





## Chinese investments: TIC sets up Hunan liaison desk

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support for Africa.

The funds will be channelled through a special programme designed to boost Chinese investments across the continent, officials said.

Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, the Planning and Investment state minister, urged TIC to develop a strategy enabling up to a third of this projected investment, pegged at \$3bn, finds its way to Tanzania-related ventures.

Ali Mohamed Mwinyi, the consul general overseeing local interests in the regional investment hub, presided at the launch, stressing the focus in the zone of promoting invest-

ments in Africa.

China is a leading source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Tanzania, with data showing that from January 2021 to December 2023, TIC registered 256 Chinese projects billed at \$2.5m.

Manufacturing led the pack followed by commercial building, agriculture, transportation and trading services, the TIC noted in the report, underlining that the country has made strides in improving the investment climate.

This has culminated in tangible achievements, including attracting more than \$1bn in projects led by Chinese investments creating an estimated 114,726 jobs, it added.

## Mtwara port refurbishing: Cashew exports booming

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60,079 tonnes shipped during the same period last year, he said, noting that 17 ships had arrived and been serviced at the port, with 14 loading container vessels and three carrying cashews packed in bags.

A total of 3,366 containers had been loaded and dispatched out of the 7,621 containers at the port for the cashew crop, he stated, while port authorities affirm that the government invested over 157.8bn/- in improving the port.

These achievements are a direct result of that investment as prior to port upgrades, cashew tonnage from the southern regions was transported by truck to the Dar es Salaam harbour for export.

Herman Colman, an Export Trade Group (ETG) executive, said that this season has seen a vast improvement, with 40,000 tonnes of cashew nuts already shipped, up from 26,000 tons last season at this time of the year.

An online entry says that ETG connects commodities sourced at the farm gate level to local economies, local economies to the broader marketplace and emerging markets to each other and the world.

ETG has more than three decades of experience building regional

agribusiness supply chains in the world's fastest growing markets, with operations extending across procurement, processing, warehousing, transport, distribution and merchandising, it says of the group's activities, tied to the World Economic Forum, a Swiss global executives' platform.

The infrastructure network enables ETG to store commodities close to their point of origin and move them to match their origination capabilities to global consumption patterns, he stated.

"This is due to improved services and the availability of enough ships to meet the demand," he said, elaborating that operators can now load and ship the goods on time, reducing costs for customers, the end-users.

He hailed the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) for modernising equipment enabling increased efficiency and cargo handling capacity, thus attracting numerous foreign vessels operators transporting cashew nuts to international markets.

Omega Makanjiro, a cashew trader in Mtwara who uses the port for exports, noted that the recent improvements allow three ships to be serviced at the new and old docks at any moment.

## Stakeholders team up for beekeeping research uplift

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tourism and regulatory agencies.

Experts examined challenges facing the beekeeping sector, lessons learned from past initiatives and anticipated growth of the industry in Tanzania, affirming that despite significant progress more efforts are needed to disseminate research findings to a broader audience.

Scientists, beekeepers and conservation stakeholders need to be well informed on progress in honey profiling and branding, thus the need for wider communication and application of research results to benefit the sector, he stated.

The conference also served as a networking platform for development partners, including the World-

wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Embassy of Finland, GatsbyAfrica, Sun King Enterprises, the Tanzania Association of Tourism Operators (TATO) and others.

Partnerships are essential for fostering synergies and creating opportunities for future collaboration in beekeeping research and conservation efforts, the expert noted.

The event underscored the importance of research and collaboration in developing sustainable solutions for Tanzania's beekeeping sector, with stakeholders committed to supporting its growth through innovation and knowledge-sharing, he added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango exchanges greetings with various officials on arrival in Arusha Region yesterday. He is expected to grace the annual meeting of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau lined up for today in Arusha city.

## Initiate day and night site work, minister directs BRT contractor

FROM PAGE 1

pletion in the next three months, he said, while Ukonga MP Jerry Silaa, also a cabinet minister, was grateful for the focus on the project.

Once completed, the project will enhance development for the people of Ukonga, reducing travel time from two hours for regular vehicles to just 45 minutes or 30 minutes by

rapid buses, he said.

Frank Mbilinyi, the BRT project manager with Tanroads, the overall supervising agency, noted that BRT construction was first proposed in

2004 under the city council.

The BRT strategic plan outlines six phases of road construction to address the growing transportation needs of the city, he added.



Zanzibar's First Vice President, Othman Masoud Othman, addresses the fourth meeting of the Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad Foundation held in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Hamad Yusuf Masauni, has vowed to prioritise the implementation of the legal ban on plastic bags and to accelerate efforts in managing carbon trading, aiming to bolster environmental protection in Tanzania.

Minister Masauni made the commitment over the weekend in Dodoma during the official handover of office from his predecessor, Dr. Ashatu Kijaji, who has now been appointed Minister of Livestock and Fisheries.

Addressing the gathering, minister Masauni highlighted the importance of continuing and intensifying the efforts already laid out by the government to protect the environment.

He pointed out that the Tanzanian government had issued clear directives in 2019 to ban plastic bags, and promised that his office would work to enforce this law, in addition to improving the management of carbon trading and issuing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

## Masauni pledges to fight carbon trading

certificates.

"We will cooperate with the Management to ensure we accelerate the implementation of the plastic bag ban, the management of carbon trading, and the issuance of EIA certificates," said minister Masauni.

He added: "These actions are vital for protecting the health of our communities, animals, and the environment."

Minister Masauni further emphasised his readiness to work collaboratively with both the management and staff at all levels to achieve the goals of the Union and Environmental Protection sectors.

He reassured everyone that his office would remain open for cooperation, with a firm focus on serving the needs of various stakeholders across the country.

"I promise to dedicate myself fully to these responsibilities, working diligently and cooperatively to ensure that we deliver quality and sustainable services to the people of Tanzania," he added.

Dr Kijaji expressed her gratitude to

President Samia Suluhu Hassan and the VPO management for the support and teamwork she received during her tenure.

She praised the professionalism and work ethic of the Vice President's Office staff, and acknowledged the significant progress made in the area of environmental protection, particularly in carbon trading.

"I would like to thank President Samia for the trust she placed in me, and I am proud of the achievements we have made, such as the establishment of the National Carbon Monitoring Center (NCMC)," Dr. Kijaji said.

She said: "This is a vital area for our country's economic growth, and carbon trading represents a lucrative opportunity for Tanzania. We must continue to nurture this sector so that our society can fully benefit."

She also informed minister Masauni that Tanzania had registered 63 companies with the NCMC for carbon trading, and highlighted the potential for further

growth. She stressed the need for continued focus on this sector, with a target of registering 100 companies by March 2025.

Eng. Cyprian Luhemeja, the Permanent Secretary of the Vice President's Office, also praised Dr. Kijaji for her leadership, which had led to significant advancements in both environmental protection and Union affairs during her tenure.

He expressed confidence that the new leadership would continue to build on this progress.

"Under your leadership, Minister Kijaji, we have seen great strides, particularly in carbon trading. We are now working towards registering 100 companies by the end of March 2025," he said.

Minister Masauni's appointment follows a recent cabinet reshuffle by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, which saw Dr Kijaji move to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Engineer Masauni take over the Union and Environmental Protection portfolio.



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Republic of Korea's Ambassador to Tanzania, Eunju Ahn (2nd-R), exchanges views with The Guardian Limited heads of department led by Deputy General Manager Jackson Paulo (to her right) at her Dar es Salaam residence on Saturday. Photo: Chief Photographer Selemani Mpochi

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

## Govt allocates 40bn/- for education infrastructure, teacher development

THE government has allocated over 40bn/- for the construction and renovation of education infrastructure in this financial year.

The amount is also meant to bolster teachers' professional development, introduction of new curricula, and the updating of existing curricula to align with societal and job market needs.

Finance deputy minister, Hamad Chande unveiled here over the weekend when speaking at the 26th graduation ceremony of the Arusha Institute of Accountancy (IAA).

Chande stated that government, through the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project, has provided more than 40 billion shillings for the implementation of education projects at the institution.

He highlighted that the current agenda for higher education in the country focuses on internationalisation, with an emphasis on improving teaching and learning processes and ensuring that the professionals are equipped with internationally recognised qualifications.

"I commend the leadership of IAA for prioritising this internationalisation agenda, and the ministry recognises your efforts in its implementation. Our goal is to ensure that curriculum improvements align with global standards and address international needs," Chande said.

"Internationalisation is one of the key areas in this project, so you must intensify your efforts to achieve your goal of producing graduates who are internationally competitive and aligned with global trends," he added.

Chande also noted that the government is committed to creating an enabling environment, including building infrastructure, increasing the number of teachers, and providing teaching and learning resources to ensure that Tanzanians receive quality education from primary to higher education levels.

Prof. Eliamani Sedoyeka, announced that 5,854 graduates had completed their studies, including 3,601 men and 2,253

women, who were awarded certificates, diplomas, degrees, and master's degrees in various fields.

He also mentioned that, for the first time, IAA had students in three new courses: a degree in cybersecurity, a degree in tourism and hospitality management, and a degree in library and information management.

Prof. Sedoyeka said that the institution's mission is to continue developing curricula that meet job market demands and equip graduates to tackle the challenges posed by advancements in science and technology.

Dr Mwamini Tulli, chairperson of IAA's Governing Council, expressed gratitude to the government, through the Ministry of Finance, as well as to institutions, organisations, and various stakeholders, for their contributions, which have enabled the institution to fulfil its core responsibilities of training, research, and offering professional consultancy services.

## Govt stresses collaboration to further improve financial inclusion, economic growth

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has called for increased strategic collaboration among stakeholders to expand financial access to more people and promote economic growth in the country.

Speaking at the 20th anniversary of the Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Dr Charles Mwamwaja, Commissioner for Financial Sector Development at the Ministry of Finance, emphasised the importance of collective efforts in addressing policy issues critical to the country's financial sector.

"Financial inclusion is central to economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction," Dr Mwamwaja said, urging stakeholders to take ownership of initiatives that contribute to the nation's economic development.

He highlighted the ministry's ongoing collaborations with various partners, noting significant strides made in shaping policies that foster financial stability and inclusion.

He underscored that limited financial inclusion remains a barrier to Tanzania's overall economic development.

"It's essential that we continue to work together to create policies that allow everyone, especially underserved communities, to access financial services," he said.

The Commissioner also stressed the ministry's commitment to reforms aimed at strengthening the financial sector.

Sauda Msemu, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) noted that sound policies and laws such as the Secure Transactions Act and venture capital funding initiatives, are crucial for creating a more inclusive financial environment.

She also highlighted the importance of the reforms, noting that they align with the government's long-term objectives for financial stability and growth.

"Policy is the cornerstone for creating an environment whereby the financial sector can thrive. The work we are doing now will have a lasting impact on Tanzania's financial stability," Msemu remarked, stressing the positive outcomes of the collaborative efforts at both national and international forums.

Carol Mundle, Head of Cooperation at Global Affairs Canada, praised the work of the

centre for inclusive and sustainable advancement, which has played a pivotal role in shaping Tanzania's financial landscape.

"Its leadership in fostering innovation and promoting responsible finance has significantly contributed to Tanzania's economic growth," Mundle said.

Daudi Ramadhani, a representative from Rex Attorneys and Registered Trustee of FSDT, also shared insights on the government's economic and environmental compliance system, which aims to promote sustainable business practices and financial inclusion.

"The system provides a structured pathway for development, ensuring that both financial and non-financial sectors adhere to legal and regulatory standards," he explained.

Sosthenes Kewe, former CEO of FSDT, spoke on the importance of partnerships in integrating underserved populations into the financial system, boosting trust, and enhancing economic inclusion. "By working together, we are empowering communities to engage with the financial sector, creating a more inclusive economy," he noted.

Eric Massinda, FSDT Chief Executive highlighted how inclusive financial systems can drive broader economic progress.



He emphasised the need to prioritise the financial needs of the most vulnerable populations.

"Delivering quality, inclusive financial solutions is critical to building trust in the financial sector and ensuring equitable access to opportunities for all," he said.

He called for continued innovation and collaboration to ensure financial inclusion leads to job creation, entrepreneurship, and poverty reduction.



**It's essential that we continue to work together to create policies that allow everyone, especially underserved communities, to access financial services**

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF ROCK FILLING MATERIAL REF PSR.124

BESIX Ballast Nedam Limited, executing Early Services for the Jetty and Load Out Facilities in the Tanga Bay for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project, invites experienced specialist Companies to express their interest for:

**- Rock filling material**

The Republic of Uganda, the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), the United Republic of Tanzania and/or Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), as well as other international oil companies are partaking in the implementation of the EACOP Project.

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania incl. a Jetty with Load Out Facility for Oil Tankers, near Tanga in Tanzania.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE MATERIALS / SERVICES:**

- 60-300kg rocks (armour block) ~ 1100 m3
- 90/250 gravel ~ 300 m3

Rock type should be GRANITE and should comply the requirements of EN 13383-1.

Interested companies which meet the minimum requirements and have the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest by sending together with the above listed documents an email to [serhat.denge@bbnltd.co.tz](mailto:serhat.denge@bbnltd.co.tz) (Max. Email Size: 20 MBs & All documents must be submitted in the English language) on or before **24th December 2024, 12 noon Tanzania Time.**

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will be evaluated and if selected will be invited, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), to participate in the bidding process.

Note: Only pre-qualified companies will receive an invitation to submit their bid in furtherance of the Call for Tender process.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**

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

- Company profile with prove of sufficient financial capabilities and sufficient and capable resources.
- An experience list with relevant supply history / track record showing minimum of five (5) years' experience in execution similar services of required **rock filling materials. ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015**
- Compliance with petroleum (local Content) regulation of 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.
- Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is highly recommended.
- Draft/Sample report dossier in pdf format



### PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

#### IFUNDS: PUBLIC OFFER RESULTS AND ALLOCATION

This announcement has been approved by the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) pursuant to the Capital Markets and Securities (Advertisements) Regulations, G.N. No. 15 of 1997.

iTrust Finance Limited ("iTrust Finance" or "Issuer") hereby announces that the Capital Markets and Securities Authority ("CMSA"), in the exercise of its mandates under the Capital Markets and Securities Act (Chapter 79 of the Laws of Tanzania) approved the Offer Documents and Trust Deeds of five Unit Trust Schemes: iCash Fund (Money market Fund), iGrowth Fund (Balanced Fund), iIncome Fund (Income Distributing Fund), iSave Fund (Fixed Income Fund), and iMaan Fund (Shariah Compliant Fund) operated by iTrust Finance Limited as Fund Manager and NBC Bank as Custodian/Trustee. iTrust Finance Limited is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, Cap 212 of the laws of the United Republic of Tanzania and licensed by the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) as a Fund Manager, Investment Advisor and Licensed Dealing Member of the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

#### STATUS OF THE PUBLIC OFFER

The Public Offer for subscription of Units was opened on 4th November 2024 and closed on 29th November 2024. Following the closing date, iTrust Finance is pleased to announce that it received applications for Units worth TZS 50.42 billion, compared to the plan of TZS 37 billion, representing a success rate of 136.26 percent.

#### RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC OFFER

A summary of the key result statistics of the offer (the "Offer") are set out below:

	iCash	iGrowth	iIncome	iSave	iMaan
<b>Total Initial Amount Offered (TZS)</b>	10,000,000,000	10,000,000,000	10,000,000,000	2,000,000,000	5,000,000,000
<b>Total Applications Received (TZS)</b>	12,796,925,602	17,806,594,291	11,617,528,476	2,807,450,000	5,387,689,745
<b>Issue Price (TZS)</b>	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Total Amounts Accepted (TZS)</b>	12,796,925,602	17,806,594,291	11,617,528,476	2,807,450,000	5,387,689,745
<b>Performance Rate (%)</b>	128%	178%	116%	140%	108%

#### ALLOCATION POLICY

The Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) has approved for the Fund Manager to accept all valid applications. Applicants will therefore receive 100% allocation.

#### CLARIFICATIONS

Applicants in need of any further clarifications are advised to consult their investment advisors or iTrust Finance Limited (email: [customerservice@itrust.co.tz](mailto:customerservice@itrust.co.tz), Phone: +255 659 071 777) regarding your application.

#### SALIENT DATES

Please see below the salient dates following the initial offer close:

DESCRIPTION	DATE
Unit Holders Statement Dispatch Date (via email)	16th December, 2024
Opening of Repurchase Operations	17th December, 2024

#### APPRECIATION

The management of iTrust Finance Limited wishes to thank all entities that made this landmark issuance possible. These include the Board and Management of the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA); Custodian National Bank of Commerce (NBC); and Legal Advisors Vertex Law Chambers.

*Issued by:*  
**Chief Executive Officer.**

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## Three female-led groups to receive 15 million/- in COSTECH's programme

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THREE female-led business groups will receive a share of 15m/- for their business ideas through the Kuza Femtech programme, under the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH).

Dr Erasto Mlyuka, manager for Technology Management Transfer at COSTECH, explained in Dar es Salaam over the weekend that the programme focuses on young women in the region who have missed educational opportunities.

He said the purpose of the event was to assess whether the proposed solutions could effectively address community challenges.

"We have young women presenting solutions in seven categories, each targeting a specific issue. While all ideas are valuable, limited resources mean we must prioritise. The participants with the strongest ideas will receive more support, but that does not imply the other ideas are any less important," he said.

The participants are from various districts, including Kinondoni, Tememe, Ilala, Kigamboni and Ubungu in Dar es Salaam Region.

"We are committed to supporting these participants in multiple ways, ensuring that the most promising solutions receive the resources they need to succeed," he added.

Grace Benard, a resident of Ilala in Dar es Salaam, presented an environmentally friendly candle designed to kill mosquitoes without producing smoke.

"The inspiration for this idea came from the impact of malaria. Our candles are designed to attract customers while combating mosquito parasites and providing a pleasant aroma," she explained.

Madhabi Seleman, an entrepreneur behind a 3D-printed cup and plate business, highlighted the durability of her products.

"Our cups and plates are made from plastic materials and are un-

breakable, making them ideal for schools and events," she said.

Three months ago, COSTECH launched two programmes aimed at enhancing the use of science, technology, and innovation in Tanzania: Future Femtech and Kuza Femtech.

Both programmes were designed to support female entrepreneurs and adolescent girls, providing them with the tools, resources, and networks needed to thrive in the technology sector.

COSTECH Director General Dr. Amos Nungu emphasised the commission's commitment to creating a nation where technology drives economic growth.

