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ROAD UNDER FLOODWATERS, YET...

Floods claim 155 lives, with 10,000 houses for 51,000 families collapsing

Government agencies need to reach out to people affected by the floods, to work with district level and regional disaster committees,

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE death toll due to the ongoing rains in the country has reached 155, with 236 people injured and 10,000 houses destroyed and 51,000 households affected.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa made this affirmation in the legislature yesterday when delivering an update on the ongoing rains during spot question hour to the PM.

Damaged infrastructure includes schools, health centres and roads, with vast farm acreages swept by flooded rivers and occasional drainage torrents, he said.

Notably affected areas include Rufiji, Kibiti (Coast Region), as well as Malinyi, Mlimba, Kilosa, Morogoro municipality and Ifakara in Morogoro Region, he said.

Other areas experiencing heavy flooding include parts of the city of Dar es Salaam in Ilala, Kinondoni, Ubungo, Kigamboni and Temeke, along with parts of Kilimanjaro Re-

gion, namely in Same, Hai and Moshi municipality and rural environment, he stated.

He similarly cited Mbarali, Kyela and Mbeya city area in Mbeya Region, alongside Ujiji municipality and Kakonko in Kigoma Region, visited by spasms of destructive torrents of water.

Equally affected areas are found in Iringa Rural District, Tabora municipality, Bahi District in Dodoma Region, as well as Lindi municipality, Kilwa, Liwale and Nachingwea in Lindi Region.

Yet others cited in the flooding are Masasi (Mtwara Region) and Arusha urban area, Monduli and Karatu in Arusha Region. In addition there is vast damage in Muleba District and Bukoba municipality in Kagera Region.

Numerous spots are also flooded in Shinyanga, Geita, Nyang'hwale and Chato also in the Lake Zone, as well as Mbozi and Momba in Songwe Region, Nkasi, Sumbawanga and Kalamba in Rukwa Region together with Hanang'

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Malaria Day: US set on mosquito nets initiative

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) jointly marked World Malaria Day with Zanzibar authorities here yesterday, setting out a wide-reaching mosquito nets distribution drive across Zanzibar.

Nassor Ahmed Mazrui, the Health minister for Zanzibar, said at the ceremony that the 2022 Tanzania Malaria Indicator Survey shows that Zanzibar had a malaria rate of less than one percent for more than a decade.

This achievement relates to the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) conducted in Zanzibar since it was started in 2005, while malaria numbers have been on a rising tendency lately, he said.

Describing the rising number of cases as unacceptable in Zanzibar, he urged officials in those areas to take measures to control malaria cases by wide ranging involvement.

World Malaria Day commemoration witnessed the launch of the insecticide-treated net (ITN) mass replacement initiative under the aegis of a comfortable sleep campaign.

Upwards of 782,000 nets will be distributed across 314 wards in Unguja and Pemba, in the wake of the government's launching the End Malaria Council, seeking to bolster malaria elimination efforts by canvassing for more resources.

USAID (T) mission director Craig Hart praised the United States government for joining with the Zanzibar government in launching the mass nets replacement.

It targets all sections of Zanzibar soci-

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Whichever way one may wish to describe this scene, captured yesterday by Correspondent Jumanne Juma, this is indeed a section of the flood-prone Jangwani/Msimbazi valley stretch of Dar es Salaam city's strategic Morogoro Road. It is clear that, for some people, relentless alerts and warnings by police and various other authorities that motorists steer clear of the danger zone are yet to sink in.

TradeMark hands \$2.1m for uplifting horticulture

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TRADEMARK Africa (TMA) and the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) and yesterday signed a \$2.1m (5.4bn/-) grant agreement to start the second phase of a market expansion project.

A joint statement by the two agencies issued here said that the grant was funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Norway and Ireland, spans three years and focuses on advancing market access.

It is also directed at promoting sustainable trade practices and empowering local farmers in the horticultural industry, the statement indicated.

Monica Hangi, TradeMark Africa's regional director for East and Central Africa and

Anthony Chamanga, TAHA's chief development manager signed the grant agreement.

It says that despite notable successes, the horticultural industry faces substantial challenges, like limited financial access, climate change impacts and inadequate market information, impeding growth.

Meeting these challenges needs both public and private sector efforts including policy support, research and development investment, as well as initiatives aimed at improving market and credit access for farmers, it elaborated.

Through TMA's concerted efforts, the partnership will tackle some of these challenges by establishing direct linkages between farmers and buyers, it stated.

It also hinted at leveraging digital solu-

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VP wants all communication towers upgraded to '4G' tech

This will encourage pupils to move in tandem with ICT in their studies and stimulate internet use for productive use instead of entertainment and gossip

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has instructed the Universal Communication Service Access Fund (UCSAF) to focus on projects enhancing the capacity of communication towers from 2G to 3G and 4G technology.

Officiating at the inauguration of UCSAF headquarters at Njedengwa area in the capital yesterday, he said that UCSAF needs to

monitor the construction of communication towers with a view to boost capacity so as to connect all villages with reliable communication services.

People across the country, regardless of their particular locations, need to access communication services smoothly, he said, noting that this will enable them to properly participate in social and economic activities as scores of services are

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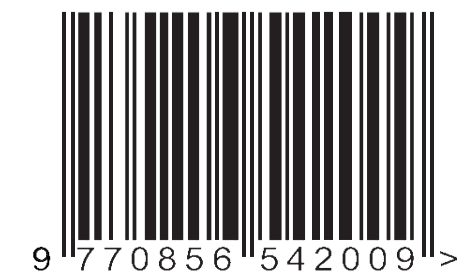
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Floods claim 155 lives, with 10,000 houses for 51,000 families collapsing

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in Manyara Region.

Heavier rains this season arise from a global rise in temperatures during the past year, he said, citing an assessment by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). It showed that the average increase in temperature for the past year was 1.4 degrees Celsius, recorded as the hottest year in global weather history.

Tanzania registered a 1.0 degree Celsius during 2023, similarly a record, occasioning the heavy rains from October to December 2023, with an additional rainy season from March to May, meanwhile as the intervening months also experienced heavy bouts of rainfall in various areas.

The government was taking preventive, adaptive and restorative actions first in relation to public

awareness to avoid flooding effects, while responding to disasters and restoring damaged infrastructure.

In responding to disasters, the government has moved to provide humanitarian aid including food, tents and construction materials, he said.

The government is prepared to take appropriate measures to reduce the severity of disasters and restore the situation in affected areas, he said.

The government prepared a national emergency plan to handle the effects of El Nino rains as predicted by weather agencies from September 2023 to June 2024, focusing attention on 14 regions that were more visibly at risk.

Government agencies need to reach out to people affected by the floods, to work with district level and regional disaster committees, he added.

VP wants all communication towers upgraded to '4G' tech

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pegged to reliable communication systems.

"Many social services are currently provided through the internet due to the rapid technological changes, so it is important to not forget rural populations who also play a huge role in the economy," he emphasised.

UCSAF, a vital component of the Digital Tanzania project financed by the World Bank, needs to put up robust plans to increase the provision of information and communication technology (ICT) devices in public schools, he stated.

This will encourage pupils to move in tandem with ICT in their studies and stimulate internet use for productive use instead of entertainment and gossip, he elaborated.

Private sector stakeholders are available to cooperate with UCSAF and connect more schools with internet services, making available modern ICT9 devices to ease the learning process, he said.

The sector ministry also needs to seek out stakeholders in the private sector to support UCSAF with funds and equipment to push its mandate of easing communications even in remote rural areas, he said.

Nape Nnauye, the minister, said that through UCSAF an estimated 98 percent of the country's population has access to communication services, such that people living in rural areas can participate in the digital economy especially in relation to mobile money transactions.

The minister said it is important that investors manufacture ICT devices locally to enhance the value of investments by the government in improving communication infrastructure.

Dr Mngereza Mzee Miraji, the Works, Communication and Transport permanent secretary for Zanzibar, said that within a short period, UCSAF had enabled building 47 communication towers, setting up 11 ICT hubs in Pemba and Unguja islands, attracting numerous youths.

Malaria Day: US set on mosquito nets initiative

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ety, seeking to ensure their proper use, he said, expecting that the campaign will move communities from awareness to real action.

This mass replacement campaign represents an innovative and comprehensive approach to malaria elimination. It will use an electronic system to track the quantities of nets, registration of households, and net issuance.

It will use SMS to inform households to collect their nets and to distribute messages on net use and care, as part of the global PMI drive.

Implemented by USAID and CDC, PMI was rolled out in 2006, investing more than \$747m, the director noted, underlining that the US authorities expect to work with the government and civil society organisations to eliminate malaria and improve the health and well-being of the people.

DIT trains tutors, students on protection of creative works

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) has begun training its tutors and innovative students on how to protect their creative works legally.

The training is designed to enable them obtain a certificate of ownership of their creativity from the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA).

This was said in Dar es Salaam yesterday by Director of Research, Professional Advice and Publications at DIT Dr Respicius Kiiza when opening a five-day training for the innovators.

He said the institute has seen the importance of providing expertise to all innovators on how to protect their creativity and is ready to incur costs so that the works can be used commercially.

"When you have your innovation, it becomes a brand; so, let this training be a springboard for all innovators to ensure that you prepare documents that can be used to protect your innovations,"

he said.

Dr Daudi Simbeye, Coordinator of Innovation, Research and Publications at DIT, said the institute's intention is to enable innovators to protect their works and enable the innovations to be used commercially.

He said that DIT is more focused on solving challenges of society and that the Institute has many innovations that do not have legal protection.

"Our innovators have very good works that have participated in domestic and foreign exhibitions and they have done very well and given the institute recognition but these innovations were unprotected," he said.

He said that without protection, the innovations can be stolen, adding that after the five-day training, innovators will have the knowledge on how to protect their innovations and how they can benefit from the same commercially.

The five-day training is attended by 50 participants and is facilitated by experts from BRELA.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister January Makamba (R) accompanied by Workers' Compensation Fund director general Dr John Mduma when addressing ambassadors and high commissioners representing Tanzania in various countries at the Julius Nyerere School of Leadership at Kibaha in Coast Region on Tuesday. WCF commonly uses Tanzania diplomatic missions abroad to verify claims relating to Tanzanian citizens who get injured, fall sick or die abroad while performing duties endorsed by their employers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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tions to improve market accessibility, enhancing market understanding through training, as well as addressing environmental and climate challenges.

The pact is intended to ensure compliance with international standards like global good agricultural practices (G.A.P) and the British retail consortium global standards, it further noted.

The TradeMark director extolled support for the horticultural sub-sector as a way to reduce unemployment among the youth and women.

"Our commitment through this substantial grant is to upscale production, increase export volumes, and thus job opportunities," she said, affirming that this will reinforce Tanzania's standing in the global horticultural market.

The TAHA manager was enthusiastic about the project, describing

TradeMark hands \$2.1m for uplifting horticulture

it as a milestone in enhancing the global competitiveness of Tanzania's horticultural products.

"With TMA's support, we are poised to implement robust strategies that will lead to sustainable growth and substantial economic benefits for our local communities," he declared.

Public and private stakeholders and the development partners will help TAHA advance the horticultural sub-sector in the Southern Agricultural Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) and northern growth corridors, accelerating the industry's export growth, currently standing at around five percent, he

explained.

Research conducted by various local universities and international organizations like the World Bank highlights the subsector's role in improving the livelihoods of rural populations.

Advancements in agricultural practices and technology have led to higher productivity, better crop quality, and increased farmer incomes, the studies indicate.

Elibariki Shabby, the TradeMark country director, said that phase two builds on the successes of the first phase, which saw substantial market linkages and certification achievements for local farmers,

contributing significantly to economic growth.

"Phase one of the project which ran from January 2019 to June 2023, yielded tangible results, with 27,854 farmers (35 percent women, 65 percent men, and 40 percent youth) linked to markets, and approximately 50,000 tonnes of horticultural products worth roughly 42.7bn/- (\$18.3m) sold," he said.

"The government's role in facilitating a conducive environment for growth, coupled with stakeholders' commitment to innovation and quality, will determine the future trajectory of this thriving sector," he added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan chairs a Cabinet meeting at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House

UN official hails TPDF for professionalism in peace missions

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE United Nations Under-Secretary General for peace operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix has hailed professionalism and commitment of Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) soldiers in their various peace-keeping operations.

Lacroix said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday after meeting and holding talks with Chief of Defence Forces General Jacob Mkunda.

He said the UN will continue collaborating with the Tanzanian

government to ensure peace is maintained all over the world.

General Mkunda thanked the UN for trusting TPDF and deploying its soldiers in various peace-keeping missions around the world.

He said that TPDF will continue to implement its duty of peace keeping across the world anytime when asked to do so.

Currently, more than 2,600 Tanzanian military and police personnel serve in six UN operations, performing a range of tasks, including protecting civilians and community policing.

The UN deployed a transition team to set up the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and prepare for a seamless transition of authority from the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) to MINUSCA.

As of 30 September 2021, it had more than 15,000 troops, police and civilian personnel on the ground.

By the year 2022, there were six peacekeeping missions taking place in different parts across

the world such as the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Western Sahara (MINURSO), MINUSCA and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). Others are the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for ceasefire between Israel and Syria (UNDOF), the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission for South Sudan (UNMISS).



Maria Makalla, Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority's Director of Legal Services, pictured in Morogoro yesterday opening the general meeting of the municipality's branch of the Tanzania Union of Government and Health Employees (TUGHE). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Safety Day: Govt set for employer crackdown

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is set to launch a crackdown targeting employers who have not registered with the Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) to address hazardous conditions at their work places.

Deogratius Ndenjemi, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability) gave the warning here ahead of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work or simply Safety Day to be marked nationally in Arusha on Sunday.

The day marks global events with experts and guest speakers from governments, employers and workers discussing how to protect workers and respond to their challenges.

He said records from the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) show that some 4,993 accidents and 249 disease cases at work places were reported and caused a total of 217 deaths between July 2019 and July 2021.

The minister noted that OSHA manages workplace safety and health by ensuring that all employers in the country put in place structures and systems that ensure workplace safety and health.

"I urge all employers who have not registered with OSHA to do so immediately as the government will launch a crackdown after safety day in Arusha," he said.

He added that the government is committed to improving safety at work places and called on employers to register with the authority and also adhere to related work regulations.

Ndenjemi explained that through OSHA, the government has managed to closely monitor implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, No. 5 of 2003 by different stakeholders in the country.

OSHA chief executive officer

Khadji Mwenda said in recent years there has been an increase in the number of employers applying for safety and health training at their workplaces.

"This is an important indicator of success. OSHA focuses on educating rather than punishing to ensure that employers are held accountable without a hitch" she said.

However, she said there are challenges of low awareness among employers and workers about the importance of focusing on occupational safety and health issues, and violations of conditions by not adhering to safety and health standards.

Another challenge stems from the mistaken belief among some employers that the costs of ensuring workplace safety and health are too high.

Research has proven that the benefits of workplace safety and health are greater than the cost, she said.

The United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO) has been observing Safety Day since 2003 in a bid to prevent occupational accidents and diseases globally.

For this year's World Day for Safety and Health at Work, ILO focuses on how climate change impacts workers' safety and health.

A new report released this week by ILO found more than 70 percent of the global workforce are likely to be exposed to climate-change-related health hazards, with existing occupational safety and health protections struggling to keep up with the resulting risks.

The report 'Ensuring Safety and Health at Work in a Changing Climate' says that climate change is already having a serious impact on the safety and health of workers in all regions of the world.

ILO estimates that more than 2.4 billion workers out of a global workforce of 3.4 billion are likely to be exposed to excessive heat at some point during their work.

NIDA registers 79pc of target age group since 2012

By Carlos Banda

THE National Identification Authority (NIDA) has so far registered 24,495,804 people, since registration and recognition process started in 2012.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam recently, Geoffrey Tengeneza, NIDA head of communication unit said that the number of people registered is equivalent to 79 percent of the people aged 18 and above.

Tengeneza said that NIDA linked 96 public and private institutions and three institutions in Zanzibar through data sharing from data centres to ease access to information on individuals and

serve the public easily.

"Individuals who qualified for registration were 31,477,938 people according to the 2022 census where 79 percent were registered and eligible to get national identification cards," he said.

"We successfully issued national identification numbers (NIN) to 20,832,225 people, which makes 85 percent of people who have been recognised and registered. The authority also managed to produce 20,286,420 ID cards which is 97.4 percent of people in possession of NIN," he said

Tengeneza said that the authority alleviated the problem of availability and access to NIDA cards by members of the public,

which he admitted was a long-standing challenge.

"We all bear witness how the public used to complain about the unavailability of the cards which impeded their access to various social services. We have managed to completely address this problem by ensuring we produce and issue the cards to all people who registered and have NIN," he said.

"As an authority, we planned to ensure the shortage of NIDA cards is addressed completely before the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar through employment of two strategies: mass production of NIDA IDs and

mass distribution and issuance of the cards," he added.

According to him, NIDA has equipped its staff with expertise to create and produce the cards to save cost as well as save time needed to address technical problems encountered during the production phase.

"Development of internal technical capacity allowed us to get rid of depending on foreign contractors to come and solve our problems. Fortunately, we can now do everything. In this sector, we have empowered our experts to learn how to improve our systems and create an electronic register containing people's information," he said.



60 YEARS OF THE UNION: THE ROLE OF BANK OF TANZANIA IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

For almost six decades, the Bank of Tanzania has played a pivotal role in steering the economic trajectory of the nation. Like many central banks, its primary objective is to formulate, define and implement monetary policy directed to maintaining domestic price stability conducive to a balanced and sustainable growth of the national economy. Other key roles include issuance of currency, regulating and supervising commercial banks and financial institutions, as well as regulating, monitoring, and supervision of payment, clearing and settlement systems. In addition to these traditional central bank key roles, the Bank of Tanzania is the guardian of the country's reserves and principal advisor to the Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar on economic and financial matters. The advisory role has been done through consultations with the two Governments, various researches conducted by Bank of Tanzania and participation in regional consultative forums. Over the years, the Bank has meticulously executed these duties, evolving in tandem with global financial landscapes and national policy shifts.

Evolution Amid Policy Changes

The Bank of Tanzania's journey parallels Tanzania's economic transition, from the Ujamaa and self-reliance policies of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's era, to the embrace of liberalization and market-oriented reforms under subsequent administrations. Throughout these shifts, the Bank has remained adaptable, issuing regulations and directives to align with evolving economic paradigms.

Economic Performance

Tanzania's economic landscape has witnessed remarkable transformations over the past 60 years, driven by advancements across sectors. Investments in infrastructure, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism; among others, have contributed immensely to sustainable economic growth, low inflation and stable financial system conducive for attracting foreign investments.

Despite facing global economic headwinds, Tanzania has maintained commendable growth rates. Between 2015 and 2022, amidst challenges such as COVID-19 pandemic, wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, and the effects of climate change, which have caused disruption of the supply chain and tight financial conditions, Tanzania's economy exhibited remarkable resilience. Notably, the economy grew by an average GDP growth of 6 percent during this period. During the first three quarters of 2023, the economy grew by 5.3 percent and is projected to grow by 5.1 percent in 2023.

This growth is largely attributed to, among others, effective implementation of the monetary policy, strong growth of credit to the private sector and affordable lending rates that have enabled the Government to borrow from the financial markets to finance development programs. The introduction of the credit reference bureaus has helped the banks and financial institutions to better underwrite financial products and compute risk premiums more efficiently. Consequently, non-performing loans have fallen from 5.8 per cent in December 2022 to 4.3 per cent in December 2023, and continue to remain low.

Maintaining price stability has been a cornerstone of the Bank's mandate, crucial for fostering investor confidence and sustaining economic growth. While Tanzania has generally kept inflation within single digit during the 60 years' period, occasional spikes have occurred due to external shocks such as Kagera war, droughts, and fluctuations in the global commodity prices. The government's initiatives to ensure food security have played a vital role in mitigating inflationary pressures, contributing to sustained price stability over the years.

In Zanzibar, the economy has been experiencing steady growth over years, which has enabled the Isles to record big strides in various sectors, with tourism being a driving force. The contribution of farming, particularly cloves has also been significant throughout the eight Government Phases. Between 2019 and 2022, Zanzibar economy grew at an average of 5.5 percent, with the lowest growth being 1.3 percent in 2020, and the highest 7.0 percent in 2018. Low growth in 2020 was due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, which hit hard economic activities, particularly tourism. The continued recovery of the tourism sector has seen a rebound in economic activities. During the first three quarters of 2023, the economy grew by 6 percent and is projected to grow by 7.1 percent in 2023. During the past five years, inflation has remained low and stable within single digit in Zanzibar.

Financial Sector Supervision

Over the past 60 years, the Bank's oversight of financial institutions has fostered sectoral stability and inclusivity. Regulatory reforms, including the enactment of the Microfinance Act, 2018, have expanded access to financial services, particularly for marginalized communities. These initiatives have not only enhanced financial inclusion but also strengthened the formalization of the financial sector, fostering economic resilience and reducing vulnerability to shocks.

The banking sector remained strong with sufficient capital and liquidity; and has expanded its services all over the country, through branches and agency banking. By February 2024, the Bank had received 2,274 applications and granted 1,656 licenses to non-deposit taking microfinance providers; Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission(TCDC) had received 1,215 applications and approved 884 licenses for SACCOS and Local Governments had received 49,910 applications and registered 48,828 social groups. Further, the rate of Tanzanians adults who can access formal financial services within 5 kilometers rose from 78 percent in 2017 to 89 percent in 2023. The Bank's target is that at least 95 percent of the adult population should be able to access formal financial services within 5 kilometers from their homes by 2030.

Payment Systems

Supervision and regulation of the national payment systems are vested in the Bank of Tanzania. The key roles are to ensure efficiency, security and certainty of making payments in the country. Payment systems that are in place so far include inter-bank transactions through the TISS system, Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), TACH, and Tanzania Instant Payment system (TIPS). Large transactions are mostly done by banks while smaller transactions are dominant among financial service providers through mobile phone networks. Digitalization of the financial services has also



HE. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan
The President of the United Republic of Tanzania



Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi
The President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council

recorded significant milestone as most banks now offer digital banking services. In addition, payments for Governments services and tax collections are done electronically through payment systems managed by the Bank of Tanzania. The use of these systems has increased efficiency and reduced costs of making payments.

Foreign Reserves

Foreign currency reserves are vital to a nation's economic well-being. Without adequate reserves, a country may be unable to pay for critical imports, control exchange rates, service its external debt and limit central bank's available resources in an event of economic crisis. The BoT Act requires the Bank to maintain adequate foreign exchange reserve equivalent to at least four months of imports of goods and services. The Bank has ensured foreign reserves are sufficient and this has contributed to stability of Tanzanian Shilling for a long period, thus increasing investors' confidence in the economy.

Recently, the Bank of Tanzania decided to diversify its holding of foreign exchange reserves through domestic purchase of gold. As of now, buying gold (monetary gold) has already contributed USD 23 million to the foreign reserves. This decision provides markets to miners and gold refineries and hence further stimulating economic activities in the country.

Economic Outlook

Looking ahead, Tanzania's economic prospects appear promising, buoyed by ongoing investments in infrastructure and natural resources. These include the flagship projects such as the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere hydroelectric dam, standard gauge railway and investments in gas and minerals. In 2024, economic growth in Mainland Tanzania is projected at 5.5 percent, and 7.4 percent for Zanzibar. The projections are anchored on continuous investment in the private and public sector, measures to improve the investment climate, adequate rains in most areas of the country and continued improvement in tourism activities. Despite the prospects, downward risks persist, necessitating vigilant monitoring and proactive measures to mitigate geopolitical uncertainties and climate-related challenges.

