



National Pg 3
Tanzania to receive \$13 million for climate change projects via UNCDF



National Pg 4
Visit by UBA management team to The Guardian LTD at Mikocheni, yesterday



National Pg 6
Specialist doctors to reach patients at medical camps across Manyara



Unsafe buildings to be demolished

Samia visits site of collapsed building, assesses recovery progress at Muhimbili

By Henry Mwangonde

UNSAFE buildings will be demolished if investigations reveal structural flaws or negligence in observing construction regulations, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has said during her visit to the site of the collapsed building in Kariakoo yesterday.

She confirmed that 20 people are up to now known to have lost their lives, expressing grief over the loss of life even with the relentless efforts of rescue teams.

"This incident has touched all of us as Tanzanians and is a blow to the entire nation," she said, paying gratitude to the spirit of solidarity displayed by wide sections of the public in the

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan receives listens to Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa when visiting the site of the building collapse disaster at Kariakoo business zone in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region yesterday. Photo: State House

Tanzania's first avocado freight berths in China

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

AFRICADO Ltd, a pioneering Tanzanian avocado company and member of

the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) along with international partners such as Westfalia South Africa Ltd and Mr. Avocado, a Chinese firm, have

landed the first ever shipment of Tanzanian avocados in China.

Festus Nkuru, Africado's certification

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Dr Selemani Jafo (L), the Industry and Trade minister together with resident ambassador Saud bin Hilal bin Saud Al Shidhan (2nd L) of Oman cut a cake to celebrate the Omani National Day, its 54 years of independence in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

10,000 retirees now reimbursed for old formula payment dues

By Guardian Reporter

AS of yesterday up to 10,414 retirees who left service starting from July 2022 and received benefits calculated using the old formula, have been reimbursed the due amounts based on the new formula.

Ridhiwani Kikwete, the Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), disclosed this at a seminar for prospective retirees of the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Additionally, 2,479 new retirees as of July 1, 2024 have already received their benefits under the updated calculation formula, with the process ongoing as directed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The government had addressed retirees' concerns by introducing improvements in the 2024/25 budget allocations, including updating the benefits calculation formula,

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'National crop exports to reach \$6bn by 2030'

"Gene banks are technical facilities where plants—either as seeds or as plantlets in test tubes—are catalogued, conserved for the long term, and made available to scientists for breeding more nutritious, productive and resilient varieties"

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE government is working on various strategies aimed at increasing Tanzania's crop export value from the current \$2.3bn to \$6bn by 2030.

Dr Nyasebwa Chimagu, the director of crop development, disclosed this projection here yesterday at a one-day workshop on 'seed system digitization, variety ordering and licensing.'

Organized by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), the forum attracted a diverse group of stakeholders in the seed industry, both from within Tanzania and abroad, to explore viable ways to digitize the country's seed system.

The government plans to implement a series of strategies to enhance the sector's performance, focusing on scaling up the seed system and increasing productivity, he said.

Tanzania is already producing crops that are in high demand globally, expecting to intensify efforts to boost production and productivity, he said, noting that increased budget allocation for agriculture, now standing at 1.248trn/- will hugely boost production.

Over 80bn/- has been allocated to support

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Taifa Stars captain Samatta hails fans after historic AFCON qualification

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Botswana, Mozambique and Tanzania final teams to qualify for Cup of Nations finals



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Unsafe buildings to be demolished

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wake of the tragedy.

The president, who was attending the G20 summit in the Brazilian citadel of Rio de Janeiro, returned to Dar es Salaam and went directly to the scene of the disaster.

"I was following the developments closely while abroad, and I appreciate the unity and support Tanzanians have shown throughout this incident. We have come together as one nation in this moment of sorrow," she stated.

Acknowledging the tireless efforts of the government and rescue teams, she regretted that even with the vast efforts of rescuers a number of people lost their lives.

"As of 9 a.m. today, we have lost 20 of our people. The government, in collaboration with the affected families, is ensuring that the victims are laid to rest with dignity."

The president reassured the public of the government's commitment to uncovering the facts behind the incident, pledging that a comprehensive report would be released,

with clear intentions to take strong follow up action after that.

Highlighting shortcomings in regulatory oversight, she said that the building had not undergone a full inspection during its construction—a critical lapse that may have contributed to the tragedy.

"This incident has exposed gaps in our regulatory system. I urge our institutions to strengthen construction and safety regulations to prevent future disasters," she said.

While still in Brazil, President Samia had already issued several directives related to the collapse and following the site visit, she proceeded to the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) to meet with survivors, offer support and assess their recovery progress.

The four-storey building, within the bustling Kariakoo commercial district, collapsed early Saturday, claiming 20 lives as of Wednesday afternoon.

The area was soon cordoned off to facilitate rescue operations and allow experts to investigate the site.

'Tanzania crop exports to reach \$6bn by 2030'

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the seed sector, to ensure that farmers are provided with sufficient high-quality seed varieties to enhance productivity, he said, noting that as part of ongoing strategies, the government is working to improve the irrigation system, with 400bn/- set aside for the purpose.

Other strategies being implemented include improving the performance of extension services, he said, underscoring the current vision to expand the country's food storage capacity from the current 0.5m tonnes to 3.0m tonnes by 2030.

Realising food security objectives has registered significant strides, as national grain adequacy stands at 128 percent, within range of the 130 percent sufficiency target, he elaborated.

The government is working to expand the number of local seed gene bank facilities, providing a key platform for enhancing biodiversity conservation and supporting resilient and nutritious food systems, he said.

"Gene banks are technical facilities where plants—either as seeds or as plantlets in test tubes—are catalogued, conserved for the long term, and made available to scientists

for breeding more nutritious, productive and resilient varieties," the director explained.

Lilian Gichuru, a seed system specialist at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) also suggested the need for adoption of a digital innovation seed system in Tanzania.

There is a need to strategize a digital platform for channelling important seed information to stakeholders in the country's seed value chain. The target is to maximize capacity of the relevant stakeholders to use available digital seed tools, she stated.

This would also create innovative youth responsive last-minded seed systems to help attract more youth to take up opportunities in the sector, she stated, affirming that adoption of this advanced system will enable seed companies and the relevant policy makers to fast track performance in the sector.

Dr Thomas Bwana, the TARI director general, said that the forum was geared at reviewing progress made by the institute in digitizing seed systems, pointing at the pre-order and pre-book system of early-generation seed, dry-land crop in Tanzania.

10,000 retirees reimbursed old formula payment dues

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he said

Previously, retirees under both PSSSF and the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) were paid at a flat rate of 25 percent. However, after public complaints, the rate was raised to 33 percent and in July the government introduced a new formula—40 percent for PSSSF retirees and 35 percent for NSSF retirees—effectively creating two initial payment systems.

In 2017 media investigations highlighted concerns with the previous formula, which uniformly applied a 25 percent lump-sum payout following the merger of the Public Service Pension Fund (PSPF), the Parastatal Pensions Fund (PPF), the Local Government Workers Pension Fund (LAPF), and the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) to form the PSSSF.

This merger was initiated to rescue the PSPF which faced financial strain from retirees' debts, with the NSSF remaining unaffected, while PSSSF regulations set lump-sum payments at 25 percent, down from the 50 percent offered by the pre-merger funds (excluding NSSF).

The minister announced further steps to improve retirees' benefits as some retirees receive a minimum of 100,000/- per month. From early next year, the minimum monthly pension will be increased to

150,000/- with those receiving pensions above 150,000/- handed a two percent increment.

In addition, upon a retiree's death, the fund will provide 500,000/- for burial expenses, with dependents recognized by the fund's regulations receiving a lump sum equivalent to 36 months of the deceased's pension.

"This policy was initially introduced in July 2022, but only for retirees paid under the new formula. Starting January 2025, it will apply to all retirees, including those paid under old formulas from the merged funds," he asserted.

He urged PSSSF to establish efficient systems to ensure beneficiaries receive their rightful payments, as the government closely monitors PSSSF to guarantee the safety of members' contributions."

Abdul-Razaq Badru, the PSSSF director-general, explained progress in service provision, noting that 746 employers were engaged in seminars last year, with plans to reach 878 employers this year.

"One of our core services is paying pensions. Since its inception, the fund has paid out 10.46trn/- in benefits to 310,458 beneficiaries," he said, affirming that during 2024/2025 the fund will pay retirement and other benefits totaling 560bn/- to 11,622 retirees.

By year end, total benefits paid will reach around 1.5trn/-, he added.



Ridhwani Kikwete (L), the Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), engages in a discussion with PSSSF CEO Abdul-Razaq Badru, at the end of a seminar for prospective retirees contributing to the fund in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TAHA's first avocado freight berths in China

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manager, told a press conference here yesterday that the container had passed Chinese customs inspections without issue, signalling a promising future for Tanzanian avocado exports.

Gaining a foothold in the world's second most populous nation, promising a windfall to growers and exporters was a landmark achievement resulting from joint efforts of the key stakeholders, with the maiden shipment, loaded with 24 tonnes of the Hass avocado variety valued at \$18,500 received there.

It was dispatched on October 28, taking upwards of three weeks to arrive in Hong Kong on November 18, for which the manager expressed profound appreciation.

"We are so grateful that our first ever container with avocados has landed at Avocado's South China ripening and distribution center, ready for distribution across retail supermarkets," he said.

He paid gratitude to the government and the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA), TAHA, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for facilitating the breakthrough.

This development not only strengthens Africado's position as a leading exporter but also provides significant economic opportunities for local growers, boosting Tanzania's agricultural sector, he said.

"As Tanzania's largest grower and a pioneer in the avocado industry, Africado Ltd is optimistic about the economic benefits this development will bring to both the company and the country's economy," the manager declared.

The breakthrough follows the signing of a protocol between Tanzania and China regarding sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements when President Samia Suluhu Hassan was on a state visit to China in August 2022 and then in November last year.

The protocol paved the way for

Tanzanian avocados to access China's vast market, which experts say is driven by demand from China's growing health-conscious middle class. Avocados, once a rare commodity, have become one of the country's top imported fruits.

TAHA CEO Dr Jacqueline Mkindi hailed the development, saying it would benefit local farmers and exporters while strengthening bilateral trade ties between the two countries.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe came in for praise for his efforts in ensuring Tanzanian producers are put to sanitary and phytosanitary audits and meet the necessary SPS standards for market access.

China's decision to accept avocados from Tanzania into its market aligns with its broader strategy to increase imports from Africa, a trade rebalancing initiative aimed at addressing imbalances between China and the resource-rich continent.

With a population of over 1.4bn, China is now poised to become Tanzania's largest export market for avocados, traditionally limited to Europe and the Middle East.

Despite being Africa's third-largest avocado producer after South Africa and Kenya, Tanzania has struggled to access export markets due to the lack of SPS audits and producer compliance.

The milestone aligns with Tanzania's national strategy to increase horticultural exports to \$2bn annually, up from \$420m in the past financial year, creating significant employment opportunities for youth and women along the value chain, by 2030.

Tanzania's avocado industry is poised for significant growth, with official data showing that in 2023, the country exported 26,826.3 metric tons of avocados, generating upwards of \$73million in earnings, while access to the new market promises to accelerate this growth even further.



Prof Adolf Mkenda (2nd L), the Education, Science and Technology minister, presses the button to launch three books that won the Mwalimu Nyerere national award for creative writing in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Also pictured are Prof. Penina Mama (3rd L), who chaired the award committee, and Dr Aneth Komba (3rd R), director of the Tanzania Institute of Education (TET). Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

Africa CDC urges US to reassess, scrap travel advisory on Rwanda

ADDIS ABABA

travel" to Rwanda.

THE Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) on Monday called on the United States to reassess its Level 3 travel advisory for Rwanda issued in response to the Marburg virus disease outbreak in the country.

In a statement, it said it had formally urged the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reassess and lift the travel advisory issued on Oct. 7, which cautioned its citizens to "reconsider

According to the statement, Jean Kaseya, director-general of the Africa CDC, addressed the matter in a letter to US officials, highlighting Rwanda's progress in managing and containing the outbreak.

"Recent evaluations by Africa CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) acknowledge Rwanda's progress. They confirm that the risk of further Marburg virus disease transmission is low, with no reported cases outside Rwanda or in the United States," the Africa CDC said.

It noted the travel advisory has had a substantial impact on Rwanda's tourism and business sectors,

both of which are critical to its economy.

"Africa CDC has urged the HHS and CDC to assess the situation on the ground, in collaboration with international health agencies, and update the travel advisory to reflect the current epidemiological context," it said, emphasizing that revising the advisory would recognize Rwanda's public health achievements while supporting its economic recovery.

As of Sunday, it had been 18 days since Rwanda reported its last case of Marburg virus disease, according to Africa CDC data. All previously

infected patients have been successfully discharged, with robust monitoring and community follow-up systems in place.

The Africa CDC credited Rwanda's success to the swift and coordinated efforts led by the country's Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Africa CDC, the WHO and international partners.

Rwanda declared the presence of Marburg virus disease on Sept. 27. The Africa CDC said since the first cases were detected, the country "has worked tirelessly to contain the virus and prevent its spread both within Rwanda and across Africa."



Prof. Elifas Bisanda (2nd L), the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) vice chancellor, delivers a speech during the opening of the forum for the university's leading academic staff who gathered at Bunju, Dar es Salaam, on Tuesday to discuss various research topics, creativity and community service. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

NGO calls for equal treatment of English, Kiswahili medium public primary schools

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

HAKIELIMU has called on the government to create an equitable environment for both English and Kiswahili medium public primary schools.

The organization questioned the rationale behind charging fees at English medium schools, arguing that the practice contradicts the education policy which mandates free education in public schools.

HakiElimu expressed concerns about the preferential treatment given to English medium schools which are often considered of higher status than Kiswahili medium schools. Dr John Kalage, Executive Director of HakiElimu, highlighted that the situation causes divisions within the education system.

He emphasized that both languages should be treated equally in education as stipulated in the Education and Training Policy of 2014, revised in 2023. Dr Kalage also criticized the fees charged by English medium public schools which violate the policy of free basic education.

The organization further discussed the recent statement from Ubungo District Commissioner about renovating and upgrading Ubungo National Housing Primary School to an English medium school. HakiElimu questioned the idea that English medium schools hold higher status.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has stated that introducing English medium schools aims to offer more options to parents and improve English proficiency among pupils.



The organization questioned the rationale behind charging fees at English medium schools, arguing that the practice contradicts the education policy which mandates free education in public schools

Tanzania to receive \$13 million for climate change projects via UNCDF

By Guardian Correspondent, Baku

TANZANIA is set to receive \$13 million to expand social projects across 15 additional districts funded by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

Cyprian Luhemeja, Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office unveiled this yesterday when speaking during a bilateral meeting between him and UNCDF representatives at the ongoing COP29 conference in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The discussions focused on strengthening collaboration on climate-related initiatives with the funds allocated to programmes under the Local Climate Adaptation Living Facility (LoCAL) and Capacity Building for Climate Finance Tracking.

Luhemeja highlighted that the funding would further support critical sectors such as water, livestock, fisheries and infrastructure, aligning with Tanzania's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions

(NDC) under the Paris Agreement.

In addition, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and the NDC Partnership committed to providing further financial assistance for Tanzania's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The country requires an estimated \$19.2 billion to fully implement its climate goals.

Three districts in Dodoma region—Chamwino, Kondo and Mpwapwa—have already benefited from the programme.

The meeting also included prominent officials such as Amina Khamis Shabaan, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance; Farhat Mbarouk, Director of Environment in the Office of the First Vice President—Zanzibar; Dr Kanizio Manyika, Acting Assistant Director of Environment Department and other experts from government institutions.

The funding aims to bolster Tanzania's resilience against climate change impacts while fostering sustainable development at grassroots level.



RE-ADVERTISED: REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION PROGRAMME – LIVESTOCK SUPPORT PROGRAM. REFERENCE NO.: 00000619

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) LTD ("EACOP LTD") invites experienced and reputable companies or organizations to express their interest in additional detailed design and Implementation of a Livestock Support Program for eligible Project Affected Households (PAHs).

The EACOP Project involves the construction and operation of an underground and cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from Lake Albert area in Uganda to eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale, Hoima District in Uganda to the Chongoleani peninsula in Tanga, Tanzania crossing eight regions – Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Manyara and Tanga, 27 administrative district councils and 231 villages.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

EACOP, as part of its international financing standards commitments, is delivering livelihood restoration programs to eligible Project Affected Households. EACOP is about to start implementation of a Livestock Support Program for households spread across four regions. The program design is being finalized and is likely to include but not be limited to:

- Engagement with households to confirm capacity to be part of the program.
- Classification of households according to different program designs.
- Training and capacity building of households on all relevant aspects of improved production and management of livestock and small ruminants.
- Training of Community Animal Health and Production Workers.
- Develop and train on livestock management calendars.
- Facilitate the establishment of livestock farmer centres.
- Support existing livestock farmer associations and cooperatives.
- Renovation of dip tanks.
- Linking PAHs to private sector for leasing of beef and dairy cattle for breeding or milk production.
- Review and support opportunities for value addition.
- Extension support to households for 18-24 months.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

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

- Details of design and implementation of similar projects preferably within EACOP regions including key elements of the projects, number of beneficiaries and overall value.
- Proof of registration with relevant Tanzanian Registration Bodies (current BRELA search, NGO Registration, OSHA)
- Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- Proof of Registration with EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database, or a proof of approved application for registration at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
- Financial capacity to deliver the services required including submission of financial accounts for year.
- Evidence of a QHSE Management system, organization, and process in compliance with applicable Local and Industry standards for similar works.
- Proof of Anti-corruption, Anti-bribery, Compliance and Human Rights policies.

Companies which have the ability, capacity, and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending an Expression of Interest (EOI) via email, together with the above listed documents through an email to procurement.tz@eacop.com (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **17:00** hours East African Time (EAT), on **1/12/2024**. Email subject shall be: **EOI NO 00000619: LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION PROGRAMME: LIVESTOCK SUPPORT PROGRAM**. Statements of EOI should be no more than ten (10) to twenty (20) pages long. **All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English Language.**

Note: EACOP LTD will review and assess the documents provided by companies that have expressed interest in accordance with this EOI and conduct evaluations based on internal criteria to determine which companies will be included in the list of pre-qualified companies. Only the pre-qualified companies will receive, by signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), an invitation to bid as a continuation of the call for tender process. EACOP LTD reserves the right at its sole discretion to make the decision to select or reject a company and maintain its decision without having to give reasons to the company concerned.



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REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

BUL-RFQ-24-11-02 – SUPPLY OF ATLAS COPCO BD3500+ AIR DRYER

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine ("the Company"), a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, requests the submission of Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

Specification:

ATLAS COPCO BD 3500+ AIR DRYER (BD3500P-ZP-40-400V-CE-IEC-14.5); Part Number 8154 3070 58

- Model BD - 3500+
- Cooling Mode - Zero purge
- Voltage & Frequency - 400V 50 Hz
- Dryer type - Desiccant
- Total power Installed - 178 kW
- Pressure vessel approval - CE
- Maximum Working pressure - 14,5 bar
- Free air delivery - 3891l/sec (8244cfm)
- Pressure dew point (PDP) - -40°C
- Blower filter and Pressure Dew Point Sensor included
- Include OPTIMIZER 4.0 -2NET-WITH TURBO; Part Number 8151 0171 89

Key documents:

- Clear and detailed Quotation.
- Company registration documents, i.e., Certificate of incorporation, business license, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of the dealership required.
- BRELA detailed search document indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner.

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- The reference "BUL-RFQ-24-11-02 – SUPPLY OF ATLAS COPCO BD3500+ AIR DRYER" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

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

Key dates:

- Last date to submit quotes: **28th November 2024**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited

Visit by UBA management team to The Guardian LTD at Mikocheni, yesterday



Nipashe deputy managing editor Epton Luhwago explains newsroom operations to UBA managing director and CEO Gbenga Makinde (2nd L), during his visit to The Guardian Ltd at Mikocheni light industrial area in Dar es Salaam yesterday.



UBA managing director Gbenga Makinde exchanges greetings with The Guardian Ltd senior advertising executive, Eliupendo Lema.



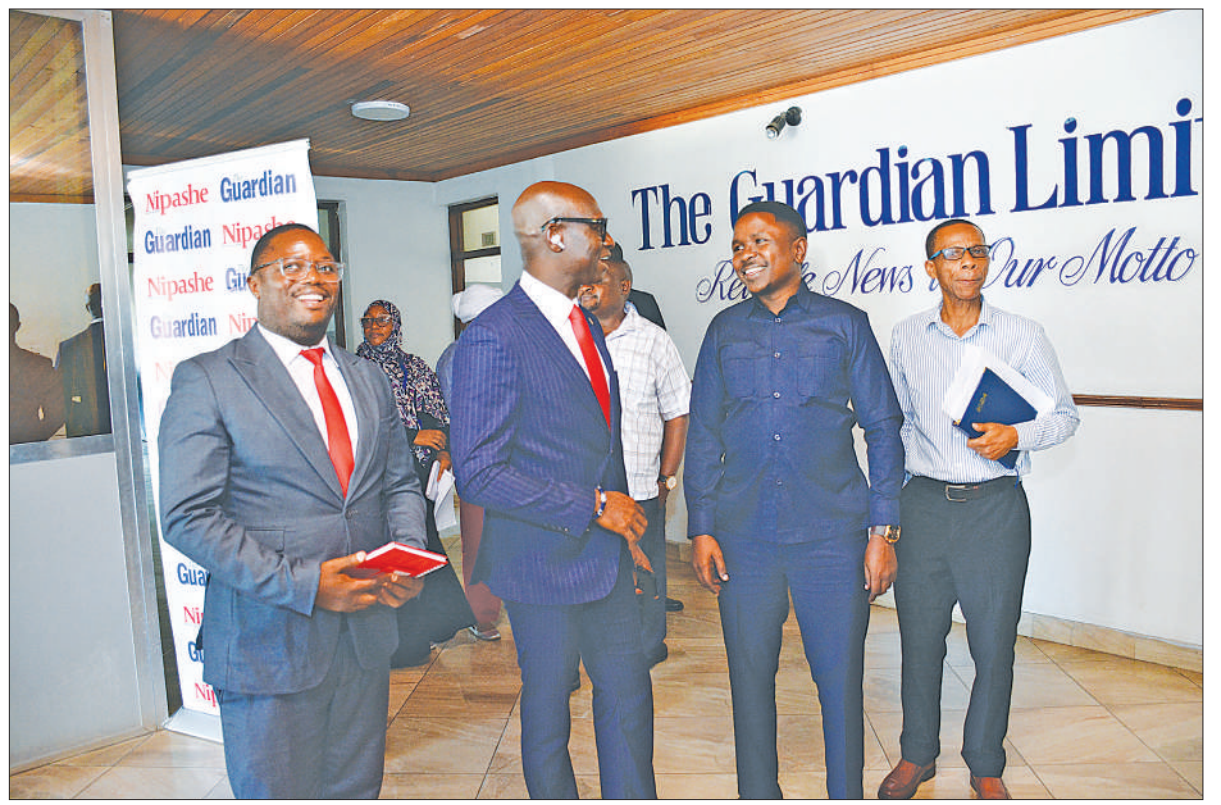
The Guardian Ltd head of advertising, Ally Muhidin (L), introduces himself to UBA managing director Gbenga Makinde, and his delegation.



