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# 10.7bn/- justice access drive: EU, Belgian agency, LSF tie

*“By leveraging our collective expertise and resources, we aim to make meaningful strides towards building a more equitable and just society for all Tanzanians”*

By Guardian Reporter

THE Legal Services Facility (LSF) and Enabel, the Belgian development agency, yesterday signed a 10.7 bn/- grant agreement for Improved Access to Justice for Women through Legal Aid (IMPAWLA) project.

The collaborative project funded by the European Union (EU) comes under its flagship initiative, “Gender Transformative Action: Breaking the Glass Ceiling.”

The project is intended to reduce inequalities in access to justice for women and girls by enhancing their access to quality legal aid services. It also targets strengthening the organizational capacity for LSF to enhance its mission.

Under the pact, LSF and Enabel will collaborate to build a comprehensive legal aid programme for women and marginalized groups. This programme will focus on improving the provision of quality legal aid for women, fostering legal empowerment, and promoting a conducive environment for access to justice.

It will leverage the LSF network of paralegals and legal aid providers, enhancing their capacity to deliver crucial services, where the primary focus of this initiative is directed at combating gender based violence.

Lulu Ng'wanakilala, the LSF executive di-

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Legal Services Facility (LSF) Executive Director, Lulu Ng'wanakilala (2nd-R) and Enabel Tanzania Resident Representative Koenraad Goekint exchange documents in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the implementation of a 10.7bn/- 'Improved Access to Justice for Women through Legal Aid' project to be funded by the European Union. Witnessing the event are the Head of the EU Delegation to Tanzania and the East African Community, Christine Grau (R), and the Belgian Ambassador to Tanzania, Peter Huyghebaert. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Motorists brace for surge in fuel prices

By Guardian Reporter

THE Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has an-

nounced higher price caps for petroleum products, effective from yesterday, inflicting more pain on motorists.

Dr James Andilile, the director gener-

al, said in a statement that in March, fuel retail prices in Dar es Salaam region are set at 3,163/- per litre for petrol, 3,126/-

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# Minister attracts tourism investors at Berlin 24 Expo

By Guardian Correspondent, Berlin

INTERNATIONAL tour operators have expressed interest in investing world-class accommodation, transportation and tourism promotion in Tanzania.

Angellah Kairuki, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, made this observation after a series of meetings tied up with the on-going ITB Berlin 2024 tourism and travel exposition.

The minister met with a notable German tour company, TUI Group, which operates more than 400 hotels around the world, along with 16 cruise ships, five air charter companies, working with more than 1,200 travel agencies.

So far the tour company is building a world class hotel in Zanzibar and by June this year inaugurate the hotel, while on the Mainland, the tour operator is setting up flights to bring more tourists to the various national parks.

She said in the meetings that major tourism operators will find room to invest in the country's hospitality industry, plus aviation initiatives to bring more tourists from around the world.

“We've asked them to promote Tanzanian tourist destinations in passenger planes and

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Newly elected opposition ACT-Wazalendo national Chairman Othman Masoud Othman (L), who is also Zanzibar's First Vice President, and Zitto Kabwe's successor as Party Leader, Dorothy Semu, in triumphant in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after being declared winners in elections for the posts. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# SPORTS

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Yanga declares readiness for 2023/24 CAF CL quarterfinals

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'Perfect day' as Kane double powers Bayern into Champions League last eight

# Amani Nature Forest Reserve finds niche in Yoga tourism

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Muheza

A NEW meditation-oriented type of tourism attracts visitors from all over the world to the Amani Nature Forest Reserve located in Muheza District, Tanga Region.

Gabriel Poneru, a tour guide at the reserve, told this paper in an interview recently that Yoga tourism is thriving in the largest forested block within the East Usambara Mountains, where a total of five dedicated spots have been cleared for meditation.

“People want to directly connect with nature while meditating and performing Yoga,” he said, adding that this is the latest and most popular type of tourism emerging in Northern Tanzania.

“Yoga tourism in pristine natural surroundings is only practised here at Amani Nature Forest Reserve with other hotspots in Tanzania offering wildlife, heritage, beach and other types of tourism,” he said.

The word Yoga is derived from the Sanskrit root ‘Yuj’, meaning ‘to join’ or ‘to yoke’ or ‘to unite’. As per Yogic scriptures, the practice of Yoga leads to the union of individual consciousness with that of the universal consciousness, indicating a perfect harmony be-

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## 10.7bn/- justice access drive: EU, Belgian agency, LSF tie

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rector, said at the signing ceremony that LSF will ensure that high-quality legal aid services are accessible through formal and informal justice systems.

The project seeks to empower the community to understand, shape and utilise the law, as well as addressing gender-based violence and empower women socially, economically and in leadership roles, she stated.

"We are delighted to sign this contract with Enabel, as it represents a significant step towards improving access to justice, particularly for women, girls and marginalised communities across the country," the activist declared.

Koenraad Goekint, the Enabel resident representative, described the project as ground-breaking collaboration to enhance access to justice, particularly for women, girls and marginalized communities.

"This partnership underscores our commitment to promote sustainable development and foster a society where everyone can access their rights and participate fully in the legal system," she stated.

"By leveraging our collective expertise and resources, we aim to make meaningful strides towards building a more equitable and just society for all Tanzanians," the representative intoned.

EU head of delegation Christine Grau asserted that through this initiative, the EU seeks to support access to justice for women and girls through legal aid, in particular for victims of gender based violence.

"It indeed complements other efforts within the overall programme

aimed also at promoting women's economic empowerment and increasing their leadership and representation in decision-making positions," she stated.

Both representatives also expressed support and commitment to the project, emphasizing its potential for enhancing the protection of women's rights against all forms of discrimination, making Tanzanian society more equitable and just.

"The initiative strives to ensure that justice is within reach for all individuals, regardless of their socio-economic status. The period for the implementation of the signed agreement is 26 months," she added.



**We are delighted to sign this contract with Enabel, as it represents a significant step towards improving access to justice, particularly for women, girls and marginalised communities across the country**

## Amani Nature Forest Reserve finds niche in Yoga tourism

FROM PAGE 1

tween the mind and body, human and nature.

Tourists visiting Amani Nature Forest Reserve recently discovered the spiritual value of many of its natural hotspots that have now been dedicated to meditation.

Members of the Journalists' Environment Association of Tanzania (JET) on a study trip organized under the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili activity came across this new type of tourism said to be beneficial to both the environment and economic development of surrounding communities.

Alphonse Nyululu, senior conservator who is acting conservator in-charge at Amani Nature Forest Reserve, said that the forest is home to most of the species of African violet Saint-Paulia, named after Baron Walter von Saint Paulia Illaire who was German administrator of Tanga Province in the 1890s.

Yogis consider violet Saint-Paulia as a plant of spiritual significance with supernatural powers to heal and grant wishes to anybody who

supplicates to the pink flowery shrub, endemic to the eastern Usambara Mountains.

"The Amani Botanical Garden, established in 1902, is one of the oldest botanical gardens in Africa, covering 340 hectares and containing more than 1,000 species of plants taken from all over the world," said Nyululu, adding that the legendary garden is used for conservation, education and research.

Aloyce Mkongewa, assistant researcher in the precinct who also serves as tour guide, said that other tourists love to swim or take natural showers at several waterfalls dotting the forest, an activity also believed to have some spiritual values by enthusiasts.

The natural forest cover is internationally recognized for the high number of endemism, with species found nowhere else in the world. More than a quarter of the 30 species of amphibian and reptiles in East Usambara are found nowhere else in the world. Among plants, the sub montane forests are especially rich in endemic species.

## Minister attracts tourism investors at Berlin 24 Expo

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hotels as doing so will take the tourism sector to a higher stage," she said.

At the expo the minister also conferred with a US-based tour company that transports 1.2m tourists around the world, affirming later that the company pledged to bring to Tanzania more than 40 flight agents in the next two months, where they will visit different tourist destinations.

The minister also met with Expedia Group, a US-based online travel company, and Slovakia Tour Co. that transports 85 percent of tourists from the central European country to different parts of the world.

She also held meetings with transport stakeholders for disabled tourists from South Africa, discussing the best ways to ease visitations for people with disabilities.

Damas Mfugale, the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) managing director, said that the country's participation at the Berlin Expo has been a catalyst for raising the number of agencies or firms interested in Destination Tanzania.

Alice Manupa, an expo participant and managing director of African Queen Adventures, praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for sterling participation in 'The Royal Tour' documentary as it extensively promoted Tanzania's tourist destinations abroad.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango chairs a meeting of the joint committee involving the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar held in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: VPO

## Motorists brace for surge in fuel prices

FROM PAGE 1

for diesel and 2,840/- for kerosene.

The changes arise from an increase in the prices of refined oil in the global market as delivered to shipping agencies, by an average of 4.5 percent for petrol and 1.99 percent for diesel.

There are also rising import costs (premiums) at the Dar es Salaam port by an average of 15.38 percent for petrol and 40.41 percent for diesel, with Mtwara port raising premiums by an average of 7.61 percent for both types of fuel.

The changes in fuel prices are

influenced by increased use of the euro in paying for imported oil, he specified.

Price caps for petroleum products for the previous month, taking effect on February 7, were 3,051/- per litre for petrol, 3,029/- for diesel and 2,840/- for kerosene in Dar es Salaam.

In other regions, like the northern safari capital of Arusha, a litre of petrol retailed at 3,247/-, diesel at 3,211/-, and kerosene at 2,924/-.

The EWURA report has it that motorists in Dodoma will fork out 3,222/- for a litre of petrol, 3,185/- for diesel, and 2,899/- for a litre of kerosene.



Residents of Songe ward in Kilindi District pictured earlier this week taking part in the construction of a Seuta Secondary School building on self-help basis. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

KINSHASA

A US court has absolved five major technology companies accused of aiding the use of child labour in cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The case filed by former child miners and their representatives, Google parent company Alphabet, Apple, Dell Technologies, Microsoft and Tesla stood accused of facilitating child labour in their supply chains for cobalt.

The metal is used to make lith-

## US tech giants absolved in cobalt child labour case

ium-ion batteries that are widely used in electronics.

But in a 3-0 decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia sided with the tech giants, arguing that the companies only maintained a commercial relationship with their suppliers and

that they had no power to stop the use of child labour.

The plaintiffs said that the companies were aware of the use of child labour in cobalt mines but did not act for fear of disrupting the supply of the metal.

DR Congo is the world's biggest

producer of cobalt. A lot of the metal is extracted by artisanal miners who employ child labour and where safety is not observed.

More than 40,000 children work in hazardous conditions in cobalt mines in the Katanga province alone, according to the UN.





Msalala District councillors tour a clean water project Barrick North Mara Gold Mine has implemented at Nyangoto village for use by residents of areas surrounding the mine. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## ‘Four contentious Union issues remain unresolved’

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE government has resolved 21 contentious union issues out of the 25 that were raised, with four remaining pending, it has been said.

Dr Selemani Jafo, Minister of State in the Vice-President's office (Union and Environment) said this here yesterday when speaking at a meeting which involved officials from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar to discuss union issues.

He said that the leaders of both sides sat together to discuss the remaining four matters of the union and looked at how to resolve them.

According to the minister, the remaining four issues being worked upon are distribution of revenue from the Zanzibar shares in the East African Currency Board and the Bank of Tanzania profit, recommendations of the Joint Finance Commission, motor vehicles registration and importation of sugar produced in Zanzibar into the

Mainland market.

He said the process of resolving the challenges started in 2000 whereby until 2010 two challenges were resolved. Also, in 2020 five snags of the union were resolved.

Jafo commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi for the efforts made in addressing these challenges.

Hamza Hassan Juma, Zanzibar Minister of State in the Second Vice President Office, said the aim of the meeting was to discuss challenges hindering performance of government activities.

Juma said that during the tenure of former President Jakaya Kikwete, he urged public leaders from the two sides to sit together and address the challenges.

“But I wonder why these issues remain unresolved despite the fact that we've started discussing them for more than two decades,” he queried.

By Carlos Banda

## National gender policy set for launch tomorrow

THE government is set to launch the National Gender and Development Policy in a bid to strengthen the country's human capital through women empowerment.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women, Elderly and Special Groups said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the 6th Annual Leadership Conference 2024, themed 'Invest in women: Accelerate progress', adding that the launch takes place tomorrow in Dodoma Region as part of International Women's Day celebrations.

“The government has implemented this agenda through various projects, including financial inclusion. In this area, the government has invested in communication infrastructure and energy, especially rural electrification so as to inspire

the use of digital technology which is a vital pillar in financial services delivery,” she said.

Dr Gwajima also said the government has rolled out formalization of micro financial services to ensure women are empowered economically and decrease gender-based violence in the country.

She said that the government has executed various programmes to empower women so as to increase more economic opportunities, building their capacity to do business, availability of capital, markets and loans.

“As you all know, President Samia

Suluhu Hassan is the champion of the Generation Equality Forum in the world. As a nation, we have created a generation equality programme which is being implemented by the government in collaboration with the private sector so as to inspire change in the status of women by 2026,” she said.

“I call upon the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) to continue with the provision of leadership training to women and to champion gender equality at the workplace.”

Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office

(Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), said that in order to have good policies, it is essential for the government to review the present laws and amend those that hinder women's progress.

“We expect to review all laws through every ministry to ensure women's position is prioritized. The review will involve the removal of bad laws that prohibit women's access to opportunities,” he said.

Katambi said that through the ministry, opportunities for women have been created where he referred to President Samia's inten-

tion to see more women in leadership positions in all pillars of the government namely the executive, parliament and the judiciary.

Susan Ndomba-Doran, Chief Executive Officer of ATE said that gender equality is not only a good thing but it is the right thing, adding that various studies have shown that companies and businesses that observe gender equality make more profits than those that do not.

“According to an article by the International Labor Organisation (ILO) entitled 'Women on Boards: Building the female talent pipeline', there is a strong link between women on boards and better financial performance. Inclusive and gender balanced boards can bring diverse perspectives to the table, understand customer preferences better, ensure greater due diligence, and as a result make better decisions,” she said.

### NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATORS OVER ZANZIBAR CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED

We give NOTICE to the general public that the shareholders of Zanzibar Construction Company Limited (the Company) have appointed Straton Richard Mkwinda and Khalilani Said Mwakimbe, of Auditax International, Auditax House, 3rd Floor/ Coca-Cola road, P.O. Box 77949 Dar es Salaam, as the Joint Liquidators (the Liquidators) of the Zanzibar Construction Company Limited effective from 9th February 2024, in line with Section 231(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 and section 15 of the Office of Treasury Registrar and Public Assets Management Act, 2021.

The Liquidators wish to inform the public that the Company ceased its operations on 27th November 2023. Effective from that date the Liquidators or their authorized representative assumed power to all assets and activities of the Company.

Any claim against the Company should be sent to the Liquidators for consideration in allocation of proceeds from the sale of the assets of the Company. Supporting documents for the claims should be submitted by end of business on 3rd April 2024.

All correspondences should be addressed to:

The Joint Liquidators  
Zanzibar Construction Company Limited  
C/o Auditax International  
Auditax House, 3rd Floor/ Coca-Cola road,  
P.O. Box 77949 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.  
Email: straton@auditaxinternational.co.tz  
khalilani@auditaxinternational.co.tz  
Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

# Chief Executive Officer Insurance Company - Tanzania



On behalf of a distinguished client within the insurance sector, Empower is seeking a visionary **Chief Executive Officer** for a premier General Insurance Company in Tanzania, renowned for its consistent and robust growth year on year.

Reporting to the Board of Directors, this opportunity is for a strategic leader, someone who not only brings a proven track record of professional excellence but also a compelling drive to exceed the established benchmarks. The ideal candidate will inherit a strong operational foundation, with the exciting challenge to elevate the company to unprecedented heights of growth and market expansion.

We seek an individual who is not just adept at navigating the complexities of the insurance industry but is also fervently committed to disrupting the norm. Your mandate will be to spearhead strategy execution with innovative thinking and relentless passion, charting new paths and forging sustainable success.

Empower invites candidates who have the expertise to harness the potential of a high-caliber team, the foresight to foresee market trends and capitalize on them, and the zeal to embed a culture of excellence and customer-centricity within the company's ethos.

Join us in shaping the future of insurance in Tanzania.

### Candidate Requirements

- Risk Management
- Relationship Management
- Operational Excellence
- Corporate Governance
- People Management
- Brand Management



- Strategic thinker with superior communication skills
- Advanced financial & analytical acumen
- Skilled in stakeholder relationship building
- Proven leadership in diverse team settings
- Decisive & goal-oriented



- Minimum 10 years at C-Suite level within the insurance sector
- University degree & ACII or similar credentials required
- MBA strongly preferred

### How to Apply

1. Interested and qualified candidates are invited to register their application at [www.empower.co.tz](http://www.empower.co.tz)

2. Once your account is activated, setup your profile and upload the following documents:

- CV
- Motivation Letter
- Academic Certificates
- Copy of Passport
- 3 References from industry professionals or prior board members

We open our doors to talented leaders from all nationalities, with a strong encouragement for qualified women to apply.



Register  
[www.empower.co.tz](http://www.empower.co.tz)



Complete Profile  
Upload Documents



Apply  
Click Empower Jobs Search  
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Deadline  
15:00 Hrs  
15<sup>th</sup> March 2024



By Francis Kajubi

THE Gaming Board of Tanzania (GBT) is set to reintroduce national lottery that was dissolved in 2003 by the end of this month.

Daniel Olesumayan, GBT Director of Corporate Services told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the board was finalising the process of reintroducing the lottery, adding that private players will compete to run lottery that will cover the whole country.

"Before the lottery was dissolved, the government used to run it solely. But with the new arrangement the gaming board will be the regulators to oversee the competent investor who wins a fairly floated tender," he said.

# National lottery to return with participation of private sector

According to him, with the anticipated national lottery, bidding investors must meet the lowest investment capital amounting \$20 billion (5trn/-).

He said that in Tanzania, there are two categories of lotteries namely commercial and non-commercial. He pointed out that the commercial lottery is divided into five

sub-categories namely casinos, slot machines, sports betting, SMS lotteries and forty machine sites.

There are three sub-categories of non-commercial lotteries namely promotional lotteries public lotteries fete and pool table.

"Tanzanians who wish to establish a lottery business need a minimum investment capital of \$300,000 while foreign direct investors need a minimum of \$500,000," he said.

He said that between July and December 2023, the first half of the current financial year, the board collected 108bn/- in gross revenues.

The board expects to have a total gross revenue collection amounting to 200bn/- by June this year.

Speaking of the board's success recorded so far, GBT Director General James Mbalwe said that tax revenues from the gaming industry had increased to 170.4bn/- in the 2022/23 financial year up from 33.6bn/- in 2016/17.

"The gaming industry has so far created 25,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities. GBT has so far licensed 91 companies in the gaming sector," he said.

He explained that between 2018 and 2022,

the board confiscated unlicensed slot machines amounting 1,846 countrywide. He clarified that if the slot machines were not confiscated, the government would have lost 2.44bn/- on yearly basis.

According to him, Tanzania leads other East African countries in responsible gaming. The board looks forward to establishing zonal offices too, he said.

The board is currently working on capacity building for its staff to enhance regulation of online betting where the many children under 18 get involved, he said.



## INVITATION TO BID

<b>RFQ Title:</b>	Supply of Project Motor Vehicles
<b>RFQ Number:</b>	LMA-RFQ-2024-010
<b>Date of Solicitation Release:</b>	March 7, 2024
<b>Closing Date and Time:</b>	March 14, 2024 - 9:00am (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
<b>Questions and Clarifications:</b>	Due by March 11, 2024 - 5:30pm (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)

The USAID Lishe Mtambuka (Crosscutting Nutrition) Project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and implemented by Chemonics International Inc., seeks to procure up to six 4x4 project vehicles and is soliciting quotations from interested suppliers, who should request the full Request for Quotations (RFQ) by emailing

**LM-procurement@lishemtambuka.com** with the subject line **"RFQ for Supply of Project Vehicles"**. Suppliers should note that USAID is not a party to this procurement process, which is being carried out on behalf of the USAID Lishe Mtambuka (Crosscutting Nutrition) Project by Chemonics International Inc.



Magu district commissioner Rachel Kassanda (L) presents a certificate earlier this week to one of the beneficiaries of entrepreneurship and water resource management training for women sponsored by Serengeti Breweries Ltd. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## SALE OF THE CENTURY!!!

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**1. We, M/s Sheikh's Chambers of Advocates of:**  
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Have been appointed as agents to solicit the best offers from buyers through an **Open Tender process** to Sale for Property on Land referred to as **Plot No. 72 at the Junction of Kinondoni Road and Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, Dar es Salaam** belonging to ALAF Limited.

### 2. Tender Documents:

- Tender Document for Purchase of Property can be obtained from the Office of Sheikh's Chambers of Advocates.
- Cost of Tender Document shall be **TZS 100,000/=** (non-refundable);
- Filled in Tender Document with supporting documents shall be submitted in Sealed Envelope at the Office of M/s Sheikh's Chambers of Advocates, Plot No. 2349/40, 3rd Floor, Pamba Road, P.O. Box 6225, Dar es Salaam along with 15% Deposit (refundable) of the Bid Amount by way of Bankers Cheque, valid for at least three (3) months, in favour of ALAF Limited;
- The 15% Deposit must be paid by way of Bankers Cheque in the name of ALAF Limited;
- Site Inspection of premises may be done by the bidders on any working day between **11.00 AM to 5.00 PM** by contacting **Ms. Samaradi Makorongo, Designation: Administrative Officer of the Agent, Mobile No. 0717-264564.**
- Last Date of submission of Tender Document shall be a maximum 21 days from the date of first public advertisement.



### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### DEVELOPMENT OF WEB-BASED DATA MANAGEMENT PLATFORM AND MOBILE PHONE APP FOR MONITORING BLAST-FISHING IN COASTAL WATERS OF TANZANIA

#### Introduction

USAID Heshimu Bahari (Respect the Ocean) project has awarded WWF a grant to address Blast fishing issues in the southern coast of Tanzania mainland. Blast fishing is a highly destructive, illegal method of catching fish that uses explosives to send shock waves through the water, stunning or killing fish which are then collected and sold. Blast fishing can be lucrative: both from the sale of the fish caught and also from the trade of illegal explosives. Improvised explosive devices may explode prematurely and have been known to injure or kill the person using them, or innocent bystanders. Government enforcement resulted in a substantial drop in blast fishing during the period 2016-2018, and since mid-2018 blast fishing levels in Tanzania have been at their lowest for decades. Gathering data on the location, timing and number of explosions over time is essential to be able to understand exactly when and where blasting occurs

#### MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The overall goal is to reactivate, and update as needed, the TBMN mobile phone app and web-based data management platform to re-enable monitoring of blast fishing in the coastline of Tanzania.

#### QUALIFICATIONS & SKILLS

The firm/organization for this assignment should possess the following qualifications and skills:

- Software development expertise with not less than 5 years' experience in working on mobile phone applications and web-based data management platforms.
- Prior experience with developing and providing monitoring support for environmental and or marine management resources preferred
- Experience on Software development on illegal fisheries incidents (particularly on blast fishing)
- Ability to train data collectors, users and system maintenance throughout the project life time
- Flexibility to provide support to users of the software at any time of the day throughout the lifetime of the project

#### EXPECTED DELIVERABLES.

Mobile phone app (android compatible) which enables:

- recording of the real time of logging in and out by beach recorders on each sampling day
- beach recorders to record each blast with a single button tap and confirmation.
- automatic recording of time and location (of the recorder) for each blast record

#### METHODOLOGY

The firm will employ various methods, including the computer desk work for development of software to ensure this work will be centrally coded and later Train up to 10 representatives of WWF, USAID Heshimu Bahari, Mwambao NGO staff on data collection and enumerators form various parts.

