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below goods/service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-24-08-01	EXCAVATION AND TRANSPORTATION OF MATERIALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Contractor specialised in earthworks, Civil CRB Certificate, minimum class 5 (five). ii. Experience working with similar works in last 3 years. iii. Competence in earthworks and fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry. iv. List of equipment's - Resource list - specifying quantities - List of all tools and tackles (with detailed specifications of important equipment). v. Team with multi discipline members (Mainly - Supervisors / Safety officer / QA&QC officer / Multi skilled) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts.

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead if your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Time frame to complete the project. (Including site mobilization stage).
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner
- BRELA detailed search certificate indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the 11th September 2024. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

If you do not hear from us in 21days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

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Vicky Molllel, Public Procurement Regulatory Authority's Coastal Zone manager, elaborates on the Public Procurement Act, the Public-Private Partnership Act and the use of data produced by the National Bureau of Statistics at a meeting held in Morogoro municipality yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt opens third edition of Mwalimu Nyerere creative writing competition

By Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

THE government has launched the third phase of the Mwalimu Nyerere Prize on creative writing, calling on novelists, poets and children's story writers to submit their works.

The writers have until November 30, this year to send their writings to allow judges to sit down and go through the works for four months before announcing the winners.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, chairman of the National Committee for the Creative Writing Awards of Mwalimu Nyerere Prof Penina

Mlama said the prize is aimed at promoting creative writing among Tanzanians while stimulating reading culture.

She said the awards were established in 2022 under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and are coordinated by Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE).

She said that when the award was established, it involved two fields of creative writing namely novels and poetry, and that it has now increased to children's stories as well as plays on stage, radio and television.

Prof Mlama outlined several key

criteria for submissions, including that participants must be Tanzanian, submissions must be written in Kiswahili and authors are allowed to submit one work per category.

"The works should be unpublished and must not have been performed or shown publicly. Authors must sign a declaration confirming that the work is original and unpublished," she said.

She added that authors who have won first to third place in previous years are ineligible to participate in any field for two years. Manuscripts that ranked

fourth to tenth in previous years are also ineligible, though authors may submit new works.

Additional criteria include works that have won other awards will not be considered, submissions should address important social issues and present original ideas.

Winners will get up to 10m/- for first place as well as support of publishing work by the government, distribution in schools, a shield and a certificate.

Second winner will walk away with 7m/- and alongside a certificate and the third winner will get 5m/- and a certificate.

Govt's new aquaculture productivity efforts focus on crabs, sea cucumbers

By Correspondent Christina

Mwakangale

THE government has announced a new initiative aimed at enhancing education in aquaculture, with a focus on increasing production of crabs and sea cucumbers.

Dr Nazeel Madalla, director of aquaculture at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries made the statement yesterday during the opening of a five-day training programme that brought together 40 youth in the fishery sector.

The training, held at the Mbegani Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA) in Bagamoyo, Coast Region, focuses on advanced aquaculture techniques, including the production of sea cucumbers.

Dr Madalla said that the urgency of the initiative was in response to data indicating a significant decline in natural fishery practices worldwide.

"The market for certain aquatic species such as tilapia and crabs faces challenges. Tilapia is often affected by cultural preferences as some people avoid fish without scales. Although there is a market for crabs, current standards for production need improvement," he

said. "We will establish two big centres for sea cucumber production. We want to increase efforts to boost productivity of these important marine organisms, strengthen value chains and improve access to international markets."

According to 2022 statistics, aquaculture accounted for 51 percent of global fish consumption. Tanzania aims to achieve 10 percent of its fish production from aquaculture in the near future, Dr Madalla said.

Lucka Mgwena, the training coordinator explained that the training will help the young graduates to identify sector opportunities and create their own employment.

"Participants will gain practical skills in production, management and market research for aquatic products, all aimed at advancing commercial aquaculture," Mgwena said.

The training is funded by the Africa Centre of Excellence in Aquaculture and Fisheries (AQUAFISH) of the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) under the Higher Education Centres of Excellence Project (ACE II).

Areas with scarcity to be prioritised in next allocation of health workers

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government says that once the recruitment process for the recently announced 9,483 new healthcare professionals is completed, they will be allocated to areas with high shortages across the country.

Dr Festus Dugange, Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), made this statement in the National Assembly yesterday while responding to a question from Nanyamba MP, Abdallah Chikota (CCM).

Chikota raised concern that despite the government's efforts, Nanyamba Town Council which has five health centres faces significant challenges due to a shortage of healthcare workers.

He highlighted that the town currently has only 40 percent of the required staff and inquired about the government's urgent plans to address the issue.

In response, Dugange assured that improving staffing levels for healthcare workers is a top priority for the government. Over the past three years (2021-2023), a total of 18,748 healthcare workers of various cadres have been employed and

deployed to health facilities across the country.

He noted that in the 2023/24 fiscal year, the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) through the Employment Secretariat, announced 9,483 job openings.

"The recruitment process is ongoing and priority will be given to the Nanyamba Council to receive new workers," he said.

Chikota also inquired about disbursement of funds to complete construction of Nyundo Health Centre in Nanyamba which was built through community support.

Dr Dugange replied that in September 2023, the council, through the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), received 40m/- to continue the construction of the outpatient department (OPD) building.

He added that for the 2023/24 fiscal year, TPDC allocated 360m/- to complete the OPD building and to begin construction of other essential infrastructure, including a maternity ward with emergency surgical services.

"Construction of the outpatient department building is 70 percent and preparations for additional buildings are ongoing," he said.

FOCAC summit puts China-DRC relations at promising new juncture – ambassador

KINSHASA

THE upcoming summit for the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), scheduled for early this month in Beijing, is bound to put relations between China and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) at a "promising new juncture," said Zhao Bin, Chinese ambassador to the DRC.

Over the past year, China and the DRC have seen remarkable progress in their relationship, marked notably by DRC President Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo's state visit to China in May 2023, which led to the upgrading of the bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, said Zhao.

The upgrading reflects strengthened political trust, enhanced practical cooperation, and increased people-to-people and cultural exchanges between the two countries, he said.

Both countries have shown strong mutual support on international issues, resulting from the solid political trust between the two countries, said Zhao.

Zhao said that China has been consistently supporting fairness and justice regarding the situation in the eastern DRC and actively promoting

dialogue. Also, the DRC has steadfastly upheld the one-China principle, and the collaboration extends to multilateral affairs where the two countries jointly advocate for the interests of developing countries, said Zhao.

Regarding China-DRC practical cooperation, Zhao said that the two countries have aligned respective development strategies and are working together on various high-level projects under the Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative.

The Chinese ambassador further said the increasingly frequent and impactful cultural and people-to-people exchanges have become one of the highlights of the bilateral relations.

The Global Civilization Initiative has fostered numerous cultural activities, including the recently launched "Chinese Film Week" and training opportunities for Congolese youth, he said.

The Central African Cultural and Arts Centre, whose construction has just finished, has become a new symbol of China-DRC friendly cooperation and will serve as an important platform for strengthening China-DRC and China-Africa cultural exchanges, said Zhao.



Dr Vita Ndohele (L), Buchosa District Council's acting Chief Medical Officer briefs Mwanza regional commissioner Said Mtanda (R) yesterday on a Kaboke Health Centre room storing medical equipment and supplies recently gutted by fire. Photo: Correspondent Vitus Audax

Youth urged to grab free education opportunities

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN youth have been encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to study for free in Finland to create a diaspora keen to invest back in the country.

Rodgers Mbagi, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of ExamNet Tanzania—the official agent for Finland's Finest Future Institute—made this appeal in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The institute provides African youth with the chance to

study at no cost in Finland.

"The Finest Future Institute has established a special programme to offer young people the opportunity to study in Finland. This programme includes participants from various African and Asian countries. In Tanzania, we urge qualified youth to apply for this opportunity," he said.

He said that a key requirement for securing the opportunity is learning Finnish, the official language of Finland. After

completing 18 months of study in Tanzania, candidates are eligible for the opportunity.

"Having many young people studying abroad helps build a diaspora that can return and invest in Tanzania, thereby supporting the government's efforts to encourage Tanzanians abroad to come back and contribute to the country's development," he said.

Mbagi also announced that Peter Vesterbacka, founder and Director of Finest Future, is expected to visit

Tanzania for a major education event next Saturday in Dar es Salaam.

"During this special event, parents will have the opportunity to ask questions about the programme and hear from students who have been accepted to study in Finland. There will be live interviews with the students," he said.

The event will be held at the University of Dar es Salaam's Information and Communication Technology campus, Kijitonyama.

Fundraiser kicks off to curb rare birth defects in children

By Henry Mwangonde

A NEW fundraising campaign has been launched to treat children suffering from gastroschisis and anorectal malformations—rare birth anomalies affecting the anus and rectum respectively.

The initiative, spearheaded by Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), event planner Toto Day Out and local media house EFM, aims to raise 200m/- through a marathon scheduled for December.

Speaking at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dr Zaitun Bokhary, a paediatric surgeon at MNH, noted that the hospital receives five to seven new patients with the complications each week. In least developed countries, the conditions have an almost 100 percent mortality rate.

“The issue is significant; on average, about eight children are born with these anomalies per week in the country,” she said.

Dr. Bokhary highlighted that the Lake Zone is one of the most affected regions, followed by Kigoma and Tabora in the western regions.

While the mortality rate for the defects stands at 100 percent in

Tanzania and other Sub-Saharan countries, developed nations report 100 percent survival rate due to advanced treatment methods.

Infants with gastroschisis often suffer from intestinal dysfunction and prolonged exposure to amniotic fluid can cause further injury.

However, progress has been made in Tanzania with the introduction of silo bags—soft protective coverings that have contributed to reduced mortality rates.

Dr Monicah Apollo, Head of Paediatric Department at MNH, explained that the exact causes of the conditions are unknown. In the past, nearly all children born with such defects would die.

“Thanks to advances in technology and research, new solutions are emerging,” she said. She also noted that traditional healers have exacerbated the problem with myths surrounding the defects.

Dennis Busulwa alias Ssebo, Director of Marketing at EFM, emphasized that the campaign is unprecedented. It seeks to raise awareness about the birth defects and the importance of proper prenatal care to help prevent them.



Fatma Kara, introduced as Zanzibar's first female civil engineer, speaks to journalists in Zanzibar yesterday on the sidelines of a conference held in marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Isles' Karume Institute of Science and Technology. Currently, Zanzibar has 75 female engineers. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Tamwa Zanzibar demands justice for victims of child abuse

By Guardian Reporter

THE Zanzibar Chapter of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA Zanzibar) has urged parents and guardians to prioritise children's rights by ensuring their protection and calling for strict penalties against perpetrators of abuse according to the law.

In a statement released yesterday,

TAMWA Zanzibar cited a recent report by the Office of Chief Government Statistician in Zanzibar (OCGS) which indicates that a total of 165 cases of gender-based violence were reported in July 2024, with a significant number of victims being children.

According to the statement, the report shows that 142 children were affected, accounting for 86.1 percent of all victims, with 115 girls (81.0

percent) and 27 boys (19.0 percent).

“The situation is distressing and needs to be addressed by all stakeholders, including the government, community institutions, elders and teachers by providing education on self-protection and safeguarding against harmful individuals,” the statement reads in part.

TAMWA Zanzibar suggested the need for stakeholders to reassess

how they can resolve challenges leading to the increase in child abuse, as children fundamentally need to be protected to the fullest extent. The Zanzibar Child Act No. 6 of 2011 prohibits any form of child abuse to promote wellbeing of children.

The 1989 International Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which Tanzania ratified emphasizes maintaining children's

rights, including protection which helps build a community and nation of respectful citizens.

“Recently, we witnessed the abuse of innocent child by government officials who apprehended a two-year-old child and took both the child and the guardian under the pretext that the child's parents had not paid sanitation fee,” a statement said, adding:

“This action caused alarm

among the child's family and the community at large as it contradicts children's rights and human rights. In this context, we condemn acts of abuse and mistreatment against children and demand that stringent measures be taken against those who violate the law.”

“We call upon the community to protect our children and ensure they are not subjected to abusive behaviours.”

The Nature Conservancy

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) mission is to protect the lands and waters upon which all life depends.

The Nature Conservancy's Lake Tanganyika Program (LTP) is making significant strides in advancing its fisheries co-management initiatives within the Nkasi District. This program has successfully established 13 fully operational Co-Management Institutions (CMIs), which play a crucial role in the protection and conservation of the fisheries and freshwater biodiversity of Lake Tanganyika.

In line with its commitment to expanding its impact, the Lake Tanganyika Program is planning to extend its reach into new geographical areas, specifically targeting the Kala and Fulwe regions. The goal is to establish an additional 11 CMIs in these areas, further enhancing the collaborative management of fisheries and promoting sustainable practices among local fishers.

To facilitate these ambitious plans, the Lake Tanganyika Program aims to procure a high-performance speedboat equipped with two Yamaha 150HP outboard engines, along with necessary accessories ensuring the safety and comfort of personnel working in remote and challenging environments.

Interested and qualified vendors are encouraged to contact TNC for the complete Request for Quotation at procurement.lake@tnc.org.

Note: The deadline for proposal submissions is set for September 26, 2024, at 10:00 AM EAT.

The Nature Conservancy

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) mission is to protect the lands and waters upon which all life depends. In Tanzania, TNC collaborates with various stakeholders to promote sustainable community development through the sustainable and equitable management and use of fisheries resources.

Over the past two years, TNC's Lake Tanganyika Program has successfully established 13 Co-Management Institutions (CMIs) comprised of 10 Beach Management Units (BMUs) and 3 Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMAs) in the Nkasi District of the Rukwa Region. These initiatives aim to advance fisheries co-management, protect freshwater biodiversity, and improve livelihoods for 10 coastal fishing communities through the establishment of 2 Fishing Cooperative Societies (FICOS).

Despite these achievements, the leadership of the BMUs and CFMAs currently lacks adequate facilities for office use, meetings, and record-keeping. To enhance the effectiveness and performance of the CMIs and FICOS, TNC seeks to engage a qualified contractor to construct 3 CFMA offices, along with associated toilet facilities, in the wards of Mkinga, Kirando, and the village of Manda Kerenge.

These offices are anticipated to significantly improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of collaborative governance within our Community Management Institutions (CMIs) and Fishing Cooperatives Societies (FICOS).

Interested and qualified vendors are encouraged to contact TNC for the complete Request for Quotation and bill of quantities at procurement.lake@tnc.org.

Please note that each vendor is invited to submit a quote for only one of the three proposed sites, and we encourage vendors to select the site that best aligns with their capabilities and resources.

Note: The deadline for proposal submissions is set for September 24, 2024, at 10:00 AM EAT.



Women from entrepreneurship groups in Dar es Salaam's Majohe and Kivule wards attend training at the weekend on how to use fruit peels in making feeds for livestock. The training was organised by Kipunguni Community Voice Centre, a civil society organisation. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Kenya to host expo to underpin trade ties between China, Africa

NAIROBI

KENYA will host the seventh edition of the Kenya International Industrial Expo next week, which seeks to boost Sino-African ties, organizers said Monday.

Gao Wei, managing director of Afripeak Expo Kenya, told journalists in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi that the three-day event that begins on Thursday brings together more than 200 exhibitors from China and Africa to showcase the latest products.

"The expo will be a platform for connecting African and Chinese investors to facilitate knowledge exchange as well as the adoption of cutting-edge technologies to boost Africa's industrial competitiveness," Gao said.

Pius Rotich, general manager of Investment Promotion and Business Development Services at the Kenya Investment Authority,

said the exhibition will host manufacturers of automotive parts, infrastructure construction, agricultural machinery, building materials, renewable energy, and environmental and chemical products.

Rotich revealed that Kenya will leverage the expo to attract more Chinese investments to enable the country to emerge as Africa's industrial hub. He added that Chinese manufacturing firms have already helped reduce Kenya's reliance on industrial goods and boost exports.

Cynthia Kamau, director of Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the country's trade lobby, said the expo will provide an avenue for the country to link with Chinese manufacturers who have developed innovative products that suit local consumer preferences.

Indonesia to ink \$3.5 billion worth deals at Africa forum

JAKARTA

INDONESIA plans to sign business deals worth \$3.5 billion with African countries as it hosts the second Indonesia-Africa Forum in the resort island of Bali, the Southeast Asian country's president said on Monday.

The forum, which ran until yesterday was aimed at enhancing economic cooperation as Indonesia seeks to expand its export markets.

"The partnership between Indonesia and Africa so far has significantly increased trade volumes and trade agreements," President Joko Widodo said during his opening speech for the forum on Monday.

Several memorandums of

understanding expected to be signed at the event include a geothermal project between state power utility Perusahaan Listrik Negara and the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO), as well as an agreement between Indonesian pharma company Bio Farma and Ghana's Atlantic Life sciences Ltd, Indonesia's foreign ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

The ministry did not provide further details.

Indonesian authorities have said they would increase surveillance in airports during the forum to prevent the spread of mpox. The mpox outbreak was among topics discussed during the Indonesia-Africa Parliamentary Forum over the weekend, state news Antara reported.

By Special Correspondent

AfDB secures \$151million to aid climate action in Horn of Africa

THE United Nations-backed Green Climate Fund has approved \$151million in financing for a major program to address climate resilience in the Horn of Africa, an African lender has announced.

Supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the programme will back the bank group's "Building Climate Resilience for Food and Livelihoods in the Horn of Africa program," benefiting 4.6 million people across Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

"The new financing will support community-driven and gender-balanced resilience solutions," the AfDB said in a statement.

The bank said that these solutions include sustainable land

management practices, access to climate-smart technologies, renewable energy, capacity-building for cooperatives, agribusiness and micro, small, and medium enterprises, as well as credit, climate services, early warning systems and index insurance.

Martin Fregene, the bank's director for agriculture and agro-industry, said the AfDB is committed to building climate resilience.

"The mobilization of the Green Climate Fund support shows the continued commitment of the African Development Bank Group


to scale up climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture systems in the Horn of Africa, thereby improving food security in one of the most vulnerable regions of the planet," Fregene said.

The approved financing consists of a grant of 90.7 million dollars and a loan of \$60.3million. The AfDB will administer the funds and oversee the programme, set to begin in the first quarter of 2025.

According to the AfDB, the Horn of Africa is highly susceptible to climate-related risks, including erratic rainfall, rising temperatures and increasingly frequent droughts

and floods. These conditions have exacerbated socioeconomic challenges and threatened the livelihoods of agro-pastoral communities dependent on rain-fed agriculture. Climate change has also led to increased livestock, crop and human diseases, as well as land degradation, reducing productivity.

It said that the investment is expected to significantly reduce carbon emissions, potentially sequestering 14.1 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent over the project's 25-year lifespan, which is comparable to the lifetime emissions of 600,000 cars.



**EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL
PIPELINE**

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Reports to: General Service Officer

Job Type: Full Time

Location: Tanga, Tanzania

WHO WE ARE

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project is a Midstream development located across Uganda and Tanzania that includes a nearshore Marine Storage and Export Terminal (MST). Once completed, the EACOP Company will operate the East African Crude Oil Pipeline, a 1,443 km long, electrically heated crude oil export pipeline that transports oil from Kabaale - Hoima in Uganda, to the Chongoleani Peninsula near Tanga Port in Tanzania for crude export to the international markets.

JOB DIMENSIONS/ GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION

To be responsible for:

- Ensuring the smooth running of EACOP Tanzania – Tanga Branch Office.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Handle Telephone and Correspondence Management: Efficiently manage incoming phone calls, emails, letters, and packages, ensuring timely and accurate responses.
- Guest Reception and Hospitality: Greet and welcome guests upon arrival, providing a courteous and professional first impression of the office.
- Reception Area Maintenance: Maintain a clean, organized, and presentable reception area, ensuring that all necessary stationery and materials are readily available.
- Office Safety and Operations: Ensure a safe working environment for staff and visitors and oversee responsible operations of the office facilities.
- Office Supplies Management: Order and manage office supplies, including stationery, consumables, and furniture, and maintain accurate inventory records.
- Travel and Accommodation Coordination: Arrange travel and accommodation for both visiting and resident employees, ensuring logistical needs are met efficiently.
- Expense Tracking and Record-Keeping: Maintain up-to-date records of office expenses, including LUKU bills, meals, and other costs, ensuring accurate financial tracking.
- Meeting and Event Organization: Organize meetings, schedule appointments, and coordinate catering for company events, ensuring all logistical details are handled effectively.
- Additional Duties: Perform any other related tasks as assigned to support the smooth operation of the office.

HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

EACOP is committed to ensuring that the health, safety and welfare of workers, communities, and the environment are well addressed and managed. Therefore, the employee is mandated to:

- Fully complies with Company H3SE (Health, Safety, Social, Security & Environment) policies and Life Saving Rules.
- Actively participates in HSEQ and promotes this culture to co-workers.
- Remain vigilant and maintain continuous awareness of potential unsafe conditions.
- Communicates to management any HSE related concerns and ways to improve them.
- Maintains a workplace & workspace that is safe, clean, and always neat – practice good housekeeping.

QUALIFICATIONS / EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Academic Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in administration or any related field
- English proficiency

Experience Required:

- Minimum 4 years' experience in a related Administration role
- Proven ability to multitask, work independently, and manage significant workload and competing demands.