UBA managing director Gbenga Makinde, and his delegation listen as The Guardian Ltd printing manager, Balasubramaniyan Venkadachalam (R), explains the newspaper printing process.



The Guardian Ltd printing manager, Balasubramaniyan Venkadachalam (R), provides an overview of the newspaper printing process to UBA managing director Gbenga Makinde, and his delegation.



The Guardian Ltd deputy general manager, Jackson Paul (R), speaks with UBA managing director Gbenga Makinde (2nd L), during a visit by the UBA delegation to The Guardian Ltd at Mikocheni, Dar es Salaam, yesterday.



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UBA managing director Gbenga Makinde, exchanges greetings with The Guardian Ltd finance manager, Samwel Organess. All photos by Correspondent Miraji Msala.

Agro experts urged to guide farmers on safe use of input

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

AGRICULTURE experts have been urged to play a role in providing accurate guidance to farmers on proper use of inputs in order to protect consumers from potential harm caused by improperly treated crops.

This was said here on Monday by Secretary General of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania - Northern Diocese (ELCT-ND) Zephania Moshi during a capacity building workshop for leaders of farmer and herder groups in Kilimanjaro Region.

The training is part of a project implemented by ELCT-ND and supported by Norwegian Church Aid - Tanzania (NCA-Tanzania).

Moshi emphasised that improper use of agricultural inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides and

insecticides could have serious negative effects on human health and the environment.

He urged experts to ensure that farmers are properly trained on safe and sustainable use of the products.

"We have witnessed the harmful effects of improper input use, particularly in crops such as carrots, tomatoes and onions in Magarobi area in Arusha Region. My appeal to those providing agricultural inputs is to ensure they guide farmers on the correct types and quantities to use," he said.

He further highlighted that some agricultural inputs have long-lasting residual effects while others have shorter durations. If used excessively, the substances can remain in the crops for extended periods, posing significant health risks to consumers. "This is why it is crucial for input experts to prioritise educating farmers on how to use appropriate inputs that are

safe for consumers," he said.

Rev. Andrew Munisi, ELCT-ND and NCA Projects Coordinator, stressed the importance of the training in encouraging farmers and herders to adopt modern and productive agricultural practices, moving away from traditional methods.

"Our goal is to shift mindsets within our communities so that people embrace productive agriculture and leave behind outdated farming and herding practices," he said.

Over the past five years, the project has achieved notable success, with many households producing sufficient food to meet their needs.

Rev. Munisi also emphasised that the training helps farmers learn how to produce high-quality crops while urging them not to sell produce contaminated with pesticides in order to safeguard consumer health.



Morogoro Road expansion in the city of Dar es Salaam is making progress, as seen in the Kimara Corner section yesterday. The works are meant to ease traffic congestion and improve connectivity from the city centre to the suburbs. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

STUDENTS and alumni of the Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) have been urged to take an active role in educating the public about tax issues as there is significant gap in tax education.

The call was made in Dar es Salaam yesterday by Paul Baleza, Manager of Taxpayer Education Department at the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) during the 17th ITA convocation and alumni meeting.

Baleza emphasized the existing gap in tax education among Tanzanians, stressing that more efforts are needed to bridge it.

"There is a huge tax education gap. You must play a key role in ensuring that everyone understands it clearly

Educate Tanzanians on tax matters, ITA alumni urged

for the benefit of our country," he said.

He encouraged ITA graduates to support the tax administration in carrying out its activities smoothly.

"We must collaborate to make TRA's work easier and, in turn, improve our country's economy," he added.

During the event, motivational speaker and ITA alumnus Luis Hiza urged graduates to change their mindset if they want to succeed in the tax field.

"You must change your mindset if you wish to become a tax consultant

through self-employment rather than simply seeking recruitment," he said.

Hiza noted that tax consultants can work anywhere and contribute to both the community and the government, helping to improve the economy.

He also emphasized the importance of discipline and encouraged graduates to cultivate a habit of volunteerism in their professional work.

ITA, a registered higher learning institution, was established by TRA over 17 years ago.

By Correspondent Gideon Mwakanosya, Songea

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango is set to grace this year's World AIDS Day commemoration on December 1 at national level in Songea Municipality, Ruvuma Region.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and other senior government officials are also expected to attend, according to Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Col. Ahamed Abbas Ahamed.

Speaking to reporters here on Tuesday, Col. Ahamed said that the event will take place at Majimaji Grounds, running from November 21 to the climax on December 1.

Throughout the period, various health and other social services will be provided at the venue and in nearby areas.

Themed 'Take the Rights Path', the day underscores the importance of adopting effective measures to prevent HIV infections and achieve the global target of ending AIDS epidemic by 2030.

Col. Ahamed highlighted the event's key objectives as assessment

Dr Mpango set to grace national World Aids Day event in Songea

and awareness by evaluating progress in HIV control both nationally and globally while raising awareness about prevention methods, achievements and challenges.

It is also meant to promote services for people living with HIV and orphans affected by the epidemic while honouring those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses as well as sustaining priorities by ensuring HIV remains a central focus on both regional and national agenda through collaboration with government leaders and development partners.

The week-long event will feature a wide range of activities, including free voluntary HIV testing, diabetes and blood pressure screenings, blood donation drives, hepatitis vaccinations and nutrition education.

There will be educational campaigns whereby distribution of informational materials such as leaflets and posters will take place

alongside awareness drives using art performances and testimonies from individuals living with HIV.

There will also be counselling and support for HIV positive people, gender-based violence cases will be addressed as well as child welfare issues.

The main event on December 1 will include exhibitions showcasing progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS and opportunities to learn more about ongoing control efforts.

Col. Ahamed urged all stakeholders to actively participate, emphasizing the significance of this year's theme in advancing national priorities while aligning with global strategies.

"The commemoration is an opportunity for collective action and renewed commitment to eradicating HIV/AIDS in Tanzania," he said.

The event aims to inspire unity in the fight against HIV/AIDS, ensuring that no one is left behind in achieving this critical goal.



Advertisement

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

BUL-RFQ-24-11-01 – Supply of Volvo L120H Wheel Loader

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine ("the Company"), a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

Wheel Loader Specifications: Volvo L120H

- 120H H-series (Volvo L120H Wheel Loader complete with attachments & Low-profile cab) – 1No.

Technical Specifications: Volvo L120H complete with accessories / attachments

Volvo L120H, Wheel Loader 1H Series	1	H Series
Standard boom	1	
ENGLISH	1	
Parts Catalogue EMEA	1	
23.5R25" BR VJT L3	1	
Rims 25_19,50/2,5 3..piece	1	
Fuel fill strainer 1 Engine auto shutdown	1	
Fuel filter ,extra	1	
Air precleaner, cyclone type seat,ISRI,lowback 1	1	Air filtration system- cyclone
ACC with std condenser	1	
Universal door/ignition key	1	
Steering, secondary	1	
P.brake alarm, audible buzzer	1	
Steering wheel knob	1	
Single lever Ctrl, 3 Functions	1	
Hydraulic function, 3rd.	1	3 rd hydraulic function for attachments
Battery	1	
Jump start connector, ISO-Type	1	Battery jump start
Rear view camera incl. monitor	1	Camera + monitor (rear)
P.brake alarm, audible	1	Alarm parking brake
Reverse alarm, audible	1	Alarm reverse
Warning Beacon, LED	1	Warning Beacon LED
LED Power Package	1	
Working lights front, extra	1	
Hydr fluid, for hot climate	1	
Wheel nut wrench kit	1	
Sep attachm lock, Std boom	1	
Lube system	1	Central Lubricating system
Boom Suspension System, BSS	1	Boom suspension system for spillage
Boom suspension system for spillage	1	
Counterweight, logging	1	Logging counterweight
Headlights, front, guards	1	Guards for lights- front
Taillight guards	1	Guards for lights- rear
Bracket for Fire extinguisher	2	
Fire extinguishers	2	Fire extinguishers
Att.bracket VAB-STD cast.	1	
Fork frame HD 1500 mm PAFF	1	Fork frame
PAFT Straight 1450 mm 150x60	2	Forks
MHA H MECH.	1	JIB- Material Handling Arm
SORTGR H 2,4 m2 1634 mm	1	Sorting Grapple- see specs annexed
Heel/kickout for 2,4 m2 GR	1	For grapple opening / closing and release
Tool kit 1 Cover Plate Front/Rear axle	1	
GP HD P 3,3m3 2880mm W	1	Bucket- 3.3m3 capacity
Point kit 15AML Vo	1	Bucket teeth
Adapt Weld-on Flush LA15FC35Vo	1	Adaptor for bucket teeth
Low Profile Cab (-300m)	1	Low profile cab modified from STD cab
Hose Rupture Valve	1	Hydrokit supplied
Fire suppression system	1	Sandvik supplied
Low Profile Cab -300mm) with Safety glass BR4NS 22mm I	1	
Conversion of front window protection	1	
Roof modification "bulge" 60mm	1	
Sorting Grapple (as per specs)	1	

Additional Site Specifications

- Low profile cab
- Standard boom
- Hose Burst protection
- Part and operator manuals
- Sandvik AFFF
- Lockable battery isolator
- two external e-stops and 1 in the cab
- two dry powder fire extinguishers 9 Kg
- Reverse alarm and reverse lights that activate automatically
- Operator cabin to have an emergency exit
- LED Rotating Beacon
- Turbo to have heat shielding
- All flammable liquid hoses are to be separated from all electrical wiring-
- Fuel line to be single wire braid
- A dedicated jump-start system shall be installed and segregated from the battery compartment. Receptacle to be Caterpillar type
- Residual brake pressure gauges/digital display to be fitted in operator cabin-
- The engine management system requires that it either sounds an audible alarm or has a visible warning light in the operator cabin and returns the engine to idle for low engine oil pressure, high coolant temperature, low coolant flow or low coolant level
- Battery cover to be insulated with 6 mm rubber and at least 25 mm clearance over terminals
- Reverse camera
- The brake system must be ABA (Automatic brake application)
- Machine to be provided with a minimum of Service Brake and Emergency Brake wet disc brake systems. The emergency brake system must be fail-to-safe (Spring Applied Hydraulic Release Brakes – SAHR)
- Emergency Brakes are to be interlocked with the following:
 - Ignition off position
 - Low engine oil pressure
 - Neutral brake activation with delay setting on activation
 - Driver door open

Key documents

- Clear and detailed Quotation
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business license, TIN, VRN, TaxClearance Certificate etc.
- BRELA detailed search document indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018;
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of dealership as required.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner.

Submission of Quotes

Please submit your quotes via email to bulytender@barrick.com. The reference "BUL-RFQ-24-11-01 – Supply of Volvo L120H Wheel Loaders" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

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

Key Dates

- Last date to submit quotes: **28th November 2024**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited

Improve product quality to access American market, traders advised

By Guardian Reporter

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Dr Selemani Jafo has urged Tanzanian traders to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the United States through African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to produce products that meet international standards.

He highlighted that many Tanzanian products have struggled to penetrate international markets due to failure to meet the required criteria and standards.

Dr Jafo made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam during presentation of quality awards to various companies and traders by Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

It was collaboration between TBS, Tanzania Trade Development Authority (Tantrade), Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC), Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO),

Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS) and Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF).

He emphasized that the U.S. government had offered AGOA as part of its strategy to support development of African countries. However, some countries, including Tanzania, have not been able to take full advantage of the opportunity to sell products in the US market.

Dr Jafo encouraged manufacturers and to focus on producing quality products that can enter international markets such as AGOA, East and Central Africa and beyond.

"All developed countries first rely on their domestic market. We are 62 million people; if you produce products that Tanzanians appreciate, the domestic market alone can support your business," he said.

He praised the awards, noting their increasing importance, with the number of participants rising from 36 last year to 54 this year.

"In addition, we must understand that any product can compete in the market if it focuses on quality. I thank TBS for setting an example in quality," he said.

"TBS has become a leading quality institution in Africa and is recognized as the number one authority on quality control. The awards play a significant role in increasing the value of companies' products and traders themselves." Dr Jafo urged Tanzanians to support local producers by purchasing their products and moving away from the mindset that foreign products are always superior to locally made ones.

He also called on Tanzanians to strengthen their businesses through SIDO by taking advantage of the trainings offered by the organization and later receive the

free quality logo from TBS.

"Many young people graduate from universities but the government cannot employ all of them. It is important to continue encouraging the private sector to hire youth or create opportunities for them to employ themselves after graduation," he said.

The Chairperson of the Awards

Committee, Cresensia Mbunda, explained that every year, the Ministry of Industry and Trade through TBS and ZBS in partnership with the private sector organizes the quality awards.

She said the awards aim to encourage use of quality standards and foster competition across various sectors in the

country while recognizing and appreciating the efforts of producers who excel annually.

She added that a team of seven judges from both the private sector and the government reviewed 52 applications for the awards, ensuring fairness and adherence to the established criteria.



Members of the Chadema Women's Council from Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region, participate in a forum aimed at empowering candidates preparing for the local government elections set for Sunday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Specialist doctors to reach patients at medical camps across Manyara

By Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson,

Babati

FIFTEEN specialist doctors in Manyara Region are set to launch medical camps aimed at providing medical services to residents in all municipal councils across the region.

Queen Sendiga, Manyara Regional Commissioner, announced this yesterday during a press briefing, saying the initiative is designed to help residents avoid high costs associated with travelling long distances for treatment.

She said the first phase of the initiative is set to begin from November 19 to 22 in Simanjiro District, providing residents with a more affordable and accessible alternative to travelling for medical care.

She said that the region has opted to utilise its own pool of specialist doctors to directly serve communities rather than relying

solely on deployment of specialists as part of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's nationwide health initiative.

"The region has decided to leverage local resources and employ our own specialist doctors to treat patients in all districts," she said.

She noted that the camps will operate in each district since every municipal council in the region has a district hospital and well-equipped health centres to support the initiative.

The clinics will offer a wide range of services, including surgery, gynaecology and obstetrics, ophthalmology as well as hypertension and diabetes management, and paediatric care.

"We aim to improve diagnosis and management of chronic diseases affecting our residents while also building the capacity of our health professionals in municipal councils," she said.

Sendiga also announced that

Roberts and Friends, a U.S.-based medical organisation, will send 20 specialist doctors to Manyara in February 2025 to provide additional expertise and care to residents.

She encouraged residents of Manyara and neighbouring regions to take advantage of the opportunity to receive specialized medical services.

"The visiting specialists will bring medical equipment to support provision of care but will also use locally available resources," Sendiga said.

Dr Andrew Method, Manyara Regional Medical Officer, highlighted the significance of the initiative, noting that the presence of local specialists will be a 'game changer'.

He said the specialist will not only provide direct care in every district but also offer training to district-level medical professionals to enhance the overall healthcare capacity in the region.

ADDIS ABABA

THE Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) on Monday called on the United States to reassess its Level 3 travel advisory for Rwanda issued in response to the Marburg virus disease outbreak in the country.

In a statement, it said it had formally urged the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reassess and lift the travel advisory issued on Oct. 7, which cautioned its citizens to "reconsider travel" to Rwanda.

According to the statement, Jean Kaseya, director-general of the Africa CDC, addressed the matter in a letter to US officials, highlighting Rwanda's progress in managing and containing the outbreak.

"Recent evaluations by Africa CDC and the World Health

Africa CDC urges US to reassess, scrap travel advisory on Rwanda

Organization (WHO) acknowledge Rwanda's progress. They confirm that the risk of further Marburg virus disease transmission is low, with no reported cases outside Rwanda or in the United States," the Africa CDC said.

It noted the travel advisory has had a substantial impact on Rwanda's tourism and business sectors, both of which are critical to its economy.

"Africa CDC has urged the HHS and CDC to assess the situation on the ground, in collaboration with international health agencies, and update the travel advisory to reflect the current epidemiological context," it said, emphasizing that revising the advisory would recognize Rwanda's public health achievements while supporting its

economic recovery.

As of Sunday, it had been 18 days since Rwanda reported its last case of Marburg virus disease, according to Africa CDC data. All previously infected patients have been successfully discharged, with robust monitoring and community follow-up systems in place.

The Africa CDC credited Rwanda's success to the swift and coordinated efforts led by the country's Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Africa CDC, the WHO and international partners.

Rwanda declared the presence of Marburg virus disease on Sept. 27. The Africa CDC said since the first cases were detected, the country "has worked tirelessly to contain the virus and prevent its spread both within Rwanda and across Africa."

HARARE

A TOTAL of 70 suspected cholera cases and one death have been recorded in the Kariba District of Zimbabwe's Mashonaland West Province since a new outbreak began in early November, the Ministry of Health and Child Care said on Monday.

As part of the response, 1,007 out of a targeted 2,553 people in the district which borders Zambia have received an oral cholera

Zimbabwe records 70 suspected cholera cases, one death amid fears of outbreak

vaccine dose, said the ministry in a statement.

The new outbreak came a few months after the Zimbabwean government declared in August an end to a previous nationwide outbreak that began in February last year and claimed hundreds of lives.

According to the ministry,

infection prevention and control measures alongside cholera awareness campaigns have been implemented in the town to contain the outbreak.

Zimbabwe has experienced recurring cholera outbreaks over the past years due to inadequate water and sanitation infrastructure.



UNITRANS TANZANIA LIMITED

JOB VACANCIES

Unitrans Tanzania Limited has the following exciting opportunity at Kilombero and Kilosa Districts, Morogoro Region where is subcontracted for various agricultural operations to the sugar industry.

We are currently looking for a suitably qualified, and experienced individuals to fill in the following posts.

ASSISTANT CONTRACT MANAGER (01)

Job purpose

To implement, manage and optimize all Unitrans operations on the sugar estate

Duties and Responsibilities

Operations.

- Manage the cane haulage operations including mechanical harvesting
- Manage various ancillary operations including road maintenance, canals and drains (excavating), drones' supervision, bulldozing, crop spraying and fertilizer application activities
- Optimum driver and vehicle utilization is achieved
- "Daily required delivery" parameters are achieved
- Daily liaison with operations management staff is maintained
- The vehicle fleet complies with all legal requirements
- Health & Safety legislation and procedures are adhered to
- Quality management policies and procedures are adhered to
- Vehicle maintenance information is analyzed
- Equipment trend information is analyzed

Finance for specific contract

- Operations budget is compiled in accordance with prescribed format and submitted in accordance with prescribed deadline to take into account all contracted activities
- Revenue and expenditure are within budgeted parameters
- Make/Exceed monthly, quarterly and annual plan revenue targets
- All accounting deadlines are met monthly

Implement and manage key relations

- Ensure and maintain ongoing exceptional relationships with the customers
- Problems/complaints are timeously resolved to the benefit of all parties involved
- Excellent customer relations are maintained

Other

- Training needs are met for all subordinates
- Part of the recruitment process for the contract
- Ensure good industrial relations on site
- Ensure company code of conduct, policies and procedures are adhered to.

Required qualifications.

- Degree in Mechanical Engineering
- Must be a Tanzanian.
- 3 - 5 years of experience in senior supervisory position
- Ability to work independently and under pressure (problem solving skills)
- Dedicated and efficient

DRIVER TRAINER (01)

Job purpose

To conducting prescribed in-house training courses for drivers and Operators and monitor results of same

Duties and Responsibilities

Conduct training

- Provide on-job training to operators and drivers
- Demonstrate machine Management techniques to improve work safety and efficiency.
- Provide work guidance in accordance to work instructions as issued by customer from time to time

Safety functions

- To perform monthly inspections of your workplace, using the checklist provided to identify any hazards or potential hazards.
- To ensure that no employee is allowed to operate machinery unless he is adequately trained and competent to do so.
- To liaise with Safety, Health and Environmental Representatives when they are performing their inspections.
- To participate in an incident and accident investigation when happening in your workstation.
- To ensure that the necessary checks on machinery and equipment are carried out by competent people and their findings recorded in the register provided.
- To liaise with Safety, Health and Environmental Representatives when they are performing their inspections.
- To familiarize yourself with the requirements of the Occupational and Safety Act, and Regulations that apply at your workplace and ensure that you comply with these requirements

Administrative functions

- Prepare monthly and daily reporting of job training
- Control onsite fuel and oil usage

Customer Intimacy

- Ensure and maintain ongoing operational relationships.
- Seek ways to add value to customers supply chains.
- Liaise with operations and support service levels
- Pro-actively respond to customer needs

Required qualifications.

- Must have a minimum of secondary education
- Trainer certificate/ driver instructor certificate
- Defensive driving training certificate will be added advantage.
- Minimum of 3 years' experience as a driver trainer.
- Must be able to operate various machines/vehicles particularly Lory- Long truck, tractor and grader/excavator/ Bell tractor will be added advantage.
- Valid driving licence with the following classes E, G, F
- Well conversant with Tanzania Road Traffic Act and its regulations
- Basic computer knowledge.
- Age not more than 45 years old

Interested candidates may apply by sending their CV's to iness.nangall@unitrans.co.tz not later than the **30th of November 2024**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

SA's top poultry firm expects rate cut boost

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's largest poultry producer, Astral Foods (ARLJ) said on Monday it expected interest rate cuts to improve economic prospects and demand in 2025, after bouncing back from a rare loss last year.

Astral reported headline earnings per share of 19.20 rand (\$1.06) for the year ended Sept. 30, compared to a loss of 13.24 rand during the same period last year, hurt by power cuts and South Africa's worst bird flu outbreak.

Total revenue rose 6.4 percent to 20.5 billion rand during the year as the company's poultry and stock feed segments grew despite constrained consumer spending.

Astral said a series of expected interest rate cuts, coupled with South Africa's "two pot" pension reforms allowing people to make partial withdrawals from their pension funds before retirement, and could help boost consumer demand.

South Africa's tax authorities said about \$1.2 billion was paid out in the first six weeks of the pension reforms taking effect in September.

The poultry industry is the largest single contributor to the agricultural sector in South Africa. In 2021, some 16.6 percent of the total agricultural gross value and 39.9 percent of animal product gross value stemmed from poultry production.



Total revenue rose 6.4 percent to 20.5 billion rand during the year as the company's poultry and stock feed segments grew despite constrained consumer spending

UNECA for global financial system overhaul for Africa's development

By Special Correspondent Addis Ababa

UNITED Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Executive Secretary Claver Gatete has called for a restructuring of the global financial architecture in response to the needs of developing nations.

He made the remark at the Regional Consultation for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Africa, held at the UN Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from Monday to Tuesday, according to a UNECA statement.

According to Gatete, the African continent has confronted different challenges that pose serious threats to its collective progress and demand a unified response.

He said from the COVID-19 pandemic to geopolitical tensions and economic downturns, African economies are "being stretched to their limits," with the continent now facing a financing gap of up to 1.3 trillion U.S. dollars annually to meet its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

"As of 2023, the continent's external debt exceeded 1 trillion U.S. dollars with extremely high annual interest payments, in effect, limiting our ability to fund essential development," Gatete said.