#### How to apply

All applicants should direct their soft copy of the application to the procurement: e-mail at [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org) and or hard copy applications to the address indicated above. The deadline for submission is **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 10am EAT**. Interested applicants may get the detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) and specifications through the following websites: [https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/consultancies\\_and\\_tenders/WWF](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/WWF) TCO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reason thereof. Late application shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance. WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption, if you encounter such an incident, report by sending an email to [fccl@wwftz.org](mailto:fccl@wwftz.org)



# Gender stakeholders want more women to hold leadership posts

By Correspondent James Kandoya

GENDER stakeholders in the country have called for more investment to enhance women's participation in politics and decision-making organs.

Lilian Liundi, Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) Executive Director said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a forum organised to discuss success, challenges and chart a way forward to increase the number of women's participation in leadership.

Under the theme 'Invest in women: Accelerate progress', the forum emphasizes the critical role of investing in women's education, healthcare, economic empowerment and leadership development to accelerate progress towards gender equality.

She said that despite achievements recorded so far, female participation was still low in politics and even in decision making organs.

Liundi said that statistics show that the number of elected female members of parliament is 24

out of 264 which is equivalent to 9.1 percent while for special seats the number is 113 which is equivalent to 29 percent.

According to her, the total number of female MPs is 141 equivalent to 37 percent of all MPs which is 393, noting that this was still low compared to the target of 50/50.

She said statistics also show that the number of elected female councillors is 204 which is equivalent to 3.8 percent of all while for special seats the number 1,407 equivalent to 26.2 percent of all councillors.

"Stakeholders must come up with new strategies to have a community that is equal. Gender equality is development and not otherwise," she said.

"As we think about investing in women to fast-track national development and community welfare, we ought to invest strategically to solve the above problem," she added.

Racheal Boma, UN Women Tanzania Programme Specialist for Women Rights and Access to

Justice, said that the importance of increasing women in leadership at local level cannot be overstated.

"UN Women Tanzania is committed to continuing collaboration efforts with TGNP and the government to ensure that we amplify women's voices and champion their meaningful participation in leadership and decision-making," she said.

She said that the upcoming local elections are an opportunity to use and increase numbers of elected women leaders at the grassroots level.

Boma said currently, the representation of elected women at council level is only at 6 percent and hamlet and Mtaa level representation is under 12 percent.

She said that UN Women acknowledges and applauds the progress Tanzania has made, including provisions that promote effective participation of women in the political process such as the recent amendment of some sections of the law to address violence against women in politics.

## Enhancement of proficiency in SA agro sector cuts costs for farmers

JOHANNESBURG

FARMERS in South Africa are among business owners who are often hardest hit by the compounding pressures of domestic economic challenges and international turmoil.

The current environment is fraught with uncertainty, thanks to unrelenting load-shedding, escalating petrol prices, and unprecedented increases in electricity costs, among other challenges.

According to Dawie Maree, head of information and marketing at FNB Agribusiness, for local farmers, the impact of these issues is exacerbated by an uncertain global geopolitical climate that sent fertiliser prices soaring in recent years, illustrating the domino effect of international tensions on local agriculture.

"In an economic environment burdened by international and domestic adversities, farmers in South Africa continue to face a precarious situation," Maree said, "and the steadily rising prices of essential farming inputs, like seeds, fertiliser, electricity and fuel in particular, is putting significant and mounting strain on many agricultural operations." Maree said that, while all farmers are faced with these input cost challenges, the poultry, grain, and summer fruit sectors, which are some of the largest farming sectors in the South African industry, have found themselves particularly vulnerable to steep cost increases.

Irrigation-dependent farmers are feeling the pinch even more acutely due to the costs associated with powering irrigation machinery steadily climbing. Not to mention the auxiliary costs like labour, pest control, transport to markets, and packaging - all of which add to the growing financial burden.

Maree emphasises that livestock farmers have also not been immune to rising input costs, with the price tags attached to feed and medication increasing incrementally in recent years.

He points out that the impact of these elevated input costs is evident in the financial data for the South African farming sector. "The Producer Price Index (PPI) for agriculture stood at an alarming 6.3 percent in December 2023, with the annual figure for last year not far behind at 6.9 percent," he said.

"And when you consider that this comes on the back of an already high inflation base, for example a 40 percent jump in fertiliser costs alone in 2022, the pressure on margins for farmers is clear, and it remains elevated."



Tanzania Commercial Bank CEO Adam Mihayo (L) and his Business Registrations and Licensing Agency counterpart, Godfrey Nyaisa, pictured in Dar es Salaam earlier this week shortly after talks aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two institutions. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Conservationists happy with efforts to preserve wildlife

JOHANNESBURG

CONSERVATION stakeholders at the weekend paid tribute to efforts to preserve South African wildlife in recognition of the World Wildlife Day.

The day, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as World Wildlife Day, is in commemoration of the signing of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites) in 1973.

The day's purpose is to raise awareness on the abundance of benefits that conservation provides as well as remind members of communities about the urgent need to step up in the fight against wildlife crime.

"It is not only a day to celebrate wild animals and plants but also recognise the unique contributions and roles that wildlife plays for the planet and its people," said WILDTRUST relations manager, Buyisiwe Dlamini.

She further said that the day is aligned with what WILDTRUST stands for - recognising the interconnectedness of people, nature and planet.

Ezemvelo spokesperson Musa Mntambo said that the World Wildlife Day holds significant meaning especially for conservation agencies worldwide. He further said that the day serves as a global platform to raise awareness regarding the

importance of wildlife and the need for its conservation.

"For us, it's a day to highlight our efforts, showcase success stories, and mobilise support for protecting endangered species, preserving habitats, and combatting threats such as poaching, habitat loss, and climate change," he said.

"It's also an opportunity for us to engage with communities, and other stakeholders to promote sustainable use for our wildlife."

For the day and throughout this year, Mntambo said that district and community officers will visit various local communities in order to raise awareness on the importance of wildlife.

"To us, every day is a World Wildlife Day as our energies are always spent protecting and thinking about new ways of protecting our wildlife."

For World Wildlife Day, Carter High School will plant indigenous trees this week and build an "eco-elephant" from recycled materials to represent environmental awareness in the uMgungundlovu region.

Carter High will be engaging in various activities around its new theme of biodiversity. They include the making of a food garden and a water-wise garden composed of succulents. Carter High is affiliated with Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) through eco-schools and has five teachers on its committee.

**KOICA**  
Korea International  
Cooperation Agency

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 06 Mar 2024 (Wed)  
Invitation No.: KOICA-TZ-SM-1

1. KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) Tanzania Office invites foreign and local eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Supply and Installation of Solar Power Equipment and Rehabilitation Work for 'Serengeti Media Center' in Serengeti National Park.

### Brief of Bidding

. Bid No.	KOICA-TZ-SM-1
. Bid Title	Procurement of Supply and Installation of Solar Power Equipment and Rehabilitation Work for 'Serengeti Media Center' in Serengeti National Park.
. Scope of Service	Solar power equipment supply, conveyance and installation Solar power system repair including electric works Rehabilitation of the Serengeti Media center
. Item	Solar Power Equipment (20 types, 656 items) Repair of roofing, windows, finishing, painting and decorations, plumbing, air condition and ventilation, fire alarm installation of the Serengeti Media center *For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment
. Procurement	Supply of required equipment with the same or higher specification listed in Requirements (Section 4.5), User manual in English or Swahili, Quality assurance are required
. Delivery	Delivery to the Serengeti Media center (The expense related to the delivery paid by the contractor) - Specific transportation schedules will be determined through coordination between the contracting entity and KOICA. - The contractor is responsible for bearing the transportation costs associated with the shipment. - The contractor is required to handle the transportation along the supply order and is accountable for any issues arising during transportation. - After completing the transportation, the contractor must notify KOICA and submit a final delivery confirmation document that can be verified by relevant country officials of TANAPA, stating that "all items were transported without any damage or issues."
. Inspection, installation and repair	Equipment inspection by KOICA Office, Construction Manager hired by KOICA office and TANAPA before and after installation. Solar power system repair including electric works
. Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of the Serengeti Media center *For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment
. Defects Liability Security	Defects Liability Security 2 year after KOICA's Inspection on Installation, Rehabilitation and Repair
. Duration	total contract period : 6 months from the date of signing the contract <b>Delivery of the solar power system items : within 4 months from the contract signing date</b> <b>Installation of the solar power system : within 1 month from the date of delivery.</b>
. Project Budget	USD 152,545 (excluding value-added taxes and other fees)
. Projected Estimated Price	refer to (f) Estimated Price below

### Goods for procurement :

- Solar Power Equipment (20 types, 656 items)
- Repair of roofing, windows, finishing, painting and decorations, plumbing, air condition and ventilation, fire alarm installation of the Serengeti Media center
- \* For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment

### Delivery :

- Delivery to the Serengeti Media center (The expense related to the delivery paid by the contractor)
- Specific transportation schedules will be determined through coordination between the contracting entity and KOICA.
- The contractor is responsible for bearing the transportation costs associated with the shipment.
- The contractor is required to handle the transportation along the supply order and is accountable for any issues arising during transportation.
- After completing the transportation, the contractor must notify KOICA and submit a final delivery confirmation document that can be verified by relevant country officials of TANAPA, stating that "all items were transported without any damage or issues."

### Bid Type :

- Lowest Price Technically Acceptable (LPTA)
- Qualification and Cost Based Selection

### Selection of the Successful Bidders

- Selection by Two-Stage Bidding (Technical Proposal and Price Quotation)

### Bidder's qualification requirement :

- Those who have submitted the application for the participation in this bid by the deadline.
- A legitimate and lawful entity legally established by the relevant laws and regulations of Tanzania
  - Must be a legally registered company;
  - Has no impediments to tax refunds and fulfill their tax obligations.
  - Bid applicant must possess the necessary documents, including the latest three years' tax payment certificates and social insurance payment confirmation.
  - Bidders with outstanding payment records will be disqualified
- Anyone with licenses to perform required services in designated places
  - Have a valid registration by Tanzania Government to perform procurement, installation and operation of equipment including solar power system in Tanzania at least for 5 years or more
  - Have a valid work permit, resident permit and any legal permit to perform procurement of equipment in Tanzania
- Anyone not sanctioned or penalized by international organizations or governments as ineligible entities.
  - Pledge (Such pledge shall contain the bidder's declaration that it has never been subject to any sanction prior to participating in this bid and it will not raise any objection against the termination and nullification of the contract if its declaration is found to be untrue)
- (In case of Korean firms) Anyone not sanctioned by the Korean government as ineligible (or such sanction is expired) in accordance with Article 27 of the National Contract Law (Law on Contracts to Which the State is a Party), Article 31 of the Local Government Contract Law or Article 39 of the Management of Public Institutions Law
- Anyone never been punished by any government on the charges of bribery.
  - ODA Project Anti-Corruption Pledge
- Direct or indirect provision of cash or entertainment in exchange for a favor in this procurement procedure is prohibited.
  - Anti-Corruption and Integrity Contract
- The Bidders will not offer or receive money, goods, entertainment, or any other benefit directly or indirectly in the course of making or accepting a bid or signing or performing a contract (and even after the completion of the relevant project or the delivery of goods).
  - Integrity Pledge
  - Whenever required by the Employer, the Bidders shall be able to present their eligibility in manners that are satisfactory to the Employer.

### Details of the work scope :

- kindly refer to the Bid Data Sheet

### Bidding explanation :

- In order to provide the same information to all bidders equally and fairly, KOICA Tanzania Office will not respond to telephone inquiries.
- Email to [tzkoica@gmail.com](mailto:tzkoica@gmail.com)
- Inquiry deadline : 13 Mar (Wed) - 15 Mar (Fri) 2024 11:00am
- Response will be posted on KOICA Tanzania Office website on 18 Mar 2024 (Mon).

### Application for bidding

- Those who intend to participate in this bid shall submit the application via email [tzkoica@gmail.com](mailto:tzkoica@gmail.com).
- When the application is submitted, the title of email shall be the name of this bid.
- Deadline : by 13 Mar 2024 (Wed) 15:00 pm
- Email address : [tzkoica@gmail.com](mailto:tzkoica@gmail.com)
- Required documents : Application (in the prescribed form)

### Submission Place :

- Submission: Visit
- Deadline (date): by 20 Mar 2024 (Wed) 15:00 pm
- Place (address): KOICA Tanzania Office P.O.Box 31370, 8th floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No.66, Chabruma Road, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam
- Person in charge : Ms. Jade Jonathan Program officer
- Contact details : +255 22-292-6581

### Time, date of closing

- Submission: Visit
- Deadline : by 20 Mar 2024 (Wed) 15:00 pm
- Place : KOICA Tanzania Office P.O.Box 31370, 8th floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No.66, Chabruma Road, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam
- Person in charge : Ms. Jade Jonathan Program officer
- Contact details : +255 22-292-6581

### Time, date of opening :

- Time, date of opening : 21 Mar 2024 (Thu) 10:00
- Place of Opening : KOICA Tanzania Office P.O.Box 31370, 8th floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No.66, Chabruma Road, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam
- ※ All bid participants are strongly recommended to attend such bid opening.
- This may be attended by Bidders or their representatives.
- ※ In accordance with Article 11.1. of the Regulations for Procurement and Contract in Grant Aid Projects, the bid limit is equals to the expected price.

2. The available budget for this procurement assignment is 152,545USD and Bidders' Proposals should not exceed this budget. Any bid exceeding the project budget may result in rejection of its bid.

3. The Bidding Documents include the following documents:

Documents for Submission (refer to the attached Section 3 Bidding Forms)

- Bid Application Form
- Bidder's information sheet
- Form of Bid
- Experiences Form
- Financial Statement
- Declaration of anti-Corruption in ODA Business participation
- Integrity Pledge
- Bid security
- Eligibility Pledge that the Bidder is not on the Lists of Sanction and Penalty
- Joint Venture Summary (if applicable)
- Joint Venture Agreement (if applicable)
- Letter of Certified Copy Confirmation (if applicable)
- License & Registration : one set of documents evidencing the applicant's eligibility to participate in the Bid
- Written confirmation authorizing the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder
- Latest/valid Certificate of business Registration.
- Copy of valid registration issued demonstrating bidder is eligible/authorized to provide works (procurement of solar power system equipment) in Tanzania
- a certificate from the tax inspectorate on the absence of debt;
- a certificate from the social fund on the absence of debt;
- latest three years' tax payment certificates, social insurance payment confirmation
- Power of Attorney : documents evidencing the authenticity of the applicant's signature or seal power of attorney (not required if representative submit the application)
- Original Letter for Submission
- Materials of Qualification Examination
- 1) List and value of contracts for the last five years of similar works plus client's contact details (name and email address) who may be contacted for further information on those contracts.
- \* The company should provide the performance certificate of similar projects in the past five years (2019-2023)
- 2) CV, certificate & proof of employment of the technical personnel has to be attached along with the bid document.
- \* CV of the technical personnel has to indicate the project area, scale and financier of each project
- ※ Evaluation and Qualification Criteria must be duly completed and signed and in accordance with Annex 1
- Any other documents specified in the Bid Data Sheet.
- Sealed bid price duly completed and signed

### Language of Proposal: English

5. KOICA Tanzania Office requires that bidders and contractors observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, KOICA:

- will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
- will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by KOICA.

6. The KOICA now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries.

7. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at KOICA Tanzania Office webpage, [tzkoica@gmail.com](mailto:tzkoica@gmail.com) for inquiry and issuance of bidding documents and cable/telex/facsimile numbers).

8. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of five per cent (5%) or higher of Total Bid Price or stated fixed amount, and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or prior to the bid date until after 30 days or more of the bid opening date.

- Types of bid security: Bank guarantee, irrevocable credit, cash, certified check, or equivalent.
- ※ The bid security will be surrendered to KOICA if the bidder who has been awarded the contract fails to conclude and sign the contract within the set period of negotiation or withdraws from the bid after the notification of award.

9. KOICA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders





Tanzania Health Promotion Support

Plot 254, 3rd floor, Coco Plaza Building, Toure Drive, Masaki, Dar es Salaam Tanzania, East Africa P.O Box 32605 Dar es Salaam, Tel +255-22-2923107/+255 689 103 046 Fax+255 22 2923108. e - mail ceo@thps.or.tz

## Terms of Reference (ToR)

### THPS Strategic Plan (SP) 2021-2025 Mid Term Evaluation

#### 1. Background and Context

Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) is an indigenous non-governmental organization (NGO) established under the NGO Act No. 24 of 2002 in 2011. THPS works in partnership with the Government of Tanzania through Ministries of Health (MOH) in Mainland and Zanzibar; Ministry of Gender, Youth, Elderly and Special groups; Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children in Zanzibar (MOCDEGEC); Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) with a goal of ensuring accessible high-quality health care services to Tanzanians; through strengthening of health and community systems. Currently, THPS works to address the following public health burdens: HIV/AIDS; Tuberculosis; prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against children; reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services; laboratory and health management information systems (HIMS), COVID-19 prevention, research and public health evaluations. THPS has evolved through a participatory approach, reflected in its second strategic plan (2021-2025). This mid-term evaluation is crucial to assess interim progress of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), learn from experiences, and optimize future implementation.

#### 1.1. Purpose of THPS 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

The second strategic plan (SP) aims to build on the transitional first plan, addressing THPS institutional capacity, health services delivery, strengthening of health and community systems and monitoring and evaluation. These priority areas clearly spell; who we are, what we do, how we do, and how we measure what we do. Given the evolving health landscape, THPS continually adapts its services to align with Government of Tanzania (GOT) changing needs and priorities. There has been more focus on increasing THPS visibility and reputation through promoting and building partnerships, while operating within National frameworks and documents. This mid-term review provides an opportunity to evaluate progress, identify lessons learned, and refine strategies for the remaining period.

#### 1.2. Purpose of Mid-Term Evaluation of THPS 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

The mid-term evaluation spans January 2021 to September 2023, focusing on the SP's implementation, progress, challenges, and best practices. Key objectives include improving efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, and input into SP implementation, providing progress feedback to stakeholders, and ensuring accountability for achieved results.

#### 2. General Objectives of THPS SP Mid-Term Evaluation

- Provide feedback on progress towards Strategic Plan implementation and attainment of expected outcomes
- Identify areas for THPS to improve efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, and impact towards achieving its objectives
- Ensure accountability for achieved results
- Assess the relevance of the current THPS Strategic Plan for the remaining period

#### 3. SP Mid-Term Evaluation Expected Results

- Create an enabling environment for effective SP implementation
- Enhance THPS management's capacity to achieve SP objectives
- Identify implementation gaps and recommend improvements
- Ensure SP remains relevant in the current context

#### 4. Scope of the Evaluation

The mid-term evaluation will assess implementation effectiveness, modalities, coordination, partnerships, institutional strengthening, and beneficiary participation. It will review strategic plan design, implementation problems, initiative effectiveness, progress towards objectives, opportunities for modification, and factors affecting the successful implementation of SP.

#### 5. Evaluation Questions

Key questions and tasks guiding the mid-term evaluation include relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and the SP's contribution to THPS goals.

#### 5.1 Relevance:

- Are there particular issues or problems in the design of the strategic plan, implementation, and management?
- Verify various aspects of the strategic plan under the implementation to find out whether the relevance of the objectives remains valid.
- Identify the factors that affect or might affect the successful implementation of all objectives of the SP.
- Was the strategy adopted to address inputs identified, realistic, appropriate and adequate for achievement of the results?

#### 5.2 Effectiveness:

- Evaluate initiatives that demonstrated effective output and outcomes.
- Establish the degree to which planned results or targets are being achieved and identify areas that require improvements.
- Assess whether the remaining unachieved SP outcomes can be achieved and recommend the best ways to achieve them.

#### 5.3 Efficiency:

- Are the process of achieving results efficient? Specifically did the actual or expected results (outputs and outcomes) justify the costs incurred?

Were the resources effectively utilized?

- What factors are contributing to implementation efficiency?
- Assess the continuation of relevant interventions and progress made toward achieving its planned objectives.
- Identify the opportunities to be modified to ensure the achievement of the unachieved objectives within the lifetime of the strategic plan.
- How efficient are the management and accountability structures of the strategy?
- How did the programme financial management processes and procedures affect strategic plan implementation?
- What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the SP implementation process?

#### 5.4 Sustainability:

- Review and evaluate what has been achieved to identify future opportunities for THPS.
- Obtain objective feedback on THPS work starting January, 2021 from a broad range of stakeholders (recipients of care, civil society, healthcare providers, community health workers, implementing partners, local government authorities, key ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs), donors.
- What are the key factors that will require attention to improve prospects of sustainability of the program results and the potential for replication of the approach?
- How are capacities strengthened at the individual, THPS as an institution and partners working with (including contributing factors and constraints)?

#### 6. Methodology

The methodology includes interviews, focus groups, document reviews, stakeholder consultations, social media reviews, and field visits. The consultants will be provided with information and given the necessary working documents for reference.

#### 7. Expected Deliverables

- Inception report within 10 working days after signing of the contract
- Draft Mid-Term Evaluation Report and Evaluation Summary within two weeks after evaluation completion
- Final Midterm Evaluation Reports incorporating stakeholder comments (not exceed 80 pages)

#### 8. Timelines for Evaluation Process

The evaluation will be conducted for an estimated 30 working days upon approval of the inception report.

#### 9. Required Qualification for Consultancy

- A Firm or individuals with a proven track records and significant experience in conducting Local and International Strategic Plan reviews
- At least 10 years of experience in working with international organizations and donors
- Extensive experience of programme formulation, monitoring and evaluation
- Experience in evaluating similar activity and industry
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English

#### 10. Selection Criteria for Consultant

The selection criteria include educational background of deployed human resources, expertise, overall methodology, experience, and language fluency.

The technical proposal will be evaluated at 70%, while the financial proposal will be evaluated at 30%. Only successful in technical proposal after review process will be qualified to next step of financial proposal.

#### 11. Application Procedure

Applicants are required to submit the following:

- A technical Proposal: Signed letter of Interest, stating why you consider your services suitable for the assignment and a brief methodology on the approach and implementation of the assignment and the crew composition.
- Personal CVs of technical personnel proposed for this project highlighting qualifications and experience in similar projects;
- Work reference – contact details of the firms you've produced similar assignments.
- Financial proposal indicating consultancy fee and a breakdown of expenses (Unit price together with any other expenses) related to the assignment;

#### For Firms, the following MUST be submitted:

- Valid copy of business Licence.
- Valid copy of certificate of incorporation as a company registered in Tanzania.
- Valid copy of tax registration certificate (Indicating TIN and VAT Number).
- Valid copy of Tax clearance certificate.
- Evidence that a company issues EFD receipt during issuing tax invoices.
- Accurate Physical, Postal, telephone and email address of the firm.