"Our strategy is to enhance the utilisation of science, technology, and innovation, empowering young women to lead and innovate," he said.

Kuza Femtech specifically supports girls who have missed educational opportunities by offering training and resources to help them succeed, while Future Femtech focuses on empowering women entrepreneurs.

Dr. Nungu added that Future Femtech, which began last year, had already supported five innovative female-led companies with 50m/-



**We are committed to supporting these participants in multiple ways, ensuring that the most promising solutions receive the resources they need to succeed**

## Mkuranga residents unite praying for peace, security

By Guardian Correspondent, Mkuranga

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THOUSANDS of residents in Mkuranga District, Coast Region gathered for a special prayer over the weekend, praying for the continued peace, stability and security of Tanzania.

The event, which had also blessings from President Samia Suluhu Hassan, emphasised the importance of national unity and progress as the country heads towards the 2025 general elections.

The event was organised by Mkuranga Member of Parliament Abdallah Ulega in partnership with the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA).

It was preceded by Maulid celebration which brought together senior sheikhs from several regions including Arusha, Kigoma, Kagera, Dar es Salaam and the Coast.

The Maulid carried the theme, "Protect Our Values and Peace for the Benefit of Our Nation," underscoring the critical role of peace in supporting President Samia's efforts for country's development.

The event, attended by a diverse group of citizens from various faiths, was a moment of unity, with attendees praying for President Samia's leadership and the country's continued prosperity. Senior government officials, including ministers, were also present, demonstrating widespread support for the nation's peaceful trajectory.

Sheikh Shaaban Juma from Arusha highlighted the significance of the gathering, saying: "A country without peace would struggle to host such an event. Tanzania has been blessed with peace, and we must protect and preserve it."

His words echoed the sentiments of many in the crowd, as they expressed continued peace for the country that has allowed the nation to prosper.

On behalf of the Mufti of Tanzania, Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir, Sheikh Himid Jongo, a member of the BAKWATA Ulama Council, praised MP Ulega for organising the event.

He also called on Ulega to address the long-standing issue of the narrow road at Mto Mzingi in Mbagala, which had caused significant inconveniences for local residents.

MP Abdallah Ulega expressed his gratitude, thanking God for the big turnout and President Samia for entrusting him with the responsibility of serving the people of Mkuranga.

"I promise to continue working tirelessly to serve this nation," Ulega said, emphasising the importance of such gatherings for strengthening community ties and setting goals for local development.

Residents, like Mohamed Mperi from Kisiju Ward, echoed Ulega's sentiments, praising the event for bringing people together and fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose. "This is a noble event that helps us meet, exchange ideas, and offers messages of love," Mperi said.

Coast Regional Commissioner Abubakar Kunenge also highlighted President Samia's role in fostering peace in the country stating that her leadership had created an environment where such unity and cooperation can thrive.



**A country without peace would struggle to host such an event. Tanzania has been blessed with peace, and we must protect and preserve it**



Industry and Trade deputy minister Exaud Kigahe (4th-L) and Kenya's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Isaack Njenga (4th-L), leading the cutting of a cake a reception held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday to mark the 61st anniversary of Kenya's independence. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## TRA reaffirms to expand services, educate people on tax compliance

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Tegeta suburb had reaffirmed its commitment to continue educating the people as well as expressing gratitude to taxpayers, highlighting their role in boosting the nation's revenue.

Previously, the Authority announced that it had expanded its services to local businesses in the area, ensuring efficient service delivery without the need to travel to the headquarters.

Speaking during a visit to taxpayers at Goba area, Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam Region yesterday, Maigloria Saria, assistant auditor and taxpayer voluntary compliance officer said: "TRA's campaign in December had focused on continuing to educate our taxpayers, while also expressing our gratitude and listening to their concerns."

She added: We are committed to ensuring that taxpayers can pay their taxes without problems, and we welcome their input as we head into another year of revenue collection."

Flora Erasto, director of GAF International Group Limited, thanked TRA for acknowledging their businesses as responsible taxpayers and for the expression of appreciation.

"We truly believe in this recognition, as we

have always paid our taxes promptly. We are grateful for this acknowledgment and for the excellent services we receive. We pledge to continue paying our taxes voluntarily," Erasto said.

She further noted that when any challenges arise, they are able to address them promptly by contacting the relevant TRA officers responsible.

As business people, she emphasised, they will continue to support TRA and comply with the laws and regulations governing their businesses and activities.

Dr Bhavin Jani, a health practitioner thanked TRA for appreciating their contribution to the nation's tax system.

"We are very grateful for the recognition. We are committed to working together to ensure that our country moves forward and continues to foster our development," Dr Jani said.

Dr Jani also praised TRA's customer service department for its improved efficiency in resolving client challenges, particularly during this period of technological transformation.

"I continue to commend TRA for enhancing its tax systems, although there are still minor challenges. For example, when you pay taxes, the system may not immediately recognise the payment, but this doesn't prevent you

from fulfilling your tax obligations. When such issues are raised, the customer service team resolves them promptly," he said.

TRA has set up a camp the Goba centre, which will remain in place until December 31, 2024.

## Sagini: Legal aid campaign tackles land disputes, GBV

By Correspondent Elizabeth Zaya

DEPUTY Minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs Jumanne Sagini has stressed the importance of the ongoing nationwide legal aid campaign in resolving land disputes and combating gender-based violence across Tanzania.

Dubbed: "Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign", the initiative began in February 2023, will run until February 2026, focusing on providing legal services and raising public awareness to ensure that justice is accessible to all, especially the most vulnerable communities.

Speaking during the campaign's launch event in Musoma, Mara Region, over the weekend, Sagini reaffirmed the government's commitment to enhancing access to justice.

"The government is fully aware of the delays in resolving land disputes, particularly in areas lacking land tribunals," said Sagini. "To address this, we are working alongside the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Human Settlements Development to reform the system, moving towards judicial handling of land cases."

Sagini emphasised that the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign would play a pivotal role in facilitating access to justice by providing free legal support, especially in tackling land-related conflicts and offering assistance to victims of gender-based violence. "This campaign will significantly contribute to resolving land disputes and offer vital legal assistance to those affected by gender-based violence," he added.

The campaign is named after President Samia Suluhu Hassan and aims to reach citizens across the country by offering education on legal rights and providing free legal aid.

Sagini highlighted the transformative potential of the campaign, noting its importance in empowering citizens who otherwise might not afford legal services.

Rorya District Commissioner, Dr Halfan Haule, who represented the Regional Commissioner at the launch called for a reform in the way land disputes are handled. "Mara is facing numerous land disputes, many of which arise due to the lack of legal mechanisms and tribunals to resolve them," Dr Haule explained.

He pointed out that, areas like Rorya and Butiama lack land tribunals, forcing citizens to travel long distances to Musoma or Tarime to access justice.

"This causes great financial and time burden for the people, many of whom give up to seek legal solutions," he said, urging that judicial bodies, rather than land tribunals, be given the authority to settle such disputes.

Lucas Malunde, board member of the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign, praised the initiative for its potential to improve access to justice.

"This campaign is crucial in ensuring that legal support reaches those who cannot afford to pay for lawyers. It is a vital tool in encouraging fair and equitable access to justice across the country," Malunde said.

The called for continued collaboration to ensure that legal aid reaches the most underserved citizens especially those facing gender-based violence or living in remote areas with limited access to legal resources.



Hassan Makwendo, councillor for Kichonda in Liwale District, addresses a recent meeting in the ward. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



## Over 2,000 trees planted at school in Mwanza to combat changes in climate

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

OVER 2000 trees had been planted at Lumea Primary School in Buchosa District Council in Mwanza Region as part of efforts to combat climate change, including drought and rising temperatures.

Speaking at the tree planting event, Stephen Oyugi, a forest officer from the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) in Sengerema District, emphasised the need for the community to increase their efforts in both planting and conserving trees to protect Tanzania's environment.

He explained that, in response to the growing drought and heat conditions in the district, TFS has distributed over 37,000 free tree seedlings in the last quarter of the year and will continue to provide additional seedlings at no cost.

Oyugi further stressed that planting trees is not enough; it is equally important to protect and maintain them to ensure they thrive.

"Trees need to be watered, and pruning should be done only once a year, rather than frequently as many people tend to do, as excessive pruning depletes the tree's resources," Oyugi said.

The head teacher of the school, Msaghaa Hango, stated that the trees planted are part of their goal to plant 6,000 trees. He pledged to continue planting more and to educate students on how to properly take care of them.

Cuthbert Mdala, Sengerema District Administrative Secretary added that tree planting is a priority for the district, which had successfully met the national target of planting 1.5 million trees annually.

## Experts demand integrated digital system to deepen GBV response

By Beatrice Philemon

PROSECUTORS, community development officers, police, doctors and social welfare officers have called for the introduction of an integrated digital data system to strengthen the effectiveness of one stop centres (OSCs) established to combat gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against children (VAC) in the country.

The proposal was made in Dodoma over the weekend at a Cross-Learning Workshop organised by the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with Tanzania Men as Equal Partners in Development (TMEPID), and supported by GIZ Tanzania, the European Union, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The workshop aimed at enhancing the linkages between OSCs, justice systems, and other relevant services.

Renatus Mkude, assistant director at the National Prosecution Services of Tanzania, stressed the importance of integrating data systems across all reported cases of GBV. He explained that such a system would provide accurate data to inform timely legal action, and ensure that survivors and victims of violence receive the necessary medical, legal, and psychological support.

"A digital system would enable the government and stakeholders to track the types of GBV affecting women and children and take appropriate action to address these issues effectively," Mkude said.

Participants also recommended improving information-sharing mechanisms between key stakeholders, including the police, courts, and social welfare officers, to better assess and respond to GBV and VAC cases.

Furthermore, they suggested strengthening the presence of essential staff at the OSCs, such as prosecutors, who are currently lacking in some centres.

Dr. Mzee Nassoro, assistant director at the Ministry of Health's Division of Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health, highlighted the severe health implications of GBV, which can lead to long-term physical and psychological harm for survivors. He noted that Tanzania has made significant strides to address these issues through various government initiatives, such as the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) and the integration of GBV services into routine health care.

"GBV is not just a social issue but a serious health concern that requires a coordinated response from all sectors," Dr. Nassoro said.

As of December 2023, over 105,000 cases of GBV were reported at health facilities across Tanzania, with 30.9% of survivors seeking support within 72 hours, enabling timely medical intervention and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent HIV transmission.

Tullo Masanja, assistant commissioner for Social Welfare at the Ministry of Community Development, highlighted the government's efforts to create safe spaces for survivors through the construction of safe houses in ten regions. He revealed that the World Bank had provided a \$104 million loan (approximately 248 billion Tanzanian shillings) to fund these facilities, aimed at offering survivors of GBV and VAC the support they need to rebuild their lives.

"One Stop Centres offer a comprehensive approach to addressing GBV, where survivors can access medical care, counseling, legal assistance, and protection all under one roof," Masanja said.

The government has already established 30 OSCs nationwide, with plans to scale up this initiative. A new One Stop Centre has also been launched in Manyara Region to further extend services to more communities.

In addition to OSCs, the government is committed to tackling harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage, both of which contribute significantly to the high rates of GBV in the country. FGM prevention, screening, treatment, and counseling services have been integrated into the national GBV and VAC service guidelines for healthcare providers.



## KCB BANK TANZANIA LIMITED IS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR PETER ALLAN KALLAGHE AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



AMB. PETER ALLAN KALLAGHE

The Board of Directors of KCB Bank Tanzania Limited, a subsidiary of KCB Group PLC, is pleased to announce the appointment of Ambassador Peter Allan Kallaghe as its new Board Chairperson, effective 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.

Ambassador Kallaghe brings over 34 years of distinguished experience in diplomacy, government affairs, and strategic leadership. His illustrious career includes serving as Tanzania's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Canada, and Ambassador to Cuba and Ireland. He has held key roles such as Deputy Private Secretary to the President and Director of Government Communications.

Currently, Ambassador Kallaghe serves as a Senior Executive Consultant, providing expertise on leadership, national security, and strategic management. He also lectures at prominent institutions, including the National Defence College and UONGOZI Institute, and advises on corporate etiquette and international protocol.

Ambassador Kallaghe is also a member of the Presidential Committee on Economic Diplomacy and serves on the Board of TPDC (Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation), among other advisory roles.

Ambassador Peter Allan Kallaghe is succeeding Ambassador John Ulanga, whose tenure has now concluded. The Board and Management would like to express their sincere gratitude to Ambassador John Ulanga for his valuable contribution to KCB Bank during his time in this role.



## KCB BANK TANZANIA LIMITED IS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. ANAEL SAMUEL MSHANA AS A DIRECTOR OF THE BANK.



MR. ANAEL SAMUEL MSHANA

KCB Bank Tanzania Limited, a subsidiary of KCB Group PLC, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Anael Samuel Mshana as its Director, effective 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024.

Mr. Samuel is a distinguished professional with extensive expertise in finance, information systems, and corporate governance. His notable academic achievements and professional certifications include an MBA in Finance from the University of Dar es Salaam (2004–2006). Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (1999–2002) Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designation and Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) certification

Mr. Samuel is an accomplished leader, currently serving on multiple boards where he provides strategic oversight and leadership: Board Member Association of Tanzania Employers (since November 2020), Ministerial Appointee, Advisory Board of the Labour, Economic, and Social Council (LESCO), Board Member, CCBRT; An Executive Committee member of University of Dar es Salaam Convocation Council; and Executive Board Member, Songas Ltd (since February 2020), overseeing operations in power generation, gas processing and infrastructure management. Anael is also managing operations of Malindi Solar Group in Kenya.

In his role at Songas, Mr. Samuel has demonstrated exceptional leadership in ensuring safe, sustainable, and economically sound operations. His experience in strategic direction, regulatory compliance, stakeholder engagement and Government relations will be instrumental in driving the continued success of KCB Bank Tanzania Limited.

We are honoured to welcome Mr. Samuel to the Board of Directors and are confident his expertise will further strengthen the Bank's commitment to excellence and innovation in service delivery.



## KCB BANK TANZANIA LIMITED IS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. JACQUELINE LOHAY WOISO AS A DIRECTOR OF THE BANK.



MS. JACQUELINE LOHAY WOISO

KCB Bank Tanzania Limited, a subsidiary of KCB Group PLC, is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Jacqueline Lohay Woiso as its Director, effective 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024.

Ms. Woiso is an accomplished leader with over 20 years of experience driving transformation in multinational and local organizations within the banking and broadcasting sectors. She has held senior executive roles, including Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, for more than seven years, with expertise in strategic leadership, corporate finance, resource management, public relations and policy formulation

Ms. Woiso is currently the Managing Director of MultiChoice Tanzania since November 2018. Her extensive banking career spans over 19 years, during which she has worked with Standard Chartered Bank, Barclays Bank and Bank M in Tanzania.

Additionally, Ms. Woiso is a seasoned board member in both public and private institutions in various sectors including Financial Investment, Health, Education, Culture & Arts and Tourism, for over a decade, contributing to growth, sound leadership and governance.

She holds a Master of Business Administration from Millpark Business School, South Africa, an Advanced Diploma in Business Administration from the Institute of Development Management, Mzumbe, and is a Certified Director from the Institute of Directors, Tanzania and member of The Boardroom Africa.

With a proven track record in business strategy, customer retention, and product innovation, Ms. Woiso's expertise will be instrumental in driving KCB Bank Tanzania's continued growth and success.

The Board and Management extend their heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Jacqueline Lohay Woiso and look forward to her valuable contributions in this new role.



# Tarime DC urges customs agents to adhere to the law

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

TARIME District Commissioner, Major Edward Gowele has urged custom's agents at the Sirari border to adhere to the laws while performing their duties at the border.

Maj Gowele made these remarks during a meeting with customs agents organised by the Tanzania Shipping Agents Corporation (TASAC) at the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) offices in Sirari, Tarime District, Mara Region.

He stated that there are existing laws that govern the work of customs agents, and these must be followed to ensure the country continues to generate revenue for various developments.

Maj. Gowele emphasised that customs agents should have offices to help TASAC reach them easily, and to address any challenges that arise efficiently. He further said that due to challenges arising from unregistered agents, he urged them to have

identification cards that they would use when working at the Sirari border between Tanzania and Kenya.

He also mentioned that at this border, there are individuals acting as unregistered customs agents, which damages the reputation of those operating legally, causing revenue loss due to the presence of unregistered agents.

Athman Athman, TASAC senior statistician, said the laws for customs agents are clear, and failure to follow them would lead to necessary actions being taken. He added that TASAC's role is to educate agents and maintain communication to improve their operations.

Maryam Muhambo, CEO of Emaus Logistics Tanzania Limited, a customs agency company, stated that the challenges customs agents face stem from a lack of education, and called on TASAC to hold a meeting with leaders of the Tanzania Freight Forwarders Association (TAFFA) to provide training to their members.

Maryam emphasised the importance of adhering to the foundational principles of customs agency work to avoid conflicts with government institutions regulating the sector.

Deodatus Sanda, senior immigration officer at the Sirari border, stated that agents involved in fraudulent activities would face action.

He further noted that the good neighborliness between Tanzania and Kenya should continue, with people allowed to walk 10 kilometers in each country, but any activities beyond that would result in measures being taken.

He also mentioned that drivers entering with commercial vehicles are required to pay fees.

Abdallah Salum, TRA's acting customs manager said that they continue to collaborate with customs agents to follow procedures that protect legitimate customs agents by preventing unauthorised individuals working.



Dr Frederick Ndossi (R), Care and Treatment Director with Tanzania Health Promotion Support's (THPS) Afya Hatua Project, symbolically presents 40 motorcycles worth a total of about 141.4m/- to Kigoma regional commissioner Thobias Andengenyne at the weekend. Issued by project, which is funded by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the motorbikes are meant for use in transporting HIV Viral Load samples to laboratories and tracing clients who missed appointments. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

## MACHINES FOR SALE

**Company Name:** China Henan International Cooperation Group Co., Ltd

**Email:** dahajss@gmail.com

**P.O.Box:** 75026, Dar es Salaam

**Phone no :** +255 756 307 691 - Boni

+255 653 288 876 - Casiana

**Content:** Our company plan to sale different types of machineries, vehicles and equipment as below:

**Vehicles:** Pickups, Station Wagons, Light trucks, Tippers and Water tanks etc.

**Construction Equipment:** Excavators, Bulldozers, Loaders, Graders, Rollers etc.

**Others:** Generators, Air compressors, Concrete mixers, Mixing plants etc.

**Attention:** Some equipment may be sold as scrap depends on the condition.

## THPS contributes forty motorbikes for comprehensive HIV prevention

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TANZANIA Health Promotion Support (THPS) has donated 40 motorbikes worth \$52,370 (141.4m/-) to support comprehensive HIV prevention, care and treatment services in Kigoma Region.

Funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the project, named 'Afya Hatua,' is implemented by THPS in collaboration with the government.

Speaking during the handover event in Kigoma over the weekend, THPS Afya Hatua Project Care and Treatment director, Dr Frederick Ndossi explained that the motorbike donation aligns with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed to improve recipients' access to care and adherence support.

He stated that the motorbikes would be distributed to 40 HIV Care and Treatment

Clinics (CTCs) with high client volumes, which were identified following a joint assessment with Regional and Council Health Management Teams (R/CHMTs).

"These motorbikes, valued at 141.4m/-, are aimed at facilitating essential HIV-related services, including transporting HIV Viral Load (HVL) samples to laboratories, tracing clients who missed appointments, and encouraging adherence," Dr. Ndossi said.

Additional uses for the motorbikes include following up with index partners and social contacts for HIV testing, as well as supporting community-based services such as ART outreach, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) distribution, and condom promotion. "We are committed to continuing our collaboration with the government to ensure the delivery of quality, comprehensive HIV combination prevention, care, and treatment services in Kigoma Region."

Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Thobias Andengenyne, expressed his appreciation for the continued support provided by PEPFAR and CDC through THPS, emphasising the motorbikes' role in improving access to healthcare for underserved communities and strengthening Kigoma's overall healthcare system. "The motorbikes must be used effectively and strictly in line with the set targets. This is crucial to ensure that recipients of care benefit from improved access to treatment and receive the necessary adherence support, significantly enhancing their overall health outcomes," he said.

He also highlighted that during the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, THPS successfully managed the pandemic in Kigoma under the Afya Hatua Project by implementing a community-centered, multi-pronged approach that focused on improving healthcare access, strengthening local systems, and addressing the

challenges posed by the disease.

"With this approach, even community members in remote areas had better access to Covid-19 testing, care, and vaccines. Reduced transmission was achieved through education, PPE distribution, and community engagement, which helped curb the spread of Covid-19," he noted.

"This holistic approach made Covid-19 management under the Afya Hatua Project in Kigoma a model of success, demonstrating the impact of well-coordinated, community-driven health initiatives," he stressed.

The 40 motorbikes will be distributed across HIV CTCs with high client volumes in Kigoma's districts, including Buhigwe District Council (five), Kakonko District Council (four), Kasulu District Council (nine), Kasulu Town Council (two), Kibondo District Council (four), Kigoma District Council (two), Kigoma Municipal Council (three), and Uvinza District Council (11).

## TRA PHOTO EVENTS DECEMBER 2024



The Commissioner General of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Yusuph Mwenda, on December 14, addressed business operators involved in the tourist transport sector in Arusha. During his discussion, he acknowledged the significant contributions made by the entrepreneurs and investors towards the nation's development through the taxes they pay. Furthermore, he pledged to continue collaborating with taxpayers in the Arusha Region and stated December is, a month dedicated to expressing gratitude to taxpayers, saying he plans to visit taxpayers at their locations to listen to their concerns.



# Samia Infrastructure Bond: A model for roads investment in

The recently launched Samia Infrastructure Bond offers vital lessons on how Africa can tap into other innovative means to finance its massive requirements on building bridges, energy systems and urban development among others.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) estimates that the continent requires between \$130 billion and \$170 billion for road infrastructure development each year, leaving a gap of around \$100 billion.

This calls for innovative funding methods to meet these crucial infrastructure needs – with, for example, nearly 600 million people in sub-Saharan Africa lacking access to grid electricity.

Yet, traditional sources of funding namely the allocations set in the annual government budgets and international aid—often fall short due to competing priorities and insufficient financial resources facing most African countries, including Tanzania.

In this situation, Tanzania's Samia Infrastructure Bond, a brainchild of CRDB Bank which was launched on November 29, became a ground-breaking initiative that not only represents a significant leap for the country but also has the potential to serve as a transformative model for the entire African continent.

Named after President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, who has championed economic empowerment and development initiatives, the bond is an innovative financial instrument designed to mobilize funds from various stakeholders, including individuals, private institutions, and corporate entities to finance road infrastructure projects implemented under Tanzania Rural and Urban Road Agency (TARURA).

It targets road and bridge construction projects, with a special focus on rural areas that are often underdeveloped due to a lack of financial resources.

As articulated by the Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA), Nicodemus Mkama, such bonds have played a vital role in infrastructure development and Africa is set to benefit in the same trajectory.

Speaking during the inaugural event, Mr Mkama said through vehicles such as shares, corporate bonds, government bonds, subnational bonds, and collective investment schemes, help to mobilize funds which are channelled to critical sectors like infrastructure.

"This mechanism ensures not only economic advancement but also societal prosperity," he said, praising the sixth phase administration of President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan for aiding Tanzania's capital markets which have demonstrated resilience and growth despite global economic challenges.

CMSA data shows that during the past three years, investment in the shares, corporate bonds, government bonds, subnational

bonds, and collective investment schemes, surged by 47.5 percent, reaching a sum of 45.86 trillion shillings by October 2024, compared to Sh31.10 trillion in October 2021. Furthermore, the value of stock and bond transactions climbed by 51.48 percent, reflecting increased investor confidence.

"Bonds offer a sustainable and efficient means of financing Africa's vast infrastructure needs. By leveraging on capital markets, countries like Tanzania can reduce reliance on external aid, empower local enterprises, and stimulate broader economic growth," says Mr Mkama.

Indeed, the Samia Infrastructure Bond serves as a testament to the transformative potential of bonds in addressing Africa's infrastructure challenges, providing a blueprint for other nations to emulate.

"The Samia Infrastructure Bond is not just a financial instrument; it is a symbol of progress and a harbinger of a brighter future for Tanzania and Africa at large," he adds.

When he spoke at the launch of the bond, Vice President Dr. Phillip Mpango, who represented President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, underscored the importance of the Samia Infrastructure Bond in resolving critical financial challenges within the road sector.

The is designed to address the delays in road projects caused by funding shortages and disbursement inefficiencies.

The Samia Infrastructure Bond is specifically aimed at bridging financial gaps in road development projects. Despite substantial government allocations for infrastructure initiatives, delayed payments to contractors and access to capital have hindered the timely completion of many projects causing losses to the intended beneficiaries in the respective areas. The bond seeks to ensure that contractors working on both urban and rural road projects receive timely payments, expediting project implementation.

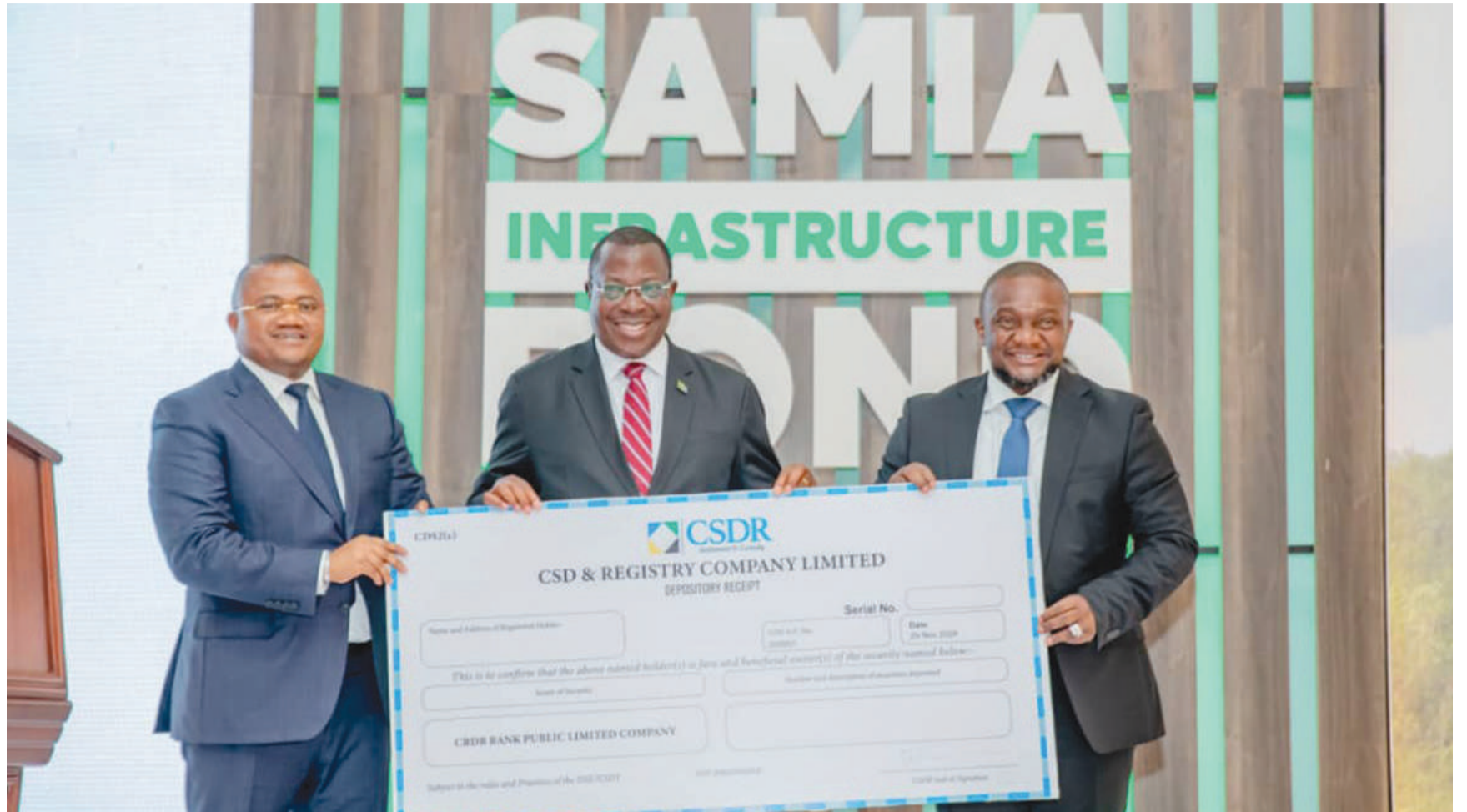
CRDB Bank's Chief Executive Officer, Abdulmajid Nsekela, notes that the Sh150 billion to be raised from the bond would be channelled directly to contractors to ensure uninterrupted road construction progress.

"This bond will ensure that contractors have the financial resources they need, eliminating payment delays and ensuring projects are completed on time," said Nsekela.

One of the most significant advantages of the Samia Infrastructure Bond is the substantial support it offers to contractors, particularly local ones. Over the years, delayed payments have posed a major challenge, slowing project execution. The bond guarantees timely financial access, enabling contractors to complete their work without financial hurdles.

Deputy Finance Minister Hamad Chande notes that the bond would ensure contractors are paid on time, enabling them to focus on delivering quality infrastructure.

"The Samia Infrastructure Bond will help



The Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Phillip Isdory Mpango (centre), holding a dummy bond purchase certificate for the Samia Infrastructure Bond. On the left is the CRDB Bank Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela and on the right is the Minister of State in the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government, Mohamed Mchengerwa.

contractors overcome financial challenges, ensuring road projects are completed on schedule," he says.

This bond is expected to improve road conditions, especially in rural areas where inadequate infrastructure has hindered the transport of goods and people. By ensuring timely completion of road construction, the bond will enhance transportation networks, promote trade, and boost economic activities.

Despite government efforts to improving transportation infrastructures, many urban and rural roads remain in poor condition. Many roads are at gravel standard leading to high maintenance costs and frequent damage, particularly during the rainy season. The Samia Infrastructure Bond is expected to address these gaps by ensuring the road network is enhanced and expanded at tarmac levels to meet the needs of a growing economy.

Deputy Minister of Works, Honourable Godfrey Kasekenya highlights that the bond would empower contractors to complete projects on time and to high-quality standards.

"This bond will ensure that critical road projects are completed promptly, which is critical for enhancing trade and driving economic growth," says Kasekenya.



The high table posing for a group photo with board members and the management team of CRDB Bank during the launch of the event of the Samia Infrastructure Bond seated centre is VP Dr. Phillip Mpango.



Attendees registering before the launch of Samia Infrastructure Bond. The bond was launched on 29th November 2024 in Dar es Salaam



The Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Phillip Isdory Mpango (center) arriving at the venue during the launch of Samia Infrastructure Bond. Accompanying him is the Minister of State for Regional Administration and Local Government, Mohamed Mchengerwa (L), and CRDB Bank Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela (R).



The Acting Regional Commissioner of Mwanza who is also the District Commissioner of Kwimba, Ng'wilabuzu Ludigija (seated center) graced an educational seminar of the Samia Infrastructure Bond to the potential investors from Mwanza Region and the Lake Zone area at large. The seminar was held on 6th December 2024.



The Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Phillip Isdory Mpango (L), engaging in a conversation with the CRDB Bank Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela (R) during the launch of the Samia Infrastructure Bond.



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## TBS not capable of checking goods at all border points; it is traders who can

CONSIDERABLE pressure is building on the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to develop strategies to tackle the growing number of products entering the country through informal routes - that is, bypassing inspection or screening points.

It was to some observers a surprise that this directive was being given by none other than TBS chairman Prof Othman Chande Othman in person.

The professor was visiting the sensitive Tunduma and Kasumulu border posts on Tanzania's border with Zambia, and one can imagine how many more posts could be similarly cited. It is an onerously tasking job.

Not many expect to see things run fully in line with what board chairman demanded, as the only usable strategy is being everywhere all the time, with non-stop guards watching even in the bush where there are usable paths that can be used for small loads, etc.

It is hard to say that any high taxation country has ever succeeded to keep out contraband by watching its borders, though it is indeed possible to discourage smugglers by checking usable border points.

That is what the board chairman seemingly suggested, but if the market reward is big enough, it is easy to see that smugglers would alter vehicles, and routes.

As part of this overall effort to diminish smuggling, the TBS management supervisor visited the border zone to assess current operations and explore ways to improve the effectiveness of TBS in supporting business growth.

He said this requires the bureau to reinforce public education efforts, ensuring that consumers are better equipped to identify safe and quality-assured goods.

That is unsurprisingly the focus of TBS work, but any observer will agree that consumers are more price sensitive than quality demanding, as TBS intimates.

There is a product marking campaign underway, explained on the basis of the need to ensure that both imported and locally manufactured goods are properly marked.

Just how much can this be done unless there is an automated way to mark products, just by passing at an entry point or with TBS staff stationed in all sorts of factories or warehouses?

It is likely the agency has thought up those problems, but if the method forces up prices it will be resisted.

A top TBS executive was on record lately as affirming that banned products, including uninspected cosmetics, were being infiltrated to markets through informal channels, even as the various regulatory bodies seek to collaborate for surveillance at official entry points.

TBS admits that the challenge of porous borders remains a major issue and will ensure that competition remains the rule, with the consumer left to determine what products to buy and what not to.

No products can remain on the market if a consumer buys it once and never comes back again; the shopkeeper won't order that item again.

It must be admitted that substandard products are part of the competition. The fact that just a small section of the public would seek quality without being overly cautious over prices is what gives energy to smugglers.

TBS is surely expected to play its part, but we should desist from expecting quality miracles any time soon.

## Demands by traders on TRA could imperil tax collections

CONCERNS recently raised in Dar es Salaam by business stakeholders and trade union representatives in what appeared to be an inaugural meeting with the Presidential Task Force on Tax Reforms raise some questions.

The key issue is whether objectives are similar, not to speak of their being identical, as in the final analysis that is an underlying premise with respect to the team's work.

The task force could achieve its objectives if it engages with groups sharing the same objectives with the government. In the event of there being sharp disparities, little can be expected.

That is precisely where the tone was being set, if the suggestions raised by the traders and even trade unions have much in common with enabling appropriate tax administration where the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) is largely assured of reaching its objectives.

Changes and directives being issued by President Samia Suluhu Hassan since she assumed office had that focus: collect taxes in a civil manner, and compliance rates will rise. It is not easy to say for sure that tax administrators believe that doing so is workable, and so it poses challenges.

The business stakeholders decried what they saw as excessive tax deductions and a lack of professionalism in tax collection translating into high rates demanded - with forceful

application.

If that is indeed the case, and aware that it has taken three years for presidential directives on tax collection to be effected, the issue comes up as to the basic reason.

It comes to the supposition that TRA seeks to fulfil tax collection goals and knows the most appropriate and effective methods to employ.

Many people, in the sense of those marginally aware of government budgeting and the degree to which it depends on TRA's performance, will likely give the benefit of doubt to the tax collector - even if grudgingly.

For TRA to actually observe the kind of administrative procedure that most contributing stakeholders demand, it will have to be clear to the management there that it is their behaviour which will judge them, not goal realisation per se.

That isn't exactly assured at the moment, as the government knows that it has to start implementing as many projects as it can, and then sequence deliveries of funds for its various phases.

It thus has little in the way of options on how taxes ought to be collected, but collecting them.

One aspect that may also not come up in current discussions on the issue, as it is outside the usual purview of tax matters as well as budgeting in general, is that not all countries see tax collection statistics as the priority item of reference as to the government's performance.



By Kanayo F. Nwanze

JUDGING from the daily outpouring of commentary, opinions and reports, you would think that there were two African continents. One of them is the new land of opportunity, with seven of the world's ten fastest growing economies, offering limitless possibilities to investors. There is, however, this other image: a starving and hopeless continent, hungry and poor, corrupt and prey to foreign exploiters.

As Africans, we are tired of caricatures. But we are also tired of waiting. Waiting to be led toward the one Africa we all want: the Africa that can - and should - be.

We know the real Africa, filled with possibilities, dignity and opportunities, able to face its challenges and solve them from within. Never has the time been more right for us to finally realise our full potential. It is within our grasp.

As a scientist, I am always interested in facts. Africa is a land rich in resources, which has enjoyed some of the highest economic growth rates on the planet. It is home to 200 million people between the ages of 15 and 24. And it has seen foreign direct investment triple over the past decade.

As the head of an institution whose business is investing in rural people, I know that you also need vision and imagination.