HOW TO APPLY

The applicant must submit his/her Curriculum Vitae CV and a Cover Letter explaining why he/she is the suitable candidate for the position. Applicants are also required to provide details of three (3) referees one of whom should be the most recent employer. **Please submit your application only through ANY of the contact information provided below. Application deadline is on 30th September 2024.**

Air Swift: airswift.com


CCL: tanzania@cclglobal.com

IMI: imi-tanzania@imi-eag.com


ITM: recruitmenttanzania@itmafrica.com

Qsourcing: recruitmenttanzania@qsourcing.com

Seaowl: sesiz@seaowlgroup.com



NOTE: No payment is required at any stage of the recruitment process.



**MANTRA
TANZANIA
ROSATOM**

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e-mail: mantra@uranium1.co.tz; www.uranium1.com

PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF GOODS FOR A URANIUM PLANT IN LIKUYU WARD, NAMTUMBO DISTRICT, RUVUMA REGION.

Mantra Tanzania Limited (Mantra), operating as a subsidiary of Uranium One Group, Joint Stock Company, is focused on the potential development of a Uranium Mine at its Mkuju River Project (MRP) in the Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region.

Now Mantra invites eligible suppliers and service providers to express their interest (EOI) for the below list.

Package No.	DESCRIPTION
0371_E001	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MEDIUM VOLTAGE VARIABLE SPEED DRIVE
0371_M066	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LIME SLAKING PLANT

Interested Companies and business entities are requested, as a minimum, to submit the following:

- Detailed Company Information with an Organization Structure, list of workers with CVs of key personnel.
- Details of completion of similar types of contracts in the last three years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution under headings:
 - a) Brief scope of work
 - b) Value of work in USD
 - c) Contractual Duration
 - d) Clients name
 - e) Contact details of the Client (Mantra may approach the Client directly for the feedback).
- Details of Resources available in terms of number of manpower, equipment etc. for providing similar services.
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies, procedures and statistics covering the last 4 years.
- Copies of Valid Quality Certifications / Accreditations, ISO certifications, If any.
- Company's financial performance documents (Audited Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for the last 3 (three) years. Latest financial statement should not be older than 18 months on the date of submission of response to the Expression of interest.
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate from the relevant authority.
- Workers Compensation Fund Certificate.
- Corporate ownership including main shareholders by percentage.
- Approved Local Content Plan by the Mining Commission.

Interested bidders for one or more of the packages are required to submit their EOI documents separately indicating the Title and Number of the Tender Package as per Package Number provided in the table above and submit a soft copy of their Expression of Interest (EOI) via e-mail address; mantra@uranium1.co.tz and mantraprourement@uranium1.co.tz and the hard copy to the below address latest 18th September 2024 at 16.00 hours.

Managing Director
Mantra Tanzania Ltd
Plot No. 1520, Masaki iKon, Bains Singh Avenue-Masaki
P. O. Box 23451
Dar es Salaam.
Tel +255764700440

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Rapid bus transit project: Govt could assume its responsibility

There is something in projecting management or political decisions known by the formula 'will and possibility', while some analysts alter the second element to read as 'necessity' rather than possibility.

The element of will is there in whatever formulation, but it is vital to get the proposition right as to whose will is being talked about.

In some other fields this would be described as a problem of agency, as there is a vast difference of will between the initiator of a project and his/her agent.

When one is talking of will in relation to a project initiator, all reasonable course of action is likely to make sense as the mandate of such person or institution is akin to the public interest, or 'the greatest happiness of the greatest number'.

That isn't the case with an agent, as he or she has no such mandate from the public and is merely trusted by the respective institution. Instead of going for the maximum of what would lead to realising popular needs, the particular agent's will is directed elsewhere.

It is kindred to the public institution but on a different account, with the greatest happiness of those employed in that service providing initiative or its decision making circles.

Here 'the greatest happiness of the greatest number' will this time around be the board or directors and, in some cases, the management. In certain instances it comes down to the crew, so the breadth of happiness is diluted.

That is what is being seen in the way Dar es Salaam city's rapid bus transit project, where the government seems to be

excessively reliant on its agent popular by the acronym DART, itself a remaking of the erstwhile Usafiri Dar es Salaam (UDA) city council outfit.

Its wish is to get a company to purchase or deliver 100 buses for UDART use, while parliamentary officials and even the government say they need hundreds more buses. Trouble is that each time the issue is addressed, it is dressed up in such a manner as to advise UDART on what to do, while UDART can do without much advice.

The minister overseeing the Local Governments portfolio had such advice at the launch of smart gates and smartcards for passengers at BRT stations at the start of the week.

He was confident that local firms capable of investing in a fleet of modern buses could more effectively serve the city's residents, not waiting for investors from abroad.

While local bus firms would collect their fares and pay a certain service levy to DART or the local authorities, DART hopes that it can dictate terms to foreign operators - including that they buy buses as DART collects fares.

What the ministry may not have noticed is that the public interest is not the same as DART interest, and thus the issue is reform rather than advice.

DART can supervise the network while LATRA (the land transport regulator) lays the terms for bus operations, whether DART remains with its own buses or just collects the levy.

A major problem is that there is no one to bell the cat as parastatal interests are viewed as the same as the public interest.

Activists yet to appreciate fact that parliament has fairly limited powers

Another moment has presented itself for civil society activists to insist to legislator to push the government to expedite amendments to the Marriage Act of 1971, which is seen undermining the dignity and dreams of girls countrywide.

The officials behind what is known as the Msichana Initiative say that amending the law would significantly bolster efforts to end child marriages, which often thrusts many girls into a challenging future. That may not be in question, but the initiative ought to know that there is no consensus yet.

The Marriage Act sets the minimum marriage age for girls at 15 with parental consent, while many reform activists, not just the Msichana Initiative, crusade for changes to Sections 13 and 17 of the said piece of legislation.

Some of these would be happy seeing girls married off before age 18, the age at which a person is considered no longer a child but an adult.

This effort has been surfacing and 'hibernating' since gender equality campaigns started in the 1990s, chiefly after the World Conference on Gender and Development held in Beijing in 1995.

There has always been plenty of arguments that the provisions enable society to trap young girls into circumstances that thwart their aspirations, at times with some resorting to harming themselves.

Some may even be wishing to take poison to avoid being married off instead of pursuing studies and, admittedly, the government has done what it can to encourage every young woman wishing to

study to do as much.

The government has gone to the extent of making it illegal to marry off a schoolgirl, this meaning that no marriage can occur for girls in primary school or in secondary school. If a parent tries to do act to the contrary, the district commissioner will annul that marriage pronto.

There was an error of assessment when the initiative's convenor told a gathering of activists preparing for the big week that they recognise the power in the hands of legislators and believe that, through them, we can bring about legal changes.

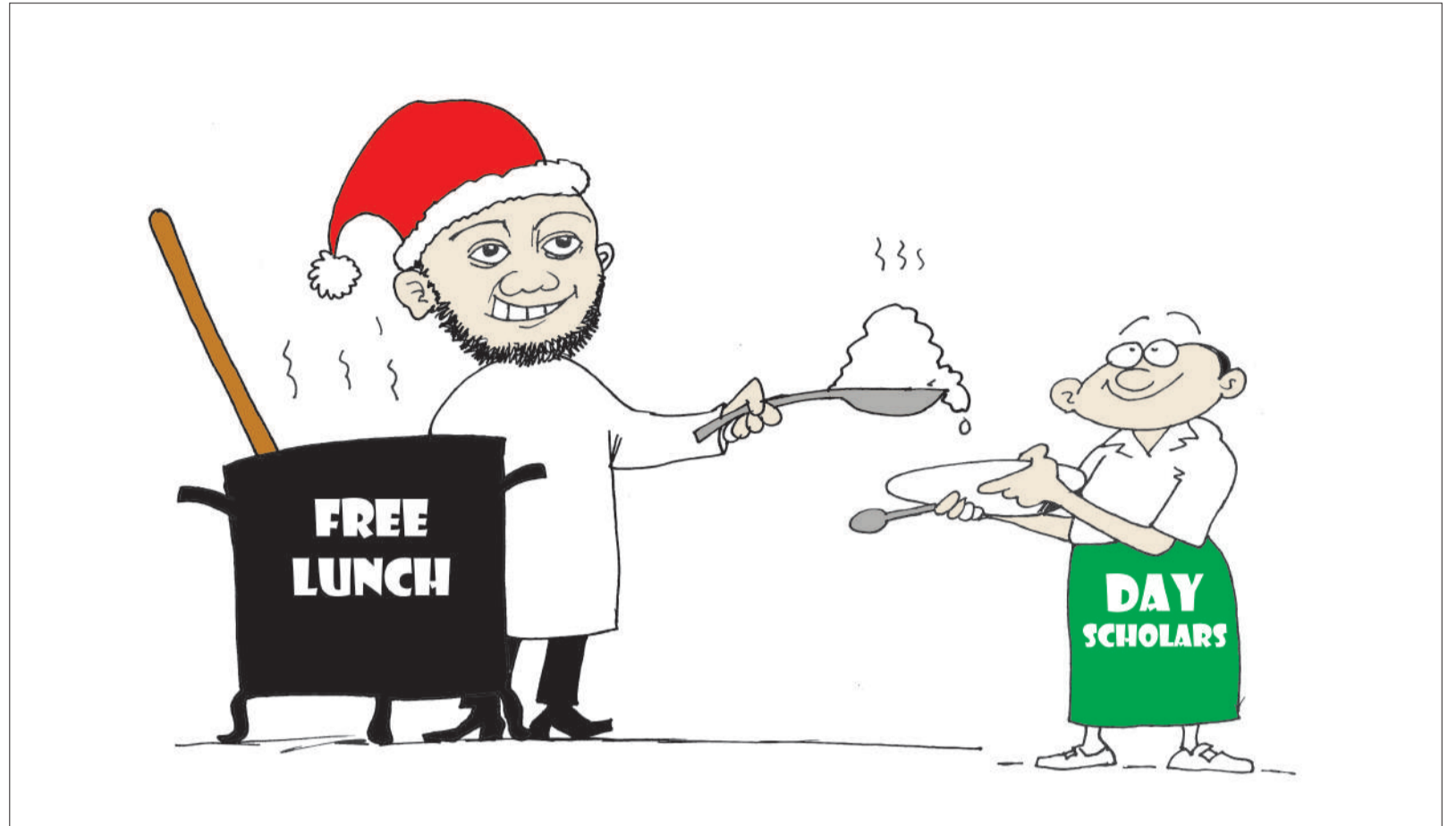
The rest of the argument was that child marriage poses numerous health risks to girls, with data cited showing that three out of five girls are married before they turn 18. To say that more than half of marriages in the city or countryside are with under-18 girls is faulty.

What activists fall short of admitting is that girls don't start learning relationships or develop emotions by the time they are 18 and thus the figure is less about marriages than intimacies, as that way it would shock nobody.

This reality makes the opposite side even more adamant, in which case only by keeping girls in school may prevent such marriages.

Changing the law for a blanket prohibition merely owing to the civic groups' sensitivity on the issue may be a case of misjudgement, as the moral leadership role activists confer on MPs on this issue is quite simply misdirected.

Lawmakers know their limits. Activists can get results in efforts to bring most rural girl pupils into secondary schools and, if they get 85 per cent each year, it will be a success.



World leaders skip high-level United Nations event

By Thalif Deen

When the high-level segment of the UN General Assembly took place last September, there were several key world leaders missing in action (MIAs)—including, most importantly, leaders of the four of the five permanent members of the Security Council, the most powerful political body at the United Nations.

Only US President Joe Biden was there—while Emmanuel Macron of France, Xi Jinping of China, Vladimir Putin of Russia and Rishi Sunak of UK skipped the UN sessions—either for personal or political reasons.

As an article in Le Monde pointed out: "Such notable absences reflect the crisis affecting UN bodies, against a backdrop of an international stage that is crumbling."

A former diplomat Gérard Araud, a one-time French ambassador to the United Nations, said, "Multilateralism is seriously compromised in an increasingly multipolar world."

"The absence of Security Council leaders is yet another symptom, but not the only one, of a powerless UN, caused by the war in Ukraine and the rivalry between the United States and China."

Will history repeat itself this year when the high-level segment of the 79th session of the General Assembly begins mid-September?

With the UN remaining powerless in the context of a continuing Russian carnage in Ukraine and with over 40,000 mostly civilian killings in Gaza, is the world beginning to lose confidence in the United Nations as the world's pre-eminent peace maker?

Asked for his comments, UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters last month: "We very much hope that every Member State will be represented at the highest possible level, especially given not only what's going on in the world today, but the fact that we have the Summit of the Future, (scheduled for September 22-23) which is critical to how this organization will function in the decades ahead."

And these are issues that often come up in the Secretary-General's bilateral meetings, he pointed out.

Andreas Bummel, co-founder and Executive Director of Democracy Without Borders, told IPS the highest level of participation from Member States at the general debate of the United Nations each September sends a signal that the UN is valued as the world's most important multilateral venue.

A presence this year at the Summit of the Future is crucial. "We hope that the summit will be an opportunity for world leaders to listen to ideas and proposals of civil society which has strongly engaged with the summit process."

Among world leaders, he pointed out, are aggressors, autocrats, dictators and mass murderers. They are neither interested in strengthening the UN and even less in what civil society has to say. If they come, they should be confronted with their crimes, said Bummel.

Meanwhile, although Yasir Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) made it to the UN, some of the world's authoritarian leaders, including Iraq's Saddam Hussein, Syria's Hafez al-Assad and his son Bashar al-Assad, and North Korea's Kim Il Sung and his grandson Kim Jong-un, never made it to the UN.

Dr Palitha Kohona, former Chief of the UN Treaty Section and one-time Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations told IPS: "It is indeed a matter of serious concern that certain world leaders choose not to attend the UN General Assembly (UNGA)."

It is understood that other matters may demand their attention at the same time, especially critical domestic issues. Some are facing elections or seeking to get reelected, he said.

"But at a time when the world, humanity itself—is confronted by a myriad of urgent challenges, many of them man-made or resulting from human actions, like the existential threat of climate change, the flood of over 160 million refugees, the indiscriminate slaughter that is happening in Gaza, the shaky progress with the SDGs, the worrying signs of an intensifying arms race, etc—the moral impact of the presence of world leaders, in particular the leaders of key powers, at the UNGA cannot be underestimated."

The UNGA, he pointed out, is the only global forum that we have. Instead of contributing to the wishes of those who seek to denigrate this single world body that we have, and dilute its importance, which has many successes to justify its existence, we should exert ourselves to strengthen it.

This is certainly not the time to dismiss the value of the UN, declared Dr Kohona, who until recently was Sri Lanka's Ambassador to China.

When global leaders meet at the UN, they will confront yet another year of complex crises and conflicts—as a deeply divided world watches, according to the UN Foundation.

"The UN is the only place on Earth where countries—whether big or small—have a say. The debates and conversations that will unfold during UNGA 79 will shape the solutions that can redefine our future."

Progress hinges on leaders taking accountability and correcting course. But it also depends on people—especially young people—having a say in the decisions that will affect our future.

And the future depends on everyone's participation—decision-makers and everyday citizens alike. It's

up to all of us to act now for people, for planet, and for our common future.

But one lingering question remains: how effective is the UN, where the 15-member Security Council, remains deadlocked reminiscent of the Cold War era?

When he addressed the UN Security Council via video-conferencing on April 2022, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine did not pull his punches when he told delegates the purposes of the UN Charter, especially Article 1—to maintain international peace and security—are being blatantly violated by Vladimir Putin's Russia.

"What is the point of all other Articles (in the UN charter)? Are you ready to close the United Nations? Do you think that the time for international law is gone?" If not, "you need to act immediately," he told delegates.

To support peace in Ukraine, he argued, the Security Council must either remove the Russian Federation from the UN, both as an aggressor and a source of war, so it cannot block decisions made about its own war, or the Council can "dissolve yourselves altogether" if there is nothing it can do other than engage in conversation.

"Ukraine needs peace. Europe needs peace. The world needs peace," he insisted.

Meanwhile, when the United Nations decided to locate its 39-storeyed Secretariat in New York City, the United States, as host nation, signed a "headquarters agreement" in 1947 not only ensuring diplomatic immunity to foreign diplomats but also pledging to facilitate the day-to-day activities of member states without any hindrance, including the issuance of US visas to enter the country.

But there were several instances of open violation of this agreement by successive US administrations.

The United States, which is legally obliged to respect international diplomatic norms as host country to the United Nations, has been accused of imposing unfair travel restrictions on U.N. diplomats in the country. Back in August 2000, the Russian Federation, Iraq and Cuba protested the "discriminatory" treatment, which they say targets countries that displease the U.S.

Pleading national security concerns, Washington has long placed tight restrictions on diplomats from several "unfriendly" nations, including those deemed "terrorist states," particularly Cuba, Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Syria and Libya. U.N. diplomats from these countries have to obtain permission from the U.S. State Department to travel outside a 25-mile radius from New York City.

When former Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, accused of war crimes, was refused a US visa to attend the high-level segment of the General Assembly sessions in September

2013, Hassan Ali, a senior Sudanese diplomat, registered a strong protest with the UN's Legal Committee.

"The democratically-elected president of Sudan had been deprived of the opportunity to participate in the General Assembly because the host country, the United States, had denied him a visa, in violation of the U.N.-U.S. Headquarters Agreement. It was a great and deliberate violation of the Headquarters Agreement," he said.

The refusal of a visa for the Sudanese president was also a political landmine because al-Bashir had been indicted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

But one question remained unanswered: Does the United States have a right to implicitly act on an ICC ruling when Washington is not a party to the Rome Statute that created the ICC?

When Yasser Arafat was denied a US visa to visit New York to address the United Nations back in 1988, the General Assembly defied the United States by temporarily moving the UN's highest policy making body to Geneva—perhaps for the first time in UN history—providing a less-hostile political environment for the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Arafat, who first addressed the UN in 1974, took a swipe at Washington when he prefaced his statement by saying "it never occurred to me that my second meeting with this honorable Assembly, since 1974, would take place in the hospitable city of Geneva."

On his 1974 visit, he avoided the hundreds of pro and anti-Arafat demonstrators outside the UN building by arriving in a helicopter which landed on the North Lawn of the UN campus adjoining the East River.

When he addressed the General Assembly, there were confusing reports whether or not Arafat carried a gun in his holster—"in a house of peace"—which was apparently not visible to delegates.

One news story said Arafat was seen "wearing his gun belt and holster and reluctantly removing his pistol before mounting the rostrum." "Today, I have come bearing an olive branch and a freedom-fighter's gun. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand," he told the Assembly. But there were some delegates who denied Arafat carried a weapon.

Setting the record straight, Samir Sanbar, a former UN Assistant Secretary-General and head of the Department of Public Information told IPS it was discreetly agreed that Arafat would keep the holster while the gun was to be handed over to Abdelaziz Bouteflika, later Foreign Minister and President of Algeria (1999-2019).

IPS UN Bureau Report

By Correspondent-Emmanuel Onyango

Controlled reckless driving will reduce fatal road accidents

ROAD accidents contribute significantly to fatalities in the country, similar to other causes like natural disasters, diseases, and warfare. However, while these other causes are often beyond human control, road accidents are largely driven by human errors, particularly careless driving.

In typical scenarios, the cause of death is recorded on a death certificate, determined by a medical doctor following an autopsy performed by a pathologist to confirm the cause.

While diseases and natural events account for the majority of deaths globally, accidents, suicides, and homicides also claim lives and generate fear and tension, particularly within affected families.

Globally, diseases account for over 90 percent of all deaths due to their natural occurrence and the challenge of accessing affordable healthcare, especially for low-income populations. The remaining 10 percent of deaths arise from other causes, including accidents, suicides, and homicides.

These incidents are largely preventable through stringent measures, often linked to issues like corruption and lack of enforcement.

In Tanzania and many other parts of the world, road accidents have become a pressing issue. Many drivers, particularly younger ones, neglect traffic rules, leading to a high mortality rate.

In response, Tanzania has dedicated the third week of August to Road Safety Week which is mainly used to raise public awareness about road safety laws. This initiative includes educating the public on proper use of pedestrian crossings, the importance of obeying traffic rules, and vehicle inspections to ensure road worthiness, particularly for motorcyclists.

The theme for this year's Road Safety Week was 'Drive Safely to Arrive Safely' underscoring the necessity for careful driving to reduce accidents and save lives.

The event, which marked the 50th anniversary of the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) featured Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango as the chief guest. Addressing stakeholders at Jamhuri Stadium in the country's capital—Dodoma, Dr Mpango highlighted that approximately 76 percent of road accidents in the country are due to reckless driv-



Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango graced this year's road safety week celebrations in Dodoma Region. File photo.

ing.

To combat this, the government has implemented strict punitive measures to deter reckless driving and reduce fatal road accidents. The Vice-President outlined six directives for the police force, emphasizing the importance of protecting human life.

The directives include ensuring that new drivers meet the required standards, mandating continuous road safety education for both drivers and pedestrians, and conducting thorough vehicle inspections, especially for speeding vehicles.

The police force is also encouraged to adopt technological advancements and learn from other countries to improve road safety.