The UNECA chief also warned that the number of impoverished people on the continent is expected to hit 476 million this year, as 149 million previously non-poor people have slipped into poverty, largely due to the escalating impact of climate disasters.

"The time has come to overhaul our financial architecture and reform it into one that fairly represents and responds to the needs of developing nations, and champions financial stability for Africa's development," Gatete said.

He underscored that the African continent needs a financial system that prioritizes the SDGs, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and the global climate action, while leveraging both concessional finance and robust domestic resource mobilization to chart a new path forward.



The time has come to overhaul our financial architecture and reform it into one that fairly represents and responds to the needs of developing nations, and champions financial stability for Africa's development



Cyprian Luhemeja (C. gesturing), Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office, pictured yesterday making a briefing on the sidelines of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in progress in Baku, Azerbaijan. Photo: VPO

RIO DE JANEIRO

THE climate crisis and conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East took centre stage on the first day of the G20 summit in Brazil on Monday.

In a joint statement, leaders from the group of major economies highlighted the suffering of people in Gaza and Ukraine, and called for cooperation on poverty reduction, tax policy, and climate change.

The UN climate Chief Simon Stiell on Saturday had implored G20 leaders to help break a deadlock in climate financing negotiations at the COP29 talks in Azerbaijan.

The climate summit aims to reach

Climate crisis, wars take centre stage at G20 Summit in Brazil

an agreement to mobilise hundreds of billions of dollars in climate adaptation and mitigation funding for developing countries.

It is the major economies, responsible for more than three-quarters of global greenhouse gas emissions, who hold the purse strings.

The G20 statement on Monday did call for "rapidly and substantially increasing climate finance from billions

to trillions from all sources."

But while they agreed that COP negotiators should reach a deal on a new finance goal for how much money rich nations must pay, they did not say what the solution should be.

Developed countries have argued that the contributor base needs to be expanded to include richer developing nations like China and richer Middle Eastern countries.

On Tuesday, G20 leaders are expected to discuss sustainable development and the transition to cleaner energy.

They are seeking to shore up efforts to fight global warming before Donald Trump assumes presidency of the United States.

He has threatened to withdraw the US from the Paris climate accord and roll back Washington's climate legislation.



Raymond Katima, an officer with the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau in Korogwe District, speaks at a one-day seminar on the bureau's activities particularly as relates to the implementation of water projects. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

COP29 finance talks lag as summit reaches its halfway

BAKU

IT has been described as the "climate finance COP," but halfway through the United Nations climate change talks in Azerbaijan, progress is slow and frustration is growing.

One of the main tasks of COP29 is for countries to broker a deal that ensures

up to trillions of dollars in adaptation and mitigation financing.

Talks resumed on Monday with the hope that the arrival in Baku of climate and environment ministers will shake things up.

Negotiators are hoping delegates will now be able to work through disagreements and hammer out a deal.

The issue of climate change financing is one that is of particular importance to Africa.

The continent has contributed little to the causes of climate change, but African nations are among the hardest hit and the least equipped to deal it.

Funds would help developing countries to transition away from fossil

fuels, adapt to climate change, and pay for damages caused by extreme weather.

Countries are, however, far apart on how much money that will require.

Last week, UN climate change chief Simon Stiell said giving developing countries climate finance was not charity, but rather in the interests of every nation.

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Samia has a point on SDR use being shifted to AfDB

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has lately used an occasion to address the G20 summit to make a direct appeal to the participants to facilitate the transfer of special drawing rights (SDRs) at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to African financial institutions such as the African Development Bank (AfDB). It was not the first time that the president made the demand, as in May 2022 she expressed the same need at an annual meeting of the AfDB in the Ghanaian capital, Accra. It is not easy to say that the idea is making headway, as AfDB has other arrangements, usually with the World Bank.

The remarks were an illustration of what the president meant by Africa needing a fairer global financial system, one that includes preferential mechanisms to better support developing countries. The plenary session of leaders at the Rio de Janeiro conference premises in Brazil included those who make the most pivotal decisions on the way the Bretton Woods institutions are governed, thus the use of the summit to reiterate that idea. Yet the SDRs are specific to the IMF, thus delegating their use to AfDB is a change of statute of the IMF as such, as SDRs are accessible more or less on demand, by and large.

Despite the president being quite realistic as to the chances of multilateral lending on concessional terms in the wake of attaining lower middle income status, she was still insistent that Tanzania seeks further debt relief, increased aid and concessional loans.

She pointed at the need to address current needs and vulnerabilities of African states, voicing strong support for enhanced international cooperation such as the G20's Global Alliance against hunger and poverty. This initiative fosters innovation, inclusive growth.

The thrust of the president's remarks was on the need to build

a world of fairness, prosperity and justice, even as the demand on SDRs did not show exactly why it should not be administered at the IMF. For one thing, the IMF has substantially limited resources compared to the World Bank, while the latter lends for projects it has approved, unlike the IMF which lends to governments in case of balance of payments difficulties. Yet this demand follows initiatives from the board of governors, as they altered rules in the later stages of the Covid-19 pandemic to set up a post-pandemic recovery facility; it wasn't directed to balance of payments but education, health needs.

In that case the proposal amounts to asking that the SDRs be used for that sort of need, leveraging budgetary needs on a sustained basis, whereas the IMF has to be intervening if pressing needs arise, or unexpected circumstances. Bigger cash needs require pursuit of reforms, which African states often push in domestic policies out of negotiations for instance in periodic visits of IMF experts, to check on budgetary resilience for the next quarter or two, into the next financial year. Hence we scarcely use global forums to urge reforms in the local economic set up but in the multilateral setting, for a fairer world.

This tonality is a mark of solidarity with other African states and poor countries as a whole, as instituting reforms is traditionally seen as punishing for African states, for it entails reductions in the public service, the restructuring of state companies, etc. Yet the Bretton Woods can't be expected to alter their basic functions which include conducting periodic inspections to see if economies and budgetary frameworks are resilient. That isn't to say they exercise enormous power, otherwise periodic flash ups due to stalled reforms would not occur; don't sleep with doors open waiting for a fairer world to enter.

Government rightly marking time on Ngorongoro conservation drive

Pressure is being piled upon the government by civic stakeholders like the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) which has called for action to restore essential services for residents of Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA). That would be the key step in fully addressing the community's long-standing challenges, on the basis of remarks by the NGO's national coordinator, with a bevy of local and foreign activist organisations lined up behind the remarks. It follows a recent victory when the government changed course on the issue to tone down vast campaigning.

That the NGO commended a recent directive for restoration of key services in the area was hard to swallow for regional administrators, but as they say, laying the tools for the night isn't an end to a mechanic's work. The government has not lost the bigger picture on conserving the area, but the pace needed to be scaled down except for those who actually volunteer to shift to other places. It is possible they are thinning out and thus the government doesn't have too many local people comprehending the need for conservation whom they can still address. So there is a pause in the battle.

So the government has to be pragmatic in the matter and do what it can to restore social services, without dropping the guard on population expansion in the area, the number of cattle present there, infringement on wildlife areas, etc. The NGO activist acknowledged the work of a high-level delegation including two senior cabinet ministers and the top regional

administrator there, which engaged with residents, listened to their grievances and used their mandate to sketch out urgent solutions, etc. There was a comprehensive assessment of the community's needs, where some reports say 2bn/- is required to revamp schools, health facilities and roads, full rehabilitation.

As numerous residents remain in place, and convincing them to do otherwise remains in limbo, a sort of stay of execution of vast conservation landscape measures is being implemented. There is hence a policy vacuum for the near term conservation policy in the area, and new ways have to be found to dissolve the land and communitarian links hindering adopting the same outlook for most residents, those who moved elsewhere and those who stayed. This may present a strategic difficulty for planners but it finally comes down to communalism standing in the way setting out individual benefits by moving. Reforms are needed to allocate land by individuals, conserve what remains and enable individuals seeking more land to sell and leave, not appeal to whole clans.

With the NGO reporting significant progress after some schools received 22m/- to construct 12 new toilets while 200m/- was allocated to complete dormitories where more than 1,000 pupils shared a vast dormitory, reshaping outlooks will take time. What can possibly work is delimiting strict conservation area and what still being used communally, parcel out lands to the specific family heads, give titles as final boundary. So long as people will make individual money in selling, activism will fade.



Integrating education in climate finance for better learning and climate outcomes

By Joyce Chimbi, Baku

EDUCATION is under threat as multiple crises push children out of school and into harm's way. COP29 Baku could break historical barriers that hold back education from playing a unique, critical role to accelerate the ambition of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement, protecting people and planet from life-threatening risks of climate change.

"Together with our partners, we have launched a pilot program in Somalia and Afghanistan, working with communities to identify early action activities or anticipatory action to act against the impacts of climate and minimize its disruption on children's lives and education in those countries," says Dianah Nelson, Chief of Education, Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises within the United Nations.

Towards embedding education into the climate finance debate, ECW held a series of COP29 side events on such issues as unlocking the potential of anticipatory action through multi-stakeholder collaboration; meeting the challenge of conflict, climate and education; climate change-resilient education systems in the most vulnerable nations; and protecting children's futures: why loss and damage must prioritise education in emergencies.

Panel discussions brought together a wide range of public and private partners, policymakers, and data experts to highlight the benefits of acting ahead of predicted climate shocks to protect education. "The climate crisis is an education crisis, and education cannot wait. We, therefore, need to center climate action on education and build climate-smart school technology. And most importantly, we need anticipatory action to reduce or eradicate the impact of climate shocks on children.

Everyone has a contribution to make, and every child has a dream. Uninterrupted access to education makes their dream a reality. We need to safeguard or protect our schools from being vulnerable, or being attacked in conflict, or even being washed away by flood," Adenike Oladosu, ECW's Climate Champion and Nigerian climate justice advocate, told IPS.

These climatic impacts are already being felt in Pakistan. Zulekha, advisor/program manager of the Gender and Child Cell NDMA Pakistan, spoke about how the country has suffered "severe



Dianah Nelson, Chief of Education speaks at ECW, during one of the sessions hosted by ECW.

impacts from extreme weather. More than 24,000 schools were damaged in the 2022 floods, and nearly 3.5 million children were displaced and their educations put at risk. We were still reeling from the effects of the floods in 2023 when we started to launch the refresher of the Pakistan School Safety Framework."

Oladosu spoke about the multiple, complex challenges confronting Nigeria and that anticipatory action "means bringing in the tools, through climate financing, to reduce the loss and damage. Anticipatory action addresses complex humanitarian crises in a proactive rather than reactive way to reduce the impact of a shock before its most severe effects are felt."

She stressed that anticipatory actions are critical to avoid "losses that are simply irreplaceable, such as the number of days children spend out of school due to climate events, those left behind the education system, or even those who fall out of the system and into child marriages and militia groups."

Lisa Doughten, Director, Financing and Partnership Division at OCHA, stated that in humanitarian crises, climate change "is significantly disrupting the overall access to education as schools temporarily shut down due to extreme climate events causing significant learning disruptions for millions of students. We have countries in conflict and fragile settings, and the climate crisis creates extremely difficult circumstances for, especially children and women."

Doughten spoke about the need to leverage data to get ahead of predictable climate disasters and how OCHA works with various partners, including meteorological organizations, to monitor and use climate data. Using models that entail pre-planned programs, pre-determined triggers for weather events such as floods and storms, and pre-financing to ensure that funds are disbursed with speed towards anticipatory actions.

At COP29, ECW reiterated the power of education to unite communities, build consensus, and transform entire societies. In the classroom of the future, children will acquire the green skills they need to thrive in the new economy of the 21st century, and communities will come together to share early warnings and act in advance of climate hazards such as droughts and floods.

Stressing that in this classroom of the future, "an entire generation of future leaders can build the will and commitment to break down the status quo and create true lasting solutions to this unprecedented and truly terrifying crisis. Unfortunately, multilateral climate finance has not prioritized the education sector to date, meaning a tiny proportion, at most 0.03 percent, of all climate finance is spent on education. While children have the most to offer in building long-term solutions to the crisis, they also have the most to lose."

ECW says the connection between climate action and education is also

noticeably underrepresented in NDCs, or national commitments to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Only half of all NDCs are child and youth sensitive, and this is an urgent situation for, in 2022 alone, over 400 million children experienced school closures as the result of extreme weather.

According to the Global Fund, "on the frontlines of the world's worst humanitarian crises, these disruptions will often push children out of the education system forever. In places like Chad, Nigeria, and Sudan, where millions of children are already out of school, it could impact the future of an entire generation. ECW's disaster-resilient classrooms, for instance, boosted enrolment rates in Chad."

Amid Chad's multidimensional challenges compounded by climate change, climate-resilient classrooms whose construction was funded by ECW and completed in March 2022 meant that classrooms were more durable and accessible for children and adolescents with disabilities. These classrooms withstood the heaviest rainy season in 30 years, triggering widespread flooding. Committing needed finances and acting with speed and urgency means bringing solutions within reach.

Accordingly, ECW says a key step is increasing access to the main climate funds—including the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund—and activating new innovative financing modalities to deliver with speed, depth, and impact, and that the funding needs to be faster, transparent, and fully coordinated across both humanitarian and development sectors.

Looking forward to COP30 in Brazil, ECW stressed that education must play an integral role in the new Loss and Damage Fund. Education losses caused by climate change take unprecedented tolls on societies, especially in countries impacted by conflicts, displacement, and other pressing humanitarian emergencies.

Further emphasizing that the "loss and damage connected with years of lost learning may seem hard to quantify. But we know that for every USD 1 invested in a girl's education, we see USD 2.80 in return. And we know that education isn't just a privilege; it's a human right. Finally, we need to ensure the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance includes a firm commitment to educating all the world's children. Not just the easy-to-reach, but the ones that are the most vulnerable, the millions whose lives are being ripped apart by a crisis not of their own making."

Teachers as referees: Empowering young learners through modern education system



IN the past, traditional teaching methods positioned the teacher as the sole source of knowledge. What the teacher said was final, largely because access to information was limited. Libraries were few, books were scarce and the distribution of knowledge across regions or countries was often constrained.

The above explained situation created an environment where students relied heavily on teachers, with little room for questioning or exploration. Knowledge transfer relied on printed books and face-to-face interactions, which were slow and often expensive.

One significant factor contributing to this knowledge gap was the limited technological advancement of the time. Publishing books was a challenge, making it difficult for learners to access reading materials independently.

With few resources for self-directed study, teachers became the sole source of knowledge, limiting students' ability to verify, challenge, or expand on the information they were taught. Without access to diverse materials or alternative perspectives, the education system relied heavily on rote learning and memorization rather than critical thinking and exploration.

The inability to diversify instructional methods limited the potential for students with different strengths and interests to thrive. This environment made participatory teaching methods almost impossible.

A changing era

Every era has its defining characteristics that influence educational practices. Today, we live in a world of unprecedented access to information. Smartphones, the internet, and television have transformed learning from a classroom-bound activity into something accessible virtually anywhere.

Learners can now access vast amounts of educational content, making the teacher's role evolve from being the sole supplier of knowledge to that of a guide and facilitator.

In this era, clinging to outdated teaching practices from the colonial or post-colonial period, when technology was less advanced, would hinder progress. Instead, educators must embrace these changes and adapt their methods to remain effective.

The teacher as a referee

In modern classrooms, learners bring a wealth of knowledge to the table. This doesn't diminish a teacher's value; rather, it calls for a shift in approach. A teacher should act as a referee, observing and guiding learners as they explore, interact, and learn from one another. Like a referee in a football match, a teacher ensures fair play, intervenes when necessary, and supports learners in achieving their goals.

One effective way to foster such interaction is by encouraging peer questioning. For instance, teachers can pair students to ask and answer questions among themselves.

The teacher's role here is to ensure that the questions are well-structured and the answers accurate. Adding a reward or consequence system can make

the exercise more engaging. For example, a pair may be eliminated from the exercise if one member fails to answer correctly, which motivates students to prepare more

thoroughly. Benefits of the referee approach
When a teacher adopts the role of a referee in the classroom, it shifts the focus from traditional, teacher-centered instruction

to a more dynamic and participatory learning environment. This teaching method, where the teacher acts as a facilitator and learners take an active role, has numer-

ous benefits as it allow students to take a more active role in discussions and become more engaged in the learning process.

It fosters curiosity whereas students are encouraged to ask questions, explore, and debate, thus deepening their understanding of the subject.

When learners are tasked with asking questions, they are motivated to read and understand the material to perform well. Fear of embarrassment—either from failing to answer or not having a question to ask—pushes students to engage more deeply, enhancing their knowledge and understanding.

In exercises where group perfor-

mance depends on individual contributions, students learn to accept and work with the weaknesses of others. This builds empathy and fosters a mindset of supporting peers to overcome challenges, preparing them for collaborative problem-solving in real-life situations.

Interaction builds confidence. As learners practice asking and answering questions, they become more comfortable expressing themselves. Recognizing and addressing their weaknesses further boosts their self-assurance, which is crucial not only in academics but also in personal and professional life.

Classrooms are microcosms of society, and interaction is key to their success. Collaborative learning allows students to understand one another's strengths and weaknesses, reducing fear and fostering unity. This interaction strengthens the social fabric of the classroom and equips students with vital interpersonal skills for life beyond school.

For education to be effective, learning should be a joyful experience. Teachers must use a variety of teaching methods to cater to diverse learning needs and keep students engaged. Methods that involve active participation, like peer questioning and group discussions, place learners at the center of the process. This approach not only enhances academic outcomes but also encourages students to appreciate their potential.

By adopting the role of a referee, teachers can transform their classrooms into dynamic spaces where learners take charge of their own education. This method aligns with the demands of the modern era and ensures that students are not just recipients of knowledge but active participants in their learning journey.

Teaching is no longer just about imparting knowledge; it's about guiding learners to discover, explore, and excel. The referee approach empowers students, fosters collaboration, and builds a foundation for lifelong learning and success.



President Samia's historic attendance at G20 summit highlights the nation's unique development journey

By Adonis Byemelwa

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan joined the world's most influential leaders this week at the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro, following an invitation from Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. This invitation not only underscores Tanzania's expanding global role but also symbolizes the strides the country is making under President Samia's leadership, according to local experts.

As Tanzania's first female president, her presence at the summit will bring attention to the nation's development journey and highlight its unique perspective on critical global issues.

The G20, which unites the world's largest economies, was formed to foster global economic cooperation and broaden the dialogue around pressing issues like climate change, financial stability, trade, and sustainable development. Unlike the more exclusive G7, the G20 includes both developed and emerging economies, creating a space for a more diverse range of voices.

Bravious Kahyoza, an economist from the University of Dar es Salaam, was once quoted as saying that Tanzania's presence at the G20 allows it to influence key decisions on development challenges that affect lower-income countries. "This is an opportunity for Tanzania to showcase its priorities and engage with partners who can support its transition to a more sustainable economy," he remarked.

A political analyst, Paschal Makonda added that President Samia's participation at the G20 elevates Tanzania's international profile and opens up crucial partnerships. "By engaging with global leaders on economic development, Tanzania can attract foreign investment, particularly in infrastructure and agriculture," Makonda explained, pointing to the transformative potential of foreign partnerships for Tanzania's regional growth and resilience.



Attending the G20 summit is a milestone for Tanzania, marking a new level of recognition for its developmental aspirations and achievements.

He emphasized that Tanzania's invitation to the G20 demonstrates recognition of President Samia's leadership in advancing development agendas across Africa, particularly in areas like clean energy, climate resilience, and social inclusivity.

One major focus for Tanzania at the G20 summit will be on climate change and food security, issues that are pressing not only for Tanzania but for the region as a whole. Historian Mussa Lugete pointed out that climate instability has increasingly disrupted Tanzania's agriculture sector, affecting the country's food systems.

"President Samia will likely highlight the

need for support in climate-smart agriculture and food security initiatives, which are essential for regional stability," Lugete observed, noting that this summit is a rare platform for Tanzania to secure investments and partnerships focused on resilient farming methods and sustainable food production. Tanzania's recent hosting of a continental food security summit in Dar es Salaam highlights this priority, aligning with the G20's emphasis on resilience and food security.

In addition to climate and food security, renewable energy is high on Tanzania's agenda. As the country seeks to transition to

sustainable energy sources, it actively pursues partnerships in solar, wind, and hydroelectric power.

Economist Kahyoza highlighted the importance of this transition, saying, "Renewable energy investments are crucial for Tanzania to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and improve energy access in rural and urban areas." Clean cooking initiatives, which address both environmental and health concerns, are another key priority. President Samia will use the G20 platform to advocate for investments in clean energy infrastructure, which can make a substantial difference to communities across Tanzania.

Youth and women's empowerment are also central themes for Tanzania. With a substantial portion of the population under 30, Tanzania faces both challenges and opportunities in youth employment and education. Makonda emphasized that Tanzania's progress in empowering youth and women aligns well with the G20's broader goals of inclusive growth and social stability.

"President Samia's focus on youth and women's empowerment is transforming Tanzania's socioeconomic landscape and creating new pathways for sustainable growth," he said. The G20 will provide an opportunity to discuss strategies for expanding educational opportunities and improving youth employment prospects, both critical for Tanzania's future.

Beyond specific development projects, Tanzania's presence at the G20 signals its emerging role as a stable and influential leader in the region. President Samia's engagement with other world leaders is expected to bring attention to Tanzania's strategic importance within East Africa.

Historian Lugete remarked that "Tanzania has the potential to be an economic hub in East Africa, a role that could be reinforced through strategic partnerships formed at the G20." He added that by positioning itself as a champion for regional resilience and prosperity, Tanzania can attract long-term investments that further strengthen its economic standing.

Attending the G20 summit is a milestone for Tanzania, marking a new level of recognition for its developmental aspirations and achievements. Kahyoza highlighted that the summit offers a platform to attract transformative partnerships, not only for Tanzania but for other African nations navigating similar challenges.

President Samia's participation in the G20 Summit in Rio presents an opportunity to advance Tanzania's national interests while building alliances that could bring tangible benefits to its citizens. Through these strategic dialogues, Tanzania is poised to make significant progress on its development goals, securing a stronger and more sustainable future for its people.

By Frédéric Fréry

Volkswagen: The end of a German industrial myth?

In late October 2024, Volkswagen's works council announced that the group's management was considering closing three factories in Germany, which would lead to the loss of tens of thousands of jobs, as well as a general reduction in salaries. On October 30, the group announced a 63.7% fall in third-quarter net profit. With more than 200 billion euros in debt, Volkswagen has become the most indebted listed company in the world. Its sales are down and its costs (notably for energy, personnel and research and development) have soared.

How did Europe's leading carmaker, the largest industrial employer in Germany and a symbol of its style of capitalism and harmonious co-management between shareholders and unions, get to this point? As a result of a series of strategic errors, baroque governance and toxic management practices.

A German model

Austrian engineer Ferdinand Porsche founded Volkswagen in May 1937 in response to Adolf Hitler's request for a "people's car" (literally, a Volkswagen in German). The result was the Beetle, a robust, practical and economical vehicle that went on to sell over 15 million units, succeeding the Ford Model T as the most successful car in the history of the automobile.