Conclusion

As Tanzania commemorates six decades of union, the Bank of Tanzania stands as a steadfast custodian of economic stability and growth. Its evolution and achievements underscore a legacy of resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to national prosperity. Moving forward, its role remains pivotal in navigating future challenges and realizing Tanzania's economic potential.

Police school gets 28 beds for female cadets

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

THE Tanzania Police School (TPS) in Moshi Municipality, Kilimanjaro Region, has received a donation of 28 beds from NBC Bank, meant to help enhance living conditions for female cadets.

The handover ceremony took place yesterday at the school's premises. Lazaro Mollel, NBC Moshi branch manager presented the donation to TPS Commandant,

Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Ramadhani Mungi.

Mollel said that the gesture reflects the bank's commitment to promoting security in collaboration with the police force.

He said there is strong partnership between the two entities in managing security during sponsored football matches across leagues such as the NBC Premier League, NBC Championship, NBC Youth League and the annual NBC

Marathon held in Dodoma Region.

The initiative aims to recognize the police force's pivotal role in safeguarding the society, including the bank and its customers.

"Police force is a significant partner of NBC Bank in the country. Our strong relationship, based on mutual dependence, stems from our respective responsibilities. Through our banking services, the police force has enjoyed priority services while we have benefited

from the invaluable services of this esteemed force, particularly in ensuring the security of our employees, finances, buildings and most importantly, our customers," he said.

ISACP Mungi commended the bank for its contribution and highlighted the school's urgent need for further support due to the increasing student population, currently standing at 5,000.

"When the school relocated to

Moshi in 1954, it had 600 students. However, we now have 5000 students, necessitating additional resources to meet their essential requirements, including improved living and learning environments. The government has been committed to fulfilling these needs but community assistance remains crucial. Hence, we are immensely thankful to NBC for its invaluable donation," he said.

He explained that the donation

would alleviate the shortage of beds at the school, enabling students to pursue their studies in a comfortable environment.

"All of this has been made possible due to our exemplary collaboration with various stakeholders. They have not only provided us with outstanding financial services but also extended their support in terms of security for their assets and customers at branches nationwide."



DOCG

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROVISION OF DOMESTIC SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM Ref: MST-TZ-20240424

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DOCG), as a CONTRACTOR for Storage Terminal of EACOP Project, invites experienced and reputable contractors that have demonstrable capability, willingness, ability and availability to perform related works to express their interest in providing domestic sewage treatment equipment near Chongoleani area, Tanzania.

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania and an onshore Marine Terminal in Chongoleani, near Tanga Port in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

The scope of the domestic sewage treatment system shall be a complete system, including sewage treatment equipment, supporting civil structures, grilles, fans, pumps, pipes, automatic control systems, equipment accessories and 1 year's supply of supplies and spare parts. The designed treatment water is minimum 200m³/d, with a high degree of automation, and the effluent meet the EACOP pollutant discharge standards.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Company Profile;
- An experience list for similar services supplied in the last Three (3) years;
- Confirmation that they can supply equipment as new, advanced, mature, High automation, complete and safe and reliable equipment and they have the ability to design, install and operate maintenance.
- A copy of their own and main suppliers ISO and OHSAS current certification or equivalent;
- Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations, 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.
- Evidence of organization HSE Management Systems & policy, procedure, and process in compliance with applicable Industry standards for similar works.
- Quality assurance & Quality control plan/ procedures in place for the execution of similar type of work, Copy of ISO or any other certification as applicable.
- Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.

Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in **English** language by sending the above documents to zhaoning@docgi.cn; renhulin@docgi.cn; (not exceeding 20 MBs) on or before **17:00** hours East African Time (EAT), on 10/May/2024. Subject of the email should be **MST-TZ-20240424 EOI - [COMPANY NAME]**.

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by Company.

DOCG reserves the right not to consider companies that submit an incomplete dossier.

Note: Only prequalified companies will receive invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.



Lazaro Mollel (R), manager of the NBC Bank branch in Moshi municipality, pictured on Wednesday presenting 28 beds to Ramadhani Mungi, commandant of the Moshi-based Tanzania Police School, for use in improving the living conditions of female students at the school. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Food vendors trained on fire safety, prevention

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) has provided training on fire safety and prevention to 50 female food vendors in Arusha Region.

The training organized in collaboration with Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) was meant to educate the women on how to respond to various fire disasters and implement fire prevention measures.

Training beneficiaries were also given 50 units of liquefied petroleum gas to encourage them to abandon the use of wood and charcoal and shift to the use of clean energy.

The training was delivered during the national commemorations of the World Health and Safety at

Work Day, hosted by OSHA. This year's exhibition is being held in Arusha from 23 to 30 April.

Elizabeth Mtile, OSHA health inspector, advised Tanzanians to adhere to the various safety and health laws and guidelines at the workplace.

"Our slogan which highlights the effects of climate change on safety and health at work, aims at controlling disasters and changes in climate by involving every group in society because the impacts affect us all," she said.

Dr Kiva Mvungi, GGML senior manager for health, safety and environment, said that the company had decided to provide education to food vendors so that they could combat fires at home and focus on safety in their business areas, especially considering that they are

the source of many interactions.

"We teach them how to fight fire disasters because their daily activities are related to fire issues and the use of charcoal and gas," he said.

"It is also important to recognise the impact of climate change on people and the role of personal behaviour in contributing to the reckless cutting of trees."

He said that the effects of climate change affect everyone regardless of social standing, size or position, and that it is therefore beneficial for everyone to focus on the use of clean energy to overcome the disasters caused by the changes.

"We have prepared this education to see how to deal with the effects of climate change because excessive cutting of trees causes soil erosion, floods and global warming," he said.

Govt pledges better NCD care at dispensary level

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has expressed commitment to continue collaborating with development partners to scale up PEN-Plus strategy to dispensary level to combat severe non-communicable diseases.

PEN-Plus is an integrated care delivery strategy focused on increasing accessibility and quality of chronic care services for severe NCDs such as type 1 diabetes, rheumatic heart disease and sickle cell anaemia.

Health Minister Ummy Mwalimu said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when officially opening the first International Conference on Pen-Plus in Africa (ICPPA) 2024.

The conference brought together 300 health stakeholders from the continent and abroad under the theme 'Prioritizing People-Centred Approach to Chronic and Severe NCDs- type 1 diabetes, Sickle Cell and Childhood Heart Diseases.'

Mwalimu said that currently, NCDs contribute 70 percent of cardiovascular and kidney diseases in the country, adding that 9 percent of the population suffer from diabetes and 15 percent from hypertension.

"Tanzania is committed to doing more in combating NCDs which have significantly increased, causing deaths, disability and poverty," she said.

Mwalimu said that combating NCDs needs collaboration from all stakeholders, pledging to further strengthen collaboration to reach the target.

She pointed out that bad health choices and sedentary lifestyle are the leading factors contributing to NCDs apart from accidents and lack of exercise.

According to Mwalimu, the global target is to reduce NCD by 70 percent by 2030.

Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses, the World Health Organisation (WHO) country representative, said that the first ICPPA provides a pivotal moment to advance lifesaving care for people living with severe NCDs in rural Sub-Saharan Africa.

"We are at a critical inflection point in global health equity, with a real opportunity to fundamentally improve access to lifesaving care for people living with severe NCDs," he said.

He said African countries must commit to PEN-Plus as the proven system for delivering lifesaving care to people living with severe NCDs in rural Sub-Saharan Africa.

He said PEN-Plus initiative trains and equips healthcare providers to deliver medical services, including diagnosis, symptoms management and psychosocial support across a range of severe NCDs.

He said currently, the model focuses primarily on several sentinel PEN-Plus conditions- type 1 diabetes, sickle cell anaemia and rheumatic and congenital heart disease.



TANZANIA FERTILIZER COMPANY (TFC)

HAPPY 60 YEARS UNION OF TANZANIA



Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi
The President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council



HE. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan
The President of the United Republic of Tanzania

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Tanzania Fertilizer Company, (TFC) join Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and His Excellency Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi the President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council in Commemorating 60 years Union of Tanzania

We have strengthened our unity for the development of our nation

60
YEARS
OF UNION

tanzania_fertilizer_company tanzania_fertilizer_company www.fertilizer.co.tz | TFC Plot No. 448, Chole Rd, Oyster bay, P.O.Box 9434

Tel : +255 022 2601561
Fax : +255 022 2601563
Email : baruua@fertilizer.co.tz



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
SUGAR BOARD OF TANZANIA



PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATIONS FOR IMPORTATION OF SUGAR FOR INDUSTRIAL USE FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 2024 TO JUNE 2025

- The Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) invites registered users of industrial sugar to submit their applications for importation of industrial sugar for the period of 2024/2025.
- All applications should be channeled through Agricultural Trade Management System (ATMIS). Before submitting the application, applicants must either register or update their registration particulars online, via the link <https://atmis.kilimo.go.tz/>, and select appropriate year 2024-2025.
- The application should be attached with a duly filled Form SBT-05 which can be downloaded from the link <https://www.sbt.go.tz> and be submitted to SBT not later than 10th May 2024. Should items 8 and 9 in Form SBT-05 show significant variance, detailed explanation and supporting evidence will be required to support your application
- Applicants should provide separately detailed analysis on usage of sugar for 2023/2024, and the amount of imported sugar up the end of April, 2024 plus stocks and realistic projections to June 2024.
- For more information and support please contact the Board through contacts below;

Director General,
Sugar Board of Tanzania,
P. O. Box 4355, DAR ES SALAAM.
Tel No. +255222111523
E-mail: info@sbt.go.tz

THE SUGAR BOARD OF TANZANIA			
B	APPLICATION FOR SUGAR IMPORT LICENCE: (Sugar for Industrial use)	Sr. No	
1. I/We (Name and address of Applicant) _____			
Hereby apply for a sugar Import Licence Category B to import sugar for Industrial use as stated hereunder.			
2. Registration Certificate No. _____ dated _____			
3. Quantity of sugar to be imported _____ metric tons			
4. Period (month & year), from _____ 20 ____ to _____ 20 _____			
5. Single or multiple entry _____			
6. Port (s) of entry _____			
7. Last Import License was No. _____ for _____ tons			
8. Production from the last imported sugar (item 7) is per page 2 overleaf.			
9. Fill in the type and quantities of products to be produced from the sugar to be imported (item 3).			
Product	Quantity	Product	Quantity
(i)		(v)	
(ii)		(vi)	
(iii)		(vii)	
(iv)		(viii)	
(Give details) _____			
Signature:..... Designation:..... Date:			
For official use			

PRODUCTION (previous licence(s))

- Last Import Licence No(s). _____
- Tons sugar imported _____
- Total tons sugar used _____

1.0	Products produced	Sugar used (Ton or Kg)
(i)		
(ii)		
(iii)		
(iv)		
(v)		
(vi)		

CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATIONS OF IMPORT LICENCE (Industrial Sugar)

- By signing and submitting this application to the Board the applicant declares that if granted licence the sugar he will import will be solely for industrial use and shall not be sold or disposed of in any other manner.
- Licence granted under this application shall import Refined Sugar, Liquid Glucose, Dextrose Monohydrate, Molasses, Fructose and any form or type of sugar intended for industrial use.
- This application and any licence arising there-from is governed by the Sugar Import Regulations, 2010 as amended.

NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY FUND



26th April, 2024

CLARIFICATION ON THE ADVERT ON SALE OF PARCELS OF LAND

- The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) was established under the National Social Security Fund Act, (Cap 50 R.E 2018) having its Head Office at Benjamin Mkapa Towers, Azikiwe Street Dar es Salaam.
- On 8th April 2024 the Fund advertised to the General Public through Daily News Paper, The Guardian and The Citizen, sale of its parcels of land located in Dar es Salaam, Sumbawanga and Kigoma.
- The Fund hereby notify the General Public that the advertisement issued had some errors on information of plots and are hereby corrected as follows:
 - The size of plot for plot No. 30 block 1 Vijibweni - Kigamboni is 11,735sqm and not 117,735sqm;
 - The Plots for Lot No.1 are located at Kigamboni District and not Temeke District;
- Details of clarifications are presented in the Table below:

1	Plot No. 2 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	10,759	Housing Estate
2	Plot No. 3 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	29,788	Housing Estate
3	Plot No. 4 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	6,220	Housing Estate
4	Plot No. 7 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	8,054	Housing Estate
5	Plot No. 11 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	11,683	Housing Estate
6	Plot No. 12 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	5,162	Housing Estate
7	Plot No. 13 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	8,232	Housing Estate
8	Plot No. 14 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	6,825	Housing Estate
9	Plot No. 15 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	6,224	Housing Estate
10	Plot No. 16 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	12,920	Housing Estate
11	Plot No. 19 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	8,878	Housing Estate
12	Plot No. 21 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	14,442	Housing Estate
13	Plot No. 22 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	2,512	Housing Estate
14	Plot No. 23 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	12,258	Housing Estate
15	Plot No. 24 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	13,261	Housing Estate
16	Plot No. 25 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	8,079	Housing Estate
17	Plot No. 26 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	7,549	Housing Estate
18	Plot No. 29 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	15,464	Housing Estate
19	Plot No. 30 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	11,735	Housing Estate
20	Plot No. 31 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	8,008	Housing Estate
21	Plot No. 32 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	9,715	Housing Estate
22	Plot No. 33 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	9,443	Housing Estate
23	Plot No. 34 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	7,925	Housing Estate
24	Plot No. 36 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	13,296	Housing Estate
25	Plot No. 37 Block 1 Vijibweni-Kigamboni	DSM	1,546	Housing Estate

LOT NO.2

26	Plot No. 38 (HD) Block H Jangwani area, Sumbawanga	Rukwa	372	Residential	A property Located at Jangwani area in Sumbawanga Municipality just at the Central Business District.
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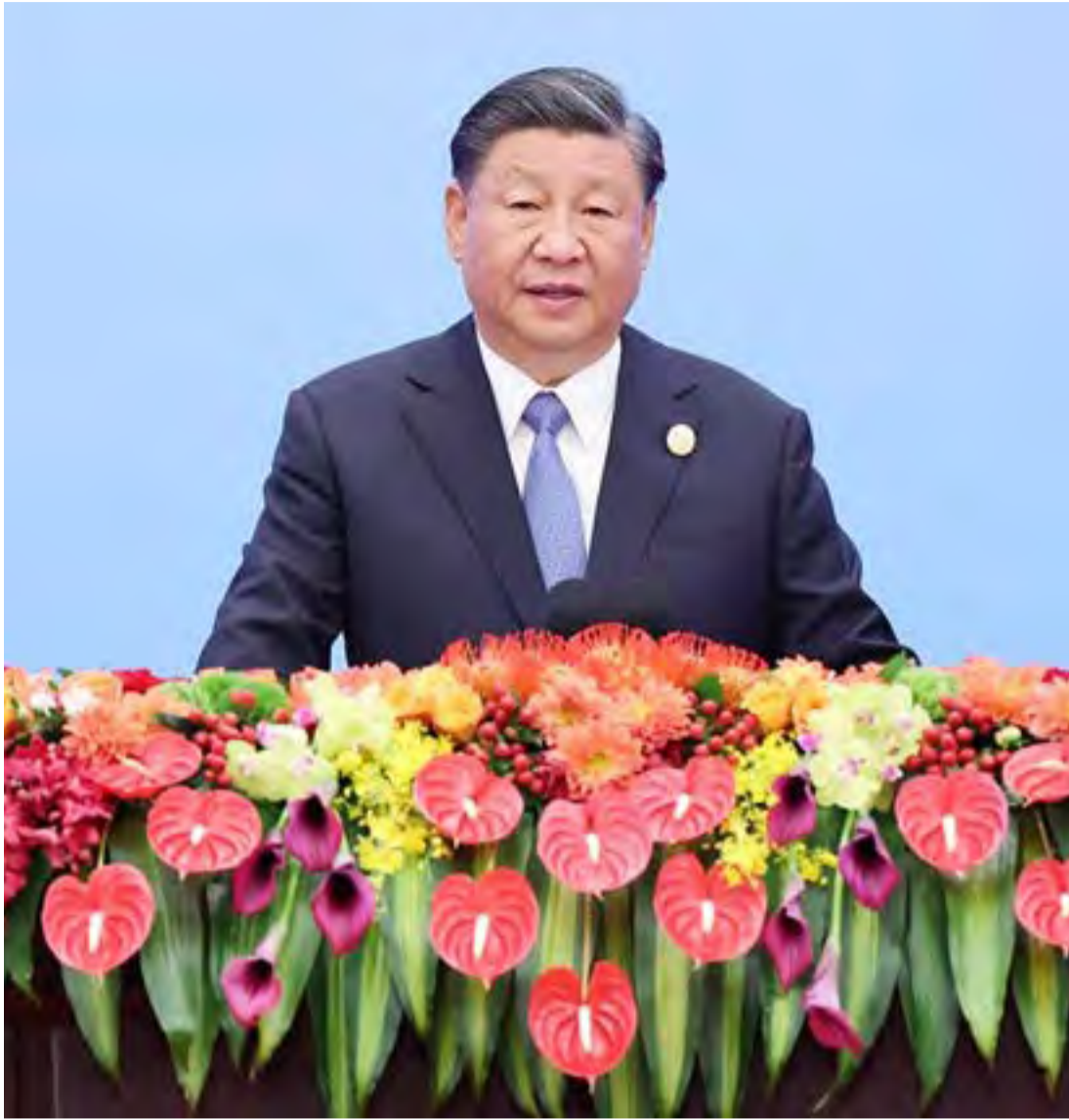
LOT NO.3

27	Land in Mwandinga - Kigoma	Kigoma	225,512	Mixed-Use	The land is situated along Kigoma-Kasulu road and Manyovu road.
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Following the correction, the Fund hereby extends the deadline for submission to 14th May 2024. All other terms and conditions shall remain as advertised before. For more information, please contact us through Tel. No. **0758 801999** or **0757 970065**.

Director General
National Social Security Fund
Benjamin William Mkapa Pension Towers,
(Tower B) at Junction of Azikiwe/Jamhuri Streets, Dar es Salaam.
P. O. Box 1322, Dar es Salaam Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 2163400-19

60 YEARS OF CHINA - TANZANIA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS



H.E Xi Jinping, PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.



Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan President of the United Republic of Tanzania

His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China

BEIJING.

Your Excellency,

I am delighted that it is during our respective Presidential tenures that our two countries mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. On the occasion of this historic milestone, please accept my congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency, and through you, to the Government, and the brotherly people of China.

Since their establishment by the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere and the late Chairman Mao Zedong, the diplomatic relations between Tanzania and China have grown through solidarity, friendship, and cooperation.

I note with satisfaction the achievements we have attained together during the last six decades. Guided by the shared principles of respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity, sincerity, freedom, and justice, we have offered each other mutual support at bilateral and multilateral fora. We joined hands in tackling global issues in support of liberation and independence of states, lifting mankind out of poverty, ensuring a strong voice for the Global South, and the pursuit of global egalitarian norms and conditions in the political, economic, and social realms.

Tanzania is inspired by the commendable socio-economic transformation that China has achieved during the last six decades, including the advances recorded during the last decade under your able leadership and guidance. Through this cooperation, we are grateful, and indeed indebted, for the generous support, notably in development, investment, trade, human capital development and in other strategic areas.

I remain committed to further strengthening our Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership for the benefit of our countries and peoples. We look forward to taking the relationship closer to the people than ever before, thus fostering shared prosperity through deepening and broadening of mutually benefiting bilateral relations.

In this regard, I wish to assure Your Excellency of our unwavering support to various development cooperation initiatives designed by China including the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and Global Development Initiative (GDI). I look forward to actively participating at the upcoming Summit of FOCAC scheduled for September this year, in Beijing. Your Excellency, I am optimistic about a joint future that is brighter than before, benefiting from stronger cooperation.

While reiterating my best wishes for good health and prosperity, please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**President
Samia Suluhu Hassan
The United Republic of Tanzania**

Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Dodoma

Your Excellency Mme. President,

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the United Republic of Tanzania, I would like to extend, on behalf of the government and people of China and in my own name, our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the government and people of Tanzania.

The traditional friendship between China and Tanzania was forged by the older generation of leaders of our two countries. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties 60 years ago, China-Tanzania relations have withstood the test of ever-evolving international landscape and grown from strength to strength. In recent years, our two countries have enjoyed stronger political

mutual trust and fruitful cooperation across the board, setting a good example for South-South cooperation. You and I met twice during your state visit to China in November 2022 and on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in August 2023, where we had in-depth exchanges and reached important consensus on further deepening China-Tanzania relations in the new era.

As we stand at a new historical starting point, I am ready to work with you to carry forward our traditional friendship, turn into reality our shared dream of national development and revitalization as well as the promising vision for Belt and Road cooperation, further enrich our comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, and make even greater contribution to the building of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

May the friendship between China and Tanzania last forever.

Xi Jinping

**President
The People's Republic of China**

Beijing, April 26, 2024

60 YEARS OF CHINA - TANZANIA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND ITS BENEFITS

By: George Muntu

China established its diplomatic relations with Tanganyika and Zanzibar on December 9, 1961 and December 11, 1963, respectively. When Tanganyika and Zanzibar were united on April 26, 1964, it was natural for China to extend its diplomatic ties with the newly established United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which was renamed the United Republic of Tanzania on October 29, 1964. Therefore, when Tanzania is expecting to celebrate its 60th Union Day on April 26, 2024, it will also celebrate the 60th anniversary of its diplomatic relations with China.

The past 60 years have witnessed continuous and steady development of Tanzania-China relations. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations with Tanzania, China has stood shoulder to shoulder with Tanzania and has helped it in numerous aspects, including politics, economy, military, education and training, health care etc.

In 1965, China and Tanzania signed the Treaty of Friendship. Since then, a series of cooperation agreements were signed in such fields as economy, trade, culture and health care. Tanzania actively supported China's effort to regain its legitimate seat in the United

Security Council. In 1965, China and Tanzania signed the Treaty of Friendship. Since then, a series of cooperation agreements were signed in such fields as economy, trade, culture and health care.

In November 2022, China and Tanzania reaffirmed their friendship by signing another bilateral cooperation document covering trade, investment, development cooperation, digital economy, green development and blue economy. The signing of the treaty was witnessed by the two Presidents, Xi Jinping and President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

At the 26th General Assembly of the UN in 1971, Tanzania led other supporting countries to campaign for the People's Republic of China to regain its rightful place in the UN Security Council. During her visit to China, President Samia Suluhu Hassan reaffirmed Tanzania's position on the one China principle and assured that, Tanzania will stand firmly and continue to support China on the issues related to Taiwan.

Tanzania has continued to pursue a friendly policy toward China. It has also spoken highly of China's assistance and has been appreciating China's independent foreign policy of peace.

The two countries maintained close party-to-party and military-to-military interactions. Each year



Chairman Mao Zedong met President Julius Nyerere in Beijing, 19 February 1965.

the Tanzania Peoples Defense Forces' (TPDF) officers and non-commissioned officers attend training courses in China at various military training centers. Tanzania has also enjoyed close defense ties with China, and this has included naval exercises, construction projects and the supply of military equipment.

Since 1964, China has been providing various development assistance and has continued to help Tanzania in various sectors, all of which aim at supporting Tanzania's

political independence, promote its economic development, and helping Southern African countries in their liberation struggles.