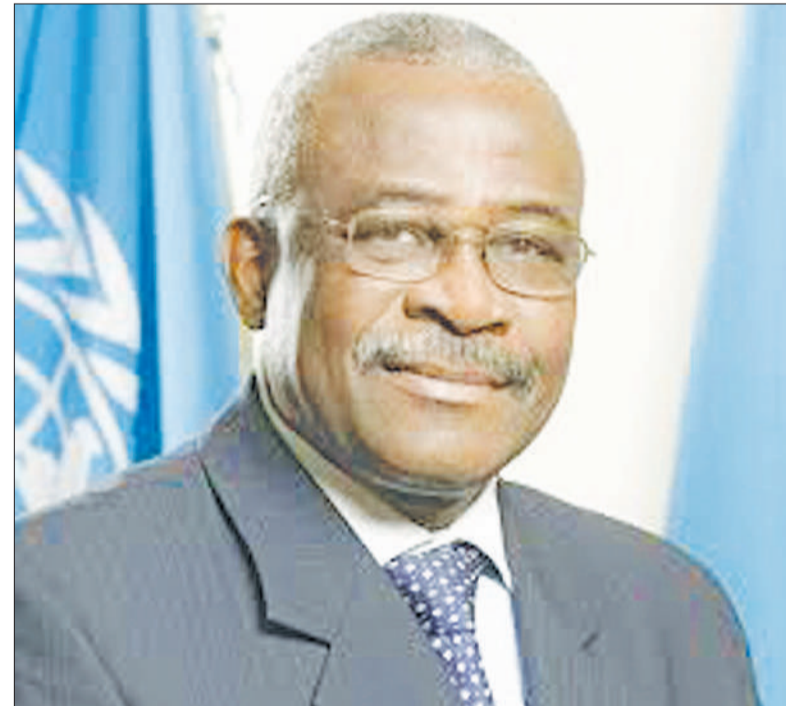
At the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) we have banked on the poorest, most marginalised people in the world, and over and over again these investments have paid off. For people, for communities, for societies. And more than half of the people we invest in are Africans.

More than ten years have passed since the Maputo Declaration in which you, as African leaders, committed to allocating at least 10 per cent of national budgets to agriculture and rural development - key sectors in the drive to cut poverty, build inclusive growth and strengthen food security and nutrition.

Today, just seven countries have fulfilled the Maputo commitment consistently, while some others have made steps in the right direction. Ten years is a long time to wait. In less time I have seen projects turn desert into farmland.

In just a few days in Malabo at the 23rd African Union Summit, I will join those of you, African leaders, who will gather to discuss this year's focus of agriculture and food security. This is my call: Don't just promise development, deliver it, make it happen now. Make real, concrete progress toward investment that reaches all Africans. Investments that prioritise rural people.

## AS Africans, we are tired of caricatures - and of waiting...



Kanayo F. Nwanze

Our biggest resource is our people. To squander this is worse than wasteful. If we don't act now, by 2030 Africa will account for 80 per cent of the world's poor. Is this the legacy that we want to leave for future generations?

The African Union declared 2014 as the year of Agriculture and Food Security. And this is the year we look beyond the deadline of the Millennium Development Goals to a post-2015 world with new goals and targets to reach.

I hope that this means that we will be dedicating ourselves fully to making agriculture a priority. GDP growth due to agriculture has been estimated to be five times more effective in reducing poverty than growth in any other sector, and in sub-Saharan Africa, up to 11 times.

Ironically, it is countries that lack lucrative extractive industries and that have had to invest in agriculture that have found out what is now an open secret: agriculture not only improves food security but creates wealth.

Small family farmers in some parts of our continent contribute as much as 80 per cent of food production. Investing in poor rural people is both good economics and good ethics.

A full 60 per cent of our people depend wholly or partly on agriculture for their livelihoods, and the vast majority of them live below the poverty line. It's not pity and handouts that they need. It's access to markets and finance, land tenure security, knowledge and technology, and policies that favour small farms and make it easier for them to do business.

A thriving small farm sector helps rural areas retain the young people who would otherwise be driven to migrate to overcrowded cities where they face an uncertain future. Investing in agriculture reinforces not only food security but security in general.

In an Africa where 20 states are classified as fragile and 28 countries need food assistance, the need for a real rural transformation backed by investment and not just words is critical - I have often said that declarations don't feed people.

Investments must be focused on smallholder family farms. Small farms make up 80 per cent of all farms in sub-Saharan Africa. And contrary to conventional wisdom, small farms are often more productive than large farms.

For example, China's 200 million small farms cover only 10 per cent of the world's agricultural land but produce 20 per cent of the world's food. The average African farm, however, is performing at only about 40 per cent of its potential.

Simple technologies - such as improved seeds, irrigation and fertiliser - could triple productivity, triggering transformational growth in the agricultural sector. It is estimated that irrigation alone could increase output by up to 50 per cent in Africa.

Rural areas also need the right investments in infrastructure - roads, energy, storage facilities, social and financial services - and enabling policies backed by appropriate governance structures that ensure inclusiveness.

If we look at the countries that have met the Maputo commitment,

we see that investing in agriculture works. Given that agriculture has become lucrative for private investors, and about 60 per cent of planet Earth's available uncultivated agricultural land is in Africa, there is no mystery why we hear about so-called 'land grabs'.

Opportunity draws foreign investors. There is nothing wrong with foreign investment. But it has to be managed - to the benefit of all.

What is a mystery is why, with such a vast potential and a young population just waiting for a reason to seize it, our African leaders do not announce that they will redouble their efforts to drive an inclusive rural transformation, with concrete commitments, that will make Maputo a reality. I hope that after the Malabo meeting, that will be a mystery no longer.

African economies have grown impressively. But it is time to stop focusing on GDP figures and instead focus on people.

The majority of our people are engaged in agriculture, and the neglect of that sector must stop if we really want to realise the healthy, peaceful and food secure Africa that we know can be. It is not a dream; it is a responsibility.

**• Nigerian national Kanayo F. Nwanze, the immediate former President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) - from April 2007 to March 2017. He has been a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Food Security since 2010, and formerly chaired the group. This is an open letter he wrote to African Union heads of state on May 26, 2014. (We are reproducing it - a decade later - a given its timeless importance and relevance. - Editor).**

**IFAD is an international financial institution and a specialised agency of the United Nations that works to address poverty and hunger in rural areas in developing countries. It is the only multilateral development organisation focusing solely on rural economies and food security.**

**It is involved in over 200 projects across nearly 100 countries. It funds and sponsors initiatives that improve land and water management, develop rural infrastructure, train and educate farmers in more efficient technologies, build up resilience against climate change, enhancing market accessibility, and more.**



# Empowering PWDs: Tanzania launches national strategy to improve rights, access to healthcare

By Guardian Reporter

**P**ENNY Pettit, a 30-year-old woman with down syndrome, joined countless others in Dar es Salaam city to mark the International Day for People with Disabilities (PwDs) on December 3rd.

Down syndrome is a genetic condition where an individual is born with an extra chromosome, affecting both brain and body development, which can lead to slower cognitive abilities, learning difficulties, and challenges in grasping new concepts.

Penny's mother, Mony Pettit, spoke candidly about the challenges of raising a child with down syndrome, emphasizing the need for doctors and nurses to inform parents about the condition immediately after birth.

This early disclosure, she believes, would help parents better understand the condition and prepare for the challenges ahead.

"Caring for a child with down syndrome is expensive and demanding," Mony explains, adding: "Parents must be constantly present, and treatments, such as those at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), can be prohibitively costly."

Despite these challenges, Penny Pettit was all smiles at the event. She, like many other individuals with disabilities, is hopeful about the government's recent launch of a national action plan aimed at improving the rights, welfare, and inclusion of disabled people across Tanzania.

The government has also introduced a national strategy for assistive technologies to benefit disabled individuals.

This initiative is set to support nearly 5 million disabled people in Tanzania, who make up 11 percent of the country's



**Penny Pettit, a physically challenged young woman hands over gifts to children with down syndrome condition at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Guardian Photographer.**

population, as per the 2022 National Housing and Population Census.

The action plan was officially unveiled by Deputy Prime Minister Dr Dotto Biteko during the International Day for People with Disabilities observance in Dar es Salaam.

The theme for this year's observance was 'Amplifying the Leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future'. The day focused on promoting the rights and well-being of PwDs and raising awareness about their inclusion in all aspects of society—political, social, economic, and cultural.

The day is celebrated to advocate for the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society, including education, employment, healthcare, and public life. The day encourages governments, organiza-

tions, and communities to actively work towards creating accessible and inclusive environments.

It is a platform to promote the rights of people with disabilities, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The day underscores the need for policies and actions that guarantee equality, dignity, and full participation in society for people with

Gerald Komba, Social Welfare Officer in the Prime Minister's Office, highlighted that the action plan is designed to ensure the availability of high-quality assistive technologies for PwDs.

"This will help eliminate substandard products like poor-quality wheelchairs and walking sticks. It will also create a centralized system for providing all forms of assistance to people

with disabilities," he said.

Komba praised the government's ongoing efforts to improve access to social services for disabled individuals, particularly in the health sector. "We are committed to creating an inclusive society where no one is left behind," he added.

The action plan also emphasizes improving healthcare services for PwDs, including training healthcare workers in sign language and enhancing communication within health centers.

Several organizations, including Marie Stopes Tanzania, have already partnered with the government to improve health access for PwDs.

Oscar Kimaro, Head of Advocacy and External Relations at Marie Stopes Tanzania, emphasized the need for the government to enforce existing laws and regulations that ensure

PwDs have access to quality services.

He also pointed out the ongoing barriers to healthcare, such as physical limitations, distance to medical facilities, and the lack of specialized equipment.

Kimaro urged the government to raise public awareness to combat the stigma surrounding disabled people, particularly in the context of sexual and reproductive health.

"PwDs have the same sexual and reproductive health needs as anyone else. It is crucial that they receive the support and services they need," he said.

The Tanzania Federation of Disabled People's Organizations (SHIVYAWATA) has also taken steps to address these issues, organizing workshops in various regions of the country to raise awareness among disabled people about their sexual and reproductive health.

Jonas Lubago, SHIVYATA Secretary General, noted that these workshops aim to empower disabled women to better understand their health needs and the available services.

"Many people believe that disabled individuals don't have sexual desires or the right to love, marry, or have children," said Lubago adding: "This misconception needs to change. Disabled women often face discrimination when seeking healthcare, especially during pregnancy. Health workers may not be equipped to communicate effectively with them, which can result in poor care."

The government's new action plan offers hope for a more inclusive and supportive society for people with disabilities, improving not only their quality of life but also their access to healthcare, education, and opportunities.

By Adonis Byemelwa

**I**N Tanzania, as in much of sub-Saharan Africa, internet access remains a challenge that holds back progress for millions of people. While the world races ahead with technological advancements, many Tanzanians continue to face barriers that prevent them from fully participating in the digital economy.

Internet services in the country are not only limited in scope but are also disproportionately expensive when compared to more developed nations. This disparity in access to affordable internet is not just an economic issue but a reflection of deeper societal inequalities, particularly gender inequality and social injustice.

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has highlighted that mobile internet costs in Tanzania are among the highest in the world. For the average Tanzanian, the cost of mobile data can be as high as 1.2% of their monthly income.

In contrast, in countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, mobile internet often costs less than 0.5% of a person's income. This stark contrast highlights the difficulties Tanzanians face when trying to access a basic service that has become essential to daily life in other parts of the world.

For many Tanzanians, the cost of mobile data is simply unaffordable, limiting their ability to connect with the world and access essential services like education, healthcare, and financial services.

But why is internet access in Tanzania so expensive? One of the key factors is the lack of infrastructure. The cost of building and maintaining the infrastructure necessary for widespread internet access is incredibly high, especially in rural areas.

Tanzania, like many other African nations, still lacks the vast network of broadband cables and data centers that have become commonplace in developed countries. While countries in North America and Europe can rely on decades of investment in high-speed networks, Tanzania is still playing catch-up.

Building the necessary infrastructure to connect even remote areas requires massive investment, and that cost is passed on to the consumer, making internet access prohibitively expensive.

The high cost of mobile devices also adds another layer of difficulty. Most of the smartphones available in Tanzania

## Bridging the digital divide: Tanzania strives to ensure affordable internet access for all



are imported, meaning they are subject to high tariffs and taxes. As a result, even basic smartphones, which are essential for internet access, are out of reach for many Tanzanians.

The average cost of a smartphone can account for a significant portion of a household's monthly income, making it nearly impossible for many families to afford it. This high cost of technology is compounded by the fact that mobile internet is often unreliable, with slow speeds and limited coverage, particularly in rural areas.

This situation is further exacerbated by the social inequalities that exist in Tanzania. A report by the SOMIC 2023 indicates that while internet access is already limited, women in Tanzania and across sub-Saharan Africa face even greater barriers. According to the report, women in sub-Saharan Africa are 36% less likely than men to use the internet.

In Tanzania, these barriers are even more pronounced, as women face multiple challenges, including low levels

of digital literacy, a lack of affordable devices, and cultural restrictions that discourage women from engaging with technology. This gender gap in digital access mirrors broader social inequalities in Tanzania, where women are often excluded from educational and economic opportunities.

This digital gender divide is also seen in the wider social media landscape. A recent analysis by Kepios revealed that men consistently outnumber women on social media platforms, a trend that is particularly pronounced in certain regions.

For example, on Facebook, the global audience is 57% male and 43% female, with 1.24 billion male users compared to 939 million female users.

While platforms like Instagram and TikTok have a more balanced audience, men still outnumber women by 2.3% and 8.5%, respectively.

In sub-Saharan Africa, this gender gap is even more evident, as women are less likely to use the internet and social media, limiting their ability to

participate in the digital world.

The barriers to internet access in Tanzania are not just about affordability or infrastructure—they are also deeply rooted in social and cultural attitudes. Many families in Tanzania still view the internet as a male-dominated space, with women being discouraged from using mobile devices or accessing online platforms.

This patriarchal mindset is not unique to Tanzania but is prevalent across many parts of Africa. A 2021 study by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme found that 22% of women who do not own a mobile phone cited family disapproval as the primary reason, while 14% of women in Bangladesh cited similar restrictions.

These cultural attitudes, coupled with a lack of digital skills and the high cost of internet access, create a situation where many women are excluded from the digital world.

This digital exclusion has far-reaching consequences for the development of Tanzania and other African nations. Without access to the internet, individu-

als are cut off from opportunities to improve their lives.

Education becomes harder to access, healthcare information is out of reach, and economic opportunities are limited. In a world where the internet has become an essential tool for personal and professional growth, being disconnected means being left behind.

However, despite these challenges, there is hope for change. Experts like Israel Mbise, a data scientist from Arusha, and former Dar es Salaam Professor Sospeter Muhongo, a renowned geologist, believe that the situation is not beyond repair.

According to Mbise, Tanzania can make significant strides toward improving internet access by addressing key barriers such as affordability, infrastructure development, and digital literacy. "We need to work on creating a more competitive mobile market," Mbise says. "Reducing taxes and increasing investment in infrastructure would go a long way in making the internet more affordable for everyone."

The government has already begun to take steps in the right direction. The TCRA has implemented policies to encourage the expansion of mobile networks in rural areas and is working to reduce the costs of mobile data.

These efforts are aimed at making the Internet more affordable for Tanzanians, particularly in underserved areas. At the same time, initiatives to improve digital literacy, especially among women and girls, are critical to bridging the gender gap in internet access. By investing in education and training, Tanzania can empow-

er its citizens to make better use of the digital tools at their disposal.

International organizations and businesses are also stepping up to support these efforts. In Kenya, Rwanda, and other parts of Africa, tech companies are partnering with governments to build more affordable and accessible digital infrastructure.

These efforts are showing positive results, with mobile internet becoming more affordable and widespread in some areas. If Tanzania can follow this example, it may be able to reduce the cost of internet access and ensure that more people, especially women, can benefit from the digital revolution.

In the end, the story of internet access in Tanzania is one of both challenges and hope. While the road ahead may be long and difficult, there are signs that progress is being made. The government, along with experts like Mbise and Professor Muhongo, are working tirelessly to ensure that Tanzanians can connect to the world and take advantage of the opportunities the internet provides.

If these efforts are successful, Tanzania could see a future where affordable internet access is no longer a luxury, but a basic right for all its citizens. With the right investments and policies, the digital divide can be closed, and Tanzania can become a fully connected, digital society.



# Small island states put faith in international court's 'wayfinding' advisory opinion

THE HAGUE

The "crazy, weird and at some point (what seemed like) insurmountable" plan to ask the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion on the obligations of UN member states regarding climate change was a success, Vishal Prasad, a representative for the Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC) said at a post-hearing press conference today (December 13).

"We have taken the world's biggest problem to the world's highest court," Prasad said, and this should be a source of inspiration to young people who may find what's happening about them depressing.

He said he was moved by the experience of telling the ICJ their story from a youth's perspective.

Yet, Cristelle Pratt, Assistant Secretary-General, Organization of African Caribbean and Pacific States, said some of the testimony that was presented in court was dubious.

"Despite the overwhelming consensus that the relevant conduct is unlawful, a small minority of participants have had the audacity to double down on the limb of their innocence. They have done this in two ways. First, they have argued



Protest for climate justice. Two hundred 200 women gathered at Mt. Yasur, an active volcano on the island of Tanna in Vanuatu. Credit: Greenpeace & Ben Bohane

only get worse. These impacts touch on every aspect of island life. The major polluters are destroying the future of our people."

He continued, "The court can provide the critical guidance needed to align international law with the best available science and ensure accountability for the harm caused by greenhouse gas emissions."

Dr. Stuart Minchin, Director-General of the Pacific Community (SPC), said the court could provide a solid foundation for the future.

"Pacific leaders aptly describe our region as the Blue Pacific Continent. It's 98 percent ocean—it contains 30 percent of the world's exclusive economic zones and over 60 percent of the world's tuna stocks."

Climate change posed a particular risk to these islands, as half of the population lived 5 km from the coastline, which highlights the consequence of extreme sea-level events in the region.

"The science is clear: Climate change is already causing existential impacts to the peoples and communities of our vast Pacific region, and meaningful action is required to reduce its impacts as a matter of urgency," Minchin said.

"Under no scientific scenarios can we continue to pursue a future underpinned by fossil fuels and still expect to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. We need to act now to ensure the livelihoods and self-determination of Pacific people and cultures are protected for future generations."

Coral Pasisi, Director of Climate Change at SPC, said the loss and damage were economic, cultural and social.