However, by the end of the 1960s, the Beetle's design (which included an air-cooled rear engine and rear-wheel drive) was showing its limitations. The company's salvation lay in the acquisition of its competitors Auto Union and NSU, merged into the Audi brand, which brought along their expertise in the design of front-wheel drive vehicles. Volkswagen then became a genuine group, and the Golf (which had a water-cooled front engine and front-wheel drive), launched in 1974, was the symbol of its renaissance.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the Volkswagen Group expanded rapidly through acquisitions, with the purchase of Spain's Seat in 1988, the Czech Republic's Škoda in 1991 and then England's Bentley and Italy's Lamborghini in 1998. The group also acquired MAN and Scania trucks, Ducati motorbikes and Bugatti hypercars. Its share of the European market rose from 12% in 1980 to 25% in 2020. In 2017, the group overtook Toyota as the world's leading carmaker for the first time. Volkswagen was then at the height of its glory, with a somewhat arrogant slogan: "Das Auto" (The Car). But the group's fall was to be significant.

The "dieselgate" affair

The grain of sand in the company's gears came from the United States. In 2015, the federal Environmental Protection Agency revealed that the Volkswagen TDI type EA 189 diesel engine emitted up to 22 times more nitrogen oxide (NOx) than the current standard. Volkswagen then admitted that,



The power station at Volkswagen's Wolfsburg plant in Germany

since 2009, it had equipped its vehicles with "rigging" software capable of identifying test phases and reducing NOx emissions during them. Under normal circumstances, the software is inoperative, which makes the vehicles pollute much more than advertised, constituting fraud vis-à-vis the authorities and deception vis-à-vis customers. The EA 189 engine was sold in more than 11 million of the group's vehicles, spread across 32 models.

The scandal was resounding. As legal actions multiplied in the United States and in Europe, Volkswagen's share price fell by 40% on the Frankfurt stock exchange. The chairman of the group's management board was forced to resign. In 2024, before all of the judgments have been handed down, it is estimated that the affair has already cost Volkswagen more than 32 billion euros.

Anxious to redeem itself at a time when the image of its diesel engines had been irreparably tarnished, Volkswagen launched a colossal plan to convert

to electric vehicles, announcing a 122 billion euro investment in 2023. But its first electric models are not competitive enough with Tesla's or with Chinese manufacturers', and are struggling to convince in a market that has been generally depressed since the Covid-19 pandemic.

A sluggish business model

More generally, since at least the early 2000s, the core of the Volkswagen Group's strategy has been relatively clear - and indeed shared by most of German industry, with the active support of former chancellors Gerhard Schröder and Angela Merkel: to sell German quality manufactured using Russian gas to Chinese customers. Two events tipped this model toward the abyss: the European embargo on Russian gas following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, which caused the cost of energy to soar, and, above all, China's desire for a self-sufficient automobile sector.

In the 1970s, Volkswagen was one of

the very first Western manufacturers to invest in China. It led the local market for more than 25 years. In the mid-2000s, while almost all Shanghai taxis were Volkswagens, every Chinese Communist Party dignitary had to be driven in a black Audi A6 with tinted windows. Volkswagen even specifically designed extended models of the A6 according to the wishes of the party, and Western expatriates in Beijing also bought black A6s with tinted windows, knowing that no policeman would risk bothering them for fear of having to deal with an influential political figure.

When Beijing grows

In recent years, however, the Chinese Communist Party's instructions to its citizens - and its dignitaries - have changed: they must now drive Chinese cars. This reversal is particularly problematic for the profitability of the Volkswagen Group. Audi had become its main source of profits, and most of those profits came from China. Those days are gone, not to mention the fact

that Chinese manufacturers such as BYD - largely supported by their government - have developed electric vehicles, against which the Volkswagen Group has had a hard time justifying its higher prices.

On this subject, it is amusing to recall that the "Made in Germany" label, which for decades ensured the worldwide success of German products, was originally a mark of infamy demanded by 19th-century British industrialists, who resented seeing mediocre German copies of their products sold at low prices. In order to continue selling in Great Britain, German manufacturers had to systematically label their products "Made in Germany", which at the time aroused much the same suspicion as "Made in China" can today. But the wheel has turned, and now it's Chinese products that are rapidly earning their spurs.

Constrained governance

In addition to the stagnation of Volkswagen's strategy, the group's governance is particularly problematic. Volkswagen's founder, Ferdinand Porsche, had two children: a daughter, Louise, and a son, Ferdinand (nicknamed Ferry). In 1928, Louise married the lawyer Anton Piëch, who ran Volkswagen's main factory from 1941 to 1945. Ferry, for his part, greatly expanded the Porsche sports car brand, which was founded by his father in 1931.

For decades, the Piëch and Porsche cousins engaged in a bitter competition for control of Volkswagen, which reached its climax in 2007 when Porsche attempted to take over the Volkswagen Group, which was 15 times its size. The failure of this effort, led by the Porsche family, resulted instead in Volkswagen's takeover of Porsche.

Cuban retiree: 'My pension can barely buy food for a week'

By Julio Cesar Contreras

On Calzada de Dolores two parallel fairs coexist every Saturday. One is for those who have the required licenses to sell. The other is for those who, without a license, have all kinds of food, toiletries or even jewelry.

Both have one thing in common: the prices scare off the people of Cienfuegos who come looking for affordable variety and acceptable quality. It is normal to have to turn around.

"I wanted to be here at 7:00 in the morning, but the lack of public transport prevented me," says Fermin, a resident who came looking for a good deal and is about to leave disappointed.

"There is only a little bit of junk left, corn flour and some

jams that the MSMEs bring to sell. There is more soda and beer than is really necessary to feed a household. Anyone who sees so many people would think that there is a wide range of products, but most of the town leaves empty-handed, or carrying a small bag with only two or three things," he says.

The trucks parked in the middle of the street give the impression of an abundance that exists only in official propaganda, which punctually announces the Saturday event. Fermin notes that nothing is further from the truth, but the little that there is is not enough for pockets like his. With a monthly salary of 3,200 pesos (\$10 USD), the Cienfuegos resident must juggle to get food every day.

"The positive thing about this fair is the concentration

of products in one place, because, with rare exceptions, the cost of purchases is the same as in other places. I'm craving a bean stew and I'll have to wait a while, because there isn't any. The most I can do is buy a small pot of chili peppers for 60 pesos, until the rest appears," the man admits.

If it is difficult for him, it is worse for Carmen, a 69-year-old retiree whose pension has only covered two cucumbers, a handful of bananas, a pound of malangas and three pounds of rice. "I have spent almost a thousand pesos and I can categorically say that I am not guaranteed food for even a week.

To top it off, you have to be very attentive to the weighing because, at the slightest carelessness, they steal without mercy. It is an abuse they

have with the population, especially with those of us who have dedicated ourselves for decades to working for this system, which has ended up being a total debacle," she admits.

Many retired Cubans receive pensions of 1,500 to 2,000 pesos (around \$5 to \$6 USD).

Among the stalls you can find a pound of pork for 700 pesos, or a liter of oil for the same amount. Both are highly sought-after products, but at these prices it is almost impossible for many to buy them.

"They can put whatever they want on sale, but if everything continues to be so expensive we will not solve anything. I have been here since dawn, waiting for some sales to spend less overall, but if I don't hurry I will go home the same way I came," laments

Carmen.

The vendors display their merchandise in plastic boxes, wooden shelves, tents or on the ground itself, but they never take their eyes off the inspectors, who wait for the opportunity to fine anyone who fails to comply with the price limits decreed by municipal governments, a measure that can be as strict as it is avoidable, depending on how willing the official is to be corrupted.

"They make money at the expense of others' sacrifices. They impose fines of up to 10,000 pesos for anything they can think of, supposedly in compliance with the law. They demand a lot of documentation, a lot of hygiene, a lot of legality. However, I see them turning a blind eye to some individuals who have bought them. That is

the truth," says Arquimedes, a small farmer living in the municipality of Abreus, who is calling for the sector to be liberalized.

"They should remove all bureaucratic obstacles, which are only useful for wasting time and resources. There is no need for Acopio [the State Procurement and Distribution Agency] or any other entity. If they sold us everything we need to work the land, if they allowed us to sell first-hand and stopped treating us as if we were thieves, the supply would increase rapidly," the farmer believes.

The price caps in agricultural markets, a provincial jurisdiction according to decree 30/2021, are, together with the cap imposed on MSMEs for six basic products since July, the two mechanisms that, according to

economists, producers and private individuals, are limiting supply. The Vice Minister of Finance and Prices, Lourdes Rodríguez Ruiz, said this Saturday that since July the Government has collected more than 600 million pesos nationwide under these regulations.

"Any act in which the price of a product sold to the population is violated, agreed upon by the State, affects the people. Our job is to maintain the established price and quality," he argued. The result, however, is not the desired one, even though the law regulating agricultural markets has been in place for more than three years. The recipe, together with other government decisions and the general crisis affecting the country, has only resulted in the reduction of supply.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



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COP29 focus on climate migration as hotter planet pushes millions out of homes

BAKU

MIGRATION is growing as the planet gets even hotter. Climate change is fuelling a migration crisis and millions of people in vulnerable nations are continually being uprooted from their homes. The climate and migration nexus are undeniable and the global community has turned to the Baku climate talks for urgent and sustainable solutions.

Ugochi Daniels, the Deputy Director General for Operations at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) spoke to IPS about displacement of people due to the impact of climate change and its different dimensions, such as disaster displacement, labor mobility, as well as planned relocation. She also talked about the magnitude of this pressing problem, as nearly 26 million people were displaced due to the impact of climate change in the last year alone.

"This impact is destroying people's livelihoods. The farms they used to farm are no longer viable and the land can no longer sustain their livestock. So, people then move, looking for job opportunities elsewhere. Then there is planned relocation, which IOM supports governments to do. When governments know certain communities can no longer adapt as the impact of climate is so great that they are going to have to move, rather than waiting for the climate impact to happen to move and probably not in as organized a way as possible, governments plan for it. That is what we refer to as planned relocation," she explains.

Stressing that climate migration is on track to be an even bigger global crisis, with World Bank estimates showing that "216 million

people will be displaced due to the impact of climate by 2050 and that they will be displaced within their countries. Nearly a billion people are living in highly climate-vulnerable areas. Trends are showing that when people are displaced, it is often due to a mix of many factors. So, if a community is hit by an extreme weather event, and at the same time the necessary investments were not made, there is no way for the community to absorb the shock of the extreme weather event."

Daniels notes that with progressive COPs, each year is also becoming the hottest in recorded history and there are more disasters such as heat waves, droughts, floods and hurricanes, saying that these issues are increasingly becoming a lived reality for even more people. Further referencing the recent flooding in Spain, in addition to all the disasters unfolding in the developing countries. In turn, this is increasing awareness of the impact of climate change on people.

"Of the estimated 216 million people moving by 2050, nearly half of them are in Africa—86 million in sub-Saharan Africa and 19 million in North Africa. Africa is highly vulnerable amid all the other development issues that the continent is dealing with. And we know that, looking at Africa alone, water stress will affect 700 million people by 2030. The reality is that we are experiencing the impact of climate. We had unprecedented flooding in Nigeria this year and it is not just Nigeria—there is Chad and the Central African Republic and the Eastern Horn of Africa has faced similar events in recent times, and we have the El Niño and La Niña in Southern Africa," she explains.

Daniels says they are encouraged and satisfied because human mobility is integrated into



Ugochi Daniels, the Deputy Director General for Operations at the International Organization for Migration (IOM), speaks to IPS Senior Journalist Joyce Chimbi.

submissions for the Global Goal on Adaptation and that they are unified around this issue. There is also the Kampala Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, which has already been signed by over 40 countries in Africa and the regional groups in the Pacific Island States and the islands have all prioritized the issue as it is their lived reality.

"As IOM, our presence at COP is in supporting member states in raising visibility and awareness on the link between climate change and migration and displacement. Having said that, within the negotiations, and we are still waiting to see what comes out, we hope that this continues. We count on member states in making sure that the impact on vulnerable communities is recognized, that vulnerable communities are prioritized for climate financing, and that migration is factored in as a positive coping strategy for adaptation," Daniels observes.

She emphasises that "when we talk about displacement, we also

have to recognize that as things stand, migrants, through formal and informal means, remit a trillion dollars a year. And a lot of that is going to developing and middle-income countries. And when I met with the diaspora at COP last year, they said to me, 'We are financing loss and damage now.' We have seen that remittances have stayed resilient since COVID-19 and continue to go up. So here at COP, it is not just recognition of climate change and human mobility, which has been in the covered decision at least for the last three COPs. But it is also about integrating this into the different instruments and mechanisms, whether it is financing or in the indicators."

Further speaking to the issue of the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund. Saying that whereas there are 64 funds globally specific on climate, the Loss and Damage Fund is the only one that has a window specific for vulnerable communities. As member states continue their negotiations, IOM is looking forward to solu-

tions that, for instance, improve access to climate finance, ensuring that in the new financing path, the loss and damage fund supports vulnerable communities to adapt or migrate safely. Emphasising the need for regional cooperation to manage climate-related migration and how climate migration features in the national adaptation plans.

"Importantly, vulnerable communities need to be part of the solutions. They need to be at the table where these decisions are being made. IOM is one of the—it is actually the only UN organization—that is one of the representative agencies supporting the Loss and Damage Fund and implementation of the fund. Our top priority is the engagement and participation of those most affected so that they have a voice at the table. Well-managed migration is a very effective adaptation strategy. Human civilization has been shaped by migration and this will continue. Climate and other factors will continue to trigger movement,"

Daniels says.

"We have the tools. We know what the solutions are. There is the global compact on migration, which is how countries have agreed they will cooperate for better migration management and better migration governance. So, because we know migration has shaped our history and that it will shape our future, we have no excuse for not ensuring that it is safe, dignified, and regular. Whatever we do not do, the traffickers and smugglers will do."

Stressing that in the process, there will be more people dying, "We will have increased vulnerabilities, and the business model and the industry of trafficking will just continue to grow. So, the urgency for climate action is here and now and there is really no excuse for why we are not collectively working on this. The evidence is there. The solutions are there. The agreements are there too. So, we are here at COP to do our best to ensure it happens."

Cost-effective, eco-friendly EVs gaining traction in

HARARE

INTERNAL combustion engines still reign supreme in Zimbabwe, but electric vehicles (EVs) are gaining traction with cost-effective and eco-friendly edges as the world gravitates toward green mobility.

Tafadzwa Nyabuta, marketing officer for ZIMOCO, the official distributor of Great Wall Motor (GWM) in Zimbabwe said that EVs are growing popular in this southern African country.

"We do have the ORA 03 fully-electric vehicle available in the local market. This vehicle has attracted significant interest because electric vehicles are still something very new here. So we thought let's go ahead of the curve and bring a vehicle we can showcase to people, get them to understand the technology, the charging mechanisms, and how the vehicle works," Nyabuta revealed in a recent interview.

GWM, a Chinese automaker, is making inroads in the country's fledgling EV market with the ORA 03 model, a five-seater hatchback, which has turned heads at a recent exhibition held in Zimbabwe's capital of Harare.

Many people who tried an EV for the first time were fascinated by its integration of modern technology and sleek design.

According to Nyabuta, EVs offer a lot of advantages from cost and environmental perspectives. A fully charged model that was on display has a range of 320 kilometers at a cost of just over \$6.

"With any traditional vehicle, how far will \$6 of fuel get you? Nowhere near 320 kilometers. So it is obvious that the cost of energy, or cost of electric refuelling, is much cheaper, and the range is longer," he said, adding that the maintenance expense for EVs is lower compared to internal combustion engines.

"Additionally, the green impact -- they are very green, very environmentally friendly," Nyabuta said.

Felix Nazombe, a Harare resident, found himself enchanted with the chic design of the ORA 03 automobiles. "The vehicle looks very beautiful and quite spacious. We would like to drive some-



People look at a GWM electric vehicle in Harare, Zimbabwe.

thing like that here."

Nyabuta said that despite a booming interest, more needs to be done to make the transition to electric vehicles attractive.

"There are quite a few policies that are still pending from the government level that will impact ultimately the price of the vehicle and some mechanisms around charging stations and so forth in the country," he said.

Impressed by the EVs as well, Harare resident Blessing Duwa underlined the need for related infrastructure.

"We trust and hope that as we move on, there will be more cars and there will be charging ports all over the country that will allow us to be able to freely use these cars," she said.

Zimbabwe is renowned as a producer of lithium, an indispensable component of lithium-ion batteries. The African country is currently promoting the adoption of new energy vehicles and targeting a 33 percent market penetration of EVs by 2030.

Mangaliso Ndlovu, Zimbabwe's minister of industry and

commerce, said the local automotive sector has to catch up with modern developments in the evolving automotive industry.

"They know that they can only adapt or die. So there is only one option, and we are pushing toward that direction," said Ndlovu.

Tech Tyranny: Unveiling the dark side of digital democracy ahead of elections

By Dickson Ng'hily

AS Tanzania gears up for the 2024 local government elections on November 27 and general elections in 2025, a silent but powerful threat is rising—the manipulative use of digital technology. Tools once celebrated for fostering enlightenment are now weaponized, shaping beliefs, swaying votes and deepening societal divisions over Tanzania's democratic landscape.

From the winding alleyways of Stone Town in Zanzibar to the shores of Lake Tanganyika, a troubling trend has emerged—technology, especially artificial intelligence (AI). This kind of technology is challenging the foundation of truth in the country.

In an era when misinformation can spread with unprecedented speed, Tanzanians are facing a new kind of conflict, where the truth itself is under siege. Fake news and political propaganda masquerade as legitimate news, preying not only on the uninformed but also on even the most discerning citizens. Amidst this growing digital discord, the central question remains: can Tanzania's democracy withstand this wave of technological deceit?

Tanzania is at a critical point in its history, standing at the crossroads of technology and truth. The Guardian spoke with citizens, electoral experts and advocates of fair democratic practices, looking at ways Tanzanians can safeguard their democratic values and reclaim their voices, votes and future.

AI threat: A global concern with local impact

Artificial intelligence is transforming electoral dynamics, posing risks that extend far beyond disinformation. Mekela Panditharatne and Noah Giansiracusa from the Brennan Center for Justice argue that AI's implications for elections remain underexplored, representing a silent but substantial danger.

The capabilities of AI have evolved significantly. Technologies such as Deepfakes enable the creation of realistic but fake images and voices, while large language models produce human-like content at scale. These tools, while beneficial in many areas, create vulnerabilities during elections, allowing for the rapid spread of disinformation.

AI-powered chatbots built using large language models, such as ChatGPT, have altered the information ecosystem by producing content that is remarkably human-like.

AI's impact on elections is most potent in its ability to generate disinformation and create viral 'fake news' moments. AI-generated images, videos and audio can rapidly circulate, warping public discourse with false scandals and manipulated narratives.

During elections, this technology can be weaponized to sway public opinion subtly and systematically. Misleading posts and language models could create an illusion of political consensus or sow doubt about the electoral process, exacerbating distrust and division.

Tanzanians' experience with misinformation

Citizens across Tanzania are grappling with the reality of digital manipulation in different ways. For many, misinformation has become a daily challenge, eroding their ability to distinguish fact from fiction.

In Zanzibar's Stone Town, fisherman Ahmed Bakari describes his struggles with identifying credible information, saying, "Distinguishing truth from lies isn't easy anymore. I used to trust my instincts, but with political news, it's getting tougher."

Bakari's experiences reflect the growing sense of disorientation among Tanzanians who once relied on trusted newspapers but now face an internet flooded with dubious stories.

"People around me believe absurd headlines about candidates. We need someone to cut through the noise and provide clarity," he says, appealing for a broader societal need to restore trust in the information that shapes civic engagement.

A trader, Fatma Juma, who operates in Darajani, Zanzibar, echoes Bakari's concerns. "I see all kinds of stories on social media and it's hard to tell what's true."

"It makes me uneasy. I think if there were lessons or tools to help people differentiate between fake and genuine news, we'd feel less manipulated."

For voters like Fatma, who want to participate in Tanzania's democratic process with confidence, disinformation threatens not only individual choice but also collective faith in democracy.

In Bariadi town, Simiyu Region, Mariam Shelembi, a mother of four, is overwhelmed by the spread of falsehoods. "I recently saw a post about a political figure that was taken out of context. I wish there was a trusted organization to fact-check and explain these things."

Her comments highlight the urgent need for reliable verification resources to protect voters from manipulation.

For first-time voter Hussein Jumba, an 18-year-old student in Pemba, the challenge is even more daunting. "When I see something that seems off, I get confused, but who do I ask?" he wonders. Jumba's experiences reflect concerns of young voters who despite being digitally savvy, feel unprepared to navigate the complexities of disinformation.

Experts' opinions

Some experts argue that the impact of AI on elections may be overstated. AI researchers Felix Simon, Keegan McBride, and Sacha Altay contend that while AI is used to influence elections, its effectiveness remains limited.

A study conducted by the Alan Turing Institute, which analyzed over 100 elections, found evidence of AI interference in only a few cases, with no clear indications that these attempts influenced election results.



President Samia lines up to register for the 2024 local government election slated for November 27, this year.

However, the threat posed by AI manipulation is still significant. Meta's recent Adversarial Threat Report acknowledges that AI has been deployed in election manipulation, noting that "GenAI-powered tactics provide only incremental productivity and content-generation gains." Despite being subtle, these changes can shape political discourse and erode public trust, which, in emerging democracies like Tanzania, can have profound consequences.

A global survey on AI reveals a deep skepticism in Tanzania, where 51 percent of respondents believe AI will harm people over the next 20 years, and 62 percent oppose its usage—figures that surpass those of neighboring Kenya and Uganda (both at 57 percent).

This mistrust extends beyond AI to the broader digital landscape. Disinformation campaigns have increasingly targeted the public, as demonstrated by a case involving Suzy Lyimo, CHADEMA's Speaker of the People's Parliament. I

n manipulated recordings, she was falsely portrayed as announcing her party's withdrawal from the November 27 local government elections. Such digital manipulation not only distorts public perception but also threatens democratic participation, further undermining trust in electoral processes.

The hidden manipulators

In 2022, a deepfake of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy falsely declaring surrender went viral. Such manipulations, amplified through AI-driven bots, present a real and immediate threat to the integrity of elections. In Tanzania, where trust in political information is already fragile, the potential for AI to exploit and deepen these doubts is especially concerning.

An IT expert who requested anonymity offered a rare glimpse into the secretive world of election manipulation in the country. Specializing in AI-driven images and videos, he explained how he creates "deepfakes" and doctored content designed to alter voters' perceptions of political candidates. The expert described how ad-

vanced AI tools and deep learning algorithms are leveraged to produce hyper-realistic visuals and audio, making it nearly impossible for the average person to detect manipulations. "It's getting harder for the average person to tell if something's been manipulated or not," he admitted.

These digital creations play on viewers' fears, loyalties, or biases, strategically crafted to catch and hold attention in fleeting seconds. He disclosed that while the financial rewards are significant, the ethical discomfort of using democratizing tools to subvert democracy often weighs on him. Yet, with the steady demand for these services during election seasons, he remains drawn to the work.