Dr Mpango stressed the need for increased awareness and vigilance, particularly within the traffic police unit, to inspect passenger vehicles and take strict action against negligent drivers. The government also urged citizens to report drivers who violate traffic laws, as these individuals pose a significant threat to road safety.

Statistics shows the alarming

state of road safety in Tanzania. In 2023, there were 1,641 recorded road accidents resulting in the deaths of 1,550 people, including 1,189 men and 361 women.

Motorcycle accidents (bodaboda) accounted for 435 of these incidents, with 376 fatalities. Further reports indicate that between June 2023 and June 2024, 168 traffic officers faced disciplinary action due to misconduct, including corruption, leading to penalties and dismissals.

In response to these challenges, Tanzania's national road safety policy aims to curb the

growing epidemic of road deaths and injuries. The policy prioritizes road safety as a health, transportation, law enforcement, education, and development issue.

Key measures include enforcing speed limits—80kph in rural areas and 60kph in urban areas—prohibiting drunk driving, and conducting rigorous vehicle inspections.

Various strategies have been adopted to improve road safety, such as drivers' training, public awareness campaigns, road improvements, increased fines for violators, and deploying traffic police with speed monitoring devices.

Police Chief, IGP Camillus Wambura said the force has developed various electronic systems in collaboration with government and stakeholders to monitor vehicle behaviour, including licensing, accident reporting and fine payment systems.

For the first time in 2024, the Traffic Police Unit will offer vehicle inspection and safety sticker issuance services through the government payment system (GePG).

Amid these efforts, private sector companies like Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) are also making significant contributions. SBL's 'Inawezekana' campaign promotes responsible drinking and educates the public about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol.

John Wanyancha, SBL's Director of Corporate Affairs, emphasized the company's commitment to road safety, stating that responsible drinking is essential for the well-being of society.

SBL collaborates with various stakeholders, including the government, police, drivers, and road safety organizations like the Land and Transport Authority (LATRA), to encourage safer driving practices, he added.

SBL's campaign combines entertainment and education, engaging the police, drivers, parents, teachers, students, and the general public in discussions and awareness activities about road safety. This collaborative effort reflects a broader commitment to reducing road accidents and ensuring a safer environment for all.

Message African leaders should take to the China-Africa forum

By Wandile Sihlobo

IT is hard to discuss global agriculture without mentioning China. The country is a dominant player in exports and imports of agricultural products. In 2023, China was a leading agricultural importer, accounting for 11 percent of global agricultural imports. Trailing China were the US, Germany, Netherlands, the UK, France and Japan.

Similarly, China played a notable role in exports, and it was the fifth-largest agricultural exporter in the world in 2023. The leading countries ahead of China were the US, Brazil, Netherlands and Germany.

Commentary on China trade is under the spotlight again with the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Focac) taking place in early September. Some African countries are likely to use this opportunity to advocate for deeper trade, especially in agriculture.

This is understandable in view of China's dominant role in global agriculture. According to Trade Map data, China spends just over US\$200-billion a year on importing agricultural products. Few African countries benefit from these imports because of low productivity.

The leading suppliers are Brazil, the US, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Canada, Vietnam, France, Russia, Argentina, Chile, Ukraine, the Netherlands and Malaysia.

The only African country that features in China's top 30 agricultural suppliers is South Africa, ranked at 28 in 2023. Accounting for a mere 0.4 percent (\$979-million) of China's \$218-billion worth of agricultural imports in 2023, South Africa remains a negligible player in the Chinese agricultural market. Sudan and Zimbabwe are the other African agricultural suppliers to China, and are ranked 33 and 34, respectively.

Weak African productivity

The African continent has weak productivity and low agricultural output, which explains its underperformance in agricultural exports to China. The exceptions are South Africa and, to some extent, the Maghreb region.

In light of this concerning picture, African leaders must prioritise agriculture trade in their deliberations with their Chinese counterparts at Focac. Crucially, technology cooperation and transfer must be uppermost in those conversations as Africa's future productivity depends on deploying productivity-boosting technology.

Examples include on-farm solutions like irrigation technologies; better seed cultivars; and addressing significant infrastructure challenges such as roads and rail, which much of the continent still needs.

The absence of functioning infrastructure will always remain a headache, even if China were to open its agricultural markets for imports from most African countries. These interventions and possible deals would essentially entail loans for developing the African continent's infrastructure.

I know a lot has been done in the past, and reviews of such engagements are mixed, but the problem remains - Africa needs to improve the network industries to support agriculture. Aside from this, African leaders must do their part to formalise land rights in their countries and minimise arbitrary policy interventions, such as the occasional blockage of exports by countries like Zambia. Such actions drive away private-sector participation in Africa's agricultural market.

South Africa

However, the South African message must differ



A farmer in his cotton farm in Mwanza Region

from that of many other African countries. South Africa has an agricultural surplus each year, exporting about half of the country's yearly production. Its agricultural exports amounted to a record \$13.2-billion in 2023. Indeed, this is nowhere close to the amount of money China spends annually importing agricultural products from the world - a staggering \$218-billion in 2023.

China is already one of South Africa's major agricultural markets for a range

of fruit, wine, red meat, nuts, maize, soybeans, wool and other products. But there is room for more ambitious export efforts.

The South African agricultural sector consistently points out the need for a broader lowering of import tariffs in China and removing phytosanitary constraints for various products. Indeed, Focac is a high-level engagement and may not deal with the specifics of each value chain of agriculture or any product.

However, a message of support and direction to the relevant Chinese and South African government departments to work on lowering import tariffs and promoting agricultural trade would go a long way. The agricultural industry in South Africa wants to boost all fruit exports, as some currently do not enjoy full access to China, as well as wine, red meat, wool and other products.

Indeed, if one looks at China's agricultural imports, the top products include oilseeds, meat, grains, fruit and nuts, cotton, beverages and spirits, sugar, wool and vegetables. These are all the categories of products South Africa wants to boost to China.

In essence, the African leaders' message in agriculture should focus on agricultural productivity and technology partnerships. Meanwhile, for South Africa, the message must centre on boosting agricultural exports on a broad basis to China.

Xi Jinping: True friend of Africa

BEIJING

"HABARI, Habari!" Chinese President Xi Jinping greeted the audience in Swahili. Those at the packed conference hall at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Center in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, gave some 30 rounds of applause during Xi's half-an-hour speech on China-Africa relations.

That was one of the memorable moments during his first overseas tour made just days after being elected as China's head of state back in March, 2013. During his stop in the East African country, Xi outlined the principles of sincerity, real results, affinity, and good faith guiding China's Africa policy.

Over the past decade, China has enhanced its solidarity and cooperation with the African continent based on the principles under Xi's leadership, consistently reaching new heights.

Later this week, this promising journey is set to reach another milestone in Beijing at the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

TRUE FRIENDS ARE THE MOST VALUABLE

During the late Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's trip to China in 2014, Xi received him with the highest diplomatic protocol of China.

At the welcome ceremony held outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Xi lent his arm to support Mugabe, who was already in his 90s, to step off the viewing platform to review the guard of honor.

When dealing with Africa, the Chinese leader emphasizes the importance of sincerity. Actions follow his words.

The last time the FOCAC summit was held, in Beijing in 2018, Xi, despite a tight schedule as host, managed to meet one-on-one with each visiting African leader. Since 2013, Xi has made five visits to Africa, traveling to Tanzania, South Africa, the Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Senegal, Rwanda and Mauritius. Since 2023, he has hosted at least 20 African leaders in China.

"China attaches importance to growing friendly relations with all countries in Africa irrespective of their size, strength or wealth. And China treats all African countries as equals and actively develops win-win practical cooperation with them regardless of their resource endowment," Xi once said.

He believes that Africa belongs to the African people and that African affairs should be decided by the African people.

That's why Xi has proposed a "five-no" approach in China's relations with Africa: no interference in African countries' pursuit of development paths that fit their national conditions; no interference in African countries' internal affairs; no imposition of China's will on African countries; no attachment of political strings to assistance to Africa; and no seeking of selfish political gains in investment and financing cooperation with Africa.

Late Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno once said that China-Africa relations are based on equality. "China never acts as a know-it-all, never preaches to us. This is very important for Africa."

TICKET TO HAPPINESS

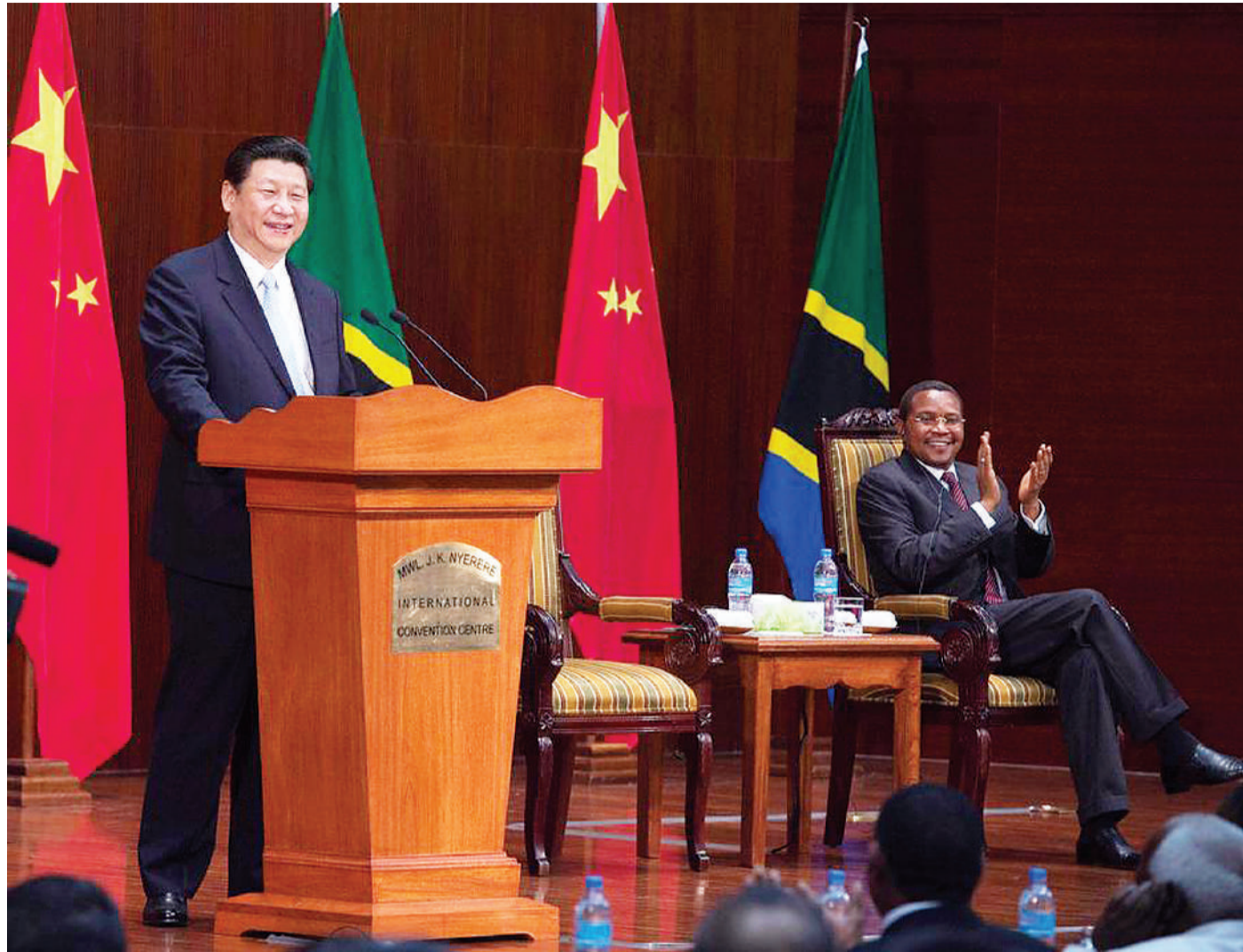
Last year, Jamlik Mwangi Kariuki and over 40 Kenyan students and alumni at Beijing Jiaotong University wrote a letter to Xi.

In the letter, they shared their experiences studying railway operations and management in China and expressed their aspiration to serve as a bridge of friendship. Along with the letter, they sent a special gift to the Chinese leader: A ticket to ride the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway.

Kenya's century-old dream of building a new railway became a reality through cooperation with China. Launched in May 2017, the railway, spanning approximately 480 km, connects the large Indian Ocean city of Mombasa with Nairobi, the country's capital and largest city. It is Kenya's first modern railway since independence and is hailed as a flagship project under the Belt and Road collaboration between China and Kenya.

The railway has reduced the travel time between the two cities from more than 10 hours to about five, alleviated congestion at Mombasa Port, reduced operating costs for manufacturers and improved supply chain efficiency. According to Kenya's railway authorities, the project has contributed over 2 percent to the nation's GDP.

In his reply to the students' letter earlier this year, Xi said he was glad to see that they have bonded with



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) delivers a speech at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Center in Dar es Salaam on March 25, 2013. Xinhua

China through this road to happiness, and benefited from China-Kenya and China-Africa friendship and cooperation.

The Mombasa-Nairobi Railway is just a snapshot of the broader cooperation between China and the African continent, which Xi said should highlight "real results." Since the establishment of FOCAC in 2000, China has helped countries in Africa build or upgrade more than 10,000 km of railways. Via such drives as the 10 cooperation plans, eight major initiatives and nine programs, nearly 100,000 km of highways, roughly 1,000 bridges, almost 100 ports and a telecom network service covering nearly 700 million user terminals have been built or upgraded.

"Africa's industrialization started late and has a weak foundation. Only by improving infrastructure, promoting connectivity and achieving economic integration can Africa conduct large-scale industrial production and effectively integrate the sales market of industrial products," said Costantinos Berhutesfa Costantinos, professor of public policy at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. To ensure sustainable development and industrialization in Africa, which homes the highest number of developing countries, Xi pays close attention to the continent's capacity building. "It is more important to show people how to fish than just giving them fish," he said.

At the 2018 FOCAC summit, Xi announced that 10 Luban Workshops would be set up in Africa to provide skills training for young Africans and that China would support training 1,000 people in high-caliber positions. The Luban Workshop is a Chinese initiative to provide vocational training.

Dozens of young Africans who graduated from the Djibouti Luban Workshop -- the first to open in Africa -- work either as management professionals or technicians at the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Rail-

way project.

"The importance of talent in innovative development cannot be overstated," said Gerishon Ikiara, an economist and former permanent secretary in Kenya's Ministry of Transport, adding that China is helping African countries turn their population dividend into a development advantage.

AS CLOSE AS FAMILY

To strengthen the enduring friendship, Xi said China follows the principle of "affinity."

The China-Africa bond was not built overnight. The Chinese still clearly remember how, over 50 years ago, African nations and other developing countries "carried" China into the United Nations.

"China and Africa are as close as one family. People of my age in China grew up in the warm atmosphere of China-Africa friendship. We all have a strong interest in Africa ... we are all familiar with the memorable stories of China-Africa friendship, such as the construction of the TAZARA Railway," Xi once said.

During his trip to Tanzania in 2013, Xi visited a cemetery where 70 Chinese experts are buried. They lost their lives on assistance missions to Tanzania over four decades.

The 1970s were pivotal for the economic development of Tanzania and Zambia. The Chinese government had successively sent more than 50,000 engineering and technical personnel to participate in the construction of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway, which stands today as a symbol of the strong bond between China and Africa.

Such stories of the Chinese and Africans helping each other in times of adversity continue to this day.

In 2014, Liberia, along with Sierra Leone and other Western African nations, was struck by a deadly Ebola outbreak.

As those countries were struggling with an epidemic that was considered the largest strike since the virus was first discovered in 1976, China was among the first to offer assistance.

Among its many rounds of aid deliveries, China, with Xi's instructions, provided badly needed epidemic prevention materials and mobile laboratories, built and operated an infectious disease treatment center for the first time overseas, and dispatched medical experts.

With Chinese support, many Liberians infected with the disease were pulled back from the brink of death. In May 2015, the World Health Organization declared the end of the Ebola outbreak in Liberia. Several months later, then-Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf visited China. During their talks, Xi promised more aid for the country's post-outbreak reconstruction.

Such feelings are always mutual. In April 2010, following a devastating earthquake that struck Yushu County in China's northwestern Qinghai Province, the Republic of the Congo pledged funds to build a school in the affected area.

Considering the high construction costs, the Chinese side suggested the country donate one school building or a library instead. However, President Denis Sassou Nguesso insisted on his country's decision and named the school "Sino-Congolese Friendship Primary School." Two years later, the school came into being.

When delivering a speech at the Parliament of the Republic of Congo in 2013, Xi extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Congolese government and people on behalf of the students of the rebuilt school.

"Now the children in the affected area have spacious new school buildings, where they can read and study quietly, and run and laugh on the sports field," Xi said.

CUT PATHS AND BUILD BRIDGES

Over the past decades, at every critical point in China-Africa relations, both sides have taken a long-term view, identified new shared interests and cooperation opportunities, and elevated bilateral ties to new levels.

Xi described such an enterprising China-Africa spirit as "to cut paths through mountains and build bridges across rivers." In his eyes, "good faith" should be honored when solving problems.

Take bilateral trade. Xi frequently discusses expanding Africa's agricultural exports to China with the continent's leaders.

During Beninese President Patrice Talon's visit to China in September last year, he and Xi jointly witnessed the signing of an agreement on exporting Benin's fresh pineapples to China, officially granting quarantine access for Beninese pineapples.

As of June 2023, 16 agricultural products from 11 African countries have accessed China through the "green channel," with more African specialty commodities entering the Chinese market. In the first seven months of this year, China's imports from Africa reached 426.65 billion yuan (about 60 billion U.S. dollars).

By the end of June this year, China had granted zero tariffs on 98 percent of tariff items from 27 least-developed African countries, and signed bilateral investment promotion and protection agreements with 34 African countries, as well as double taxation avoidance agreements with 21 African countries.

China's trade promotion measures have significantly boosted Africa's exports to China, reflecting China's principle of pursuing the greater good and shared interests. "In doing so, China follows the principle of giving more and taking less, giving before taking and giving without asking for return," Xi said at the 2018 Beijing Summit of FOCAC.

Former Deputy Country Director of the United Nations Development Programme and Kenyan economist Hannah Ryder told Xinhua that a defining feature of cooperation with China is that African needs drive it.

Still, Western critics claim China's relations with Africa are driven by "neocolonialism." Responding to such accusations, Angolan President Joao Lourenco said in a recent interview with Chinese media, "We understand well what colonization is. China is here not to colonize us, but to cooperate with us."

In the coming days, leaders of China and Africa will gather to develop new plans for their shared development and the building of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

In a world of challenges and changes, China and Africa should march forward together, shoulder to shoulder, arm in arm, Xi said. "Brothers of the same mind can cut through metal." *Xinhua*

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Kenya's unanswered questions about enforced disappearances

By Robert Kibet

As the world marked International Day of the Disappeared, Kenya grapples with a shadowy and persistent crisis—enforced disappearances. This harrowing violation of human rights has left countless families in anguish, searching for their loved ones while battling a wall of government denial and indifference.

Enforced disappearance is addressed in international law, specifically the UN's International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. However, Kenya has yet to ratify this crucial convention, leaving a legal void that exacerbates the problem.

According to Kevin Mwangi, a program officer with the Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU), the Kenyan government lacks a definition within national legislation, meaning Kenyans and civil society rely on UN international guidelines to hold authorities accountable.

One haunting instance occurred in 2021 when Kenya's Yala River, once a peaceful and secluded area, became a site of horror. Over a few weeks, 26 bodies were discovered within a 50-meter stretch. The bodies, many male, were found far from where they had originally gone missing, most of whom were facing criminal charges.

Human rights activists were initially involved in the investigations, but they were soon pushed out by the police. Boniface Ogutu, one of the activists working on the case, told the press, "We found bodies with their hands tied with ropes. Some were wrapped in polythene bags. Many of the bodies showed signs of severe trauma, including scars similar to acid burns, and most appeared to have been tortured before being dumped into the water."

Ogutu further reported that villagers had observed a black Subaru, often associated with security forces, speeding to the riverbank with four occupants who would hurriedly dispose of the bodies before driving away.

In the early 2010s, the Kenyan government granted sweeping powers to security agencies to combat terrorism, leading to a surge in kidnappings, torture, and extrajudicial killings, even for petty crimes.

Hit squads began targeting suspects, and during election seasons, when rallies and protests were frequent, reports of disappearances and killings skyrocketed. In 2021

alone, rights groups documented at least 170 extrajudicial killings and numerous disappearances attributed to the police.

One of the victims found in the Yala River was Philemon Chepkwony, a resident of Kipkelion in Kenya's Rift Valley. He had been charged with car theft and was out on bail awaiting trial when he disappeared in December 2021.

"We are witnessing a disturbing trend of young people like Philemon disappearing without a trace, only to be found dead in rivers," lamented Hillary Kosgey, the legislator for Kipkelion West, at Chepkwony's burial. "No one has the right to take away these lives. If they are jailed, they can reform."

In Kenya's coastal counties like Mombasa, where much of the country's Muslim population resides, young men have been recruited by terrorist groups, prompting the police to carry out frequent raids and profiling of these communities.

The recent discovery of mutilated bodies wrapped in polythene bags at an open quarry in Mukuru Kwa Njenga, one of Kenya's slum residences, sparked public anger amid weeks of anti-government protests over a since-scrapped finance bill.