These assistance have been in the categories of construction of infrastructure, education, health care, tourism, agriculture, culture, security, etc. The two countries have enjoyed a very special relationship that dates back to the old days when they are ruled by the founding fathers. The deep and long-standing Tanzania-China friendship continues to be characterized

by significant trade, diplomatic exchange and Chinese assistance and investment in Tanzania.

One of the main aid projects sponsored by the Chinese Government, which we Tanzanians are still proud of today, is the construction of Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA). Built from 1970 to 1975, TAZARA was also the largest single foreign-aid project undertaken by China at that time, at a cost of 988,000,000 RMB yuan, which is approximately US\$406 million.

The construction of TAZARA has costed China not only a huge amount of money, but also over 60 people's lives. It is important to note that, during the construction of TAZARA, China was still a poor country like us and its people were still living in tough conditions.

However, they were willing to give a considerable part of their savings to us. This was indeed a selfless action worth our heartfelt thanks and high respect. The building of TAZARA has laid a solid foundation for China-Tanzania and China-Zambia friendships, which until today are still playing important roles in China's relations with the two countries and with Africa in general.

The Railway opened a way for the flow of other aid and a new start of a lasting friendship between the people of China and Tanzania. It

was also a leaven and continues to be a leaven and a major source of development for both nations Tanzania and Zambia.

In order to ensure that relations between China and Tanzania are increasingly improved, China has continued to assist Tanzania in various sectors so as to bring about economic reforms and lift us out of poverty. One of the most recent supports provided by China to Tanzania is the construction of Kagera Vocational Training and Service Centre. The construction of centre costs more than \$10 million and has the capacity to accommodate 800 students.

This Centre will provide effective and sustainable vocational training, cultivate a large number of skilled talents and contribute to the individualization of Tanzanian, as well as creating a high-quality training place for skills, improving their employability and opening the door for success. It has also reduced the shortage of technical collages in the country and will increase the number of young students from neighbouring regions to come get technical skills and professionalism.

Apart from Kagera Vocational Centre, China has also assisted in the construction of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School

To be continued on Page 7

From Page 6

in Kibaha Region at the cost of \$40 million. The academy will help in train African officials and play key role and gather intelligence resources to promote think tanks exchanges between the region and other regions and help coordinate the work of leadership and political institution in relevant countries.

The other recent support provided by China to Tanzania in education sector is the construction of a huge and medium-sized library in Africa at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), which costs China around US\$ 40 million. The new library can accommodate 2,100 people at the same time and has an inside storage capacity of 800,000 books. It is the largest, most comprehensive and modernized library aided by China in Africa.

This library has significantly improved the teaching conditions of UDSM and plays an important role in promoting the development of education in Tanzania.

In its continuation of education support, China has also planned to upgrade the National Institute of Transport (NIT) in Tanzania to a full-fledged university of transport, and build a vocational training and service centre in Kagera region. The upgrading of NIT will help reduce the cost of sending Tanzanian students to study abroad, and nurture engineers, technicians and other professionals in the transport sector.

Currently, the Chinese Government and universities provides nearly 200 scholarships to Tanzanian young talents every year, and offer numerous on-job training opportunities like short courses and seminars to Tanzanian government officials and various professionals. These educational assistances have help a lot in keeping our country's human capital in a better shape.

Apart from education assistance, China has recently provided \$9.7 million to assist in building GeoPark in Ngorongoro. The Ngorongoro-Lngai will be the only GeoPark in Sub-Saharan Africa and the second in Africa. The construction of project is expected to start in 2024 and complete in mid 2025. It will include tourism viewing platforms, tourism infrastructure and a geology museum. The Newly developed infrastructure will enhance tourism attraction and extend the duration tourism stay.

Apart from educational assistance, Tanzania has been receiving financial support from China for building a number of infrastructures, such as the modern National Stadium the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre, and the building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation which was completed in 2018. China provided a grant of US\$ 20 million and a preferential loan of US\$ 36 million to Tanzania for the construction of the National Stadium, and offered approximately US\$ 26 million for Tanzania to build the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre.

China has also constructed the Jakaya Kikwete Heart Surgery Institute (JKCI) in Muhimbili area. This institution has greatly helped many Tanzanians, especially low-income earners, to access heart surgery and treatment. But it has also helped eliminate the cost of sending people out abroad for cardiac related treatment.

Through JKCI, the government has managed to make huge saving of approximately TZs31 billion per annum. Prior to that, the government used to spend around TZS 62 billion per annum to send patients abroad to get treatment. In addition, China has been sending experts and specialists to assist with surgical operations and treatment of various diseases in different hospitals in Tanzania.

In expanding the scope of assistance, China is planning to expand the JKCI by building a cardiac centre in Mlonganzila in Dar es Salaam. The new planned facility will not only ease access to heart treatment to local patients but also extend services to patients coming from neighbouring countries.

Apart from its assistance to Tanzania, China also contributes greatly to promoting our economy through major investments and project contracting. According to the statistics of Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), from 1990 to 2022, China has invested in more than 1000 projects in Tanzania, totaling US\$ 11 billion. These projects have created 300,000 jobs for Tanzanians, and made China the largest investor in Tanzania.

Among the 1000 projects that China has invested in, 456 are in the manufacturing sector, which has created 150,000 jobs for Tanzanians. These figures have shown that China's investments in Tanzania are in line with the sixth government's industrialization strategy, and have made significant contributions to job creation and GDP growth of our country.

Chinese investment on infrastructures has had significant increase in mobility of people and goods. In addition to that, China investment in Tanzania's industrialization project will shift the Tanzanian economy to an export oriented economy.

All in all, Tanzania has benefited heavily from its relations with China during the past 60 years. But we should realize that this relationship is mutually beneficial. The main benefit that China can get from this relationship is not wealth but true friendship.

We proudly celebrate the 60th anniversary of the creation our nation on 26th April, 2024. China is among the countries that established diplomatic relations with the United Republic of Tanzania precisely on the 26th of April, 1964. The very day of the Union between the then Republic of Tanganyika and the People's Republic of Zanzibar.

The founding fathers and visionary leaders of the two countries, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the late Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume, the late Chairman Mao Zedong, the late Premier Zhou Enlai, and others, established and built solid foundations of the Tanzania-China friendship and solidarity. Ever since, ties between our two countries have grown even stronger leveraging on the principles of mutual respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity, sincerity, freedom and justice.

Mwalimu Nyerere opened the exchange of high-level visits between the two sides, when he visited Beijing in February 1965. The Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai followed by visiting Tanzania in June the same year. As for the current leaders, His Excellency President Xi Jinping visited Tanzania in March 2013 while Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan visited Beijing in November 2022. Since then, people to people exchange at all levels and walks of life have thrived, including for training and higher education, tourism, and cultural reasons.

Our two friendly countries have forged unwavering support of each other on issues of common interests at bilateral and international level. Despite strong external pressure, in 1965 Tanzania was the first country in Eastern and Southern Africa to sign the Treaty of Friendship



with China. In 1971 Tanzania firmly led the movement to support the People's Republic of China to restore its lawful seat in the United Nations, as well as being a Permanent Member of the Security Council of the United Nations (UNSC). The Sino-Tanzania solidarity was equally crucial in the struggle for liberation and decolonization of southern Africa in particular through the front-line States, which Tanzania chaired. The most iconic cooperation came through the Chinese financed construction of an 1868 km long Tanzania - Zambia Railway line (TAZARA).

With the all-weather friendly relations, it came as no surprise when in November 2022 our two great leaders, H.E Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and H.E Xi Jinping, President of People's Republic of China elevated our bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative

Partnership. Basically, our countries enjoy warm relations and have forged strategic cooperation and partnership at political, economic, and social levels.

The ruling parties, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) of Tanzania and the Communist Party of China (CPC) have endured a fraternal cooperation. Of late, China supported the establishment of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School, favouring Tanzania as its host. The school was jointly established by the CPC and the Southern African ruling liberation parties of CCM (Tanzania), FRELIMO (Mozambique), ANC (South Africa), SWAPO (Namibia), ZANU-PF (Zimbabwe) and MPLA (Angola).

China is currently Tanzania's leading trading partner for almost a decade. Bilateral trade worth USD 8.78 billion was exchanged in 2023 compared to USD 8.31 billion in 2022. Similarly, China leads as

a source of foreign direct investment to Tanzania with a total of 1274 investment projects worth USD 11,402.08 million being registered by the TIC between 1997 and 2024, creating almost 149,759 jobs. Chinese firms have been instrumental in development of key infrastructure in Tanzania such as ports, airports, roads, railway, national broadband communication backbone and industrial parks. On human capital development, thousands of Tanzanians have obtained higher education in China.

Our diplomatic relations have contributed to major achievements. I am delighted that it cherishes some of the remarkable gains from our cooperation.

Looking ahead, inspired by a desire to create a mutually benefiting cooperation and a future with shared prosperity of humankind, Tanzania is committed to support global and regional fora and initiatives put forward by the government of China such as the Forum on China - Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Global Development Initiative (GDI), to mention a few. We approach the future with no doubts that with President Xi Jinping's principles of sincerity, real results, amity, and good faith. Our cooperation will strengthen further and deeper, bridge the technological and economic gap and achieve the shared prosperity.

We shall always remain indebted to fathers of our two nations and all those who have contributed to the brotherly relations, including past and current leaders and distinguished individuals who make us all proud of the exemplary relations.

Long live Tanzania, Long Live China!

Speech at the Reception Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between China and Tanzania

By Her Excellency Chen Mingjian, Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania

Your Excellency January Makamba, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, Your Excellency Permanent Secretary from the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, General Jacob John Mkunda, Chief of Tanzania People's Defense Forces, Secretary from the CCM,

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Representatives of International Organizations, Friends from different sectors of Tanzania, My fellow Chinese, Ladies and gentlemen,

Habari za asubuhi!

Today, we gather here to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Tanzania. This event is co-hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of Tanzania. First of all, on behalf of the Chinese Embassy, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and best wishes to all of you, and through you, to all the people who have dedicated themselves to China-Tanzania friendship and to the friendly people of Tanzania!

As a Chinese saying goes, "When you drink the water, remember those who dug the well." Sixty years ago, the visionary leaders of the two countries, including Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai, President Julius Nyerere, and President Abeid Karume, have established and fostered the China-Tanzania friendship. The past 60 years between us have been a period of solidarity and unity, a period of sincere cooperation and common development, and a period of shared ideas and mutual support.

Over the past 60 years, China and Tanzania have deepened their political mutual trust. In the 1960s when the national liberation movements were in full swing in Africa, China stood firmly with Tanzania and other African countries and forged a profound friendship. In the 1960s and 70s when China was still poor, we tightened our belts to help our African brothers build the Tazara Railway, which is also Uhuru Railway and Urafiki Railway, forging a milestone in China-Tanzania and China-Africa friendship. We will also remember that the Tanzanian side made tremendous efforts for the restoration of the People's Republic of China lawful seat in the United Nations. The scene when the Tanzanian Permanent Representative to the UN Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim applauded for China at the 26th Session of the UN General Assembly is a classic moment in China-Tanzania relations.



In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping made visited Tanzania right after he assumed president. Right after the 20th National Congress of the CPC in 2022, President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan visited China, the two heads of state agreed to elevate the bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership. Under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, China and Tanzania enjoy ever closer exchanges across the fields. The two countries firmly support each other on issues concerning respective core interests and major concerns, closely cooperate in international and regional affairs, and jointly safeguard the unity and legitimate development interests of developing countries.

Over the past 60 years, China-Tanzania practical cooperation has yielded fruitful results. Practical cooperation between us covers a wide range of fields such as industry, agriculture, infrastructure, medical and health care. China has remained Tanzania's largest source of foreign investment. Major projects undertaken by Chinese companies such as the SGR, Julius Nyerere Hydro-power Station, the National ICT Broadband Backbone Network are making steady progress, which has injected strong impetus to Tanzania's industrialization and modernization. 60 years ago, China sent the first batch of Chinese medical team to Tanzania. Up till now, 60 batches of Chinese medical teams have provided medical services in Tanzania. What a coincidence. Their footprints have spread throughout the land of Tanzania.

Over the past 60 years, China-Tanzania people-to-people and cultural ties have become more solid. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the enthusiasm of the two peoples to know each other has become even higher. China's first cultural center in East Africa has been established in

Tanzania, and the "Mandarin craze" continues to heat up. Confucius Institutes and Luban Workshops have taken root in Tanzania, and more and more Chinese universities have opened Swahili language majors. The TV series Welcome to Milele Village, which were mainly shot in Tanzania, is a hit in China. Many Chinese tourists come to Tanzania to enjoy majestic Mount Kilimanjaro, vast Serengeti grassland and cultural and natural attractions of Zanzibar Island. The Happy Chinese New Year Celebrations, the China-Tanzania Friendship Cup Table Tennis Competition, and the Tanzania International Martial Arts Competition have greatly enriched the cultural and sports life of the two peoples.

Over the past 60 years, China-Tanzania relations have been at the forefront of China-Africa cooperation. During President Xi Jinping's visit to Tanzania in 2013, he first put forward the principles of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith for China's Africa policy, which has now become a basic policy concept guiding China's solidarity and cooperation with developing countries. In recent years, Tanzania actively participated in development of the Belt and Road Initiative, and China-Tanzania cooperation has set a good example of realizing common development of China and Africa. Not long ago, the 13th session of the China-Africa Think Tank Forum was held in Tanzania, the Chinese and African scholars have reached the Dar es Salaam Consensus.

Ladies and gentlemen, Dear friends,

Sixty years later, we are at a new historical starting point with a new historical mission. We are tasked to carry on the traditional friendship across generations and make greater contributions to a stronger China-Africa and China-Tanzania community with a shared future.

China and Tanzania should continue to be sincere friends with mutual trust. We should stay committed to supporting each other on issues with each other's core interests and major concerns, such as national sovereignty

and territorial integrity. Today's world is fraught with uncertainties. Faced with a series of global problems, major challenges, and outstanding contradictions, President Xi Jinping proposed building a community with a shared future for mankind and advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. The Chinese side stands ready to work with the Tanzanian side to implement the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind and jointly safeguard the international system with the United Nations as core.

China and Tanzania should continue to be mutually beneficial partners. We will align the high quality development of Belt and Road Initiative with Tanzanian's development strategies, deepen cooperation in agriculture, education, tourism, etc, and cultivate new growth points such as the digital economy, green development, and blue economy. The Chinese side is willing to work with the Tanzanian side to implement the Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialization, Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernization, and the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development proposed by President Xi Jinping. The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Summit will be held in Beijing in September this year. The Chinese side looks forward to working with Tanzania and other African countries to make this Summit a landmark in the history of China-Africa relations.

China and Tanzania should continue to be a model of exchanges and mutual learning. "Amity between the people holds the key to sound state-to-state relations." It's imperative for us to well organize the China-Tanzania Year of Tourism and Culture. I believe with the release of the documentary called "Amazing Tanzania", more Chinese tourists will visit Tanzania for sightseeing. We need to promote mutual understanding between the two peoples by creating more high-quality projects and institutional mechanisms for exchanges and cooperation among media houses, local governments, think tanks, youth, etc. With the aim of celebrating the 60th anniversary, we will organize Video and Photography Competition on China-Tanzania Friendship, and the China-Tanzania Youth Dialogue. We welcome active participation of people from all walks of life, and contribute their shares to stronger people-to-people ties between China and Tanzania.

To conclude, let us wish China-Tanzania friendship will last forever, our two countries enjoy prosperity, and all peoples in the world boast happiness and good health.

Asanteni sana.

Use of charcoal might not drop in alternative energy budget scenario

EXPERTS are probably having a difficult time sorting out which Budget estimates are crucial or most relevant for environment issues, whether it is those of the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) portfolio or the Energy ministry's.

For reasons of protocol, the VPO's 2024/2025 financial year estimates were tabled in the legislature and followed by the Energy ministry's, with comparisons coming to mind as they came in quick succession. Still, in terms of content, it is the energy landscape which offers food for thought.

Two data items were especially illustrative, one being a general observation that a total of 49.5bn/- will be used in subsidies for the implementation of various alternative energy projects, out of a total budget totalling 1.883trn/-.

Upwards of 24.5bn/- is meant for alternative charcoal production, this given pride of place as something to be propagated with workshops, seminars and media appearances.

One wonders whether subsidy to the State Mining Corporation (Stamico) to make low-priced briquettes from coal dust and other combustible materials could not have sufficed - but experts know better.

This datum shows the power still exercised on policy makers by the alternative charcoal lobby, which has prevented the making of briquettes for decades and closed the door to biogas.

While there is significant mention of renewable energy, shifting to natural gas takes the lion's share of subsidies on the basis of its being identified as clean energy.

The UN definition of clean energy is the non-use of fossil fuels, which basically means water, solar, wind or biomass.

There is a mixture of strategies

variously known as sustainable, cleaner or renewable sources, while at the local level, and including the manner in which the remarks of the portfolio holder were reported, there is plenty of amalgam in how we view the various types of energy.

The key illustration is treating natural gas as clean, whereas it is clean only in appearance, shorn of the smoke and dust of charcoal or firewood. But it otherwise remains a fossil fuel and thus its carbon imprint is high and is only sustainable in eliminating charcoal.

Yet even this ability is hemmed in to an extent because of explicit support for supposed improved charcoal outlays which has a significant lobby among tree planters often looking to sell logs as poles for electricity distribution.

Yet, again, that market is dwindling and it is possible that furniture isn't taking up sufficiently large amounts of wood, and hence the need for the alternative charcoal parameter in energy policy.

What is needed to speed up the shift is a clean break with firewood and charcoal, except for naturally fallen trees, without any charcoal business at all.

That sort of decisive energy policy shift was not visible in the subsidies line-up in ministerial estimates, as those impeding shifting from charcoal have pride of place.

That is essentially in like manner as those who impede shifting to clean, renewable energy on the UN environmental yardstick of carbon footprint.

The reason is that there are powerful lobbies which leave little room for the sustainable use of briquettes and shifting from all types of charcoal.

This also means placing a tiny subsidy premium on renewable energy as such, while our neighbours are shifting to renewables much more comprehensively.

Environmentalists just have a point over the use of transparent plastics

THERE were some nuts to crack on Earth Day (April 22) when environment stakeholders revisited familiar hunting grounds, relating to the persistent circulation of what they describe as single-use plastics.

Their focus was on the importance of promoting reusable packaging materials as they are more suited to fight pollution, which was surprising to a number of those who heard the demand, as single use plastics were banned back in 2016.

The single-use material that was abundant eight years ago was one that was skimpy, small in size and with handles, mainly used in wrapping fast food at various street eateries.

What there is at present is non-handled, plastic or mixed type material whose visible quality is its transparency, a mark that is needed in many things in shops and markets.

And they are also reused in the sense that they store things in homesteads, with just a slight chance of being thrown away after packaging, chiefly because they aren't used in carrying food.

Still, there is a minor category of plastics that appear to fit the bill in what environmental stakeholders mean, namely, tiny plastic covering after the usual aluminium-laced food wrapping paper has been used.

Admittedly, many take-away joints cover the wrapped aluminium paper with khaki paper. One has to go to joints or spots selling yams, potatoes or sugar and other edibles in shops which aren't covered by special wrapping paper, with an additional quality that they aren't scattered all over.

It wraps things likely to be taken

to a homestead or some other place, and disposed of just like other dirt, not thrown about.

This means that the little items are collected alongside their household trash for routine disposal and would not in themselves touch off visible environmental concerns.

Explanations that 'investing in efforts to eliminate single-use plastics will greatly help protect the planet Earth from plastic pollution' was sort of far-flung, as this is dirt that is collected in households, not thrown about in open air.

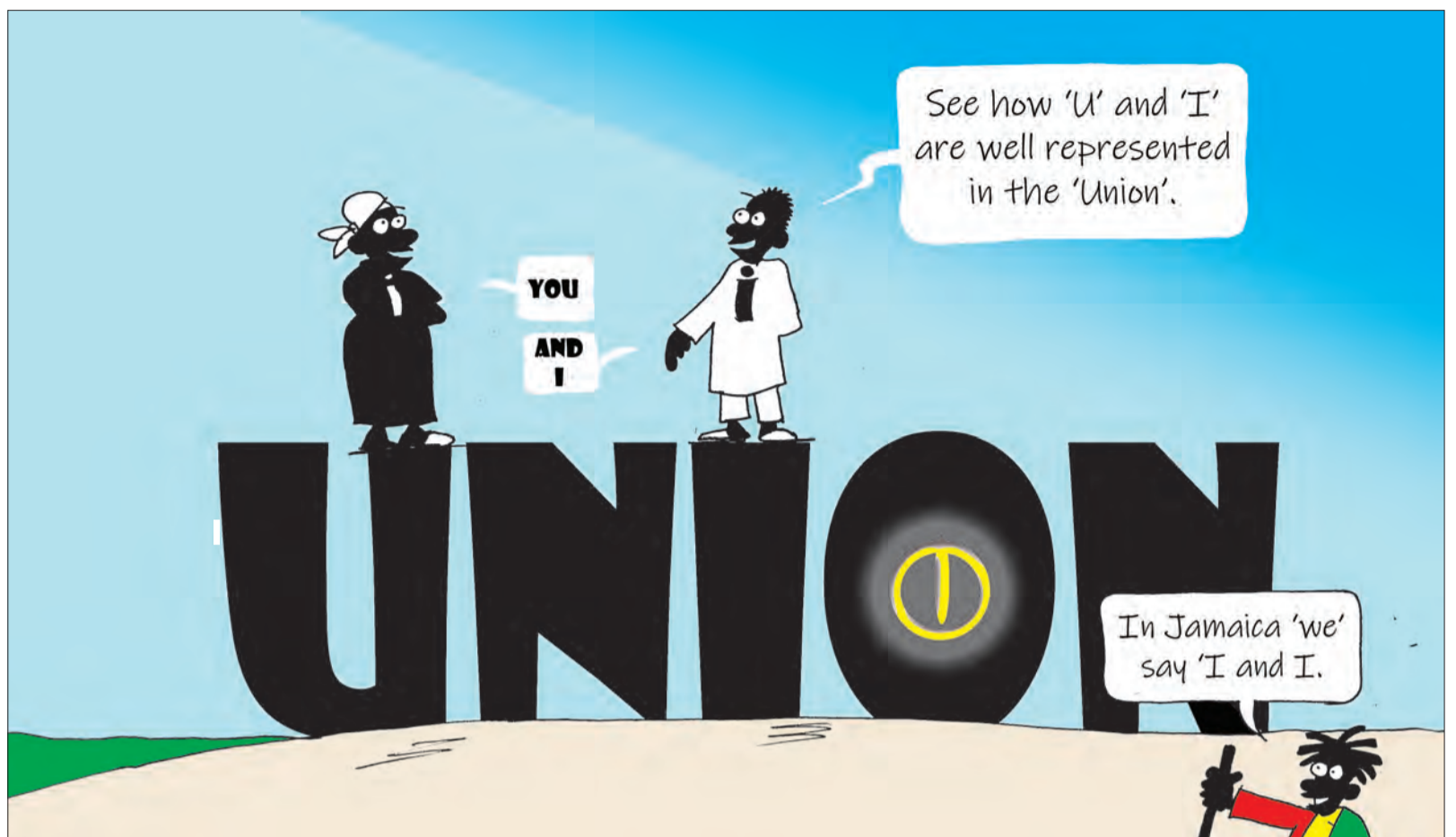
During the single-use ban campaign it was pointed that, owing to the usually dark or blue bags with handles being scattered, they were at times munched by domestic animals - with harmful consequences. Well, there are no such dangers lurking at present, and the only parameter is effectiveness of waste collection, as that is too often poor.