"We're tasked with creating a reality that fits the agenda, regardless of what's true," he shared. The work, often funded by political clients, involves generating misleading news clips, manipulated images, and videos that blur the line between fact and fiction. The objective, he explained, is to flood social media with disinformation that subtly shifts voter sentiment.

Strategies for targeted misinformation

According to the expert, creating deceptive content is only part of the operation; there's also a carefully orchestrated strategy to ensure it reaches target audiences. "We don't just make videos and hope they go viral. There's a whole team dedicated to seeding these clips in places where they'll gain traction," he explained.

Using bots, paid influencers, and accounts with substantial followings, these teams amplify the spread of disinformation, making it appear as if the content is organically popular. "Once we get a critical mass of shares or likes, it becomes self-sustaining; people spread it because they believe it's true," he said, noting that the organic-looking spread lends a legitimacy that's challenging for voters to question.

A disturbing imbalance

Reflecting on the impact of his work, the expert expressed deep

concerns about how quickly disinformation can destabilize political environments, particularly in a country like Tanzania, where internet access and digital literacy are rising rapidly. "People are getting more connected, but they don't have the tools to identify what's real and what's fake," he remarked.

This vulnerability makes voters especially susceptible to manipulation, which he finds troubling. Despite his continued involvement in this field, he wrestles with the ethical implications, recognizing that his creations directly influence democratic processes and the nation's future. "It's like we're pulling the strings from the shadows, but at what cost?" He concluded, a question that underscores the dark implications of digital manipulation.

Finding solutions

Rukia Nassor, a 24-year-old artisan in Pemba, describes her frustration with the lack of reliable information. "Sometimes I can tell if something is fake, but not always. How do I confirm if it's true?" Her experience underscores the widespread feeling of helplessness among citizens facing a flood of misleading information. In Kigoma Ujiji, fishmonger Moses Luhya is equally concerned: "Misinformation and disinformation keeps growing in every election. People share false information online. Social media has become a minefield for political news and without access to trusted sources."

Ester Chande, a resident of Musoma, in Mara Region observes the divisive impact of misinformation and disinformation on her community. False claims about political candidates create anger and mistrust, deepening divisions. She yearns for a platform to verify political news, especially for those not raised with digital tools and less able to separate fact from fiction.

Technology as a tool for transparency

Dr Egbert Mkoko, a lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam, argues that while technology presents challenges, it can also be part of the solution. "We can't fight against technology. Instead, we must use it responsibly," he told The Guardian while advocating for the use of technology to expedite the election process and ensure transparency. He pointed to the United States' efficient use of tech in elections as an example Tanzania could follow.

Dr Mkoko stresses the importance of using technology ethically and responsibly. "Technology should be employed without manipulation to tamper with elections, as this could ultimately damage democracy," he warns. He believes that guidelines agreed upon by all stakeholders could ensure a balanced use of technology, allowing it to support rather than subvert the electoral process.

Dr Mkoko suggests that the independent electoral commission, political parties and civil society should work together to establish a framework that promotes transparency and accountability in Tanzania's elections. Such a framework could set out rules for using AI and digital tools in ways that enhance electoral

transparency, rather than compromising it.

The framework could also include public education initiatives to raise awareness about digital literacy and critical thinking, equipping citizens with the tools they need to identify misinformation and disinformation. Empowering Tanzanians to verify the information they consume, could help rebuild trust in the digital landscape.

Reclaiming democracy

As Tanzania approaches its elections, it stands at a pivotal moment. The influence of AI and digital disinformation on democratic processes is an undeniable challenge. However, through collaborative efforts and responsible technology use, Tanzania can address these issues and strengthen its democratic foundations.

Empowering citizens with digital literacy, establishing a transparent framework, and fostering cooperation among stakeholders are critical steps. In doing so, Tanzania can ensure that democracy thrives, even in the face of technological manipulation. By reclaiming control over digital tools, Tanzanians can safeguard their elections, their choices, and, ultimately, their future.

John Mwambiki from Sumbawanga District expressed: "We need someone to cut through the noise. For Tanzania, the challenge is to forge a digital landscape where truth prevails and citizens can engage in the democratic process with confidence and clarity. In the battle for truth, Tanzanians have a choice; to let technology divide them or to harness it in the pursuit of unity and transparency."

In our next edition, we will dive deeper into the forces shaping Tanzania's digital landscape ahead of the 2024 civic polls and 2025 general elections. We will examine the roles of key regulatory bodies, NGOs dedicated to democratic oversight, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), political parties and tech firms working to counteract disinformation.



African banking introduces diaspora bond

By Arunima Sharan

As countries across Africa grapple with the challenge of mobilising resources for critical development initiatives, an increasingly popular financial instrument has emerged as a promising solution – diaspora bonds.

Designed to tap into the substantial savings and investment potential of citizens living abroad, these bonds offer governments, project sponsors and corporations an opportunity to diversify funding sources through what's known as a 'diasporic discount', enabling domestic entities to borrow at below-market rates with extended maturities.

While traditional diaspora remittances have primarily supported family members, diaspora bonds can facilitate far-reaching positive impacts for entire communities. According to this year's Absa African Financial Markets Index, countries are increasingly diversifying their financing products, with diaspora bonds gaining particular traction.

The timing couldn't be better. According to World Bank data, annual remittance inflows to Africa in 2023 amounted to \$90.3bn, or approximately 259 percent of the continent's gross domestic product. And this figure is expected to rise further in 2024.



It is the second highest after Asia, where remittance inflows as a share of GDP come to 278 percent. Channelling these flows through purpose-specific bonds serves a dual purpose: it deepens often underdeveloped financial markets while broadening the retail investor base.

Nigeria's 2017 diaspora bond stands as a testament to the potential of these instruments in Africa – the country successfully raised \$330m for infrastructure projects.

Building on this success, Olayemi Cardoso, Central Bank of Nigeria gov-

ernor, announced plans to launch another diaspora bond in the US, targeting monthly remittance inflows of \$1bn.

The aim, according to the Ministry of Finance, would be to increase the supply of foreign exchange in the economy.

This instrument could ease the foreign exchange shortages the country is facing in the aftermath of the central bank's move to unify multiple exchange rate windows in June 2023.

Elsewhere, Cabo Verde is making significant strides in this direction.

The country is developing regulations for diaspora bonds, expected to be published in 2024.

According to a stakeholder from the country, recent blue and green bond listings in the country saw 25 percent to 35 percent of subscriptions coming from diasporic communities, suggesting a ready market for dedicated diaspora instruments.

Kenya, too, is positioning itself to tap into this market. With remittances growing to \$2.8bn in the first seven months of this year (up from \$2.4bn

in the previous year), the country is working with the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency to structure a new diaspora bond. This comes at a crucial time as Kenya seeks alternative funding sources following domestic challenges that affected its revenue collection plans.

The concept of diaspora bonds isn't new. Israel pioneered these instruments in 1951 and continues to issue them successfully. India has also demonstrated their viability, particularly with its 1991 issuance that capitalised on its large global diaspora.

However, not all attempts have been successful. Ethiopia's experiences in 2008 and 2011 serve as cautionary tales, where limited trust in the government and high perceived risks deterred potential investors. There are also examples of failed attempts in Asia and Europe.

These cases highlight a crucial lesson: successful diaspora bonds require more than just a large overseas population.

For diaspora bonds to succeed, several key factors must align. Countries need to establish strong policy and regulatory frameworks, coupled with robust financial market infrastructure to instill confidence in investors. And there needs to be careful consideration

UAE leads digital banking in Middle East

DUBAI

THE UAE is setting the standard for Middle Eastern banking innovation, commanding the largest share of the region's \$3.2 trillion in banking assets and driving rapid digital growth that places the country at the forefront of financial transformation.

A new report from Arthur D. Little (ADL) underscores the UAE's influential leadership in digital banking and its pivotal role in reshaping the industry across the GCC.

Yacine Mahieddine, Partner in the Global Financial Services practice at Arthur D. Little, said, "The UAE's approach to banking isn't just about staying competitive; it's about setting a global standard. With the Central Bank's digital currency initiative and groundbreaking strides in blockchain integration, the UAE is redefining what it means to be a modern financial hub. This isn't just a trend—it's a structural shift, and it will ripple across markets globally. The UAE is building a banking ecosystem where technology and customer-centricity are woven into its very fabric."

Innovation and progress have accelerated by leveraging various use cases from the Southeast Asian market, ranging from open banking and integrating financial services into non-banking platforms to advanced data analytics for personalized offerings. Examples include boosting customer loyalty and harnessing technology and partnerships to tap into new SME segments.

With a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 8.7 percent over the past two years, the UAE's digital banking sector has accelerated faster than any of its neighbours, with continued growth projected at a CAGR of 4.8 percent from 2024 to 2029.

The sector is on track to reach \$175.7 billion by 2029. UAE banks are advancing through cutting-edge AI, blockchain, and cloud technologies, setting a new standard for customer experience and operational efficiency.

As the first mover in central bank digital currency, the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) is leading the Middle East with its transformative Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) program, establishing a foundation for a modernized and financially inclusive economy.

Some UAE banking leaders have already integrated blockchain for cross-border payments, enabling faster, more secure transactions that set a regional benchmark for efficiency and innovation.

Nelson Danaam, Principal and a member of the Global Financial Services Practice at Arthur D. Little commented, "The UAE's banking transformation is as much about mindset as it is about technology. The willingness to adopt AI, blockchain, and advanced fintech solutions speaks to a culture that embraces change at every level. By investing in both innovation and the talent to drive it, UAE banks aren't just catching up to global standards; they're challenging them."

UBA Tanzania gets new premises as it commemorates the 15th anniversary

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Bank for Africa (UBA) Tanzania has shifted its country's headquarters to the Kijitonyama area from Nyerere Road, where it has been operating over the last one and half decade, as part of bringing its banking services closer to its existing and prospective clients.

Speaking during an official tour of the bank's delegation at the Guardian Limited premises, Mikocheni Area in Dar es Salaam, the bank's managing director Gbenga Makinde attributes continued expansion to Tanzania next year.

Gbenga said was impressed by The Guardian Limited tour as he witnessed the operations and newspaper production of the largest media house in Tanzania.

"We have shifted to Kijitonyama, an area which is the center of business activities and it is easily reachable for Tanzanians who are currently banking or would like to come and bank with us," he said.

He said over the last fifteen years, UBA Tanzania is one of only two banks, that have participated in financing the Julius Nyerere Hydro Electric Power Project (JNHEPP), one of the country's strategic development projects.

The 15 years' journey in Tanzania is part of 75 years' journey for Nigerian headquartered United Bank for Africa Plc to continue operating in more than 23 countries across the world, including 20 in the African continent.

As part of expanding its operations in Tanzania, Gbenga said the bank is expected to launch two branches in Zanzibar and Mbeya to reach more Tanzanians and promote financial inclusion.



The Guardian Ltd Deputy General Manager Jackson Paul (R) receives UBA Tanzania managing director and CEO Gbenga Makinde (L) when UBA director paid a visit to the The Guardian Ltd premises at Mikocheni in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is The Guardian Limited finance manager Samuel Orgenes Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

"We want to be closer to many Tanzanians because we are the Pan-African bank serving, whose mission is to empower Africans and Tanzanians in particular," he said.

Gbenga said UBA has been the leading bank in providing digital financial services across Africa, through LEO, the bank chatbot. "The Chatbanking services have existed for more than sev-

en years and enable our clients not only to access their account information but also to make payments including utility bills through WhatsApp," he said.

Apart from AI enabled services,

UBA is also offering a number of Automated Teller Machines (ATM) in five regions across the country such as Mwanza, Dodoma, Pwani (Rufiji), Arusha and Dar es Salaam.

Gbenga also noted that the bank has a number of banking agencies, which are offering banking services closer to people through cash withdrawal, and deposit.

"Our ambition is grounded in the strength of our People – their high engagement, personal integrity, sense of responsibility and commitment to positive customer experience," he said.

He said the bank has over the last ten years implemented various community projects including Green Africa, which involves tree planting programmes in schools, as part of participating in climate action.

Another project is Read Africa, whereby the UBA Plc is distributing text books in different schools to help improve the learning environment for African children.

Govt targets Australian investors for minerals exploration, value addition

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is targeting Australia as potential partner to provide highly reputable exploration and value addition companies towards developing the vision of making Tanzania as the mining hub in Africa.

This was said yesterday by the deputy minister of minerals Dr Stephen Kiruswa during the Tanzania-Australia mining breakfast and panel discussion, held yesterday on the sideline of the Tanzania Mining investment conference.

"We have invested some effort in short term vision that we have tried to recommend, Vision 2030 where we see the backbone of the success of our ministry is rested on exploration," he said.

"And when we consider the highly reputable exploration companies and countries that have the capital, they have the technology, they have the skills, Australia comes from the truth of the list."

According to the deputy minister, Tanzania sees Australia as one of the potential partners for opening up exploration and discovering more resources in the mineral sector.

The deputy minister said the government wishes to see Australia government take some of young men, and women for long term training in adoption of modern day magnetic glories.

"We wish to see the partnership in capacity building in that area of ongoing on the job. But also we wish to see exchanges. We wish to see Australia to bring people to work with us on an exchange programme, so we can get experience by having apprenticeship experience," he said.

"We see that the way through which our partnership is grown and be strong, and above all, when exploration is done, we still look forward to going to the second level of our development."

He said Bring up the resource that can be processed very widely in the country to the best level that can be done practically.

"We want to see the mineral based industries developed in the country so we can study individual products to the world and strategically positioned to be able to shift anything by water, by air, because we are also available," he said.

The deputy minister also called for enhances partnership with local companies to promote local content.

Scott Morris, Trade Commissioner- Africa, Australian High Commission said the country is ready to assist Tanzania continue to grow its mining industry to be safer, more efficient and more profitable.

He said mining contracts signed in Tanzania in the past two years with Australian mining companies are valued at over 10trn/- (US\$3.6 billion).

According to Austrade's research in 2024, 12

Australian companies set aside just over US\$26 million for exploration in Tanzania - a practical demonstration of Australia's confidence in and commitment to the future of mining in Tanzania.

"As another sign of growing confidence and shared interest I understand that Tanzania's Commissioner for Minerals Dr Abdul Mwangi is currently in Australia undertaking further mining related studies at one of our universities under the Australia Awards program," he said.

Australia deputy high commissioner Chris Ellinger said there are several great Australian companies already in Africa active in providing education and skills to local African communities around mining operations.

"These companies already provide a full spectrum of education and training putting young Africans on the pathway to better paying jobs," he said.

He said over 65 percent of Australian Mining,

Equipment Technology and Services OR METS Companies export to overseas mining destinations, including about a third to Africa earning 114 billion AUD globally in revenue in 2020.

These companies have established strong resilient supply chains globally that can flexibly adapt to customer needs.

Driven by a pioneering spirit and a commitment to excellence Australian Mining Engineering Technologies companies have become renowned for solving some of the most difficult industry challenges in the world's harshest mining environments.

"From large scale open pit mines in the Kalahari copper belt to complex underground gold mining in the sub-zero temperatures of Northern Canada, Australian companies have been at the forefront of developing innovative technologies and approaches to engineering, environmental, social and community development challenges," he said.

Toughest challenges for monetary policy are probably still to come

By Claudio Borio

A dangerous expectations gap has been developing between what monetary policy can deliver and what is expected to deliver. Monetary policy cannot fine-tune inflation, let alone economic activity within narrow ranges. Nor can it be relied on as a de facto engine of growth. The media and financial industry razzmatazz surrounding policy decisions suggests that we have long lost that sense of realism.

This expectations gap complicates the conduct of policy and decision-making. Ultimately, it could even undermine central bank independence and legitimacy. However, the toughest challenges for monetary policy regimes are probably still to come.

The political environment is becoming less conducive to stability-orientated monetary policy. The pressure on central banks to take a short-term view is growing alongside the demands placed on them. In such an environment, institutional safeguards such as central bank independence become all the more precious. But they can help only up to a point.

We should not take too much comfort from the recent rather painless reduction in inflation compared with the past. Circumstances have been extraordinary. The typical future fight against inflation is likely to follow more familiar patterns and cause bigger costs. This would be especially the case if it took place in a less globalised world: firms and workers would regain pricing power and would make it easier to resist a drop in purchasing power and profit margins.

The unsustainability of fiscal trajectories represents another major threat. This is probably the biggest longer-term threat to macroeconomic and financial stability in the years ahead - and hence a threat to the monetary policy regime itself.

Monetary and fiscal policy are joined at the hip. There are clear limits to what monetary policy can do if fiscal policy is out of kilter. Both policies need to operate firmly with a 'region of stability' consistent with sustainable growth.

Against this backdrop, inflation-targeting regimes - the de facto prevailing monetary standard - cannot afford to stay still. Inflation-targeting does not represent the end of monetary policy history. It is just one, if exceptionally long, chapter in that history.

How could inflation targeting be adjusted to make it fit for purpose longer term? A comprehensive analysis of the challenges the framework has faced since its inception points to a number of suggestions.

First, hardwiring a low-inflation regime should remain a priority. The behavioural definition of price stability suggested by Paul Volcker and Alan Greenspan is especially apt - a condition in which inflation does not materially influence people's behaviour. The objective should be not so much anchoring inflation expectations but making them irrelevant. Raising current targets from the generally accepted 2 percent level, as some observers have proposed, would be a bad idea. Quite apart from undermining the central bank's credibility, this would endanger the self-stabilising properties of inflation in a low-inflation regime, which is one reason why transitions from low- to high-inflation regimes tend to be self-reinforcing.

Second, relative to how the targets have been generally interpreted in the past, the key adjustment would be to have greater tolerance for moderate, even if persistent, shortfalls of inflation from narrowly defined targets. This would help retain room for manoeuvre and would allow central banks to take into account more systematically



the longer-term damage from the consequences of low interest rates, which weaken the financial side of the economy. Implementing such a strategy would require addressing what Martin Feldstein and Raghu Rajan have aptly termed the 'deflation bogeyman' - the view that deflation is a kind of red line that, once crossed, gives rise to a self-reinforcing downward spiral in economic activity or to a depression trap. There is no systematic link between falling price levels and weak economic activity. The Great Depression is an exception that reflected broader forces.

Third, we should consider further how best to use the additional room for manoeuvre to tackle the financial cycle. This would call for lengthening horizons as far as possible. It would require upgrading the role of financial conditions, credit aggregates and property prices among the set of indicators that central banks follow. And, analytically, it would call for less reliance on macroeconomic models based on the standard 'shock-propagation-return-to-steady-state' paradigm and more on approaches that allow for endogenous and possibly unstable fluctuations.

Fourth, some further adjustments can enhance the effectiveness of the framework, contributing to its nimbleness and the retention of safety margins. One is less reliance on forms of forward guidance that provide specific information about the future path of interest rates beyond the central bank's reaction function. These can unduly constrain a central bank's ability to respond to rapidly changing conditions. And they can unduly compress risk premia and encourage risk-taking. In the extreme, rather than guiding markets, the central bank may end up being taken down the wrong path, as the emergence of fragilities in the financial system can force its hand.

Another adjustment is putting a premium on exit strategies whenever the central bank is called up to take exceptional measures to stabilise the system and the economy. The difficulties in reducing historically large and risky central bank balance sheets are testimony to the challenges involved.

A reasonable principle is that central bank balance

sheets should be as small and riskless as possible, subject to fulfilling mandates effectively. Except possibly for the need to hold foreign exchange reserves for precautionary purposes, balance sheets can be quite small. Central bank balance sheets should be elastic - ready to increase when circumstances require it. Given the economic and political economy costs of larger balance sheets, the initial size is a hindrance, not a plus.

In the regime I have in mind, the central bank keeps a sharp focus on the medium term. It seeks to ensure that the financial side of the economy, which it influences and through which it operates, does not end up derailing the economy, whether through inflation or financial instability, broadly defined. The central bank sets the monetary preconditions for sustainable growth but does not end up being relied on as the engine of growth.

It is a regime in which the operational definition of the inflation target is consistent with that overarching objective. The target is low enough so that inflation does not materially influence agents' behaviour, but flexible enough to allow the central bank to take into account the financial forces that can generate damage down the road.

In this regime, the central bank's reaction function calls for forceful responses when inflation threatens to get out of control but allows for greater tolerance for moderate, even if persistent, shortfalls from target.

Does this have implications for mandates? Not so much if, by mandate, we mean the general goals that may be set out in the central bank's law or in agreements with the government. We have seen inflation-targeting regimes being operated in broadly similar ways despite different mandates. But it does have implications for the way in which mandates are interpreted and, above all, communicated.

The word often missing here is 'sustainable'. Once sustainability is added as an explicit consideration, whether in terms of inflation, output, employment or financial stability, all the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle fall into place.

Claudio Borio (pictured) is Head of the Monetary and Economic Department at the Bank for International Settlements.

Treasury's emergency loans at CBK surge to over Sh63 billion

NAIROBI

Tantrade announces logo competition for designers

By Francis Kajubi

THE Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TANTRADE) has announced the 'Made in Tanzania Logo Competition' that will see graphic designers in the country competing for a chance of creating a logo that will be stamped on all exports.

Latifa Khamis, TanTrade's Director General (pictured), told the press yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the exciting and transformative initiative will see all exports identified on regional and global markets with a uniform nation's logo.

She said that the competition that lasts on November 25th provides a unique platform for Tanzanian graphic designers, artists, and innovators to shape the future of the national identity that showcases the creativity, pride, and potential embedded in local products and services.

According to her, Tanzania has made tremendous strides towards increasing its global visibility and in enhancing its trade relationships.

Despite various achievements, one element has been lacking: a uniform national symbol that represents the excellence and uniqueness of Tanzanian goods and services in the regional and global markets.

"The goal of this competition is to create a distinctive and recognizable logo that will serve our nation's brand mark. This logo will proudly represent Tanzania products and services as a symbol of quality, trust and pride," said Khamis.

She asserted that in a world of ever-increasing competition and trade complexity, it is essential that the country present a clear and unified image of Tanzania to potential customers, investors, and the global community.

According to her, the aim is to ensure that Tanzania products stand out with a strong brand identity which enhances competitiveness. Increase demand for Tanzanian goods and attract investments.

"I encourage all graphic designers, artists, and innovators across Tanzania to participate in this historic competition;

"This is your chance to leave a lasting mark on the country's future, contributing to the pride and recognition of our nation on the globe stage," she said.

Khamis revealed that the top three winning designs will be awarded a grand prize, whereby the first winner will receive 3mn/-, 2mn/- for the second winner and 1.5mn/- for the third winner.

However, this logo will become a beacon of pride for Tanzanians, representing the strength of the country's manufacturing and processing industries.

Khamis invited development partners to support this initiative as it aligns with the broader vision of transforming Tanzania into a semi-industrialized economy by 2025, with a strong emphasis on local production, export, and competitiveness.

"As we embark on this initiative, we must remember the importance of branding in the modern economy that is favored by the strength in competitiveness," she concluded.



NEWSINDEPTH



Somaliland commissions Tanzanian entity to form revenue authority

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

THE Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) has taken another step toward enhancing regional revenue systems by submitting a proposal to assist Somaliland in establishing its revenue authority.