#### 12. Expressions of Interest.

The expressions of interest must be submitted no later than **13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 2:00 pm**, with the heading: **"THPS Strategic Plan (SP) 2021-2025 Mid Term Evaluation"**

All Bids must be sent through our email: [tenders@thps.or.tz](mailto:tenders@thps.or.tz)

If you do not hear from us by **29<sup>th</sup> March 2024**, consider your application unsuccessful.

# Firm launches agricultural knowledge centre in Iringa

By Guardian Reporter, Iringa

FERTILISER manufacturer Yara Tanzania yesterday launched a knowledge centre to raise farmers' productivity and contribute to sustainable agriculture in Iringa Region.

The centre launched in collaboration with Farm For the Future (FFF) and Seed Company Limited is hosted on a 350-hectare maize seed farm run by FFF at Ilula area in Kilolo District.

The launch was presided over by Iringa Regional Commissioner Halima Dendego and Ambassador of Norway to Tanzania Tone Tinnes. The dignitaries described the opening of the centre as a big boost to efforts by the government in scaling up access to agronomy and extension support, especially to subsistence growers who struggle with low productivity due to lack of crop nutrition solution, knowledge and other production means.

"Yara Knowledge Centre is designed to be a trusted partner that equips smallholder farmers with education and skills through practical field demonstrations, tools and support needed to achieve sustainable farming practices, improve yields and build prosperous livelihoods," said Yara Tanzania Managing Director Winstone Odhiambo.

The centre's key benefits to farmers include promoting positive farming practices such as soil health, balanced crop nutrition and taking care of the environment for sustainable food production that enhances farmer profitability.

"Partnering with Farm For the Future and Seed Company Ltd to run this Yara Knowledge Centre at Ilula is therefore a practical demonstration of our shared commitment to the agriculture transformation agenda being championed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan through bridging the gap in access to subsidized inputs like fertiliser and extension service support to the most needy of our farmers," Odhiambo said.

The Iringa-based demonstration farm is among seven such Yara centres with others based in Mbeya, Morogoro, Kilimanjaro, Tabora, Manyara and Zanzibar that also promote strategic partnership to drive growth beyond fertiliser, to include financial aid, pesticides, off takers, soil testing and mechanisation.

Osmund Ueland, founder of FFF said the addition of Yara Knowledge Centre at the farm will accelerate the dream of the project becoming a model centre for social development in Tanzania.

"Our mission is to work with likeminded partners to upgrade the programme to lift 2000

smallholder farmers from 16 villages surrounding the project out of poverty by 2030," he said.

Clive Muganda, Seed Company Limited Managing Director said: "Seed Company Limited will continue supporting initiatives that drive the use of research and shared knowledge on soil health, environmental sustainability and strengthening agriculture value chains for inclusive wealth creation."

Dendego hailed the joint launch of the centre by the three partners, noting that it will go a long way in addressing serious gaps that continue to limit farmers in the region from reaching their fullest production potential.

She mentioned some of the challenges facing farmers in the region as lack of agronomic knowledge and farm inputs such as fertiliser, poor infrastructure, lack of affordable technologies, pests and diseases, inadequate water resources, market disruptions, lack of capital and climatic vulnerability.

"I am therefore pleased that the establishment of this knowledge centre is meant to address most of the challenges facing our farmers, especially in the provision of extension services, crop nutrition solutions through research and practical field demonstrations," she said.



Kilolo district commissioner Peres Magiri (2nd-L) and Yara managing director Winstone Odhiambo pictured in Iringa municipality yesterday cutting the ribbon to launch Yara Knowledge Centre. Left is Norway's Ambassador to Tanzania, Tone Tinnes (L), and right is Farm For the Future chairman Osmund Ueland. Photo: Correspondent

# Eye specialists from Dubai to conduct surgery camp in Dar

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) - Mloganzila has organised a five-day corrective eye surgery camp set to take place next week for residents of Dar es Salaam and Coast regions.

The camp is scheduled to start on Monday and run until Friday at MNH-Mloganzila in Dar es Salaam. Dr Albert Kilalah, Global Medicare spokesperson who is the coordinator of the eye treatment camp told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the camp is for people with squint, stuck eyelids and those with accident scars.

He said the camp will be run by two specialists Dr Nabila Elias and Dr Safwat El Badri from Dubai, UAE.

"Those with eye challenges should come to Mloganzila for preliminary tests before the start

of the camp on Monday. This is a good opportunity to meet the specialists," he said.

He said the specialists will collaborate with Tanzanian experts from MNH Upanga and Mloganzila.

Dr Kilalah said that in order to retain the knowledge here in the country, they have also invited doctors from Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Dodoma, Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital, Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza, Tumbi Regional Referral Hospital in Coast Region, Mtwara Regional Referral Hospital and CCBRT Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

"The Tanzanian doctors will collaborate with the specialists from Dubai to perform surgery, hence it is an opportunity for them to learn so that when the foreigners leave, Tanzanians can continue performing such procedures," he said.

He said that the camp is a result

of huge investment in medical equipment purchased by the government as well as capacity building to enable Tanzanian experts to perform specialist treatment.

He said that in the past, such treatments were being done abroad but due to the investment in health facilities, the procedures can be performed right here in the country. Dr Fadhili Swai, an ophthalmologist at Tumbi Regional Referral Hospital, said he was happy that they were going to provide services that were not available in this country.

"I appeal to Tanzanians in need of the specified services to use the five days because this is a unique and very rare opportunity. When experts come from different countries, we exchange knowledge and treatment methods, making this a very important step for us," he said





# EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is expanding its network to meet the strategic business needs which focus on sustaining the recorded achievements and remain an airline of choice that meets and exceeds customers' expectations in line of its mission of provision of reliable, safe, and high-quality services. Therefore, applications are invited from qualified Tanzanians to fill the following positions: -

## 1. POSITION: CAPTAIN (30 POSTS)

### 1.1 MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- Must have flown with more than 3500 flying hours with an Airline Transport Pilot License, Multi Engine and Instrument Rating.
- Must have 1000 hours as a Pilot in Command and an experience of handling a minimum of 20 tons' equipment or above with a good performance.

### 1.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsible for safety of the aircraft, its occupants and cargo pre, during and post flight.
- Maintain a high standard of discipline, appearance, uniformity and promptness of Co-pilots and Cabin Crew.
- Determine the achievement of commercial aspects of flights safety is not impaired to obtain additional revenue load for the Company.
- Ascertain that Flight Plans, Notam, Fleet Notices, Weather and any pertinent documentation and service items that flight may require are briefed.
- Verify that the loading of aircraft being performed in accordance with laid down procedures.
- Report all incidents and accidents.
- Verify that all documents/certificates required being on board the aircraft are available and valid.
- Report any Flight delays of flights.
- Accept and sign for diplomatic mail, precious cargo and supervise stowage aboard the aircraft and handover to destinations.
- Perform any other official duties as may be assigned by your supervisor.

## 2. POSITION: FIRST OFFICER (14 POSTS)

### 2.1 MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- Must have flown with more than 250 flying hours or above with Commercial Pilot License, Multi Engine with Instrument Rating.
- Must be with an experience of handling a minimum of 10 tons' equipment with good performance.

### 2.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To participate in the Pilot-in-Command's crew briefing, and make himself aware of all relevant aeronautical and meteorological information as well as relevant papers documenting the aircraft technical status and its anticipated load.
- To prepare the OFP and when necessary, file the ATS Flight Plan with the appropriate Authority. If stored plans are used, then he should ensure that the correct plan has been activated
- To carry out such duties concerning the flight in accordance with the SOP, including procedures, limitations and performance related to the specific aircraft type, as allocated to him by the Pilot-in-Command;
- To confirm the safe navigation of the aircraft, maintaining a continuous and independent check upon both the geographical position of the aircraft and its safe terrain clearance
- To safely and properly conduct the flight in compliance with the current flight plan and the Pilot-in-Command's instructions when the Pilot-in-Command is not at the controls. Any change to the current flight plan has to be notified to the Pilot-in Command.
- To provide advice, information and assistance to the Pilot-in-Command, as may contribute favorable towards the safe and efficient conduct of the flight.
- To assist the Pilot-in-Command in administration duties related to the flight and
- To seek and receive information and/or explanation from the Pilot-in Command, as may be necessary to enable fulfilment of functions.
- To assist the Flight Safety Department for all Technical related matters
- Perform any other official duties as may be assigned by your supervisor.

## 3. POSITION: SENIOR INTERNAL AUDITOR (1 POSTS)

### 3.1 MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a holder of Bachelor Degree or Advanced Diploma in Accountancy, Finance, Commerce or Business Administration majoring in Accountancy or Finance or equivalent qualifications from recognized institutions plus CPA (T), ACCA, ACA, CIA or equivalent professional qualification recognized by the NBAA
- Must have working experience of at least seven (7) years in related field.
- Working experience in an aviation industry is an added advantage.
- Registration in ACPA-PP or equivalent registration will be an added advantage.
- Must be computer literate.

### 3.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To prepare and arrange for contact with client and execute all required meetings for the allocated audit engagement.
- Review audit tentative programs, internal control and risk and engagement plan
- Administer and coordinate activities of the allocated audit engagement.
- Evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of the controls in the audited areas.
- Develop comprehensive practical programs and schedules for Audit coverage areas
- Review all documented audit findings and ensure their effective communication to the client and obtain responses.
- Prepare draft and final audit engagement reports.
- Schedule project and staff assignment to comply with the management needs with scope of the department over all schedules.
- Conduct special investigations as assigned by chief internal auditor/ other relevant authorities.
- Coordinate audit schedules to avoid conflict with external auditor's work.
- Assist in preparation of annual budget and annual internal audit plan for the unit.
- To perform any other related duties as may be assigned by the supervisor.

## 4. POSITION: SALES AND MARKETING OFFICER I- TLO, CARGO & GROUND HANDLING (1 POST)

### 4.1 MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be a holder of Bachelor Degree in any field.
- The candidate must have one of the following certificate; Air Transport Management, Air Cargo, Dangerous Goods, Ground Handling, or equivalent qualifications from any recognized Aviation institution.
- Must have four (4) years working experience in related field (aviation field).
- Possession of two or more of the above professional certificates will be an added advantage.

### 4.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Review of Ground handling services such as; check in, baggage sorting, passenger on transit, cargo handling & management.
- Review of ground handling contract performance as per existing contract and SLA.
- Review charge for excess baggage and report accordingly.
- Review issued tickets and miscellaneous charge order and airway bills.
- Observe the arriving/departing passengers through control and to the transfer desk.
- Review handle acceptance of coffins, perishables and courier shipments.
- Physical verification of all Travel/Cargo agents and tour operators and submit sales visit report
- Review yearly Revenue Optimization strategy for assigned routes taking into account seasonal fluctuations.
- Review any fares/incentives that competitors offer to travel agents.
- To perform any other related duties as may be assigned by the supervisor.

## 5. POSITION: SAFETY OFFICER II (ENVIRONMENTAL) (1 POST)

### 5.1. MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be a holder of Bachelor degree in one of the following fields, Environmental Science and Management, Environmental Planning and Management, Geography and Environmental Studies, Environmental and Climatic Change or equivalent qualification from any recognised institution.

### 5.2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Initiate and coordinate implementation of environmental programmes aimed at reducing environmental impact to the community
- Coordinating the Company's activities regarding the development, implementation and maintenance of the Safety, Health and Environmental Program
- Recommending to the Head of Quality and Safety, Health and Environmental programs and policies to be developed and proposing amendments to such policies and programs where necessary
- Ensure ATCL participate to the global environmental sustainability programs such as CORSIA
- Collecting, collating, and producing periodic Industrial Safety and Environmental reports and/or information so as to identify significant HSE trends for action by management to ensure compliance with ICAO Annex 16, Occupational Health & safety-OSHA, Environmental Management Act -EMA and ISO 14001 standard.
- Conducting HSE inspections and surveys of operational systems, infrastructure and procedures affecting or likely to affect the company operations and assess risk exposure.
- Following up and verification of implementation of the HSE recommendations developed by the Health, Safety and Environmental Committee's (HSE) to continuously improve and maintain safety and environmental protection.
- Promoting a culture within the company to raise the level of safety and environmental awareness as well as oversee the recycling of products from ATCL operations to generate revenue out of waste products.
- Investigating workplace, ground and environmental incidents/accidents and make appropriate corrective/preventive recommendations to the relevant/affected department/sections while assisting the Responsible Managers achieve effective implementation of the recommended actions.
- Preparation, production, and dissemination of HSE information bulletin to raise health, safety and environmental awareness.
- Conducting periodic ground and workplace HSE audits for company and third party organizations to assure compliance with company policy and requirements as well as industry for management decision.
- Ensuring effective and appropriate communication and coordination with relevant regulatory Authorities, customer airlines, contractors over matters concerning Industrial Safety and Environment with a view to agreeing on solutions common concerns.
- Facilitating meetings for Health, Safety and Environmental Committees and ensure that such meetings are held as per schedule.

## 6. POSITION: AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE ENGINEER II- 5 POSTS

### 6.1. MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be holder of diploma in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering with Aircraft Maintenance Engineers License (AMEL) without type rating.
- Possession of Bachelor Degree in Aeronautics / Bachelor Degree in relevant engineering field from a recognized institution or its equivalent is an added advantage.

### 6.2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist in removal and installation of aircraft components, repair, assembling and testing of aircraft systems.
- Assist in repair, test, overhaul and calibration of equipment and tools as per approved procedure.
- Supervise Aircraft Technicians in a particular field.
- Performs any other official duties as may be assigned by the supervisor.

## 7. POSITION: PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER II (15 POSTS)

### 7.1. MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be a holder of Bachelor Degree in Aeronautical Engineering or equivalent qualifications from a recognized institution and
- Must have a knowledge on Aircraft System or Workshop.

### 7.2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist in planning aircraft check dates according to check intervals and aircraft utilization.
- Assist in preparing check packages for aircraft
- Assist in compiling and updating aircraft maintenance and component life

- Assist in preparation and issuing of daily May Fly, showing aircraft movement and their details.
- Assist in developing and design modifications to structure, power plants, landing gears components and systems.
- Assist in conducting periodic salvage investigation.
- Performing any other official duties as may be assigned by your supervisor.

## 8. POSITION: GROUND SUPPORT TECHNICIAN II (3 POSTS)

### 8.1 MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be holder of Form IV Certificate with Professional Level III in one of the following fields; Motor Vehicle Mechanics, Truck Mechanics, Auto Body Repair, Diesel Engine Mechanics, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanics, Auto Electrical, Motor Cycle Mechanics, Plant Operator or its equivalent qualification from recognized institutions.

### 8.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To assist in carrying out minor repair jobs on ground support equipment.
- To assist in maintenance of company vehicles.
- Perform any other official duties as may be assigned by your supervisor.

## 9. POSITION: AIRCRAFT CLEANER II (5 POSTS)

### 9.1 MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- Must have Form IV Certificate with two pass in any subjects,
- Must have any relevant Certificate from VETA or any recognized institutions.
- He/she will attend In- house training in the following fields; ATCL Maintenance procedures, aircraft, component, hangar facilities, working safety gears and cleaning.

### 9.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Handle general cleaning of line, hangar and workshop facilities under supervision
- Clean Aircraft and aircraft components under supervision.
- Assist in positioning working and safety gears to facilitate maintenance activities.
- Performs any other duties as may be assigned by the supervisor

## 10. POSITION: SAFETY OFFICER II (1 POST) (READVERTISEMENT)

### 10.1 MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be holder of any Bachelor degree preferably Bachelor Degree in Science or ATPL or Flight Operations License or equivalent qualifications from recognized Institutions.
- Training in Quality Management System and/or safety management systems from a reputable organization shall be added advantage.

### 10.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Monitor status of Company Safety and emergency equipment's under supervision.
- Assist in monitoring through safety audit status of airports network.
- Carry out regular inspections of Company premises to identify issues that affect ground and flight safety.
- Prepare annual quality assurance program that provides for the auditing of the management system of operations, and maintenance functions.
- Ensure equipment and operational products that are purchased or otherwise acquired from an external vendor or supplier meet the product technical requirements specified by the company prior to being used in the conduct of operations or aircraft maintenance.
- Ensure conformity with ICAO requirements by coordinating initial and renewal audits to air operators that transport company passengers under a commercial aviation agreement.
- Make follow up on findings that result from audits conducted under the quality assurance program by ensuring identification of root cause, development of corrective action appropriate to address findings, implementation of corrective action in appropriate operational area(s) and evaluation of corrective action to determine effectiveness.
- Prepare and coordinate the communication and coordination with operational managers in the management of operational risk.
- Prepare audit plan with sufficient resources and scheduled audits at intervals that meet regulatory and management system requirements including ensuring that are conducted within the scheduled interval.
- Prepare and Maintain an electronic database for audits conducted under the quality assurance program
- Perform any other official duty as may be assigned by your supervisor.

## 11. TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Ten (10) years contract with attractive remuneration and fringe benefits as per ATCL Salary Structure and Incentive Scheme.

## 12. MODE OF APPLICATION FOR ALL APPLICANTS:

Interested applicants must submit a dully signed letter for consideration of the application attached with the following:

- A curriculum vitae (CV),
- Certified copies of all certificates (including secondary school, birth certificates), other relevant certificates, Applicants who have studied outside Tanzania should have their certificates approved by relevant authorities Tanzania Commission for University (TCU) or National Examination Council-NECTA)
- Two recent passport size photographs
- Name and address of at least two reputable referees;
- Applicant's reliable contact address, email address and telephone number.

## 13. CLOSING DATES:

Applicants should reach the undersigned within 14 days from the first date of this announcement.

**MANAGING DIRECTOR & CEO,  
AIR TANZANIA COMPANY LIMITED,  
P.O. Box 543,  
DAR ES SALAAM.**

ATCL is an equal opportunity employer. Women are encouraged to apply. Misrepresentation of qualifications or any other information on application shall warrant legal consequences.

**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**



THURSDAY 7 MARCH, 2024

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Samia's plan on 'learning from the people' laudable

TOP officials in the ruling CCM secretariat have declared that President Samia Suluhu Hassan will be setting aside one day each month listening to people's grievances.

The idea is thereafter to have the officials responsible with respect to the various issues emerging from the "consultations" take appropriate in a positive manner and without delay.

This is a step the president will have decided upon with an effort, as it adds a lot to the burdens of the country's top office.

A top official with the party has gone to great lengths to explain that initiative, blaming lack of zeal among public administrators failing to fulfil their obligations or having no real interest in working for the people.

Often it has to do with wealthy people using public offices for their own interests, which the official said smeared the image of the government and generated hard feelings across a section of the population.

In that, case implementing the president's idea will be making an effort to reduce pent-up feelings among the citizenry.

One reason calls to administrators to provide prompt solutions to various challenges come to little or no effect is that some public officials commonly live by the grace of others within their ranks or higher up in the governance hierarchy.

Such public servants are not proactive in intervening to effectively handle someone else's wrongdoing as often it is visible who intervened, and the matter is taken as a personal affront - which is unhealthy.

Public officials usually prefer seeing issues resolved through bureaucratic or official mechanisms rather than through personalised intervention.

The plan is that the president will now occasionally meet people at the

CCM offices in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Zanzibar, which the party's secretariat says is part of an initiative to promote good governance and ensure people's difficulties are suitably addressed.

How far people given an opportunity to meet the president will be able to open up on challenges they commonly encounter is one thing, as institutional prerogatives will have to be respected.

For instance, it may not be easy to say that a court judgment was faulty and ought to be investigated, etc. This will likely obtain even if one has suspicions that a particular case is clear enough by involving a public official doing wrong in a visible way.

It was also encouraging to hear that another reason for coming up with the special day idea is to honour late former president Ali Hassan Mwinyi, who developed a habit of similarly consulting the people in private, that is, on a one-on-one and case-by-case basis.

To an extent, it is CCM tradition to do so. For instance, it will be recalled that Zanzibar's founding leader Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume was quite ordinarily available at Kisiwandui party's offices and in nearby informal surroundings, listening to elders. Much the same was true of Mwalimu Nyerere, with numbers of those under him taking up the habit later.

Admittedly, this has never stood as a viable or sustainable solution to bureaucratic misconduct in its entirety.

It has however proved a useful reminder to officials that a deliberate misdeed may soon find its way to the president or "somewhere near there" - and that even just that could mean a lot.

So, here we go - and we with the president the very best as she hopefully gets the full feel of the people's fears and hopes and responds accordingly.

## Haiti is difficult test of African identity, governance capacities

AT times events in history appear to repeat themselves. But there also times when the original heroes have no successors and, even if they are aware of the dire necessity for action, they would be tied up elsewhere.

That appears to be the case for Haiti, which in March 1983 welcomed Pope John Paul II on a final stop of a whirlwind tour of eight Central American countries.

The call the pope gave is even more applicable today than it was then, for he said 'this place must change' - and it soon changed.

The current situation in that country is mind-boggling. And it concerns us as Africans, since Haiti was the first country among the few former Spanish and French colonies in the western hemisphere to free themselves.

There has always been some pride in talking of Haiti as the first Black slave rebellion that became successful and created a new country, but well over 200 years later it is in a horrendously sad state.

Haitian acting prime minister Ariel Henry has been in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, pursuing a United Nations plan to dispatch a multinational police force to his country. The idea was to help put down the rule of drug trafficking gangs that have largely taken over the country. But while he was on the foreign "peace mission", presumed gangsters encircled the main prison in Port au Prince, the capital, and freed most inmates, including numerous violent traffickers.

At the start of the week they had surrounded the airport, with their leader demanding that the premier stay away. It isn't like a normal chaotic state but narco-anarchy, largely unparalleled.

Some observers have been wondering why the army does not step in, but a check shows that Haitians

grew tired of their armed forces following numerous coups and cases of infighting.

They went on to disband the military in 1995 at the time of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Seeing the worsening situation, President Jovenel Moise in 2017 sought to restore military capability after a UN peacekeeping mission was terminated. He was assassinated in 2021 - and the chaos has deepened.

When Pope John Paul II flew there in 1983 what he said still rings true up to today, as he condemned what he described as excessive inequality and misery, hunger and fear suffered by many people in Haiti.

He said there was a legitimate desire in the media and in politics for free expression, demanding that all those with power and wealth 'understand their serious and urgent responsibility with respect to their brothers and sisters'. It is as if all this has been forgotten.

To be sure, most of South America has serious drug trafficking problems which in countries like Colombia or Mexico had often assumed the parameters of civil war.

In Haiti this has led to a generalised collapse of the state, for which there is little chance that outside forces may wish to intervene.

Neighbouring Surinam is solidly against the opening of refugee camps for fleeing, terrorised Haitians, and the United States just reminded its citizens that they need to ship out.

As in the Sudan right now, the people of Haiti will have no option but to gather in army camps, police stations or even schools for basic military training to fight the narco-terrorists taking over the country.

It is the result of generalised corruption when everyone looks aside as someone makes a buck the wrong way, until the entire civil order lies in ruins.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA

### Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
General line: 0745700710  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com  
epaper.ippmedia.com



## How can I stop overthinking everything?

By Kirsty Ross

As a clinical psychologist, I often have clients saying they are having trouble with thoughts "on a loop" in their head, which they find difficult to manage.

While rumination and overthinking are often considered the same thing, they are slightly different - though linked. Rumination is having thoughts on repeat in our minds. This can lead to overthinking - which is analysing those thoughts without finding solutions or solving the problem.

It is like a vinyl record playing the same part of the song over and over. With a record, this is usually because of a scratch, while why we overthink is a little more complicated.