There is meanwhile room to worry that regulators may seek allies in activist organisations to pour old wine into new bottles, allowing them to start another campaign disrupting shop and market activity, whereas the wrapping industry years back shifted to the reuse bags with handles.

There is a brazen preoccupation with plastics and anyone who peddles them, as well as a wish to add taxes or levies against this group, at times just to cover up local government laxity in picking up waste.

The background was collecting waste along the beach on Earth Day, and it was discovered that plastics endanger marine life, and hence the need to curb their use and improve the way they are disposed of.

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BRATISLAVA

AS the refugee crisis on the Belarus/EU borders approaches its fourth year, a crackdown on activism in Belarus is worsening the situation for migrants stuck in a "death zone" as they attempt to leave the country.

Groups working with refugees say the repression of NGOs in Belarus has led to many organizations stopping their aid work for migrants, leaving them with limited or no humanitarian help.

And although international organizations are operating in the country providing some services to refugees, NGOs fear it is not enough.

"There have been elevated levels of violence [against refugees from border guards] since the start of this crisis. But what has got worse is that before there were more people willing to help these refugees in Belarus, but now there is pretty much no one there helping as activism can be punished criminally in the country," Enira Bronitskaya, human rights activist at Belarussian NGO Human Constanta, which was forced to pull out of the country and now operates from Poland, told IPS. Since the start of the refugee crisis on the Belarus/EU border in the summer of 2021, rights groups have spoken out over brutal refugee 'pushbacks' by guards on both sides of the border.

Some have accused Minsk of manufacturing the crisis as a response to EU sanctions. They say Belarussian authorities actively organize, encourage, and even force migrants to attempt crossings over the border, but at the same time sanction violent and degrading treatment of those same migrants by border guards.

But others have also raised issue with what they say are equally violent and inhumane methods used by EU border guards in Poland, Latvia and Lithuania against those same migrants, as well as systematic breaches of their rights to claim asylum.

"These people are subjected to numerous forms of violence, both by Belarussian and Polish border guards. We've seen bruises, black eyes, knocked-out teeth after blows, kicks or hits with the back of rifles, irritation of skin and eyes after being sprayed with pepper gas, and teeth marks after dog bites," Bartek Rumienczyk of the Polish NGO We Are Monitoring (WAM), which helps migrants who arrive in Poland from Belarus, told IPS.

"We also tell people they are entitled to ask for international protection in Poland, but in practice, these pleas are often ignored by border guards. We have witnessed numerous situations when people were asking for asylum in our presence and still they were pushed back to Belarus," he added

Conditions worsen for Belarus migrants now stuck in 'Death Zone' on EU border



Aid agencies say that refugees caught on the Polish and Belarus borders are subject to brutal pushbacks. Graphic: IPS

These practices leave people stranded between the two borders in terrible conditions. Some aid workers describe it as a "death zone".

"Refugees who manage to make it over [into the EU] talk about the 'death zone' between fences on the EU border and razor wires on the Belarus side and border guards who will not let them back into Belarus. They are therefore stuck there," Joanna Ladomirska, Medical Coordinator for Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) in Poland, told IPS. "This death zone runs all along the Belarus/EU border, and it is huge—maybe tens of thousands of square kilometers—and no one knows how many people might have died there, or might be there needing treatment. My worry is that no one has access to this zone—not NGOs, no one," she added.

At least 94 people have been known to have died in the border area since the start of the crisis, according to Human Constanta's research, although it is thought many more may have also lost their lives.

Those that do manage to cross the border are invariably injured, some seriously. Exhaustion, hypothermia, and gastrointestinal affections because migrants have been forced to drink water from swamps or rivers are common, while almost a third of them have trench foot, and many have suffered serious injuries from razor- and barbed-wire fences. Some have also had to have parts of their limbs amputated due to frostbite, according to aid groups providing medical care to them.

Although both international and local organizations continue to work to help migrants on the EU side of the border, this is much more limited on the Belarussian side, say those working directly with migrants.

Since mass protests following his re-election in 2020, autocratic Belarussian President Alexander

Lukashenko has implemented a sweeping crackdown on dissent. This has seen, among others, widespread prosecutions of workers in civil society.

Many NGOs, including some that had previously helped migrants, have been forced to close, leaving only a handful of major international organizations to do what they can for migrants.

However, questions have been raised about how effective their operations are.

"There are international organizations like the ICRC that are working with the Red Cross, but the Belarus Red Cross is only handing out food parcels in certain areas; it's not a regular, stable supply," said Bronitskaya.

"Basically, there is no one there giving [the migrants] the help they need. It is very possible there will be even more deaths than before," she added.

But it is not just those stuck between the borders who are struggling to get help.

Anyone who fails to get into the EU and finds themselves back in Belarus is classed as an irregular migrant, is unable to access healthcare or benefits, and cannot legally work.

Many quickly find themselves in poverty, living in constant fear of being discovered by immigration authorities, and vulnerable to exploitation. Some aid workers told IPS they had heard of migrants in Minsk and other Belarussian cities forced to turn to prostitution to pay to support themselves.

Facing such problems, many decide they have little choice but to attempt the crossing again despite the risks.

Aid organizations and global rights groups say governments in EU countries and in Minsk must adhere to their obligations to protect the rights of these migrants.

"It's not the best approach to the situation if the EU makes it difficult

or impossible to cross its border by building walls or putting up legal barriers, nor is it good if Belarus creates a situation where people are stranded," Normal Sitali, Medical Operations Manager for Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) in Belarus, told IPS.

"There must be unhindered access to the border area for independent humanitarian organizations and for international and civil society organizations to respond to the dire situation there. Governments need to look at ensuring access to healthcare for these people so that international organizations do not need to provide and pay for it; they also need to look at legal protections for them; and they need to examine how these people can be ensured the space and protection to claim their rights as individuals while in transit," he added.

MSF, which helped thousands of migrants during the crisis, last year stopped providing services to them after deciding migrants' medical needs were outweighed by their need for protection and legal support, which MSF says can only be provided by dedicated organisations with specific expertise.

But some doubt the situation will improve any time soon with political relations between Belarus and the EU badly strained.

"Governments need to do something but the political situation makes things complicated. EU governments will not negotiate with Lukashenko because of the repressions going on in Belarus. Unless there is some significant change, nothing is going to get better," said Bronitskaya.

However, others are hopeful of change.

Officials in Poland's new government, which came to power in December last year, have claimed the number of pushbacks has fallen under the new administration and said a new border and migration policy is being drawn up that would treat the protection of human rights as a priority. Plans are also being put in place for the border forces to set up special search and rescue groups to stop humanitarian crises at the country's borders, they have said.

"As a European country, [Poland] should respect European human rights laws and provide people with access to safety. You don't need to negotiate with the Belarus regime to do that," Ladomirska told IPS.

"I hope that with the new Polish government, something might change. We're talking to them; change is feasible, and with the new government, there is an opportunity for that change."

IPS UN Bureau Report

By Guardian Correspondent

Unity in diversity: Celebrating the contributions of Indian Diaspora

On April 26th each year, Tanzania erupts in joyous celebrations, marking Union Day, a momentous occasion commemorating the merger of Tanganyika and Zanzibar. Yet, beyond its mere historical significance, the day serves as a poignant reminder of the profound values embedded in the Tanzanian spirit - values of inclusivity, diversity, and patriotism.

It stands as a testament to the visionary aspirations of the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the revered father of the nation, who envisioned Tanzania not merely as a geographical entity, but as a unified mosaic where unity and solidarity transcend tribal, ethnic, ancestral, or linguistic differences, fostering a shared Tanzanian identity.

Union Day encapsulates the realization of Nyerere's dream - a nation where individuals from over a hundred tribes seamlessly interweave into the vibrant tapestry of Tanzanian identity. As Tanzania joyously marks the 60th anniversary of Union Day, it proudly displays the embodiment of Nyerere's vision, with Tanzanians embracing their common national identity above all else, exemplifying unity in diversity.

Among the myriad communities contributing to the rich tapestry of Tanzanian nationality are Tanzanians of Indian origin, whose historical roots are deeply entrenched in the country's landscape. For centuries, Tanzanians of Indian descent have played pivotal roles as traders, entrepreneurs, professionals, and patriots, enriching society in multifaceted ways.

One such towering figure is Amir Habib Jamal, a staunch Tanzanian patriot entrusted by Nyerere to spearhead critical initiatives like Air Tanzania and the Tanzania Railroad Corporation as Minister for Works, Transport and Communication.

Jamal's journey, from advocating for the 'Quit India Movement' alongside Gandhi to becoming a cornerstone of Tanzanian leadership, epitomizes the invaluable contributions and unwavering patriotism of the Indian-Tanzanian community.

Tanzanians of Indian origin have imprinted indelible marks across various sectors - from business and government service to academia, law, and politics. Figures



Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Angellah Kairuki visits India-Tanzania friendship exhibition at the National Museum in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Courtesy of India High Commission.

like Jamil and Mama Shamim Khan exemplify the trust bestowed upon them by fellow Tanzanians to represent their interests, underscoring the community's integration and acceptance within Tanzanian society.

Moreover, a significant number of industries in Tanzania have been established by Tanzanians of Indian origin, bolstering Tanzania's economic prosperity while creat-

ing employment opportunities for their compatriots, thus contributing to the nation's growth and development.

To celebrate and honour this rich heritage, the High Commission of India in Dar es Salaam collaborated with the National Museum of Tanzania to curate India-Tanzania Friendship Exhibition. Additionally, a seminar organized by the High

Commission meticulously documented the significant contributions of the Indian diaspora in Tanzania, drawing wide participation from academia, think tanks, political leaders and community leaders alike, fostering deeper understanding and appreciation of their role in Tanzanian society.

Reflecting on Tanzania's journey, one cannot help but envision Mwal-

imu Nyerere's pride at the nation's progress. As Union Day celebrations unfold, his values continue to shape Tanzania's trajectory, paving the way towards a stronger, more united, and inclusive nation. With each passing year, Union Day serves not only as a commemoration of Tanzania's rich history but also as a beacon of hope for a future guided by the enduring principles of unity, diversity, and patriotism.

Union Day stands as a testament to the resilience and unity of the Tanzanian people, a celebration of their collective identity and aspirations for a brighter tomorrow. As Tanzania strides forward, it does so with the spirit of Union Day deeply ingrained in its national consciousness, fostering a sense of belonging and togetherness among its citizens, transcending boundaries of diversity and embracing the richness of its multicultural fabric.

Union Day: Tanzanians cherish values binding them together



Former President Julius Nyerere of Tanganyika and his Zanzibar counterpart Abeid Amani Karume sign Articles of Union under which their countries become one sovereign state. Photo: File

By Telesphor Magobe

TODAY Tanzanians celebrate the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar which formed the United Republic of Tanzania on April 26, 1964. This article does not intend to discuss technical issues about the Union and how it came about, but rather seeks to share glad tidings of both the people of Mainland Tanzania and of Zanzibar to live together in cross-fertilisation as they mark their Diamond Jubilee.

Since people talk nowadays about global citizenship, which focuses more on humanity and interculturalism, in this regard we have reasons to feel a glow of pride in maintaining the Union. For 60 years we have lived in concord after realising that we have family ties and are related in many ways. Throughout the years we have demonstrated that we can live together peacefully and as is often quoted in official documents we are able to "think globally and act locally" for things that shape our own destiny.

The Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, each of which got independence on December 9, 1961 and December 10, 1963 respectively, was a result of the initiative of the Founding Fathers, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere (then President of Tanganyika) and Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume (then President

of Zanzibar). They did it on behalf of their people.

The very fact that the Union has lasted for 60 years and has bound Tanzanians together there are good reasons to think positively about it, cherish and celebrate it and even hand it on to future generations. Sixty years is the age of an old person who is regarded by society as prudent in what the old person says and does. In this way, Tanzania offers to the world an example of a country that addresses its challenges prudently and affably without either causing ill-feeling to any party or resorting to confrontation and conflict.

Since the Union has worked well for 60 years it will likely work well for many years to come and, therefore, we have reasons to celebrate and hope for the best of our Union and for our own good.

When a visitor comes to Mainland Tanzania will find people from Unguja and Pemba and when the same person goes to Unguja and Pemba he or she will also find people from Mainland Tanzania. Some of these people have intermarried and formed family ties and are happy to be where they are.

All Tanzanians are entitled to live (work or do business) in either Mainland Tanzania or Zanzibar by virtue of Article 17(1) of the Constitution of the

sight and focus. This is the outweighing strength in political governance. Some people may ask how can Tanzanians who come from over 126 tribes live together peacefully as if they belong to one tribe? The answer is that it is because Tanzanians cherish what binds them together as one people. It has been taken on board by the people themselves because of the mutual benefits they get.

We can rightly say we experience peace in the United Republic of Tanzania because of the Union and friendly relations we have maintained with neighbouring countries and other countries across the world.

Ongoing infrastructural development in both parts of the Union encourages business, improves social services and facilitates the movement of people, goods and services. Some people propose to link the two parts of the Union by road. Although embarking on such a project looks ambitious, if it works it will facilitate transport and the movement of people, goods and services. Currently, people can travel

to and from Zanzibar by ferry, motorboat, sailboat or by air. Therefore, Tanzanians are happy to live in concord and wish that the peace experienced in the United Republic so far lasts for many years to come because it benefits both parts of the Union. Yet, for this to continue those in authority should ensure justice and the rule of law prevail. Political stability, economic growth and the peace we experience are a great honour to all Tanzanians and it is our responsibility to sustain them. So, let us celebrate our Diamond Jubilee while being mindful that Tanzanians, as the Preamble of the Union Constitution puts it, have resolved to build a society founded on the principles of freedom, justice, fraternity and concord. This is the direction we have chosen

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60TH UNION DAY

"Let us keep, protect and maintain the Union for the benefit of all Tanzanians"

The Board of Trustees and the Staff of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) wish a happy 60th Union Day to all Tanzanians

NSSF

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NOTICE OF FINAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Final General Meeting of the above named Company will be held on the 27th day of May, 2024 at 09:00hours at the registered office of the Company, Girl Guides Building, 1st Floor, Tower B, Kibasila Road, Upanga, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Members or their proxies who will not manage to attend physically are invited to join the Meeting virtually through the link and passcode that will be provided through their respective emails.

Agenda

- To receive the winding up report from the liquidator;
- To lay down accounts of the Winding up of the Company; and
- Any Other Business.

By Order of the Company liquidator

Florian Mutagwaba
Liquidator

Dated at Dar es Salaam this 26th day of April, 2024

Circulation:

To all members

Searching for missing loved ones in Gaza's mass graves

By Fergal Keane

A mother will search anywhere for her missing child. And while she has the strength, she will never stop.

Whether he is alive or dead. It doesn't matter.

For four days Kareema Elras has moved through the noise, dust and overpowering stench of the mass graves at Nasser hospital.

She is the mother of 21-year-old Ahmed, who was killed on 25 January in the city of Khan Younis, in south central Gaza. His body has been missing since then.

"I have been coming here all the time until now," she said, "until I found the body of my son, my son Ahmed, the cherished little boy, his mother's love. He lost his father when he was 12 years old, and I raised him."

Nearby, other families walk along the perimeter of the graves.

It is a scene depressingly familiar from war zones around the world.

The bulldozers clawing at the earth to reach the dead. An arm, stiff, extending from beneath the soil. The gravediggers marking out the individual spaces where exhumed corpses will be buried. And the families of the lost, hoping to find their loved ones among the dead.

But the universality of the imagery does not necessarily suggest the same explanation. Each mass grave - whether in the Balkans, central Africa, the Middle East, or elsewhere - is the consequence of its own local conditions.

In a war that has reportedly claimed the lives of more than 34,000 people in a constricted land space, burying the dead has become a complex and often dangerous task.

Some cemeteries are full. Others are impossible to reach because of fighting. Because of these pressures bodies have been buried in the grounds of hospitals where Israeli forces said they fought Hamas.

In some wars that I have reported on it was possible to tell reasonably quickly what had happened to the victims. This is because forensic investigators were on the scene relatively soon afterwards and journalists were able to access the area.

In the current conditions in Gaza - with Israel and Egypt refusing to admit international journalists, and fighting creating extremely dangerous conditions for any potential team of forensic investigators - it is an immense challenge to specifically determine how and when each of those being exhumed from the graves at Nasser hospital and also at al-Shifa hospital, to the north in Gaza City, met

their deaths.

Were at least some executed by Israeli forces, as Hamas and local rescue workers claim?

Or are the hundreds of dead in mass graves all the victims of air strikes and fighting in the area inside and around the medical complexes, as well as other victims of disease and malnutrition caused by the war? Did the Israelis move bodies from one grave to a new grave?

BBC Verify has verified videos posted online on 22, 25 and 28 January, which show Palestinians burying bodies at two locations in the courtyard of Nasser hospital. The footage was geolocated by using the line of double palm trees and matching visible buildings in the middle-distance.

The temporary burials took place as medical staff and displaced civilians reported intense fighting in the area and after the hospital was said to have been surrounded by Israeli ground forces.

We have no way of confirming precisely how many bodies were buried before the Israeli raid began on 15 February. Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry said on 27 January that the bodies of 150 people had been buried in the hospital's courtyard, but it is nearly impossible to verify that figure.

We can confirm that footage published in recent days, following the



Palestinian Civil Defence workers say more than 330 bodies have been recovered from the grounds of Nasser hospital

withdrawal of Israeli troops from Khan Younis, shows the same burial sites. The same line of trees and surrounding buildings can be seen clearly.

Gaza's civil defence force says more than 330 bodies have been recovered, but there are questions that we cannot answer about when and how those people died. Nasser hospital officials might have kept records about the bodies that were buried before the Israeli raid, but we do not know that.

The Israeli military has confirmed that it did exhume and examine bodies in the courtyard to see if any were those of hostages seized by Hamas, and that they were subsequently "returned to their place". But Sky News has verified video and satellite imagery which shows Israeli bulldozers drove over the courtyard during their raid, causing visible damage to the site.

The director of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights office for the Palestinian territories, Ajith Sunghay, told me there had to be an independent

forensic investigation of the graves.

On Tuesday, another UN official said that some bodies had been found with their hands tied.

This followed a statement by an official of the Palestinian Civil Defence, a group which carries out rescue and recovery operations, that corpses had been found handcuffed, that others had been seen shot in the head, and some wearing detainee uniforms.

Reem Zeidan spent two weeks searching for the body of her son Nabil, which was found on Wednesday afternoon.

Reem said she saw bodies that had signs of torture, with their hands cuffed. "They were executed. Some had their hands and legs cuffed together and were executed. Till when will this continue?"

I asked Mr Sunghay if he had seen solid evidence of bodies with hands tied.

"We still don't have evidence, we have information," he replied. "And that information needs to be corroborated from different sources. And that's exactly why we do need

an independent international investigation."

"What we cannot allow, in this current situation where we have seen in Gaza numerous grave human rights violations, many of them potentially war crimes, and where we have raised alarm of potential atrocity crimes, that this becomes another blip. The intensity of violations has been massive."

Mr Sunghay said he had teams ready to deploy in Gaza if they were given permission and safe passage by Israel.

The Israeli side has dismissed as a libel the claim that it buried bodies at the hospitals.

In a statement, the Israel Defense Forces said: "The claim that the IDF buried Palestinian bodies is baseless and unfounded."

The IDF added that bodies were exhumed and checked to see if any were those of hostages seized by Hamas and taken to Gaza during the 7 October attacks on Israel.

The statement said: "The examination was conducted in a careful manner and exclusively in places where

intelligence indicated the possible presence of hostages. The examination was carried out respectfully while maintaining the dignity of the deceased."

The work of trying to identify and give a decent burial to the dead will continue for days to come.

Somaya al-Shourbagy retrieved her husband Osama's body at Nasser hospital and managed to bring him to a cemetery to be laid to rest next to the rest of their family.

She knelt by the freshly dug grave with the couple's daughter, Hind.

"My young daughter asked me to visit the grave of her father," Somaya said, "and I would tell her that as soon as we bury him, we will visit him. Thank God. The situation is tough, but we might find some relief after burying him."

Little Hind, who is around five years of age, remembered her father through the clear, simple eyes of a child: "He loved me, and used to buy things for me, and he used to take me out."

92 times the Philippines' entire existing installed capacity - in the queue for grid interconnection in the US. This is just the way of things; technology is improving, and it seems likely that integrating RE will gradually become easier, but it is not now, and it won't be for some time to come.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF ENERGY



HAPPY 60 YEARS OF UNION OF TANZANIA



President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council.
HE. Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi



President of the United Republic of Tanzania
H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan

Management and Staff of **Ministry of Energy** join **Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan**, the President of The United Republic of Tanzania and **His Excellency Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi** the President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council in Commemorating **60 years** Union of Tanzania

We have strengthened our unity for the development of our nation

Breakthrough as three reports elevate Tanzania to new heights

By Telesphor Magobe

IN this quarter of the year Tanzania has been blessed abundantly as two reports elevate it to new heights. The first report is about the State of the World's Migratory Species 2024 which mentions Tanzania twice.

The report, authored by the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), provides a comprehensive overview and analysis of the conservation status of migratory species. It highlights the migratory species' current status and trends, identifies key pressure risks they face, and highlights efforts made to conserve and promote their recovery.

First, in relation to Serengeti National Park, the report recognises this natural world heritage as "the largest remaining migratory system on earth". It is renowned for its mass migrations of wildebeest. UNESCO regards it as "one of the most impressive nature spectacles in the world [which] also hosts one of the largest and most diverse large predator-prey interactions worldwide, providing a particularly impressive aesthetic experience."

According to UNESCO, Serengeti National Park supports 2 million wildebeests, 900,000 Thomson's gazelles and 300,000 zebras as the dominant herds. Others are 7,000 elands, 27,000 topis, 18,000 hartebeests, 70,000 buffalos, 4,000 giraffes, 15,000 warthogs, 3,000 waterbucks, 2,700 elephants, 500 hippopotamuses, 200 black rhinoceroses, 10 species of antelope and 10 species of primate. Major predators include 4,000 lions, 1,000 leopards, 225 cheetahs, 3,500 spotted hyenas and 300 wild dogs. It also hosts over 500 species of birds and has the highest ostrich population in the country and possibly in Africa.

Second, in relation to "The Serengeti-Mara ecosystem in the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya" is its magnificent scenery. It is reported to be one of the world's largest free-ranging populations of migratory ungulates, including blue wildebeest and plains zebra, which support populations of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)-listed apex predators like cheetah, lion and African wild dog.

The second is a report on the results of the wildlife census launched by Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Angella Kairuki in Arusha on April 22, 2024. In this report, it is reported that of 401,000 rhinos found in Africa, Tanzania leads other African countries in having the largest rhino population (225,000), followed by South Africa (46,000), Mozambique (45,000), Kenya (42,000) and Zambia (41,000), according to Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWRI) Director General, Dr Eblate Mjinga.

Of 29,000 lion populations found in Africa, Tanzania also leads other African countries in having the largest lion population (17,000), followed by South Africa (3,284), Botswana (3,064), Kenya (2,500) and Zambia (2,500). However, in elephant populations, Tanzania is ranked the third as it has 60,000 elephants after Botswana (130,000) and Zimbabwe (100,000).