This follows Somaliland's request for support in developing a robust framework for customs and tax management.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, ITA Rector Prof Isaya Jairo shared this development during a press briefing on the institute's

achievements and the upcoming 17th graduation ceremony scheduled for tomorrow.

He said that the event will be officiated by the Minister for Finance, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba and will draw participants from government, private sectors, and neighboring countries.

Prof Jairo emphasized ITA's track record in enhancing revenue collection systems across Africa.

He said a standout achievement was its collaboration with South Sudan to craft a five-year strategic plan for customs and tax manage-

ment.

The partnership resulted in South Sudan increasing its tax revenue collection from 5 percent to an impressive 20 percent.

In addition to South Sudan, he said ITA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Comoros to strengthen its customs and tax management capacities.

The institute has also conducted extensive training programs for tax authority staff from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) and other African nations such as Botswana,

Malawi and South Sudan.

"We are ready to support Somaliland in building its tax administration capacity to enhance revenue collection. This aligns with the successful work we've done in other countries, including South Sudan," he said.

He said the upcoming graduation ceremony will see 417 students receiving qualifications across a range of programs including East African Customs and Freight Forwarding Practising Certificates (195), Basic Technician Certificate in Customs and Tax

Management (28).

Others were Diploma in Customs and Tax Management (61), Bachelor's Degree in Customs and Tax Management (119) and Postgraduate Diploma in Taxation (14).

The don also announced the introduction of open-distance e-learning this academic year adding that the initiative aims to increase annual student enrollment from 5,000 to 7,000, expanding access to ITA's specialized training programs.

He said ITA remains committed to fostering regional development

through consultancy services and tailored training programs.

The institute, which operates as part of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), combines theoretical knowledge with practical experience to address the evolving needs of customs and tax practitioners.

He said by working with countries like Somaliland, Zanzibar, Botswana, and Malawi, ITA continues to play a pivotal role in improving revenue collection and strengthening tax systems across Africa.

Africa's external debt service to reach \$89.4bn in 2024

By The Banker Reporter

THE report emphasizes that rising debt service costs are shrinking the budget space needed for essential investments in sustainable development goals. These include quality education, healthcare access, and efforts to combat climate change.

In 2024, the cost of servicing Africa's external debt is set to reach a record \$89.4 billion, according to a report released on November 14 by the United Nations (UN). This growing financial burden is likely to reduce the continent's ability to use available funds for essential investments in sustainable development goals.

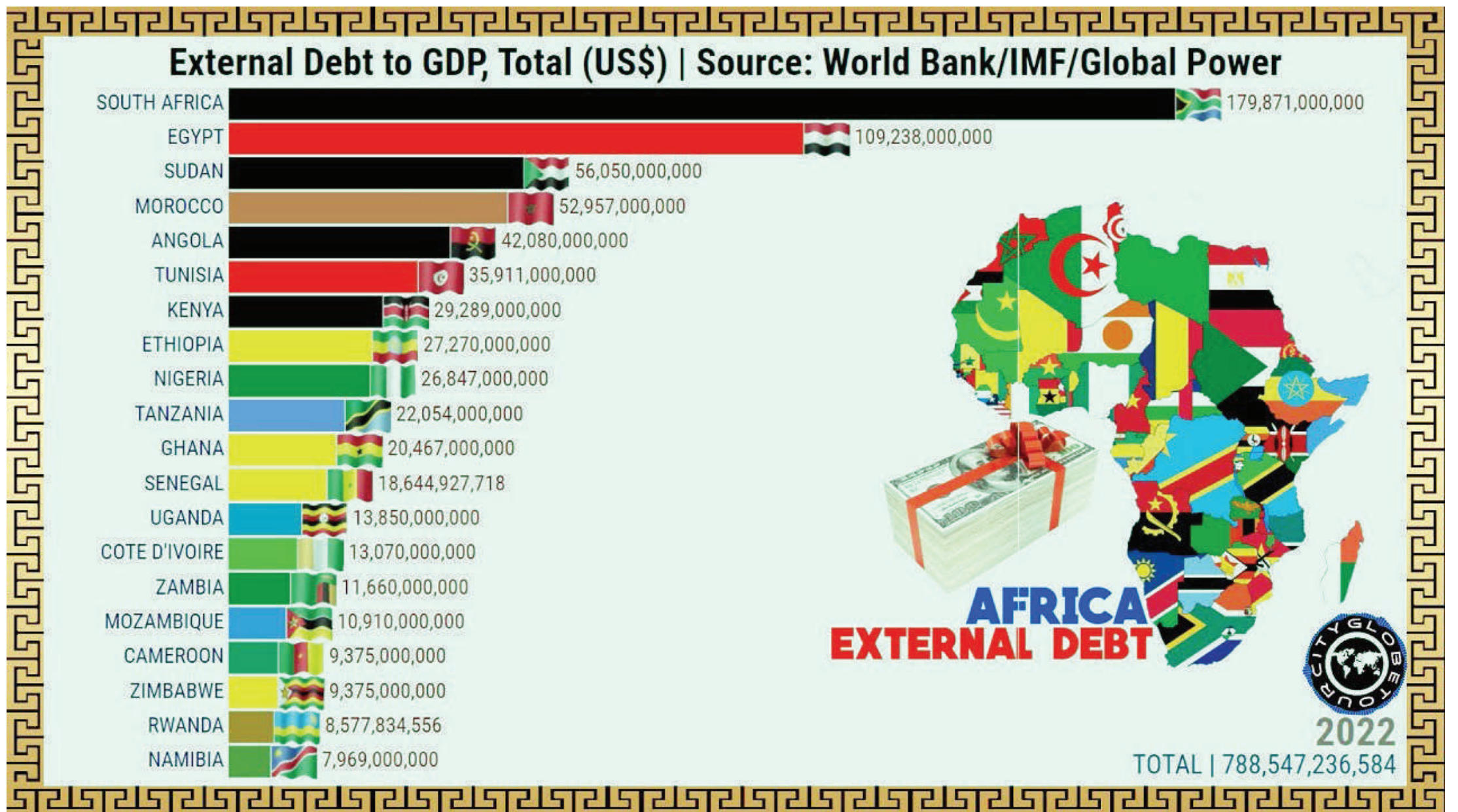
The report, titled "Africa's Debt: Towards a Lasting and Durable Solution," highlights that this rise in debt servicing costs is largely due to the high interest rates on loans from international capital markets.

In many countries, the share of government revenue spent on debt interest payments has surged over the past decade.

For instance, between 2017 and 2022, interest payments consumed an average of 42 percent of Egypt and Ghana's public revenues. These countries, which have access to international markets, often borrow from private creditors. As a result, the interest payments have risen sharply as they are subject to market conditions.

Moreover, global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have further limited Africa's access to international capital markets. This has led to an even greater strain on resources, forcing many governments to reduce spending on essential sectors like education and infrastructure. As a result, 21 low-income African countries have either already fallen into excessive debt or are at high risk of doing so.

In 2022, Africa's external debt service amounted to more than 12 percent of the continent's total exports and nearly 15 percent of



public revenues.

When the cost of debt service is high, it diverts resources that could otherwise be used for investments in health, education, and other critical sectors. According to recent data, 22 African countries spent more on debt service than on health in 2022, while 6 countries allocated more to debt service than to education.

The report also notes that Africa's external debt has grown significantly over the past decade, reaching a record \$636

billion in 2022, or 28 percent of the continent's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

This growth is attributed to increased borrowing, higher borrowing costs, reduced export revenues, slow economic growth, and unexpected expenses caused in part by COVID-19.

Over the past decade, the composition of Africa's external debt has shifted substantially. In their search for additional financial resources, African countries have increasingly

turned to private debt rather than bilateral debt. Commercial debt, which includes bonds and loans from private entities, now makes up 43% of the total external debt, up from 26 percent in 2000, largely due to the rise of euro-bonds. Bilateral debt now accounts for just a quarter of total external debt, a decrease of 52 percent from 2000.

The share of financing from multilateral financial institutions has remained relatively stable over the last two decades, making up 34 percent of total external

debt.

This diversity of creditors has made debt restructuring in Africa more complex. Given the changing nature of the debt, effective management is hindered by outdated coordination practices and infrastructure, both within many African countries and at the international level.

Furthermore, the report highlights that several African countries have attempted to reduce their dependence on external debt by seeking advances directly from central banks. However, this inflationary approach has been abandoned in favor of domestic borrowing. While this strategy has some advantages—such as developing local markets, increasing fiscal

flexibility, and mitigating the impact of interest rate fluctuations—it has also led to higher interest rates and shorter repayment periods compared to external debt. The private sector has been negatively impacted, creating pressure for refinancing, debt restructuring, and even defaults.

The report suggests that better mobilization of domestic resources could help alleviate the situation. Strengthening local capital markets and reforming the current international financial architecture, which is not suited to Africa's urgent investment needs in sustainable development goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063, are crucial steps to addressing the debt crisis.

Tourism minister optimistic about 5m tourists reach

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Pindi Chana, has said that the government is optimistic to fulfill its goal of increasing the number of tourists to five million and tourism income reaches \$6 billion by 2025.

She said this yesterday during the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National College of Tourism (NCT) and the Italian Academy of Studies (ENAIIP).

It was during the 9th edition of the week of the Italian Cuisine in the world started from 16th November to 23 where Italian Embassy has organized a series of initiatives to promote the Italian Cuisine in Tanzania.

She said that the move to increase tourists and foreign currency will go hand in hand with strengthening various tourist services such as infrastructure development and the construction of modern hotels.

"Today we are witnessing signing of an agreement between the NCT and ENAIIP of Italy which will help us to increase our knowledge on the tourism side of various types of food recipes and the Italian language," she said.

She said that the agreement is very important for the nation as it will give important skills to the youth of Tanzania and she thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for increasing the contribution of the tourism sector to the national income up to 16 percent.

She said that Italy and Tanzania have had very good economic relations for many years and the signing of the agreement is sufficient evidence that the cooperation continues to strengthen.

The Principal of (NCT), Dr. Florian Mtey, said the collaboration will benefit his college in the training area where they expect the college's instructors will



The Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Pindi Chana, (R), dresses a Maasai woman to the President of the College of Italian Studies (ENAIIP), Antonino Zigilo, (Sec-R) during the signing of a cooperation agreement with the National College of Tourism (NCT) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo by Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

go to sharpen their skills in Italian colleges.

He said the trainers will learn various programs on tourism and hospitality issues as well as capacity building on research issues and how to write projects.

"In the area of joint research, NCT and ENAIIP will conduct various studies to enable us to provide professional advice in the private and public sectors and our trainers will specialize in various sectors after capacity building," he said.

In addition, he said that NCT students will be going to Italy to study at colleges to learn in practice adding that instructors who study recipes from Italy have already started coming to Tanzania.

"There are Italian chefs who are already in the country and they are giving recipe training to our students and they will help our students to specialize in recipes," he said.

He said that the NCT in collaboration with the Italian embassy in Tanzania are expected to start Italian language training at the college because it is in great demand due to the large increase in tourists from Italy.

President of ENAIIP, Antonino Zigilo said on the occasion of the 9th edition of the Week of the Italian Cuisine in the World,

that started from 16 to 23 November 2024, the Italian Embassy in Dar Es Salaam has organized a series of initiatives to promote the Italian cuisine in Tanzania.

He said together with several Italian restaurants in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar and the Italian Trade Agency (ITA), the Embassy of Italy is promoting throughout the week a series of thematic dinners, including food tastings and special menus and regional Italian specialties.

He said the 9th edition of the Week of the Italian Cuisine will involve restaurants in Dar es Salaam, Iringa, Arusha and in different locations in Zanzibar.

He said ENAIIP, one of the leading entities engaged in training in the sector of hospitality in Italy, has signed MoU with the National College of Tourism, with the objective of strengthening the collaboration for building capacities of trainers and students in the tourist & hospitality sector in Tanzania.

He said during the week, the Embassy of Italy will host two events in Dar es Salaam and Stone Town (Zanzibar), led by four highly experienced Italian chefs from ENAIIP Veneto and ENAIIP Piemonte, focusing on typical Italian dishes, prepared with high quality products from Italy.

Regional mining officers urged to embrace laws

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Minister of Minerals, Anthony Mavunde has asked the Regional Mining Officers (RMOs) to embrace the relevant regulations and laws in the implementing of their daily duties.

By doing so, the Minister observed that the officers will help curtail possible conflicts between the miners, as well as accidents at different minerals extracting and processing sites.

Minister Mavunde said Tuesday during the Tanzania Mining Commission (TMC)'s management meeting.

The round table meeting which convened in Dodoma Capital City aimed at setting strategies for effective development of the country's mining sector.

The vision is to ensure the key economic sector is growing fruitful, ranges from revenue collections,

legal management, minerals trade, and contribution of the sector towards the Tanzania's Gross Domestic Products (GDP), among others.

"The government, through the parent ministry has developed and set useful laws and regulations to ensure for equity and professional development of the sector and thus, your performance must reflect the set laws and regulations," he directed.

However, he expressed to have been impressed with the patriotic manner to which the RMOs are working seriously to collect revenues in their respective regions.

The minister challenged the officers to work more professionally and creative, especially in curbing loopholes in revenue collections.

In another development, the Permanent Secretary

(PS) of the Ministry of Minerals, Eng. Yahya Samamba has instructed the mining inspectors to carry out regular inspections in the mines, especially during the rainy season in order to avoid accidents in the mines.

"The rainy season is projected to commence from this period until April next year, please, do regular inspections, unsatisfactory mines should be closed, we will not tolerate deaths due to negligence in the mines," Eng Samamba expressed.

Speaking for his part, Assistant Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Msafiri Mbibo asked the Regional Mining Officers to fulfill their responsibilities.

He said the ministry has a number of targets to accomplish, including to fetch at least 1trn/- as well as raising its contributions towards to DGP to 10 percent by next year.

Africa's share in total gold output shrinks

TORONTO

AFRICA'S share of Gold Fields' gold production dropped from 45 percent in Q3 2023 to 42.1 percent in Q3 2024, respectively at 246,000 ounces and 215,000 ounces.

The drop was largely due to the sale of its 45 percent interest in the Asanko mine, completed in Q1 2024. This share may decline further if Gold Fields effectively sells the Damang gold mine and develops other projects outside Africa.

This year, Gold Fields gained full control of Osisko Mining, acquiring a 100 percent interest in the Windfall gold project in Canada. The project is expected to start production by late 2026 or early 2027, yielding an average of 300,000 ounces of gold annually over a ten-year mine life.

The newly commissioned Salares Norte mine in Chile is projected to produce 375,000 ounces in 2025, up from 50,000 ounces expected in 2024.

WORLD

Trump, Musk watch SpaceX launch
Starship, booster misses landing

WASHINGTON

LON Musk's SpaceX launched its giant Starship rocket to space from Texas on Tuesday, advancing the ship's space-flight abilities but botching an attempt to bring its booster back to land as US President-elect Donald Trump watched from the company's rocket facilities.

The roughly 400-foot-tall (122-meter-tall) rocket system, designed to land astronauts on the moon and ferry crews to Mars, lifted off at 4 pm CT (2200 GMT) from SpaceX's sprawling rocket development site in Boca Chica, Texas.

The rocket's 233-foot-tall (71-metre-tall) first stage booster, called Super Heavy, detached from its second stage, Starship, at roughly 40 miles (62 km) in altitude, sending the craft into space.

Super Heavy unexpectedly splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico instead of returning to land, where it was expected to fall into large mechanical arms attached to the tower it launched from. The last-minute diversion to water indicated something went wrong.

A live stream separate from SpaceX's and hosted by space blogger Everyday Astronaut showed the Super Heavy booster exploding into a massive fireball on the Gulf horizon after splashing down.

Starship last month demonstrated the novel catch-landing method for the first time, achieving a key milestone in its reusable design. Tuesday's catch-landing was supposed to be "faster/harder," Musk had written on social media before the



President-elect Donald Trump speaks with Elon Musk as Sen Ted Cruz, R-Texas (C), listens before attending a viewing of the launch of the sixth test flight of the SpaceX Starship rocket on Tuesday in Boca Chica, Texas. AP

launch.

After the Oct 14 Starship test, Trump was intrigued, fixating on the booster's novel catch-landing technique - "Did you see the way that sucker landed today?," he said at a rally that day.

The rest of the mission appeared successful.

In space, Starship traveled around Earth for a daytime splash-down in the Indian Ocean roughly an hour later. It reignited one of its onboard engines in space for the first time, an early test of its maneuverability in space that SpaceX had tried but failed to do in past flights.

NASA chief Bill Nelson, who is expected to leave his role once Trump takes office in January, congratulated SpaceX in a post on X and said Starship's in-space engine reignition marked "major progress towards orbital flight."

Trump's attendance signals a deepening alliance with Musk, who stands to benefit from Trump's election victory. The billionaire entrepreneur and CEO of SpaceX and Tesla is expected to wield extraordinary influence to help his companies and secure favorable government treatment.

The world's wealthiest person, Musk was a prominent supporter of Trump's presidential election campaign, appearing with him at rallies and backing him with at least \$119 million in political support.

"I'm heading to the Great State

of Texas to watch the launch of the largest object ever to be elevated, not only to Space, but simply by lifting off the ground," Trump wrote on social media, wishing Musk luck on the launch.

Trump on Nov 13 appointed Musk as co-leader of a new government efficiency project that the SpaceX founder and Tesla CEO has said will rid the federal government of wasteful spending and regulations he has called burdensome.

The US Federal Aviation Administration's regulation of commercial rocket launches has been a source of frustration for Musk, who has complained that the agency impedes his company's progress in getting to Mars.

But the FAA's license approval of Tuesday's Starship launch a little over a month after the rocket's previous flight was its quickest regulatory turnaround yet for SpaceX, as the agency develops new launch-approval processes meant to keep pace with the US space industry's growth.

Musk on Tuesday listed four core objectives for the test flight: restarting Starship's space-tailored engine during flight, making a more visible ocean landing during the daytime - past attempts have been at night - putting Starship through more intense heat during reentry, and making the

'Russia's revised nuclear doctrine makes defeat over its army impossible'

MOSCOW

THE West acknowledges that Russia's revised nuclear doctrine has significantly weakened the efforts of the United States and NATO to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia, making victory in conventional warfare unachievable, said Sergey Naryshkin, Director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), in an interview with National Defense magazine.

The West has responded cautiously to President Vladimir Putin's announcement of changes to Russia's nuclear deterrence strategy, he explained.

"They realize that the revisions Putin outlined have largely undermined the attempts by the United States and NATO to achieve a strategic defeat of our nation. Furthermore, the expanded criteria for using nuclear weapons essentially rule out the possibility of defeating the Russian Armed Forces on the battlefield," Naryshkin noted.

On Tuesday, Putin signed a decree to update the country's nuclear doctrine, the Basic Principles of the State Policy of the Russian Federation on Nuclear Deterrence, marking the first time that such a document explaining Russia's policy on nukes was published.

According to the latest version of the document, the core principle is that nuclear weapons are a last resort to ensure the protection of the country's sovereignty. At the same time, parameters have been added that allow the use of nuclear weapons in case of new military threats and risks for Russia.

In particular, the document broadened the category of countries and military alliances that would be subject to nuclear deterrence. For example, the aggression of any non-nuclear state acting with the participation or support of a nuclear state will be considered a joint attack on Russia.

Also, Russia can respond with nuclear force if it perceives a critical threat to its sovereignty, even with conventional weapons, as well as in case of an attack on Belarus as a member of the Union State, or if it receives credible information about a massive attack involving a group of military jets, cruise missiles, drones, and other UAVs crossing the Russian state border.

China a key contributor to building world of peace, security, common development

By Kin Phea

AS the world is increasingly interconnected yet deeply divided, China has been playing a pivotal role in promoting global peace, security, governance, common development and shared prosperity.

China is an indispensable global role player in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

The world's second-largest economy has remained steadfast in safeguarding the international system with the United Nations at its core, the international order underpinned by international law and the basic norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

China opposes unilateralism in all its forms and stands against the formation of exclusive blocs and coterie targeting specific nations.

It is an advocate for an equal and orderly multipolar world and a committed participant in multilateral affairs on all fronts.

China has joined nearly all universal inter-governmental organizations and over 600 international conventions and amendments, concluded more than 27,000 bilateral treaties with other countries and fulfilled in good faith its international obligations.

Its proactive efforts have also been made to shape global security norms and enhance international security cooperation, so as to push for a more just and equitable global order.

China is also a major peacemaker in the Middle East conflict and an active contributor to finding solutions to international conflicts.

China's role as a peacemaker was

proven last year when it successfully facilitated reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

China has endeavoured to promote the democratization of international relations, uphold genuine multilateralism, and steer global governance in a fairer and more equitable direction.

China has promoted the effective functioning of multilateral mechanisms such as the WTO and APEC to better fulfill their roles, and expanded the influence of cooperative mechanisms like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Furthermore, China's proposed initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative are a great boon to the world's economic growth and development, injecting vigorous impetus into building global peace, stability, prosperity, connectivity and harmony.

Cambodia is one of the countries that have greatly benefited from these initiatives.

BRI's flagship infrastructure projects such as the Sihanoukville Special Economy Zone, the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway, the Siem Reap Angkor International Airport, and hydroelectric power plants, to name just a few, have been a key catalyst for trade and economic growth as well as poverty alleviation in Cambodia.

As part of the developing world, China always sides with developing countries, speaks up for them, offers assistance when needed, safeguards their legitimate rights and interests, and boosts their influence in international affairs.

Xinhua



Staff members work in a traffic camera control room of the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on Nov. 1, 2024. Xinhua

Indonesia accepts invitation to become partner state in BRICS, says ambassador

MOSCOW

INDONESIA has received an invitation to join BRICS as a partner state, Indonesian Ambassador to Russia, Jose Antonio Morato Tavares, told TASS, confirming that the invitation has been accepted.

"Yes, [we have received the invitation]. This is a positive development. Now, we are already a BRICS partner state," the diplomat said.

This status allows Indonesia to participate in meetings of the group as a partner state, Morato Tavares explained. He added that, in this role, Indonesia "will actively contribute to and

participate in any initiatives of BRICS."

After the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that the group had agreed on a list of its partner countries, though their names were not disclosed. At the initial stage, invitations would be extended to these nations, and announcements would be made once a positive response is received.

BRICS was founded in 2006 by Brazil, Russia, India, and China, with South Africa joining in 2011. On January 1, 2024, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates became full-fledged members.

Agencies

Indonesian parliament designates ex-capital Jakarta as special region

JAKARTA

THE Indonesian parliament passed a bill into law on Tuesday, officially designating Jakarta as the country's special region following its removal as the capital city.

The bill was approved during a plenary session at the parliament building in Jakarta, led by Deputy Speaker Adies Kadir.

"The status of Jakarta is no longer that of a capital city. It is now a special region, as we have moved the capital to Nusantara," Kadir said after the meeting.

Indonesia has officially relocated its capital from Jakarta, on the island of Java, to Nusantara, situated in North Penajam Paser regency, East Kalimantan province. The new capital is currently under construction, with the relocation of civil servants scheduled to



This aerial picture shows commercial and residential buildings as the sun sets in Jakarta on Feb 10, 2024. AFP

begin in early 2025.