### We're on the lookout for threats

Our brains are hardwired to look for threats, to make a plan to address those threats and keep us safe. Those perceived threats may be based on long gone experiences, or may be the "what ifs" we imagine could happen in the future.

Our "what ifs" are usually negative outcomes. These are what we call "hot thoughts" in that they bring up a lot of emotion, particularly sadness, worry or anger, which means that we can easily get stuck on those thoughts and keep going over them.

However, because they are about things that have either already happened or might happen in the future but are not happening now, we cannot fix the problem, and so we keep going over the same thoughts.

### Who overthinks?

Most people find themselves in situations at one time or another when they overthink. Some people are more likely to ruminate. People who have had prior challenges or experienced trauma may have come to expect threats and look for them more than people who have not had adversities.

Deep thinkers, people who are prone to anxiety or low mood and those who are sensitive or feel emotions deeply are also more likely to ruminate and overthink.

Also, when we are stressed, our emotions tend to be stronger and last longer - and our thoughts can be less accurate, which means that we can get stuck on thoughts more than we would usually do.

Being run down or physically unwell can also mean that our thoughts are harder to tackle and manage.



We all overthink from time to time.

### Acknowledge your feelings

When thoughts go on repeat, it is helpful to use both emotion-focused and problem-focused strategies.

Being emotion-focused means figuring out how we feel about something and then addressing those feelings. For example, we might feel regret, anger or sadness about something that has happened, or worry about something that might happen.

Acknowledging those emotions, using self-care techniques and accessing social support to talk about and manage your feelings will be helpful.

The second part is being problem-focused. Looking at what you would do differently - if the thoughts are about something from your past - and making a plan for dealing with future possibilities your thoughts are raising.

But it is difficult to plan for all eventualities, so this strategy has limited usefulness. What is more helpful is to make a plan for one or two of the more likely possibilities and accept that there may be things that happen which you haven't thought of.

### Think about why these thoughts are showing up

Our feelings and experiences are information, so it is important to ask what this information is telling you and why these thoughts are showing up now.

For example, university has just

familiar. Coming up with a more realistic thought can help stop the loop of the unhelpful thought.

Accepting your emotions and finding ways to manage those - good self-care, social support, communication with those close to you - will also be helpful. This will be much like accepting that life inevitably involves a lack of complete control over outcomes and possibilities which life may throw at us. What we do have control over are our reactions and behaviours.

Remember, you would have a 100 per cent success rate of getting through challenges up until this point. You might have wanted to do things differently - and, in fact, can plan to do that - but, nevertheless, you coped and got through.

So, the last part is letting go of the need to know exactly how things will turn out, and believing in your ability - and sometimes others' ability - to cope.

### What else can you do?

A stressed out and tired brain will be more likely to overthink, leading to more stress and creating a cycle that can affect your wellbeing.

So it is important to manage your stress levels by eating and sleeping well, moving your body, doing things you enjoy, seeing people you care about, and doing things that fuel your soul and spirit.

Distraction - with pleasurable activities and people who bring you joy - can also get your thoughts off repeat.

If you do find that overthinking is affecting your life, and your levels of anxiety are rising or your mood is dropping, it might be time to talk to someone and get some strategies to manage. This will be, for instance, when your sleep, appetite and enjoyment of life and people are being negatively affected.

When things become too difficult for you to manage on your own, or even with the help of those close to you, a therapist can provide tools that have been proven to be helpful.

When you find yourself overthinking, think about why you are having "hot thoughts", acknowledge your feelings and do some future-focused problem solving. But, also, you need to accept the fact that life can be unpredictable and therefore focus on having faith in your ability to cope.

\* A dispatch originally published in *The Conversation*. Kirsty Ross is Associate Professor and Senior Clinical Psychologist at New Zealand's Massey University.



# Guidance and counselling services should be prioritised in schools

**L**EARNERS come from different backgrounds where they live with parents or guardians who have a different level of understanding. We have heard of families where a child acts as a guardian to his/her siblings.

This is a challenge as the one to be shown the way is also responsible to lead others. The defects originating from weak upbringing place a burden to the shoulder of a teacher who is regarded as the re-course.

It is important for teachers to be aware of the weaknesses in the upbringing of children for them to be prepared to prevent the risks that may happen in the society.

Teachers can easily know the challenges that children go through, only if they treat learners friendly. It is true that relationship between teachers and learners should have boundaries but once teachers are not close to learners something bad may happen.

Teaching and the whole process of moulding learners into useful individuals demands a teacher to be close to learners. As teachers are taught ethics in their training being close to a learner is something which should not cause some doubts or questions.

You cannot protect someone if you are not close to them. Learners should not fear teachers but respect them. This is because learning is interaction. If there is any barrier to the interaction between teachers and learners some objectives in the teaching and learning process may not be realized.

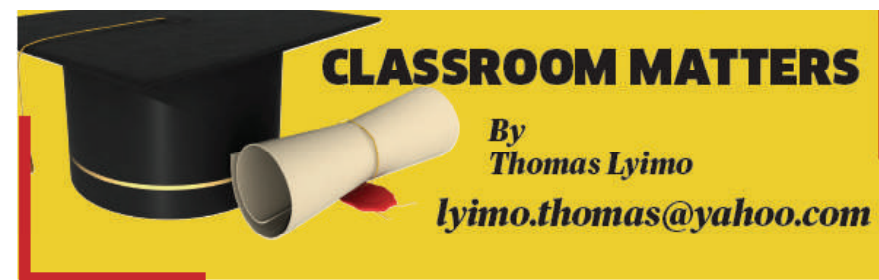
Following the development of science and technology, learners are exposed to different situations which may confuse them and leave them in dilemma. Therefore, there must be a regular interaction by teachers to help learners to interpret some situations and make right decisions. This calls for schools to prioritize guidance and counseling

services. Teachers may be busy teaching learners but if they don't consider other challenges that learners go through little can be achieved in the teaching and learning process.

To succeed does not mean scoring As in examinations but also to be aware of possible obstacles towards academic excellence and how to overcome them. Learning should not only base on subjects of the curriculum but also life skills which will enable learners to live successfully after completing their studies.

The modern era has witnessed changes in the life styles which threaten the life and prosperity of a child. Mothers who in the past were considered as care givers are nowadays the economic pillars of families.

They leave homes early in the morning and come late, thus fail to organize the whole process of child upbringing. This reality is what justifies the need for teachers to extend the



guidance and counseling services at schools to save children from the great loss which hunt them.

One of the benefits of learners receiving guidance and counseling is helping teachers to know fears of pupils. Through talking to learners it is easy for teachers to know what thoughts trouble learners. There are learners who are aware of their rights but may be afraid to demand for them.

Through guidance and counseling teachers will reveal those fears and help learners to deal with them accordingly and make them comfortable and confident to move in pursuit of their educational and life goals.

Another benefit of guidance and counseling services in schools is en-

abling teachers to examine learners' understanding on matters related to sexuality and their rights. It is advisable that before you teach someone it is important to know what they know.

Through guidance and counselling teachers get an opportunity to know what learners know on sexuality and their rights

before they can guide or correct them.

Guidance and counselling services in schools help to reveal some hidden secrets on what takes place in the society which is against ethics or child rights. For the teacher to know what learners know they must talk to them.

Teachers need to create a friendly environ-

ment which encourages learners to talk. Learners should not feel like they are recorded. It should be emphasized that it is a talk to enhance safety and prosperity of learners. When teachers know what is going on in the society is when they can advise learners on how to do or behave to be safe in the face of challenges.

Again guidance and counseling enables teachers to build capacity for learners to protect themselves. It is well known that knowledge is power. After teachers have equipped learners with the right knowledge pertaining to their lives, learners are in a position

to act or behave in a way that protects them. Learners get directives and guidance from teachers through counseling services. Such services help learners to move forward with much boldness.

Talking is a therapy. Without adequate understanding, learners think and act with fear but when equipped with right understanding they become confident. This helps them to successfully continue with their studies and increases the possibility of reaching their goals. Teachers should not let learners struggle with ambiguity. Teaching is guiding and counselling.

# Freedom of speech is silenced in Nicaragua

MANAGUA

**A**lmost six years after the outbreak of the April 2018 protests, there are no signs left in Nicaragua of the violence that reigned in those days. There is no graffiti on walls or banners with demands or opinions against the leftist regime that has ruled the country since 2007.

Nor are there newspapers or opinion programs or debates on radio and television, let alone press conferences or public rallies.

The city of Managua, the capital, is always bustling and active, with markets and shopping malls open at all hours; traffic is usually disorderly and police patrols roam the streets and avenues at all times.

At noon every day, on all radio and television stations, the tired, quiet voice of Vice President Rosario Murillo is heard giving the government's news, social achievements and propaganda messages such as phrases of love and praise to God.

The program, which has no specific name, is broadcast from Channel 4, the historical property of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), the ruling party, to which the other state media are linked. The private media outlets controlled by the presidential family are also connected, together with dozens of radio stations and portals on social networks.

It first emerged in 2007 as "a message from comrade Rosario, from the Communication and Citizenship Council of the People's Presidency."

"Here we are, on Valentine's Day, with love, friendship, and for us, love and peace, because it is with love and in peace that we can walk ahead, move forward, building the future of all, a fraternal future," she said on Feb. 13.

Murillo has been Nicaragua's vice president since she was appointed in 2016 by her husband, President Daniel Ortega, the veteran former guerrilla who has been in office since November 2006.

Murillo is also the regime's spokesperson and the only authorized voice, among the population of 6.7 million inhabitants of this Central American country, who can speak publicly and freely about anything. No one else can do so.

Freedom of expression in Nicaragua is one of the most repressed and abused rights, said journalist Abigail Hernández, director of the Galería News platform.

Her opinion, tellingly sent via an encrypted messaging application,



Abigail Hernández (left) appears at a press conference with journalist Wendy Quintero, a member of Independent Journalists and Communicators of Nicaragua at the headquarters of the Nicaragua Nunca Más Rights Collective. CREDIT: José Mendieta / IPS

is based on experience: three years' exile.

"The media and journalists are a good thermometer for measuring the quality of freedom of expression," Hernández told IPS.

"When we have less and less access to sources of information, when they limit us from reporting from the streets, when we can't take photos or videos freely, when we can't do our work inside the country, it reveals that there is no freedom of expression," she said.

She is part of a generation of 242 journalists who have had to go into exile since the 2018 protests, which began against Social Security reforms and ended in a bloodbath provoked by military and police forces, with more than 355 civilian deaths, according to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

Journalist Martha Irene Sánchez, director of the República 18 platform, holds similar views, also expressed from exile.

"The scenarios for exercising freedom of the press and freedom of expression in Nicaragua have not improved since 2018; on the contrary, we are encountering more and more hostility," she told IPS.

She is also a member of Independent Journalists and Communicators of Nicaragua (PCIN), a union organization that emerged after the protests and all of whose members went into exile.

"The Ortega and Murillo regime's repressive mechanisms have escalated to dramatic and unimaginable levels. A simple opinion issued on social networks or a criticism of the regime could land you in jail or exile," Sánchez said.

She cited the example of Victor Ticay, a local journalist in Nandaime, a municipality in the northwestern department of Granada, who went out one day to cover a procession during the Catholic Holy Week of 2023.

The event had not been authorized by the police, whose agents interrupted the religious ceremony and Ticay filmed the parishioners

running away from the patrol cars through the streets of the town.

He was arrested, charged with treason and spreading false news and sentenced to eight years in prison.

Guillermo Medrano, director of the Foundation for Freedom of Expression and Democracy (FLED), explained to IPS that between 2020 and 2021, the Nicaraguan regime passed a series of laws criminalizing the practice of journalism and freedom of expression.

A study that FLED released in September 2023 in San José, Costa Rica, a country bordering Nicaragua and the center of the country's exile community, documented 1329 press freedom violations, mostly perpetrated by state agents in the 2018-2023 five-year period.



The actions were taken against 338 Nicaraguan journalists and 78 media outlets, between April 2018 and April 2023.

They included the police intervention of several media outlets such as 100% Noticias, Confidencial, Trinchera de la Noticia, Radio Darío and La Prensa, the last newspaper circulating in Nicaragua until August 2022.

According to Medrano, the Special Law on Cybercrime, passed in October 2020, provides for prison sentences for the use of information "which in normal democracies should be freely accessible to citizens and the public."

In theory, the main objective of this legislation is the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of crimes committed by means of information and communication technologies to the detriment of natural or legal persons.

The press freedom advocate also pointed out that the Ortega-Murillo administration, which controls all state institutions and branches of power, as well as the security forces, established the Law for the Defense of the Rights of the People to Independence, Sovereignty and Self-Determination for Peace, effective since Dec. 22, 2020.

## REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, 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 Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

### Security Lighting Installation at Gena and Gokona Wall Top

**Pre-qualification Criteria**

No.	Reference no.	Description of work	Pre-qualification Criteria
1	NM007/2024	Security Lighting Installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Applicants to submit company profile with proven experience in Electrical system, Solar System and Lights.</li> <li>ii. All Material should be supplied from registered Manufactures/OEM with warranty period.</li> <li>iii. At least two Technician must be certified on installation of electrical equipment.</li> <li>iv. Company must have experience of supplying electrical parts, Security solar system and light.</li> <li>v. Applicant must have at least Mining experience in providing electrical service.</li> <li>vi. Applicant must show ability to provide onsite technical service if needed.</li> <li>vii. Information required to include a list of relevant projects undertaken in last 3 years. For each project provide: description and relevance to the tendered project; project cost; and duration of project.</li> <li>viii. Completion certificates of similar previous projects with reference list of clients, applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the company has the full right to contact any of the references provided.</li> <li>ix. Applicant to submit list and specifications of Equipment, including proof of facilities equipment.</li> <li>x. Applicant to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel.</li> <li>xi. Local content and CRB compliance.</li> <li>xii. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, engineering capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and regulations.</li> </ul>

**Expression of Interest (EOI)**  
If your company meets the prequalification criteria and would like to be considered for the trial, send your request along with your company profile to [nm.proposal@barrick.com](mailto:nm.proposal@barrick.com)

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**NB:** The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a request through this advertisement.

Qualification of any company submitting an 'Expression of Interest' shall be at the sole discretion of NMGM.

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

**Key Dates**

- Last date to submit EOI 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**North Mara Gold Mine Limited**



# Gaza widows and orphans struggling with loss at makeshift camp site



Zouahra says her husband was killed when he was hit in the head by fire from an Israeli gunboat

By Fergal Keane

**I**N the moments when she is not in the tent caring for the children, Zouahra looks out at the sea that forms the western border of her world. On this sunny day it is blue and when the sun sets, gold and red shades will colour the horizon.

It is the same sea that washes the beaches of Tel Aviv to the north, and ebbs and floods along all the coasts of the Mediterranean. And it is the sea from which, Zouahra says, a shell from an Israeli gunboat brought death to her husband.

"He was on his way to the seaside where there were cars and an aid convoy... It was crowded, and the military boats started firing at people. My husband was hit in the head," she says

That was on 9 February - but Zouahra, who now lives in a section of a camp housing widows and orphans, did not find out immediately.

The 26-year-old mother had just given birth to her fourth child.

At first, the young men who had been at the scene and knew the truth wanted to keep the news from Zouahra. Mahmoud was just late they said.

But she knew something was wrong. Her brother-in-law arrived crying and shouting that Mahmoud was dead. Desperate for the truth, she went to the hospital or, as she puts it, "to the end of the world" - a phrase loaded with foreboding - to find him.

Zouahra leans forward, lowers her head and sobs. Seeing her mother's distress, three-year-old Lana gently touches her arm. Then she softly pats the body of her baby brother Mohammed sleeping on her mum's lap.

Zouahra starts to speak again. "His entire body was connected to machines, and he felt freezing cold. I couldn't talk to him. I tried, but he wasn't responding.

"He was sleeping... He went to get food for his children and came back in a coffin."

The family were scattered by war. They lived in Gaza City before the fighting and after it began they fled to the

refugee camp at Al-Nusseirat in the centre of the Gaza Strip. That was the end of Mahmoud's job working as a labourer for the Pioneer Food Company in Gaza.

From Al-Nusseirat, they were again uprooted; fleeing south to Rafah after the Israel Defense Forces told them it was a safe zone.

Zouahra lives with other widows in a section of the Al-Mawasi refugee camp set aside for unaccompanied women and children. Her neighbour Amina lost her husband and three children in an Israeli air strike on their home near Khan Younis.

Amina and her five-year-old son, Ibrahim - who is also disabled - were pulled alive from the rubble that buried the rest of the family.

Another widow, Amani Jasser Al-Khawr, 32, lost her husband, a policeman, and five of her children in an air strike in Central Gaza in October - and now lives in a shelter made of zinc panels.

The wind rattles the panels, just as it whips the plastic sheeting and cloth that covers Zouahra and her children.

They can see how she struggles. But although her shelter is flimsy and flies constantly settle on the children, the ground has been swept and the family's clothes flap on a washing line outside.

Zouahra shows photographs of her late husband - a handsome man, protective of his family.

"I don't know what to do without him. He was the one providing for me and my children. He never made me need anyone... No-one cares about us now," Zouahra says.

This life piles indignities on the widows. Zouahra needs nappies for the baby and for her disabled boy, Mustafa. She speaks of his constant anxiety.

"He sees something and I can't get it for him. He keeps crying and hitting himself on the ground, asking for it, but I can't provide it.

"Mustafa has many needs that I can't afford. He keeps peeing himself and asks for things that I can't give him. He asks for food, for juice, apples, and fruits, and I can't provide."

A few days ago, another family nearby managed, somehow, to find a chicken. Zouahra's children looked on. They were beside themselves with longing.

Then, three-year-old Lana began to cry. But there was nothing to be done. The other people were lucky, or maybe had some money, and their children could eat.

The widows of Al-Mawasi are waiting for a new camp for unaccompanied women and their children to be completed. There they hope for food, a place to shelter out of the wind - the same way they hope that the killing might stop so that no more will be taken from them.



**BARRICK**  
NORTH MARA

## REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, 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 Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

### Camp Extension at North Mara Gold Mine Tender Ref: NM009/2024

#### Pre-qualification Criteria

No.	Reference no.	Description of work	Pre-qualification Criteria
1	NM009/2024	Camp Extension at North Mara Gold Mine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Applicants to submit Company profile with proven experience in civil construction works.</li> <li>ii. Information required to include a list of relevant projects undertaken in last 5 years. For each project provide: description and relevance to the tendered project; project cost; and duration of project.</li> <li>iii. Completion certificates of previous projects with reference list of Clients, applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided.</li> <li>iv. Applicant to submit list and specifications of Equipment's, including facilities and intellectual property.</li> <li>v. Applicant to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel.</li> <li>vi. Local Content Regulations compliance and a valid CRB registration, Class 4 contractor and above</li> <li>vii. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, engineering capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and Regulations.</li> <li>viii. Applicant to submit active safety policies and environmental management plan.</li> </ul>

#### Expression of Interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to [nm.proposal@barrick.com](mailto:nm.proposal@barrick.com)

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#### Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI

15th March 2024

North Mara Gold Mine Limited



**He was on his way to the seaside where there were cars and an aid convoy... It was crowded, and the military boats started firing at people. My husband was hit in the head,**



# Fertiliser industry registering steady growth under the Samia leadership

By Guardian Reporter



**The aim of the Sixth Phase Government in taking these bold measures, Bolle says, is to increase food production, strengthen food security and to ensure availability of raw materials for the local industries**

THE Tanzania fertiliser industry has shown tremendous growth in the past three years of President Samia Suluhu Hassan leadership driven by government subsidy and increased demand of food grains.

The country has seen the emergence of opportunities in the fertiliser market with the construction of new factories to manufacture inorganic nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilisers which have played an important role in increasing efficiency of agricultural output.

Like elsewhere in the world, in Tanzania fertilisers have been food for plants as they help farmers feed the country's growing population since plants require 17 essential nutrients in the soil to survive and grow.

Experts from the state-run Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) say the fertiliser industry in this East African nation of more than 62 million people presents market prospects and future growth opportunities taking into account the country's exploding population growth and the need for food security.

TFRA is the state-run institution created more than a decade ago to regulate the manufacturing, importation, marketing and use of quality fertilizer and fertilizer supplements in the country.

Louis Kasera, TFRA Acting Director of Domestic Manufacturing and Bulk Procurement, admits that the fertiliser sub sector has seen its remarkable growth under the push of the President Samia Sixth Phase Government in the last three years.

"The government has created an enabling environment for every key sector of the economy, including the fertiliser sector, to attract prospective local and foreign investors to grab the existing opportunities in the fertiliser industry," Kasera says.

Currently, Kasera says 90 per cent of the fertilizer consumed in the country is imported and less than 10 per cent is manufactured locally by 15 fertilizer and fertilizer supplements (FFS) manufacturers.

The manufacturers range from large to micro-scale with the largest manufacturer being the Minjingu Mines and Fertilizers Company Limited in Manyara region, which manufactures about 80 per cent of all of the domestically-produced fertilizer and fertiliser supplements.

Company, Mtali Agrotaders and Amka Feeder's which manufacture liquid fertilizers.

However, since the local manufacturing of fertilisers cannot meet the home demand, President Samia's government has been insisting investment in different types and scales of industries, including fertilizer industries, by creating an enabling environment for investors, Kasera says.

His view is supported by Elizabeth Bolle, a senior TFRA economist and acting bulk procurement manager, who says in showing the seriousness of reforming the agriculture sector, the government has increased the Agriculture Ministry budget from 294bn/- in the 2021/2022 fiscal year to 971bn/- in the 2023/2024 financial year, equivalent to an increase of 230 per cent.

"The investment in financial sources is aimed at increasing the contribution of the agriculture sector to the national economy," she emphasizes.

President Samia's push for agricultural transformation lies with the fact that the technology being used to cultivate food and cash crops calls for a complex of inputs to achieve large yield increases as agriculture's capital needs rise with the need for fertilizer; pesticides, irrigation facilities; energy; marketing, storage and transportation infrastructure.

The widespread use of fertilizers has to date made more food accessible and available in every corner of Tanzania more than ever before. Yet the country's food security remains a top agenda, and with the population projected to reach 77.5 million by 2030, encouragement of innovation in agriculture and education about farming techniques are crucial for the future of nutrition.

President Samia's ambition is to create new lasting partnerships that will deliver more investment, jobs and growth to the economy.

She believes that Tanzania in the current economic global arrangement can restore robust growth

through trade changing the way business is done in the country. Through partnerships, Tanzania has substantial economic potential in the country's thriving, young, innovative and rapidly growing population that provides great opportunities for the nation and neighbouring countries businesses to trade and invest.

Agenda 1030 is Tanzania's agricultural transformation strategy to increase the sector's growth to 10 per cent per year by 2030 in line with the lofty Sustainable Development Goals seeking to eliminate poverty and hunger.

"In implementing the requirements of Agenda 10/30, several policy measures have been taken to ensure increased agricultural output through correct application of farm inputs, which include fertilisers, strengthening irrigation practices, availability of extension services, research, marketing and other essential services," Bolle notes.

The aim of the Sixth Phase Government in taking these bold measures, Bolle says, is to increase food production, strengthen food security and to ensure availability of raw materials for the local industries.

The thrust for increased agricultural production has also triggered a surge in the use of fertilisers from 363,146 tonnes in 2019/2020 to 580,628 tonnes in 2022/2023, an increase of 60 per cent, according to Bolle.