Tanzania is endowed with abundant natural resources, including a variety of mammal, bird, insect and plant species. This makes it attractive to many visitors for various reasons. There are those who visit the country to experience the country's natural beauty and those who come to invest in various sectors of the economy.

UN Tourism says: "The United Republic of Tanzania demonstrates a very promising investment environment with a strong growth potential of its nature-based tourism sector. Indeed, growing on average at 6.5 per cent per year [it] has demonstrated an impressive growth performance and stability of the past decade."

The SDG Investor Map, which is a market intelligence tool, has been developed by Tanzania in partnership with UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and UNDP to help investors identify investment opportunities and business models that advance sustainable development goals (SDGs). It highlights 13 investment opportunity areas (IOAs) across five priority investment sectors, namely agriculture, renewable and alternative energy, infrastructure, services, and education. As a market intelligence tool, the SDG Investor Map, helps prospective investors to get insights into five priority investment sectors.

Political stability, economic performance and improvement in doing business earn the country regional and international recognition. No visitor and investor would like to go to a country where he or she risks his or her life, business and resources, but where he or she is safe. Thus, a peaceful and enabling environment contributes to Tanzania's attractiveness as a visitor-tourist destination.

The third report is about the discovery of geometric rock art sites. Tanzania has identified 46 geometric rock art sites in Lake Victoria Region and on February 28 this year submitted to UNESCO for consideration to be included on the world heritage sites' list. As of now the sites are still on a tentative list, which is an inventory of properties each State Party intends to consider for nomination. The sites include 37 rock art sites in Kagera Region, two in Mwanza Region, and seven in Musoma (Mara Region).

"The discovery of rock art, across international borders linking three countries together [Uganda (24), Kenya (3), and Tanzania (46)], is testament to the existence of a long history of producing paintings and engravings imbued with spiritual power." According to UNESCO, some of these sites are still being used by the local inhabitants, continuing the management of these localities for their spiritual power. "The relevance of rock art, beyond tourism, to local inhabitants is important in safeguarding it further - for the benefit of future generations."



Serengeti National Park in Mara Region.



ZANZIBAR PORTS CORPORATION (ZPC)



HAPPY 60 YEAR'S UNION OF TANGANYIKA AND ZANZIBAR

The Boards of Director, Management and Staff of **Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC)** join His Excellency **Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi** the President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and **Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan**, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania in Commemorating 60 years of Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar

We have strenghtened our unity for the development of our nation




HE. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan
The President of the United Republic of Tanzania



Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi
The President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council


April, 26


"PORT FOR BLUE ECONOMY FOR ZANZIBAR PROGRESS."



THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR

MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY AND FISHERIES






60 Years Happy Union Day

The Boards of Directors, Management and Staff of Ministry of Blue Economy join His Excellency **Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi** the President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and **Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan**, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania in Commemorating 60 years of Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar

—1964-2024—

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Tanganyika-Zanzibar union: A story of unity and harmony

By Adonis Byemelwa

THIS week marks a thrilling celebration in Tanzania as it commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar on April 26th, 2024. It's a momentous occasion that invites reflection on a journey defined by unity, progress, and enduring challenges. The Union, born out of President Nyerere's visionary leadership and the fervent aspirations for African unity in the early 1960s, has stood as both a source of pride and contention in East Africa.

The Union Agreement signed on April 22, 1964, heralded a new era, bringing together the diverse cultures and histories of Tanganyika and Zanzibar under one flag. President Nyerere's impassioned advocacy for Pan-Africanism and regional integration laid the groundwork for this historic merger, transcending artificial colonial boundaries and emphasizing the inherent 'Africanness' that bound the continent together.

Over the past six decades, the Union has achieved notable milestones in political stability, socio-economic development, and cultural integration. Tanzania's transition from a colonial past to a united and independent nation exemplifies the resilience and determination of its people. President Nyerere's vision of 'Ujamaa' (socialism) and self-reliance guided the country's early development efforts, fostering a sense of national identity and pride that transcended ethnic and regional divides.

However, beneath the surface of unity lie persistent challenges that threaten to undermine the Union's cohesion and progress. Disparities in treatment between Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar have been a longstanding issue, manifesting in trade restrictions, taxation discrepancies, and bureaucratic hurdles. Recent restrictions on the movement of goods and people between the two regions have raised concerns about the erosion of freedoms guaranteed by the Union, sparking outcry and prompting calls for greater transparency and accountability.

The unequal distribution of power and resources within the Union has also been a source of tension, with Zanzibar often feeling marginalized by the central government in Dar es Salaam. The issue of political representation has further exacerbated these tensions, with recurring disputes over election results in Zanzibar raising concerns about the integrity of the democratic process and the autonomy of the region.

Economic disparities between Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar have exacerbated tensions, with Zanzibar lagging in terms of development indicators such as poverty rates, infrastructure, and access to basic services. Efforts to promote economic integration and equal opportunity have been hindered by these disparities, fueling resentment and a sense of inequality among Zanzibaris.



Former President Julius Nyerere mixes the soils of Tanganyika and Zanzibar in a pot to symbolise the Union the two independent countries decided to form on April 26th, 1964.

In the face of these challenges, stakeholders are calling for concerted efforts to address grievances and foster greater unity and cooperation within the Union. Dr. Abdullah H. Makame, a former member of the East African Legislative Assembly, emphasizes the importance of inclusive policies and fair representation to build trust and promote national unity.

Professor Emeritus Issa Shivji from the University of Dar es Salaam advocates for structural adjustments to strengthen the bond between Tanganyika and Zanzibar and ensure the Union's continued success.

As Tanzania marks the momentous occasion of commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Tanganyika-Zanzibar Union, the nation finds itself at a pivotal juncture in its history. This celebration serves as a poignant reminder of the Union's inception—a vision forged out of President Nyerere's foresight and the collective aspirations for African unity in the early 1960s.

Former Prime Minister and Chief Justice Joseph Sindé Warjiba's recent remarks ahead of Union Day celebrations encapsulate the prevailing sentiment, urging policymakers to prioritize the welfare of citizens above political maneuvering. "Discussions about the Union

should focus on serving citizens, not power politics," Warjiba remarked, emphasizing the need for equitable policies to bridge developmental gaps and ensure equal access to essential services for all Tanzanians.

However, while the spotlight often shines on government figures, it's essential to acknowledge the voices of the opposition, who play a crucial role in shaping the nation's discourse and advocating for change. Haji Duni from ACT Wazalendo and Ismail Jussa have been vocal about the need for constitutional reforms and a more inclusive governance structure within the Union.

Their calls for comprehensive changes resonate with Freeman Mbowe, leader of Chadema, Tanzania's leading opposition party. Mbowe advocates for the establishment of a three-tier government system and the drafting of a new constitution, particularly in the wake of Ukawa's dissolution, underscoring the imperative for transformative reforms to address longstanding grievances and foster greater inclusivity.

As Tanzania stands on the cusp of its 60th Union Day celebrations, it faces a myriad of challenges and opportunities. The Union, while a symbol of unity and progress, is not with-

out its flaws. Disparities in development, governance structures, and resource allocation between Tanganyika and Zanzibar persist, creating tensions that threaten the Union's cohesion and stability.

The issue of unequal distribution of power and resources remains a recurring concern, particularly in Zanzibar, where perceptions of marginalization by the central government persist. Moreover, electoral disputes, economic disparities, and historical grievances continue to undermine efforts towards a shared national identity, perpetuating a climate of mistrust and instability.

However, amidst these challenges lie opportunities for renewal and growth. Tanzania has a rich cultural heritage and abundant natural resources that, if harnessed effectively and equitably, could fuel sustainable development and shared prosperity. The path forward lies in genuine dialogue, cooperation, and inclusive governance, fostering a sense of collective ownership and commitment to the Union's principles of unity, progress, and shared prosperity.

Commemorating 60 years of the Tanganyika-Zanzibar Union finds it at a crossroads—a moment ripe for reaffirming dedication to unity and progress. Addressing longstanding griev-

ances, fostering dialogue and cooperation, and investing in inclusive development can construct a more robust and resilient Union, honoring the legacy of its founding fathers and setting a precedent for the entirety of Africa.

In marking the 60th anniversary of the Tanganyika-Zanzibar Union, Tanzania stands at a critical juncture—poised to renew its commitment to unity, progress, and shared prosperity. Amidst the challenges, wisdom can be gleaned from the triumphs of nations that have tread similar paths, emerging stronger from their union endeavors.

Top of Form

Take, for example, the European Union (EU), a shining beacon of regional integration and cooperation. What began as a pact among six founding members in the aftermath of World War II has evolved into a union of 27 diverse nations, bound together by common values, shared objectives, and a commitment to peace and prosperity. Despite its challenges, the EU has achieved remarkable feats, including the establishment of a single market, the adoption of a common currency, and the promotion of democratic governance across member states.

Similarly, the United States of

America provides a compelling example of the benefits of unions. From its inception as a federation of 13 colonies to its present status as a global superpower, the United States has thrived on the principles of unity, diversity, and resilience. Despite enduring periods of division and strife, the nation has weathered storms, overcome challenges, and emerged stronger, united by a shared sense of identity and purpose.

Closer to home, the East African Community (EAC) offers a promising model for regional integration in Africa. Comprising six member states, including Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, the DRC, and now Somalia, the EAC seeks to promote economic growth, social progress, and political stability across the region. While the journey towards deeper integration is ongoing, the EAC has made significant strides in harmonizing policies, enhancing trade facilitation, and fostering cooperation in various sectors, from infrastructure development to healthcare.

These success stories serve as beacons of hope and inspiration for Tanzania as it navigates the complexities of unionhood. By drawing lessons from the experiences of others, and embracing dialogue, cooperation, and inclusive development, Tanzania can build a stronger, more resilient Union that honors the legacy of its founding fathers and serves as a model for the rest of Africa.

As we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Tanganyika-Zanzibar Union, let us embark on this journey with unwavering determination and a unified purpose. Together, let's rise to meet the challenges, grasp the opportunities, and forge a legacy that ignites the spirit of generations to come. Let this milestone be not just a celebration, but a rallying call for a future where unity triumphs over adversity, prosperity knows no bounds, and Tanzania shines as a beacon of hope for the entire African continent.



RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

RESEARCH ENCOURAGES SWITCHING TO LOCAL SUPPLIES TO TACKLE CONSTRUCTION HURDLES

By Guardian Reporter

THE COVID-19 pandemic has had a crippling impact on the construction industry, as evidenced by a recent study highlighting the challenges faced by numerous contractors.

In response to this, a news study recommends advocating for the use of locally sourced materials to decrease reliance on imported supplies, particularly in preparation for potential future pandemics.

Additionally, the research study titled "Effects of COVID-19 on Construction Industry: A Case Study of Industry Professional Stakeholders in Tanzania," highlights the importance of fostering collaboration between industry stakeholders and the government.

Dr. Ombeni Swai from Ardhi University (ARU), emphasizes need for support and revive this vital sector of our economy. Therefore, it further suggests the establishment of a dedicated fund to offer financial assistance to firms facing challenges during unforeseen crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

demic.

A lecturer at the School of Architecture, Construction Economics and Management at ARU, Dr. Swai's study, confirmed through empirical findings that 45 percent of contractors experienced delays in completing their projects during the pandemic period.

In addition, 30 percent of contractors chose to close their offices in different locations and return to China. This decision had significant repercussions as 95 percent of their employees lost their jobs, and only 5 percent remained as security personnel to safeguard the project sites.

Dr. Swai has observed a global surge in post-pandemic studies, with a particular emphasis on the health, tourism, and economy sectors.

Moreover, in Tanzania, it has been observed that there is a significant dearth of research on the construction industry, one that plays a crucial role in the nation's economy by contributing 14.4 percent to the GDP and around 20 percent to both formal and informal projects annually.

According to the findings



A construction site. File Photo

from a survey conducted with stakeholders such as architects, contractors, engineers, quantity surveyors, realtors, and land surveyors, it was discovered that a significant 96 percent of them experienced the detrimental effects of the situation.

Specifically, 67 percent reported a decline in projects and clients, 36 percent cited disputes arising from project delays, 39 percent had to close their offices and relocate, 26 percent expressed fear to invest, and 28 percent had to shut down their operations altogether.

On the other hand, it was further reiterated that about 56 percent of the construc-

tion projects were delayed because materials such as glass, cement, steel, and aluminium and tiles were delayed and hence the delay on the completion time of the projects.

Contractors also indicated that 42 percent of their projects were not completed on time due to the delay of the finishing materials they had imported.

These were some few examples of imported construction materials that were reported by architects and contractors. It was also noted that machinery such as lifts and elevators and associated parts as well were the delayed up to a year, reported architects.

In addition, it is further

demonstrated that some of the variables that have had a delay impact on Tanzania's construction sector include the disruption of the local and global value chain and the decline in demand for commodities. The research which was released April 10 this year, have that the respondents experienced unique COVID-19 effects that when compared to the years before the pandemic, all respondents indicated a 26 percent decline in the number of projects and clients.

This report indicates that the impact of the pandemic on professionals has been significant, with a 12 percent decrease in clientele compared to previous years. As a result,

27 percent of respondents have been forced to close their operations due to financial hardships.

Additionally, there has been a decrease in the number of initiatives and investments, with 18 percent of respondents hesitant to invest in the future due to uncertainty surrounding the pandemic.

These statistics paint a clear picture of the widespread impact felt across the industry due to these challenges.

Combining the aforementioned evidences, it is clear that Tanzania, and the construction industry, in particular, was impacted by both the limited movement of construction materials within and the delay in the importation of building materials and plants from outside the country.

An independent real estate developer, Jumanne Mwesigwa, supports the study, revealing that the COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented challenges for the industry, resulting in significant job losses.

According to him, the combination of halted projects, economic uncertainty, and a sharp decline in property de-

mand created a bleak outlook for new development opportunities during this period of crisis. "These factors, along with supply chain disruptions, compelled us to make tough decisions such as laying off employees to reduce costs and ensure the survival of the business during these challenging times," shared Mwesigwa, reflecting on the difficult choices faced.

Mwesigwa was of the view that witnessing the impact of these job losses on the team was particularly distressing, as they grappled with uncertainty and financial strain amidst the ongoing crisis.

Furthermore, Mwesigwa expressed, "Despite our concerted efforts to pivot our business strategies and seek out alternative revenue streams, the prolonged effects of the pandemic made it increasingly arduous to maintain operations and retain our workforce."

The relentless nature of the crisis posed significant obstacles, making it a formidable task for the company to navigate through the tumultuous landscape and sustain its operations.

The newly launched property is poised to stimulate the Tanga Region economy

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

BUSINESS and transport stakeholders in Tanga Region are excited about the recent inauguration of the Samia Suluhu Hassan Business Centre. They believe that the new facility will serve as a catalyst for economic growth in the region by drawing in individuals from various sectors.

They elaborated on their perspectives to the Guardian reporter while standing on the sidelines of the official inauguration of the commercial property owned by the city council and attended by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

"Tanga City council has devised innovative plans for the development of an investment centre that will serve as a catalyst for the regional economy. By positioning itself as an industrial and agricultural hub, this facility has already piqued the interest of investors from diverse sectors," noted Juma Hiza, a successful businessperson with a portfolio of food processing factories.

He also mentioned that the property will become another iconic business landmark in Tanga City, featured in various TV programs and billboards.

According to Tanga City council officials, the project will include an area designated for petty traders from four



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (R) and Tanga RC Dr. Batilda Buriani officially launch the Samia Suluhu Hassan Business Center in Tanga, with other officials in attendance. Photo: Cheji Bakari

districts of the Tanga region. These traders were previously selling their goods at the Tangamano open market between Tuesday and Saturday.

City commuter buses that operate routes from various Tanga City suburbs to Kange bus terminal anticipate an increase in earnings. This is due to the expected rise in the number of passengers, as they will now be able to carry passengers traveling to other destinations beyond the bus terminal.

"I would like to congratulate, city's council mayor, director, officials and

councilors because we are now breathing sigh of relief as commuter drivers and conductors will get good number of passengers," said Joseph Issaya a commuter bus driver plying between Kange Stand and Mwakidila.

"Earlier, we only depending upcountry buses that ended their routes at Kange Terminal that gave us difficult moments to sometimes fighting ourselves for passengers," he said.

He continued saying that, due to the situation, some commuter bus owners

has ceased to operate from Kange to other streets because they managed to make at least three or four routes only on daily basis.

"Owners of the vehicles need at least 50,000/- daily; and we need to use the income we are collecting in purchasing fuels, considering that the price is not predictable. In one route, you can make about between 8,000/- to 10,000/-. So, how can you survive in such situation?" he questioned.

According to Tanga City Council civil engineer, Rajab Mchezo the investment center has 42 rooms that will be used as offices to accommodate bus owners as booking offices, restaurants, passengers awaiting lounge, shops, restaurants, conference hall and toilets.

Speaking during the official launch of the facility, Prime Minister Majaliwa cautioned Tanga City officials to abstain from any type of corruption practices, while allocating rooms and stalls to business people.

The 8.7bn/- project, was constructed opposite of Kange Bus Terminal, about ten kilometers from Tanga city centre.

The project which is at 90.7 percent of its execution has been explained by business stakeholders as will boost Tanga City economy and create job opportunities.

Property of the week



File Photo

Nestled along the vibrant expanse of Bagamoyo Road in Silicon Dar, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, stands the illustrious Vodacom Tower, epitomizing the pinnacle of modern commercial real estate.

This architectural marvel boasts a fusion of elegance and functionality, capturing the essence of contemporary design amidst a bustling metropolitan landscape.

With its strategic location in the heart of Silicon Dar, this iconic tower serves as a beacon of innovation and sophistication, setting a new standard for commercial properties in the region.

From its sleek façade to its cutting-edge amenities,

the tower stands as a testament to the harmonious blend of form and function.

As a distinguished landmark on Bagamoyo Road, this architectural gem not only symbolizes the evolution of Tanzania's real estate landscape but also offers a dynamic space where businesses can thrive and flourish.

With its unparalleled blend of style, convenience, and connectivity, Vodacom Tower redefines the essence of modern commercial real estate, inviting occupants and visitors alike to experience a world where vision and ambition converge in perfect harmony.

Property market forecast and role elections play in SA



A general view of Alexandra Township, an informal settlement for thousands of South Africans who lack the means to get a proper home, located near the upper-class suburb of Sandton in Johannesburg, South Africa.

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's property market is starting to recover, with Harry Nicolaides, CEO of Century 21 SA, pointing to signs of growth in the real estate sector.

"There has been an improvement in the rate of sales in the local property market in the first quarter of 2024 compared with the last quarter of 2023," he says.

"Interestingly, this positive phenomenon has been driven by optimistic market senti-

ment alone, as the country has not had any interest rate cuts so far this year.

"Therefore, we expect even higher sales activity the moment the interest rate cutting cycle begins which has been predicted to occur in the second half of 2024."

And while Nicolaides thinks that some potential buyers and investors are waiting to commit until after the South African general elections on Wednesday, 29 May 2024, he believes that the market is more concerned with interest

rate movement.

"Globally, the main factor affecting property prices and the demand for property is bank lending rates (mortgage interest rates or borrowing costs). A higher interest rate reduces affordability levels among buyers, so a higher interest rate environment lowers demand for property which in turn reduces property prices. Conversely lower interest rates increase demand for property which in turn, increases property prices," Nicolaides explains.

NMB FARMING FUNDS SOAR TO 1.6TRN/ AS CSR RISES TO 8BN/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

NMB Bank yesterday detailed its impactful investment in national building efforts by depicting how it bankrolls sectoral growth, funds social welfare supports the government's fiscal initiatives, and participates in advancing inclusive finance.

The lender's catalytic financing of the socio-economic development agenda in the country was outlined at the three-day 38th annual meeting of the Association of Local Authorities Tanzania in Zanzibar by Chief Executive Officer, Ruth Zaipuna.

The seasoned banker said the monumental contribution to bettering lives and aiding wealth generation would be impossible without endorsement of the government which NMB works closely with in many development facets at all levels.

"NMB Bank has partnered with the government to invest in strategic sectors, including agriculture which by last year we had financed by 1.6trn/- of which 400bn/- were soft loans extended at the interest rate of nine per cent," she told the over 500 delegates of the congress.

Zaipuna said the lender's constructive engagements in national development also include the huge corporate social



investments it makes to support communities, citing the 8bn/- set aside for 2024.

Out of that, she explained, 2.5bn/- will be used to build a special school in Dodoma and the remaining amount will be invested in the priority sectors of the bank's corporate giving policy, notably education, health, and entrepreneurship.

The NMB leader also said that the bank's other recent major corporate

philanthropy undertaking has been the Nuru Yangu Scholarship and Mentorship programme, which to date has provided scholarships to 130 bright college students hailing from poor families.

On the financial inclusion front, Zaipuna said, NMB continues relentlessly to include Tanzanians, especially those living upcountry into the formal financial sector and has recently debuted a special village banking strategy for them.

"NMB continues to take its services closer to the people and this year we launched a grand village banking scheme targeting to cover more than 1,000 villages without access to formal financial services, which initially will be served by agents," she noted in her remarks.

Implementation of the strategy has included the use of the revolutionary NMB Pesa Account service, which Ms Zaipuna said has been enthusiastically received in the market for making banking a stress-free exercise.

According to her, the popularity of the highly innovative product includes its opening digitally at only 1,000/- and fetching no monthly charges that were formerly putting off many ordinary folks from opening and owning bank accounts.

The other major merit of the account is its instant connection to NMB Mkononi which enables customers to access up to 500,000/- unsecured Mshiko Fasta digital loans without visiting an NMB branch.

"Since we officially launched it about two months ago, we have been able to open over 100,000 NMB Pesa accounts and the target is to open over 1.5 million new accounts by the end of this year," Zaipuna pointed out.

Attainment of the goal and accomplishing the noble village banking mission, she explained, is pegged on increas-

ing the number of agents who have now increased to 34,000 across the country compared to only 10,000 in 2021.

Come 2026, the lender expects this alternative banking channel and pillar of financial inclusion to comprise over 50,000 wakala.

Zaipuna lauded the government for putting in place a supportive business environment that has enabled it to continue excelling in the market, paying the rightful taxes and making mouthwatering dividend payouts to shareholders including the government.

"It is for that reason the Tanzania Revenue Authority has for the last two consecutive years recognized NMB Bank as the largest and most compliant taxpayer in the country," she stated.

In his remarks to officiate the opening of the congress, the Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Mr Mohamed Mchengera, called for stakeholders' close collaboration in the fiscal space due to the pivotal role of taxes in financing development and delivering quality services.

The cabinet minister who represented President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan challenged LGAs to set realistic revenue targets and employ creative measures in collecting the tax incomes.

Stakeholders gathered to push for organic agriculture

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

STAKEHOLDERS in the agro-ecology agriculture subsector have met in Dodoma to deliberate on viable ways of pushing for the effective development of the key sector.

Attracted several stakeholders, the gathering was tailored to provide key podium for the participants to hatch useful inputs toward implementation of the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NEOAS- 2024/2025).

Tanzania stands among countries across the continent with recommended weather and soil to support agroecology cultivation, but the sector is however facing some challenges which need to be addressed.

Speaking at the forum which convened under the auspices of the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) the Director of Policy and Planning in the Ministry of Agriculture, Obadia Nyagiro, said the government was realising and working seriously to advance performance of organic agriculture in the country.

He expressed, organic agriculture plays key role in help improving productivity in crops production in the country.