Former president Joko Widodo previously explained that the move was necessitated by Jakarta's overcrowding and chronic congestion.

Indonesian Home Minister Muhammad Tito Karnavian said that Jakarta would undergo a transition from its role as

the capital to its new status as a special region. "Jakarta will remain the center of economic and cultural activity. It is expected to retain its strategic appeal and prominence in national activities, even though it is no longer the capital," he said.

Agencies



China, Brazil see prosperous cooperation in emerging fields

AT 3:50 a.m. on Nov. 8, a cargo plane from Hong Kong, China, loaded with packages from cross-border e-commerce platforms such as AliExpress and SHEIN, landed at an airport in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

In a bonded warehouse at the airport, Denise Capitol, operations manager of Anjun Express in Brazil, a cross-border e-commerce logistics company, was busy arranging the reception of the goods, while a high-speed sorting machine was scanning, weighing, photographing, and sorting the packages. "The volume of cross-border e-commerce orders between Brazil and China

is continuously growing, and now we handle about 30 air cargo pallets every day," Denise said.

With a population exceeding 200 million and a rapidly growing number of internet users, Brazil has vast potential in the e-commerce market. In 2023, the country's retail e-commerce revenue reached 185.7 billion reais (\$32.08 billion), and there were 87.8 million online consumers.

Chinese e-commerce platforms are intensifying their investments in Brazil, optimizing supply chains and improving logistics

efficiency to offer consumers a diverse range of products and a high-quality shopping experience.

AliExpress is actively promoting overseas warehouse construction in Brazil. SHEIN has announced plans to invest 750 million reais in Brazil over the next few years, aiming to collaborate with 2,000 manufacturers to build a localized supply chain. Online marketplace Temu operated by Chinese e-commerce company PDD Holdings has quickly gained market share in Brazil by

leveraging its competitive pricing. China and Brazil are also expanding cooperation in areas such as digital infrastructure, digital technology, and smart cities.

Chinese tech giant Huawei has deployed over 8,000 kilometers of optic fiber in Brazil's Amazon rainforest, helping more Brazilians access broadband internet.

China Telecom's Brazilian subsidiary has completed the construction of a network operations hub in Sao Paulo, providing high-quality network services for both Chinese and

Brazilian companies. Chinese electronics company TCL has established a digital television production line in Brazil's Manaus, leveraging smart manufacturing to enhance production efficiency.

Besides, CRRC Changchun Railway Vehicles Co., Ltd. has founded a China-Brazil smart city technology and cultural exchange center in Rio de Janeiro.

José Acácio Ferreira, director general of the Superintendence of Economic and Social Studies of Bahia State, Brazil comment-

ed that cooperation between Brazil and China now spans multiple fields. The increasingly close economic ties between the two nations bring substantial benefits to their people.

He said Brazil hopes to fully leverage the opportunities arising from China's commitment to expanding high-level opening up and further promote the steady development of pragmatic cooperation between the two countries. As the two countries celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of

their diplomatic relations, they are exploring new potential and deepening comprehensive cooperation to bring real benefits to their citizens. Brazil-China relations have the potential to further diversify, particularly in emerging fields like the digital economy, renewable energy, and sustainable development, said Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira. By continuing to work together, Brazil and China will not only strengthen bilateral friendship and mutual respect but also contribute to building a fairer, more peaceful, and prosperous world, he added.

People's Daily

Xi stresses dialogue in China-EU trade disputes in meetings with Scholz, Macron

RIO DE JANEIRO

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Tuesday asked German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to help resolve the issue of the EU's tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The EU's tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles are drawing attention around the world, and China always insists on resolving differences through dialogue and consultation, Xi said.

It is hoped that Germany will continue to play an important role in this regard, Xi said, noting China regards Europe as an important pole in a multi-polar world.

The two leaders' meeting took place on the second day of the G20 summit, where Xi had called for building a world economy characterized by cooperation, stability, openness, innovation and eco-friendliness.

It is important to keep in mind that mankind lives in a community with a shared future, Xi said at the summit on Monday, adding that G20 members should see each other's development as opportunities rather than challenges, and view each other as partners rather than rivals.

During a separate meeting with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday, Xi said that China and France, as major countries, share common responsibilities to lead the international community to unite in efforts to address global challenges at a time when many new changes are unfolding in the international landscape.

Macron said that France upholds strategic autonomy and is willing to engage in dialogue and cooperation with China in the spirit of mu-



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Tuesday. Xinhua

tual respect, properly handle economic and trade disputes, and maintain a sound and steady development of bilateral economic and trade relations.

Despite strong opposition from several member states, the European Commission has finalized its decision to levy tariffs on Chinese-made electric vehicles, a misguided trade protectionist measure hurting many but benefiting no one.

A Bloomberg opinion piece described the decision as "a misstep that one must hope will give way to mutually beneficial negotiation, not launch a trade war that leaves both sides worse off." European automotive giants such as BMW and Mercedes-Benz oppose the tariff plan.

As observers have warned, these tariffs will weaken the

competitiveness of the European industry in the long term. Hildegard Mueller, president of the German Association of the Automotive Industry, dismissed the EU's move as "a step backwards for global free trade and thus for prosperity, job security and growth in Europe."

Meanwhile, Britain has distanced itself from the EU's decision, with British Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds ruling out any plans to impose similar tariffs on Chinese electric vehicle imports.

Reynolds said that as there had not been any complaints from Britain's automotive industry to the Trade Remedies Authority, he would not seek to follow the EU in pursuing tariffs.

During talks with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday, Xi said that China and Britain enjoy vast space for cooperation.

Brazil is the second stop of Xi's Latin America tour, which has taken him to Peru. In Lima, he kept to a tight schedule, attending the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, paying a state visit to Peru and holding a series of bilateral meetings, including one with his U.S. counterpart, Joe Biden. In Brasilia, Xi is set to discuss bilateral relations with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, as China and Brazil mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties.

Strong headwinds from Europe notwithstanding, leading Chinese EV makers have been gathering steam in Latin America. Build Your Dreams (BYD), a Chinese EV giant, doubled its overseas sales in the first nine months of the year, with remarkable performance in Brazil, to a point, offsetting setbacks

in Europe.

Alexandre Baldy, vice president of BYD Brazil, told Xinhua that nearly 80,000 BYD cars, affordable, high-tech vehicles for Brazilians, are now on the country's roads.

During her visit to China in June, Peruvian President Dina Boluarte voiced hope for a BYD assembly plant in Peru, as the country plans to build a brand-new public transport fleet of electric vehicles in the next three to four years.

"China and Latin America, in a sense, are complementary economies. We need capital, technology, markets and China has that," said Carlos Aquino, director of the Center for Asian Studies at Peru's National University of San Marcos. "We can learn from China's experience."

Xinhua

Thousands of British farmers protest against 'tractor tax' on inheritance

LONDON

THOUSANDS of farmers protested at Britain's parliament on Tuesday, some driving tractors through central London, to demand the scrapping of an inheritance tax that they say will destroy family farms and threaten food production.

The measure, dubbed the tractor tax by critics and announced in the new government's budget last month as it sought to raise funds, has drawn an angry backlash from farmers who say the ruling Labour Party does not understand rural communities.

The protesters held placards stating "no farmers, no food, no future" and "Starmer the farmer harmer", in reference to Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Police estimated about 10,000 protesters took part.

Farmer Emma Robinson, 44, said she was "absolutely livid" and would take part in measures to disrupt food supplies if



The National Farmers' Union members attend a protest against the planned changes to tax rules, in London on Tuesday. AP

the government did not back down.

Robinson said her farm in Northwest England had been in her family for 500 years and she was going to pass it on to her

children.

"It's being taken out of my hands by someone that's been in parliament for literally days," she said. The passing of farms down through generations was

tax-free, but under the policy set out by finance minister Rachel Reeves, from 2026, 20 percent tax would be paid on the value of a farm above 1 million pounds.

Existing personal allowances, which a married couple can combine, takes the threshold for a farm and associated property up to 3 million pounds.

Farmers say that while their land and machinery has a high value, the farms themselves have low profit margins, meaning their children would have to sell land to cover the tax bill.

Jeremy Clarkson, the former Top Gear presenter who owns a farm, was among those demonstrating and said his message for government was: "Please back down". The government has said the reforms would only target the most valuable farms while helping fund public services that farming communities rely on.

Environment Minister Steve

Reed said he did not expect the majority of farmers to pay any more, adding: "There are a lot of figures flying around that I do not recognise."

The government said the tax change would affect about 500 farms a year, based on the number of inherited farms in 2021-22, with the tax rate payable in instalments over 10 years. But farmers say the numbers affected will be much higher.

The government's 500 figure does not include assets like livestock and tractors, they said. The Country Land and Business Association has estimated that 70,000 farms are worth more than 1 million pounds, and could be affected.

The backlash is only one part of a wider opposition to the Labour government's first budget since it won an election in July, with businesses warning Reeves' other tax-raising measures will fuel inflation.

Agencies

1000 days of Ukraine-Russia war: Kyiv urges partners support to achieve 'victory plan'

KYIV

THE Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) issued a statement marking 1,000 days since Russia's full-scale military invasion, expressing gratitude for international support and urged to contribute to the implementation of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's victory plan.

"We call on our partners to support our struggle, to contribute to the implementation of the Victory Plan and to achieve a comprehensive, just and sustainable peace for Ukraine, Europe and the entire world," the MFA stated.

"We call on our international partners to unite around the implementation of the Peace Formula, which is the only comprehensive vision for ending the war and establishing a comprehensive, just and sustainable peace. We need peace through strength, not appeasement. We are grateful to our partners for all the defence, financial, economic and humanitarian assistance they have provided. We call for continued and increased support. Restoring global stability and common security is impossible without restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty," the statement added.

Further, MFA urged partners to strengthen Ukraine's air defence to protect critical energy facilities and respond more actively to Kremlin actions threatening Ukrainian nuclear energy facilities.

"We call on our partners to increase assistance to Ukraine, including strengthening the air shield to protect critical energy facilities; to actively participate in the restoration and reconstruction of our country; to respond more actively to the Kremlin's actions that threaten the functioning of Ukrainian nuclear energy facilities; to condemn and investigate Russian crimes against Ukrainian civilians; and to refute fakes that Russia uses to whitewash its war crimes," MFA said.

"For a thousand days now, Ukraine has been resisting the full-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation and has been fighting for its freedom, statehood, territorial integrity and the opportunity to develop freely and build its future.

During this time, we have witnessed the true courage of the defenders of Zmiynyi Island, the heroism of the defenders of Azovstal, Bakhmut and other cities and towns, the tireless work of volunteers, and the unprecedented readiness of both the Ukrainian military and civilians to defend every piece of Ukrainian land," the statement added.

Despite the full-scale war, Ukraine is making progress on its path to joining the EU and NATO, implementing important reforms, ensuring macroeconomic stability, and maintaining the unity of society along the way, including all our people abroad. We are working to create the conditions for their return home.

According to the MFA, the Russian military invasion is accompanied by massive violations of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights.

The ministry also reaffirmed Ukraine's commitment to resisting Russian occupation. "Ukraine will never submit to the occupiers," the MFA stated. "The Russian military will be punished for violating international law." ANI



For a thousand days now, Ukraine has been resisting the full-scale armed aggression of the Russian

China takes actions to cope with climate change

CHINA Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) recently issued a report on China's policies and actions for addressing climate change. The report comprehensively summarizes the progress and achievements of China in combating climate change since 2023.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Xia Yingxian, director of the MEE's department of climate change, said that China places high priority on addressing climate change, adding that the country was among the first parties to join the UNFCCC and one of the earliest countries to sign and ratify the Paris Agreement.

China has taken a series of actions to comprehensively advance its nationally deter-

mined contributions (NDCs) and achieved positive results.

According to Xia, the country has worked continuously to reduce its carbon intensity. In 2023, non-fossil energy accounted for 17.9 percent of total energy consumption, while the proportion of coal dropped from 67.4 percent in 2013 to 55.3 percent.

Forest stock volume reached 19.493 billion cubic meters, an increase of 6.5 billion cubic meters compared to 2005, Xia said.

By the end of July this year, the total installed capacity of wind and solar power reached 1.206 billion kilowatts, 2.25 times that of late 2020, achieving the 2030 installation target more than six years ahead of schedule.

China's national carbon trading market serves as a crucial policy tool in achiev-



Photo shows a solar farm in Jiangkou village, Shanggao county, Yichun, east China's Jiangxi province. (Photo by Zhou Liang/People's Daily Online)

ing both the dual carbon goals and the country's climate action commitments under the NDCs.

"Since being launched in July 2021, the national carbon trading market has demonstrated steady growth,

with cumulative trading volume reaching nearly 500 million tons of carbon allowances and total transactions amounting to 29.7 billion yuan (\$4.11 billion). The market has shown stable operation with gradually rising

carbon prices," Xia noted.

In May this year, the MEE issued a plan to build and implement a unified carbon footprint management system, which clearly defines the objectives for building a carbon footprint management

system.

According to the report on China's policies and actions on addressing climate change, the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035 is being implemented successfully.

Xia explained that the MEE has designated 39 cities nationwide as pilot sites for enhanced climate-adaptive city development, actively exploring development paths and models for climate-adaptive cities.

Meanwhile, the ministry is actively promoting climate impact and risk assessments, while strengthening climate adaptation efforts in key regions such as the Yellow River basin and the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau.

China has actively joined and led global climate governance. Through the South-South cooperation on climate

change framework, China has long provided support to other developing countries, especially small island states, least developed countries, and African nations, in their climate action efforts.

Xia noted that China has signed 53 climate cooperation memorandums of understanding with 42 developing countries. The cooperation includes establishing low-carbon demonstration zones, carrying out mitigation and adaptation projects, and conducting training workshops to strengthen these countries' climate response capabilities.

"China will continue to strengthen South-South cooperation in addressing climate change by leveraging its advantages in photovoltaic technology, new energy vehicle, and early warning," said Xia.

People's Daily

SPORT

TSF announces 2024 Uhuru Open Squash Tournament

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Squash Association (TSF) has announced that the 2024 edition of the Uhuru Open Squash Tournament will take place next month at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC).

The three-day event, running from December 6 to 9, is expected to attract over 90 players, both local and international.

Speaking recently, TSF official Marwa Busigara shared details about the competition, which will feature senior and junior categories.

Matches will begin with group stages, culminating in the semifinals and finals on the last day.

Busigara expressed gratitude to this year's sponsors, including the French Embassy in Tanzania and CMA CGM, for their support.

Invitations have been extended to players from Kenya, Zanzibar, Uganda, and Zambia, emphasizing the tournament's growing reputation as a regional sporting event.

"We expect at least 100 players to compete this year,

which is significant because we have added a junior category. Invitations have been sent across the country and to neighbouring nations," Busigara stated.

The Uhuru Open Squash Tournament is organized annually as part of Tanzania's Independence Day celebrations, making it a landmark event for both squash enthusiasts and the nation's sporting community.

Busigara highlighted TSF's efforts throughout the year to revitalize the sport in Tanzania. These initiatives aimed to re-engage former players and attract new talent to the squash courts, laying a strong foundation for the sport's growth.

"This year, TSF hosted several activities to relaunch the game. These efforts have been crucial in welcoming players back and nurturing a new generation of squash enthusiasts," he added.

TFF commits to local coaching team for Taifa Stars



By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has announced that it will not be recruiting an expatriate coach for the national football team, Taifa Stars.

Instead, the federation has decided to maintain the current technical panel, led by local coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman.

Coach Morocco, supported by Juma Mgunda, Jamhuri Kihwelo 'Julio', and Amri Kiamba, guided Taifa Stars to their fourth qualification for the African Cup of Nations (AFCON), set to take place next year in Morocco.

Morocco has been serving as caretaker coach following the suspension of expatriate coach Adel Amrouche.

Speaking in a recent interview, TFF president Wallace Karia (pictured) expressed satisfaction with the performance of the locally-led technical team.

"How can we give the team to another coach? We have Morocco (Hemed Suleiman) and Mgunda (Juma), who

have shown that they are good. We have trust in them, and the team will remain with them," Karia stated.

The TFF president highlighted Taifa Stars' success under local leadership as evidence of the capability of Tanzanian coaches.

He encouraged local gaffers to seek opportunities abroad to further enhance their skills and showcase their talent internationally.

"Local coaches have proved that they are capable of producing results everywhere and at different levels. What is needed is to trust them. But I am also calling upon them to seek new challenges outside the country," he added.

While TFF supports local coaches for the national team, Karia declined to comment on the preference of some local clubs for foreign coaches.

He noted that it is up to the clubs to decide but hinted that local coaches could deliver the desired results if given the opportunity.

"As TFF, we cannot tell clubs what to do on coaches, but it would have been wise if they trusted local coaches. I think local coaches are also capable of delivering the desired results," he said.

Taifa Stars secured their place in AFCON 2025 by finishing second in Group H with 10 points, behind DR Congo. Tanzania's qualification was sealed with a crucial 1-0 victory over Guinea on Tuesday.

The match-winning goal was scored in the 62nd minute by Simon Msuva, who plays for Iraq's Al Talaba, after he connected with a well-timed pass from Mudathir Yahya.

Guinea finished third with nine points, while Ethiopia was eliminated, sitting at the bottom of the group with just four points.

With the confidence of the TFF and the nation behind them, the Taifa Stars and their local coaching team are now focused on preparing for the prestigious tournament in Morocco.

Ummu launches TDFA soccer league, offers cash and equipment

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANGA Urban Constituency Member of Parliament (CCM) Ummu Mwalimu last week officially inaugurated the Tanga District soccer league.

The showpiece - taking place under the auspices of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) - is termed Tanga District Football Association (TDFA) Odo Ummu Cup 2024/25.

Twenty-seven soccer clubs from all wards of Tanga City Council are slated to feature in the TDFA-supervised

tournament.

The Tanga Urban Constituency's Member of Parliament office stated about 98 home and away matches are scheduled to be played at Lamore grounds.

The league, which is under her sponsorship, targets to boost efforts to develop soccer in the country.

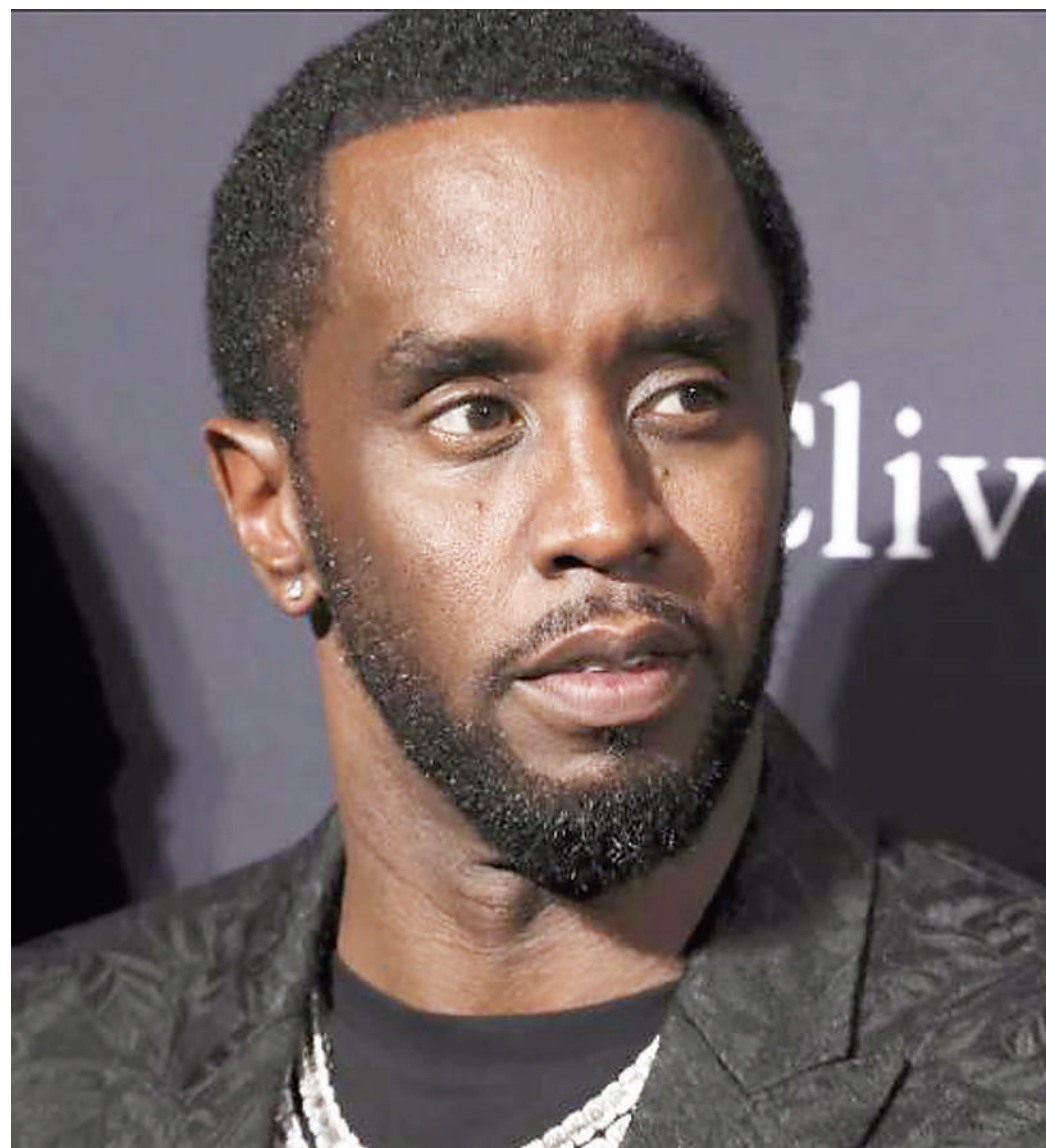
Ummu also facilitated the purchase of 27 sets of jerseys and 31 footballs that would be presented to all participating teams.

"Legislator Ummu will also hand over funds to support the running of the league

for all 98 matches, and four winners will get a chance to participate in the Regional Champions League (RCL)," reads part of the information.

The TDFA assistant general secretary Salim Kalosi - who spoke on behalf of the association's boss, thanked Ummu for her sponsorship, adding that she has been duly supporting efforts to develop sports in Tanga.

"I would like to thank you for your support and you have become the pioneer for soccer in our district, history will be written," he said.



Prosecutors ordered not to use papers taken from Sean 'Diddy' Combs' jail cell for now

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

A FEDERAL judge ordered prosecutors Tuesday not to use papers taken from the jail cell of Sean "Diddy" Combs until he rules on defense claims that they are trial preparation materials protected by attorney-client privilege.

Judge Arun Subramanian made his ruling at a Manhattan federal court hearing after lawyers fiercely disputed the circumstances and relevance of the seizure of 19 pages that were photographed by an investigator inside the cell of the music mogul.

Combs (pictured), who has pleaded not guilty to all charges, is accused of coercing and abusing women for years with the aid of a network of associates and employees.

The seizure came during what the government has described as a multi-day sweep of all cells at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, intended to remove any weapons or contraband as an anti-violence measure.