After assuming power, President William Ruto repeatedly stated in public rallies, there would be no cases of enforced disappearance or extrajudicial killings.

Mwangi outlines the chilling components of enforced disappearance: "It begins with the deprivation of the right to liberty, often without the victim's consent or knowledge. This act is carried out by government officials, who then conceal or deny any knowledge of the person's whereabouts."

"Enforced disappearance is not a transient issue; it can span years, even decades. It is a permanent state of limbo for the victims and their families until the person is found," Mwangi adds, stressing the long-lasting impact of such crimes.

The 2023 Missing Voices report indicated a slight reduction in extrajudicial killings between 2022 and 2023, from 130 to 118, and a decrease in enforced disappearances from 22 to 10.

"Men continue to be the primary victims, accounting for 94% of extrajudicial killings, with a notable concentration among men aged 19-35," the report states.

In Africa, enforced disappearances, particularly in politically volatile regions, often occur within the context of state repression. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a stark example, where a massacre led to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights



Kenya is yet to ratify the UN's International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Credit: IPS

holding the government accountable for acts of enforced disappearance.

"For enforced disappearance to occur, government officials must be involved, and the state must have full knowledge of the whereabouts of the missing individuals," Mwangi clarifies.

In Kenya, the situation is dire. Mwangi recalls a case handled by IMLU where two individuals, after being released from court, were allegedly abducted by security officials. "To this day, the government denies knowing their whereabouts," he laments, highlighting the pervasive culture of impunity.

The infamous River Yala incident serves as a grim reminder of the scale of the problem. Mwangi points to the systemic failure of the judiciary, where a revolving door of bail releases perpetuates the cycle of crime and violence.

"There is a growing narrative that the courts are not doing their work, leading police to take matters into their own hands," he notes.

Despite the gravity of the situation, Kenya lacks specific legislation on enforced disappearance.

The country has not ratified the international convention, leaving victims and their families without a clear path to justice.

"One life is one too many," Mwangi says, referencing the 32 cases documented by the Missing Voices coalition. "We are currently developing guidelines to ensure that each African country has a policy on enforced disappearance. The numbers may be higher than reported, but only a few cases come to light."

After Kenya's 2007-2008 general elections, there were significant human rights violations, leading to the formation of the Ransley Taskforce to address police reforms. The task force made strong recommendations, including the need to separate these entities, as at the time, the police were the perpetrators, prosecutors, and investigators. This flawed system prevented justice from being realized and emphasized the need for mechanisms to ensure justice and accountability. In 2017, Kenya enacted the Coroner Service Act, which provided a framework for forensic documentation at crime scenes. However,

implementation has been problematic. For instance, in a 2018 case in Eldoret, a police officer handled a murder weapon with bare hands, compromising the evidence.

Currently, forensic evidence collection in Kenya is substandard, failing to meet the requirements necessary to hold up in court. Although the Coroner Law was assented to by the President in 2017, it has not been operationalized, largely due to a lack of political will.

"Kenya has a history of passing laws that are then shelved. When questioned, the government claims that the delay is due to funding issues, stating that funds need to be allocated to create the Coroner's office," Mwangi says.

Moreover, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) lacks its forensic lab and must rely on the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), which is part of the security forces. There is a pressing need for an independent forensic lab under IPOA to carry out forensic audits.

Despite these challenges, IPOA has succeeded in securing eight

convictions in extrajudicial cases over the past 11 years. This entity was established to ensure accountability in such cases.

Roselyn Odede, chairperson of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, reported in 2023 that the commission received reports of 22 extrajudicial killings and nine cases of enforced disappearance between January 2022 and June 2023.

Peninah Koome, chairperson of Kenyan Champions for Justice, a community-based organization, recounted her harrowing experience. Her husband was arrested, brutally beaten by the officer in charge at Ruaraka police station, and later died at Kenyatta National Hospital.

"I had no money to pay for lawyers, but IPOA and International Justice Mission (IJM) stepped in. However, as a witness to my husband's case, I became a target. They came after me the day after I testified. IPOA and IJM had to provide protection. After three years, we finally got justice."

Houghton Irungu, the Executive Director at Amnesty International Kenya, expressed concern about the return of the same oppressive culture despite the Kenya Kwanza administration's promise under Ruto to end enforced disappearances.

"They disbanded the Special Service Unit (SSU), revamped the National Police Service, changed the Director of Criminal Investigations, and restructured the Anti-Terrorism Police Unit (ATPU). We hoped this would lead to respect for the rule of law, but the old habits seem to be resurfacing," said Irungu.

Irungu emphasizes the importance of timely identification of missing persons and the need for human rights organizations and witness protection agencies to act quickly to protect witnesses and their families.

"As a country, we still haven't ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It's been five years since Parliament passed the Coroner Service Act, yet we still lack independent coroner forensic capacity to prosecute these cases. We don't even have a national database on missing persons," laments Irungu.

As the international community commemorates the victims of enforced disappearances, the call for justice in Kenya grows louder. The government's failure to address this issue not only violates human rights but also erodes public trust in state institutions. For the families of the missing, the search for truth and accountability.

In the midst of hostilities, hunger escalates in Sudan

By Oritro Karim

THE ongoing humanitarian crisis taking place in Sudan, which is a result of the civil war that began last year, continues to escalate as hunger and displacement plague the population, according to spokesperson for the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Stéphane Dujarric, during a press briefing on August 21, 2024.

The civil war broke out in April 2023 when the Sudan Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces began a fierce armed conflict in the capital city of Khartoum. According to reports by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), over 18,800 civilians have been killed and over 33,000 have been injured in the crossfire.

Additionally, Edem Wosornu, Director of Operations and Advocacy at OCHA, stated in a press briefing on August 6, 2024 that the extended siege and conflict between the two parties has resulted in many women and girls being raped.

Food insecurity is currently the most pressing issue facing Sudan. Stephen Omollo, Assistant Executive Director for Workplace and Management of the World Food Programme (WFP), highlighted that "there is famine in Zamzam camp near El Fasher in North Darfur and that other areas in Darfur and elsewhere are at high risk, with more than half of the country's population facing crisis levels of hunger."

The WFP and the International Organization for Migration are currently in the process of providing food to areas most affected by famine, such as West Darfur, where 13,000 people are facing the risk of starvation. Wosornu added that the 26 million people facing acute hunger in Sudan are three times the population of New York City.

A spokesperson for the United Kingdom's UN Representative added that approximately 100 Sudanese people will die of starvation every day until the conflict is settled.

Additionally, as a result of heavy armed conflict in the capital city of Khartoum and the Darfur region, many communities have been pushed into displacement. The Sudan conflict is considered to be the world's largest displacement crisis, with as many as 10.7 million people being displaced to other areas of Sudan and more fleeing to neighbouring nations, according to OCHA.



President of the General Assembly, Dennis Francis, meets with internally displaced Sudanese civilians at a displacement camp in Juba. During his visit, he met with the President of the Republic of South Sudan to discuss a peace agreement and plans for humanitarian assistance. Credit: Nektarios Markogiannis/UN Photo

"Since the start of the current round of hostilities in Sudan, more than 780,000 men, women and children have crossed the border and headed to Renk town," Dujarric stated.

Furthermore, over 5 million children have been internally displaced and 19 million children lack access to education as a result of 90 percent of schools being shut down. This

makes Sudan one of the worst education crises in the world.

For the effective use of humanitarian aid, it is imperative that the conflict stop as soon as possible. Constant sieges and battles prevent the humanitarian community in Sudan as well as the United Nations from providing life-saving assistance.

Aid trucks have been severely obstructed in Sudan. Sudanese authorities have impeded

the use of the Adre crossing, which is the most effective route in delivering assistance. In addition, many humanitarian workers have been attacked, kidnapped, and harassed.

Wosornu states, "The conflict must stop to allow for the rapid delivery of humanitarian assistance across the country. The warring parties must uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law.

Also needed are rapid, safe and unimpeded humanitarian access across Sudan through all possible routes and more resources, including flexible funding." She adds that if these conditions were met, the current situation in Sudan would be far less dire.

Dujarric added that "peacekeepers established a temporary base in the area (of Renk, Sudan) and are helping to ensure the safe delivery of aid, providing protection to deter violence between diverse communities forced to live together in congested conditions and share dwindling resources."

Currently, Sudanese authorities deny that there is a severe hunger crisis and that there is no obstruction of humanitarian aid. A delegate for Sudan stated that conditions in a Zamzam displacement camp do not meet the criteria for a declaration of famine. Additionally, they stated that there are no deaths from starvation. They reiterated that aid is not being impeded by the Sudanese government; rather, fault lies with the Rapid Support Forces.

The UN and the WFP are currently negotiating with Sudanese authorities on an increase in aid trucks as well as increased use of the Adre Passage, which makes key distribution points much more easily accessible. It is essential for aid to be supplied on a constant basis, as there are 12 areas that face significant levels of famine.

Additionally, the UN predicts that approximately 2.7 billion dollars will be needed for the Sudan Humanitarian Appeal. As of the publication date, this plan has only been 32 percent funded, with a total of 874 dollars being raised for this effort. It is crucial for donors to financially contribute as Sudan is currently on the brink of collapse, having the world's biggest crises in displacement, hunger, education, and violence.

By Special Correspondent

From realities of refugee life to trailblazer: Monicah Malith's journey into leadership

MONICAH Malith's story is about resilience, determination, and personal achievements. Fleeing conflict in South Sudan at 12, Monicah's journey took her from the harsh realities of refugee life to the prestigious role of the first-ever female refugee and non-Kenyan President of the University of Nairobi Students Association.

I was born and raised in South Sudan, where my family lived as nomadic pastoralists. From a young age, my life was marked by constant movement in search of pasture and water for our cattle. However, escalating conflict across the country gradually disrupted that life.

In my case, it changes my life trajectory. Journey to Kenya

In 2008, when I was around 12 years old, my aunt decided to seek safety from the conflict in South Sudan and took me with her to Kenya. The journey from South Sudan to Kenya took about two days, and we travelled on a lorry transporting soda crates.

I vividly remember our arrival in the Kakuma refugee camp. It was July 13, 2008.

Initially, I was expected to help my brothers, who were also on the journey, with household chores. I was not to attend school. When they were leaving for Kenya, my aunt wanted me to come along and insisted that I should not be left behind, and my mother was determined to provide me with an education.

Traditionally, boys' education is favoured over that of girls. Nevertheless, my aunt and mother would not go along. Despite these challenges, my mother wanted me to have the same education as my brothers.

By empowering us through education, we can break the cycle of hardship and provide a path towards a brighter future.

I enrolled in primary school, a year after arriving in Kenya. I could not read and only spoke Dinka, my mother tongue. Yet, with determination and the support of my family and mentors, I quickly caught up with my classmates.

By the end of my first year in school, I was top of my class and was awarded the title of "most improved pupil" across all classes.

I got a lot of help and support from my family and mentors. Dr. Bok Chol Bok, a mentor and family member, tutored me daily, helping me learn the basics and catch up academically. My teacher also supported me by helping me with spelling and writing my name for the first time.

My mother, who ran a small restaurant back in South Su-



Determination and education transformed a South Sudanese refugee into the first female President of the University of Nairobi Students Association

dan, worked hard to pay for my school fees and constantly motivated me by emphasizing the power of education.

I will always remember what she told me: 'I'm sending you to Kenya, and I will suffer for you. I'll do anything to make sure that you study.'

Higher education

Completing primary and secondary education made my determination to pursue higher education stronger. Despite financial constraints and societal pressures to marry, I remained focused on my studies. The loss of my father during my final year of high school was a significant emotional challenge, but it also strengthened my resolve to succeed.

I applied for and received the DAFI (Albert Einstein Ger-

man Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship, which provided financial support for my university education. This scholarship was a turning point, giving me the peace of mind to focus on my studies without worrying about school fees.

Driven by my aspiration to hopefully improve the justice system in South Sudan, I enrolled in the University of Nairobi to study law. There, determined to succeed and impact changes, I ran for the presidency of the University of Nairobi Students Association.

Many of my fellow students did not believe I would make it because I was a refugee and a female. Then, no refugee, no female and no foreign national student candidate has ever been elected. Yet, the more I was being reminded of the reasons why I couldn't be elected, the more I was determined.

Spain kicked out at 18 to live on the streets teenage Moroccan migrant

By Bianca Carrera

THE morning he turned 18, the Spanish children's centre that Ilyas had been sheltering in for two years since he arrived across the border from Morocco unceremoniously kicked him out.

He wasn't even permitted to stay for breakfast. Now that he was an adult, the authorities said; he was on his own.

That was on January 30 this year and Ilyas - who doesn't like to go by his real first name because of the shame he feels at being unemployed and homeless - left the centre for unaccompanied minors in the Spanish Ceuta enclave on the northern tip of Morocco and headed out in search of some other way to survive.

The small amount of pocket money a social worker gave him before he left Ceuta's migrant minors' centre paid for the ferry to the Spanish mainland port of Algeciras. There, he was approached by local social workers who recommended he travel 98km (61 miles) up to the city of Jerez where a place in a facility for young migrants was vacant, they said.

Six months later, Ilyas finally reached Barcelona where he still hopes to find work not just to support himself, but to help his sick father and family back home. But it hasn't been an easy journey across Spain.

One month after arriving in Jerez, the facility staff told him he could not stay any more. That led to living on the streets for several months while he scoured fruitlessly for job opportunities - nobody there wanted to employ a teenage boy from Morocco.

He finally decided to travel north to the more multicultural Barcelona in the hopes of finding a more sympathetic setting.

But, now, Ilyas is broken after weeks of sleeping rough here too.

"I am tired of life. I hope, for once, something works out well for me," he sobs as he steels himself in the morning for another day of searching for somewhere he might have a shower and change his dirty clothes before he goes to ask social services for a place to sleep tonight.

Ilyas has been sleeping rough for months now.

Despite all of it, though, Ilyas says he does not regret leaving his hometown of Fnideq in Morocco, close to the Spanish border, when he was only 15. "Living on the street is better than living under my parents' roof knowing that I have no future," he says.

Children and young men living in Morocco's northern cities at the brink of economic collapse, he says, are born with a desire to migrate "inserted into their hearts".

Fnideq and other border towns have been suffering particularly since Spain closed the border during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and then never renewed the permissions for people to cross daily into Ceuta to work - the main source of local employment for thousands of people in his hometown.

"From the second we are born, we know we need to leave this place." "The worst night of my life"

At the same hour of the day, Ilyas's mother, Aseyah, 42, is partway through her shift as a cleaner at a restaurant by the sea in Fnideq. She is the holder of one of the remaining few jobs in the town. Aseyah works 14 hours every day from 6am to 8pm for a salary of just 100 dirhams (\$10.24).

Ilyas's four siblings - Boushra, 17, Zakarya, 12, Adam, 11, and Chaymaa, 8 - sit at one of the restaurant tables for hours waiting for their mother to finish work.

They have little else to do. Boushra, the eldest since Ilyas left, takes care of the younger ones while Aseyah is in the kitchen.

Next year, she will finish high school and dreams of studying engineering in nearby Tetouan. It's an unlikely dream, however, because of the cost it would involve.

"Poor Ilyas," her mother says softly as she washes dishes. "He used to see us, his parents, sometimes being able to work, sometimes not being able to work and put food

on the table. So, he decided he had to do something to change this."

The day Ilyas left home - May 17, 2021 - Aseyah was on one of her long shifts at work. That day marked a rapid deterioration in diplomatic relations between Spain and Morocco when, in a matter of hours, approximately 8,000 Moroccans - mostly men and boys, but some women as well - managed to cross from Morocco to Spain. Thousands of them swam along the coast to Ceuta and walked in off the beach.

Ilyas was among the estimated 1,500 children who went

Madrid sent 200 extra police officers to help the 1,200 guarding the border with Morocco, but in the end, only 2,700 people were returned to Morocco. Juan Jesus Vivas, the president of the Spanish territory and a member of the right-wing main opposition People's Party, described the arrivals as an "invasion".

Ilyas had jumped at the opportunity when he heard so many were crossing to Spain. But his mother was devastated and furious when she discovered that he had left.

"When he heard the news about the border, he went home fast to inform his dad, who did not object," she says angrily. "When I came back home after work, Ilyas was not there any more. I felt my heart was ripped, it was the worst night of my life." She sneezes as she grabs some tissue to dry her tears.

"I stayed awake in case he would come back later, but he never did."

Indeed, Ilyas promised he would not go back until he found a way to help his family out of the situation they were in.

His father is very ill with a prostate condition that requires surgery the family cannot afford. He works intermittently, when

I wanted to prove to them that a refugee and a female South Sudanese have equal chances, and can compete just like any other other student.

My campaign was guided by thorough preparation, including reviewing the university's student association constitution to ensure my eligibility, and building an extensive network. I campaigned across the university's 13 campuses, using social media platforms like Twitter to reach a wider audience.

My efforts paid off, and I became the first-ever female refugee and non-Kenyan President of the University of Nairobi Students Association.

Advocacy and mentorship

Beyond my role in the student association, I founded the Youth Uplift Network and the Gender Inclusive Community.

These initiatives are aimed at supporting and mentoring other students, particularly refugee girls because I am a passionate advocate for increased financial support for refugee students and promoting kindness towards them.

I strongly believe education is the only thing that can transform your life, break free from societal constraints, and chart your own path. My personal experiences and the support I received from my family and mentors deeply motivate my choices. My desire to break stereotypes associated with being a refugee, a foreigner, and a female in leadership drives me to achieve my goals and I am committed to proving that refugees and women can lead and succeed.

Looking to the future, I aim to improve the justice system in South Sudan and continue advocating for the education and empowerment of refugee girls. I believe that by sharing my story and serving as a role model, I can inspire others to overcome challenges and achieve their dreams because if you seize every opportunity, no one and nothing can hinder you from achieving what you want.

My life story is a testament to the power of education, resilience, and determination. My journey highlights the importance of support systems, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to one's goals. My advocacy and leadership continue to inspire and drive positive change for refugee girls and students worldwide. By empowering us through education, we can break the cycle of hardship and provide a path towards a brighter future.

rants in the Spanish city every day.

Youssef is not from Fnideq like most, but from a village near Tetouan, and he says the border restrictions have affected all of those living in nearby towns. Like him, they all lost their jobs on the other side of the border in a matter of days.

While he can usually find some work during the summer - Morocco's peak tourism season - finding work during the winter has become a constant struggle for him and his friends.

"Every time, fewer of us remain in the area. Everyone my age has either already left or is thinking of ways to leave," he sighs as he watches a group of young men fixated on the restaurant's TV screen. Spain's football team is playing against Morocco and the young men eye the players' t-shirts, hoping they might one day cross the sea to the land they can see from the shore, and even wear one of the Spanish shirts themselves.

The other side of the European dream

Across the water on mainland Spain, however, life is not as rosy as these young men might dream.

Ilyas is at his fourth appointment with social services today.

He has gone from organisation to organisation recommended to him by other Moroccan men living in the Spanish city. He is desperate for help getting off the streets: Barcelona at night is frightening and dangerous for an 18-year-old - more so than in any of the smaller cities he has stayed in before.

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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Radio One

BUSINESS

Travel industry injects \$11trn into global economy in 2024

NEW YORK

A record \$1 out of every \$10 spent globally in 2024 will be on travel as people briskly book hotels, cruises and flights, according to an annual report by the World Travel and Tourism Council, a non-profit membership organization.

The travel and tourism industry's contribution to global gross domestic product is expected to reach new heights as consumers increasingly see travel as an essential part of their budgets.

The WTTC estimates the industry's contribution to global GDP in 2024 will increase 12.1 percent year-over-year to \$11.1 trillion, making up 10 percent of global GDP.

This represents about a 7.5 percent increase from the previous record set in 2019.

The global travel industry encom-

passes a vast array of services and sectors related to travel and tourism, making it one of the world's largest industries.

It includes airlines, hotels, cruise lines, tour operators, travel agencies, and online travel platforms, along with destinations, attractions, and supporting services like food and entertainment.

"Despite some concerns last year about us going into a global recession and high inflation, this year we are looking at travel and tourism being a real economic powerhouse globally," said Julia Simpson, CEO of the non-profit organization.

Travel spending in the US, Chinese and German economies is expected to contribute the most to GDP.

The sector is expected to support nearly 348 million jobs in 2024, or 13.6 million jobs more than in 2019, the previous record prior to the pandemic.



The industry is still hiring to fill jobs in the rapidly expanding field.

In the United States, there are currently 1 million job openings across the leisure and hospitality industry, according to the US Travel Association. Total employment supported in the US was about 27 million jobs in 2023, according to the WTTC.

Innovations in travel technology, including virtual reality (VR) travel experiences, AI-driven travel planning, and seamless integration of services through super apps, are expected to shape the future of the industry.

The focus on sustainable tourism will likely continue to grow, with more destinations and companies adopting eco-friendly practices.

According to WTTC the global travel indus-

try is resilient and continues to adapt to evolving market conditions, technological advancements, and shifting consumer preferences, making it a dynamic and influential sector of the global economy.

Travelers are increasingly seeking unique, personalized experiences over traditional sightseeing, driving demand for niche travel experiences such as adventure tourism, wellness retreats, and culinary tours.