"Through this program, the farmers will be trained on proper agronomic practices in order to



stand a professional chance to cultivate effectively," he said.

He insisted, the strategy is based on the agriculture policy which among others directs the issues of setting up the production system, access to markets and identifying organic agricultural products.

"This strategy was launched last year, and we're gathering here for the purpose of setting a crucial road map to ensure we implement it very fruitful," he said.

And in his speech, he urged civil society organizations and the private sector to chip in and invest largely in the agriculture sector.

"I encourage the private sec-

tor and civil organizations to go through and see the opportunity to invest in this area because its productivity is high including increasing income, if you go through other countries you will see those who have invested in this agriculture and its productivity and it is important that our plans focus on sustainable agriculture behavior change in the country," he said.

On his side, Chairman of TOAM, Dr. Mwatima Juma said that agriculture aims to have sufficient production, protect health and soil by eliminating the use of chemicals.

"Agriculture using chemicals started 100 years ago after the end

of the second world war where the production of chemical fertilizers, chemical pesticides seemed to help us produce more food, we were motivated that using chemicals is the modern thing and unfortunately we stopped our natural agriculture where someone used to grow coffee in which he has pulses, beans, sorghum are all produced well and he has a cow and he throws fertilizer in his field."

"We mobilized to have large farms to cultivate one crop, to spray drugs. Years have gone by and when we arrived, I personally said that we should apologize to the farmers for the places we sent them, especially the small farmers, it is not appropriate. There is a type of farming that they can cultivate without reducing production, without having problems with food and sell on local and foreign markets," he said.

He pointed out that the agriculture will help Tanzanians get rid of various diseases including fertility, cancer as they are caused by the use of chemicals in agriculture.

In his remarks, Paul Holmbeck from the Biovision Foundation spoke over how other countries implement agriculture, highlighted over the need for scientists and international agricultural organizations to venture into the sector so as to attain food security.

India requested to assist farmers with improved seeds

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

INDIA has been requested to help Tanzanian farmers to secure improved seeds that will allow them to boost crop yields and quality grains fitting for exports markets.

Jayesh Shah, managing director, Sumaria Group made the request recently when speaking about rebooting India-Tanzania Partnership and role of Indian Diaspora in Tanzania in consolidating economic ties.

He said availability of high quality seeds will also help farmers to have stable profit and give them and their families the best opportunity to boost yields and incomes.

"There is a need to support Tanzania because 60 percent of people still living in rural areas are mainly engaged in agriculture sector, but the problem is that they don't have quality of seeds and technology to restore their produce, reduce post-harvest losses and prevent aflatoxins," he said.

"India has role to support Tanzanian agriculture sector through technology transfer and other issues relating to farming activities."

Currently, Africa including Tanzania has the potential to boost global food security, as it harbours 65 percent of the world's remaining uncultivated arable land.

"As a result, it's a time for Indians to see how can help Tanzania to bring new technology they have in Tanzania and help farmers to improve their livelihoods," he said.

Elaborating on what Indian can do in water sector, he said India can also see how can help people living in rural areas to secure clean and safe drinking water and even allow industries such as agriculture and manufacturing to flourish.

"If you go to villages in different regions across the country you can see women and children walk long distance to collect water for their families because their water sources in other areas

have dried up while others is very far from their localities and is not safe," he said.

He lauded Indian government for what has been done to support Tanzanians access safe drinking water to millions of Tanzanians, but majority of people especially in rural areas they still need more support.

"Let us support Tanzanians because Tanzania and India have been in a good bilateral relationship since early 1960's," he said.

The relationship to a large extent was fueled by ideological inclination such as the stance and struggles against colonialism, the fight against racism and the desire to forming an egalitarian societies premised on the principles of socialism.

The official diplomatic relationship between India and Tanzania started on November 19th 1961 when the High Commission of India was established in Dar es Salaam, and Consulate General of the India in Zanzibar was established on October 23th 1997.

Such a diplomatic tie has been sustained by various reciprocal state visits from both countries.

According to Secretary (Economic Relations) in Ministry of External Affairs of India Dammu Ravi, Tanzania is one of India's major development assistance partners in Africa and India has committed over US\$1 billion in water sector to Tanzania.

"As part of this commitment, we are implementing water projects in various towns of Tanzania. Works for about USD 500 million have completed or are at advance stage of completion in Dar es Salaam, Chalinze region, Tabora, Igunga, Nzega, Tinde, Shelui and Zanzibar etc. Contracts for another US\$500 million for water sector projects under Government of India Lines of Credit have been signed on 6 June 2022. Work on the projects in 24 towns is about to start, totaling India's commitment of over 1 billion in water supply projects," he said.

Financial institutions ought to use digital systems in loan issuance - TAMFI

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT), requires financial institutions providing loans to individuals and groups to adopt digital systems to prevent fraud and mitigate financial risks, ensuring a secure and efficient lending process.

Yesterday, Winnie Terry, the Director General of the Tanzania Union of Financial Institutions (TAMFI), emphasized the importance of utilizing digital systems in loan issuance during the launch of the partnership between TAMFI and WAKANDI, an institute specializing in digital financial systems.

Addressing the audience in Dar es Salaam, Winnie emphasized that digital financial systems play a crucial role in maintaining transparent records and fostering trust among stakeholders, ultimately reducing complaints and minimizing the risk of fraud.

He said in this period that the Government has returned loans

to women, young people, the disabled and special groups, it is good for borrowers to unite and use digital systems in borrowing and returning the loans.

"The directives of the central bank require all financial institutions to use digital systems in their operations, and we at TAMFI encourage our members to implement these requirements. Currently, the government loans have been returned and the government has requested that the loans be issued using digital systems," said Winnie.

Furthermore, Daudi Boazi, the Manager of Wakandi institution in Tanzania, emphasized the importance of digital systems in today's world. He stated, "The use of digital systems is like a flood and is never stopped in today's world; financial institutions should embrace these systems in their activities."

"All microfinance institutions must follow the BoT procedure. We at Kandi are preparing these systems for institutions like this.

The world is moving towards digitalization, and this will greatly help financial institutions modernize while maintaining accurate records," added Boazi.

Boazi also mentioned the benefits of using digital systems for group loans. He highlighted: "Group loans, by their unity, allow groups that borrow for lending to each other to use digital systems where all information becomes clear and simplifies the way to recover the loans digitally."

Rehema Bashir, a user of the digital systems from Zumra Finance institution, shared her experience with the transition to digital systems.

She stated: "Since our institution moved to digital systems, it has greatly simplified the work and allowed us to closely monitor loan debts. Currently, we do not give loans through paperwork; everything is done in a digital system. Even when customers want to repay loans, they can do so digitally

CONSTRUCTION

ENGINEERED WOOD CAN DECARBONIZE THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

By Eduardo Souza

AT a time when sustainability and ESG (environmental, social, and governance) concerns are prevalent, there is a crucial need to focus on a sector that accounts for 38 percent of all global CO₂ emissions and consumes 30 percent of global resources: the construction industry. In 2022, at COP27, the United Nations announced the Clean Construction Accelerator, a program with actions designed to reduce greenhouse gas production by up to 50 percent by 2030. A report by ARUP and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development suggests that half of building emissions come from embodied carbon, which is generated in the manufacturing and transportation of materials, not just in construction sites and buildings themselves. It is precisely in this scenario that we see an opportunity for the sector. What is the only renewable material in construction that retains carbon instead of emitting it? Wood.

When thinking of wood, another question tends to arise: "How can wood be sustainable if we need to cut down trees for it?" Ana Belizário, the Commercial Director of Urbem, a large-scale Brazilian mass timber industry, explains throughout this article how planting trees specifically for consumption is not only a sustainable alternative but also an



excellent practice in combating the climate crisis and can regenerate the construction sector.

The activity of the forestry industry—also known as silviculture—is the regular planting of forests, usually intended for a specific commercial use. It emerged in the late 18th century in Germany and has since developed on a global scale, producing forests of various ages, species, and uses.

In Brazil, this activity began in a structured manner in the late 1960s, when the development of the Brazilian industry began to demand a large amount of wood,

which was used as a fuel source. The introduction of the forestry industry during this period was a strategy for producing abundant, available, and controlled raw materials as an alternative to extracting native Amazonian wood.

As a strategy for accessing raw materials, its ultimate goal is the preservation of original biomes, usually older and more complex ones, i.e. replacing non-renewable with renewable raw materials. For example, when we plant forests to build buildings, we avoid the removal of stone and sand from the environment, which cannot be replaced or re-

generated.

The most commonly used species to produce structural timber for construction (or mass timber) are conifers, which have good structural strength, low density, and rapid growth. They work particularly well in the manufacturing stages of structural elements, such as sawing, drying, gluing, finishing, and connector installation.

One of the most important ecological balance strategies for planted forests is combined management; that is, in forestry planting areas, conservation or restoration of the related origi-

nal biome is required by Brazilian legislation. In the case of pine forests, the associated biome will always be the Atlantic Forest.

Recalling the complex network of Brazilian biomes, pine forestry in the southern and southeastern regions of the country, in practice, acts as a protection strategy against Amazon deforestation, as it supplies enough wood to meet the various demands of contemporary civilization.

Silviculture also avoids the extraction of ores, rocks, and sand—non-renewable resources that must be consumed strategically to always be available. The exponential growth of populations and, consequently, the cities that we need to accommodate this increase in the coming decades require us to think about alternative solutions that can be sustained in the long term.

Furthermore, as trees grow, the carbon dioxide used in photosynthesis is removed from the atmosphere and stored inside the wood. When producing cement or steel, we need to burn fossil fuels, which release high amounts of carbon into the atmosphere during the production process. Thus, silviculture can be seen as a major sectoral strategy for mitigating carbon emissions from the construction industry.

Apart from all these benefits

for the sector, the forestry industry also has the power to restore degraded areas (which have been exhausted after economical use without environmental preservation strategies), which in Brazil represent a huge portion of the territory.

A planted forest helps to restore the soil, replenish groundwater, and increase air humidity. If associated with areas designated for Atlantic Forest regeneration, planted forests can help reverse environmental degradation through economically impactful and sustainable long-term activities.

For all the reasons mentioned above, planting trees to construct buildings is one of the most effective strategies for decarbonizing the construction industry today. As mentioned earlier, mass timber begins to store carbon even before construction starts, unlike other building materials, making it start as carbon-negative, with the rest of the construction contributing to a sustainable outcome in the end.

This proves that despite the construction sector currently being the highest polluter, there are still means and methods to be explored, making it increasingly sustainable and environmentally beneficial for the planet.

Airtel emerges most preferred service provider - TCRA survey

By Correspondent James Kandoya

AIRTEL Tanzania has been recognized as the most preferred service provider among consumers, according to the latest report from the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) for the quarter ending in March 2024.

The report indicated a noteworthy improvement in Airtel's Quality of Service performance, with Airtel securing the top spot at 97.2 percent, followed by Halotel at 94.9 percent and Tigo at 94.8 percent.

Establishing itself as a front-runner in the industry, the report disclosed that Airtel achieved a substantial market share of 38 percent for on-net calls and 30 percent for off-net calls.

Furthermore, the report unveiled that a majority of voice minutes were spent on on-net calls, constituting 53 percent, as opposed to off-net calls at 47 per-

cent.

This suggests that customers prefer making calls within the same network, fostering a robust, interconnected community that benefits from a diverse range of quality products and services.

Commenting on the findings, Airtel Tanzania CEO, Dinesh Balsingh, stated: "Our vast portfolio of affordable services makes Airtel the most reliable operator in the country.

He said that the competitive services were undisputed being the most used network across the country.

He said Airtel provides tailor-made solutions that not only attract local consumers but also position us as an instrumental force in facilitating and enabling business operations within and outside the country."

The CEO emphasized that 'Airtel Tanzania remains dedicated to enhancing its network infrastructure, offering innovative

services, and delivering an unparalleled customer experience to meet the evolving communication needs of Tanzanians.

"We are keen to continue connecting Tanzania with a reliable network at the center of our operations, results cement Airtel's efforts in bridging the digital divide to effectively connect communities across Tanzania," he said.

He said the report was the outcome of Airtel's leadership position in traffic share comes as no surprise based on Airtel's commitment to digitize Tanzania.

He said the company provides tailor-made solutions that not only attract local consumers but also position them as an instrumental force in facilitating and enabling business operations within and outside the country.

The company is committed to providing telecommunications solutions, including mobile money, voice, and data services.

DR Congo goes pressing Apple over minerals supply chain, lawyers say

KINSHASA

Democratic Republic of Congo is pushing Apple Inc for information about its supply chain over concerns it may be tainted with conflict minerals sourced from the country, international lawyers engaged by Congo said on Thursday.

Congo, particularly its eastern region, has been plagued by violence since the 1990s, killing millions as struggles over national identity, ethnicity, and resources saw neighbouring countries invade and a myriad of armed groups spring up.

Conflict has arisen over the control of illicit trade in tin and

gold as well as in coltan and tantalum - widely used in cell phones and computers - all mined in Congo before being smuggled out through neighbouring Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi.

In September 2023, Congo President Felix Tshisekedi met with international law firm Amsterdam & Partners LLP to investigate the supply chain of tin, tungsten and tantalum - known as 3T minerals - due to concerns about illegal exports, the law firm said.

It said it had notified Apple CEO Tim Cook on Monday of a series of questions based on fears about its supply chain and also wrote to Apple subsidiaries in France,

demanding answers within three weeks.

"Although Apple has affirmed that it verifies the origins of minerals it uses to manufacture its products, those claims do not appear to be based on concrete, verifiable evidence," Amsterdam said in a statement on Thursday.

"The world's eyes are wide shut: Rwanda's production of key 3T minerals is near zero, and yet big tech companies say their minerals are sourced in Rwanda," it said.

Apple did not immediately reply to an emailed request for comment. The company, which does not directly purchase, procure or source primary minerals, has

been openly auditing its suppliers for several years and publishing its findings.

In a report last year, it said that 100% of identified smelters and refiners in the supply chain for all applicable Apple products manufactured in 2023 had participated in an independent third-party conflict minerals audit for 3T minerals and gold (3TG).

"We found no reasonable basis for concluding that any of the smelters or refiners of 3TG determined to be in our supply chain as of December 31, 2023 directly or indirectly financed or benefited armed groups in the DRC or an adjoining country," the Apple report said.

The green building movement in Africa is thriving with EDGE making a huge impact

By Cecilia Andrade

With more than 4.6 million square meters of EDGE-certified floor space throughout the continent, many African countries are expanding their green building markets. With building stock expected to double in Africa by 2050.

Much of this demand will be driven by population growth. According to the UN, the population in the region will grow by 315 million people between 2021 and 2030.

Considering that buildings account for nearly 40 percent of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions annually, new housing projects must incorporate sustainability measures to ensure that these homes are resource-efficient and provide savings in utility bills for their owners and tenants.

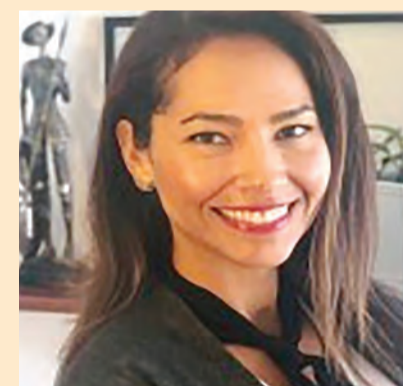
Not only that, studies show that a family can spend up to 25 percent of their income on utilities. This underscores the growing need to offer green affordable housing to millions of African families, particularly in countries with a large gap in affordable homes and where energy demand is driving up this cost.

Expanding financing for green housing

IFC has partnered with several financial institutions to issue bonds or provide loans to expand financing for green housing across the region. For example, IFC's provided a loan of up to \$124 million to help expand Absa's affordable housing mortgage portfolio in South Africa, reaching thousands of home buyers.

Additionally, IFC partnered with Nedbank as the anchor investor of \$32.6 million in Africa's first green bond by a commercial bank focused on green residential housing developments. Other banks, including housing development financier Shelter Afrique, Standard Bank and Access Bank, are betting big on green financing to fund green housing projects across Africa.

Globally, institutional investors, banks, and real estate fund managers are taking their cue from the European Union's green



Rehoboth Knightsbridge by Rehoboth properties was the first affordable housing project to receive a preliminary EDGE certification in Ghana and consists of 1,500 housing units.

Kenya

The Mvule Gardens by 14 Trees development is the first EDGE certified, 3D-printed residential development in Africa. The project achieved 42 percent of savings in energy reaching the EDGE Advanced category.

Read the latest Green Building Market Intelligence Reports from Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa. These Green Building Market Snapshots are a summary of key market indicators based on IFC's research on policy environment, building construction, and Green Building certification and finance.

Egypt

Green building developments are growing in Egypt with IFC's \$100 million investment in Commercial International Bank (CIB)'s green bond, the first private sector green bond in Egypt. IFC's team has been providing technical support and training to CIB's developer clients to certify their projects with EDGE.

While new building stock is an essential part of continued green building growth across Africa, it is not the only way to join the path to Net Zero Carbon. 75 percent of existing buildings will still be in use by 2050.

This means that green retrofits will play a vital role in achieving global climate goals and must be incorporated into Zero Carbon planning for every country and company worldwide.

By taking measures to go green with the existing building stock via the EDGE Retrofit Protocol, asset owners can meet their sustainability goals regardless of plans for new construction.

Cecilia Andrade (pictured), excels as a Senior Consultant in Strategic Communications for Climate Business at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), specializing in the renowned EDGE Green Building Program.

taxonomy. Countries, including South Africa, are preparing similar green taxonomies to best position their markets for international investment. This approach will encourage widespread adoption of the EU's quantitative approach to defining green buildings, thereby incentivizing certified green projects in many countries that will follow.

EDGE is growing in Africa

With more than 4.6 million square meters of EDGE-certified floor space throughout the continent, many African countries are expanding their green building markets. EDGE is being used by a variety of developers that are not only positioning themselves as leaders in the real estate sector, but also are successful in accessing better financing conditions to build their portfolios.

South Africa

An EDGE Champion and a Zero Carbon Pledger, Balwin Properties in South Africa has certified 1.7 million square meters of green homes. Balwin partnered with Absa bank to develop South Africa's first green mortgage to provide home buyers with preferential rates for purchasing a green home.

Nedbank, FNB, and Standard Bank are also taking action in green housing developments, to create similar green mortgage products for buyers of green homes. Over 42,000 homes have been certified with EDGE in South Africa since 2015.

Ghana

The first EDGE-certified affordable housing project in Northern Ghana, the Lahagu Housing project consists of 100 two-bedroom homes developed by REALL.

WORLD

Envoy: Israeli attacks on UNRWA without proof unacceptable

UNITED NATIONS

ISRAEL'S attacks without solid evidence on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) are unacceptable, a Chinese envoy said Wednesday.

Israel made serious accusations against UNRWA over links to terrorism for which no evidence has yet been shared. China is concerned about this, said Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations.

"China reiterates that, without solid evidence, it is unacceptable to attack UNRWA maliciously and even make false accusations against the entire UN system," he told the Security Council.

An independent review panel led by former French foreign minister Catherine Colonna has released its final report, which says UNRWA has had in place for many years a significant number of robust mechanisms to ensure UNRWA's neutrality and its ability to respond to and hold those accountable for noncompliance in a timely

manner, and UNRWA has far more such mechanisms than any other UN agencies, Geng noted.

"At this point, the debate on UNRWA's neutrality shall come to an end. We urge all countries to resume funding for UNRWA as soon as possible and to refrain from using any pretext to impose additional collective punishment on the population of Gaza," he said.

To guarantee aid delivery by humanitarian agencies is the responsibility of the occupying power. Hunger can not be used as a weapon and relief can not be politicized, he said.

China is deeply concerned about the continued worsening of the humanitarian disaster in Gaza, said Geng.

It has been 200 days since the outbreak of the Gaza conflict. In these 200 days, the world has seen the spread of hunger and famine, the collapse of the health care system, the loss of innocent lives, and the desperate struggle of millions of people on the brink of death, he said.

"There is no justification for prolonging



Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, speaks during a UN Security Council meeting at UN headquarters, on March 28, 2024. XINHUA

this conflict, and there's no excuse for the killing of civilians. The international community must assemble all efforts to mitigate the disaster, save lives and end the conflict," Geng said.

Security Council Resolutions 2712, 2720 and 2728, and the two International Court of Justice orders on provisional measures all explicitly call for greater humanitarian access. But they have never been effectively implemented and humanitarian assistance continues to encounter various man-made restrictions. If this continues, it will definitely result in more civilian deaths from famine and disease, he said.

"We urge Israel to open all land crossings to guarantee a rapid and safe delivery of humanitarian supplies at scale into Gaza and their safe and orderly distribution within Gaza to those in dire need," he said.

China once again calls on the

Security Council to push for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, said Geng.

More than six months of harsh reality has made it abundantly clear that a Gaza under fire does not have the conditions needed for aid delivery. Security Council Resolution 2728, which calls for a ceasefire in Gaza, is indisputably binding, and all member states are obligated to implement it, he said.

"We are gravely concerned about Israel's frequent bombardments of Gaza in recent days. We urge Israel to immediately cease all military operations against Gaza and abandon its offensive plan on Rafah," he said. "Countries with significant influence on Israel should be impartial and play an active role in realizing a ceasefire."

China supports the council in taking further actions to ensure the implementation of Resolution 2728, said Geng.

Xinhua

Pakistan's ties with Mideast strengthen

HONG KONG

THE latest visits of senior officials from Iran and Saudi Arabia show the further strengthening of bilateral relations between Pakistan and countries in the Arabian Peninsula and the wider Middle East to seek solutions to common challenges, experts say.

They added, however, that although both sides can benefit from the emerging partnerships, it would not be seen positively in Washington, which may throw up some obstacles.

"The ongoing Israel-Palestine war, Russia-Ukraine conflict, the US unilateral sanctions on Pak-Iran dream gas pipeline ... and constant economic protectionism along with newly coined decoupling and delinking parameters encourage both sides to further strengthen their relationships," said Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, executive director of the Center for South Asia and International Studies in Islamabad.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi wrapped up, on April 24, a three-day visit to Pakistan, during which both sides agreed to increase the volume of bilateral trade to \$10 billion in the next five years, according to a statement from the Pakistani Prime Minister's Office.

It is reported to be the first visit of a head of state to the South Asian nation after its new government took charge.

Earlier on Monday, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Raisi agreed to co-



This handshake photograph taken on April 22, 2024, and released by Pakistan's Press Information Department (PID) shows Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi (left) shakes hands with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival at the Prime Minister House in Islamabad. AFP

operate in developing joint approaches to confront common challenges, including the threat of terrorism, said the statement.

"Raisi's visit has certainly accentuated bilateral relations" and "despite earlier tensions, recent engagements suggest a thaw in Iran-Pakistan relations, emblematic of Pakistan's commitment to regional harmony", said Imran Khalid, an international affairs commentator and freelance writer based in Karachi, Pakistan.

Strengthened Iran-Pakistan ties will not only promote regional stability but also facilitate a joint counterterrorism framework, which will benefit all stakeholders, he added.

Nonetheless, "Washington's subtle warnings to Pakistan regarding its growing ties with Tehran cast a shadow", he said. "This unilateral stance underscores US interventionism, contrasting with its Middle East policies."

Last week, Pakistani prime

minister Sharif also held a phone talk with the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to discuss the enhancement of cooperation to counter challenges associated with climate change, according to the Pakistan prime minister's office.