Similarly, application of fertilisers has led to an increase of 19 per cent of crop production from 30,569,894 tons in 2020/2021 to 36,409,695 in 2022/2023.

Research shows that the use of fertilizer can contribute to 20 to 40 percent of crop production, while the remaining percentage can be attributed to the use of quality seeds, extension services and adherence to modern crop husbandry practices.

Bolle says under the on-going fertiliser subsidy programme in the 2023/2024 farming season, use of fertiliser had reached 490,858 tonnes by January 31 this year.



Fertiliser plays a crucial role in crop production by providing essential nutrients for plant growth and increasing agricultural productivity.

## FERTILISER MARKET

"There's huge local and foreign market taking into consideration the huge demand for different types of fertilizers which largely depends on imports," says Kasera, adding "the geographical location of Tanzania presents an opportunity for investment in the fertilizer industry as there is access to markets through regional trade unions such as the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Development Community (SADC)."

"This presents a window of opportunity to invest in the fertilizer manufacturing to exploit the untapped potential," he explains.

Other attractions for the fertiliser trade lie in the massive investment in the road infrastructure and the modernisation of the railway such as the ongoing construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and the country's major ports and airports.

All these will make local transportation fast, easy and cheap and, hence, create an opportunity for the growth of the fertilizer industry in moving both raw materials and fertilizers from the point of entry or manufacturing to the point of destination or consumption.

In the East African region, Tanzania also boasts of abundant raw materials for fertilizer manufacturing such as phosphates, natural gas, coal, limestone and others which are found in different parts of the country.

For instance, Kasera says there are 57 trillion cubic feet of natural gas that bring an opportunity for investment in domestic manufacturing of fertilizer, leave alone the presence of power generation from such hydro-electric plants as Mtera, Mwalimu Nyerere and Kihansi.

Besides fertilizer manufacturing, Tanzania has ample investment opportunities in packaging, packaging materials and related services, transportation, storage facilities, presence of financial institutions to provide loans for capital investment to potential investors.

There is also a readily availability of both skilled and unskilled workforce in the entire fertilizer value chain and a potential for regional fertiliser Bulk Procurement, just to name a few advantages.



## REQUEST FOR TENDER

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### Catering and Cleaning at North Mara Gold Mine Tender Ref: NM008/2024

#### Pre-qualification Criteria

No	Reference no.	Description of work	Pre-qualification Criteria
1	NM008/2024	Catering and Cleaning for onsite people and premises including laundry at North Mara	i. At least one current catering contract active and cater more than 200 people per meal per day. ii. Active relevant ISO certification iii. Proven Company Catering experience on similar environment - copy of previous similar Purchase orders, or agreement, or contract – more than 3 years. iv. Proven Company House Keeping experience on similar environment - copy of previous similar Purchase orders, or agreement, or contracts. v. Local Content Regulations Compliance vi. Applicant should submit Adequate Policies and Procedures Statutory Compliance (TFDA, NSSF contributions, Tax Clearance, WCF, OSHA, Business licenses, safety and environmental management) vii. Applicant should submit Community social Responsibility Plan to be proof of past CSR contributions if any.

#### Expression of Interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to [nm.proposal@barrick.com](mailto:nm.proposal@barrick.com)

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#### Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI

15th March 2024

North Mara Gold Mine Limited









# Agribusinesses shun loans over high borrowing costs

By Mnaku Mbani

**M**OST of agribusinesses opted to secure funding from friends, families and their own savings to run businesses than commercial banks and financial institutions over the last three years, due to exorbitant costs of borrowing.

This was revealed by the 3rd edition of the 'African Agribusiness Outlook Report' which sheds light on the impact of the "Triple Crisis" - Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict - on small and medium-sized agribusinesses in Tanzania, Nigeria and Zambia.

The report, which is jointly produced by AGRA and IPSOS, surveyed 1,623 small and agribusinesses in the rice, maize and tomato value chains in Tanzania, Nigeria and Zambia, and the soybean, maize and tomato value chains in Zambia.

The study which examined the impact of various measures taken to support SMEs' performance during the triple crisis reveals that a substantial proportion of agribusinesses experienced severe declines in revenue during the period, with only some managing to recover.

The report therefore recommends the adoption of policies that encourage the development

of financial products specifically tailored to the agricultural sector and improving financial policies to enhance access to affordable credit.

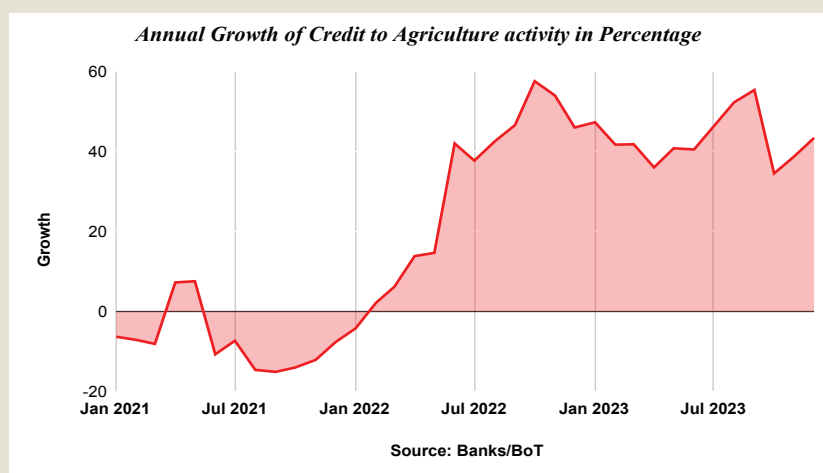
"While loan uptake grew over the past few years, only a minority of SMEs took out loans to cope with the crisis, citing perceived affordability as a barrier," says the report.

Currently, the highest loan uptake by businesses is Zambia (15 per cent) followed by Nigeria (12 per cent) and Tanzania being in bottom with 10 per cent.

Affordable credits was seen as a major strategy that agribusinesses used to survive, and it continues to be core to business operation with less than 15 percent taking on commercial credit finance over the last 3 years due to the cost of credit.

The report calls for more collaboration between policymakers, financial institutions, and development organizations to provide supportive ecosystems that empower the Agribusinesses and respond to their three top asks: access to affordable finance, fostering a business-enabling environment, particularly with stable and predictable policies and supporting an effective regional trade system.

The strongest call from agribusiness continues to be access



to credits, in particular the cost of the finance.

"There has been progress made in improving access to finance through several blended facilities and capacity building of businesses to improve the bankability of agribusinesses, the report says.

"But agribusinesses opted not to access the finance due to its high cost unless there are incentives discounting the strategic minimum reserve requirements of commercial banks that are lending to the sector to drive higher uptake, an example from Tanzania."

However, the report recommends a specialized financial products developed by the government of Tanzania resulted in an interest rate drop from around 20 percent to 9 percent as well as the Bank of Zambia's facility to prompt agribusiness loan relief

during Covid 19.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) reports show that the growth of credits to agriculture sector jumped to 43.5 percent at the end of 2023, from the contraction of 5 percent recorded during the end of 2020.

However, during the end of 2019, the annual growth was as high as 91 percent.

In terms of share of credit, the central bank reports show it reached at 10.2 percent during the end of 2023, an increase from 8.7 percent during the end of 2020.

To compliment agricultural financing ecosystem in Tanzania, the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB), specific lender, has also launched its Five-Year Mid - Term Strategic Plan (2023-2027) along with new financial products to improve agriculture lending.

Further, the AGRA report went on saying while supply, demand, and operational costs were significant challenges during the peak of the Covid -19 pandemic, businesses continue to grapple with soaring operational expenses in the wake of climate-related impacts and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

The report discloses that 58 percent of SMEs surveyed have experienced substantial revenue declines of 20 percent or more throughout the "triple crisis" period.

Furthermore, the report reveals some of the strategies employed by businesses to stay afloat during these challenging times including injecting additional capital, cost reduction measures, and streamlining their product lines.

Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President of AGRA, noted that Agribusinesses have exhibited remarkable adaptability, innovation, and determination, on the one hand, but continue to struggle amidst business disruptions through lockdowns, supply chain disruptions, productivity decreases and reduced consumer demand.

Dr. Kalibata remarked, "We are all aware of the challenges they are facing, however not much has been done to look at the cumulative impact of the triple crisis and the specifics of severity that the agribusinesses are grappling with. As we reflect on the impact of the triple crisis on Agribusinesses in Africa, we must also recog-

nize the incredible potential these enterprises possess."

She noted that as drivers of farmer resilience, job creation, economic development, and poverty alleviation, African Agribusinesses hold the promise of fostering greater social inclusion and reducing inequality across the continent.

"There is an urgent need for measures to effectively address and alleviate the impacts of these crisis on the sector that serves as the primary employer, engaging over 70 percent of Africa's population in economic activities and contributing more than 30 percent to the continent's economies," Dr Kalibata emphasized.

The report calls for more collaboration between policymakers, financial institutions, and development organizations to provide supportive ecosystems that empower the Agribusinesses and respond to their three top asks: access to affordable finance, fostering a business-enabling environment, particularly with stable and predictable policies and supporting an effective regional trade system.

# GBT urges amendment to protect coin quality

By Francis Kajubi

THE Gaming Board of Tanzania (GBT), underscores that if there exists a necessity to curb the utilization of 200/- coin denomination as tokens in gaming slot machines, then a compelling case for amending the Gaming Act 2003 emerges, given that the current legislation condones this practice.

The decision arrives amidst a wave of public concern regarding the coin's quality, with some advocating for protective measures such as banning its use in gaming machines, currently, gambling laws permit the insertion of coins as tokens in slot machines.

The matter has been subject to ongoing discussions with the central bank (BoT), since early 2022 in search of a lasting resolution, with GBT now taking a definitive stance.

GBT's director general James Mbalwe, acknowledged the issue to The Guardian on Monday, indicating potential amendments to the law as a means of addressing it.

Mbalwe disclosed that in January of this year, the board convened with the Bank of Tanzania's (BoT) coins department, proposing either an enhancement in the quality of the 200/- coin or an amendment to the law to disallow its use in gambling.

The integration of the coin into gambling slot machines has resulted in a dual impact, deteriorating the coin's quality and drawing opposition from certain consumers, leading to a shortage in market supply, as reported by BoT.

The reporter uncovered that according to Section 53 (4) (a) of the Gaming Act, 2003, gambling machine owners are granted the right to utilize coins in gambling activities. However, Section 73 (2) (a) outlines conditions and penalties for violations of this granted right.

"Coins have been a staple in gambling for the past decade. The demand for the 200/- denomination has steadily increased over the years, leading to a noticeable scarcity in circulation," remarked Mbalwe.

When questioned about the Bank of Tanzania's stance on the matter, Ilulu Said, the manager of BoT's currency department, hesitated to provide a comment, stating, "The issue falls outside my jurisdiction. I am not authorized to speak on behalf of the central bank. I recommend directing your inquiry to the governor himself."

In response, Emmanuel Tutuba, the Governor of the Bank of Tanzania, acknowledged that gambling slot machines have been accelerating the deterioration of coins through friction, consequently contributing to a shortage in the market supply.

"We are currently deliberating on the matter, and when the time is right, we will make our stance known. We are yet to determine whether to amend the law or enhance the quality of the coins. This decision hinges on consultations with various stakeholders in the financial sector," stated Tutuba.

He highlighted that the shortage of coins has become a concern for consumers who rely on them for change.



**James Mbalwe, director general of the Gaming Board of Tanzania, showcases the trophy awarded for responsible gaming regulation at the 2023 Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo: File**

Tutuba noted that since the notice was issued in December last year, individuals have been returning the coins they had hoarded at home.

"We, for example, received coins worth 400,000/- from one citizen who heeded our notice. Many people have been holding onto significant amounts of coins for various purposes, such as giving them to their children for school expenses and church offerings," Tutuba explained.

He emphasized that residents of Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Arusha, and Dodoma regions have been at the forefront of returning coins at BoT branches.

However, during a meeting with business editors organized by the BoT on January 09 of this year, Said highlighted the detrimental impact of using the 200/- coin denomination in gambling, which has consistently led to scarcity in circulation.

Said pointed out that gambling machines are exacerbating the deterioration of coins, particularly the 200/- denomination, by damaging the tail and head images, resulting in rejection by some consumers and affecting its circulation in the market.

Said was of the view that the use of coins in gambling machines instead of tokens is quickening its dilapidation contrary to the central bank's recommended period of 30 years on market circulation.

He noted that coins used in gambling machines struggle to maintain their quality beyond five years.

"We have observed that gambling is primarily responsible for the short lifespan of coins in circulation, as the images on their tails and heads quickly fade away, leading to rejection by a majority of consumers," stated Said.

He further explained that a single gaming machine can accommodate up to 100,000 coins of 200/- denomination at once.

Said proposed that moving forward, it would be beneficial for the business community in the gambling sector to transition to digital platforms that eliminate the need for physical coins.

In a recent interview, Mbalwe disclosed that gambling activities had generated estimated annual revenue of 170 billion/- as of October 2023. He highlighted the significant growth in gambling tax revenues, which increased from 2.8 billion/- in 2006/7 to 170.4 billion/- in 2022/23. Additionally, employment opportunities in the sector surged from 600 to 25,000 during the same period.

"Investments in the gambling sector by licensed companies rose to 91 last month, from nine companies in 2003. Furthermore, the variety of gambling games expanded from three to seven. The initial capital for local investor is \$300,000 while foreigners would need to have \$500,000," Mbalwe added.

BoT introduced the 200/- coin denomination into the market circulation in 1998. However, the 100/- coin denomination was introduced in 1994, followed by the 50/- coin denomination in 1996.

# US dollar's strength to persist as markets eye cautious Fed

Bengaluru

A strong US dollar will maintain the status quo in the near term, as markets brace for a risk the Federal Reserve's first interest rate cut gets delayed to the second half of this year, according to a Reuters poll of foreign exchange strategists.

Shrugging off a weakening trend late last year, the dollar has gained against nearly every currency tracked by traders and investors, and is up nearly 2.5 percent for the year.

Much of the greenback's recent strength is based on stronger-than-expected U.S. economic performance and receding calls for early Fed rate cuts. The timing of the latter is likely to have a bigger say on the currency's moves in the near

term.

"Over the next three months, I think we're probably going to see the dollar hold in the ranges we've been seeing since the start of the year," said Shaun Osborne, chief currency strategist at Scotiabank.

"If we're in a situation where instead of the soft landing, it's a no-landing scenario, that potentially reduces rate cut opportunities for the Fed quite significantly over the balance of this year, in which case the dollar probably stays relatively strong."

Despite trader positioning data showing speculators increasing their net long dollar bets to the highest since last November, analysts in a Reuters March 1-6 poll were somewhat divided on how positioning will look over the next



**Poll indicates temporary persistence of US dollar strength. Photo: File**

three months.

Among 66 analysts who answered an additional question, a slim majority of 35 expected not

much change, while 17 predicted a decrease in net longs. Eleven said an increase in net longs and only three said a reversal to net shorts.

"One thing that's happened this year is investors have had a hard time playing with the dollar and they're looking for trades that...take the dollar out of it. I think that's the way it will continue to lean," said Dan Tobon, head of GIO FX strategy at Citi.

"Over the coming three months, we'll have a marginally weaker dollar, but not get the type of flows that really create stretched positioning situations off the back of that."

While currency strategists still expected the greenback to weaken against most major currencies over a 12-month period, median forecasts showed no big change to analysts' predictions from a February poll.

The euro, down around 1.5% for the year, was forecast to gain 3.0

percent to trade around \$1.12 in a year. The common currency was last changing hands around \$1.09 on Wednesday.

Even the battered Japanese yen, which has lost nearly a third of its value since 2021, was expected to gain over 9.0 percent in 12 months to trade at 137.00/dollar.

After failing to make any headway against the greenback in 2023, the Aussie and Kiwi dollars were predicted to gain around 7.3 percent and 5.0 percent respectively, recouping their 2024 losses and trading higher against the U.S. dollar in coming months.

The Australian dollar and the New Zealand dollars - last trading around \$0.65 and \$0.61, respectively, on Wednesday - were forecast to rise to \$0.70 and \$0.64 by end-Feb.



# Tanzania's credit bureau sector faces challenges amid strides forward

By Guardian Reporter

**D**ESPITE strides forward, Tanzania's credit bureau sector grapples with formidable challenges, chief among them the pervasive issue of limited credit information coverage, particularly in rural locales.

In addition, the high cost of credit reporting and the lack of awareness among consumers about the benefits of credit bureaus pose challenges to their widespread adoption.

In an exclusive interview with The Guardian, Dr. Mwanaidi Jumaa, an independent banking consultant, highlighted the persistent nature of such obstacle, noting its hindrance to the overarching goal of expanding credit access nationwide.

However, Dr. Mwanaidi acknowledged significant advancements in data infrastructure, technological innovation, and regulatory reforms.

Moreover, she underscored that challenges still persist in ensuring widespread access to credit and safeguarding consumer rights.

"By addressing these challenges and seizing opportunities for collaboration and innovation, Tanzania's credit bureau sector can continue to wield its pivotal role in fostering financial inclusion, fueling economic growth, and empowering individuals and businesses across the nation," she affirmed.

She emphasized the importance of partnerships between credit bureaus, financial institutions, and government agencies in bridging data coverage gaps and advancing financial literacy among consumers.

Furthermore, she highlighted the potential of leveraging emerging technologies such as blockchain and artificial intelligence to bolster the efficiency and efficacy of credit bureau operations, thereby driving greater financial inclusion.

Dr. Adolph Joel, a banker, proposed several measures, including conducting financial literacy workshops and seminars in rural areas, as well as forging partnerships with Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) that possess a strong presence in these regions.



"Credit bureaus must prioritize strict adherence to regulatory guidelines and best practices to uphold trust and credibility within the financial ecosystem," he emphasized.

He added, "Furthermore, proactive engagement with regulatory authorities is essential to stay abreast of evolving regulations and standards. Implementing robust compliance frameworks is crucial to safeguard consumer rights and uphold data privacy."

Jumanne Mashauri, a local trader,

shared insights with this reporter, acknowledging the challenges faced.

However, he highlighted that the introduction of the system has unlocked opportunities for individuals and businesses to more fully engage in the formal economy and pursue their aspirations for a better future.

Expressing satisfaction with the system, Mashauri remarked, "Access to credit is being democratized, financial inclusion is being championed, and risk management

and market efficiency are reaching new heights."

The trader highlighted how, prior to the introduction of the credit bureau system, lenders heavily relied on collateral and personal connections to assess loan applications. This often led to the exclusion of individuals and businesses lacking substantial assets or influential connections.

"However," he noted, "with the advent of credit bureaus, lenders now have access to comprehensive credit reports and scores. This enables them to evaluate creditworthiness based on historical borrowing behavior rather than solely relying on collateral."

He emphasized that this shift has democratized access to credit, empowering a broader spectrum of individuals and businesses to secure financing for various purposes, ranging from launching small enterprises to funding substantial investments across sectors.

"By furnishing lenders with accurate and dependable credit information," he explained, "credit bureaus play a crucial role in miti-

gating risks associated with lending to underserved populations, including low-income earners and rural residents."

"As a result," he emphasized, "financial institutions are now more inclined to extend credit to segments of society that were previously excluded. This broadens the accessibility of formal financial services and diminishes reliance on informal and often exploitative lending channels."

Mashauri asserted that this heightened access to credit not only empowers individuals and businesses to pursue their financial objectives but also fuels economic development and diminishes poverty by facilitating productive investments and entrepreneurship.

As of 2024, Tanzania is served by two primary credit bureaus, including Dun & Bradstreet Tanzania and Creditinfo Tanzania.

The duo gathers and manage credit information on individuals and businesses, equipping lenders with valuable insights to assess creditworthiness and make well-informed lending decisions.

# Investors in China sticking to bargains as fiscal bazooka now proves elusive

SINGAPORE

Foreign investors returning to China's recuperating stock markets say spending plans announced on Tuesday are not enough to turn battered sentiment around, and the main reason to keep buying shares for now is because they are cheap.

Money managers hunting for bargains have been trickling back into mainland stocks since February, after China replaced its stock market regulator and tightened rules around speculation, leading to a sharp but fragile recovery in the market.

Few had held out hopes the National People's Congress (NPC), China's rubber-stamp parliament, would unleash a torrent of cash big enough to buoy markets and the mood right away.

But those expecting solid spending plans to reach a growth target of 5% were disappointed as authorities stuck to a familiar script about managing risks in the property sector and municipal debt and spurring "worry-free consumption".

China plans to run a budget deficit of 3 percent of economic output, down from a revised 3.8 percent last year, belying the fiscal shot-in-the-arm some had hoped for to fuel a recovery.

"Investors need to see policies that could improve governance and final demand, but neither seem to be on offer so far at the NPC," Ken Peng, head of investment strategy in Asia at Citi Global Wealth, said in an email to Reuters.

Mainland equities were steady on Tuesday, helped by signs of state-backed buying, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 2.6 percent. The yuan held its ground.

Mainland China stockmarkets lost about \$2 trillion in market value in the year to Jan. 31, with foreign investors' net selling of 112 billion yuan (\$15.6 billion) over the period drawing down exposures of global money managers to the lowest levels for years.

They have since bought stocks worth 48.3 billion yuan and China's blue-chip CSI300 Index has bounced nearly 15 percent off the five-year lows it hit last month.

But where global investors were once happy to park slabs of their portfolios in China for the long term, many are running smaller and nimbler "tactical" books offering exposure to short-term bounces while holding back on larger strategic stakes.

"There is a degree of anticipation as to when all of these collective measures will start making a lot of sense and moving markets and moving asset prices," said Niraj Athavle, J.P. Morgan's head of sales and marketing in Singapore.

"I wish I could tell you what exactly would be the single point that triggers it ... but I don't think any such trigger exists."

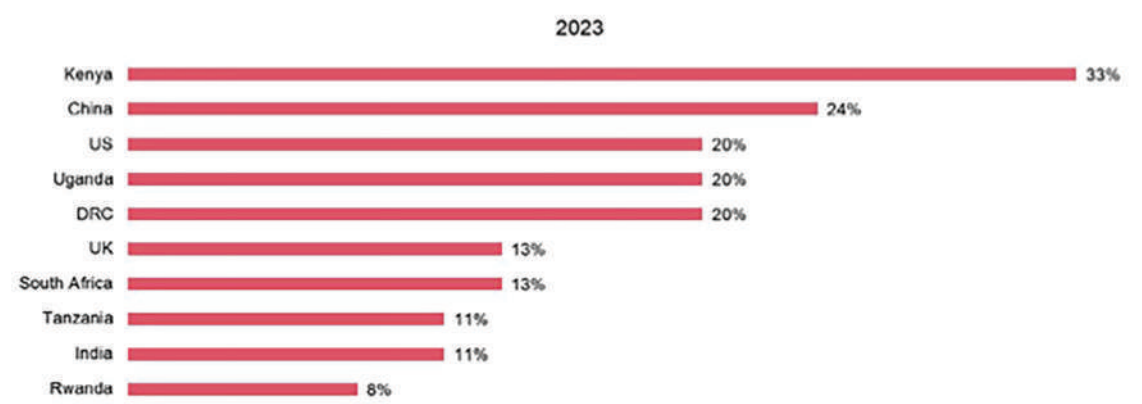
Investors, both foreign and domestic, are being selective buying stocks but only in sectors such as electric vehicles and technology, says Winnie Chiu, senior director and investment adviser at Indosuez Wealth Management.