Meanwhile, the International Air Transport Association (Iata) has also reported an 8.0 percent increase in global passenger demand for July 2024 compared to the previous year, with a total load factor of 86.0 percent.

While international demand grew by 10.1 percent and domestic demand rose by 4.8 percent,

capacity increased by only 7.4 percent, indicating that demand is outpacing supply.

Despite the CrowdStrike IT outage on 19 July, there was no significant negative impact on demand.

"July was another positive month. Passenger demand hit an all-time high for the industry and in all regions except Africa, despite the significant disruption caused by the CrowdStrike IT outage," says Willie Walsh, Iata's director general.

"The winding down of the peak northern summer season is a reminder of how much people depend on flying. As the mix of travellers shift from leisure to business, aviation's many roles are evident—reuniting families, enabling exploration, and powering commerce. People need and want to fly. And they are doing that in great numbers. Load factors are at the practicable maximum."

All regions showed strong growth for international passenger markets in July 2024 compared to July 2023, with signs that many markets are returning to long-term growth trends after the post-pandemic bounce back.

African airlines saw a 7.4 percent year-on-year increase in demand. Capacity was up 6.7 percent year-on-year. The load factor rose to 74.3 percent (+0.5ppt compared to July 2023).

Cross-listed counters boost DSEI movement on week's opening

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange All share Index (DSEI) opened the week in upward trend, after slightly gained by 1.44 points, thanks to appreciations of share prices among three cross-listed companies, and one local company.

The DSE daily market report shows other indices including Tanzania Share Index (TSI) and Bank Finance & Investment (BI) declined, while Industrial & Allied (AI) remained unchanged.

The highest share price increase was recorded by Nation Media Group (NMG) after closing at 320/-, an increase of 6.67 percent, followed by Maendeleo Bank Plc (MBP), which its share price gained by 1.61 percent.

Other counters which recorded the share prices appreciations were East Africa Breweries Limited

(EABL), which closed 0.31 percent up at 3,170/- as well as Jubilee Holdings Limited (JHL), which its share closed at 3,190/- an increase of 0.32 percent.

A total turnover of 118.5m/- was recorded during the opening of the week, dominated by local investors activities as they accounted for 98.85 percent of total value of shares purchased and 100 percent of total value of shares sold.

Top movers were CRDB Bank counter, which recorded the transactions of 122,719 shares valued 82.1m/- traded at a price ranging from 660/- to 680/- per share in 218

deals, followed by NICO, which recorded the transactions of 14,089 shares valued 10m/- traded at a price ranging from 770/- to 780/- per share in 28 deals.

Other top movers were Afriprise counter, which recorded the transactions of 4,052 shares valued 0.9m/- traded at a price of 230/- per share in 29 deals, followed by NMB counter, which transacted 3,700 shares valued 19.7m/- traded at a price ranging from 5,300/- to 5,400/- per share in 16 deals.

Other active counters according to the daily market report were DCB Bank, Maendeleo Bank Plc

(MBP), self-listed DSE, Mkombozi Commercial Bank (MKCB), Swissport, Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL), Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCC) and Vodacom (VODA).

Analysts expect the equities market to stimulate as investors will be shifting from fixed-income investments, specifically bonds market due to tight monetary policy implemented by the central bank since June as preemptive measure against the shortages of US dollar.

Between July and September 2024, the Tanzanian shilling depreciated against the US dollar.

By August 2024, the exchange rate reached around 2,703/- per USD, reflecting an 8.3 per-

cent year-on-year decline from TZS 2,496 in August 2023.

The trend shows a steady rise in the exchange rate, from 2,672/- in July 2024 to 2,703/- in August, driven by broader economic factors influencing currency markets.

This depreciation makes Tanzanian goods cheaper for export and could impact inflation and purchasing power locally.

The currency's performance could continue to be influenced by external pressures, such as global interest rates and Tanzania's trade balance.

For the Tanzanian shilling in 2025, economic projections will depend on factors such as inflation, global commodity prices, and fiscal policies within Tanzania.

Bank supports the construction of new boys' school

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko recently received a dummy cheque worth 50m/- for the construction of Bunge Boys Secondary School from NMB Bank.

He received the dummy cheque during the NMB Bunge Sports Bonanza at John Merlin Secondary School grounds in Dodoma city.

Dr. Biteko expressed that the donation will bolster the legislators' efforts in constructing the school, following the completion of the Bunge Girls Secondary School.

He praised the bank's commitment to support-

ing Tanzanians in developmental activities, including sports, highlighting the bank's contribution of various sports equipment and other necessities during the Bunge Bonanza.

"I commend the bank for their generosity in allocating part of their profits to assist us. Do not hesitate to continue supporting us in the future when needed. I also urge other stakeholders to back this crucial school project for our youth," Dr. Biteko stated.

Discussing Bonanza's theme on Electoral Participation, the Deputy Minister urged Tanzanians not to take the issue lightly, emphasizing that governance starts at the grassroots before reaching the national level and hence everyone is

obliged to participate in the coming Local government elections.

Juma Kimori, bank's chief financial officer assured that the bank would continue its community contributions to support the Sixth Phase Government's efforts and the various initiatives driven by the legislators in their constituencies.

"We have consistently supported matters of Health, Education, and Disaster Response. We will keep collaborating to drive development across communities, aiming to reach every Tanzanian," Kimori assured.

Speaker of the National Assembly Dr. Tulia Ackson emphasized the need for continued collaboration with the bank in addressing various challenges while promoting



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (L), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Dr. Doto Biteko (2nd L), NMB Bank Chief Finance Officer, Juma Kimori (2nd R), display a dummy cheque donated by NMB bank for the construction of the Bunge Boys Secondary School. Right is Bunge Bonanza chairman Festo Sanga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

the appropriate use of banking services across all community levels, including rural areas.

Festo Sanga, Bunge Bonanza Chairman noted that apart from sponsoring the Bonanza,

the bank also demonstrated competitive prowess by defeating the strong Parliamentary Football Team with a 3-0 victory.

Sanga emphasized that sports participa-

tion among Tanzanians enhances health, reducing medical expenses and building well-being to combat non-communicable diseases.

Kilosa District leads in subsidized fertiliser use

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

KILOSA District Council in the Morogoro Region is now leading in the use of subsidized fertilizer compared to other districts within the region.

Shaka Hamdu Shaka, the Kilosa District Commissioner, highlighted this achievement during a recent meeting with local farmers.

Shaka emphasized that, despite Kilosa's leading position in fertilizer use, there is still a need for agricultural experts to guide

farmers on the correct application of fertilizer to maximize their farming results. He also urged farmers to register in the digital subsidized fertilizer system to continue benefiting from government opportunities available to farmers nationwide.

Furthermore, Shaka advised farmers to adhere strictly to instructions provided by agricultural experts on proper fertilizer use, rather than relying on potentially misleading advice from other farmers.

"The government has made significant investments in the agricultural sector, including hiring more agricultural extension

officers, subsidizing fertilizers, providing equipment for extension officers, and increasing the sector's budget. As farmers, it is crucial that we make the most of these opportunities to achieve better results on our farms," Shaka said.

Elizabeth Bolle, Acting Director of Regulatory Services at the Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA), reported that during the 2023/2024 farming season, Kilosa District used a total of 4,554.8 tons of fertilizer, up from 2,652.1 tons in the 2022/2023 season—an increase of 1,902.7 tons.

Bolle noted that 23,852 farmers have registered in the digital system, surpassing the target of 20,000 registrations for Kilosa District.

However, she pointed out that there are still farmers who have not registered. She encouraged all farmers in Kilosa and other districts in the Morogoro Region who have yet to register to do so with their ward and village executive officers to access the subsidized fertilizer provided by the Ministry of Agriculture.

According to Bolle, while many farmers have benefited from the subsidized fer-

tilizer program, maintaining an accurate registration database will help the government develop effective plans to advance the agriculture sector and provide additional services such as extension support, market information, and financial services.

Morogoro Region, known for its diverse crop production—including maize, rice, sugarcane, spices, vegetables, and fruits—aims to enhance productivity through this meeting. The "Agriculture is Fertilizer" campaign seeks to promote the correct use of fertilizer and encourage farmer registration to improve agricultural outcomes.

SPECIAL REPORT

Sand mining: A dilemma of job creation and worsening climate change risks - 3

By Francis Kajubi

SAND mining for construction purposes in Tanzania's major cities is raising growing concerns over its environmental impact and contribution to climate change.

The Tanzanian government has legalized sand mining in riverbeds as part of efforts to promote self-employment among youths in the informal sector. Sand mining has also become a source of revenue through levies collected by local government authorities. Additionally, the government permits sand mining for the purpose of cleaning riverbeds.

There is poor coordination of sand mining business by public authorities mandated with the regulation of the business in big cities which has resulted in accelerating environmental degradation and loss of nature.

Unregulated sand mining has been eroding riverbanks, causing rivers to expand and encroach on residential areas. As a result, homes are being destroyed during the rainy season, which typically lasts from March to May, though rainfall can also occur between October and December in some parts of the country.

However, climate change implications have resulted in variations of the rainy season with unpredictable periods of rain that has been reported by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) to wreak havoc on commercial and peoples' residential properties, farms and public infrastructure.

A two-month investigation conducted by this journalist revealed that unregulated sand mining is rampant in Dar es Salaam.

In rivers like Msimbazi, Tegeta, Gide, Mbezi, Kawe, and Mpiji, illegal mining is being carried out under the guise of cleaning the riverbeds to prevent flooding. Jangwani open space and Kunduchi beach are also hotspots for illegal sand mining.

However, Jangwani open space and Kunduchi beach are also in the list of sand mines in the city flooded with unpermitted miners.

The investigation uncovered that along the Msimbazi River there are eight unpermitted youth groups formed by a minimum of 14 members each conducting illegal sand mining.

On the other hand, there are five permitted groups along the river which traverses from Pugu hills in the outskirts of the city into the Indian Ocean.

Along the Tegeta River there are five unpermitted groups against three permitted groups. Along the Gide River there are two unpermitted groups against two permitted groups. Mbezi River accommodates three unpermitted youth groups against two permitted



Unpermitted sand miners captured along the Tegeta River in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Francis Kajubi

groups.

Along Kawe River which three years ago the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) banned sand mining due to environmental degradation, there are three unpermitted groups against four permitted youth groups.

Along the Mpiji River there are three unpermitted youth groups against four permitted groups. The same situation has been witnessed at Jangwani and Kunduchi areas.

Unpermitted sand mining also takes place in the rivers of Skanska and in suburban areas of Mbweni, Mgemuzi, Bunju and Mabwepande.

This journalist has visited Kisarawe district council in the Coast region where there are unpermitted youth groups carrying out sand mining in the mines of Mzenge and Msanga villages.

In Dodoma capital, he visited Mvumi and Kikombo, two of the eight sand mines while in Morogoro region he visited Kitaifa mines in Gairo district.

Godwin Mangowi, Muungano Ward Executive Officer in Ubungo District of Dar es Salaam city has refused to clarify why unpermitted sand miners are operating along the Tegeta River contrary to the city's sand mining guidelines.

Anthony Masaika, Levy Officer at Ubungo District in-charge of the Tegeta River admitted that there are three unpermitted youth groups along the riverbed carrying out sand mining.

"There is poor collaboration of the five authorities mandated with issuance of permits for sand mining in riverbeds and riverbanks. Each authority works on its own

which results in the guidelines not to be fully enforced," said Masaika.

According to him, a dump truck weighing 1.5 cubic meters of sand is charged a levy of 3,000/- per trip, those weighing three cubic meters of sand pay 5,000/- while those weighing 14 to 20 cubic meters are charged 10,000/- per trip.

Masaika said almost ten dump trucks of different capacities take away sand mined from the Tegeta River with each going at least three trips daily.

He said as per the guidelines, unpermitted sand miners are subjected to a fine of not less than 2m/- when caught mining the sand illegally but none of the unpermitted youth groups have been convicted so far.

Hamis Charles, Chairman of the Walumba Sand Miners Group, the permitted group to carryout sand mining along Tegeta River said that bribes are silencing the regulatory authorities' officials in enforcing the sand mining guidelines with regard to unpermitted groups, the accusation that is denied by Masaika.

Issa Salum (22) a member of Hapa Kazi Tu Sand Miners Group said that securing permits from the regulatory bodies is not a must for them to carry out sand mining along the Tegeta River.

"Securing permits for sand mining in this riverbed is optional. We could have been arrested if it was a crime. The blames put on us are a result of sheer competition between us and miners with permits," said Salum.

Jamal Baruti, Manager for Review of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment at the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) said rainwater usually

comes with sands washed along the riverbeds and the unconstructed riverbanks.

Baruti said the Council in collaboration with authorities under local government authorities has resolved on a decision to allow permitted youth groups to take charge of cleaning additional sand in rivers which is brought by rainwater.

He said permitted miners are supposed to mine additional sand brought by rainwater but not digging riverbeds and riverbanks.

According to him, Section 57 (1) of the Environment Management Act No. 20 of 2004 prohibits human activities that are likely to significantly affect the environment to be carried out within sixty meters from water sources.

Subsection (2) imposes powers for the Minister of Union and Environment in the Vice President's Office to lay down guidelines for cleaning the city's riverbeds by removing additional sand, mud and solid waste brought by rainwater for the purpose of restoring natural level of riverbeds to avoid possible floods.

Baruti said the sand mining guidelines in riverbeds for Dar es Salaam city were developed in February 2021 but are yet to be brought into effective enforcement by the respective authorities identified therein.

He mentioned authorities responsible for enforcement of the guidelines as the local government authorities under Ward Executive Officers, Wami Ruvu Basin Water Board, Environment management units in the district councils or Cooperative union officers at the district councils, the National Environment Management Council

(NEMC) and the Mining Commission at the Ministry of Minerals.

Baruti said these authorities are mandated with permits issuance and monitoring sand mining as stipulated by the guidelines through effective collaboration.

"The youth groups must submit an environmental management plan for sand mining in a respective river as identified in their permit request. The permits are valid for two months fetching 50,000/- with possible renewal," said Baruti.

He acknowledged that the council's preliminary researches show that illegal sand mining in riverbeds is mostly likely to result in climate change implications such as floods and distinction of nature in eroded rivers.

Baruti asserted that the council issues permits for sand mining to youth groups after they have secured permits from local government authorities and the Mining Commission.

This journalist has established that in other big cities and towns, there are no sand mining dockets. However, there are by-laws by the local government authorities which are also not enforced.

The United Nations (UN) states that 55 percent of the current world's population lives in urban areas, and is expected to increase to 68 percent by 2050.

The UN projections on urbanization show that the gradual shift in residence of the human population from rural to urban areas, combined with the overall growth of the world's population could add another 2.5 billion people to urban areas by 2050 with close to 90 percent of this increase taking place in Africa and Asia.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) cautions that to house the future UN's estimated population, Sand Mining for construction where sand and gravel are removed from riverbeds, lakes, the oceans and beaches for use in construction is happening at a rate faster than the materials can be renewed which has huge impact on the environment.

WEF warns that sand mining, whether legal or illegal, plays a significant role in climate change through the extraction process that results in erosion contributing to the disruption of ecosystems and the natural flow of waterways.

The erosion further leads to increased flooding and decreased groundwater capacity.

This, states WEF, heightens the vulnerability to extreme weather events, including hurricanes, as the loss of coastal protection leaves communities exposed to loss of habitats.

It states that sand mining releases carbon emissions, contributing to the global warming phenomenon.

However, the extraction and transportation of sand require heavy machinery and vehicles that run on fossil fuels, releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

"It is crucial to address the impact of sand mining on climate change and take necessary measures to reduce its carbon footprint; Sustainable practices, such as implementing stricter regulations on sand extraction and promoting alternative construction materials, can help mitigate the climate impacts of sand mining on a way forward," the WEF recommends.

To be continued.

Tanzanians urged to embrace exercise to combat non-communicable diseases

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

TANZANIANS have been encouraged to adopt regular exercise as a key measure to stay fit and prevent non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which continue to pose significant health risks.

According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report, NCDs such as stroke, cancer, and diabetes claim the lives of 41 million people globally every year, making them one of the leading causes of death, second only to road accidents.

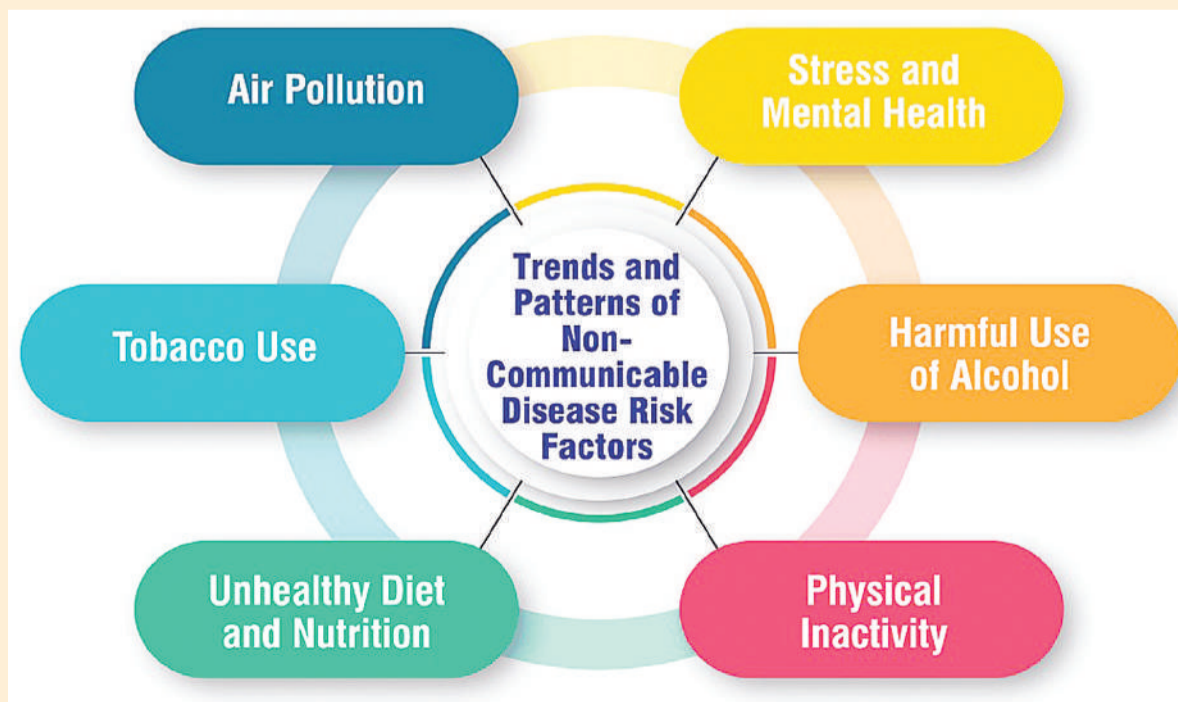
Speaking in Dar es Salaam at the launch of the Arthshakti Health Card, Kinondoni Municipal Health Coordinator Dr. Omar Mwangaza emphasized the importance of exercise in preventing diseases like diabetes, stroke, and hypertension. The Arthshakti Health Card aims to provide members with discounted medical treatments at various hospitals across Tanzania.

Dr. Mwangaza highlighted the growing concern over unhealthy lifestyles, stating, "We are what we eat." He noted that many people fail to balance their diet with sufficient physical activity, leading to costly treatments for NCDs that can drive families into poverty.

In a 2010 WHO report, the total global cost of diabetes-related healthcare was estimated at \$378 billion, with projections suggesting this figure could reach \$490 billion by 2030.

"We feed ourselves but don't utilize the energy from the food we consume. Exercise is crucial because prevention is better than cure, particularly in developing countries with limited resources to treat everyone diagnosed with these conditions. Prevention must be a priority," Dr. Mwangaza urged.

He also shared the results of recent health screenings conducted by the Kinondoni Municipal Council at two primary schools, where out of 765 students, six were found to have congenital heart defects. These children were



referred to the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) for free treatment.

Dr. Mwangaza praised the collaboration between the government and the private sector in healthcare, citing Arthshakti as a valuable partner. He encouraged Tanzanians to support government initiatives by securing health insurance, which can provide access to medical care without financial hurdles.

"The cost of treatment is rising due to advances in medical technology and improved access to medicines.

Therefore, I urge Tanzanians to invest in health insurance, which will ease the burden of healthcare costs," he added.

Dr. Mwangaza also highlighted the importance of healthcare investments, using Arthshakti as an example. He pointed out that illnesses can strike unexpectedly, and having access to affordable treatment through the Arthshakti Health Card can be a critical safety net, especially for managing NCDs.

Arthshakti founder Somesh Kulshrestha reiterated this sentiment, stating that the Arthshakti Health Card pro-

vides a gateway to affordable, quality healthcare services, ensuring that members can access medical care without financial strain.

"Through this membership card, we offer facilities and discounts through our partner service providers. Currently, we have partnerships with six hospitals, but our goal is to expand across Tanzania so that more people can benefit from accessible healthcare," Kulshrestha said.

The affiliated hospitals include Aga Khan Health Service, Roshan Polyclinic, Rally Polyclinic, Hitech Sai Hospital, and Dental & Hospidio.

Arthshakti President Kevin Frank shared that the foundation, established in 2022, is committed to helping Tanzanians save money while securing their health. The Arthshakti Health Card serves as a financial and health safety net.