"The loss and damage already experienced, together with the associated impacts on culture, traditional practice, and knowledge, have both extreme economic and non-economic implications," Pasisi said. "Cyclone Heta in 2004 caused economic damages in Niue alone, equating to five times the GDP of our country, an unimaginable and irreparable loss, including the destruction of our only museum and over 90 percent of our cultural artifacts."

Tuvalu's Attorney-General, Eselealofa Apinelum, speaking on behalf of the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS), reminded the court that there was still time.

"There is still time to avert the worst impacts if only states can make the necessary cuts to their greenhouse gas emissions. The court can, and indeed must, provide specific and pivotal guidance on states' obligations in this regard."

Speaking on behalf of COSIS, an intergovernmental organization with a mandate to clarify the rules and principles of international law concerning climate change, Professor Payam Akhavan reminded the court that "significant harm has already occurred, and without decisive action, it will

only get worse. These impacts touch on every aspect of island life. The major polluters are destroying the future of our people."

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**BANK OF AFRICA**  
BMCE GROUP

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
SUPPLIES AND NON-CONSULTANCY SERVICES

SN	SERVICE TYPE	SN	SERVICE TYPE
1	ELECTRICAL SERVICES	46	NOTE COUNTING MACHINE SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE
2	GENERATOR SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE	47	AUTOMATED CASH DEPOSITOR MACHINE
3	FUEL SUPPLY SERVICES	48	MOBILE BANKING SERVICES (APP & USSD)
4	UPS PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE	49	NETWAOR AND SYSTEM MONITORING TOOLS
5	STORE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	50	PENETRATION TEST AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT SERVICES ON CIT INFRASTRUCTURE
6	MARKETING AND ADVERTISING AGENCY	51	ATM MACHINE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AND PARTS ACQUISITION
7	PRINTING OF BANK FORMS	52	NETWORK, SEVER, COMPUTER AND HARDWARE PARTS SUPPLY
8	AC SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE	53	VIRTUAL PLATFORM VIMWARELICENSES
9	BUILDING CONTRACTORS	54	LEASE OF ENDPOINTS (COMPUTERS, PRINTERS AND LAPTOPS)
10	FUMIGATION SERVICES	55	BOATZ WEBSITE HOSTING & MANAGEMENT
11	PHYSICAL SECURITY SERVICES	56	CHEQUE VERIFIERS AND CHEQUE SCANNERS
12	SECURITY SYSTEM INSTALLATIONS	57	CISCO SMARTNET SERVICES
13	ASSORTED STATIONERIES	58	INTERNET AND BRANCH CONNECTIVITY SERVICES
14	FURNITURE SUPPLY	59	ORACLE PREMIER SUPPORT
15	FIXTURE AND FITTING SERVICES	60	DATA CO-LOCATION SERVICES
16	LEGAL SERVICES	61	FOREX RATE DISPLAY
17	ALARM SYSTEM MAINTENANCE	62	HELP DESK SYSTEM SOFTWARE SERVICES
18	FIRE EXTINGUISHER MAINTENANCE	63	INTERNET BANKING SERVICES
19	CIT SERVICES	64	MICROSOFT APPLICATION SERVICES
20	INVESTIGATION SERVICES	65	PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR VIRTUAL SERVERS, STAND ALONE SERVERS, UPS, CCTV AND END POINTS
21	SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE SERVICES	66	SECURITY RELATED LICENCES (EG. INTRUSION PROTECTION SYSTEM (IPS) LICENSE, ANTI-MALWARE PROTECTIONS (AMP) LICENSE AND URL FILTERING LICENSE
22	AUCTIONEER AND SEBT COLLECTION	67	SECURITY SYSTEM INSTALLATION AT DATA CENTRE (ALARMS, FIRESUPPRESSION, DOOR ACCESS, CAMERAS)
23	COLLATERAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES	68	DATA CENTRE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE
24	WEBSITE HOSTING AND MAINTENANCE	69	SWIFT ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING SERVICES
25	PAINTING WORKS	70	SWIFT ATTESTATION/SWIFT AUDIT
26	EVENTS MANAGEMENT	71	SWIFY GATEWAY/BUREAU/MESSENGER SERVICES
27	AUDIT SERVICES	72	TISS TRANSFERS INTERGRATION VIA SWIFT BUREAU
28	TRAINING AND TEAM BUILDING	73	VOICE OVER IP (VOIP) SIP TRUNK SERVICES
29	CATERING SERVICES	74	VOICE OVER IP TELEPHONE SYSTEM SUPPORT & ACQUISITION SERVICE
30	LOGISTICS SERVICES	75	SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND AUTOMATION SERVICES
31	SERVER MAINTENANCE	76	GARAGE AND VEHICLE MAINTENANCE
32	CAR TRACKING SERVICES	77	VEHICLE HIRING
33	BUILDING CONSULTANCY FIRMS/ ARCHTECTURAL AND INTERIOR DESIGNS	78	TRAVEL AGENT SERVICES
34	BUILDING CONSULTANCY FIRMS/ QUANTITY SURVEYORS	79	REFRESHMENT ITEMS (SUGAR, COFFEE, TEA BAGS, MILLO, CASHEWNUITS, SWEETS, PRINGLES, TOMATO SAUCES ETC)
35	BUILDING BRANDING	80	BANK SAFE AND ATM SAFE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE
36	INSURANCE BROKER SERVICES	81	STRONG ROOM DOOR, MULTLOCK DOOR AND FIREPROOFF CABINET SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE
37	VALUATION SERVICES	82	AIR CONDITIONER SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE
38	EXTERNANL LAWYERS	83	SUPPLY OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENTS (LAPTOPS, DESKTOPS, PRINTERS, COPIER MACHINES, SHREDDERS, MOBILE PHONES, FRIDGERS, WATER DISPENSORS, AIR CONDITIONERS ETC)
39	TAX CONSULTANCY SERVICES		
40	FIXED ASSET REGISTER		
41	EMPLOYEE VERIFICATION SERVICES		
42	LAWYERS/LITIGATION SERVICES		
43	CLEARING AND FORWARDING SERVICES		
44	COURIER SERVICES		
45	CLEANING SERVICES		

Bank of Africa Tanzania Ltd is a Private Commercial Bank operating in Tanzania serving Corporate, SME and Retail customers. It began operations in Tanzania in June 2007 and currently has a network of eighteen (18) branches covering nine (9) in Dar es Salaam and nine (9) regional branches in Arusha, Mwanza, Mbeya, Mtwara, Morogoro, Moshi, Kahama, Dodoma and Zanzibar.

1. All Applicants who meet requirements and are capable to provide services must submit the following information:

- Experience in similar assignments.
- Experience in working with Financial Institutions
- At least 2 (two) reference letters from past and current clientele with contact details
- All business registration and other related documents that is, Company profile, a valid business License, Memorandum of Articles and Associations/Partnership Deed and any specialized certification related to services applied for, Tax clearance.
- Environmental protection policy/statement.
- Business continuity plan.

2. Selection shall be in accordance with the International Competitive Selection procedures set out in the Public Procurement Act 2011 and Public Procurement Regulations of 2013.

3. Applications for pre-qualification should be submitted in physical sealed envelopes only and delivered to the address below by or before 3.00pm on Saturday, 15th February 2025; and be clearly marked e.g. APPLICATION FOR "SERVICE" ["Applicant, 20 insert description of services provided only"]

**All applications should be addressed to:**

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR  
BANK OF AFRICA TANZANIA  
OHIO STREET KIVUKONI FRONT  
P.O.BOX 3054, DAR ES SALAAM.

that the legal question being asked to the court is strictly forward-looking in nature and does not concern itself with historical emissions," Pratt said.

"Second, they have argued that the only legal obligations binding on them do not, in fact, require them to account for their historical emissions, including by reparations, let alone oblige them to stop emitting beyond their pitiful privileges. In essence, these states have invited the court to absolve them of a moral responsibility."

During a fortnight of hearings, countries and organizations have given their arguments in a case that was initiated at the request of Vanuatu in which the UN General Assembly asked the ICJ to issue an advisory opinion on the obligations of UN member states in preventing climate change and ensuring the protection of the environment for present and future generations.

During the final day of hearing, the court continued to hear testimony of the impact of climate change, particularly on small island states.

Tuvalu's Attorney-General, Eselealofa Apinelum, speaking on behalf of the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS), reminded the court that there was still time.

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**IPS UN Bureau Report**



COTONOU

**T**HIRTY African women were recognised with the prestigious L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Young Talents Sub-Saharan Africa Awards on December over the weekend in Cotonou, Benin.

These women, including 25 PhD candidates and five post-doctoral researchers from 15 countries, are leading groundbreaking research to tackle critical issues facing the continent, such as food security, public health, and the effects of climate change.

In a joint statement, the L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO highlighted the ongoing gender disparity in scientific fields. Women represent only 31.5 percent of researchers in Sub-Saharan Africa, a gap the two organizations have worked to close over the past 15 years through initiatives like the For Women in Science program. Since its inception, the program has supported 240 young researchers from 34 African countries, having reviewed over 4,000 applications during its selection process.

The 2024 awardees, whose research spans multiple scientific disciplines, have been granted financial support, including research grants of €10,000 (about \$10,500) for PhD candidates and €15,000 for post-doctoral researchers. In addition, the women will receive leadership, communication, and negotiation training, which will equip them to overcome challenges such as sexism and to excel in their careers.

The awardees' work addresses a range of urgent issues, with projects spanning from agricultural sciences to health and environmental research. Some notable honorees include:

Bakang Kedumetse Kgasudi from Botswana, whose research in agricultural sciences focuses on developing climate-resilient cowpea varieties, a staple crop in Southern Africa.

Blessing Olagunju, a chemistry doctoral student from Nigeria, dedicated to improving water quality in the region.

Dr. Caroline Rosemyya Kwawu from Ghana, whose work on turning sunlight into fuel could contribute to sustainable energy solutions.

Irene Nandutu from Uganda, a post-



## Awards honour African women scientists addressing continent's critical challenges

doctoral researcher using artificial intelligence to study child brain health in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Other notable awardees include Happyness Ngonyani from Tanzania, who is promoting water access in her country, and Tendai Abgiri Makore from Zimbabwe, researching the nutritional benefits of edible insects to improve food security.

One of the awardees, Pamela

Ncube from Zimbabwe, shared her inspiring journey to becoming a scientist. Growing up with a strong interest in biology and a passion for solving health problems, Ncube faced many challenges in her career, particularly self-doubt and financial barriers. She credits mentorship for helping her overcome moments of uncertainty, emphasizing the importance of community support for women in science.

Ncube, one of this year's winners, spoke to University World News about her research and becoming a scientist.

Ncube said that, growing up, she was a curious child and her grandparents fuelled this curiosity. She also had role models who included nurses and doctors within the community. They were solution-driven, making her want to be in the healthcare industry.

"From the time I was in school,

transitioning to high school, I really was in love with biology and [how] the subject solves problems surrounding health. And then that's when I came across biological sciences in high school. From there, I chose a degree in science," she said.

Ncube stressed the importance of mentorship, which helped her in her academic journey when she was afflicted by a lot of self-doubt. "So a scientific career is challeng-

ing on its own, and there are many times when you fail more than win. In times when I felt rejected, maybe because of the [failure to secure] a grant or marks that were not good, I felt a lot of self-doubt about whether a scientific career was the thing for me or not. But, during that time, particularly during my undergraduate studies and now, I have had a team that supports me in coaching and mentoring and that boosted my confidence, even in the challenging times," Ncube said.

"Another challenge was funding. To study science is very expensive and, even if you do have the money, the expenses can be a lot more [than expected]. So, throughout my career, I stressed about academics and also stressed that my funds [would not be] enough to really make me relaxed and [able to] focus on academics."

Ncube said that, throughout her studies, she learned how to write for and grab opportunities for funding, which landed her a couple of scholarships that have funded her to where she is now.

Ncube's doctoral studies at Stellenbosch University's faculty of medicine and health sciences in South Africa focus on animal tuberculosis, *Mycobacterium bovis*, an organism that has been studied far less than the more prevalent *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacteria, which primarily affects humans.

"This bacterium affects primarily animals including the rhino, lions, buffaloes, warthogs and more. My project is trying to find methods to understand the bacterium and how this bacterium manifests in animals because we know that, in humans, there are different states of infection," said Ncube.

"When we are able to differentiate, then we can save the animal because the current policies are to cull the animal ... just put down the animal when it is found to be infected. And the other aspect of it is to also influence policy. I can not only focus on culling the animals, but on saving the animals."



### ADVERTISEMENT

TradeMark Africa (TMA) is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organisation that was established in 2010. TMA aims to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade, while helping make trade more pro-poor and more environmentally sustainable. Our focus on reducing the cost and time of trading across borders through enhanced trade policy, better trade infrastructure, standards that work for businesses, greater use of digital innovations and a focus on creating trade access for vulnerable groups, has contributed to substantially lower cargo transit times through improved border efficiency, and reduced trade barriers.

TMA recently rebranded from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA), reflecting our ambitions to serve partners in driving continental-wide trade gains, and are expanding from East and the Horn of Africa to Southern and West Africa. TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by institutional and philanthropic development partners. TMA works closely with regional and continental intergovernmental organisations, national Governments, the private sector, and civil society organisations to deliver results that drive shared prosperity and reduce poverty.

For more information, please visit [www.trademarkafrica.com](http://www.trademarkafrica.com)

TMA would like to invite interested and qualified firms to participate in the following tender opportunities:

1. Request for Proposals for Consultancy services for the design, development and deployment of the Fair Competition Commission Information Management System (FIMS) - [RFP Number: PRQ20240480];
2. Request for Proposals for consultancy services for conducting baseline assessment for TMA supported private sector and government organisations in Tanzania- [RFP Number: PRQ20240650]
3. Request for Proposals for consultancy services for Consultancy services to conduct assessment of the digital financial inclusion landscape for women traders and youth in Tanzania- [RFP Number: PRQ20240651]
4. Request for Proposals for consultancy services to develop Dar Es Salaam Port and Transport Corridors Community Charter (DPTCCC)-[RFP Number: PRQ20240659]
5. Request for Proposals for consultancy services for the assessment of export potentials for horticulture and grains along strategic corridors in Tanzania- [RFP Number: PRQ20240714]
6. Request for Proposals for consultancy to undertake analysis and capacity building for TMA's women in trade empowerment index- [RFP Number: PRQ20240531]

Tender document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to [procurement@trademarkafrica.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkafrica.com). The closing date for submission is per indicated in the respective tender documents.

Interested, qualified and eligible bidders should submit bids in line with the bidding instructions in the tender document.

TMA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.

182986

### TAZAMA PIPELINES LIMITED



#### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

TAZAMA Pipelines Limited is an interstate organization owned by the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia and which deals with transportation of low Sulphur Diesel from Dar es Salaam to Ndola, Zambia, wishes to invite applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill the under-mentioned posts for its new Container Depot along Mafuta Street Kurasini – Dar es Salaam.

#### 1. REACHSTACKER/FOLKLIFT OPERATOR TWO (2) POSTS

##### QUALIFICATIONS

- Certificate of Secondary Education
- Certificate in reach stacker and forklift operation
- At least two years working experience in shipping industry
- A very good command of spoken English and Kiswahili language

#### 2. TRUCK DRIVERS TWO (2) POSTS

##### QUALIFICATIONS

- Certificate of Secondary Education
- Holder of Class E driving license
- At least two (2) years working experience
- A very good command of spoken English and Kiswahili language

#### 3. CASHIER ONE (1) POST

##### QUALIFICATIONS

- Certificate of Secondary Education
- Diploma in Accounts / Finance
- At least two years working experience in shipping/industry as an added advantage
- A very good command of spoken English and Kiswahili

#### REMUNERATION:

Attractive remuneration packages will be offered to the successful candidates for the above positions.

#### MODE OF APPLICATION:

Application in own handwriting with detailed CV including photocopies of relevant academic certificates should be submitted to the undersigned within two weeks from the date of this advertisement.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted

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96281



# Intra-regional relations key to sustainable development in Horn of Africa

UNITED NATIONS

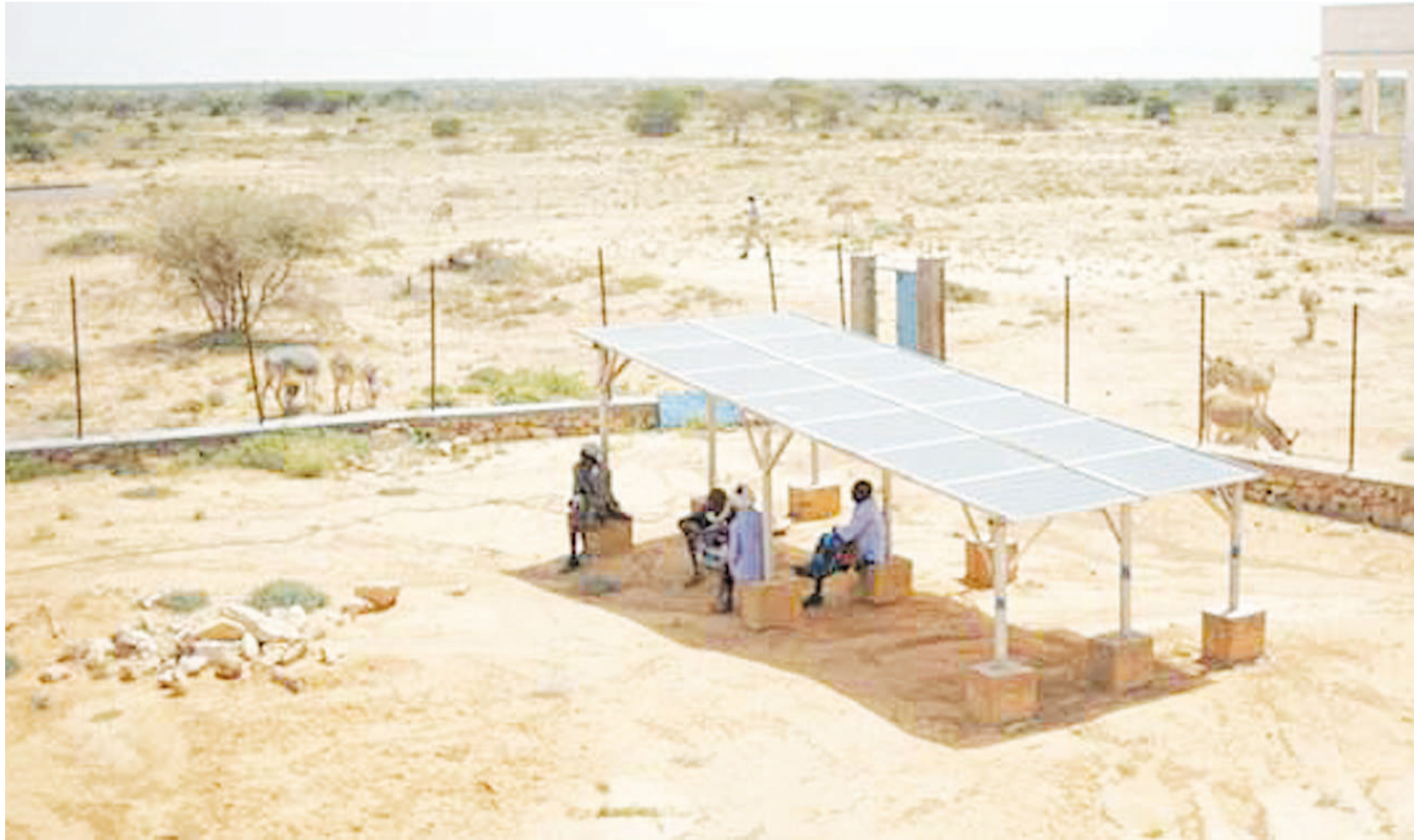
The Horn of Africa holds the resources and potential for lasting development and resilience. The countries in the subregion and development partners need to come together to invest in regional cooperation and resource management.