These sectors lie at the heart of China's quest for self-sufficiency.

Mainland markets are also cheap. The 12-month forward price-to-earnings ratio, a widely used valuation measure, is just around 10 for the CSI 300, half the levels for S&P 500 and Japan's Nikkei.

BANKING & FINANCE

**Q: How do you believe economic growth (i.e., gross domestic product) will change, if at all, over the next 12 months in your territory?**



PwC East Africa CEO Survey

## 'CEOs reluctant to change business models despite economic challenges'

NAIROBI

EAST African CEOs express confidence in their current business models' resilience to endure economic challenges and remain viable for the next decade, as per the PwC East African CEOs survey.

The CEOs indicated that their revenues increased by 19 per cent, along with an 18 per cent boost in profit margins.

They also said their return on assets or return on equity rose by a notable 14 per cent. Over half (53 per cent) of CEOs reported a significant market share increase of 5 per cent or more over the past three years.

When asked about prospects for growth in external markets, Kenya (26 per cent) and China (21 per cent) continue to top the list as the most favourable countries for CEOs' companies' revenue growth prospects over

the next 12 months.

They also identified neighbouring countries that are members of the East African Community (EAC) as territories for future revenue growth.

Intra-EAC trade reached US\$10 billion in September 2022, up from US\$7.1 billion in 2019. The regional bloc aims to increase intra-EAC trade from 20 per cent to 40 per cent over the next five years, which could unlock future revenue growth opportunities.

According to Africa's Macroeconomic Performance and Outlook - January 2024, growth in East Africa (2024: 5.1 per cent; 2025: 5.7 per cent) will be aided by deeper regional integration alongside strategic public spending to improve infrastructure investment, ongoing efforts to modernise agricultural production systems and boost productivity in the services sector.

Medium-term Challenges 45 per cent of respondents identified the regulatory environment as a significant obstacle, indicating the potential impact of compliance requirements on operational flexibility.

Limited financial resources also pose a constraint, with 35 per cent of CEOs citing financial constraints as inhibiting factors. Additionally, concerns were raised about the lack of skills within the company's workforce (29 per cent) and competing operational priorities (26 per cent).

Infrastructure challenges (24 per cent) and a shortage of technological capabilities (23 per cent) added further pressure on operations. Supply chain instability (22 per cent) and bureaucratic processes within the company (14 per cent) were also cited as barriers to value creation.

Agencies

# Officials grapple with AI chip subsidies amidst challenges



**US plans to allocate nearly \$30 billion in subsidies to advance semiconductor manufacturing. Photo: IM Imagery/Shutterstock via The Conversation**

San Francisco

US officials have earmarked close to \$30 billion in subsidies for advanced semiconductor manufacturing, aiming to bring cutting-edge artificial-intelligence chip development and manufacturing to American soil.

But with money set to start flowing in the next few weeks, accomplishing that goal is far from certain, industry experts say. The Biden administration must weigh how much taxpayer money to allocate among Taiwan Semiconductor

Manufacturing, a powerful foreign leader, and Intel, a beleaguered homegrown company whose turnaround efforts remain promising but untested.

Betting on AI chips is also challenging in the rapidly evolving industry. Handing out subsidies today to the likes of Intel, TSMC or Samsung Electronics, which is also vying for federal dollars and is the only other firm in the world that can make advanced chips, does not guarantee security in the AI landscape of the future.

"AI itself is moving so quickly, if

you focus on today's AI chips, maybe two years from now it's a whole different thing," said Jay Goldberg, chief executive of D2D Advisory, a finance and strategy consulting firm. "As opposed to the (general) road map of advanced chipmaking which we know pretty clearly for the next decade."

The money will come from the U.S. CHIPS Act, which passed in 2022. Intel, TSMC and Samsung are all building factories in the U.S. and are all likely to receive some degree of U.S. subsidies. The main question is how U.S. officials allocate the

money to meet the goal of bolstering AI chip production.

"We don't manufacture or package any of the leading-edge AI chips needed to fuel the innovation ecosystem and power our most critical defense systems," U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said in a speech last month. "We cannot build the next generation of technological leadership on such a shaky foundation."

The Commerce Department declined to comment.

TSMC, the global leader in making AI chips, has yet to commit to

bringing its most advanced technology to the United States.

At the moment, TSMC manufactures chips for Nvidia, Advanced Micro Devices, Microsoft and Alphabet's Google in Taiwan. The company is not expected to bring its advanced 3-nanometer manufacturing, which is already used to make iPhone 15 Pro chips, to Arizona until at 2027 or 2028, despite starting mass production in Taiwan last year. It has not disclosed any plans to bring 2-nanometer technology, which will start production next year in Taiwan, to the U.S.



# KBA: Mobile banking tops other channels

**NAIROBI**

Mobile banking has edged out other channels in access to banking services, with banks recording fewer customers physically seeking services.

Kenya Bankers Association (KBA) says the banked population prefer digital channels, with mobile banking being the most sought-after channel among customers.

Internet banking is the second most preferred channel at 24.6 per cent, a slight uptick compared to the 23.3 per cent preference in 2022.

The umbrella body further noted that bank customers least prefer the cash deposit machines in what is perhaps attributed to their limited penetration.

"Due to higher digital adoption, customers are visiting branches less with its preference coming third at 19.6 per cent, compared to 17.6 per cent in 2022. Preference for ATM stood at 17.7 per cent," said KBA in its Banking Industry Customer Satisfaction Survey (2023).

As banks pursue digital adoption (mobile banking) to improve efficiency and customer experience, they must navigate evolving customer preferences to different channels for different needs.



Kenya Bankers Association CEO Habil Olaka, reveals survey results showing mobile banking's dominance over other channels. Photo: File

Short of implementing every possible support channel, banks typically have to prioritise which channels they can offer, as customers service channel preference have to be informed by the unique characteristics of their specific customers, which requires data-driven decisions about which channels to support.

The 2023 survey notes that more than a half of bank customers maintained more than one bank account last year, in a trend that highlights a growing

desire for customized convenience in services and products among bank customers.

The level of bank clients with two bank accounts stood at 53 percent, with the proportion of holders of 2 to 3 and 4 to 5 bank accounts representing 8.2 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively.

Kenya Bankers Association Chief Executive Officer Habil Olaka said the growing trend in multi-banking underscored increasing competition among

players in the banking sector

in product offerings as well as in customer experience.

The survey findings place the access rate to banking services by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) at 88 percent. However, 6.5 percent of PWDs still require a third party to access services, denying the banking population an opportunity to manage their finances independently and equally participate in the economy.

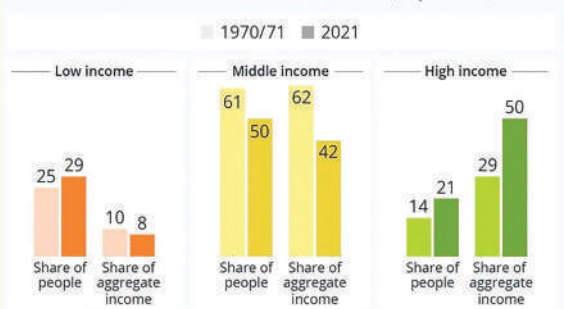
Olaka noted that efforts are underway to address the challenge under the banking

industry Persons with Disability Accessibility project. Coordinated by KBA, the project seeks to enable banks to put measures in place that will ensure full and independent access to banking services.

The Kenya Bankers Association conducts the banking industry customer satisfaction survey (BICSS) annually. The survey seeks to contribute to the banking industry's efforts towards enhancing quality of customers experience.

## How America's Middle Class Is Shrinking

Share of people and aggregate income associated with U.S. income classes in 1970/71 and 2021 (in percent)



Middle income is defined as an annual household income between two thirds and double the national median income. Source: Pew Research Center.

Forbes statista

# Investment strategist warns middle class decline, American dream fading

**New York**

IN a recent segment on Fox News's 'The big money show,' investment strategist Luke Lloyd issued a stark warning about the erosion of the American dream, attributing the decline to the current economic policies and advocating for increased taxation on the wealthy and corporations.

Lloyd's insights highlight a growing concern among Americans about the viability of achieving financial freedom and stability in today's economic climate.

Lloyd emphasized the widening gap between the economic classes in the United States, noting, "You don't have to be a rocket scientist or a stock analyst to realize everyone who doesn't own millions in stock in the stock market is getting left behind and the middle class is on a sinking ship while the top couple percent are on rocket ships going to the moon."

This metaphor captures the escalating disparity and the diminishing middle class's struggle to keep pace with the affluent.

Reflecting on his upbringing in a small town in Ohio, Lloyd reminisced about a time when earning \$100,000 per year was considered a significant achievement, sufficient for a comfortable lifestyle and potentially owning a home. However, the current reality greatly contrasts this once-attainable dream, with a \$100,000 salary now barely covering the essentials in many parts of the country.

The American dream of living freely, once a cornerstone of national identity, appears to be "dying," with almost 70 percent of Gen Z doubtful about their ability to retire, and approximately 40 percent of Americans burdened with more credit card debt than emergency savings.

The discussion then shifted to the Federal Reserve's role in this economic environment, with the host suggesting that the Fed might prefer a scenario where job losses occur to slow the economy. This perspective introduces a complex debate about the Federal Reserve's monetary policies and their impact on everyday Americans.

Lloyd also critiqued the current administration's economic policies, dubbed Bidenomics, challenging the notion that these policies are fostering a healthy stock market and economic stability.

# BoU raises interest rates by 0.5 pc to stem shilling's slide

**Kampala**

THE Bank of Uganda (BoU) raised its key interest rate at an emergency meeting on Wednesday to stem a "sharp depreciation" of the shilling caused by offshore investor outflows and in the wake of resurgent inflation.

The bank raised the rate to 10 per cent from 9.5 per cent, citing the "unfolding of some of the risks mentioned in the monetary policy statement of February 2024, which includes the depreciation of the shilling exchange rate." The shilling fell to a record low last month, trading at 3,957.50 against the dollar on 26 February, according to Bloomberg.

The shilling rallied in anticipation of the decision, rising the most in seven months, according to Bloomberg. It rose 0.8 per cent against the dollar to as high as 3,884.63, its biggest one-day jump since August 25. By midday, it was trading at 3,888.88/3,898.88 against the dollar, after opening at 3,909.96/3,919.96, according to

central bank data.

"The exchange rate depreciation since November 2023, with sharp depreciation in February 2024, was in part caused by the outflow of some offshore investor funds from the domestic market pursuing more attractive yields available in other markets, strong domestic demand partly as a hedging mechanism against further depreciation, and seasonal factors," the bank said in its statement explaining the decision.

It also pointed to the recent rise in inflation, with both the headline and core rates rising to 3.4 per cent in February from 2.8 percent and 2.4 percent respectively in the previous month.

The bank said that although the rise in core consumer prices was largely due to an increase in services costs and energy prices, it could still combine with the weakening shilling to cause a general increase in consumer prices if not contained.



Bank of Uganda headquarters. Photo: File

Agencies

# India gets its first underwater metro

**BOMBAY**

Prime minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated India's first underwater metro rail tunnel, nearly four decades after metro services began in the country.

The underwater metro tunnel would connect twin cities Kolkata and Howrah, divided by the Hooghly river in India's eastern state of West Bengal. Kolkata, in 1984, became the first city in India to have its operational metro service.

The train is expected to cover a 520-metre river stretch in just 45 seconds to make commuting easier for passengers travelling from both cities.

Metro rail services are now available in 15 cities across the country, with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation covering an extensive 393km



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, took his first underwater metro ride in West Bengal, accompanied by school students. Photo: Courtesy of the Prime Minister's Office.

across the national capital region. In Delhi, elevated metro sections have been constructed over the Yamuna river, which could not have

been possible in Kolkata due to lack of space.

"The underwater subway was a safer and more cost-effective op-

tion for the railways compared to building an elevated portion," Kausik Mitra, the chief public relations officer of the Eastern Railways,

told The Independent.

"The underwater metro rail service would be opened to the public shortly," he added.

The 4.8km stretch of the East-West Metro in West Bengal has been built at a cost of Rs 49.65bn (£470m), according to an official release. The deepest metro station would be at Howrah - 30m below the ground level.

The railways have constructed walkways on both sides of the tunnel, which are connected to ventilation shafts every 25 metres, Mitra said. During an emergency, the passengers can be evacuated through these shafts.

Premier Modi took the first underwater metro ride joined by several school students on Wednesday as he arrived in West Bengal to campaign for the upcoming general elections.

A video from inside the rail coach

showed Modi interacting with the school children seated next to him. "This will speed up the communication system and reduce traffic congestion," Modi said, calling it a "proud moment" for the country.

He subsequently shared numerous photos on his official X account, recounting, "The Metro tour left a lasting impression on all involved in the project and the delightful company of these young individuals. We even ventured through the tunnel beneath the river Hooghly.

Rail authorities have installed special illumination of the inner walls of the tunnels with blue lights to provide a feeling of being underwater.

The Kolkata metro ran a train successfully through the tunnel beneath the river in April 2023. Construction for the project began in 2017.



## WORLD

# Trump, Biden dominate Super Tuesday races, closer to rematch

HUNTINGTON BEACH, California/PALM BEACH, Florida

PRESIDENT Joe Biden and former president Donald Trump swept to victory in statewide nominating contests across the country on Tuesday, setting up a historic rematch in November's general election despite low approval ratings for both candidates.

Trump won the Republican votes in a dozen states - including delegate-rich California and Texas - brushing aside former UN ambassador Nikki Haley, his lone remaining rival, who no longer has a viable path to the nomination. Her only win of the night thus far came in Vermont, Edison Research projected.

After a commanding performance across 15 states where more than one-third of Republican delegates were up for grabs on Super Tuesday, Trump had all but clinched his third consecutive presidential nomination, despite facing a litany of criminal charges.

Trump and Biden trained their focus on each other as the results became clear. In a victory speech delivered at his Mar-A-Lago estate in Florida, Trump focused on Biden's immigration policies and called him the "worst president" in history.

"Our cities are being overrun with migrant crime," he said, though crime data does not support that assertion.

In a statement, Biden again cast Trump as a threat to American democracy.

"Tonight's results leave the American people with a clear choice: Are we going to keep moving forward or will we allow Donald Trump to drag us backwards into the chaos, division, and darkness that defined his term in office?" Biden said.

Biden had been expected to sail through the Democratic contests, though a protest vote in Minnesota organized by activists opposed to his forceful support of Israel attracted unexpectedly strong results.

The "uncommitted" vote in Minnesota stood at nearly 20 percent with more than half the estimated vote counted, according to Edison, higher even than the 13 percent that a similar effort in Michigan drew last week. Biden nevertheless won Minnesota and 14 other states, including a mail-in vote in Iowa that ended on Tuesday.

He did suffer one loss, in the US territory of American Samoa's caucus, where entrepreneur Jason Palmer won 51 votes to Biden's 40, according to the American Samoa Democratic Party.

Another campaign between Trump, 77, and Biden, 81 - the first repeat US presidential matchup since 1956 - is one few Americans seem to want. Opinion polls show both Biden and Trump have low approval ratings among voters.

Immigration and the economy were leading concerns for Republican voters, Edison exit polls in California, North Carolina and Virginia showed.

A majority of Republican voters in those states said they backed deporting illegal

immigrants. Trump, who frequently denigrates migrants, has promised to mount the largest deportation effort in US history if elected.

Katherine Meredith, a 65-year-old homemaker, voted for Trump in California's Huntington Beach.

"The border is a complete catastrophe," she said.

Tuesday's results will only intensify the pressure on Haley to drop out of the race. She did not make a public appearance on Tuesday, and her campaign has not scheduled any events going forward.

In a statement, her spokesperson said the vote showed "there remains a large block of Republican primary voters who are expressing deep concerns about Donald Trump."

**Biden, Trump both show weaknesses**

Voters were also casting ballots in down-ticket races.

In California, Democratic US Representative Adam Schiff, the lead prosecutor in Trump's first impeachment trial, advanced to the general election to succeed the late Democratic US Senator Dianne Feinstein. His opponent will be former baseball player Steve Garvey,

a Republican who finished ahead of Democratic US Representative Katie Porter.

California's electoral system, in which the top two candidates advance regardless of party, prompted Schiff's campaign to employ an unusual strategy: he ran advertisements designed to boost Garvey among Republican voters, figuring that Garvey would likely be a weaker opponent in November than Porter would be in the Democratic-leaning state.

In North Carolina, Trump-endorsed Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson won the Republican nomination for governor. Robinson, who would be the state's first Black executive, has drawn criticism for harsh comments about LGBTQ people, women and Muslims.

He will face Democratic Attorney General Josh Stein in what will be one of the most hotly contested governor races in the country.

Pop megastar Taylor Swift encouraged her fans to vote in a post on Instagram, though she did not endorse specific candidates. Biden's campaign is hopeful Swift will eventually back his candidacy, as she did in 2020.



President Joe Biden speaks during a meeting of his Competition Council to announce new actions to lower costs for families in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, on March 5, 2024. (PHOTO / AP)

## Lavrov to discuss trade ties, handling of crises with Nigerian colleague

MOSCOW

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will hold talks in Moscow with his Nigerian counterpart Yusuf Tuggar who is paying a working visit to the Russian capital from March 5 to 7.



The Russian Foreign Ministry's spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a briefing earlier that it is planned that the two officials will review a wide range of pressing issues of the Russian-Nigerian relations and discuss the possible ways of bolstering bilateral interaction, including activating political dialogue and expanding trade, economic and humanitarian ties.

Moscow expects Tuggar's visit to facilitate an increase in mutually beneficial cooperation between Moscow and Abuja in various areas, the Russian foreign ministry stressed.

The sides will also exchange detailed opinions on the international and regional agenda with an emphasis on settling crisis situations on the African continent and especially in the Sahara-Sahel region, the ministry said. Lavrov stressed earlier that Russia was ready to continue providing help to countries in the Sahara-Sahel zone for handling the existing regional issues.

Moreover, Moscow together with African countries is developing the possibility of holding a meeting of heads of foreign ministries in the Russia-Africa format this fall. The issue of the upcoming third Russia-Africa summit that is to take place in one of African countries in 2026, will most probably be discussed at the meeting on Wednesday.

Agencies

## INDI Alliance leaders tense sensing the return of NDA govt, says PM Modi

BARASAT

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday asserted that the leaders of the INDI alliance are tense after sensing the return of the NDA to power.

Addressing the women's rally in Barasat, North 24 Parganas district, PM Modi said that the leaders of the INDI alliance have started hurling abuses at him now.

"The leaders of the INDI alliance have gone crazy as the NDA is certain to return to power. They have started hurling abuses at me now. They are asking about my family. They're saying I talk against 'Parivarvad' because I don't have any family. These people want to know about my family. I want these 'Parivarvadis' to witness our gathering and understand that all the people present here are my family," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister further said that Bharat's Nari Shakti has become a shield to protect him as they support him and trust him adding that every Indian is now saying "Main Hoon Modi Ka Parivar."

"Some people must be thinking that a politician abused me and that is why I am calling everyone as my family but I want to tell everyone that I left my house at an early age. I used to wander like an ascetic...I did not have any money, yet there was not a day when I slept with an empty stomach. The poor have cared for me during those times. I feel a familial relationship with each and every citizen of this country. My service is dedicated to you. Every part of Modi's body and every moment of his life is dedicated to this family. When Modi faces any problem, these mothers, sisters and daughters stand as a shield," he added.

The Prime Minister further asserted that this huge program is proof of how BJP is making 'Naari Shakti' the power of 'Viksit Bharat'.

"On 9th January, BJP started the 'Shakti Vandan' campaign across the country. During this, interactions with lakhs of self-help groups were done across the country and today, in West Bengal there is a huge program organised for members of the self-help groups," he said.

Highlighting the inauguration of development projects in Kolkata, PM Modi said that modernizing the country's public transport is a priority of the government.

"Before coming here, I was at a program in Kolkata where I inaugurated many development projects of the Government of India. Today, new routes connected to the Kolkata Metro, Pune Metro, Kochi Metro, Agra Metro and Namoo Bharat trains have been expanded together. Before 2014, only 28 kilometres route of the Kolkata Metro was built and in the last 10 years, 31 kilometres route of the Kolkata Metro has been added. Modernizing the country's public transport is a priority of the government of India," PM Modi said.

PM Modi said that the BJP has worked very sincerely for the progress of Bengal and India. This is why today everyone is saying, "Abki Baar, 400 Paar!"

Earlier today, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple connectivity projects worth Rs 15,400 crores in Kolkata, West Bengal.

ANI

# China to appropriately scale up proactive fiscal policy

BEIJING

CHINA will appropriately enhance the intensity of the proactive fiscal policy, Minister of Finance Lan Fo'an said yesterday.

China will continue to implement a proactive fiscal policy and a prudent monetary policy this year, and improve the quality and effectiveness of its fiscal policy, Lan said at a press conference held on the sidelines of the ongoing session of the national legislature.

Work will be done to appropriately expand fiscal expenditure to ensure sufficient funding for major national strategic tasks, markedly increase government bonds to promote social investment, and continue structural tax and fee reduction policies with priority given to supporting scientific and technological innovation and the development of the manufacturing sector, he said.

The minister stressed that governments at all levels must keep their belts tightened, improve the structure of expenditures, and ensure that fiscal funds are used where they are needed most and to the best effect.

Policies related to tax and fee, special fund and government bond will be implemented in

a coordinated manner and in stronger combination with monetary, employment and industry policies, he added.

### Foreign trade, consumption

The country is seeing positive signs in exports and imports despite a challenging global trade environment, Commerce Minister Wang Wentao said at the same press conference.

Pointing out that China has seen a boom in trade activities during the Spring Festival period, a traditional slack season for imports and exports, Wang said the trade recovery starting September 2023 is expected to continue despite a possible dip in March due to a high comparison base.

Among its wide efforts to bolster domestic consumption, China has set its sights on encouraging the trade-in of consumer goods including automobiles, household appliances and home furnishings, said the minister. China will also intensify its efforts to broaden service consumption, he added.

### 'Growth target achievable'

China's 2024 GDP growth target of around 5 percent is an achievable goal via enhanced efforts, said Zheng Shanjie, director of the National Development and



China's Minister of Finance Lan Fo'an (third right), Director of the National Development and Reform Commission Zheng Shanjie (center), Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao (3rd-L), Governor of the People's Bank of China Pan Gongsheng (second right), and Chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission Wu Qiang (second left) attend a press conference on economy for the second session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing, China yesterday. XINHUA

Reform Commission.

China has the confidence, capabilities and conditions to meet the economic and social development targets for this year, Zheng said at the press conference.

The country's plan to issue ultra long-term special government bonds starting from 2024 and over the coming few years will help shore up the investment

and consumption at the moment and lay the foundation for long-term high-quality development, he said.

The funds raised through these bonds will mainly support areas such as scientific and technological innovation, integrated urban-rural development, coordinated regional development, food and energy

security, and high-quality development of the population, said the head of the top economic planner.

The NDRC is working closely with relevant parties to formulate a specific action plan on the issuance of the bonds, which will be implemented after approval, he added.

Xinhua

# US makes second airdrop of humanitarian aid into Gaza

WASHINGTON

Amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas, the US for the second time, airdropped humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, The New York Times reported.