Frank outlined the benefits of membership, which include discounts on hospital bills, X-ray services, pharmacy purchases, medicine delivery, ambulance services for emergencies, assistance with road accident cases, free medical visas to India, free accommodation in India, and online consultations with specialist doctors in India.

Improved cassava processing to enhance food security in Nigeria

LAGOS

A prominent agricultural economist and researcher, Dr Adekunle Stephen Toromade, has said modern cassava processing would enhance food security and take Nigeria to greater economic heights.

Toromade who stated this, however, stressed the need to address occupational hazards and economic challenges facing cassava processors to improve and enhance productivity in addressing global food security issues.

He explained that cassava processing industry is plagued with occupational hazards that severely affect the health and economic well-being of processors, contributing to widespread poverty, saying addressing the occupational hazards and economic challenges will enhance productivity and sustainability.

"Cassava processing is crucial for many rural communities in Nigeria, involving tasks such as peeling, grating, fermenting, and drying to produce essential food products like garri, fufu, and tapioca.

"Despite its importance in the agricultural value chain, the industry is plagued by occupational hazards that severely affect the health and economic well-being of processors, contributing to widespread poverty"

While speaking on the comprehensive study to examine these challenges, Toromade said his research focused on the difficulties faced by cassava processors, in three local government areas known for their high cassava production.

According to him, "Food security in Nigeria continues to deteriorate, studies like this provide valuable insights into how improving the conditions for food processors can help tackle food insecurity.

"One of the most striking findings of the study is that cassava processing is predominantly carried out by women. These women, many of whom are the primary breadwinners for their families, face numerous occupational hazards that exacerbate their poverty status.

"The findings of the study revealed that 46 percent of cassava processors are moderately poor. A significant portion, about 69 percent of their income, is spent on medical treatment and other family expenses, further deepening their poverty"

"Additionally, smoke inhalation during cassava process-



ing ranked as the most prevalent occupational hazard for the processors. Studies have shown that smoke inhalation can severely impact both the health and productivity of processors.

"Chronic exposure to smoke can lead to respiratory issues and other serious health conditions, diminishing workers' efficiency and livelihoods.

"This health decline results in high medical expenses, further straining the already limited financial resources of these processors. Additionally, factors such as

larger household sizes and other health issues related to occupational injuries exacerbate their poverty"

He said "The study reveals that processors' incomes are often inadequate to cover medical costs, pushing many families deeper into poverty.

"With these risks, safety measures among cassava processors are alarmingly inadequate; while some use sun hats or caps to shield against heat, effective protections against harmful smoke and other hazards are lacking. This deficiency high-

lights the urgent need for comprehensive safety interventions.

"With a focus on practical solutions, Toromade and his research team are working on designing an innovative cassava processing machine that transforms raw cassava into finished products such as cassava flakes and other food items.

"This innovative processor is designed to safeguard workers by minimizing exposure to harmful smoke and other occupational hazards. "Once this technology is adopted, it has the potential to revolutionise agricultural

food processing in Nigeria, enhancing both the safety and efficiency of cassava production"

Alongside Toromade's innovative technological advancement, there is a pressing need for extensive training programs to educate cassava processors on occupational safety.

Strengthening extension services to offer regular training on best practices and safety precautions can greatly improve workers' health and productivity.

Government and NGO intervention is essential for the affordability of access to automated food processor machines as well as subsidies are needed to make protective gear more affordable for effective food processing techniques. Enhancing healthcare access to provide timely treatment for occupational injuries is also crucial for ensuring the well-being of these workers.

Toromade in his study utilized blockchain, AI, IoT, and big data for real-time monitoring of critical parameters such as temperature, humidity, and location in agricultural systems.

With this approach, he enhanced food supply chain management and optimized conditions in the food supply chain, particularly in cassava processing, reducing both waste and energy loss.

Toromade contributed significantly to improving the quality of life for cassava processors, and potentially decreasing their economic losses from excessive medical expenses.

Beyond addressing occupational hazards, implementing these recommendations to protect this essential workforce can significantly contribute to poverty alleviation in rural areas and enhance the economic prosperity of cassava processors.

This, in turn, will positively impact their families and communities, fostering overall rural development and sustainability within Nigeria's agricultural sector.

Gold investors all eager to see record-breaking price stability

NEW YORK

GOLD investors returning from their summer holidays will be eager to see whether the precious metal can sustain its record-breaking rally, or if it will succumb to the curse of September.

Bullion has dropped every September since 2017. Over that period, the average decline has been 3.2 percent in September - easily the worst month of the year, and far below the monthly average gain of 1 percent.

It's a phenomenon that's perplexed economists who believe markets should behave more efficiently, and it isn't limited to gold: September is also commonly the worst month for US stocks, with average declines of more than 1.5 percent in the S&P 500 over the past decade.

The dynamic is far from reliable - gold has actually risen in September over a three-decade horizon - but one explanation for the recent weakness is that traders are buying bullion to take a defensive position over the increasingly turbulent summer months, before selling on their return to the office in September.

"Before you go on vacation and get away from your screens, you want to hedge the risk that you have in the market, and one way you can do that is to buy gold," said Boris Mikanickezi, an analyst at FastMarkets.

Academics have shown that some investors do "switch off" over the summer, and adding safe-haven bullion to the portfolio might offer peace of mind during a period that's traditionally more volatile. Throughout history, conflicts and market meltdowns have broken out frequently over the summer, and volatility can be exacerbated when trading desks are understaffed and senior executives are away.

The flip side is that when September arrives, there's an inbuilt headwind for gold. September is also traditionally the dollar's strongest month, which means traders using other currencies can buy less gold with their money.

The precious metal has rallied 22 percent this year, including 8 percent since July. It has been supported by robust purchases by central banks, increased demand amid geopolitical tensions, and healthy buying of physical bars in the over-the-counter market.

Gold's gains have also been driven by expectations the Federal Reserve will start to ease monetary policy next month.

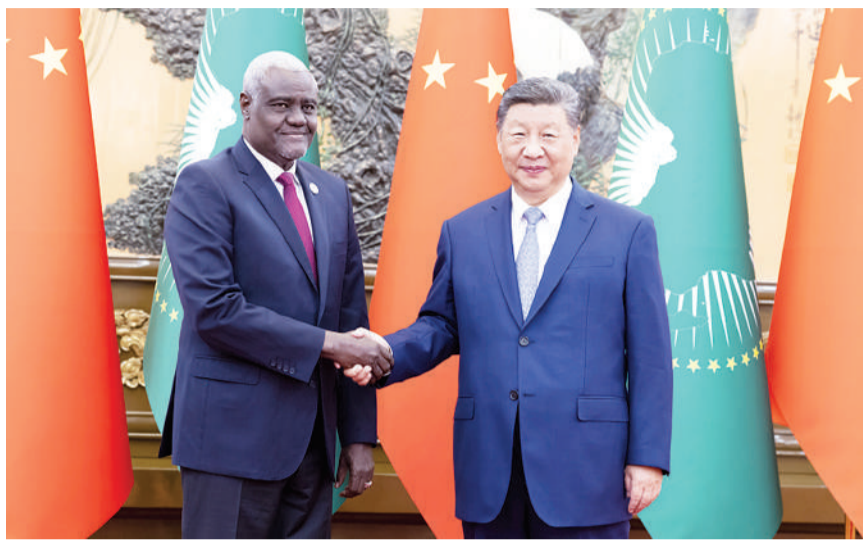
Fed Chair Jerome Powell said last week that the "time has come" to lower interest rates, but the speed and magnitude of cuts may be key to determining whether bullion maintains its momentum.

Whether these tailwinds are enough to break the September curse is another question.

"Seasonality points to a potentially challenging month ahead," said Ole Hansen, head of commodities strategy at Saxo Bank.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
TUESDAY 27 Aug	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:00 KUMEKUCHA	6:40 HABARI	7:30 KUMEKUCHA MICHZO	8:00 HABARI
8:00 KUMEKUCHA MICHZO	8:55 HABARI ZA SAA	9:00 KUMEKUCHA KISHINDO	9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
9:30 Soap: Laws of love	10:00 WATOTO WETU	10:00 WATOTO WETU	10:30 Ushiriki wako
10:30 JAGINA	11:00 HABARI ZA SAA	11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing	11:30 Kipindi maalum: TMDA
11:30 HABARI ZA SAA	11:55 Albu Yako	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:30 HABARI ZA SAA	12:55 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing	13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: Maisha ni nyumba	13:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Sema na mahakama
13:30 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	14:00 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	14:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Sema na mahakama	14:55 HABARI ZA SAA
15:00 Meza huru	16:30 WATOTO WETU	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)	17:30 Kisiam
18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:15 Mapigiti	18:30 Hapa na Pale	18:45 Meza huru
18:55 Jarda la wanawake	19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:30 KUMEKUCHA MICHZO	19:55 HABARI ZA SAA
20:00 HABARI	20:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 KUMEKUCHA KISHINDO	20:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
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21:30 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	23:00 Jiji letu	23:30 Music: The Base
23:30 Music: The Base	00:30 Al Jazeera		
THURSDAY 28 Aug	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:00 KUMEKUCHA	6:40 Meza Huru	7:30 WATOTO WETU	8:00 HABARI
8:00 KUMEKUCHA MICHZO	8:55 HABARI ZA SAA	9:00 KUMEKUCHA KISHINDO	9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
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FRIDAY 30 Aug	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:00 KUMEKUCHA	6:40 Meza Huru	7:30 WATOTO WETU	8:00 HABARI
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23:30 Music: The Base	00:30 Al Jazeera		
SATURDAY 31 Aug	5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KUMEKUCHA
7:00 HABARI	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 WATOTO WETU	9:30 Meza Huru
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and Lifestyle	13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50 Igizo: Mzengwe	14:10 Igizo: Haikufuma
14:30 Shamba lulu	14:55 Meza huru	15:15 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	15:30 Shamba lulu
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Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat, who is in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. XINHUA

Xi meets with foreign leaders ahead of FOCAC summit in Beijing

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday met with African leaders who are in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), with China elevating ties with Chad and Malawi.

Chadian President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno

During Xi's meeting with Chadian President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, the two leaders jointly announced the elevation of bilateral relations to a strategic partnership.

China and Chad have engaged in mutually beneficial cooperation and achieved substantial results under frameworks such as the Belt and Road Initiative and FOCAC, Xi said.

China has been Chad's largest trading and investment partner for years, and their pragmatic cooperation has improved the well-being of both peoples, said Xi, adding that China is willing to further synergize development strategies with Chad and push for new progress in bilateral relations.

Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera

Xi and Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera also jointly announced the elevation of bilateral ties to a strategic partnership during their meeting.

China stands ready to deepen the friendly cooperation with Malawi from the new starting point to promote common development and benefit their people, Xi said.

He said China is willing to share with Malawi opportunities brought by Chinese modernization, strengthen bilateral cooperation in fields such as agriculture, telecommunications and infrastructure, and encourage Chinese enterprises to invest in Malawi.

Chakwera said Malawi regards China as its most sincere friend.

Expressing support for strengthening the FOCAC mechanism, Chakwera said Malawi expects to take the summit as an

opportunity to continue advancing Belt and Road cooperation, strengthen regional connectivity and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation with China.

During the summit, the two sides will sign cooperation documents on peanut export to China, news media development, and cooperation in other fields.

Kenyan President William Ruto

During a meeting with Kenyan President William Ruto, Xi noted that China and Kenya have been at the forefront of jointly advancing Belt and Road cooperation and completed a number of flagship infrastructure projects, significantly contributing to regional economic and social development and benefiting the two peoples.

China and Kenya should work together to deepen their comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, Xi said.

Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa

Xi also held talks with Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who is also in Beijing for a state visit. They then attended a signing ceremony of cooperation documents.

Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat

During a meeting with Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat, Xi said China supports the AU in playing a bigger role in the development of China-Africa friendship, noting that the AU is a flag guiding Africa's unity and self-strengthening and an important platform for international cooperation.

China stands ready to pursue greater achievements in various fields in its cooperation with the AU and elevate the China-Africa community with a shared future to a new level, he said.

China considers Africa a major priority in its diplomacy, and is willing to increase political exchanges, deepen strategic mutual trust, strengthen pragmatic cooperation, share development experience and promote common development with Africa, Xi stressed.

Xinhua



China stands ready to deepen the friendly cooperation with Malawi from the new starting point to promote common development and benefit their people

UK suspends 30 of its 350 arms export licenses to Israel

LONDON

BRITAIN will immediately suspend 30 of its 350 arms export licenses with Israel because there was a risk such equipment might be used to commit serious violations of international humanitarian law, Foreign Minister David Lammy said on Monday.

Lammy said the decision to suspend the licenses did not amount to a blanket ban or an arms embargo, but only involved those that could be used in the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Palestinian enclave of Gaza.

"We recognize, of course, Israel's need to defend itself against security threats, but we are deeply worried by the methods that Israel's employed, and by reports of civilian casualties and the destruction of civilian infrastructure particularly," Lammy told parliament.

Soon after the Labour Party won an election in July, Lammy said he would update a review on arms sales to Britain's ally Israel to ensure these complied with international law.

"It is with regret that I inform the House (of Commons, lower house of parliament) today the assessment I have received leaves me unable to conclude anything other than that for certain UK arms exports to Israel, there does exist a clear risk that they might be used to commit or facilitate a serious violation of international humanitarian law," Lammy said.

British exports amount to less than 1 percent of the total arms Israel receives, and the minister said the suspension would not have a material impact on Israel's security, and Britain continued to support its right to self-defense.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said the decision was disappointing and "sends a very problematic



In this video grab taken from footage broadcast by the UK Parliamentary Recording Unit (PRU) via the Parliament TV website on Monday, Britain's Foreign Secretary David Lammy makes a statement on arms sales to Israel. AFP

message" to Islamist militant group Hamas and its patrons in Iran.

Both Israeli and Palestinian leaders are being investigated for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in the wake of the Oct 7 attacks by Hamas in southern Israel, which killed 1,200 people, by Israeli tallies.

The Israeli response in Gaza has killed more than 40,700 people, according to Palestinian health authorities.

Lammy said Monday's decision was not a judgment on whether Israel had breached international law or not.

Israel and Palestinian leaders have dismissed allegations of war crimes. "This is a forward looking evaluation, not a determination of innocence or guilt, and it does not pre-judge any future determinations by the competent courts," he said.

According to information provided by government officials to Reuters and data from the Department for Business and Trade's Export Control unit, the value of permits granted for the sale of military equipment to its ally fell by more than 95 percent to a 13-year low after the start of the conflict in Gaza.

Many of the licenses approved in the period after the start of the conflict were for items listed for "commercial use" or non-lethal items such as body armor, military helmets or all-wheel drive vehicles with ballistic protection.

Despite winning a landslide victory in July, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's party did suffer significant setbacks in areas with large Muslim populations and he has been under

pressure from some of his lawmakers to take a firmer line with Israel over the conflict.

Military components

Among the items included under the arms export suspension will be components for military aircraft including fighter jets, helicopters and drones.

But, parts for F-35 fighters will be exempted, except where going directly to Israel, as the government said it was not possible to suspend these without prejudicing the jets' entire global program.

Roughly two months before the US elections, neither of the two presidential candidates has outlined an overarching policy that would address crucial economic problems of the country.

"The government's statement today that it is suspending 30 arms export licenses to Israel is a belated, but welcome move, finally acting upon the overwhelming evidence of Israeli war crimes in Gaza," said Sam Perlo-Freeman, Research Coordinator for Campaign Against Arms Trade said.

"But exempting parts for Israel's F-35 is utterly outrageous and unjustifiable."

Unlike the US, Britain's government does not give arms directly to Israel but rather issues licenses for companies to sell weapons, with input from lawyers on whether they complied with international law.

Earlier this month, the United States approved the sale of \$20 billion in fighter jets and other military equipment to Israel.

ICC should be wary of acting on Putin's arrest warrant – Medvedev

MOSCOW

OFFICIALS of the International Criminal Court (ICC) should think twice before executing the arrest warrant against Russian President Vladimir Putin, Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said.

Commenting on the EU's statement regarding Putin's visit to Mongolia, which is an ICC signatory, he said: "The Mongolians have ignored the ICC and the European politicians." "If I were a judge or prosecutor of this so-called court, I would be afraid that some fool would carry out their illegal order. In that case, their lives would be worth no more than that piece of paper," Medvedev (pictured) wrote on his Telegram channel.

On March 17, 2023, the ICC is-



sued arrest warrants for Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, the Russian presidential commissioner for children's rights, for their alleged involvement in war crimes "consisting of the illegal deportation of the population," including children, and their illegal transfer to Russia.

The Security Council deputy

chairman then slammed the ICC statute as "legally null and void."

About visit

Putin is on his first official visit to Mongolia in five years. The visit, which began on the evening of September 2, is at the invitation of Mongolian President Ukhnaagin Khurelsukh, who invited Putin to visit the country in the fall of 2023.

Just like five years ago, Putin will take part in events celebrating the anniversary of the joint victory of Soviet and Mongolian troops over the Japanese militarists during the Battles of Khalkhin Gol. In addition, the Russian president is also scheduled to hold talks and a series of bilateral meetings with Mongolian authorities. The visit will conclude with a reception.

Agencies

PM Modi's visit to take India-Singapore ties to new level: Indian envoy Shilpak Ambule

SINGAPORE



PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Singapore is expected to deepen the ties between India and the South East Asian country and set the stage to take the relationship to a new era, according to Indian envoy to Singapore.

Talking to ANI yesterday, the Indian High Commissioner to Singapore Shilpak Ambule said that discussions during the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) held on August 27 have set the agenda for the relationship between the two countries, which will now consolidated and cemented during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit.

"It is a very important visit happening very early on in Prime Minister Modi's third tenure. It is also happening very early on in Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's tenure. It gives us a good opportunity to set the stage to take our relationships to a newer level and newer heights. So that is the whole kind of purpose of this visit," Ambule said.

About the agenda of the trade and investment ties to be discussed during PM's meetings with the President, the Prime Minister and important ministers in Singapore, Ambule said that apart from trade and investment, new contemporary areas like green technology and, sustainability will be discussed.

"We had the India Singapore ministerial roundtable last week where four ministers on our side... were present and there were six ministers from the Singaporean side. They set the agenda for the relationship and that is the agenda which will be consolidated now and cemented during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit. Of course, trade and investment form an important part of it, but apart from that, new contemporary areas like green technology, sustainability, connectivity, advanced manufacturing skills and health all will be discussed," he said.

The envoy to Singapore said that trade and investment is expected to grow further.

"Bilateral trade has more than doubled in the last ten years. Our intention is to take it even further. We also combine it with investments. Singapore is the largest source of foreign direct investment in India. So if you take the basket of trade and investment together, they will only grow up and further improve as we go on," Ambule said.

He added that India is encouraging Singapore to invest in the emerging sectors in India, like logistics, warehousing, commercial real estate.

"The largest source of FDI into India, with FDI equity inflows, it stood around USD 71.74 billion. Yeah, FDI is an important part of the investment, and we are encouraging more and more Singaporean companies, holding companies, funds to invest in the emerging sectors in India, like logistics, warehousing, commercial real estate," he said.

Singapore is India's largest trade partner in Asia and last year, the bilateral trade stood at USD 36.6 billion.

Prime Minister is visiting Singapore after nearly six years.

In a special briefing ahead of the Prime Minister's visit, Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East) said two countries have a dynamic Strategic Partnership and ties have evolved. It encompassing diverse areas from our shared history and people to people ties, which form an important link between the two nations.

ANI



We need to have it under our control, which is critical for preventing future weapons smuggling

Hamas issues new instructions on handling hostages after captive deaths

GAZA/JERUSALEM

NEW instructions have been issued to the fighters charged with guarding the prisoners regarding how to deal with them if the Israeli army approaches the detention site, Hamas said on Monday.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Israeli army alone "bear full responsibility for the deaths of prisoners after they deliberately obstructed any pris-

oner exchange deal for narrow interests, in addition to their deliberate killing of dozens of them through direct aerial bombardment," Abu Obeida, the spokesman for the Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, said in a statement.

"Netanyahu's insistence on releasing the prisoners under military pressure instead of closing a deal will result in them returning to their families in coffins and their families having to choose whether

they are dead or alive," Abu Obeida added.

The statement came after the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said six bodies, including two women and four men, were discovered on Saturday in an underground tunnel in the Rafah area, southern Gaza.

All six were taken hostage during Hamas' surprise attack on Oct 7, 2023, which left around 1,200 people dead and approximately 250 others captured.

According to an initial assessment by the IDF, the hostages were estimated to be brutally murdered by Hamas terrorists 48-72 hours before the Israeli troops reached them.

Netanyahu on Monday vowed that Hamas will "pay a heavy price".

"Israel will not ignore this massacre. Hamas will pay a very heavy price for this," Netanyahu said in a news conference, adding that the price will be exacted "in the short

term".

Meanwhile, Hamas confirmed in a press statement that the bodies were found by the Israeli army in a tunnel in Rafah but noted that they "were killed by Israeli shelling".

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis rallied across Israel on Sunday and Monday, demanding Netanyahu negotiate a ceasefire with Hamas to secure the return of hostages held in Gaza.

In Monday's news confer-

ence, Netanyahu also said Israel is "not going to withdraw from the Philadelphi Corridor."