On December 12, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the first-ever Human Development Report on the Horn of Africa subregion, which includes Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda.

Horn of Africa Human Development Report 2024: Enhancing Prospects for Human Development through regional Integration, explores the key challenges that the eight countries and the sub-region are experiencing in

In the Arab states and the African region, low productivity in economic activity will only continue in a "vicious cycle," one that perpetuates poverty for the population. Abdallah Al Dardari, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Director for the Arab States, remarked that the countries in the subregion have been taking what he described as a "siloed approach" to state affairs, even as its neighbors are dealing with the same issues. This is evident in how the region engages with the water and food sectors.

The report calls for recognizing and establishing a nexus between the water, energy and food sectors. Over 50 percent of the population across the Horn of Africa experience moderate to severe food insecurity and only 56 percent have access to electricity. Less than 56 percent have access to clean drinking water, yet the report indicates that this is not a consistent experience among the countries, given their geo-



In Somalia, water infrastructure projects are building climate resilience and reducing emissions by using solar panels to provide energy. A new report calls for recognizing a nexus between the water, energy and food sectors in the Horn of Africa. Credit: UNDP/Tobin Jones

graphical locations.

Conflict and disasters have also been persistent factors that have limited development in the Horn of Africa, as over 23.4 million people have been displaced in the wake of major conflicts in Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, and internal conflicts like in Ethiopia.

The report presents three priorities that will help to accelerate human development and build resilience: build

on increasing intra-regional trade, enhance collaboration in the water, energy and food sectors, and promote governance and peace.

The region could see a GDP increase of 3.9 percent by 2030 through liberalizing trade and reducing tariffs. The African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) agreement would also boost trade were it fully implemented; the countries in the ACFTA need

to ratify the agreement for them to benefit. Regional integration through collaboration on resource management can help foster sustainable growth and climate resilience, as the report suggests. This could be seen in improved access to electricity and shared food value systems. This could be valuable in a subregion that holds a high share of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydro and yet

faces significant energy gaps.

"What we've attempted to do with this report is see if we can begin to see a shift in the narrative on this region," said Ahunna Eziakonwa, the UN Assistant Secretary General and Director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa. In working towards integration in economic and political relations, she argued, partnerships need to be established within the subregion that is

built on finding commonalities and shared purposes. Changing the narrative is key towards achieving sustainable development.

At the report's launch, Eziakonwa remarked that certain demographics needed to be brought into the fold when discussing development, requiring a re-examination of the narratives associated with them. Young people make up a significant percentage of the population across the region, yet they have been characterized as the problem rather than the solution. Involving young people and recognizing the skills and perspectives they can bring to the table is critical, which will involve expanding socio-economic opportunities for the youth population that are not employed or in education. Investing in women's participation in the development sector is also needed, for they have been largely left out of decision-making spaces and policy discussions.

Through this report, UNDP is calling on governments and development partners to invest in infrastructure and policy frameworks that build up human development and resilience in the Horn of Africa.

IPS UN Bureau Report

## Initiative unveiled to accelerate drive in climate innovation in Tz

By Getrude Mbago

THE Adaptation and Resilience ClimAccelerator programme, a transformative climate innovation initiative has officially been launched, in a collaborative effort between EIT Climate-KIC, Europe's leading climate innovation agency, and SmartLab, Tanzania's top innovation hub.

ClimAccelerator is a global programme for start-ups to innovate, catalyse and scale the potential of their climate solutions. In Tanzania, the initiative aims to support innovative, high impact climate adaptation solutions that help rural populations cope with current or future climate risks.

During the launch event in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Larry Ayo, Business Lab Director at SmartLab, emphasized the significance of the collaboration.

"Our partnership with EIT Climate-KIC equips Tanzanian entrepreneurs with the tools to develop scalable climate solutions that address pressing environmental challenges while empowering communities in need," Ayo said.

He said launch of the programme's second cohort is aimed to empower local start-ups with climate adaptation solutions that strengthen resilience across rural and urban communities.

He said the programme has already received 170 applications from innovators across Tanzania, including Iringa, Arusha, Dodoma, Zanzibar, Mwanza and Singida regions.

After a rigorous selection process, 10 promising start-ups were chosen to join the programme. These include Tanzania Viable Farms, HERVeg.05, Ndugunamiti Enterprises Limited, Kilimomax Solutions, insectUp, Rada 360 Limited, Thorntorn, Kesho Technologies Company Limited, DMA Ltd and Addrone Digital.

The selected start-ups will now benefit from mentorship, tailored resources, and access to key networks to scale their innovative solutions and drive long-term resilience against climate change.

Gerald David, Programme Lead at The Global Resilience Partnership said: "The Adaptation and Resilience ClimAccelerator demonstrates how partnerships can be leveraged to tackle climate risks effectively."



Larry Ayo, Business Director at SmartLab addresses audience during the official launch of the Adaptation and Resilience ClimAccelerator in Tanzania over the weekend, which is a partnership between SmartLab and EIT Climate-KIC.

"Programmes like this provide local innovators with the support they need to confront global challenges" David said.

The 10 selected start-ups, working across sectors such as agriculture, water management, land use, coastal areas, and human settlements, were given the opportunity to showcase their innovative solutions to the audience. These projects aim to address critical climate challenges while improving livelihoods in vulnerable communities.

Edwin Bruno, CEO of Smart Africa Group highlighted the collective effort behind the launch. "Today's event reflects

the commitment of all our partners. We thank EIT Climate-KIC and Irish Aid for their continued support as we work together to build a more resilient future for Tanzania," said Bruno.

The Adaptation and Resilience ClimAccelerator is part of the broader Adaptation Innovation Cluster, led by EIT Climate-KIC and funded by Irish Aid. Since its inception in 2019, EIT Climate-KIC has supported over 300 Tanzanian innovators through ideation, education, and acceleration programs, creating a robust network for climate innovation across the country. The next phase of the accelerator will begin in early 2025, providing ongoing support for the selected start-ups

as they continue to develop and scale their climate resilience solutions.

The ClimAccelerator programme is a global initiative designed to support start-ups in developing innovative climate solutions. Powered by EIT Climate-KIC,

it connects entrepreneurs with a global network of resources and expertise, providing tailored support to help them scale their solutions. In Tanzania, the programme is implemented in partnership with SmartLab, a subsidiary of Smart Africa Group, and aims to drive innovation that helps cities, regions, and communities meet their climate goals and build resilience.

## Clean energy players vow to support activism against GBV

By Guardian Reporter

CLEAN energy stakeholders have pledged to support more activism against gender-based violence (GBV) across Tanzania.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, when commenting on the the just ended 16 Days of Activism against GBV, one of the stakeholders, Joseph Nzumbi said GBV was a cross-cutting issue that affected every sector, and every Tanzanian should join forces to eliminate it.

Nzumbi who is also the Taifa Gas Sales Manager said: "As main stakeholders in cooking gas energy, we cannot stay behind in activism against GBV. We understand that women in many parts of the country have been victims of GBV and we are touched by this."

"As key clean energy players we fell proud to participate in this battle against GBV in the country," he said, adding: "That's why we teamed up with other stakeholders to commemorate 16 days of activism against the menace."

He also said: "It was an opportunity to raise public awareness of the use of gas energy for women in the rural areas of Shinyanga and Mara regions, alongside providing them with gas stoves to support President Samia Suluhu Hassan's initiative to address environmental degradation and climate change."

Nzumbi also explained that they had reports of women experiencing GBV while looking for cooking fuel, as well as incidents of conflicts with their partners when they returned home late. "Thus, we cannot remain passive in activism against GBV."

He added that, recognising that women were key stakeholders in cooking, the company decided to focus on educating them about clean cooking energy to shift the focus from using firewood and charcoal to using gas energy, which simplified life, was cost-effective, and contributed to environmental conservation and protection.

Nzumbi said the company's clean energy training included a health component through which trainees knew about health risks associated

with the use of firewood and charcoal. "Statistics show that some people have died from respiratory challenges caused by the use of unsafe energy sources, including firewood and charcoal," he stressed.

He also shared the company's commitment to continue empowering various groups of women economically by providing them with education about clean cooking energy and affordable gas stoves to improve their economic situation and health status.

On women's economic empowerment he said Taifa Gas had also implemented a strategy for prioritising women as agents (super dealers) of its products and enabled them to be economically independent and use gas for the wellbeing of their families and businesses.

"One of the groups we have been targeting to change their mind-set to stop using firewood and charcoal is food vendors. Some of them have started using gas stoves and have discovered that gas stoves are more affordable and economical than firewood or charcoal, and help keep their business environment clean and safe," he said.

He also stressed the company's commitment to environmental conservation and protection in support of the government's efforts to promote the use of clean and safe energy, as its aim is to ensure by 2034, 80 per cent of Tanzanians would be using clean energy.

"As days pass by, with our President championing this agenda and the education provided by various stakeholders in this sector, the adoption of clean energy is increasing rapidly."

On the success of this year's clean energy campaign participation, he said many community groups had been reached and educated about the use of safe cooking energy.

Many women, especially in rural areas who were the victims of these practices, had received gas stoves from Taifa Gas, along with khanga (clothes) with messages to combat these practices. "We are proud of joining other stakeholders in this fight and demonstrate the saying that 'unity is strength,'" Nzumbi said.



## BUSINESS



## No salary hike for MPs

GABORONE

ONE of the austerity measures considered by Botswana president Duma Boko (pictured) as advised by Finance minister and vice president Ndaba Gaolathe is that there should be no salary increment for the politicians-Members of Parliament (MPs) and Councilors in the next coming government financial years.

Gaolathe who is the Minister of Finance is said to be highly concerned about the state of government coffers both at local and foreign reserves hence want current MPs to appreciate the situation at hand.

Fielding questions from the media over the state of government purse, given a challenging economic environment as diamonds sales are down, Gaolathe said the situation is not good at all. Although he announced in Parliament last week that the country is not broke, he noted that is very important for government to be cautious over the situation as it could deteriorate if not managed well.

The Patriot on Sunday has learnt that UDC MPs had been reminded by Gaolathe over the economic situation, hence UDC government would not adjust their salaries until the situation improves. UDC backbenchers will now be under pressure from colleagues in Parliament to push Cabinet for salary adjustments as well as increased budget on aspects such as constituency fund.

Responding to the State of the Nation Address (SONA) MP for Molepolole North Arafat Khan proposed that constituency fund should be increased from the current P10 million to P20 million. Constituency fund is funded by

the government and through the fund communities come with projects that will create employment and uplift their economic status.

Some UDC MPs told this publication that salary increment should not be their priority as Gaolathe pleaded that the economy is not doing well. The past MPs enjoyed salary adjustments on three occasions with the last was implemented in December last year. The development however resulted in public backlash more so that former president Mokgweetsi Masisi also saw his P19 000 monthly constituency allowance being approved by the Parliament.

Political commentator, Kitso Morekisi said the UDC is under pressure to meet its electoral promises such as P1 800 old age pension, P4 000 living wage, and P2500 Ipelegeng wage. He said such promises if not fulfilled could spell doom for MPs to get a salary adjustment anytime soon.

According to Morekisi, there is a sigh of relief for the government as some companies have shown commitment to pay their employees P4000 living starting next year as a retailer Choppies committed.

Minister of Minerals and Energy, Bogolo Kenewendo also revealed this week that Stargems, a diamond polishing company made the commitment during the FACETS conference in Belgium last week that it will pay P4 000 living wage starting next year. While on the other hand, the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Kethalefile Motshegwa has also reiterated that the government will start paying P1 800 old age pension for citizens who are 60-years and above as promised.

## Relief for vegetable, fruit farmers as \$1m cold facility set up in Iringa

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

Small-scale fruit and vegetable farmers in the Southern Highlands regions can now breathe a sigh of relief, thanks to Delaware Agriculture (T) Ltd's \$1 million (2.3bn/-) investment in modern cold storage facilities. These state-of-the-art refrigerators will help prevent spoilage and ensure that farmers' produce reaches the market in good condition.

Abhishek Dwivedi, the firm's marketing manager, explained to journalists visiting the project site in Iringa over the weekend that the initiative is a response to a study conducted by the company, which highlighted the economic hardships faced by farmers whose crops often spoil before they can be sold.

The new cold storage solution uses a technology called EcoFrost, a solar-powered refrigeration system designed to preserve fruits and vegetables for longer periods, from the harvest through to the market.

"We believe that technology and innovation can drive rapid change, particularly for small farmers whose crops often spoil either in the field or before they



reach the market," Dwivedi said.

The company also plans to educate farmers on the importance of using these cold storage units to avoid the significant losses they've faced in the past. The education programme will target farmers in the Southern Highlands regions, including Mbeya, Njombe, Ruvuma, and Iringa, as well as various civil society organizations, media, and cooperatives.

Dwivedi called on the government to reduce customs taxes on the specialized refrigerators, which are currently costly to import. "To make these technologies more accessible and support sustainable agriculture, we urge the government to lower the cus-

tom tax on these units, so they can be imported in greater quantities," he said. Muhammad Sohail, the company's financial manager, shared that in addition to the Southern Highlands, the plan is to expand the cold storage service to other regions, including Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Sumbawanga, Morogoro, Tanga, and Kilolo District in Iringa.

"Our first cooling unit has been installed here in Ipogolo, Iringa, and we plan to extend the service to many more farmers. This initiative is crucial for the development of the agricultural sector and the nation as a whole," Sohail emphasized.

The solar-powered cold storage

system has a storage capacity of five metric tons, with the potential for expansion to 200 metric tons. Currently, between 15 and 20 farmers are benefiting from the service, which is offered at affordable rates. Sohail added that, in the next two years, the project is expected to create 100 to 200 direct and indirect jobs as it continues to expand.

The solar-powered refrigeration technology, developed by the Indian company Ecozen in 2010, is now being introduced to Tanzania by Delaware Agriculture (T) Ltd. The aim is to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers by reducing spoilage and preserving the agricultural value chain.

## South Africa wants to make alcohol more expensive

PRETORIA

The harmful use of alcohol causes approximately 3 million deaths every year.

Alcohol consumption is linked to over 200 diseases and other health conditions. These include liver diseases, heart diseases and different types of cancers.

This is a significant burden on public healthcare systems around the world. Governments must bear costs related to medical treatment, road accidents and violence.

The World Health Assembly has endorsed a Global Alcohol Action Plan that gives all member states guidance on ways to reduce the harmful use of alcohol.

Worldwide, studies have consistently shown that taxation and pricing policies bring down alcohol consumption.

South Africa's National Treasury has proposed raising excise taxes to curb excessive drinking in the country.

According to a 2018 World Health Organization report, 60 per cent of South African drinkers aged 15 and older engage in heavy episodic drinking.

Evidence suggests that tax increases on alcohol have contributed to reducing consumption, particularly among lower-income groups who are more sensitive to price changes.

Hence, there is a belief that a rise in excise taxation of alcohol would reduce harm caused by alcohol.

Treasury has also recommended that government look into minimum unit pricing, which sets the price floor below which no unit of alcohol should be sold. Minimum unit pricing prevents producers and retailers from absorbing some of the tax increases and reducing prices or offering large discounts.

As a public finance economist



and lecturer at Priceless SA, the Centre for Health Economics and Decision Science, I argue that increased excise taxes and minimum unit pricing should be implemented promptly.

Priceless SA looks at ways to improve public health through interventions such as taxes.

## Cost-effective strategies

Evidence from countries such as Canada, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and England demonstrates that excise tax is a cost-effective strategy for reducing alcohol-re-

lated harm.

Public Health Scotland found that after minimum unit pricing was adopted, alcohol-related deaths fell by about 13.4 per cent. Hospital admissions dropped by 4.1 per cent. The most significant reductions were among men and individuals in the most economically deprived communities.

Similarly, research published in the Journal of Economic Inquiry highlighted the impact of minimum unit pricing in Wales following the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. Prices

increased by 15 per cent and alcohol purchases declined by around 20 per cent.

These examples also underscore the potential that taxes have to mitigate the harms associated with alcohol misuse.

## Industry influence

Worldwide, the alcohol industry frequently lobbies lawmakers in an effort to influence taxes on their products.

In Ireland the alcohol industry met with government officials over 360 times in one year to push back against taxation proposals and other public health measures.

Case studies from the US, the UK and Nordic countries show that the alcohol industry has successfully delayed or diluted health-focused taxes by warning of job cuts and the negative effects on the economy.

Industry attempts to influence policies aimed at protecting population health should be resisted.

Priceless SA has previously researched the cost-effectiveness of health-focused taxes.

One study, published in BMJ Global Health, estimated that over 50 years, taxes that raised the retail price of tobacco, alcoholic beverages and sugary beverages by 20 per cent could result in a global gain of 160.7 million, 227.4 million and 24.3 million additional life years respectively.

The measures proposed by Treasury should be implemented without delay. This is needed to achieve South Africa's global health targets of 10 per cent reduction in alcohol consumption by 2025 and 20 per cent by 2030.

Tax revenues should be directed at prevention programmes such as mass media campaigns. Evidence from tobacco control measures shows that these help reduce consumption of harmful products.