US Air Force cargo planes, in a joint operation with the Jordanian Air Force dropped 36,800 ready-to-eat meals "to provide essential relief to civilians affected by the ongoing conflict," according to US Central Command statement.

In a statement, US Central Command said that army troops trained in aerial delivery were part of the airdrop. The US forces further said that they were planning more such mis-

sions. However, the Pentagon said on Tuesday that the US did not intend to send its troops into Gaza to strengthen the aid distribution process.

While addressing a news conference, Pentagon spokesperson Major General Patrick Ryder said, "At this time, there are no plans to put US forces on the ground in Gaza," The New York Times reported.

The US' operation on Tuesday comes days after the first round of airdrops on Saturday. US airdropped the first round of humanitarian aid into Gaza, two days after more than 100 Palestinians were killed as Israeli forces opened fire around a convoy of aid trucks in northern Gaza. Doctors

at Gaza hospitals said the majority of casualties were from gunfire.

The Israeli military said the majority of the victims were trampled as they attempted to take control of the cargo. Israeli officials, however, admitted that troops had fired on some people who they said had threatened them, according to The New York Times report.

Following the convoy casualties in Gaza, US President Joe Biden said the US would find new ways to provide aid to Palestinians in desperate need due to Israel's counter-offensive against Hamas, which began after the terrorist group's attack on October 7.

On Sunday, US Vice President Ka-

mala Harris called for an "immediate ceasefire" in Gaza, which she stressed must last for at least the next six weeks. "Terminating the conditions in Gaza as 'inhumane,'" Harris said that people in the region were "starving."

Harris, who was in Alabama's Selma, to commemorate the 59th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, said, "The threat of Hamas poses to the people of Israel must be eliminated. And given the immense scale of suffering in Gaza, there must be an immediate ceasefire for at least the next six weeks, which is what is currently on the table."

The US Vice President noted

that the ceasefire will allow the release of hostages and aid will enter Gaza. She stressed that Hamas needs to agree to that deal.

"This will get the hostages out and get a significant amount of aid in. This would allow us to build something more enduring to ensure Israel is more secure and to respect the right of the Palestinian people to dignity, freedom, and self-determination," Harris said.

"Hamas claims it wants a ceasefire. Well, there is a deal on the table. And as we have said, Hamas needs to agree to that deal. Let's get a ceasefire. Let's reunite the hostages with their families. And let's provide

immediate relief to the people of Gaza," she added.

She stated that Hamas cannot control Gaza and added that the threat Hamas poses to the people of Israel must be eliminated. She further said, "Hamas is a brutal terrorist organization that has vowed to repeat October 7th again and again until Israel is annihilated."

Terminating the situation in Gaza "devastating," Harris said that they have seen reports of families eating leaves or animal feed, women giving birth to malnourished babies with little or no medical care, and children dying from malnutrition and dehydration.

ANI



## Jaishankar, South Korean counterpart hold talks on expanding bilateral ties in Seoul

SEOUL

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his South Korean counterpart Cho Tae-yul chaired the 10th India-South Korea Joint Commission Meeting in Seoul yesterday.

The two leaders held talks on expanding bilateral ties, cooperation in defence, science and technology, business and trade sectors.

During the meeting, Jaishankar (pictured) and Cho Tae-yul held discussions on developments in the Indo-Pacific and the convergences of India and South Korea to challenges in the region. Both sides also spoke on advancing trilateral cooperation.

In a post on X, Jaishankar stated, "Co-chaired with @FMChoTaeYul a comprehensive and productive 10th India-South Korea Joint Commission Meeting in Seoul today. Conversations covered our expanded bilateral ties, cooperation in the field of defence, science & technology, business & trade, people to people exchange and cultural cooperation."

Also spoke of advancing trilateral cooperation. Exchanged views on the developments in the Indo-Pacific, our convergences to challenges in the region and regional & global issues of mutual interest."

In his opening remarks at the 10th India-South Korea Joint Commission Meeting, Jaishankar said that the ties between the two nations have grown from "strength to strength." Calling the two nations "important" partners for each other, he stressed that India and South Korea have witnessed steady growth in trade, investments and defence.

He said, "Last year, as you noted, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic ties. During our Prime Minister's visit in 2015, our relations were elevated to a special strategic partnership."

"It is important that we live up to that. We have grown from strength to strength in the years that have passed. We have become truly important partners for each other."

And our bilateral exchanges - trade, investments, defence, and S&T cooperation have all seen a steady growth," he added.

EAM Jaishankar noted that India is interested in expanding ties with South Korea to new areas like human resource mobility, nuclear cooperation, green hydrogen supply chain resilience, critical and emerging technologies.

In his remarks, Jaishankar said, "While keeping up the momentum in the traditional areas of cooperation, we would be very much interested now in expanding it to new areas, such as critical and emerging technologies, semiconductors, green hydrogen, human resource mobility, nuclear cooperation, supply chain resilience, etc, to make our ties more contemporary."

He further said, "We have also noted the growing convergence of our views in the international forum. Your focus on the Indo-Pacific region is a good case to point, and we both have stakes in its stability, security, and prosperity."

Jaishankar, who is on a two-day visit to South Korea, on Tuesday, said that ties between India and South Korea



has expanded in different sectors and the benefits are visible to both nations. He said that India's partnership with South Korea is acquiring "great salience" in a "more uncertain and volatile world."

In his address at the Korea National Diplomatic Academy on 'Broadening horizons: India-Korea Partnership in the Indo-Pacific', Jaishankar stressed that it is time for two nations to introspect and strategise how the two countries could be doing more by making efforts differently.

Highlighting ties between the two countries, Jaishankar said, "It's a great pleasure to speak to you today about India's partnership with Republic of Korea, one that is acquiring great salience in a more uncertain and volatile world. Our ties have been described as a special strategic partnership since 2015."

This is not just a phrase but an assessment to which we have tried to live up to since then. In different domains, cooperation has expanded and benefits are visible. Yet, this is also a time to introspect and strategise how we could be doing more by doing differently."

The external affairs minister recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to South Korea in 2015 and 2019. Terming trade as metric of judgement of ties between two nations, Jaishankar stressed that the bilateral trade has touched roughly around USD 25 billion.

"The frequency and intensity of contacts is one way of judging any relationship. In recent years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Yoon have met twice as I did with my previous counterpart. Many of you will be aware that Prime Minister Modi has in fact been to Republic of Korea himself twice, once in 2015 and once in 2019," Jaishankar said.

"Trade is another metric of judgement and this today between us is roughly around USD 25 billion plus minus level. Companies of both countries have made significant investments in the other. We note that your economic cooperation in development fund has committed to two significant infrastructure projects in India."

The sovereign wealth fund KIC has opened its office in our country. Our defence cooperation recorded a success in the joint efforts of Hanwha and Larsen and Toubro and we each have a community in other countries about 15000 in our case and some what less in yours," he said. **ANI**

## Moscow sees growing attempts to disrupt voting in Russian presidential election abroad

SIRIUS

MOSCOW is seeing increasing attempts to disrupt voting in the Russian presidential election at embassies abroad as attempts are being made to exert psychological pressure on Russian nationals there, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on the sidelines of the World Youth Festival.

Work is ongoing at Russia's foreign embassies "to enhance the security of polling stations. We have been registering increasing calls to disrupt the vote. Also, attempts are being made to put psychological pressure on Russians," the diplomat said.

Zakharova lambasted the democracy in Estonia where she said the authorities unambiguously threaten consequences for voting in the coming election. "Why don't they (the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) - TASS) react to direct warnings and threats from those governments?"

she asked rhetorically.

Russia will hold its presidential election on March 17 with voting taking place over three days from March 15-17 for the first time ever.

The World Youth Festival is taking place in the Sirius Federal Territory on March 1-7. While applications to attend were submitted by over 300,000 people from 190 countries. Participants in the festival's regional program will visit 30 Russian cities on March 10-17. TASS is the general media partner of the event.



## What to expect from China's 'two sessions' in pivotal year

BEIJING

THE ongoing annual sessions of China's top legislature and political advisory body will offer the world a window to observe the country's development and understand its policy direction for the following year.

The second session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) and the second session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) opened on March 5 and 4, respectively.

The year 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and is a crucial year for the realization of the goals and tasks of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025). In this significant year, what issues are especially worthy of attention at the "two sessions"?

### ECONOMIC GOALS

At the "two sessions" each year, the annual economic development goals of the world's second-largest economy are among the most anticipated announcements. The development goals for 2024 are expected to be unveiled in the government work report, which will be deliberated at the NPC's annual session. The report usually includes the country's targets on gross domestic product (GDP) growth, inflation, the ratio of deficit to GDP, employment, and foreign trade and investment, among others.

Last year, the Chinese economy rebounded for the better, high-quality development was solidly advanced, important progress had been made in the construction of a modern industrial system, and the foundation for safe development was consolidated.

## 'Mobile courts' bring convenience to herders in xinjiang

IN Fuhai County, Altay prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, local herders live in scattered settlements and often move from pasture to pasture for grazing their livestock following the changes of seasons.

To provide convenient and efficient judicial services to the herders, the People's Court of Fuhai has established "mobile courts" - judges visiting yurts, going to pastures, driving cars, and riding horses to help the herders.

In September last year, as the chill of winter began to set in, the herders at a summer pasture were preparing to move. Judge Aray Bahetbiek and clerk Dosjan Dawkien from the People's Court of Fuhai visited the pasture to mediate a dispute.

"There was a dispute over a livestock leasing contract, and all parties involved were at the pasture. In order to save them from traveling, we decided to handle the case in the pasture," said Aray Bahetbiek.

According to her, the plaintiff had entrusted over 200 sheep to the defendant for grazing, but the defendant unilaterally disposed 130 of them. After coordination by the village committee, the defendant wrote a promissory note, but has yet to actually provide compensation.

Early in the morning, Aray Bahetbiek and Dosjan Dawkien set off, driving a car. After nearly four hours, they reached a point where there was no road ahead. They parked the car, borrowed horses from herders nearby, and continued their journey. Both parties involved in the case were present in the pasture as they had been notified in advance.

It was learned that the two parties are relatives, which was why the lawsuit was delayed. The defendant's child fell seriously ill, and in order to afford medical treatment, he sold the plaintiff's sheep. Due to financial difficulties in recent years, he was unable to repay the debt on time.

"You both know how the thing is, and there is no dispute regarding the compensation. The only disagreement is about the repayment period. If the court makes a ruling, you will have a maximum of two to three months to repay the debt. If you are unable to do so, the enforcement procedure will be initiated, and you may have to sell all your sheep and cows."

Moreover, others will lose trust in you, and not letting you help them with livestock herding. How will you manage your life in the future? Can you repay a portion of the debt now and then make installment payments to settle the remaining?"

Aray Bahetbiek asked the defendant. "Okay, I promise to repay it over five years," the defendant agreed. "You know his situation. He definitely can't repay the money all at once."

Since you are relatives, it would be great if you help



Journalists cover the opening meeting of the second session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on Monday. Xinhua

China's provincial-level regions recently unveiled their growth targets for 2024 in government work reports delivered to local people's congresses.

Their 2024 GDP growth targets vary from 4.5 percent to 8 percent, with the majority expecting to expand their economy by over 5 percent.

"The economic goals should be both in line with our development potential and within an appropriate range, and more importantly, it should give priority to the quality of growth," said Han Baojiang, professor of the Party School of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee (National Academy of Governance) and a national political advisor.

### NEW GROWTH DRIVERS

"New productive forces," an emerging catchphrase in China's policymaking, is expected to be a hot topic garnering much attention.

The concept refers to a new form of productive forces derived from continuous sci-tech breakthroughs and innovation that drive strategic emerging industries and future industries in a more intelligent information era.

The Central Economic Work Conference, held late last year to chart economic development in 2024, said China would "promote industrial innovation through technological innovation... to foster new industries, new models and growth drivers, and develop new productive forces."

"New productive forces are crucial to promote self-reliance in high-level science and technology," said Yuan Yuyu, NPC deputy and chairman of Medprin Regenerative Medical Technologies Co., Ltd, adding that his focus at the "two sessions" will be how to strengthen sci-tech innovation, especially original and disruptive innovation.

### HIGH-LEVEL OPENING UP

China's attitude and plans concerning its opening up are among the most closely watched in the world.

At the Central Economic Work Conference, China pledged to expand high-level opening up and reinforce the stable performance of foreign trade and foreign investment.

A series of recent policy measures sent a clear signal that China is firmly committed to expanding opening up.

For example, the country announced that it will remove all restrictions on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector, and five new measures are already facilitating the entry of foreign nationals into China for business, education and tourism. Zhang Junkuo, a national political advisor and former deputy director of the Development Research Center of the State Council, said amid rising anti-globalization sentiment and intensifying geopolitical tension, "it is particularly important for China to respond to uncertainties in the external environment with its certainty in opening up."



him out. According to what he said, he will repay you in full over a period of five years. What do you think?" Aray Bahetbiek tried to persuade the plaintiff.

"I understand his difficulties, which is why I've been patient until now. But what if he can't repay as agreed after five years?" The plaintiff still had doubts. "If you agree, I can draft a mediation agreement right now."

If he fails to repay you as promised, you can apply for enforcement using the agreement," Aray Bahetbiek told the plaintiff. Seeing the two pressing their fingerprints on the mediation agreement and shaking hands, Aray Bahetbiek breathed a sigh of relief.

"We try our best to resolve the issue at hand, which can save the parties involved a lot of costs," she told People's Daily. In a place where there were many yurts, People's Daily reporters encountered judge Zhang Peiyu, who was surrounded by a dozen herders. "My three cows were eaten by a bear, who should compensate me?" "What should I do if I bought fake goods online?"

"The land transfer fee has increased, can I renegotiate the contract?" Zhang patiently answered each of the herders' questions, and the herders bid farewell to him holding a legal knowledge brochures.

"Since the herders live in scattered areas, we carry materials and brochures in our cars and stop wherever there are many people to hold 'rule of law classes' like this, so as to raise their legal awareness," Zhang explained.

"We have developed a model combining mobile court hearings, legal education and legal services. By providing door-to-door legal services, we have successfully mediated 50 percent of the disputes, and for complex cases, we proceed with court hearings," said an official with the People's Court of Fuhai.

In addition to mobile courts, the People's Court of Fuhai also offers online court hearings for cases

where the parties are not present locally, which helps reduce litigation costs for the parties, the official added.

Resolving conflicts on the spot is not an easy task for judges. The pastoral areas are vast, and it takes a long time on the way. It is common for the judges to encounter muddy roads and spend the night on the grassland.

"When the car can't go any further, we ride motorcycles or horses. And if even horses can't reach certain places, we walk. It's definitely hard work. But the law is not just cold and rigid rules."

Through our efforts, we make the parties involved feel the warmth of the rule of law, and that makes our efforts worthwhile," said Aray Bahetbiek, adding that many herders now know her and affectionately call her "daughter."

"This is also a recognition of my efforts," she said.



# Tanzania clinches 2024 NCF Invitational Women's T20 International tourney trophy

By Guardian Correspondent

**A** SPIRITED Tanzania's senior national women's cricket side has triumphed in the 2024 Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF) Women's Invitational T20 International tournament which climaxed in Lagos last Sunday.

The tournament, which took place from February 25 to last Sunday, was played in round robin format and brought together Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and host Nigeria, seeking to boost the promotion of women's cricket on the continent.

It, in the end, became a monumental success for Tanzania given it was making its debut participation in the showdown, which is an annual feature.

The tournament, which took place at Tafawa Balewa Square Cricket Oval in Lagos, ended with Tanzania at the top of the table with six victories and one defeat, amassing the 2.867 net run rate.

Nigeria, the tournament defending champion, finished second after amassing victory in four duels and conceding a loss in two outings, garnering a 0.026 net run rate.

Pre-tournament favourite Rwanda settled for third place, having notched a win in three outings and lost three clashes to end with a 0.740 net run rate.

The bottom-placed Sierra Leone ended without a victory in six ties, settling for the -4.291 net run rate.

Tanzania's female cricketers had opened



Cricketers making Tanzania's senior national women's squad are pictured with the Player of the Match prize which was won by their teammate, Saum Mtae, upon the conclusion of the 2024 Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF) Invitational Women's T20I tournament tie pitting the team against Sierra Leone in Lagos, Nigeria last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIGERIA CRICKET FEDERATION

their pursuit of an impressive run in the tournament on the wrong foot after suffering a 33-run loss to Rwanda.

Rwanda, led by experienced skipper Marie Bimenyimana, grabbed 119/4 in 20 overs after having won the toss and resorted to bat first.

Merveille Uwase led Rwanda's chase for an imposing figure with 36 runs. Sophia Jerome had a standout showing for Tanzania when it fielded, given she recorded 2/10 in four overs.

In reply, Tanzania failed to reach the 120-run target, given the outfit amassed 86 runs losing all wickets in 16.4 overs.

In the second fixture, Tanzania regrouped and commanded a comprehensive 49-run win over hosts, Nigeria, on February 26.

After having won the toss and chose to bat, Tanzania went on to re-

cord 134/4 in the scheduled 20 overs, with a meaningful showing at the crease coming from Saum Mtae who ended with 38 runs.

Adeshola Adekunle had the best bowling figures for Nigeria, having finished her four-over quota with 2/21.

Chasing 135 runs to secure victory turned out to be a daunting task for Nigeria's female cricketers, given they managed to post 85/8 in 20 overs.

Experienced cricketer Blessing Etim had a good day with the bat notching 29 runs for the team, her efforts however could help the side live up to expectations.

Perice Zakayo led a bowling onslaught by Tanzania, having ended her stint with 4/7 in four overs.

A crucial 73-run victory over rivals, Rwanda, put Tanzania on course for a triumphant finish. The duel, which

took place on February 29, witnessed Tanzania winning the toss and choosing to bat - scoring 151/5 in 20 overs.

Hudaa Omary put her batting virtuosity to show for Tanzania - having ended with an unbeaten 54 runs.

Rwanda's Henriette Ishimwe sought to curtail Tanzania's efforts to register a bigger total after recording 2/25 in her four-over stint.

Needing 152 runs from 20 overs to come out victorious, Rwanda batted with a lot of zeal, but the side's efforts hit a snag - posting 78 runs all out in 18.4 overs.

At the halfway stage of the tournament, Nigeria and Tanzania were tied on two wins amid one defeat each, after the hosts claimed an important five-wicket victory against Rwanda on February 28.

Tanzania scintillatingly wound up its

campaign with a 92-run thrashing of Sierra Leone last weekend.

Having won the toss and chose to bat, Tanzania's female cricketers put their batting superiority to show and scored 178/4 in 20 overs.

Opener Saum unleashed her batting resoluteness for the East African nation's side having posted 86 runs not out and was ultimately voted as the Player of the Match. Zainab Kamara posted 1/17 in two overs for inexperienced Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone's female cricketers lost steam during their innings, managing to record 86/5 in 20 overs and conceding the loss.

A notable batting display for the West African nation's squad came from Ann Marie Kamara who notched 18 runs.

The tenacious Saum was ultimately the cricketer with the most runs in the showdown - notching 203 runs in six ties.

Saum's teammate, Perice, shared the cricketer with the most wickets prize with Rwanda's Rosine Idera given the duo posted 11 wickets apiece.

Cricketers making Tanzania's women's squad for the showdown included skipper Neema Pius, Saum Borakambi, wicket-keeper Saumu Hussein, Sophia Jerome, Perice Zakayo, Sheila Kizito and another wicket-keeper Saidat Mbaki.

Aisha Mohamed, Saum Mtae, Hudaa Omary, Tabu Omary, Agnes Qwele, Mwanaidi Swedy, Josephine Ulrik, and Mwanamvua Ushanga also made the list.



Simba SC Algerian tactician, Abdelhak Benchikha.

## Benchikha sets high expectations amidst tight league battle

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AS the 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinal phase approaches, Simba SC is poised for a rigorous challenge, navigating through a demanding schedule of four matches in the NBC Premier League series.

The draw for the CAF Champions League quarterfinals is scheduled to take place in Egypt on March 13, offering Simba SC the opportunity to discover the club's upcoming opponent and set the stage for the quest for progression to the semi-finals.

Having clinched the second spot in Group B of the continental competition behind ASEC Mimosas, Simba SC will face off against one of the top teams from Groups A, C, or D.

Noteworthy contenders include Group A leader Mamelodi Sundowns, Group C leader Petro de Luanda, and Al Ahly - the Group D leader.

This year marks Simba SC's third appearance in the tournament's quarterfinals. The squad hopes to break the scourge and advance beyond the quarterfinal stage, as it did 21 years ago in the CAF Cup.

On Tuesday, Simba SC left for Morogoro to lock horns with Tanzania Prisons in an NBC Premier League tie slated for yesterday.

Simba SC leadership recently announced that the outfit's remaining home matches in both NBC Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup will be staged at Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro.

Moreover, the club expressed contentment with the enhancements made to the venue's pitch, ensuring its readiness for upcoming fixtures.

Upcoming matches include encounters against Coastal Union (away), Singida Fountain Gate FC, and Mashujaa FC, all to be contest-

ed in Morogoro.

Simba SC head coach Abdelhak Benchikha has issued a clear directive for the team - to secure maximum points from the forthcoming four matches, thereby implementing an assertive strategy to contend for the top flight's trophy this season.

Despite trailing Yanga by seven points in the league standings, with the latter also enjoying the advantage of a game in hand, Simba SC acknowledges the critical importance of avoiding losing more points, particularly in the imminent matches.

"We delivered an exceptional performance over the weekend in the CAF Champions League clash against Jwaneng Galaxy. I commend the players for their stellar efforts, which propelled us into the quarterfinals," Benchikha revealed.

The gaffer said: "Now, we must channel this momentum into the domestic league. We must emerge victorious in all four upcoming matches."

"While I understand the challenges posed by fatigue due to the proximity of matches, the players must rally for the honor of Simba SC," the Algerian pointed out.

"There may be adjustments to the lineup for certain matches, but what is paramount is witnessing the players' unwavering commitment to ensure we achieve our objectives," Benchikha said.

Simba SC currently sits third in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League standings after 15 games played. The squad has accumulated 36 points, thanks to 11 wins, three draws, and just one loss.

Moreover, Simba SC is on a strong run of form, having won four of the side's last five games with the remaining fixture ending in a draw.

## Bluefins Club swimmers eye success in Isamilo Championships

By Guardian Correspondent

A prominent Dar es Salaam-based swimming club, Bluefins, will compete in the Mwanza Isamilo Championships scheduled to start tomorrow and conclude on Saturday in Mwanza.

Bluefins Club will field 22 swimmers for the championships, which are organized by Mwanza Swimming Club and set to take place at the Isamilo International School's swimming pool.

The club's founder and head coach, Rahim Alidina, said that among the participants, nine are female, including two masters, and 13 are male swimmers.

Alidina said that his swimmers have undergone intensive training sessions



Bluefins Swimming Club's swimmer Imaan Kimario is pictured featuring in the recent Taliss-IST Championships held in Dar es Salaam. Imaan will be part of the Bluefins team that will compete in the coming Isamilo Swimming Championships to be held in Mwanza. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

for several weeks.

The founder expressed confidence that the swimmers will perform well in the event, which will bring together swimmers from

various clubs across the country.

Alidina stated: "We have selected 22 swimmers for this gala, out of which 9 are female swimmers (including 2

masters' category swimmers) and 13 will be male swimmers."