"We need to have it under our control," which is critical for preventing future weapons smuggling from Egypt to Gaza, he said, calling for unity within his cabinet concerning the matter.

The Israeli army took control of the Philadelphi Corridor, a 100-meter wide and 14-km-long buffer zone along the Egypt-Gaza border, and

the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing in May, which halted the entry of humanitarian aid trucks from Egypt into Gaza.

China contributes wisdom, strength to addressing global development challenges

By Yu Zirong

DEVELOPMENT is a timeless theme for humanity. As the largest developing country, China has always been an active contributor to global development, providing new opportunities to the world through its own progress.

China has put forward initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative (GDI), actively promoting international development cooperation to higher quality and levels. This demonstrates China's strong sense of responsibility as a major country in deepening South-South cooperation and promoting global development.

Since Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013, China has provided training to over 100,000 professionals from more than 120 Belt and Road partner countries and helped lift nearly 40 million people out of poverty.

In recent years, through mechanisms such as the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, the China-UN Peace and Development Fund, the South-South Cooperation Fund on Climate Change, and the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund, China has continuously increased resource input,



A Chinese expert aiding Burundi shares the joy of harvest of hybrid rice with local villagers. (Photo by Wu Peiyang)



Photo shows a view of the Chinese-built Keffi Road project in Nigeria. (Photo by Dong Hongjie)

optimized cooperation methods, and expanded financing channels to support the common development of countries.

A large number of infrastructure projects, such as the China-Maldives Friendship Bridge and the New Gwadarr International Airport in Pakistan, have been successfully implemented.

Additionally, small-scale yet impactful projects like Juncao technology, hybrid rice production, the Luban Workshop, the Access to Satellite TV for 10,000 African Villages Project, and the "Bright Journey" Program of cataract surgery have become well-known brands. These projects have significantly improved the livelihoods of local communities and empowered

the economic and social development of the respective countries, and have been welcomed by developing countries. In recent years, multiple crises have converged, with global economic growth slowing down and the development agenda facing setbacks. The implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been progressing slowly.

Faced with the deepening uncertainty in global development prospects, Xi has put forward the GDI, emphasizing the importance of common development for all humanity and actively bringing development back to the center of the international agenda. The GDI aims

to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on the most urgent livelihood needs of developing countries.

Drawing on its historic achievements in poverty alleviation, China shares its experience and provides poverty reduction solutions to other developing countries. It has established agricultural technology demonstration centers to help address food crises.

It has built low-carbon demonstration zones to help other developing countries tackle climate crises and achieve green and low-carbon development. China mobilizes resources from various parties to contribute to

the global development fund, with Chinese financial institutions launching a \$10 billion special fund specifically for the implementation of the GDI.

Currently, China is comprehensively advancing 32 practical measures to implement the GDI, with over 500 projects completed or underway, injecting new impetus into addressing the global development deficit.

Under the guidance of the GDI, China is taking concrete actions to promote the building of a global community of development with a shared future and enhance the effectiveness of development cooperation among all parties, so as to achieve common development

that benefits all of humanity.

China will continue to actively contribute to improving global development governance, further leveraging platforms and mechanisms such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, and the China-Community of Latin American and Caribbean States Forum.

It will strengthen cooperation with international organizations, regional organizations, and financial institutions, and mobilize government, business, and social forces to participate in international development cooperation.

"Global South" is an important force in promoting world peace and development. As a member

of the "Global South," China will continue to deepen South-South cooperation, enhance the voice and influence of the "Global South" in international affairs, and work together with all parties to actively implement GDI. It will promote deeper and more substantial international development cooperation, contribute wisdom and strength to addressing global development challenges, and make greater contributions to making global development more robust, greener, and healthier.

(Yu Zirong is the deputy director of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation under the Ministry of Commerce.)

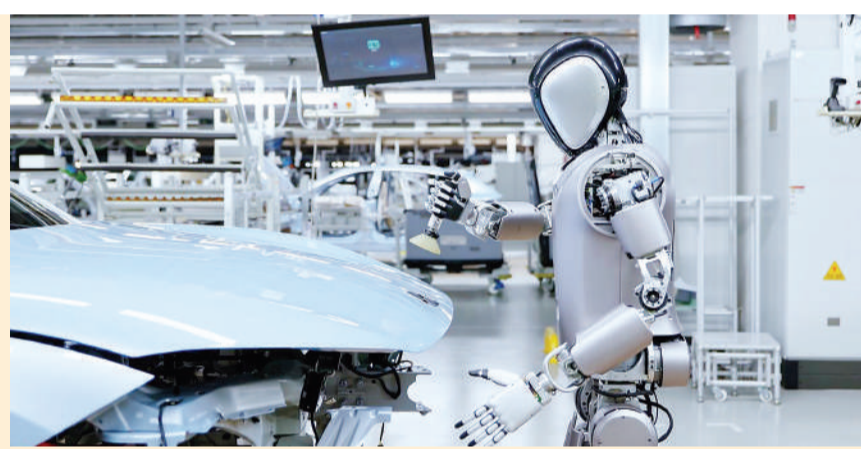
Chinese humanoid robots enter factory for on-site training

By Wang Yunna

RECENTLY, industrial humanoid robots developed by UBTECH Robotics Corp, a Chinese robot manufacturer based in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province, were introduced to the assembly workshop of a factory of Chinese electric carmaker NIO in Hefei, east China's Anhui province. They were put to work alongside humans to inspect the quality of automobiles.

Making small steps, a humanoid robot came to the left side of a car and soon completed the quality inspection of the front and rear door locks. Pausing the movement, it extended its arm into the car body, rotated its wrist 180 degrees, and pulled down the seatbelt with its five fingers, completing the safety belt functionality check. The inspection results were uploaded to the factory's intelligent manufacturing management system as the robot performed its functions.

"Humanoid robots are now being used in actual car production settings, moving beyond experimental labs. By collecting data from the assembly line and understanding the company's production needs, they have undergone self-iteration and upgrades for formal deployment," said Jiao Jichao, vice president of UBTECH Robotics and executive dean of UBTECH Research Institute. What makes humanoid robots different? Humanoid robots are more intelligent than traditional industrial robots, which are limited to executing tasks with predetermined processes and often struggle to accomplish complex activities



A humanoid industrial robot developed by Chinese robot manufacturer UBTECH Robotics works in an auto workshop. (Photo by Zheng Xuexiang)

such as flexible assembly.

"Our company specializes in tasks that traditional industrial robots find difficult to accomplish," said Jiao.

Actions like walking, stopping, turning, and visual detection may seem simple, but they pose significant technical challenges.

The movements of humanoid robots, much like those of humans, are largely dependent on joints. When UBTECH Robotics teams initially developed humanoid robots, their biggest concern was the search for the right robot joints.

Servo drives, acting as the joint actuators of robots, play a vital role in deter-

mining robots' motion capabilities. A high-power servo drive used in humanoid robots consists of 50 to 100 different parts, while a low-power one has 40 to 80 parts.

Thanks to continuous technological breakthroughs, UBTECH Robotics has managed to develop and commercialize a diverse range of servo drives, ranging from compact, low-torque models to powerful, high-torque variants. Over 90 percent of these components are produced independently in China, up from the previous 40 percent. For instance, harmonic rotary servo drives are characterized by their high torque density,

small size, light weight, and fast response, enabling robots to have more agile and stable arms and legs for heavy-duty tasks like carrying and sorting, Jiao explained. "Leveraging the flexible disassembly of robots, we created modular end effectors such as 'hands' and 'feet.' For example, we designed various types of 'hands' for robots, including human-like five-fingered hands and two-fingered grippers. Using different connection methods, we can easily swap out these end effectors as needed," said Jiao.

In addition to the developed and dexterous "limbs," humanoid robots also require an intelligent and adaptable "brain." Chinese professionals in big data and artificial intelligence are working to train humanoid robots on how to plan intricate models and improve strategies using algorithms, specifically for industrial manufacturing scenarios.

For example, semantic visual navigation technology is developed to enhance robots' perception of their surroundings and scenes by extracting high-level semantic information and building spatial topological relationships.

Different car makers have different demands for humanoid robots, so on-site training in factories is crucial. "Carmakers provide verification and testing scenarios

for humanoid robots, which allows for data collection, algorithm iteration, and performance improvement," said Jiao.

According to him, UBTECH Robotics has collaborated with automakers such as Dongfeng Liuzhou Motor and Geely to update and iterate algorithms based on real manufacturing scenarios, thereby further enhancing robot performance. It is expected that the first batch of humanoid robots will be delivered and put into operation in car manufacturing workshops within this year.

It takes more than 7,000 parts to build a humanoid robot. In recent years, the humanoid robot industry in Guangdong province has seen major achievements in recent years, with breakthroughs in key technologies and ongoing improvements in supply chains. As of August 2023, Guangdong was home to 39 humanoid robot companies.

In the first half of 2024, the Department of Industry and Information Technology of Guangdong Province announced an action plan to cultivate future intelligent equipment industry clusters. The plan aims to turn Guangdong into a global innovation hub for future intelligent equipment industries such as humanoid robots, aerospace equipment, deep-sea equipment, and underground equipment by 2035.

China firmly walks side by side with Africa on path to modernisation

By He Yin

IN 2023, the trade volume between China and Africa reached \$282.1 billion, with China maintaining its position as Africa's largest trading partner for 15 consecutive years.

By the end of 2023, China's direct investment stock in Africa exceeded \$40 billion, making it one of the major sources of foreign investment in the continent.

Over the past three years, Chinese companies have created over 1.1 million local jobs in Africa.

This growing cooperation between China and Africa has greatly contributed to their common development and brought tangible benefits to the people of both sides.

The pursuit of practical results is a distinctive feature of China-Africa cooperation.

Since 2013, China has been involved in the construction of over 6,000 kilometers of railways, over 6,000 kilometers of roads, and more than 80 large power facilities in Africa, effectively boosting the development of the continent.

Additionally, China has established 24 agricultural technology demonstration centers across Africa, which popularized over 300 advanced and applicable technologies. They led to an average increase in crop yields of 30 percent to 60 percent in relevant regions, benefiting over 1 million small farming households.

Chinese enterprises have invested in and constructed economic and



Photo shows the gate of the China-Egypt TEDA Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone. (Photo by Cao Xue)

trade cooperation zones in various industries such as agriculture, processing and manufacturing, and trade and logistics, making significant contributions to local tax revenue and improving Africa's ability to earn foreign exchange through exports.

Leveraging the platforms of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China and Africa have continuously deepened their practical cooperation. The fruitful results of the cooperation are effectively facilitating the two sides' common development.

Striving for higher-quality development and advancing in emerging fields remain the enduring goals of

China-Africa cooperation.

The development of new quality productive forces has become a key driver of high-quality cooperation between China and Africa.

In recent years, within the framework of the nine programs of pragmatic cooperation between China and Africa, Chinese enterprises have implemented a large number of clean energy projects in Africa, providing high-quality new energy products such as Lithium-ion batteries and photovoltaic products.

The two sides have established more than 10 joint laboratories or research centers, conducting joint research in areas such as resource remote sensing, renewable energy, and

ecological agriculture.

Chinese enterprises have helped build and upgrade about 150,000 kilometers of communication backbone networks in Africa that serve 700 million users. The two sides have jointly formulated and released an action plan for the development of digital China-Africa cooperation, which aims to jointly build 10 digital transformation demonstration projects and train at least 1,000 professionals in the digital field. China-Africa cooperation is continuously expanding into emerging fields, injecting strong impetus into Africa's economic transformation and development.

Providing Africa with the means for independent development is the aim

of China-Africa cooperation.

Africa is a continent full of hope, and international cooperation with Africa should help enhance the continent's capabilities in independent development. In recent years, cooperation zones invested and built by China in Africa have helped create industrial clusters and build advantages for industrial development. The two sides have engaged in close exchanges in new technologies.

During the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue held in August of last year, China announced to launch the Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialization, the Plan for China Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernization and the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development. These three initiatives focus on the urgent needs of Africa in achieving industrialization, agricultural modernization, and talent development, demonstrating China's support for Africa's development through concrete actions.

China and Africa are good partners along the path of development and revitalization. They are walking side by side on the path to modernization. African countries are experiencing a new awakening. Models imposed from outside have brought Africa neither stability nor prosperity. African countries need to explore development paths suited to their national conditions and keep their future and destiny firmly in their own hands.

In this new historical process, China will continue to stand firmly with Africa and supports an Africa that is truly independent in thinking and

ideas. China will assist Africa in building capacity for self-driven development and support faster modernization in Africa.

China will work with Africa to promote the synergy between high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union and African countries' development strategies. The two sides will deepen exchanges on experience of governance, and advance cooperation initiatives in line with the development needs of China and Africa in the new era, so as to strive for greater achievements of China-Africa cooperation.

Win-win cooperation and happiness for all are what it means to build a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

China always complements Africa's development through its own growth, and it is for both China and Africa to pursue win-win cooperation and common development. With top priority given to the interests of Chinese and African peoples, China advances its cooperation with Africa to improve the well-being of Chinese and African peoples and deliver more benefits to them.

China will enhance its long-standing friendship and deepen unity and collaboration with Africa to open up new vistas for common development.

SPORT

Simba focus on chemistry ahead of crucial CAF Federation Cup clash

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA have announced that their training camp will continue as the team focuses on building chemistry and preparing for their upcoming CAF Confederations Cup matches.

The Msimbazi Street-based giants recently played a friendly match against Al Hilal Omdurman, which ended in a 1-1 draw. Despite this result, the team remains committed to refining their performance ahead of their crucial continental showdown.

Prior to facing Al Hilal, Simba secured three wins, including two impressive victories in their opening Premier League fixtures - a 3-0 win over Tabora United and a 4-0 triumph against Fountain Gate FC.

Their only setback came in the Community Shield, where they lost 1-0 to arch-rivals Young Africans but bounced back to claim third-place silverware with a 1-0 win against Coastal Union.

Simba are set to play another friendly match on Saturday, though the opponent has yet to be revealed. These friendlies are part of their warm-up for the CAF Confederations Cup final-round encounter against Al Ahly Tripoli.

The first leg of the second preliminary round is scheduled for September 13, with the return fixture set for September 20.

Coach Fadlu Davids has indicated that this week will mark the conclusion of the team's pre-season training. The final phase of their preparations will include a combination of international friendlies and local league

matches, helping the team to sharpen their skills and enhance their teamwork.

Davids' efforts have already yielded positive results, as Simba currently sit at the top of the league table with six points, seven goals scored, and no goals conceded.

For his outstanding performance, Davids was named Coach of the Month for August. Additionally, Jean Ahoua was awarded Player of the Month for his remarkable contributions in the Premier League, tallying three assists and one goal.

Despite their early success in the league, Simba's Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, acknowledged the need for improved team chemistry.

"Even with players on international duty, we're prioritizing team cohesion. Our coaching staff is focused on training and building chemistry with the remaining players," Ally stated.

He also highlighted the upcoming challenge in the CAF Confederations Cup against Al Ahly Tripoli, scheduled between September 13 and 15, noting that the coach's familiarity with Libyan football could provide an advantage.

Simba's ambitions in the CAF Confederations Cup are high, with the club determined to make a significant impact on the continental stage.

Ally confirmed that the team is in good health, with the exception of Ayoub Lakred, who will be sidelined for 5-6 weeks due to injury. Fabrice Ngoma is also currently absent, attending to personal matters in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

A Ugandan Olympic athlete was set on fire by her boyfriend

NAIROBI, Kenya

A UGANDAN athlete living in Kenya was attacked and set on fire by her boyfriend and is receiving treatment for burns on 75% of her body, police said.

Rebecca Cheptegei, a distance runner who finished at the 44th position in the 2024 Paris Olympics, was attacked in her house in the western Trans Nzoia County.

Trans Nzoia County Police Commander Jeremiah ole Kosiom said Monday that Cheptegei's boyfriend, Dickson Ndiema, bought a jerrican of petrol, poured it on her and set her ablaze during a disagreement Sunday.

Ndiema also sustained burn wounds, and

the two are receiving specialized treatment at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret city.

Cheptegei's parents said their daughter bought land in Trans Nzoia to be near the county's many athletic training centers.

A report filed by the local chief states that the couple was heard fighting over the land where the house was built before the fire started.

In 2023, Ugandan Olympic runner and steeplechaser Benjamin Kiplagat was found dead with stab wounds.

In 2022, Kenyan-born Bahraini athlete Damaris Muthee was found dead with a postmortem report stating that she was strangled.

AP



Rebecca Cheptegei, competes at the Discovery 10km road race in Kapchorwa, Uganda Friday, Jan. 20, 2023. A Cheptegei, a Ugandan athlete living in Kenya was set ablaze by her boyfriend on Sunday Sept. 1, 2024 and is currently receiving treatment for 75% burns, police said. (AP Photo)

SPORTS

Coach Hemed 'Morocco' sets sights on AFCON qualifier against Ethiopia



Photo: Agencies

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA national soccer team (Taifa Stars) interim head coach, Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman, has expressed a cautious yet determined approach ahead of their upcoming Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifier against Ethiopia.

The match, scheduled for today at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, is a crucial step towards their goal of securing a spot in the continental tournament next year.

Taifa Stars, placed in Group H, will also face Guinea on September 10 at the Charles Konan Banny Stadium in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, in their next fixture. Another formidable opponent in their group is DR Congo, a team they recently played against in the 2023 AFCON tournament in Ivory Coast, where both sides ended their group stage match without scoring.

Coach Morocco (pictured) is optimistic about his squad's potential to deliver a strong performance in the campaign, even though they will be without experienced players Mbwana

Samatta and Simon Msuva.

He also mentioned that defender Novatus Dismas and striker Cyprian Kachwele were the only players yet to arrive by yesterday morning and will likely not be available for the match against Guinea.

"All of our players are physically and mentally prepared for the upcoming match against Ethiopia. It's been a while since we've faced them, so it'll be exciting to see what my team can do. Ethiopia has a strong squad capable of turning the tide at any moment," said Morocco.

"The current players in our squad are excellent and ready for both the present and the future. This is something fans should be aware of. We're building a team for the future. I've heard calls to exclude Samatta and Msuva, but we need to move on from that now and focus on the current squad. These players are hungry and ready to succeed," he added.

Morocco emphasized the importance of Tanzania's participation in the 2025 AFCON as a stepping stone toward achieving their goal of performing well when the tournament will be hosted jointly by Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda.

"Our aim is to qualify for the 2025 Africa

Cup of Nations, just like we did in 2023. Success in 2025 is crucial for our ongoing participation in the tournament, including the 2027 edition," he stated.

In the recent AFCON 2023 tournament in Ivory Coast, Tanzania finished with two points after draws with Zambia and DR Congo and a loss to Morocco.

Coach Morocco has urged Tanzanian fans to come together and support the national team as they strive for success in the upcoming qualifiers.

The Taifa Stars have previously participated in the AFCON in 1980, 2019, and 2023, and will automatically qualify for the 2027 edition as a joint host alongside Uganda and Kenya.

Morocco's team is preparing for the qualifiers for the 2025 AFCON, which is scheduled to take place in Morocco from December 21, 2025, to January 28, 2026.

CRDB Bank launches 2024 Supa Cup season with focus on sports and community engagement

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

CRDB Bank has officially launched the new season of its football and netball competition, the CRDB Bank Supa Cup 2024.

The launch event was held at the John Merlin Secondary School grounds in Dodoma, where the bank's employees competed in various football and netball matches.

The event was attended by the bank's Chief Financial Officer, Fredrick Nshakanabo, and the Director of Human Resources, Godfrey Rutasingwa. During the ceremony, Nshakanabo emphasized that the primary aim of the tournament is to boost morale, energy, and cooperation among the bank's staff.

"After spreading smiles across Tanzania and extending our reach to DR Congo and Burundi, it's now time for those smiles to return home to our employees," Nshakanabo said.

He further explained that the competition will involve employees from various branches and the headquarters, all vying for the seasonal trophy. The Supa Cup 2024 promises to be an exciting event, bringing together employees from different branches to showcase their skills on the field. The tournament not only aims to foster teamwork and camaraderie among the staff but also highlights the bank's commitment to promoting sports and employee well-being.

In addition to the competition, the launch event included a volunteer program organized by the bank.

Led by Rutasingwa, the bank's employees provided essential work equipment to Dodoma Referral Hospital, donated blood, and offered food and drinks to the hospital's patients. This initiative is part of the bank's broader corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts, which extend beyond promoting sports.

Rutasingwa spoke about the significance of this volunteer program, stating: "This is part of the bank's involvement in corporate and social responsibilities, in addition to promoting sports. We are genuinely touched by the challenges faced by the communities, which is why we are at the forefront of supporting them."

He explained that the bank launched this special employee volunteer program earlier this year with the goal of becoming more engaged with the communities it serves. The program reflects the bank's commitment not only to enhancing sports within the organization but also to addressing broader social needs.

"Our involvement in community support is a testament to our belief that CRDB Bank is an integral part of the community," Rutasingwa added. "We must give back to contribute to our collective progress and support those in need."

The Supa Cup 2024 tournament and the accompanying volunteer activities are part of a broader strategy by CRDB Bank to strengthen its ties with the community and promote positive impact beyond the financial sector. The bank's dedication to CSR is evident in its ongoing efforts to support various causes and engage with local communities.