## Education technology fellowships open to Tanzanian youths

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIAN youths engaged in innovation and tech space and keen on making an impact in education have been advised to apply for fellowships through to access business and financial support as well as insights into the science of learning.

This will be implemented by Mastercard Foundation Ed-

ucation Technology (EdTech) Fellowships implemented in partnership with innovation hubs and accelerators across Africa.

A statement made available in Dar es Salaam at the weekend said Sahara Consult and Mastercard Foundation were floating the learning opportunity "following the successful completion of the first cohort of the programme in Tanza-

nia".

It said the programme was meant to support promising African EdTech companies to identify growth-stage start-ups whose solutions address Tanzania's most pressing education challenges.

It said that after six months of acceleration, the ten fellows selected this year presented their innovations to investors, government stakeholders,

educators, learners and development partners "to seek buy-in for the adoption of locally designed solutions to improve learning outcomes in the country".

The solutions included STEM - science, technology, engineering and mathematics - kits and school management systems, while reaching about 50,000 new learners.

"In this era, it is crucial to in-

tegrate emerging digital technologies and innovation in our education systems if we are keen on addressing the most pressing challenges in our education system," Sahara Consult CEO Jumanne Mtambalike said.

"These EdTech ventures have demonstrated the power of harnessing technology to improve the quality of education. All are focused on solving

educational challenges utilising technology and innovation."

Rodwell Mangisi, acting Director at the Mastercard Foundation Centre for Innovative Teaching and Learning, meanwhile noted: "The opportunities for growth in Tanzania's EdTech sector are limitless."

He said technology opens pathways for people to learn and prosper, adding: "Tan-

zania's innovators should harness the opportunity in developing solutions for education."

The fellowships provide business mentorship and free access to courses leading to enhancement of solutions, government stakeholder networking, and equity-free funding to support their enabling systems to handle a growing workload.



# Nigerians survive on hope as economic struggles intensify

LAGOS

Since the inauguration of President Bola Tinubu and the rollout of his Renewed Hope agenda, Nigerians have found themselves grappling with one of the worst economic crises in recent history.

While the government insists that its policies will yield long-term benefits, millions of citizens are sinking further into poverty, with many questioning if the promised prosperity will ever come.

From skyrocketing inflation to an unrelenting foreign exchange crisis, the Nigerian economy has continued its downward spiral.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), inflation reached 33.88 percent in October, the highest in almost two decades. Food inflation alone stood at 39.16 percent, making basic staples like rice, beans, and bread unaffordable for millions of families.

Citizens continue to battle with the effect of fuel subsidy removal, with transport costs doubling in urban areas and tripling in rural communities. The ripple effect has left businesses struggling to manage operational costs, forcing many to shut down and lay off workers.

The naira's freefall against the dollar has further compounded the woes of Nigeria's struggling economy. Trading at ₦1,710 to \$1 on the parallel market, the naira's depreciation has made imports more expensive, further driving up prices.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which account for nearly 48 percent of Nigeria's GDP, are finding it nearly impossible to source foreign exchange for critical raw ma-

terials.

The World Bank recently projected Nigeria's poverty rate to climb further, estimating that over 129 million citizens now live below the poverty line.

Meanwhile, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) warned that Nigeria could rank among the most difficult places to live over the next five years, citing economic instability, insecurity, and governance issues as major contributors.

As Christmas approaches, there is a palpable absence of joy. The streets, once filled with festive cheer, are now marked by muted celebrations. Markets that would typically be bustling with activity are subdued, with traders lamenting low patronage.

"Hope is not a strategy," said Akin Oyewale, a social commentator. "It's been 18 months since this administration started, and Nigerians are still grappling with a fuel subsidy removal that has skyrocketed the cost of living. The naira is weak, inflation is at record highs, and there's no clear path to prosperity."

For Lagos-based trader Deborah, the struggle to make ends meet has overshadowed any sense of optimism.

"Since this government came in, everything has tripled in price. I cannot even afford to buy rice this Christmas season, and my rent is due," she lamented. "They keep telling us to hope, but when will the suffering stop?"

Economic analysts acknowledge the potential long-term benefits of Tinubu's reform but stresses that the government must cushion the effects for the populace.

"The subsidy removal was inevitable, but the failure to provide im-



mediate palliatives has left Nigerians worse off," a Lagos-based economist said.

"Funds saved from fuel subsidy removal are being used to execute high-impact projects and programmes," Idris Mohammed, the minister of information, said at the 2024 Annual Conference of the International Press Institute on Wednesday.

"Where is the accountability?" asked Jacob Nwosu, a good governance advocate. "These funds are announced, but there is no transparency in their distribution. People are suffering, and they see no relief in sight."

Amid the discontent, there are those who believe that Tinubu's administration needs more time.

Abiola Olatunji, a member of the ruling party, argued that reform takes patience. "Governance is not magic. The Renewed Hope agenda was always going to take years to materialise. Nigerians need to give this administration room to work,"

he said.

However, others are less forgiving. "Nigerians are resilient, but this resilience has been abused for too long," said Oyebisi Maruf. "The people need tangible results—not slogans, not promises, but real improvements in their daily lives."

For many, the Renewed Hope agenda will only hold water if it delivers on its promises. As Tinubu's administration approaches its second anniversary, Nigerians expect concrete action on key issues such as economy, power supply, and healthcare.

For now, Nigerians continue to survive on hope, but patience is wearing thin. The question on the minds of millions remains: How much longer must Nigerians endure before the promises of hope become a reality—or will hope be all they ever have to hold on to?

Cadre Harmonisé, an initiative conducted biannually (in March and October) across 26 states and the

FCT focused on food and nutrition analysis, has found that a staggering 33 million people will face acute food insecurity in Nigeria in 2025.

The report led by the federal is a collaborative effort, in association with regional technical agencies, UN bodies, and NGOs and serves as a comprehensive tool to evaluate present and future food and nutrition scenarios, a statement signed by Chi Lael, head of communications and media, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), Nigeria Country Office stated.

According to the Report, the number of people facing emergency levels of need is projected to almost double "Approximately 5.4 million children and nearly 800,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women are at risk of acute malnutrition or wasting from six of the most affected states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe in the northeast, and Sokoto, Katsina and Zamfara in the northwest. Of these, an alarming 1.8 million children could face Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and require critical nutrition treatment"

"Trend analyses for the northeastern states indicate consistently high or rising food insecurity levels since 2018. The number of people requiring urgent assistance has risen by at least 4 million annually during the lean season since June 2020. Furthermore, the northwest and parts of the north-central regions now exhibit critical levels of severe food insecurity and malnutrition, marking them as major hunger hotspots that demand attention from decision makers." it added

The report noted that between October and December 2024, 25.1 million people are likely going to

be experiencing acute food insecurity even at the peak of the harvest season. Of this, 3.8 million live in the northeastern states. This number is projected to rise to 5 million.

"Nationally, the number of people experiencing Emergency levels (Phase 4) of food insecurity is projected to increase from 1 million people in the peak of the 2024 lean season to 1.8 million people at the same period in 2025, representing a worrying 80 percent rise" it added.

The Report alerted on the deterioration of food security in Nigeria with 33.1 million people expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity during the coming lean season (June-August).

This represents an alarming rise of 7 million people from the same period last year, driven by economic hardship, coupled with record high inflation, the effects of climate change and persistent violence in the northeastern states of the country. "Nigeria grapples with economic hardship, coupled with record high inflation (which reached 40.9 per cent for food, and 34.2 per cent for all items in June 2024). It added, stating this is a record increase in food prices amid record high transportation costs.

"According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the price of beans in October 2024 was 282 per cent above the same period in 2023. Similarly, the price of local rice rose by 153 per cent compared to October last year. These economic shocks resulted in the continuous devaluation of the local currency (Naira) against the United States Dollar (USD), external economic factors, and last year's policy changes on discontinuation of the fuel subsidy.



Kenya's President William Ruto

## President Ruto assents tax bills into law

NAIROBI

Earlier this week, President William Ruto signed into law, seven bills including the Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, the Tax Procedures (Amendment) Bill, the Business Laws (Amendment) Bill, and the Kenya Revenue Authority (Amendment) Bill.

Aside from introducing a 6 percent SEP tax on multinational firms, this act will increase the deductible interest limit from KSh 300,000 to KSh 360,000 for mortgages. The government believes this will enable more Kenyans to own homes as individuals will deduct a higher amount of interest paid on loans to purchase or improve residential properties.

Contributions to the Affordable Housing Levy or post-retirement medical funds can now be deducted from payable tax liability to prevent double taxation after amendments to the Income Tax Act. Tax exemptions for payments of pension benefits from registered funds upon reaching retirement age have been included. Lo-

cally assembled EVs have also been exempted from excise duty.

The act will also see firms certified by the Nairobi International Finance Centre Authority pay 5 percent in Capital Gains Tax as opposed to 15 percent. The qualifications for this lower CGT rate have been reduced from KSh 5 billion to KSh 3 billion in investments.

The amendments of the tax law will allow alcohol manufacturers to pay excise duty on the 5th day of the following month instead of the 24 hours that strained their operations. Taxes on alcoholic beverages will be based on the strength of alcohol content as opposed to quantity, which would see excise duty on spirits go up and that of beer reduced.

The law sought to clarify how electronic tax invoices would be done. This was after an uproar from small businesses which were incapable of complying effectively with the prior directives.

The information needed on the invoices include the designation "TAX INVOICE", the name and ad-

dress, the supplier's PIN, and purchaser's details. The amendments saw the introduction of reverse ticketing - where a buyer would issue a tax invoice to ascertain tax liability. However, this would only apply to businesses with less than KSh 5 million in turnover.

The government also reintroduced import duty on some raw materials to protect local steel manufacturers. By preventing the influx of cheap imports, the government believes that the local economy would grow to satisfy local demand and spur employment in the construction industry.

This bill changed provisions in the Banking Act, CBK Act, and Special Economic Zones Act. It increased the core capital requirements for banks from KSh 1 billion to KSh 10 billion. Lenders who fail to achieve this requirement will be fined KSh 20 million or three times the financial gain from the breach by the regulator. However, after intense lobbying from banks, the timeframe for this attain-

ment was upped from 3 years to 8 years.

The CBK will also have the power to regulate non-deposit taking credit providers to tame a sector that has been a subject of controversy over exploitation. It empowers the regulator to oversee 'buy now, pay later' agreements. Most of the amendments made in this act were intended to tighten rules governing data utilisation in financial institutions.

On SEZs, the law now allows the Cabinet Secretaries overseeing the sector to set the minimum amount investible in a special economic zone. It also permits public entities to conduct business in SEZs and assure investors on 10-year tax incentives.

The amendments in this act allow KRA Commissioner-Generals to appoint Deputy Commissioners after board approval.

The law will also allow the Treasury Cabinet Secretary to waive penalties exacted on appointed individuals who failed to transfer funds collected in the person was under statutory management or under receivership.

## Trump gets \$15m in ABC News defamation case

WASHINGTON

ABC News has agreed to pay \$15m (£12m) to US President-elect Donald Trump to settle a defamation lawsuit after its star anchor falsely said he had been found "liable for rape".

George Stephanopoulos made the statements repeatedly during an interview on 10 March this year while challenging a congresswoman about her support for Trump.

A jury in a civil case last year determined Trump was liable for "sexual abuse", which has a specific definition under New York law.

As part of Saturday's settlement, first reported by Fox News Digital, ABC will also publish a statement expressing its "regret" for the statements by Stephanopoulos.

According to the settlement, ABC News will pay \$15m as a charitable contribution to a "Presidential foundation and museum to be established by or for Plaintiff, as Presidents of the United States of America have established in the past".

The network also agreed to pay \$1m towards Trump's legal fees.

Under the settlement, the net-

work will post an editor's note to the bottom of its 10 March 2024 online news article about the story.

It will say: "ABC News and George Stephanopoulos regret statements regarding President Donald J Trump made during an interview by George Stephanopoulos with Rep. Nancy Mace on ABC's This Week on March 10, 2024."

An ABC News spokesperson said in a statement the company was "pleased that the parties have reached an agreement to dismiss the lawsuit on the terms in the court filing".

In 2023, a New York civil court found Trump sexually abused E Jean Carroll in a dressing room at a department store in 1996. He was also found guilty of defaming the magazine columnist.

Judge Lewis Kaplan said the jury's conclusion was that Ms Carroll had failed to prove that Trump raped her "within the narrow, technical meaning of a particular section of the New York Penal Law".

Judge Kaplan noted that the definition of rape was "far narrower" than how rape is defined in common modern parlance, in some dictionaries and in criminal stat-

utes elsewhere.

In a separate case, also presided over by the same judge, a jury ordered Trump to pay \$83.3m to Ms Carroll for additional defamatory statements.

During the 10 March broadcast, Stephanopoulos asked South Carolina Republican congresswoman Nancy Mace how she could endorse Trump.

The anchor falsely said "judges and two separate juries have found him liable for rape".

Stephanopoulos repeated the claim 10 times throughout the broadcast.

Ahead of the ruling, a federal magistrate judge had ordered Trump and Stephanopoulos to give sworn evidence at depositions next week.

Trump has also sued CBS, the BBC's US broadcast partner, for "deceptive conduct" over an interview with Kamala Harris.

In 2023, a judge threw out his defamation lawsuit against CNN, in which he alleged the network had likened him to Adolf Hitler.

He has also had lawsuits filed against the New York Times and the Washington Post dismissed.



US President elect Donald Trump.







## WORLD

## Israel intensifies strikes on Syria, Al-Shara urges state-building

DAMASCUS / BEIRUT / CAIRO

ISRAEL intensified its airstrikes against Syria's military facilities on Saturday as the Syrian rebel leader who led the military operation that resulted in the collapse of Bashar al-Assad's government stressed that diplomatic solutions are the only path to ensuring security and stability.

The Israeli strikes, including 24 air raids in the countryside of Damascus, reportedly hit tunnel-equipped installations carved into a mountainside in the targeted area, as reported by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The latest raids bring the total number of Israeli airstrikes on Syrian territory to 426 since the collapse of the Syrian government on Dec 8. These operations have spanned 13 Syrian provinces, according to the observatory.

Israeli airstrikes have been targeting Syrian military assets across the country, according to Israeli officials, who claimed the attacks aimed to prevent the weapons "from falling into the hands of terrorist elements."

Also on Saturday, Ahmad al-Shara, leader of the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, acknowledged

the enormous scale of destruction in the Syrian capital Damascus and beyond after the downfall of Bashar al-Assad's government.

In an interview with Syria TV, al-Shara said Syria now stands at a critical juncture, requiring careful data-driven strategies and the establishment of a rule-of-law state to ensure lasting stability.

Al-Shara, who led the military operation that resulted in the collapse of al-Assad's government, emphasized the need to govern with a state-oriented mindset. He called for building institutions based on law and justice.

"We must pivot to the tasks of state-building," he said, stressing that the country's future depends on inclusive governance and a professional, accountable bureaucracy.

Al-Shara vowed to end Syria's role as a hub for illicit activities, including the production of Captagon.

The new administration, he said, is determined to restore the rule of law and ensure that the country's wealth benefits its citizens.

He vowed to rebuild and improve Syrians' living conditions, restore essential services, and strive for a more stable and



People pick up metal and unexploded ammunition from the site of the previous evening's Israeli airstrike that targeted shipments of weapons that belonged to Syrian government forces in Qamishli, in mainly Kurdish northeastern Syria, on Dec 10, 2024. AFP

just future.

He called for caution and diplomacy, urging all parties, including global powers, to act responsibly and avoid sparking new conflicts.

Al-Shara accused Israel of using weak justifications for its recent strikes inside Syria, cautioning that continued Israeli overreach could provoke unnecessary escalation. He called on the international community to intervene diplomatically to preserve regional peace.

"We are not currently seeking to engage in a conflict with Israel," he said in the interview.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem confirmed on Saturday that the Lebanese armed group has temporarily lost its weapons supply route through Syria following the recent fall of Assad's government.

In his first televised address since

the collapse of Assad's government, Qassem acknowledged the disruption, describing it as a "detail" in the broader scope of Hezbollah's operations. He added that the supply route could be restored once a new regime is in place, or Hezbollah may seek alternative pathways.

In Cairo, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi and US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan discussed here Saturday the latest developments in Gaza and Syria, the Egyptian presidency said in a statement.

Al-Sisi underscored the importance of preserving Syria's unity, territorial integrity, and the security of its people.

Sullivan, who is on a regional tour, visited Israel on Wednesday with Syria on top of the agenda, according to the US administration spokesperson.

## Putin extends Russia's anti-oil price cap measures until June 30, 2025 – decree

MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin has extended retaliatory measures introduced by Moscow in response to the so-called "price cap" on Russian oil and oil products until June 30, 2025. The relevant decree of the head of state has been published on the official Internet portal of legal information.



The document bans the supply of Russian oil and oil products if contracts for these supplies directly or indirectly reference the use of a price cap imposed by the G7 countries, the EU, and Australia.

The decree on retaliatory measures against the oil price cap initially came into effect on February 1, 2023, and was originally intended to last until July 1, 2023, but has been extended multiple times since then.

On December 5, 2022, the European Union embargo on seaborne oil supplies from Russia came into effect. The G7 countries, EU, and Australia implemented a price cap on Russian seaborne oil at \$60 per barrel for their affiliated ships and territories.

From February 5, 2023, similar restrictions were applied to petroleum products from Russia, with a maximum price set at \$100 and \$45 per barrel, depending on the product category. Changes to these restrictions require unanimous agreement from all EU member states and G7 participants.

## Central authorities fully support HK in fostering new economic momentum, says Xi

BEIJING

President Xi Jinping on Friday said the central authorities fully support Hong Kong in aligning with national strategies and fostering new momentum and advantages for economic development.

Xi made the remarks when meeting with Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) John Lee, who is on a duty visit to Beijing. During the meeting, Xi heard a report from Lee on Hong Kong's current situation and the HKSAR government's work.