Both leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation in multifaceted areas, the prime minister's office said.

A high-level Saudi delegation led by Saudi Arabia Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud visited Pakistan from April 15 to 16. The two sides agreed to further promote economic cooperation and convert the strong partnership into a strategic partnership for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

"Pakistan's renewed push to strengthen economic, commercial and investment ties with the Middle Eastern nations is a continuity of Islam-

abad's approach of 'Regional Recalibration' of its foreign policy, being pursued for the past several years," said Irfan Shahzad Takalvi, founder of the Eurasian Century Institute in Islamabad.

According to Takalvi, there is a strong realization among policymakers in Islamabad that close ties with regional partners - particularly in investment, commercial and energy arenas - is the need of the hour and 'the way forward' for the nation.

"Luckily, the desire is reciprocal and countries in the Arabian Peninsula as well as the wider Middle East are expressing keen interest to join hands with Pakistan. Saudi Arabia, Iran, the UAE, Qatar and others are working with Pakistan to build mutually win-win partnerships," Takalvi noted, adding that the same time he hopes that the days of coercion and diktat from the West can be over.

Pakistan has been strength-

ening its ties with Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia, which is very important for several reasons, said Gokhan Erel, Gulf Studies coordinator at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, in Turkey.

He noted that, "on top of the economic help, there's also cooperation on security matters." Besides, these improved relationships can "influence how Pakistan interacts with other regional players like Iran and India, helping Pakistan balance its regional diplomacy," Erel added.

Khan, at the Center for South Asia and International Studies, added that Pakistan has been a staunch supporter of countries in the Middle East, mainly Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and many others for a long period of time.

He said Pakistan's economic survival has been directly linked to its workers' remittances and foreign direct investments from the Gulf Cooperation Countries Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

One of the key factors in the further strengthening of bilateral relations between Pakistan and countries in the Middle East, however, is "China's mediated diplomatic miracle of the 21st century, in terms of the resumption of socio-economic and geopolitical realignment between the two regional heavyweights, Saudi Arabia and Iran, which provided the strategic cushion for Pakistan to play safe by matching the wish list of both the arch rivals", Khan said.

Agencies

Vibrant Q1 consumption mirrors China's economic stamina

BEIJING

CHINA'S economic outlook remains positive as the country's consumer spending surged in the first quarter (Q1) of 2024, signaling a strong contribution to domestic demand and overall economic growth.

China's retail sales of consumer goods, a major indicator of the country's consumption strength, climbed 4.7 percent year on year in Q1 2024, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Analysts believe that the sustained growth in consumer spending is a testament to China's economic resilience and the effectiveness of policy measures aimed at stimulating domestic demand.

According to a research note by Zhongtai Securities, the per capita disposable income of Chinese residents reached 11,539 yuan (about 1,625 U.S. dollars) in Q1, with per capita consumer spending hitting 7,299 yuan.

The marginal propensity to consume, measured by the ratio of consumption expenditure to disposable income, stood at 63.3 percent, marking a new high since 2020.

Yuekai Securities echoed the optimism, noting that China's economy has continued to show signs of recovery, underpinned by improvements in supply and demand. The business expectations index within the purchasing managers' index (PMI) data pointed upwards, reflecting a gradual restoration of confidence among microeconomic entities.

The demand structure revealed that service consumption, high-end manufacturing investment, and infrastructure investment were the main drivers, said Yuekai Securities in a research note.

The total retail sales of consumer goods experienced a monthly growth rate of 0.03 percent, 0.01 percent, and 0.26 percent for January, February, and March, respectively, with a significant acceleration in March, the note said.

"China's economic recovery is primarily attributed to three factors: the resilience of a large economy, a long industrial chain, and distinct advantages of economies of scale," said Yuekai Securities.

Service consumption emerged as one of the highlights of the Q1 data.

As Sheng Laiyun, deputy head of the NBS, told a press conference, service consumption contributed 55.7 percent to economic growth in Q1.

The number of trips made during the Spring Festival holiday jumped 34.3 percent year on year, exceeding that of the same period in 2019. Tourism consumption during the holiday also surpassed the level seen in the same period in 2019, official data showed.

Great Wall Securities analyst Jiang Fei noted that in the first quarter, the manufacturing sector showed relative strength in investment, and infrastructure investment demonstrated resilience. On the consumer front, the enthusiasm for travel and tourism among residents has driven consumption in related industries."

A recent forecast by Trip.com, a prominent online travel agency, anticipates a steady increase in travel enthusiasm during the upcoming Labor Day holiday over last year's high base levels.

Wang Guanhua, spokesperson for the NBS, emphasized the importance of consumption in stimulating and expanding domestic demand.

"China has an ultra-large consumer market with a population of over 1.4 billion," Wang said. "The potential for consumption is vast, and its resilience is our greatest strength and source of confidence."

Xinhua

India, Japan hold consultations on disarmament, non-proliferation and export control

TOKYO

THE 10th round of India-Japan consultations on disarmament, non-proliferation and export control was held in Tokyo on April 24, 2024, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) informed in a press release.

The two sides exchanged views on developments in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation relating to nuclear, chemical and biological domains, outer space security, non-proliferation issues, conventional weapons and export control, the MEA also said.

The Indian delegation was led by Muanpui Saiawi, Joint Secretary (Disarmament and International Security Affairs), Ministry of External Affairs, while the Japanese delegation was led by Katsuro Kitagawa, Director General for Disarmament, Non-proliferation and Science Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the press release added.

ANI

Equipment upgrades expected to create 5-trillion-yuan market in China

CHINA recently pledged a new round of large-scale equipment upgrades and trade-in of consumer goods in an action plan released by the State Council.

The action plan specifies tasks in four sectors, namely equipment renewal, consumer goods trade-in, used goods recycling, and standard leveling-up.

Equipment upgrades enjoy enormous market potential. According to the statistics released by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China, the amount of investment in equipment across crucial sectors, including the industrial and agriculture sectors, reached approximately 4.9 trillion yuan

(\$676.52 billion) in 2023. With the further advancement of high-quality development in China, the demand for equipment upgrades will get stronger, creating an enormous market worth more than 5 trillion yuan annually.

Take the industrial sector as an example. The total industrial added value in China, a major industrial country, hit 39.9 trillion yuan last year, accounting for 31.7 percent of its GDP.

"The ongoing development of new industrialization will lead to an increased demand for advanced equipment in the industrial sector, making the sector a key area for large-scale equipment upgrades,"

said Yu Xiaohui, head of the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology.

Some industrial enterprises in China are still using outdated and inefficient equipment that have served beyond their designed lifespan. As industries quicken their upgrade processes, such equipment needs to be replaced and upgraded.

In recent years, China's new energy industry has experienced rapid development, with a large number of wind power and photovoltaic devices being employed. Some of these devices would be removed once they surpass their expected lifespan.

According to estimates, by the end of the 14th Five-Year Plan period

(2021-2025), the total capacity of outdated wind farms that have served over 20 years in China will exceed 1.2 million kilowatts. Starting from 2030, photovoltaic modules will also enter a period of intensive scrapping. The capacity of waste PV modules to be recycled is expected to hit 17.8 million kilowatts in 2030.

Currently, the Chinese economy is showing signs of steady recovery and improvement, even in the face of insufficient effective demand and weak social expectations.

An official with the NDRC said that promoting large-scale equipment upgrades can not only boost consumption and investment but also increase advanced production capacity, im-

prove productivity, promote energy conservation and carbon reduction, and reduce safety hazards. It benefits both enterprises and the people.

In Wuhan, central China's Hubei province, China Railway Construction Corporation Limited (CRCC) has built the largest service base for tunnel boring machines (TBM) in central China, with an annual production capacity of 60 units. Old models and outdated machines that have been retired or do not meet technological specifications and energy consumption standards can be upgraded there.

Recently, CRCC decided to expand the TBM service base so as to enlarge its capacity. "Before the end of the

first quarter, our whole-year schedule has been fully occupied," said Zhang Kunfeng, general manager of Wuhan heavy equipment company of China Railway 11th Bureau Group Corporation.

Equipment upgrades create business opportunities. "For enterprises, equipment upgrades can be achieved through either purchasing new machines or retrofitting existing ones," said Zhang.

The cost of retrofitting is usually much lower than purchasing new equipment, he added. According to him, the cost of retrofitting a TBM is only 20 to 25 percent of what it would cost to buy a new one.

People's Daily

ECI takes cognizance of alleged MCC violations by PM Modi, Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI

THE Election Commission of India has taken cognizance of alleged Model Code of Conduct violations by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Both BJP and INC had raised allegations of causing hatred and division based on religion, caste, community, or language.

ECI has invoked section 77 of the Representation of the People Act and held party presidents responsible, as a first step, to reign in star campaigners.

MCC allegations against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Rahul Gandhi are exchanged with BJP President JP Nadda and INC President Mallikarjuna Kharge as a first step. ECI has sought a response by 11 AM on April 29.

"Political parties will have to take primary responsibility for the conduct of their candidates, star campaigners in particular. Campaign speeches by those holding high positions are of more serious consequences," said the Election Commission.

The BJP on Monday alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was making a false claim about the rise in poverty in the country and urged the Election Commission to take "strict action" against him.

Lodging a complaint with the poll panel, the BJP also accused Gandhi of



continuing to create a North-South divide in the country on the basis of language and region to vitiate the poll atmosphere.

The Congress approached the poll body on Monday and formally lodged a complaint seeking action against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The only available remedy compatible with the principle of zero tolerance towards allegations of corrupt practices, is the disqualification of the candidates who try to create a divide between different classes of the citizens of India regardless of the stature or position of that candidate," the Congress memorandum had said.

The first phase of the seven phase Lok Sabha elections concluded on April 19. The second phase of polls will get underway on April 26. The other phases are scheduled for May 7, May 13, May 20, May 25 and June 1. Results of all the 543 Lok Sabha seats will be announced on June 4.

ANI

Stable growth of China's economy adds certainty to global economic landscape: senior statistics official

BEIJING

CHINA'S economic performance achieved a "good start" in the first quarter of 2024, bringing certainty to the volatile global economic landscape, according to a guest speaker at the fourth episode of the China Economic Roundtable, an all-media talk platform hosted by Xinhua News Agency.

The global economic landscape will still see a year full of uncertainty, with complicated international environment, frequent geopolitical conflicts, and the trend of high inflation, high debt pressure, high interest rates and low economic growth remaining unchanged, said Wang Guanhua, spokesperson of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Against this backdrop, China's GDP expanded 5.3 percent in the first quarter from the same period of 2023, compared with a 5.2-percent overall growth registered last year and above the annual growth target of around 5 percent set for this year, NBS data showed.

The country's first-quarter foreign trade scale exceeded 10 trillion yuan (about 1.41 trillion U.S. dollars) during the same period for the first time, expanding five percent from a year ago, with the growth being a six-quarter high.

Commenting on the data, Wang said that the robust performance reflected the fact that the fundamentals of China's macroeconomy remained solid, and the economy had grown strong with sturdier "muscles and bones" through transformation and upgrades.

"On a global scale, the country has retained a leading position among the world's major economies, and continued to serve as an important engine and stabilizer for the global economy," Wang added.

Xinhua

UAE Cabinet allocates AED2 billion to stand by UAE citizens with rain-damaged homes

ABU DHABI

THE UAE Cabinet has approved an AED2 billion package to address the damage suffered by the citizens' homes during the recent severe weather conditions.

A ministerial committee has been tasked with assessing the damage and disbursing compensations in coordination with federal and local authorities.

This was announced during a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, chaired by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

The cabinet commended the efforts of government and emergency response teams, as well as volunteers and the public for tackling the challenges and coming together for the sake of the nation.

Sheikh Mohammed said, "We approved an allocation of AED2 billion to address the damage suffered by citizens' homes."

A ministerial committee has been tasked with overseeing this file. With the follow-up and support of my brother, President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, life returned to normal quickly."

He added, "We formed a committee to assess the damage caused by the floods and rain on the infrastructure and to propose solutions and measures at the national level."

The committee is chaired by the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and includes members from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, the National Emergency of Crisis and Disaster Management Authority and other federal entities as well as representatives from all the seven emirates.

"The central operation rooms dealt with more than 200,000 reports with participation from over 17,000 mem-

bers from security, emergency and interior personnel, 15,000 from local authorities and thousands of volunteers to manage the consequences of this exceptional weather event.

"The exceptional weather event turned out to be a blessing for us. The dams filled up, the valleys flowed with rainwater and the underground water reserves replenished. We enhanced our readiness and preparedness, making us better prepared for the future."

The Cabinet also reviewed updates of the UAE Tourism Strategy and the major achievements of the sector.

The total number of hotel guests reached 28 million in 2023, an increase of 11 per cent from the previous year. The tourism sector's contribution to GDP is approaching AED180 billion in 2023, according to the UAE Government Media Office.

Held at Qasr Al Watan, the Cabinet meeting was attended by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court, Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; and Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior.

ANI



This was announced during a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, chaired by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai

Acute hunger affects 281.6 million people last year, says UN report

UNITED NATIONS

DANGEROUS levels of acute hunger affected a staggering 281.6 million people last year - the fifth year in a row that food insecurity has worsened, UN agencies warned on Wednesday.

According to the latest Global Report on Food Crises, more than one in five people in 59 countries faced acute food insecurity in 2023, compared with around just one in 10 in 48 countries in 2016.

"When we talk about acute food insecurity, we are talking about hunger so severe that it poses an immediate threat to people's livelihoods and lives."

This is hunger that threatens to slide into famine and cause widespread death," said Dominique Burgeon, Director of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Liaison Office in Geneva.

The report - a joint initiative involving FAO, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) - found that although the overall percentage of people defined as dangerously food insecure last year was 1.2 percent lower than in 2022, the problem has worsened significantly since the COVID-19 crisis.

When the coronavirus hit in late 2019, around one in six people in 55 countries faced worrying food insecurity levels, compared with one in five just a year later, the Global Report on Food Crises indicates.

Food crises escalated alarmingly in 2023, the report's authors noted, citing particular concerns over Gaza and Sudan today "where people are clearly dying of hunger," said Gian Carlo Cirri, WFP Director, Geneva office.

After nearly seven months of Israeli bombardment, "people cannot meet even the most basic food needs."

They have exhausted all coping strategies, like eating animal fodder, begging, selling off their belongings to buy food. They are most of the time destitute and clearly some of them are dying of hunger," Cirri said.

The only way to halt the famine is to ensure daily deliveries of food supplies "in a very short time," the WFP official told journalists in Geneva.

The new warning on Gaza is in line with



Palestinian children receive food prepared in a charity kitchen. Dangerous levels of acute hunger affected a staggering 281.6 million people last year - the fifth year in a row that food insecurity has worsened - heightening growing fears of famine and "widespread death" from Gaza to Sudan and beyond, UN agencies warned on 24 April.

repeated dire assessments from respected food insecurity experts who issued an alert that famine is likely "anytime" between now and May 2024 in northern governorates.

"We are getting closer by the day to a famine situation. Malnutrition among children is spreading. We estimate 30 percent of children below the age of two is now acutely malnourished or wasted and 70 percent of the population in the north is facing catastrophic hunger," WFP's Cirri said.

On Sudan, the UN report noted that 20.3 million people - or 42 percent of the population - struggled to find enough to eat last year, after conflict erupted in April.

This represents the highest number of people in the world facing "emergency" levels of acute food insecurity, or phase four, in line with the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification warning scale, where phase five (IPC5) indicates the highest level of danger.

With only a few weeks left before the beginning of the planting season, humanitarian assistance must be allowed immedi-

ately inside and across Sudan to avoid any further deterioration of the situation, the report's authors insisted.

The report also warned that people in South Sudan, Burkina Faso, Somalia and Mali likely endured the worst levels of food insecurity - IPC 5 - in 2023.

Data were not available for some countries where there have been enduring fears over food crises, including Ethiopia, the report's authors noted, while also pointing out that in Haiti, 19,200 people identified as IPC5 from September 2022 to February 2023 "no longer faced these conditions for the rest of 2023."

Around 36 million people in 39 countries faced emergency - IPC4 - levels of acute food insecurity last year, which was four percent more than in 2022. More than a third of them were in Sudan and Afghanistan.

In addition, some 165.5 million people in 41 countries faced crisis - IPC 3 - levels of acute food insecurity and around 292 million people in 40 countries were in IPC2.

2024 Zhongguancun Forum to be hosted in Beijing

THE 2024 Zhongguancun Forum (ZGC Forum) is held in Beijing from April 25 to 29. Themed "Innovation: Building a Better World," this year's edition will comprise five major sections, including forums and meetings, technology trading, unveiling of achievements, and competitions in cutting-edge fields.

Up to 120 events are planned this year. Over 100 countries and regions, as well as over 150 foreign government departments and international organizations will join the forum.

Founded in 2007, with its enduring focus on innovation and development, the forum is an important exchange platform for China to embrace the global innovation network with an open attitude.

It is reported that a total of 60 parallel forums will be held during the 2024 ZGC Forum. According to Chen Jiachang, vice minister of science and technology, Nobel laureate Barry Marshall will deliver a keynote speech on innovation- and curiosity-driven research at the Global Health and Development Forum; Fields Medal winner Shing-Tung Yau will deliver a report on women and scientific development at the Global Forum on Women in Sci-tech Innovation; Turing Award winners Joseph Sifakis and Andrew Chi-Chih Yao will share the latest development and future trends in artificial intelligence models at a parallel forum on artificial intelligence.

Internationalization is a major feature of the ZGC Forum. Seventeen parallel forums this year are expected to be hosted and organized by 19 international organizations and foreign government departments.

According to Yu Yingjie, a member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China Beijing Municipal Committee, the UNESCO will host the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development Forum; the World Intellectual Property Organization will host the Global Science and Technology Clusters Innovation Forum and another



Photo shows the permanent venue of the Zhongguancun Forum in Beijing. (People's Daily Online/Guo Junfeng)

parallel forum. Foreign guests from more than 100 countries and regions are expected to participate in these events.

Frontier exploration, achievement sharing, and open collaboration are the prominent features of this year's ZGC Forum. Chen said that focusing on carbon peaking and neutrality, health, clean energy, and other technological fields that directly impact people's lives, the ZGC Forum will establish a trading and sharing platform of scientific and technological achievements for multiple countries and regions through events such as the ZGC International Technology Trade Fair and the Zhongguancun International Advanced Technology Competition.

The ZGC International Technology Trade Fair this year will comprise 30 activities, including the technology trade conference for key countries, four debuts of national-level technology commercialization, and eight launches of high-end, sophisticated

and cutting-edge products.

It will bring together more than 6,000 innovation projects from over 40 countries and regions such as the UK, France, Germany and Japan, and release a list of 100 new technologies and new products, as well as a list of 100 international technology transaction projects, continuously building itself into a grand international technology trading event.

The Zhongguancun International Advanced Technology Competition for the first time sets four overseas competition areas, with international projects accounting for over 40 percent of the total, Yu said.

According to him, the eight domestic and overseas competition areas of the 2024 Zhongguancun International Advanced Technology Competition have amassed over 3,100 entries from 75 countries and regions, covering areas such as quantum information, photon computing and metaverse.

"The global finals of the competition will be hosted during the 2024 ZGC

Forum, which will offer comprehensive services for participating enterprises such as investment and financing, commercialization and matchmaking," Yu said.

A series of major scientific and technological achievements will be unveiled at the opening ceremony, parallel forums and relevant sections of the 2024 ZGC Forum.

A special release event is scheduled to be held on April 29, where a batch of major original achievements, heavyweight innovative policies, and the latest research reports will be released globally, building the ZGC Forum into a "trendsetter" for cutting-edge technologies and future industries.



Azam FC players are pictured training in Zanzibar, preparing for the Muungano Cup match against KMKM FC that was slated for Wednesday at New Amaan Complex. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Azam FC coach assures minutes for fringe players

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC assistant coach Bruno Ferry has revealed the squad's fringe players are set to have the opportunity in the revived Muungano Cup now played at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar.

The showdown has returned after a 20-year hiatus- with so far four teams battling it out in it- although four more teams are expected to grace the mini-tournament next season.

It takes place to celebrate the 60-year union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar that took place in 1964.

The ice cream makers crashed out of the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup quarterfinals, having lost to Singida Fountain Gate FC and, since then, they have yet to lose a match.

Ferry also asserted that the mini-tournament will serve as preparations for the NBC Premier League remaining games.

"We are very happy to be back in Zanzibar, playing against here, we are cautious ahead of tomorrow (Today's) game we understand all teams are competitive but we are prepared to have a competition on the return of the mini tournament," the French coach noted.

He revealed: "Fringe players, who haven't had so much playing time, will have the opportunity to play in this competition, they will have enough playing time to show their

pro prowess and make their way into the remaining NBC Premier League matches."

"We are here to win this competition, we also respect our opponents in tomorrow's match, they are a very good team here in the Isles."

"We expect a good match tomorrow but I will rely more on the rotational players," Ferry noted.

Azam FC, currently sitting second in the NBC Premier League with 54 points, will be in the contest for the 50m/- prize money set aside for the Zanzibar showdown's champion, while runners-up will receive 30m/- as reported by the Muungano Cup organizers.

The Chairman of the Finance and Planning Committee of the Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF) Awadh Mwita said that the tournament's champion will next year walk away with 100m/-.

"This year, we started with four teams but, next year, we plan to have eight teams, four based in Zanzibar and four from the Mainland. That's why we have set (aside) that amount of money for the winners," Mwita remarked, adding that the champion will next year rake in 100m/-.

With Simba SC, KVZ FC, Azam FC, and KMKM FC participating in this year's tournament, Yanga is expected to take part in next year's competition- with three more teams set to complete the list of participants.

Mainland Tanzania runners set for E&CA Junior Athletics Championships

By Guardian Correspondent

MAINLAND Tanzania's athletics team, consisting of performers aged between 18-20, traveled to Zanzibar on Wednesday evening to participate in this year's East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships.

The annual regional junior athletics showdown is set to take place from Friday to Sunday at the New Amaan Complex.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam before making the trip, the team's head coach Felix Chunga said that the athletes were found in the open competition held at the University of Dar es Salaam ground recently.

According to Chunga, the Mainland Tanzania side is made up of 10 athletes aged below 18 and as many aged below 20.

"We found these athletes in an

open competition held recently that involved young performers from various regions as well as all districts of Dar es Salaam," Chunga noted.

He said that the youthful athletes showed great potential in the open tournament, which offered the officials hope that Mainland Tanzania may collect many medals in the regional junior showcase.

The coach added that the young athletes from various regions of Mainland Tanzania have shown great potential in the trials despite the ground being water-logged due to the ongoing heavy rains.

He said that the East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships, hosted every year, were previously slated to be held in Rwanda but, due to some chaos, they had to be hosted in Zanzibar.

Bank continues sponsoring Absa Dar City Marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Absa Bank Tanzania has continued its sponsorship of the Absa Dar City Marathon for the fourth consecutive year, aiming to make Tanzania a nation with healthy people.

Speaking during the launch of the Absa Dar City Marathon 2024 yesterday, the bank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs Aron Luhanga said good health is the number one asset in the development of the nation of Tanzania, adding those who run are building health.

He mentioned another main goal of the Absa Dar City Marathon, saying the proceeds from the race will be directed towards community social activities by purchasing equipment for aiding the women's ward at the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

"In addition, with the theme of the race being 'Kata Mtaa, Ujue Jiji' (Cross Through the Streets, Discover the City), with branches in this city, we feel proud to support the race, which also aims to promote tourist attractions within our city," Luhanga added.