Defense lawyer Marc Agnifilo said he may ask the judge to dismiss the indictment or force a recusal of prosecutors if the judge rules that the materials were obtained and used improperly.

Combs, who hugged his lawyers when he first entered the courtroom, carried a stack of papers as he was led away at the end of the hearing.

Agnifilo said he was unaware that the papers in Combs' cell had been photographed by an investigator with the Bureau of Prisons and turned over to prosecutors until he saw them cited in written arguments opposing his \$50 million bail proposal. A bail hearing is set for Friday.

He said two references to the papers were made as prosecutors argued that Combs has continued to commit crimes since his September

arrest.

Prosecutors said Combs orchestrated social media campaigns aimed at tainting the jury pool, tried to publicly leak materials he thought would be helpful to his case and contacted potential witnesses through third parties.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Slavik said she seized materials were scrutinized by independent government lawyers who are walled off from the prosecution to determine if they were protected by attorney-client privilege.

They were not discussed with defense lawyers because some of them were deemed to pertain to a covert and continuing investigation of Combs, she said.

Slavik also said prosecutors had no contact with jail officials beforehand and gave no instructions regarding any search of Combs' cell.

Some of the photographed pages contained a to-do list and inspirational quotes along with comments about birthdays, according to Slavik, while two excerpts pertained to Combs paying and finding damaging material about potential witnesses.

Agnifilo said, however, that even things that seem unrelated to the case are protected by attorney-client privilege. For instance, he said, attorneys have discussed with Combs prospective witnesses they might call.

"Every single thing" in the seized papers is subject to attorney-client privilege because Combs discussed them with lawyers, Agnifilo said.

"The government now knows potential defense witnesses for a May 5 trial," he added. "This has been a complete government failure."

The judge asked each side to submit written arguments in the coming weeks.

AP



Tanga Urban Constituency Member of Parliament Ummu Mwalimu (2nd R) hands over soccer equipment to the management of the Tanga District Football Association (TDFA) as part of her support and sponsorship for the 2024/25 TDFA Odo Ummu Cup. Others are Tanga District's Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) leader and TDFA officials. PHOTO CORRESPONDENT CHEJI BAKARI

Germany denied by last-chance penalty for Hungary in Nations League. Sweden's Gyökeres scores 4

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH

DOMINIK Szoboszlai scored a penalty in the ninth minute of stoppage time to deny Germany a victorious end to the Nations League group stage and show why Hungary is one of the hardest places to win in world soccer.

Germany, already assured of a quarterfinal spot, was on course to win thanks to Felix Nmecha's goal but the game took a late twist when Mihaly Kata's shot ricocheted off Robin Koch's arm as the German defender tried to turn away.

After a video review, Szoboszlai stepped up to take the penalty and chipped it over goalkeeper Alexander Nübel and questioned whether watching "48 slo-mos" of an incident actually led to better calls.

Nagelsmann argued that Hungary's joy after leveling the score reflected Germany's improved stature as a team after a strong 2024. "If you see today how Hungary is celebrating this 1-1, that's a little distinction for our team too," he said.

Germany's much-changed team struggled to generate many chances before Nmecha scored on a rebound at a corner in the 76th minute. Nübel, who's seeking to cement his place as Germany's top goalkeeper in the absence of injured Marc-André ter Stegen, was kept busy with dangerous Hungarian counterattacks.

Coach Julian Nagelsmann used the game to experiment with his squad. Nmecha and forward Chris Führich both had their first international starts, while Julian Brandt had his first Germany game for a year. Still, there wasn't a place for Manchester City goalkeeper Stefan Ortega, who was called up to the Germany squad for the first time

this month.

The Nations League quarterfinal lineup was already decided before Tuesday's games kicked off, with Portugal, France, Germany and Spain as group winners and Croatia, Italy, the Netherlands and Denmark qualifying as runners-up. The draw is Friday at UEFA headquarters in Switzerland and the quarterfinals will be played in March.

*Dutch draw

For the Netherlands, a 1-1 draw with Bosnia-Herzegovina ends a year filled with success, disappointment and controversy.

Ronald Koeman's team reached the semifinals of a major tournament for the first time in 14 years and was eyeing a first European Championship final since 1988 – but then came Ollie Watkins' stoppage-time goal to put England through instead.

In Zenica on Tuesday, Brian Brobbey celebrated his first goal for the Netherlands with a header at a corner, but Ermedin Demirovic leveled for Bosnia-Herzegovina with a header of his own midway through the second half.

*Gyökeres goals

There were yet more goals for Viktor Gyökeres – arguably the most in-demand transfer target in European soccer right now – as Sweden demolished Azerbaijan 6-0.

Gyökeres scored four goals, including one within seconds of Azerbaijan kicking off following another Sweden goal, and he overtook Norway's Erling Haaland to end the group stage as Nations League top scorer with nine from six games.

Gyökeres' fellow forward Dejan Kulusevski finished with two goals after not having scored for the national team in more than a year.

Elsewhere, Wales won promotion to the top tier of the Nations League thanks to a 4-1 win over Iceland and a surprise 3-1 loss for group rival Turkey against Montenegro in a game played in driving rain on a muddy field.

The Czech Republic was also promoted to the top tier after beating Georgia 2-1 in a rematch from the group stage of Euro 2024.

AP

Martinez equals Maradona record in Argentina win

LAUTARO Martinez moved level with Diego Maradona in the all-time Argentina scoring charts in a 1-0 World Cup qualifying win over Peru in Buenos Aires.

Martinez, 27, (pictured) smashed home a left-footed volley from Lionel Messi's cross after 55 minutes for his 32nd international goal on his 70th appearance.

The Inter Milan captain now sits joint-fifth alongside Argentina legend Maradona, though he remains some way behind top-scorer Messi's 112 goals.

Gabriel Batistuta, Sergio Agüero and Hernan Crespo complete the top five.

Inter Miami forward Messi, 37, is now tied with former United States forward Landon Donovan for most international assists with 58.

Lionel Scaloni's side were on top for much of the game but were unable to extend their lead, with Julian Alvarez hitting the post and Liverpool's Alexis Mac Allister sending a header wide.

The win moves Argentina five points clear at the top of the South American World Cup qualifying table with six games remaining.

Elsewhere, Brazil were jeered by their own fans as they drew 1-1 against Uruguay in Salvador.

Real Madrid midfielder Federico Valverde put Uruguay in front early in the second half, but Gerson levelled for Brazil six minutes later with his first international goal.

The draw means five-time World Cup winners Brazil sit fifth in the table, with the top six qualifying automatically for the 2026 tournament in United States, Canada and Mexico.

A fine solo goal from former West Ham and Everton forward Enner Valencia secured a 1-0 win for Ecuador away at Colombia, moving them above their opponents into third on goal difference.

Newcastle United forward Miguel Almiron was among the scorers as Paraguay drew 2-2 with Bolivia to stay sixth.

Bolivia remain in seventh, which would be good enough for a play-off, one point ahead of Venezuela who were beaten 4-2 by Chile.

BBC



Botswana, Mozambique and Tanzania final teams to qualify for Cup of Nations finals

By Mark Gleeson

BOTSWANA, Mozambique and Tanzania claimed the final berths in next year's African Cup of Nations finals as the qualifying competition played to an exciting conclusion on Tuesday.

Botswana pulled off an unlikely draw away against Egypt to make sure of the point they needed to qualify for the second time while Tanzania edged Guinea 1-0 at home in Dar-es-Salaam.

Mozambique needed to avoid defeat away in their Lusophone derby against Guinea Bissau to go through but secured a surprise 2-1 win to qualify for a second successive tournament.

A home loss to Mali last week put Mozambique's hopes in peril and offered Guinea Bissau a chance to leapfrog them in the Group I standings with a home win.

But Bruno Langa scored after nine minutes to make matters more difficult for Guinea Bissau and although the hosts equalised through Everton's Beto before halftime, Mozambique restored their advantage in the 52nd minute through Stanley Ratifo.

They then held on for a place in



Botswana's Tumisoang Orebonye celebrates with teammates and coaches after the match after qualifying for the African Cup of Nations at the 30 June Air Defence Stadium, in Cairo, Egypt on November 19, 2024. REUTERS

the finals in Morocco in December next year. Botswana needed a point away in Cairo but were not given much chance in their last Group C fixture. However, Omaatla Kebatho put them ahead after only eight minutes as he capitalised on poor defending.

*UPHILL TASK

Egypt, who rested Mohamed Salah for this international window, were

level seven minutes later through Mahmoud Trezeguet, leaving Botswana with an uphill task to hold onto their point. Egypt had 82% of the possession and 29 attempts thereafter but could not force the victory. Mauritania would have qualified had Egypt won after they beat the Cape Verde Islands 1-0 at home but finished a point behind Botswana. Tanzania's meeting with Guinea was a straight shootout for second

place in Group H with the hosts needing a win and Guinea a draw.

Tanzanian veteran Simon Msuva got the game's only goal in the 61st minute to put his country into the finals for a fourth time.

The rest of the 13 qualifying matches played on Tuesday had no bearing on places, with 21 of the 24 finalists already decided.

The 21-year-old Dorgeles Nene scored a hat-trick as Mali romped to a 6-0 win over Eswatini in Bamako while Simon Adingra celebrated being named one of the five nominees for this year's African Footballer of the Year award with a goal for holders Ivory Coast as they beat Chad 4-0 in Abidjan.

But they still finished second in Group G to Zambia, who won 2-0 away against Sierra Leone.

Habib Diarra scored two goals as Senegal beat Burundi 2-0 in Dakar to finish Group L unbeaten, dropping only two points in the campaign.

There was an upset as Ethiopia ended already-qualified Democratic Republic of Congo's unbeaten run with a 2-1 away win in Kinshasa with Mohammednur Nasir scoring the winner six minutes into stoppage time.

REUTERS

Guardiola agrees one-year extension at Man City

By Simon Stone

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola has agreed a one-year contract extension.

Although City are refusing to comment on a story that was first reported in The Athletic, multiple sources have confirmed Guardiola has elected to sign a new deal to take his stay at the club to 10 years.

The 53-year-old Spaniard joined City in 2016 and has won 18 trophies so far, including six Premier League titles.

His contract had been due to expire at the end of the current season. There have been suggestions the new agreement will have the option of a second year, although this is not known at this stage.

During his time in Manchester, Guardiola has helped City become just the second English men's team to win the Treble – the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League in the same season.

They have also become the first men's team to win four successive English top-flight titles and to achieve 100 Premier League points in a single campaign.

City sit second in this season's Premier League, five points behind leaders Liverpool, and are on a run of four successive defeats across all competitions.

This is the first time Guardiola has endured such a streak of losses – excluding shootouts – in his managerial career.

After the most recent – a 2-1 defeat at Brighton – he said: "Maybe after seven years winning six Premier Leagues, maybe one year another team deserve it."

Guardiola has signed extensions in May 2018, November 2020 and November 2022.

Speaking in May after City's historic fourth successive league title, Guardiola said he was "closer to leaving than staying".

Guardiola later said "part of me is leaving" when director of football Txiki Begiristain announced in October that he – a long-time ally – would be moving on from City at the end of the season.

Former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss Guardiola said he wanted to be "really convinced" that any extension of his own stay would be "the best for the club".

The uncertainty over Guardiola's future has been cited by some as a reason for the team's poor form.

There is also no timescale for the outcome of the disciplinary case brought by the Premier League for the 115 charges against City, which the club deny but could bring a huge sanction if guilt is established. Guardiola has continually backed the



Pep Guardiola has won six Premier League titles with Manchester City [Getty Images]

club and said critics need to wait for the final decision in the case before rushing to condemn.

He is the longest-serving current manager in the Premier League, after Jurgen Klopp left Liverpool in the summer.

"Energetic Pep ready for more" – analysis Guillem Balague, European football expert

Guardiola was given an offer of a new contract two months ago but only told City of his decision on Sunday.

He made the Football Association wait for two months when an approach was made about whether he had an interest in the England job and he wasn't convinced about that – or even staying at City – because he did not know what his lifestyle was going to be.

That was the priority. It wasn't about money, it wasn't about a sporting decision. It was 'what do I want to do with my life because my family are not here? Do I want to spend another year in Manchester? Do I want to go to the FA and do things at a different pace? Do I want a rest?'

His conclusion was 'I am ready for more'.

He told his very close circle on Sunday and he feels there are things to do and he has the energy for it. The Premier League is very demanding and perhaps in the past couple of years he has been physically at the limit, but he feels this year is extremely difficult with injuries to players and it will be

easier next year.

Decisions will have to be made with big names who are coming to the ends of their contracts, and their future – Kevin de Bruyne's contract expires this summer, and Bernardo Silva, John Stones, Kyle Walker and Ederson's current deals run out in 2026 – and he is happy to do them.

For the last month, City have been 90% sure he was going to stay but there was always the doubt.

The decision of Begiristain had nothing to do with Guardiola's future. Begiristain wanted to leave last season but was asked to stay one extra year and help with the transition. But he was ready to go for the next step in his life. It became clear that Guardiola's demeanour had changed a bit after winning the Champions League. He had won everything. Was there more to win? But, he has found himself with the energy to continue and he feels he can give one more year.

"What has Guardiola achieved at Man City?"

After moving to Manchester from Bayern in 2016, Guardiola went without a trophy in a season for the first time in his career.

Typically, he bounced back in 2017-18 to secure a double. In that campaign, City became the first top-flight English team to reach 100 points in a season with a win at Southampton on the final day. They also won the Carabao Cup. In the following season, City became the first men's team to win the

domestic treble in England, rounded off by an emphatic 6-0 FA Cup final win over Watford.

In 2019-20, the season affected by Covid-19, City won the EFL Cup, but Liverpool beat them to the Premier League title and Guardiola's side suffered Champions League disappointment when they were knocked out in a single-leg quarter-final by Lyon.

City's recent stranglehold on the Premier League began in 2020-21, with Guardiola's side winning their first of a historic four titles in a row, as well as claiming the EFL Cup again. They also reached their first Champions League final but were beaten 1-0 by Thomas Tuchel's Chelsea.

Another top-flight title was secured in 2021-22, with Guardiola becoming the second-most successful manager in Premier League history.

City became only the second men's English team, after rivals Manchester United, to win the Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup Treble when they pulled off that feat in 2022-23.

Victory over Inter Milan in Istanbul earned City their first Champions League title.

The triumph in Turkey also ended Guardiola's personal 12-year wait to win the tournament again after claiming two Champions League titles at Barcelona.

The Blues became the first team in English top-flight history to win four titles in a row in 2024, but they missed out on the Double when Manchester United pulled off a surprising win against their rivals in the FA Cup final. Guardiola started his management career at Barcelona B, winning the Spanish fourth division, before becoming Barcelona boss in 2008.

He won three successive league titles to start his reign, including a Treble with the Copa del Rey and Champions League in 2009.

Guardiola left Barcelona in 2012 and took a one-year sabbatical before joining Bayern, where he won three league titles and two German Cups in three seasons, achievements that served to increase his long-standing appeal to City.

BBC

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Botswana, Mozambique and Tanzania
final teams to qualify for Cup of
Nations finals

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Simba eye victory against Pamba Jiji ahead of CAF clash

By Correspondents Nassir Nchimbi & Seth Mapoli



SIMBA are gearing up for a crucial league match against Pamba Jiji, which they see as an important stepping stone towards their CAF Confederation Cup campaign.

The Premier League match will be held tomorrow at Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza.

Simba, currently leading the Mainland Premier League table with 25 points after 10 matches, will face Pamba FC who have recorded one win from 11 games losing five and drawing five games gathering eight points.

Ahmed Ally (pictured), Simba SC's Media and Information Manager, has emphasized the significance of the match, stating that a victory would boost the team's confidence ahead of their continental clash against Bravos Do Maquis.

Despite a tight schedule, Simba are determined to secure a positive result. The team, led by coach Fadlu Davids, was to travel to Mwanza later yesterday and will return to Dar es Salaam immediately after the match tomorrow.

While most of the squad is available, Ugandan striker Steven Mukwala is expected to join the team today morning after completing his international duties. However, Zambian winger Joshua Mutale is sidelined due to an injury sustained during national team training.

Simba also have received a boost with the gradual return of injured players. Midfielder Yusuph Kagoma, who has been sidelined for a month following an injury sustained in the October 19 league match against Young Africans, has resumed light training.

While he is unlikely to feature against Pamba Jiji FC, Kagoma is optimistic about being fit in time for Simba's CAF Confederation Cup group stage opener against Angola's Bravos do Maquis on Wednesday, November 27, at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Defender Abdulrazak Hamza and goalkeeper Ayoub Lakred have also recovered and are back in training, further strengthening the squad depth as Simba enters a busy stretch of fixtures.

Simba's players resumed training on Monday following a brief weekend break. Coach Davids has been implementing specialized gym sessions to enhance the squad's physical fitness.

Simba will be aiming to maintain their strong form and secure a victory over Pamba Jiji to boost their morale and fine-tune their preparations for the upcoming continental competition.

Ally highlighted the importance of the match in boosting the team's morale and extending their lead at the top of the league table. Additionally, he emphasized that the match would provide a valuable opportunity to assess the team's strengths and weaknesses ahead of the CAF Confederation Cup.

"This league is like a battlefield," Ally said. "We must win every game. If we fail to do so, we risk giving our competitors the upper hand. Our focus is entirely on securing victory against Pamba Jiji FC."

He added: "While Pamba Jiji may not be performing well in the league, we cannot underestimate them. This match is crucial for us to maintain our momentum and boost our confidence ahead of the CAF Confederations Cup. We need to approach this game with seriousness and focus on securing a victory."

"We urge all Simba SC fans in Mwanza to support the team and contribute to a positive outcome."

"A win against Pamba Jiji will not only strengthen our position in the league but also provide a much-needed confidence boost before the continental competition. We need the fans to create a strong home advantage and inspire the team to victory."

Yanga aim to turn the page after recent slump

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) are focusing on a fresh start after the international break, determined to overcome recent setbacks in the NBC Premier League and perform strongly in their upcoming CAF Champions League group stage opener against Al Hilal.

The club recently announced a significant overhaul in its coaching staff, appointing Saed Ramovic as the new head coach, with Mustapha Kodro serving as his assistant.

Additionally, Abdihalim Moallin, who has previously managed KMC FC and Azam FC, has joined as the team's new technical director, bringing a wealth of experience to guide the club strategically.

This leadership reshuffle comes in the wake of disappointing results, including a 1-0 loss to Azam FC and a 3-1 defeat to Tabora United, which have raised concerns among fans and stakeholders. The club hopes the new team can reinvigorate its performance, particularly with the critical CAF Champions League fixtures ahead.

Coach Ramovic has already begun working with the squad, taking advantage of the international break to implement tactical adjustments and reinforce the team's mentality.

Young Africans' Media and Information Manager, Ali Kamwe (pictured), expressed optimism about the club's direction under its new leadership.

"We're optimistic about bouncing back and securing a victory in our upcoming match against Al Hilal," Kamwe said. "Our new coach, Ramovic, is relatively unknown, which can work in our favour by reducing external pressures. We're hopeful he can replicate the success of coaches like Nasreddine Nabi and Miguel Gamondi."

Kamwe highlighted the importance of the international break, stating that it allowed the team to reassess its performance and address weaknesses.

"The players are highly motivated to return to winning ways. Both domestic and continental success are priorities, and we're confident we can turn things around and achieve our goals," Kamwe added.

Young Africans currently sit second in the NBC Premier League table with 24 points, stemming from eight wins and two losses. Despite their recent dip in form, the team remains confident in their ability to recover and make a strong impression both domestically and in the CAF Champions League.

This marks the side's second consecutive appearance in the CAF Champions League group stage. Their upcoming clash with Al Hilal carries historical significance: in the 2021/2022 CAF Champions League qualifiers, Al Hilal defeated Young Africans 2-1 on aggregate, relegating them to the CAF Confederation Cup, where they went on to reach the finals.

Last season, Young Africans advanced to the CAF Champions League quarterfinals but were eliminated by Mamelodi Sundowns in a dramatic penalty shootout.

With the first group stage match set against Al Hilal, Young Africans aim to avenge past losses and establish themselves as serious contenders.

The squad is expected to be at full strength following the return of players from AFCON qualifiers, a boost that Coach Ramovic will undoubtedly welcome as he seeks to instil a winning culture.

As the team gears up for their CAF campaign, fans and management alike are hopeful that the recent changes will yield positive results, revitalizing the club and solidifying its status as a powerhouse in African football.

Taifa Stars captain Samatta hails fans after historic AFCON qualification



Skipper Mbwana Samatta pictured on Tuesday celebrating after Taifa Stars secured their place in the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals in Morocco. Taifa Stars won 1-0 against Guinea. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIA'S Taifa Stars captain Mbwana Ally Samatta has lauded fans for their unwavering support after the team's dramatic 1-0 victory over Guinea on Tuesday secured their place in the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals in Morocco.

Speaking after the match, held at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, Samatta acknowledged the tough nature of the game and credited the fans' passion and energy as a driving force behind the team's success.

"First of all, the game was very difficult, but we managed to get an important victory at home. It was not easy," Samatta said.

"This victory and the opportunity to qualify for AFCON 2025 is for all Tanzanians. The support was incredible - from the fans who showed up in large numbers today to those back home praying for us. Their energy motivated us on the field, and this achievement belongs to them."

The national team captain em-

phasized the importance of fan support, highlighting how the atmosphere at the stadium fueled the team's determination. The sell-out crowd created a fortress-like environment that spurred Taifa Stars to deliver one of the most memorable performances in recent history.

The decisive moment came in the 61st minute when Simon Msuva scored the only goal of the match, expertly converting a well-placed cross from Mudathir Yahya. The goal ensured Tanzania's fourth AFCON qualification, sending the nation into wild celebrations.

Samatta, who plays for Greek side PAOK FC, has been instrumental in Taifa Stars' campaign. His experience, leadership, and ability to rally the team in crucial moments have solidified his position as a cornerstone of Tanzanian football. Reflecting on the journey, Samatta acknowledged the challenges the team faced during the qualification campaign but praised his teammates for their resilience and commitment.

"This was not just about talent but also about heart and determination. We had to fight for every point, and I am proud of my teammates for their hard work. This achievement shows what we

can accomplish when we work together," he said.

Taifa Stars' qualification for Morocco 2025 marks the team's fourth appearance at the AFCON finals and their second consecutive tournament. The team previously qualified in: 1980 (Nigeria), 2019 (Egypt), and 2023 (Ivory Coast).

This year's qualification is particularly significant as it was achieved under the guidance of a Tanzanian coach, Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman - a first in the nation's history. As Tanzania prepares for the 2025 AFCON finals, Samatta remains optimistic about the team's potential to leave a mark on the continental stage. He called on fans to maintain their support as the team shifts focus to preparations for the tournament, which will run from December 21, 2025, to January 18, 2026.

Samatta's acknowledgment of fan support and his call for unity resonate deeply with Tanzanians, who have rallied behind the team throughout the qualifiers.

With the captain leading from the front, Taifa Stars are poised to continue their upward trajectory in African football, making the nation proud on the grandest stage of the continent.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