The program, which was initially launched in Zanzibar last month, will continue in other regions following the Dodoma event. By expanding its reach and impact, CRDB Bank aims to make a significant contribution to both sports and community welfare across Tanzania.

As the Supa Cup 2024 progresses, the bank looks forward to celebrating the achievements of its employees, fostering a spirit of teamwork, and making a positive difference in the lives of those it supports.



CRDB Bank staffs feature in the netball match at the John Merlin Secondary School grounds in Dodoma. PHOTO: RENATHA MSUNGU

Saudi soccer league remains as ambitious as ever despite quiet transfer window, CEO says

By JOHN DUERDEN

DESPITE a relatively quiet transfer window in Saudi Arabia, the arrival of Ivan Toney and Joao Cancelo shows that the ambitions of the cash-rich Saudi Pro League remain as high as ever, according to league chief executive Omar Mugharbel.

August ended with Al-Ahli of Jeddah paying London club Brentford a reported 40 million euros (\$44 million) for Toney on Friday, three days after Premier League champion Manchester City sold Cancelo to Riyadh's Al-Hilal.

"This is only the beginning with more transfers on the pitch and more development off the pitch," Mugharbel told The Associated Press as the SPL summer transfer window ended Monday.

Still, the amount spent by the 18 SPL clubs in this transfer window is expected to only be about a third of what they splashed out last summer, when they went on a \$957 million shopping spree that resulted in huge stars such as Karim Benzema, N'Golo Kante, Neymar and Riyad Mahrez joining Cristiano Ronaldo – who signed for Al-Nassr in December 2022.

No such megastars joined this time, with players such as Liverpool's Mohamed Salah and Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior opting to stay at their European clubs.

Until Toney arrived, the most significant signing was Al-Hilal paying \$60 million to Aston Villa for French winger Moussa Diaby.

"The reality is that there have been a lot of signings this summer but maybe not the ones that the media are most interested in," said Mugharbel, who became CEO in January.

One reason for the relative lack of

big deals is that many clubs already had their full quota of foreign players. Each SPL team is limited to 10 imports, of which two must be 21 or under. With most of the top stars staying at their clubs, space for new signings has been limited.

Defending champion Al-Hilal had to offload Brazilian attacker Michael Delgado in order to bring in Cancelo. According to domestic reports, Al-Nassr released former Manchester United defender Alex Telles on Sunday ahead of signing a replacement on Monday.

"Last season we had a lot of opportunities to sign star players either because we had the positions available in the clubs themselves or there were a lot of interesting players that we wanted to recruit into the league," Mugharbel said. "For the most part, most of the players that we brought in or the clubs brought in are actually still in the league, which is a positive sign that things are moving in the right direction."

The most active club in the transfer market has been newly-promoted Al-Qadsiah. Backed by Saudi oil giant Aramco, the club from the eastern city of Al-Khobar has made a number of signings.

The two most prominent saw former Arsenal and Barcelona striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang arriving from Marseille and Spanish international defender Nacho Fernandez signing from Real Madrid, where he won 26 trophies, including six Champions League titles.

"I think what we've managed to do last season is really open up the league and create an attractive proposition for star players," added Mugharbel. "We are continuing on the same path."

AP

Manchester United respond to speculation over Erik ten Hag's future as manager

By Richard Jolly

MANCHESTER United's new powerbrokers insist Erik ten Hag has their complete backing – despite their slow start to the season – and the fact they neither appointed him nor decided he would stay in the summer.

Chief executive Omar Berrada and sporting director Dan Ashworth believe Ten Hag (pictured) is the "right coach" for United, though he took them to their lowest ever Premier League finish, in eighth, and has started the current campaign with two defeats in three games.

Berrada and Ashworth took up their new posts in July, after Ten Hag won the FA Cup but United spoke to other managers and then opted not to replace him.

But the former Manchester City executive and the former FA technical director have given the Dutchman their support and insisted that will remain the case in the event of a bad run.

Speaking before Sunday's 3-0 loss to Liverpool, Berrada said: "That was a decision that was taken prior to both of our arrivals. But we're very happy with that decision."

"Erik has our full backing and we have worked very closely together in this transfer window. We're going to continue working very closely with him to help him get the best results out of the team. Do we still believe in Erik? Absolutely. We think Erik is the right coach for us and we're fully backing him."

Ashworth, who had been put on gardening leave by Newcastle when Ten Hag's future was up in the air, was adamant he had no say in the decision to retain him and then trigger a one-year extension to his contract.

"I didn't start until July 1, so none whatsoever," he added. "I've really enjoyed working with Erik for the last eight weeks."

"I see my job is to support him in every way I possibly can, and whether that's operationally, whether that's with recruitment, whether that's with medical, whether that's with psychology, whether that's training ground flow, it's just to take as much of that off him to allow him to fully focus on the training pitch and the match tactical plan to deliver success for Manchester United."

Ashworth said he is used to inheriting a manager others have appointed, explaining: "It happened at Newcastle with Eddie Howe, it happened at West Brom, Tony Mowbray was in place. Very rarely do you go into a job as a sporting director and there's no manager in place."

THE INDEPENDENT



FIFA says \$6.5 billion of international spending in transfer window

ZURICH

SPENDING on transfer fees in international men's player deals cooled off during the mid-year trading period, according to FIFA research published on Tuesday.

FIFA said clubs committed to spend \$6.46 billion on buying players in cross-border deals during the June-to-September transfer window – down from \$7.43 billion in the same period a year ago.

The average of transfer fees paid by clubs in Europe, by far the richest market, was \$3.13 million compared to \$3.8 million one year ago.

The FIFA study is not a complete guide because it does not count the biggest transfer deal of the European offseason, nor does it include moves by players between two clubs in the same country.

Kylian Mbappé joined Real Madrid without a transfer fee being paid because the France star was a free agent after letting his contract expire at Paris Saint-Germain. Still, Madrid had to pay Mbappé a signing bonus variously reported as between \$110 million and \$165 million.

The biggest transfer fees in cross-border deals were Julián Alvarez's move from Manchester City to Atletico Madrid, reported to be about 75 million euros (\$83 million) and Leny Yoro from Lille to Manchester United for a reported 62 million euros (\$69 million).



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappé reacts after scoring his side's second goal against Betis on Sunday. AP

The FIFA study does not include deals involving two clubs in the same country where the player's registration is not transferred be-

tween member federations.

Deals in the top-10 biggest transfer fees not counting toward the FIFA figures include Dominic Solanke from Bournemouth to Tottenham, Pedro Neto from Wolves to Chelsea and Teun Koopmeiners from Atalanta to Juventus.

English clubs were the biggest overall and net spenders with an outlay of \$1.69 billion on international transfers, and \$1.25 billion recouped. Clubs in England, Italy and Saudi Arabia all had a collective net spending of at least \$400 million.

Belgian clubs took a net profit of \$302 million, by receiving \$412 million from selling players abroad and spending \$110 million on players from clubs in other countries, according to FIFA. Those deals included Igor Thiago moving from Club Brugge to Brentford and Ernest Nuamah from Molenbeek to its sister club Lyon.

Clubs from Argentina received about \$130 million more than they spent, and Brazilian clubs made a collective profit of \$98 million on international deals, FIFA said.

Of the record 11,000 international transfers processed by FIFA in the past three months, most did not include a fee and nearly 6,300 were free agent players.

AP

'An excellent job': Why Man Utd believe they've solved transfer market problem

By Richard Jolly

"I LIKE the squad, I have to say," said Dan Ashworth. And if there was a swift admission that Manchester United's new sporting director is scarcely an impartial observer, there was an explanation, too.

"I probably would say that after the business we've done in the summer," he added. "I've probably done 25 windows now and have been doing this for a fair period of time. I don't think there's ever been a window where we've gone, 'Oh God, it's gone absolutely perfectly, we've done every single in, we've done every single out we wanted to do'. But in the main, the target positions we wanted to strengthen, the players we've brought in, the depth and options when everybody is fully fit, I'm pleased with that."

Ashworth's first window at Old Trafford has been a frantic affair. There have been 32 transactions, including a new contract for Bruno Fernandes; "a crucial part of the transfer strategy; I can't speak highly enough of the influence he brings to the other players as captain".

United have committed around £200m for new players, brought in almost £100m in departures, made five major signings, addressed their PSR problems with the sales of the home-grown Scott McTominay and Mason Greenwood, found an eventual resolution to the issue of Jadon Sancho, shown greater ruthlessness than in the past by disposing of players unlikely to figure prominently in the first team, and started to make themselves better sellers.

They have also begun the season with a narrow win and then back-to-back defeats, the latter an emphatic loss to Liverpool. United languish in 14th, though their hierarchy are adamant manager Erik ten Hag retains their full backing.

And if Ashworth's words have to come in the context that he was speaking after the transfer window closed, but before Liverpool won at Old Trafford, it is also notable that two of those five recruits – Leny Yoro and Manuel Ugarte – are yet to debut, and that two more – Matthijs de Ligt and Joshua Zirkzee – have a solitary start apiece. It is too soon to judge the success of their summer trading.

But not to assess the approach. "They were the four key positions we really wanted to strengthen in this window and we've done that," Ashworth



Manuel Ugarte was presented at Old Trafford ahead of United's defeat to Liverpool (Getty)

said. The departures of Anthony Martial, the on-loan Sofyan Amrabat and Raphael Varane left gaps for a striker, a holding midfielder and a centre-back; United decided they wanted two central defenders. The fifth addition, Nonsair Mazraoui, was more opportunistic, when Aaron Wan-Bissaka was sold to West Ham for £15m. "Aaron had a year left on his contract, had an opportunity to move on, so we were able to freshen it up and trade that position," Ashworth explained.

Sales had a significance. United have struggled to offload players in recent years; high earners have often only departed when contracts expired. As it is, they are paying some of Sancho's wages for his loan at Chelsea. They still have Casemiro's supersized pay packet.

But they have sold the younger contingent of Willy Kambwala, Alvaro Fernandez, Will Fish, Hannibal Mejbri and Facundo Pellistri. Sell-on and buy-back clauses give United options and potential profit. "We have tried to put in place

certain policies to protect us in the future," said chief executive Omar Berrada. Their formula was also designed to forge a smaller squad. United have accumulated too many players at times, paying them wages without recouping sizeable fees. "Sometimes you have to be quite brave and make decisions that maybe you don't want to make, but you can't have a bloated squad," said Ashworth.

United have long been a buying club, but they have to be a selling club, too. McTominay's exit was the most contentious; Ten Hag would like to have kept a man who was on United's books for 22 years. A byproduct of Profitability and Sustainability Rules is that it can be most lucrative to sell academy products. United believe in FFP, but see the problem it has created.

"The fundamental principle of the rules, we are in favour of, which is that we need to operate sustainably," said Berrada. Ashworth added: "The number of players that will be one-club players, there for a long, long period of time,

is probably changing within the game and that's an unintended consequence of the rules and regulations."

United had little leeway within PSR this year after heavy spending under the previous power brokers. So every price mattered. As a club, they tended to talk of the "United tax": the premium they often paid for players, and the way others would inflate fees when they were interested. This summer, United believe they have not paid it. Mazraoui cost an initial £13m, Zirkzee £36.5m, De Ligt £42m, Yoro £52m and Ugarte £42m, though add-ons could take four of those fees higher.

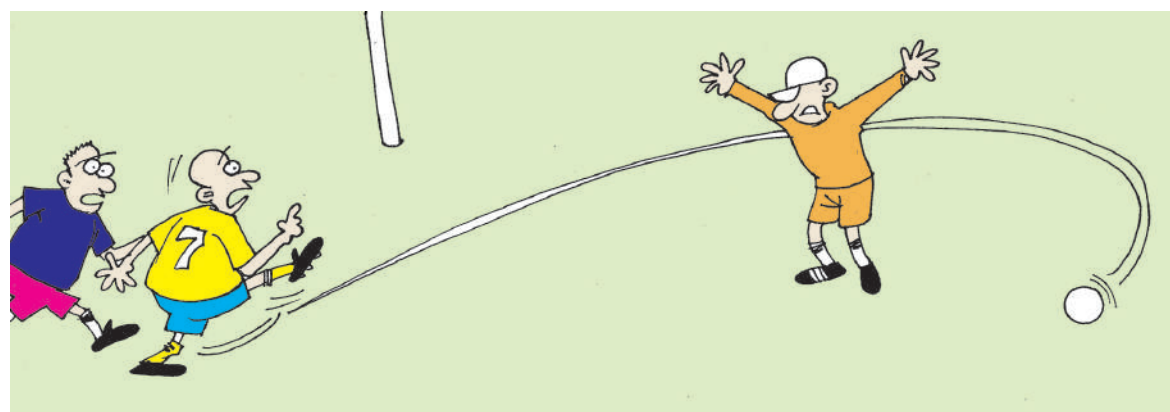
Berrada said: "We were quite disciplined about the valuations we were giving to the players who were going to come in. We stuck to those valuations. Dan and the team did a fantastic job in the negotiations process. They have done an excellent job executing the ins and outs."

The damage of a failed signing can go beyond poor performances on the pitch. "If you make a mistake and if you overspend or get a player who can cost you too much, it can set you back," said Berrada. No names were proffered but, a couple of hours later, Casemiro's wretched performance against Liverpool underlined the problems of signing him for £63m, while Antony continues to represent a waste of £86m. Unsurprisingly, United have not found a buyer for either.

And if it sometimes seems United are caught in a pattern of trying to make up for past mistakes, presenting a stiff task for a new regime intent on restoring them to the summit of the game. "It's not just as simple as being able to change everybody, nor do we want to," said Ashworth. "It's just about making good decisions in the next few windows to maximise our resources and the talent we've already put in the squad."

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

FIFA says \$6.5 billion of international spending in transfer window

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Yanga confident as 14 players called up for national duty

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans have expressed confidence in their team's growth and development as 14 of their players have been selected for national duty ahead of the upcoming AFCON qualifiers.

The Tanzania's Premier League defending champions have won the league title three times in a row and secured the Federation Cup three consecutive times. Last year, they reached the CAF Confederation Cup final but were eliminated in the quarterfinals.

Seven players from Young Africans have been called up to represent the Tanzania national team (Taifa Stars): Mudathir Yahya, Aboutwalib Mshery, Dickson Job, Bakari Mwamnyeto, Ibrahim Bacca, Clement Mzize, and Nickson Kibabage.

Additionally, other players have been summoned by their respective national teams: Khalid Aucho for Uganda (pictured), Prince Dube for Zimbabwe, Clatous Chama and Kennedy Musonda for Zambia, and Stephane Aziz Ki for Burkina Faso.

Djigui Diarra will represent Mali, while Duke Abuya has been called up for Kenya's Harambee Stars.

Speaking about the ongoing international break, Young Africans' Media and Information Officer, Ali Kamwe, expressed pride in the club's achievement of having a record number of players on international duty.

He highlighted this as a testament to the team's strength and the recognition of its talent across the continent.

"During the international break, we're continuing to train under coach Miguel Gamondi," Kamwe said. "A key lesson from our previous match against CR Belouizdad was the negative impact of players reporting late to the training camp.

"To avoid a repeat, we've extended our training camp. We'll be holding a closed-door friendly match to maintain our team's competitive edge. Once our players return from international duty, we'll have a fit and competitive squad ready to face Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) in the CAF Champions League."

Young Africans are maintaining rigorous training sessions for the players who remain at the club, aiming to improve fitness and foster competition within the squad ahead of their crucial CAF Champions League match against CBE.

Despite the absence of key players due to national duties, the team remains focused on delivering strong performances.

From a coaching perspective, Gamondi faces the challenge of preparing his squad for the upcoming CAF Champions League match without several key players. He will need to devise a strategy to make up for these absences and ensure the team is ready for the competition.

Young Africans' match against CBE is scheduled for September 14 in Addis Ababa, with the return leg set for September 21 at the Azam Complex. Both matches are slated to kick off at 6 PM.

As Young Africans prepare for this crucial encounter, the club will rely on the depth and resilience of their remaining squad members to step up in the absence of their international players.

The team's ability to adapt and maintain its competitive edge will be critical in their quest to advance in the CAF Champions League.

Azam turn to academy coaches as search for new head coach intensifies

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC have announced that their senior team will be managed by academy coaches during the international break as the club continues its search for a new head coach following the departure of Youssouph Dabo.

The decision to terminate Dabo's contract came after Azam FC's elimination from the CAF Champions League group stage qualifiers, where they were defeated 2-0 by APR FC in the second leg. Despite a 1-0 victory in the first leg, Azam were unable to advance on aggregate.

This marked the second consecutive season that Azam had failed to progress in continental competitions under Dabo's leadership; last season, they were eliminated from the CAF Confederation Cup by Bahir Dar Kenema on penalties.

Following an emergency board meeting, Azam decided to terminate the entire coaching staff, including head coach Dabo and his five assistants. The Senegalese coach's tenure at Azam FC lasted just one year.

Dabo's time at Azam was marked by notable success in domestic competitions. Under his guidance, the team displayed dominance in the Premier League with a record of 21 wins, seven draws, and only three losses in 31 matches.

Additionally, they reached the final of the Federation Cup, narrowly losing to Young Africans.

In continental competitions, Dabo's impact was mixed. While Azam faced challenges in both the CAF Confederation Cup and the CAF Champions League, they managed to secure significant victories against APR in both tournaments, demonstrating their competitive spirit at a high level.

Azam also saw success in local cup competitions under Dabo's leadership. The team finished second in the Mupinduzi Cup and reached the final of the Muungano Cup, where they were defeated by Simba in a closely contested match.

Dabo's contributions to Azam are evident from these achievements, and his departure will undoubtedly be felt by the club.

As Azam look to the future, they aim to appoint a new coach who can build upon Dabo's legacy and continue the club's success.

Currently, Azam are reportedly interested in hiring Florent Ibenge, the head coach of Al Hilal Omdurman, after parting ways with Dabo. Initially, Azam showed interest in acquiring Nasreddine Nabi, who has since signed with Kaizer Chiefs in South Africa.

Despite their eagerness to buy out Nabi's contract, their plans have been put on hold due to his recent appointment.

Nabi has an impressive track record, having managed teams such as Al-Ahly Benghazi, Al-Hilal, Ismaily, Al-Merrikh, Young Africans, and FAR Rabat. His experience and success have made him a coveted candidate for many clubs, including Azam.

With Nabi now committed to Kaizer Chiefs, Azam FC's management is exploring the possibility of signing Ibenge, who has previously been linked to other Tanzanian clubs like Simba and Young Africans.

As the search for a new head coach continues, Azam FC are focused on finding a leader who can guide them to greater heights in both domestic and continental competitions.



Taifa Stars set to kick off 2025 AFCON qualifying campaign against Ethiopia



National soccer team (Taifa Stars) players pictured on Monday during a training session at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. Taifa Stars will lock horns with Ethiopia this evening in their 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifying campaign. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA will begin their 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifying campaign with a crucial match against Ethiopia at the Benjamin Mkapa National Stadium this evening.

The two teams, meeting for the first time since November 2015, have been drawn into Group H alongside Guinea, the 1976 AFCON runners-up, and DR Congo, who have won the tournament twice.

Taifa Stars aim to qualify for the prestigious tournament for the fourth time in their history, having previously participated in 1980, 2019, and 2023.

Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman's side heads into their opening match with confidence after a solid performance in their World Cup qualifier on June 11, where they defeated the 2012 African champions, Zambia, thanks to a fifth-minute goal from Waziri Junior.

Tanzania has shown decent form in recent fixtures, securing two wins and three draws from their last six matches, scoring five goals, and keeping four clean sheets.

Coach Morocco is expected to make some adjustments to the lineup from the team's last match in June. Young Africans defender Dickson Job and Turkey-based Novatus Dismas are anticipated to return to the starting eleven.

Job is expected to join Ibrahim Hamad in central defense, with Mohamed Hussein and Lusajo Mwaikenda completing the back four, while Ali Salim will be in goal.

Himid Mao will captain the side from central midfield, with Waziri Junior leading the attack, supported by wingers Clement Mzize and Edwin Balua.

Ethiopia, meanwhile, struggled in their World Cup qualifiers, managing only a 1-1 draw against Djibouti at the Stade El Abdi on June 9.

Gabriel Dadzie scored in the 29th minute to give Djibouti the lead, but Ethiopia quickly responded with an equalizer from Menyelu Wondimu two minutes later.

Despite a solid defensive effort in the

second half, Ethiopia could not secure the win.

Ethiopia has yet to secure a victory in their four World Cup qualifying matches, recording three draws and one loss, leaving them with three points from a possible 12 and sitting fifth in Group A.

Head coach Gebremedhin Haile will encourage his team to take positives from their draw against Djibouti as they start their quest to return to AFCON, having missed out in 2023 following a disappointing qualifying campaign.

The Walia Ibex managed just one win in their six matches in Group D of the 2023 AFCON qualifiers, suffering four defeats and one draw, finishing at the bottom of their group with four points.

Ethiopia enters today's match without a win in their last 11 competitive games, with six losses and five draws since a 1-0 victory over Rwanda in the Africa Nations Championship qualifiers in September 2022.

Both teams will be eager to secure a positive result to boost their chances in the AFCON 2025 qualifying campaign.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