"Our motto says 'Your Story Matters', so we believe that when you go running, you are writing your story, when you help the community, you are writing your story, and for Absa,



Absa Bank Tanzania's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs Aron Luhanga (3rd L), The Runners Club Head of Communications Godfrey Mwangungulu (4th L), and other marathon sponsors are pictured displaying the T-shirts and other marathon kits- to be used by the Absa Dar City Marathon participants- during the launch in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The race is scheduled to take place on May 5 in the city. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

your story matters to us," Luhanga noted.

The Runners Club's Head of Communication, Godfrey Mwangungulu, said that this year's race, under the significant sponsorship of Absa Tanzania Bank, will include 21km, 10km, and 5km races.

The official remarked: "This year's Absa Dar City

Marathon, expected to take place on May 5- starting at the Mnazi Mmoja grounds- is more than just a race, more than just a celebration, it's the culmination of all the running festivities taking place in the country."

"We have held this race for three consecutive years and, this year, we aim to make the showdown even more suc-

cessful, expecting more than 3000 runners to participate in it, we are very grateful to our main sponsors, Absa Bank, as well as other sponsors," Mwangungulu noted.

Apart from the main sponsor Absa Bank, the showdown is sponsored by Alliance Life Assurance Company, Hill Water, Kilimanjaro Milk, and Garda Security Company.



Bulls SC's Hashim Mohamed (R) negotiates his way past Majoho Academy defender when the squads locked horns in a recent friendly match that took place at Soccer Point Mikochehi ground in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

Matola still insists on need for converting clear chances

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC assistant coach Suleiman Matola is adamant there is a need for the club's players to convert clear-cut chances.

The Msimbazi Street outfit on Tuesday secured a place in the revived Muungano Cup final after notching a 2-0 victory over Zanzibar's KVZ FC in the last-four encounter at New Amaan Complex in the Isles.

Simba SC goals were scored by forward Freddy Kouablan and right-back Israel Mwenda to end the Msimbazi Street outfit's run of five games without a win.

Head coach Abdelhak Benchikha ignored rotation and fielded a strong squad against

KVZ FC to have his outfit get back to winning ways.

Luis Miquissone and Ladaki Chasambi went out limping before the final whistle- with an assessment from the doctor being underway to identify whether they can feature in the final, according to Matola.

"It is true we are waiting for the medical report and to learn if we can have the pair for the finals, we had a good game, we were the better team," the former Simba SC midfielder revealed.

"In the first half, we created many chances but we couldn't convert them although we had a goal, converting chances into goals is still a problem we still

have days to work on it."

Simba SC began the Tuesday clash with a natural striker- unlike in past few games that had the team fielding a false nine in Saidi Ntibazonkiza.

The tactician noted: "Every match has a plan, there are games in which we play with a false nine and other games need a natural striker."

He revealed: "We are pleased with what I have seen from Kouablan, scoring back-to-back goals will continue to boost his morale ahead of the season and we need those goals for the team."

"Ahead of the final we understand that we lost a finals match here during the Mapinduzi Cup

final, that still runs in our head, we came here to win and we will make sure we prepare well for the match and do well in the final," Matola noted.

"These games will give us momentum ahead of our next games in the league, we will have many players ready from playing in different competitions and having a different mentality after restoring a win," Matola remarked.

Midfielder Fabrice Ngoma was voted Man of the Match following his fine displays in 90 minutes. Simba SC will play the final of the Muungano Cup slated for Saturday.

Klopp's Liver farewell fizzles out tamely

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp's nearly nine years at Liverpool have been filled with memorable milestones but an unwanted first of his reign leaves his final few weeks at Anfield with little left to play for.

Klopp tasted defeat in the Merseyside derby at Goodison Park for the first time in nine visits as a 2-0 defeat against Everton left the Reds' dreams of sending their manager off as a Premier League winner in tatters.

Just a few weeks ago, Liverpool were on course for a potential quadruple but have come off the rails.

A run of four wins in nine games has seen Klopp's men crash out of the Europa League and FA Cup as well as falling off the pace at the top of the Premier League.

Liverpool trail leaders Arsenal by three points and are only one point ahead of defending champions Manchester City, who have two games in hand.

AFP Sport looks at what has gone wrong to leave Klopp's fitting farewell at risk of fizzling out.

*Slow starts

Liverpool's habit of fighting back from losing positions was lauded earlier in the campaign as a sign of the "mentality monsters" Klopp has created throughout his time at Anfield.

They have amassed 27 points after falling behind in the Premier League alone this season, but have seen their luck run out after falling behind to Crystal Palace and Everton in shock defeats over the past 10 days.

In all competitions, Liverpool have conceded the opening goal 22 times this season.

They never recovered from a sluggish start at Goodison as Everton wasted a number of chances and had a penalty overturned by VAR even before Jarrad Branthwaite opened the scoring on 27 minutes.

*Wasteful finishing

Liverpool's forward line has also gone off the boil come the business end of the season. They have failed to score from open play in four their last five games.

Mohamed Salah has looked out of sorts since returning from a hamstring injury picked up at the Africa Cup of Nations. Luis Diaz and Darwin Nunez were again guilty of wasting huge chances against Everton.

And Diogo Jota, often heralded as the most natural finisher at the club, has been sidelined again by injury after just returning from a two-month layoff.

"You can see we are in a rush in front of goal," said Klopp. "We create a lot but we don't score often enough."

"You can see that and that's the problem. You have to fight through these periods. It's not a problem of attitude, the boys want it but it is my job to bring them into a situation where they feel confident to do it."

*Fatigue

The quest for the quadruple could now be coming back to haunt Klopp as Liverpool look to have run out of steam. They have played 54 games this season and will have four more before the end of the campaign.

AFP

Xavi to remain Barca coach, club tells AFP

BARCELONA

XAVI will remain as coach of Barcelona, the Spanish giants told AFP on Wednesday, despite having announced in January that he planned to quit at the end of the season due to the "cruel and unpleasant" nature of the job.

Spanish media reported that the 44-year-old, who had signed a contract extension until 2025 last autumn, decided on his dramatic change of mind after a day of meetings with club president Joan Laporta and sporting director Deco.

Xavi's decision comes just a week after Barcelona were knocked out of the Champions League in the quarter-finals by Paris Saint-Germain.

On Sunday, the defending champions fell 11 points behind Real Madrid in La Liga's title race following a 3-2 Clásico defeat to their bitter rivals.

Former Barcelona midfielder Xavi said he felt "liberated" when he made his decision to stand down. He had repeatedly said the job was his "dream" but admitted the pressure of the role eventually proved too much.

"You are made to feel every day that you are not good enough," he said after a shock 5-3 home loss to Villarreal. "It happened to all the coaches: Pep (Guardiola) told me, it happened to (Ernesto) Valverde, I saw Luis Enrique suffer."

He added: "You often feel there is lack of respect, you feel that your work is not appreciated. It wears you down in terms of health, of mental health, your mood, your emotional state. I am a positive guy but the energy goes down, down, down, until the point at which you say: it makes no sense. It makes no sense to continue."

Barcelona, who have struggled with financial issues in recent seasons, appointed Xavi as boss in November 2021 and he helped turn their fortunes around, lifting the league title last term.

But this season they were also thrashed 4-1 by Real in the Spanish Super Cup and were dumped out of the Copa del Rey by Athletic Bilbao.

AFP

Liverpool's title bid rocked by Everton, Manchester Utd survive Blades scare

LONDON

LIVERPOOL'S Premier League title bid suffered a devastating blow in a 2-0 defeat at Merseyside rivals Everton, while Manchester United spared Erik ten Hag's blushes with a 4-2 victory against lowly Sheffield United on Wednesday.

Jürgen Klopp's side were beaten at Goodison Park for the first time in 14 years in a brutal setback to their hopes of catching leaders Arsenal.

Jarrad Branthwaite put Everton ahead in the 27th minute as the defender prodded the ball under Liverpool keeper Alisson Becker via the post after the Reds made a hash of clearing a free-kick.

With Liverpool's Mohamed Salah once again struggling to convert chances to equalise, Everton striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin delivered the knockout punch with a 58th-minute header.

Second-placed Liverpool remain three points behind Arsenal, who have a vastly superior goal difference, with both sides having four games left.

Third-placed Manchester City, who visit Brighton on Saturday, will be crowned English champions for an unprecedented fourth successive season if they win their last six matches.

Liverpool have reportedly opened talks with Feyenoord's Arne Slot to take over from Klopp, whose long goodbye looks set to end with a whimper.

It hardly the scenario Klopp envisioned when Liverpool beat Chelsea in the League Cup final in February.

Back then, his team were in



Everton's Calvert-Lewin punished Liverpool, who were sloppy throughout (Reuters)

contention for a quadruple that would have capped his final season in spectacular fashion.

Instead, the end of Klopp's nine-year reign is becoming a damp squib, with Liverpool knocked out of the FA Cup quarter-finals by Manchester United and losing to Atalanta at the same stage of the Europa League as their title challenge evaporates.

"Arsenal and Manchester City must have a very bad moment," Klopp said when asked if Liverpool can win the title.

"I don't know. I can only apologise for today to the people. We should have done better but we didn't."

At Old Trafford, Ten Hag's side twice trailed to the league's bottom club before Bruno Fernandes came to his beleaguered manager's aid in the second half.

Jayden Bogle put the Blades ahead and although Harry Maguire equalised before half-time, Ben Brereton Diaz restored the visitors' advantage soon after the interval.

- Fernandes to the rescue -

Fernandes bailed out Ten Hag with a penalty equaliser before the Portugal midfielder's long-range rocket put United in front with nine minutes left.

Rasmus Hojlund got United's fourth to ensure they could finally enjoy a first league win in five games since beating Everton on March 9.

It was a temporary reprieve for Ten Hag, who hopes to salvage sixth-placed United's dismal season by winning the FA Cup and finishing high enough to qualify for the Europa League.

Ten Hag endured stinging criticism after United stum-

pled into the FA Cup final with a spluttering penalty-shootout win after blowing a three-goal lead against second-tier Coventry on Sunday.

"I think we played quite well, also creating many more chances. Many positives. But also negatives. Conceding two goals from giveaways. It's unacceptable. We want to play dynamic, attacking football," Ten Hag said.

Referee Stuart Attwell was embroiled in further controversy after contentiously disallowing a Wolves goal in Bournemouth's 1-0 win at Molineux.

Attwell was already in the spotlight for his role as VAR in denying Nottingham Forest three penalties in Sunday's 2-0 defeat at Everton, which led Forest to insinuate bias as he supports relegation rivals Luton.

This time, he adjudged Matheus Cunha to have fouled Justin Kluivert in an off-the-ball incident in the build up to Hwang Hee-chan's second-half equaliser, which looked to have cancelled out Antoine Semenyo's opener.

Attwell remained in the thick of the action as he showed a straight red card to Bournemouth defender Milos Kerkez for a foul on Matt Doherty.

Jean-Philippe Mateta scored for a fifth consecutive home match to fire Crystal Palace to a 2-0 win over Newcastle.

Mateta broke the deadlock in the 55th minute and added the second late on to end Newcastle's four-match unbeaten run and damage their prospects of qualifying for Europe.

AFP

The moment Liverpool surrendered their Premier League title challenge

By Richard Jolly

SO now Jürgen Klopp has another reason why he will not miss the Merseyside derby. His last trip to Goodison Park was his worst. On a night when Everton had multiple reasons to celebrate, they saw off Klopp with the result that all but secures them a 71st consecutive season of top-flight football and may in effect finish off Liverpool's title challenge. "You lost the league at Goodison Park," chorused the Evertonians. Klopp has caused them untold pain over the last eight years. Finally, he was given a taste of how painful Merseyside derbies can be for the losers.

Klopp has seen Sadio Mane and Divock Origi snatch victory in these fixtures. He had to watch Jarrad Branthwaite and Dominic Calvert-Lewin assume the mantle of the heroes of half of a divided city. Klopp spent his final night on the Goodison Park touchline haranguing the fourth official Simon Hooper, a picture of frustration. As Everton's identity was intensity, a strangely lacklustre Liverpool performance was laced with miskicks and mistakes. This was not the way he had hoped to bade farewell to a rivalry which, while he said he has not enjoyed, he has

dominated.

This was just Klopp's second defeat in 19 derbies. A succession of Everton managers have lived and laboured in Klopp's sizeable shadow but now Sean Dyche finds himself in distinguished company with Carlo Ancelotti as the only ones to beat the German. As the Italian's victory came in lockdown, Branthwaite's opener made it the first time a crowd had even seen Everton lead since 2013. Their previous triumph at Goodison was so long ago, in 2010, that one of the scorers may be a title-winning manager now. Mikel Arteta could certainly savour his old club's long-awaited triumph.

For Klopp, it was a first loss at Goodison. Everton displayed many of the traits the Liverpool manager wants: the fervent commitment, the fast start, the energy to galvanise the crowd. Goodison's penultimate derby was a raucous affair, Everton attacking with urgency and defending with defiance. For the most part, Liverpool had no answer to them.

After 13 matches without a victory, Everton have won three in four. They are improving as Liverpool are regressing. Klopp had restored six of his premier players to the starting 11 but Liver-

pool played better with the weakened team he fielded at Fulham. They looked cowed: as against Atalanta and Crystal Palace at Anfield, Liverpool suggested their race this season - and under Klopp - is run. They have gone from formidable to fragile, from peaking to losing form, individually and collectively. Not for the first time of late, they were poor in both penalty boxes. In part, that reflected on Darwin Nunez, who squandered a wonderful chance to equalise. An exception may be made for Alisson, whose saves included a brilliant effort to claw away Calvert-Lewin's close-range header.

Yet his night started with a reprieve after Andrew Madley awarded a penalty to Everton. Calvert-Lewin raced on

to Jack Harrison's delightful pass and was upended by Alisson. If Nottingham Forest felt VAR had intervened too infrequently at Goodison on Sunday, it did here: replays showed the striker was offside.

He was, though, a constant, producing as dynamic a display as he has done in the last couple of injury-hit years. Few get the better of Virgil van Dijk quite as emphatically. He gave Everton an aerial menace, but so did their giant centre-backs as Liverpool were subject to a set-piece bombardment. Pressure eventually told. Alexis Mac Allister, often the coolest of characters, sliced his attempted clearance to Branthwaite. He shot and while Alisson took the pace off it and deflected it on to

the post, it rolled over the line, with Calvert-Lewin sliding in to make sure.

A resurgent Calvert-Lewin was to get his goal anyway: after a 23-game drought, it was a third in four when he headed in Dwight McNeil's far-post corner. The winger was excellent, too, marrying expert delivery into the box with harrying of Liverpool. James Tarkowski and Branthwaite excelled at penalty-box defending and, as Everton ended with just 23 per cent of possession, it mattered not; nearly all of the outstanding performers were in blue or, in Jordan Pickford's case, green.

The goalkeeper made terrific saves when Nunez, with all the goal to aim for, drilled a shot at his thighs, when Luis

Diaz volleyed, when Harvey Elliott tried his luck from 20 yards, when Mohamed Salah connected sweetly deep into added time. He was beaten only by the Colombian, curling a shot against the post after an electric surge. But too many of Liverpool's pivotal performers were poor: Mac Allister was off colour, Salah subdued even when his immediate opponent in the second half was Ashley Young. It felt Klopp raised the white flag when he substituted Andy Robertson and Trent Alexander-Arnold.

And on a day when Liverpool moved closer to appointing Klopp's successor, Everton all but ensured that Arne Slot will not inherit the reigning champions.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Liverpool's title bid rocked by Everton, Manchester Utd survive Blades scare

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NBC Premier League to end in May despite Muungano Cup return

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) has confirmed the NBC Premier League will end in May as planned, with adjustments made to accommodate the recently revived Muungano Cup.

The board's CEO Almasi Kasongo acknowledged the schedule changes but assured fans the league's conclusion date remains unaffected.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Kasongo acknowledged the scheduling oversight, saying: "Our initial schedule for the 2023/24 season didn't include the Muungano Cup. We're making adjustments to accommodate it seamlessly."

He stated: "Going forward, we'll include the Muungano Cup in future schedules to avoid such inconveniences."

Kasongo emphasized that these changes would not affect the league's planned end date, pointing out: "The NBC Premier League will conclude on May 29 as originally scheduled."

Both Azam FC's NBC Premier League match against Mtbwa Sugar and Simba SC's league encounter with Dodoma Jiji FC were postponed due to their participation in the Muungano Cup held in Zanzibar.

Yanga holds a strong position in the NBC Premier League, currently leading the table with 59 points after 23 games.

This puts them in prime position to win the league title for a remarkable third consecutive year.

Hot on their heels is Azam FC, sitting second with 54 points from 24 games played. While Azam FC is trailing Yanga by five points, the former has played one extra game.

Simba SC, a familiar name in the CAF Champions League for the past five seasons, currently occupies third place with 46 points in 21 games.

To catch up with Azam FC and have a shot at CAF Champions League qualification next season, Simba SC needs to win all three of their remaining games before Azam FC completes their schedule.

Meanwhile, Coastal Union holds onto the fourth place with 33 points after honouring 23 games.

At the other end of the table, the relegation battle is heating up. JKT Tanzania, Mashujaa FC, and Tabora United are all tied with 23 points, occupying the 13th, 14th, and 15th positions respectively.

Mtbwa Sugar, one of the league's most established teams, finds itself in a precarious position at the bottom with just 17 points after 22 matches played.

The Muungano Cup, making its long-awaited comeback after a 20-year hiatus (last played in 2003), kicked off on April 24 with a match between Simba SC and KVZ FC of Zanzibar.

Simba SC emerged victorious at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar, clobbering KVZ FC 2-0.

Following the Simba SC vs KVZ FC match played on Wednesday, Azam FC yesterday locked horns with reigning Zanzibar champions, KMKM FC, at the same stadium.

The highly anticipated showdown's final is scheduled for tomorrow. Hussein Ahmada, Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF) Secretary-General, sees the Muungano Cup as a catalyst for football development in both regions.

Ahmada pointed out: "This competition fosters talent discovery. These newly identified players can contribute significantly to the national team in future tournaments."

The official hinted at bigger things to come, pointing out: "This year's edition serves as a launchpad. Expect significant changes and improvements to this historic competition next year."

He encouraged football fans in Zanzibar to actively support the tournament by attending the matches in large numbers.

The Muungano Cup's return injects excitement into the Tanzanian football scene, promoting healthy competition and potentially unearthing future Tanzanian football stars.

While it necessitates adjustments to the league schedule, both the TPLB and ZFF remain confident that the NBC Premier League will conclude on schedule, allowing fans to enjoy the best of both competitions.

Gamondi fumes over poor pitch after Yanga's draw with JKT Tanzania



Yanga's right fullback Kouassi Attohola (R) dribbles past JKT Tanzania winger Shiza Kichuya when the clubs locked horns in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League clash in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday and settled for a 0-0 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA'S head coach Miguel Gamondi has slammed the playing surface at Dar es Salaam's Major General Isamuhyo Stadium following his outfit's goalless draw with JKT Tanzania in an NBC Premier League game played at the venue on Wednesday afternoon.

Despite remedial work that was done after the game was postponed due to heavy rainfall on Tuesday, the brittle nature of the pitch was exposed from the first whistle.

Yanga went into the game on the back of high morale following last weekend's derby victory, but they were disappointed with their performance as they settled for a goalless draw.

Speaking after the game, Gamondi said that he is not

blaming anyone, but insisted to analyze, both teams tried to play how they can play. JKT should play on a pitch like that," the Argentinian noted.

"I see they put pressure to play here, I must accept but I cannot tactically analyze the game," the tactician revealed. The gaffer remarked: "They are happy now. Maybe a lot of people are happy now because we drew in a pitch like that. With this

"I think there is nothing to analyze, both teams tried to play how they can play. JKT should play on a pitch like that," the Argentinian noted.

"I see they put pressure to play here, I must accept but I cannot tactically analyze the game," the tactician revealed.

The gaffer remarked: "They are happy now. Maybe a lot of people are happy now because we drew in a pitch like that. With this

pitch one point is okay because in the first half, we did not create and they created some chances. I am thinking, playing away on a pitch like that, I can't be upset with a draw."

The tactician said: "Why force us to play here? (Either) postpone the game or cancel it if you don't want to play on another pitch. I said yesterday it is dangerous for the players' health. I think it is not good for Tanzanian football."

"It is my opinion, I respect that I need to work here and am not blaming anyone but why should we play this type of football here?" Gamondi added.

"It is on TV, you want to grow as a league? Tanzania football is growing but you can't show that on TV."

The result left the NBC Premier League defending champions five points clear at the summit as they look set for a successive title.

KMC FC continues battle for top four with visit to Dodoma Jiji FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

IN this Friday evening's NBC Premier League clash between Dodoma Jiji FC and Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, both teams are poised for a crucial encounter as they navigate their respective ambitions in the league.

Hosts Dodoma Jiji FC currently sits comfortably in the low-middle of the table, yet their NBC Premier League status remains unsecured, while Kinondoni Municipal Council FC is pushing for a top-four finish by garnering wins in the remaining rounds.

Dodoma Jiji FC enters the match, slated to start at 8:15 pm, on the back of back-to-back draws against JKT Tanzania and Kagera Sugar, signaling positive signs under head coach Francis Baraza.

This run of form keeps Dodoma Jiji FC, now sitting 10th, two points out of the drop zone with the advantage of two games in hand to teams below them in the table.

On top of that, the club will head into this fixture boasting an impressive form in the recent tradition of this match-up.

In seven top-flight league games between the two sides, Dodoma Jiji FC has won five. They are on a four-game winning



Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's attacker Shaaban Idd (R) races past Mtbwa Sugar right fullback Nick Kassami when the teams met in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League clash in Morogoro on April 16. Kinondoni Municipal Council FC notched a 1-0 win over Mtbwa Sugar. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KINONDONI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FOOTBALL CLUB

streak against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

Dodoma Jiji FC's striking force made up of Hassan Mwarterema, Meshack Mwamita, and youngster Zidane Seleli will be tasked with sharing the goal-scoring burden.

The club's defenders Joram Mgeveke, Anderson Solomon,

Augustin Nsata, Adeyun Saleh, and midfielder Gustapha Simon will further try to keep Kinondoni Municipal Council FC forwards at bay.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC is coming into the match having recorded an excellent 1-0 win at Mtbwa Sugar last weekend.

It was the Kinondoni side's seventh win of the season. The victory at Mtbwa Sugar means Kinondoni Municipal Council FC is undefeated in their last three fixtures, all of which have been played in the league.

As the race for CAF

Champions League qualification is heating, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC finds itself sitting fifth in the table - just one point behind fourth-placed Coastal Union each remaining with seven games to play.

March 5 was the last time that Abdihamid Moallin-coached Kinondoni Municipal Council FC tasted defeat, and maximum points will create a nice two-point cushion in the race for the top four as the league enters the homestretch.

The Kinondoni Councilors will pin their hopes of victory on their striker Waziri Junior.

The former Azam FC and Young Africans SC striker has gone two games without registering a goal since his hat-trick against Tabora United early last month.

Against Dodoma Jiji FC, he will be looking to remind his former bosses of his quality and also add to his 11 strikes in the race for the top goalscorer award.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

MEN, AVOID MONEY GRABBING - GIRLS.

...AND GIRLS, LEAVE THOSE MISERS ALONE.

... ACTUALLY, WHO AM I TO INTERFERE IN YOUR LOVE....