He added: "We have a good number of young swimmers traveling to Mwanza for the gala this time as they need to gain valuable experience in competitive swimming outside Dar es Salaam, where they are accustomed to swimming."

"Swimming in a new and different environment helps them learn how to adapt not only in swimming but also in different aspects of their daily lives," Alidina noted.

He explained that besides young swimmers, they have also included some experienced swimmers in the team for the championships.

Some of the experi-

enced swimmers include Zainab Moosajee, who is also part of Tanzania's national swimming team.

Other swimmers, according to Alidina, are Imaan Kimario, Huda Tamim, Zainab, Ithra Kahemele, Inaya Raheel, Zahra Alibhai, and Irhaa Raheel. The Masters swimmers in the female category are Zeinab Jivajee and Farhana Karim.

The male swimmers in the team are Saalih Mbonde, Mohammad-Hussein Imran, Qais Kanji, Shuneal Bhawanani, Moiz Kaderbhai, Adam Hassanali, Sahil Jaffer, Ryan Muwanga, Is-Haq Suleiman, Burhanuddin Jivajee, Haadi Meghji, Rayyan Kassam, and Idris Zaver.

## Dar to field 12 athletes in 2024 World Cross-Country Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has revealed 12 athletes set to represent the country in this year's World Cross-Country Championships scheduled for the end of this month at Park of Friendship, Belgrade in Serbia.

Jackson Ndaweka, AT acting secretary-general, said the performers were selected in the National Cross-Country Championships

that took place in Arusha last month.

According to the official, the athletes are expected to enter camp in Arusha next month.

He said the World Cross-Country Championships will be held on March 30 and the local athletes are expected to depart for Serbia three days before the championships.

The AT official mentioned female athletes in the team as

Hamida Nassoro, Ernesta Mngolu, Anastazia Dolomongo, Neema Kisuda, and Neema Festo. Male runners are Boay Dawi, Mao Hhando, Gervas Mayo, Peter Gidoska, Deca Tezforce, and Herman Sulle while John Wele is the only junior athlete who will represent the country in the championships.

Marcelina Gwangu and Kurwija Malima have been appointed as the national athletics squad's

coaches. Ndaweka said: "We have selected 12 athletes who will represent the country in the coming World Cross-Country Championships which will be held in Serbia on March 30."

"We don't have a sponsor and we are appealing to well-wishers to support the team financially and materially so that we can do well in Serbia, the team is expected to enter camp in Arusha next week," he said.

Originally, the World Cross-Country Championships were planned to be held in Medulin and Pula, Croatia, on February 10-11, 2024.

However, due to a lack of preparations, on September 15, 2023, it was announced by World Athletics that the event was to be moved to an undisclosed new venue.

On September 27, 2023, World Athletics awarded Belgrade, Serbia the World Cross-Country

Championships hosting duties.

Belgrade was picked due to establishing itself as a reliable host of world-class athletics competitions.

The city successfully hosted the 1962 European Championships, the 2013 European Cross-Country Championships, the 2017 European Athletics Indoor Championships, the 2017 Balkan Championships, and the 2022 World Athletics Indoor Championships.



## Xabi Alonso: Rising star catches eye of Liverpool, Bayern

LONDON

XABI Alonso has taken Bayer Leverkusen to the brink of their first Bundesliga title, but the rising star of European coaching could soon be on the move to Liverpool or Bayern Munich.

The 42-year-old played for both European giants either side of a five-year spell at Real Madrid during a glittering career in which he also won two European Championships and a World Cup with Spain.

On top of hoovering up medals with three of Europe's top clubs, the midfielder picked up plenty of knowledge that has shaped his coaching philosophy.

Pep Guardiola, Jose Mourinho, Carlo Ancelotti, Rafael Benitez and Vicente del Bosque are among the stellar array of coaches under whom Alonso played.

His shock departure from Madrid for Bayern in 2014 was largely motivated by the chance to witness Guardiola's methods at first hand.

Guardiola's purist principles are most evident in the eye-catching way Alonso's Leverkusen have taken Germany by storm.

But he credits Ancelotti's supreme man-management as having the biggest impact on his coaching style.

"I've always tried to be close to them, to understand how and why they make decisions," Alonso told the BBC, speaking about his former managers. "You learn from that but you need to build your own personality -- it's not a copy and paste thing, this manager's job."

"You need to build your own ideas and believe in them to be able to transmit that idea and that's what I'm trying to do."

Alonso, whose team face Qarabag in the last 16 of the Europa League today, took his time before going into management after hanging up his boots in 2017.

He began coaching in the youth ranks at Real Madrid and Real Sociedad before the call came from Leverkusen in October 2022, with the club sitting second bottom of the Bundesliga.

They recovered to finish sixth and reach the semi-finals of the Europa League, losing narrowly to Roma over two legs.

But few could have imagined the leap forward in Alonso's first full season in charge, with Bayern's 11-year reign as German champions seemingly coming to an end.

Leverkusen are 10 points clear of Bayern at the top of the table with 10 games to go and unbeaten in 34 matches in all competitions this season as they eye a Bundesliga, German Cup and Europa League treble.

AFP

## Messi's promised Barca contract, on a napkin, up for auction

NEW YORK

TO the untrained eye, it might look like just another used napkin.

But the serviette, expected to fetch up to \$635,000, was actually soccer legend Lionel Messi's springboard to greatness at FC Barcelona, and records the promise of a contract made to him at the tender age of 13.

The napkin has gone on show in New York to drum up interest, ahead of the start of bidding on March 18, against a backdrop of soaring interest in soccer memorabilia.

Though officially estimated to go for between \$380,000 and \$635,000, Ian Ehling, the head of fine books and manuscripts at Bonhams New York, said "I do expect it to sell for much more."

Last December, a set of six shirts worn by the number 10 during Argentina's victorious Qatar World Cup campaign in 2022 sold for \$7.8 million at auction at Sotheby's, exceeding estimates.

The story of the napkin has already been told many times in profiles of "Leo" Messi, one of the greatest players in soccer history, who now plays for Inter Miami.

Born in 1987 into a working class family in Rosario, about 300 kilometers (186 miles) north of Buenos Aires, Messi was 13 when he was spotted by Barca.

But not everyone there was convinced, and the deal dragged on and on, making Messi's father impatient.

That was until a fateful meeting on December 14, 2000, at a Barcelona tennis club, between the club's sporting director Carles Rexach and agents Josep Minguella and Horacio Gaggioli.

To confirm the club's interest, Rexach reached for the napkin and wrote on it in blue ink that he agreed "under his responsibility and regardless of any dissenting opinions, to sign the player Lionel Messi, provided that we keep to the amounts agreed upon."

A formal contract would later be drawn up, but Argentine agent Gaggioli kept the placeholder agreement for almost 25 years, until deciding to sell.

AFP

# 'Perfect day' as Kane double now powers Bayern into Champions League last eight

MUNICH

HARRY Kane scored a goal in each half as Bayern Munich beat Lazio 3-0 on Tuesday to reach the Champions League quarter-finals 3-1 on aggregate.

Kane headed Bayern level in the tie in the 38th minute, cancelling out Lazio's lead from the first leg with his first Champions League knockout goal in five years.

Thomas Mueller doubled the hosts' lead with a clever header before half-time and Kane doubled up in the 66th minute, tapping in the rebound from a Leroy Sane shot to seal Bayern's progress to the next round.

"It was a perfect night for us," Kane told Amazon Prime. "Everyone with energy, all around the pitch, the way we played and created chances and pressed without the ball -- it was a top, top performance."

Bayern kept their slim hopes of silverware this season alive while likely giving outgoing coach Thomas Tuchel a stay of execution until the quarter-finals in April.

"It's the most difficult trophy to win in Europe, probably the world," Tuchel, who won the Champions League with Chelsea in 2021, told reporters. "But it doesn't get any easier or more difficult if you have a long contract or if you're leaving at the end of the season."

Kane recognised the manner of Tuchel's exit was "unusual" but said "nights like this can change the season. I'm proud of the boys -- we just have to keep this momentum up."

Mueller, a two-time Champions League winner, said: "We're going to make sure everyone enjoys this feeling, nevermind what is in the newspaper yesterday or tomorrow."

"We're very happy because we know the importance of progressing further today." The loss snuffed out Lazio's



Bayern Munich forward Harry Kane scored twice against Lazio. Agencies

chance of a first Champions League quarter-final appearance since 1999-2000.

Six-time European champions Bayern came into Tuesday's match starting down the barrel of a last-16 elimination for just the second time in the past 13 seasons.

Three straight losses including the 1-0 defeat in the first leg in Rome amounted to Bayern's worst run since 2015, costing Tuchel his job less than a year after arriving in Munich.

With Tuchel allowed to keep the seat warm until the summer, the coach promised to be more "ruthless".

On Tuesday, he benched big-money signing Kim Min-jae for Eric Dier, while moving Joshua Kimmich -- a fixture in midfield for Bayern and Germany -- to right-back.

Bayern pushed Lazio back early with the fit-again Sane and Jamal Musiala going close.

Scorer of the first leg's only goal, Ciro Immobile had a golden chance to extend Lazio's lead after a Matthijs de Ligt mistake on 36 minutes but dragged his header just wide.

The miss would prove costly with Kane breaking through moments later, heading in a

scuffed Raphael Guerreiro shot to even up the tie.

Mueller, another to see more game time after the announcement of Tuchel's impending departure, doubled Bayern's lead in first-half stoppage time, heading in a De Ligt shot in trademark poacher fashion.

Despite a prolific run in front of goal since arriving from Spurs, the German media joked the famously trophy-less Kane had cursed Bayern, in danger of a first season without silverware since 2012.

The England captain made sure Bayern stayed in Europe though, turning in from close range after Sane forced a save from Lazio "keeper" Ivan Provedel, his 33rd goal in as many appearances this season.

With Lazio striker Immobile taken off with a knee injury, the visitors looked toothless in attack as Bayern gently controlled proceedings to take the sting out of the game.

Bayern kept their first clean sheet in eight games with captain Manuel Neuer equalling the Champions League record of 57 set by Real Madrid legend Iker Casillas.

Meanwhile, Kylian Mbappe insisted he had "no problem" with Paris Saint-Germain

coach Luis Enrique after scoring a brace in his side's win over Real Sociedad in the last 16 of the Champions League on Tuesday.

Wearing the captain's armband, Mbappe opened the scoring quarter of an hour into the second leg in San Sebastian and struck again early in the second half.

PSG won the game 2-1 to secure a 4-1 aggregate victory and a place in the quarter-finals for the first time since 2021.

"It's fine. There is no problem with him, even if people might think there is a problem. I do have problems but the coach is not one," Mbappe told broadcaster Canal Plus when asked about his relationship with Luis Enrique.

Mbappe had either started on the bench or been substituted in each of PSG's previous three Ligue 1 games since he informed the club he would be leaving when his contract expires at the end of the season.

He was replaced at half-time in last weekend's 0-0 draw at former club Monaco, but he played the whole 90 minutes here and took his goals tally for the season to 34 in 34

matches.

"We are very, very pleased to be in the quarter-finals," added Mbappe, who flourished in an attacking set-up which allowed him to come in from his favoured left flank, with Bradley Barcola on the right and Ousmane Dembele through the middle.

"I don't have any message in particular. I just always want to play in the Champions League."

"It is a very important competition. I try to always perform. Sometimes that happens and sometimes it doesn't, but I will never be a player who hides."

Runners-up in 2020, PSG have never won the Champions League and had gone out in the last 16 in five of the last seven seasons.

"We are satisfied and happy. We played really well and stopped La Real from getting back into the tie," Luis Enrique said.

Of Mbappe, he added: "There is no need to manage Mbappe. He manages himself."

"Normally he has freedom, but today he was fixed on the left wing from where we wanted him to be in a good position in the final third, because when you leave him in on goal he is lethal."

PSG will now hope for a favourable draw in the last eight, both legs of which will take place in April.

"We have no pressure. We have not won the Champions League," added the former Barcelona coach, who named a young starting line-up on Tuesday with an average age of under 24.

"Our team is clearly improving and we will see how far we can go. We are not putting extra pressure on the team. We are one of the youngest teams and this objective needs to be something to be excited about rather than a weight for us."

"It has to be a source of motivation and from there we will try to compete against whoever we play."

AFP

## Liverpool, Leverkusen aim to play up to favourites tag in Europa League

LONDON

LIVERPOOL and Xabi Alonso's Bayer Leverkusen are the standout contenders to go all the way in this season's Europa League with both teams this week heading east for last-16 ties they will be expected to win comfortably.

Jurgen Klopp's side are one of four British teams still alive in the competition and hoping to go all the way to this season's final, which will be played in Dublin on May 22.

However, while Brighton and Hove Albion, West Ham United and Rangers all face difficult last-16 ties, it would be a major surprise if Liverpool slipped up against Sparta Prague and missed out on the quarter-finals.

Sparta are top of the Czech league and have had some fine results in Europe this season, qualifying from their group ahead of Real Betis and then eliminating Galatasaray in the knockout round play-offs.

Yet Liverpool are in fantastic form and still in contention to win a remarkable quadruple in Klopp's final season as

manager at Anfield.

Having won the League Cup, the Reds are top of the Premier League and also through to the last eight of the FA Cup.

The biggest danger for them heading to the Stadion Letna in Prague is that their minds may be on Sunday's huge meeting with Manchester City, who sit a single point behind Klopp's men at the top of the Premier League.

They lost their last two away games in the group stage, at Toulouse and in Belgium to Union Saint-Gilloise, and Klopp may again choose the Europa League to give an opportunity to some of his exciting youngsters.

Meanwhile, Mohamed Salah has played just once since returning injured from the Africa Cup of Nations and this game could also come too soon for the Egyptian.

Liverpool are aiming to secure a place in the March 15 draw for the quarter-finals, which would also reveal the identity of their potential semi-final opponents.

There is the prospect that they could yet cross paths with Leverkusen,

who are enjoying a stunning campaign under former Liverpool midfielder Alonso.

Unbeaten all season, the 1988 UEFA Cup winners are 10 points clear at the top of the Bundesliga with 10 games left.

A first German title is their priority, but they remain in the German Cup and will be fully expected to see off Qarabag of Azerbaijan to reach the quarter-finals in Europe.

The Werkself head to Baku for the second time this season for Thursday's first leg, having beaten Qarabag home and away in the group stage with a 6-1 aggregate scoreline.

- Brighton in Italy -

Through to the knockout phase in their first ever European campaign, Brighton are in Italy to play a Roma side enjoying a revival under Daniele De Rossi.

Thursday's first leg at the Stadio Olimpico will see De Rossi come up against his friend, the Brighton boss Roberto De Zerbi.

"I have big respect for him. I knew he could be a great coach because as a player he showed an incredible personality," De Zerbi said recently of his counterpart.

"He thinks the same as me about football. He is a passionate person and we are friends, but I

hope to win."

West Ham, who won last season's Europa Conference League, are in Germany to face a Freiburg side who are fresh from holding Bayern Munich to a draw in the Bundesliga last weekend.

It will be the third meeting of the clubs in the competition this season, with the Hammers coming out on top both times in the group stage.

Rangers, beaten Europa League finalists two years ago, surprisingly finished top of their group but their reward is a tough tie against Benfica, with the first leg in Lisbon.

"It will be the first game we will be underdogs, that's the reality. But that doesn't mean that we cannot qualify," Rangers manager Philippe Clement, whose side top the Scottish Premiership, said after the draw.

Benfica's city rivals Sporting host Atalanta on Wednesday, while AC Milan take on Slavia Prague and Marseille play Villarreal.

The Spanish side's coach is Marcelino Garcia Toral, who quit as Marseille boss earlier this season after just three months in charge.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

'Perfect day' as Kane double now powers Bayern into Champions League last eight

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Bruno Gomes

## Singida Fountain Gate FC terminates contract with Gomes

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC has terminated the squad's contract with Brazilian midfielder Bruno Gomes following a mutual agreement between the two sides.

Gomes joined Singida Fountain Gate FC in the 2021/22 season from Jacobense EC from his native country on a two-year deal, and he is leaving with a one-half-year deal left on his contract.

Last season the Brazilian central defensive midfielder scored 10 goals in the NBC Premier League, prompting the likes of Simba SC and Yanga to eye his services.

This season he faced injuries before the start and, with 19 games played, he has notched only one goal in all competitions - sitting out in the majority of the games.

Asserting his departure, Gomes said: "Following clinical considerations on my future, I and the club have agreed to terminate my contract, a decision which will benefit both parties, a tough decision made for both sides to head in the positive direction."

"With my contract running out of services, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all Singida Fountain Gate FC fans for their unraveling presence and support throughout my entire time at the club as we take different paths. I wish you all the best," Gomes noted.

Gomes adds to a list of elite midfielders to have left the now Mwanza-based club since the January transfer window, with Duke Abuya and Marouf Tchakheji all leaving the club to join Ihefu SC.

Simba SC offered around 100m/- for Gomes before the start of the ongoing season but the offer was rejected by Singida Fountain Gate FC.

The club claimed to be aiming to build around Gomes who signed a two-year extension with it-keeping him until 2025.

Singida Fountain Gate FC is currently experiencing a poor run of form, having suffered defeat in four games in a row and a draw since the conclusion of the mini-transfer window.

The results have come about after the majority of the club's players moved to Ihefu SC. Elvis Rupia, Elvis Rupia, Joash Onyango, and Aboubakar Khomeini are some of the footballers who have left Singida Fountain Gate FC.

It is yet to be confirmed which club Gomes is set to join after leaving Singida Fountain Gate FC halfway through the season.

## Yanga declares readiness for 2023/24 CAF Champions League last-eight stage



Yanga's striker Joseph Guede (L) negotiates his way past Al Ahly's defensive midfielder, Marwan Attia, when the teams locked horns in the final Group D tie of 2023/24 CAF Champions League at Cairo International Stadium in Cairo on March 1. AGENCIES

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA has declared it is ready to face any of the 2023-24 CAF Champions League's last-eight opponents, as the phase's draw is slated for March 13.

The Tanzanian side is seeking to write history as the country's first club to advance to the premier continental showdown's semi-finals.

The outfit, seeded in pot two of the tournament's quarterfinal draw, is set to face pot one teams in Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa), Petro de Luanda (Angola) and ASEC Mimosas (Côte d'Ivoire).

Yanga's Information and Communication Manager, Ally Kamwe, yesterday said the side is eager to face any team considering all teams in the

quarterfinals are well structured and truly competitive.

Kamwe noted: "I communicated to the technical bench, the feedback was immense, players are ready to face any opponent from the three teams, we believe that all teams are strong and we have to go against the best to achieve semi-final progression."

"We are ready for the draw, ready to be the first team in the country's history to make it to the semi-finals, we want to be the first club to do so,

it is an honour for a country to have two teams in the CAF Champions League quarterfinals as well," the leader added.

The CAF Champions League quarterfinal draw is slated to take place at CAF headquarters in Cairo, Egypt with the CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinal draw also slated for the same day.

Yanga progressed to the quarterfinals following the club's second-place finish in Group D. The squad amassed eight points, finishing behind

the group leader - Al Ahly - which boasted 12 points.

Third-placed CR Belouizdad also posted eight points but was surpassed by Yanga based on the head-to-head record with the latter, and bottom-placed Medeama SC collected four points.

Shifting focus to the NBC Premier League, Kamwe acknowledged the competitive nature of the league.

The official's club is now focusing on recording 12 points from the coming four fixtures against Namungo FC

(away) Ihefu SC (home), Geita Gold FC (home), and Azam FC (away).

Kamwe said: "We have four tough fixtures, as the league gathers pace, we want to collect 12 points before heading into the CAF Champions League quarterfinals, we want positive results so that we can have more points than any other team and become champions."

The Yanga official stated: "Looking at the league table, the gap is so small to be comfortable at the top, we need to stretch the gap further and pick more points, Yanga can collect points at any given stadium in the country due to our quality."

"In the first round match against Namungo FC, the squad presented stiff competition, we emerged victorious with a late goal and, this time around, head coach Miguel Gamondi has a good master plan," Kamwe said.

Yanga is on top of the league log with 43 points after 16 games, having been level on points with second-placed Azam FC which has taken part in 19 games, while Simba SC is placed third with 36 points from 15 games.

## KMC FC coach acknowledges PL's toughness in second phase

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IHEFU SC edged past Kinondoni Municipal Council FC 1-0 in a tense NBC Premier League encounter at the CCM Liti Stadium in Singida on Tuesday.

This marked the second game played at the stadium, now the official home turf for Ihefu SC.

The lone goal, scored by Kenyan defender Joash Onyango in the 20th minute, proved decisive in securing all three points for the home side.

The win saw Ihefu SC climb to seventh place in the standings with 23 points from 19 games, while Kinondoni Municipal Council FC remained sitting fifth with 25 points from 20 games.

Following a defeat in the away game, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's head coach, Abdihamid Moalin, acknowledged the challenging nature of the league in the second round, while expressing contentment with his players' performance in the match.

The American coach of Somali origin stated: "The second round proves to be notably tough as every team contends for points in each fixture, with home teams particularly striving for victory."

"Although we came here to CCM Liti Stadium and fought, showcasing our abilities until the final whistle, it wasn't sufficient to secure a win or even salvage a point," Moalin admitted.

Moalin noted: "Winning every game isn't a simple feat, yet we must persist in our efforts throughout. Nonetheless, I take pride in my players' com-



Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's head coach, Abdihamid Moalin.

mendable effort today. As this game concludes, we must regroup and prepare for our next challenge against Tabora United."

Regarding tactical adjustments made during the second half, Moalin emphasized: "In football, addressing one issue may uncover another. While I aimed to enhance our attacking play, we struggled particularly in defending set-piece situations. Despite attempting to create more opportunities, we fell short."

Ihefu SC's head coach, Mecky Mexime, remarked: "The game proved to be highly challenging and tactically demanding. Both KMC FC and Ihefu SC are formidable teams with the

shared objective of securing wins, particularly for those of us situated at the bottom of the league."

"We were determined to clinch this victory by any means necessary."

Mexime elaborated: "Today, we executed our game plan effectively, securing a crucial goal. Mahundi showcased an exceptional performance, earning him the man of the match standout player."

"His performance serves as a valuable lesson, particularly for young players; in modern football, adaptability and quick decision-making are key."

Reflecting on the overall performance by Ihefu SC at CCM Liti Sta-

dium, Mexime added: "This match stands as a significant achievement for us in our home games. It provides a positive momentum moving forward."

"As a coaching staff, we will diligently assess our performance and focus on refining our skills in preparation for upcoming matches."

Ihefu SC, currently placed eighth in the standings, has participated in 19 matches, securing victory in six, suffering defeat in eight, and settling for a draw in five.

In Ihefu SC's recent five matches, the side displayed commendable consistency, winning three matches, drawing one, and losing one.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC has, in the second phase, encountered significant challenges, failing to secure a single victory in the squad's last five matches.

Instead, the Kinondoni Municipal Council-owned club has settled for draws in three matches and suffered defeat in two outings.

Despite Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's recent struggles, the club currently holds the fifth position in the standings, having accumulated 25 points from 20 games.

The squad's season thus far comprises five victories, 10 draws, and five losses, reflecting a mixed performance overall.

With the second round proving to be particularly demanding, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC faces the imperative of regaining momentum to improve the side's position in the league standing and performance in the upcoming fixtures.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