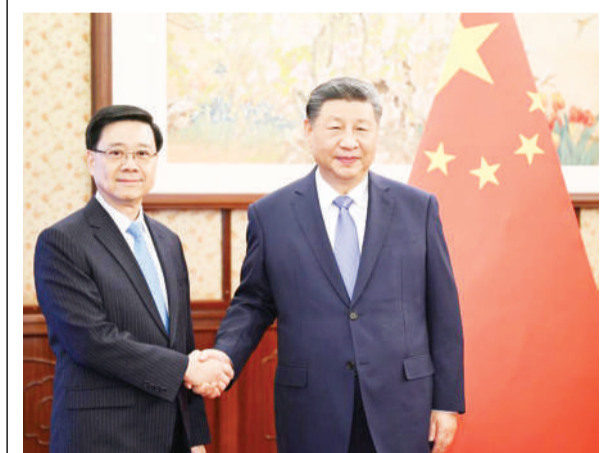
Noting that Hong Kong faces new development opportunities, Xi said the central authorities would fully, firmly and accurately implement the "one country, two systems" policy, and fully support the chief executive and the HKSAR government in uniting and leading all sectors of society in actively pursuing reform and progress, and in pursuing prosperity through innovation and creativity.

Commending Lee's work over the past year, Xi said Lee had led the HKSAR government in shouldering responsibilities and delivering concrete results.

In the past year, the HKSAR government has completed the historic legislation under Article 23 of the HKSAR Basic Law, pooled resources in boosting economic development, addressed livelihood problems such as housing and healthcare, strengthened external exchanges and cooperation, and continuously enhanced Hong Kong's international prestige, thus further consolidating Hong Kong's positive momentum of stability and development, Xi said.

The central authorities fully acknowledge the work of Lee and the HKSAR government, he said.

Senior officials including Li Qiang, Cai Qi and Ding Xuexiang attended the meeting. **Xinhua**



President Xi Jinping meets with Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) John Lee, who is on a duty visit to Beijing, capital of China, on Friday. **Xinhua**

## Rise of Global South to push global economy through headwinds

KUALA LUMPUR

THE rise of the Global South countries pushes the global economy through expected headwinds and keeps international trade vibrant, a Malaysian official said here on Saturday.

These developments, in turn, will help unlock potential and facilitate cooperation in addressing a range of pressing issues, including managing climate change, enhancing supply chain resilience, ensuring food security, and shaping the governance of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), said Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) Chairman Reezal Merican Naina Merican in his remarks at a conference in Kuala Lumpur.

"For Malaysia, the rise of the Global South is a unifying force that brings together our diversity, differences, and discretion. Contrary to the perspectives of detractors, the Global South is not a movement of exclusion but one of inclusion," he said.

"Its purpose is not to isolate the Global North but to advocate for a more balanced and equitable global system. Our mobili-



A model of E190-E2 aircraft is on display at the exhibition of BRICS New Industrial Revolution 2024 in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian Province, Sept. 10, 2024. **Xinhua**

zation is grounded in the recognition of our growing agency and the desire to collaborate as equals, navigating complex strategic contexts together," he added.

Reezal said as a free and open trading nation, Malaysia will work to strengthen its engagement with regional and sub-regional mechanisms including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), with Malaysia set to head the grouping in 2025.

"Malaysia is committed to strengthening existing ASEAN mechanisms and institutions, ensuring that they are not only robust but also fit for purpose in addressing the evolving challenges of our times. Ad-

ditionally, we aim to identify and harness synergies with other frameworks that are vital for regional development and prosperity," he said.

For his part, Belt and Road Initiative Caucus for Asia-Pacific (BRICAP) President Ong Tee Keat noted that ASEAN's emphasis on centrality and maintaining itself as a neutral zone bodes well for its aspirations toward economic growth in pursuit of common prosperity for the region.

"ASEAN, having pronounced its centrality in addressing its security concerns and development priorities, remains steadfast in observing its non-aligned commitment. This reminds the world of

its consistency in endeavoring to make the region a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality... ASEAN's bet is visibly focused on economic growth in pursuit of common prosperity for the region," he said.

The conference, organized by the Centre for Economic and Sustainable Development (Asia), brought together trade and economic experts to discuss trade cooperation in the context of a strengthening Global South **Xinhua**

## China's BeiDou navigation system: Unique path of independent innovation

A couple of months ago, China launched two new satellites for the BeiDou-3 Navigation Satellite System (BDS-3) from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan province.

The two satellites, the 59th and 60th in the family of BeiDou, were the second group of medium Earth orbit (MEO) satellites launched since BDS-3 was formally commissioned to provide satellite navigation services worldwide. They were also the final two satellites for BDS-3.

The BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) is a project built and operated by China. After many years in development, it has become an important new element of China's infrastructure, providing high-accuracy, round-the-clock positioning, naviga-

tion and timing services to global users in all weathers.

China began to develop its own navigation satellite system in 1994. At the end of 2000, BDS-1 entered service and began providing positioning services in China; in 2012, BDS-2 was completed to provide passive positioning services to the Asia-Pacific region; in 2020, BDS-3 was officially commissioned to provide satellite navigation services around the globe.

One of the keys that enabled BDS-3 to expand from regional to global coverage is that it has realized measurement and communication between satellites through inter-satellite links, or ISL.

The ISL, a bold and innovative approach, refers to a communication line between satellites - a wireless link

capable of both data transmission and distance measurement between spacecraft. Based on Chinese domestic ground stations, this technology enables the "out of sight" BeiDou satellites on the far side of the Earth to establish connections with other BeiDou satellites, thereby ensuring seamless communication across the entire constellation.

With the collaboration of over 400 organizations and the efforts of more than 300,000 researchers, BDS represents China's steady improvements and upgrades in satellite navigation.

In March 2015, China launched the first BDS-3 experimental satellite that involved 70 percent newly developed technologies, maintaining sound operations ever since.

Traditionally, the proportion of new

technologies used in satellites does not exceed 30 percent. How was this satellite able to push this boundary to 70 percent? Lin Baojun, researcher with the Innovation Academy for Microsatellites of Chinese Academy of Sciences and chief designer of BDS-3, gives the answer. "It usually takes about 10 years to develop a key technology, while a satellite often operates for more than 10 years. This means that by the time a satellite completes its mission, it's using technologies that are already 20 years old. That's why it is crucial to adopt an innovative and forward-looking approach in satellite development," said Lin.

Lin streamlined the satellite's structure by merging more than 10 subsystems, such as structural components and thermal control, into four major

functional chains: electronics, control, structure, and payload. This simplification improved the reliability of the whole system. After repeated selection and testing, Lin and his team adopted mature components and manufacturing processes to ensure the implementation of new technologies, making the satellite technologically advanced.

Sources say that BDS has made breakthroughs in a host of key technologies, achieving the independent development of multiple key components. All the core components of BDS-3 satellites are independently developed and produced by China.

Zheng Xiaodong, a senior engineer with the 54th Research Institute of China Electronics Technology Group Corporation, has been dedicated to developing BDS ground system for over

20 years. His team has independently developed the short message communication system unique to BDS-3.

Distinguished from other satellite navigation systems which are limited to passive positioning and can only determine the position of users, BDS-3 can not only know "where I am" but also share "what I'm doing." When other communication methods break down in case of emergencies like sudden earthquakes or maritime distress, the short message communication services can be indispensable for sending distress signals and saving lives.

To bring satellite messaging to every household, Zheng's team innovatively came up with the idea of equipping mobile phones with the BDS-3 short message communication function.

**People's Daily**



## UAE wraps up COP16 participation

RIYADH

THE UAE concluded its participation in the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) by emphasising the importance of strengthening international cooperation to develop practical solutions for halting desertification and addressing drought.

The UAE also underlined the importance of the active involvement of all community groups, with a focus on enhancing the role of women in global sustainable land management.

COP16 was held in Riyadh from December 2 to 13 under the theme "Our Land. Our Future." The conference aimed to explore strategies for transforming land degradation into renewal. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) serves as the global advocate for bringing together governments, businesses, and civil society to address challenges and collaboratively shape a sustainable future for land.

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, who led the UAE delegation at the conference, said that with the support of its visionary leadership, the UAE serves as an inspiring model for advancing sustainability within the country and globally. She highlighted the UAE's pioneering efforts and initiatives, which have contributed to the development of several communities in various nations.

She said, "COP16 on combating desertification marked a new chapter in the UAE's achievements to address the global drought crisis and halting land degradation. Through effective contributions to global efforts, the UAE has strengthened sustainable agriculture and food systems, and leveraged innovation to develop solutions to the global water crisis, particularly through the 'Mohammed bin Zayed Water Initiative' and other efforts."

She added, "The participation of the Emirati work teams, representing relevant authorities in the country, exemplified our collaboration and unity in pursuing shared goals. Our goals include addressing national challenges, expanding innovation-driven agriculture and food systems, promoting sustainable water management, and maximising the benefits derived from natural resources while preventing waste. Additionally, our teams played an active role in rallying global efforts in this regard."

Dr. Al Dahak thanked the members of the UAE delegation and said they embodied the country's commitment to nurturing a generation with the expertise needed to lead the sustainability journey. She highlighted their role in reinforcing the UAE's position as a global capital of sustainability and a leader in shaping the future.

During his participation in a session titled "Strengthening the Environmental Dimension of Food Systems Amid a Polycrisis in the Arab Region," Mohammed Saeed Al Nuaimi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, emphasised that water scarcity is a significant challenge for

the Arab region. As one of the most arid places in the world, the Arab region faces immense pressure on its limited freshwater resources especially for agriculture.

Al Nuaimi said, "We must invest in climate-smart land solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change and enhance climate resilience across the Arab region. The success of these efforts hinges on cooperation, as the active participation and coordination among the various stakeholders is urgently needed to achieve the shared goals of our Arab nations."

He said that tackling the challenges of climate change, water scarcity, land degradation, and desertification calls for concerted regional efforts. These include leveraging advanced technologies, strengthening resource management, and enhancing international cooperation. He said: "During our Presidency of COP28, we highlighted the critical role of agri-food systems in addressing these challenges and prioritised placing food systems at the heart of the climate action agenda."

The COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action, endorsed by 160 nations to date, underscores that achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement relies on addressing the interconnections between food systems, agriculture, and climate.

He also highlighted the 'Plant the Emirates' National Programme, which aims to empower local communities in achieving sustainable food security in the UAE by encouraging their participation in agricultural practices. He also referred to the 'National Agriculture Centre', which aims to advance research and innovation in agricultural technologies.

Hiba Obaid Al Shehhi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Biodiversity and Marine Life Sector at MOCCA, participated in a session titled 'High Level Interactive Dialogue of the Gender Caucus: HerLand: Women's leadership on sustainable land management.' She emphasised the UAE's commitment to gender equality as part of the nation's efforts to address the impact of climate change, particularly in sustainable land management.

She added, "The climate crisis does not affect one gender more than the other; both women and men are significantly impacted by climate change. This presents a unique opportunity to strengthen efforts to combat desertification, land degradation, and drought, while enhancing the leadership role of women and girls by leveraging their expertise, knowledge, and skills."

Al Shehhi highlighted the significant role of the UAE in empowering women in agriculture through efforts that included a project to enhance the capabilities of refugees in Uganda, funded by the Sheikhha Fatima Fund for Refugee Women, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

She added, "The call to enhance the role of women in achieving climate resilience and land restoration aligns with our national strategies. Women play a

## Hugs, angst on streets of Seoul following dramatic impeachment vote of President Yoon

SEOUL

IN the chilly and windy December afternoon in the South Korean capital Seoul, crowds of angry people were gathered in front of the country's parliament to witness a vote on the second impeachment motion against President Yoon Suk-yeol.

As the clock struck noon, a sea of residents, undeterred by the biting December winds, congregated before the parliament's main gate, brandishing placards that boldly proclaimed "Yoon Suk-yeol Out!" and "Arrest the Mastermind of Chaos, Yoon Suk-yeol!" demanding his immediate step-down.

The crowd, a tapestry woven from all walks of life, swelled as the day progressed, transforming the roads in front of the parliament into a kaleidoscope of colors and chants. Young adults in their 20s or 30s, armed with glowing batons, ingeniously wove impeachment slogans into the melodies of K-pop hits, momentarily converting the protest venue into a vibrant, open-air concert. Police estimated that more than 200,000 people attended the gathering.

At about 16:00 local time, the vote on the second impeachment motion began. Unlike boycotting the first vote, the ruling party, which opted to oppose the impeachment, allowed its lawmakers to participate and vote freely this time.

As a result, the entire contingent of 300

lawmakers of the unicameral National Assembly attending the historic plenary session cast their votes. The voting process was conducted by secret ballot, with parliament members marking the white voting paper in turn and placing it in the ballot box.

At around 17:00, Parliament Speaker Woo Won-shik solemnly announced the result: "Out of 300 participants, 204 voted in favor and 85 against, with three abstentions and eight invalid votes. I hereby declare the impeachment motion against President Yoon Suk-yeol passed!"

"Upon the announcement, cheers broke out in the crowds outside the parliament. 'We did it!' people chanted, with joy echoed through the throngs. Some were hugging each other while others were sobbing, tears of joy streaming down their faces.

"Today's result reflects the will of the people," Ahn Jung-ha, told Xinhua, who came from the North Chungcheong Province of Jecheon. A gentleman surnamed Kim said he had mixed feelings about the impeachment vote.

"For now, it's just the beginning of the end. The political landscape remains unstable and I am still filled with anxiety," he said. "As a member of the general public, I sincerely hope that the political parties can reduce their disputes, think more about their citizens, and prioritize the people's voices.

## Medvedev says US wants Taiwan to be its outpost in East Asia

MOSCOW

THE Anglo-Saxons have a long-term goal to declare Taiwan's independence under the Kosovo scenario so they could have an outpost in East Asia, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said in an article in the International Affairs magazine.

"For the long term, the Anglo-Saxons have set themselves a specific political goal to comprehensively reformat the 'island identity.' This would make it possible to erode the principle of one China, declare Taiwan's independence under the Kosovo scenario and undermine the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. Next up would be to form an outpost in East Asia that would be formally dependent on the US," he wrote.

According to the official, the plan is "quite in line with Washington's aspirations to bring the Asia-Pacific region into NATO's orbit and pit states against each other."

Medvedev (pictured) said that in order to achieve these goals, "the tools that are employed include manipulative language separation, the cultivation of local nationalism and the promotion of pro-Western values and ideas that are alien to Chinese traditional national culture." These tactics are similar to those that are used in Ukraine, according to the official.

Medvedev said the Anglo-Saxons, in addition to funneling arms into Taiwan, deliberately turn a blind eye to the efforts of Taiwan's administration aimed at the de-Sinification and Taiwanization of the island by implementing a policy of nurturing the so-called "Taiwanese identity" (or "Taiwanese self-consciousness") - the self-identification of its inhabitants as the Taiwanese detached from their roots, rather than the Chinese.

"What is being embedded into the collective consciousness of the island's residents is the idea that, as a result of long historical processes, when the entire island or parts of it were under the rule of different forces (native tribes, the Spanish, the Dutch, various pirates and the Japanese), some new nation was born, and it is different from the main Chinese ethnos, the Han



people," the official wrote.

According to Medvedev, there are efforts to back up this idea with various Taiwan-centric scientific concepts, such as the concept of the Taiwanese nation and its variations in the form of the theories of the Taiwanese nation by blood, Taiwanese nation by culture, the political and economic Taiwanese nation, a new rising nation, and a community of common destiny - all of which were first put forward in the early 2000s.

"The authors of these contrived theories seek to take the collective consciousness of the Taiwanese beyond the traditional Chinese-ness and impose on them a kind of non-Chinese-ness as a new national and civic identity," he said.

He also said that Chinese culture is cast as just one of many cultures on the island, which supposedly doesn't form the core of Taiwanese cultural identity.

### Ideological attack on the language

"The island's advocates of separatism, instigated by American senators, congressmen and retired officials under the supervision of numerous NGOs from across the ocean, zealously defend the thesis that national identity is the sole basis for nation building and the existence of a country," Medvedev said.

Therefore, he went on to say, in order to sow discord, "strategic foes are doing their best to invent contrived distinctions."

"They pay serious attention to linguo-conflictological levers, attempts to bend the 'living soul of the people' to their liking," the official said.

## China refines duty-free, tax refund policies for better consumption experience

AT the bustling Qianmen Gate in Beijing, a major attraction for foreign tourists renowned for its rich cultural heritage, a foreign exchange goods duty-free shop of Sinopharm China National Service Cooperation (Sinopharm CNSC) will soon be transformed into a downtown duty-free shop.

Downtown duty-free shops refer to those approved by China's State Council to operate within Chinese urban areas and sell duty-free goods to travelers set to leave the country. According to a staff member with the shop of Sinopharm CNSC, this transformation will provide departing tourists with a wider range of shopping options.

Duty-free shops are more appealing than franchises because they sell products at lower prices. Downtown duty-free shops, in particular, offer consumers imported goods that are exempt from customs duties, import value-added tax (VAT) and consumption tax, as well as goods of Chinese brands that are eligible for VAT refunds or exemptions, all at significantly discounted prices. Unlike airport duty-free shops, they are more conveniently located and offer flexible shopping hours.

According to the interim measures for the administration of duty-free shops in cities issued by Chinese authorities, a duty-free store would be opened in each of China's eight cities, namely Guangzhou, Chengdu, Shenzhen, Tianjin, Wuhan, Xi'an, Changsha and Fuzhou, starting Oct. 1 this year.

Another 13 foreign exchange goods duty-free shops shall be transformed into downtown duty-free shops within 3 months from the commencement of the new rules, and shall begin to operate only after passing the customs inspection.

The rules also stipulated that duty-free shops in cities are for travelers who will be departing the country by air or international cruise within 60 days. These travelers can purchase at these stores without a shopping limit, but they must comply with Chinese customs regulations that the quantity of items carried by travelers entering and exiting the country shall be for personal use

and of a reasonable quantity.

"Downtown duty-free shops will bring new development opportunities for tourism and retail industries. They offer a more convenient shopping experience and are attractive to tourists, thereby driving the development of related industrial chains and creating new growth drivers," said Ye Yindan, a researcher with the Bank of China's research institute.

As more countries are included in China's visa-free transit policy, "China travel" is becoming increasingly popular, leading to a growing consumption enthusiasm of overseas tourists.

Apart from downtown duty-free shops, the departure tax refund policy is also an important tax incentive measure introduced by China to facilitate overseas tourists in response to international trends.

Departure tax refund refers to the partial refund of indirect taxes to a foreign tourist who has purchased goods in the destination country. In recent years, the Chinese tax authorities have continuously improved departure tax refund services to further enhance the convenience for overseas tourists. So far, more than 20 provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under

China's central government, and cities specifically designated in the state plan, have introduced departure tax refund policies.

Moreover, Beijing, Shanghai, Sichuan, and other regions provide the instant departure tax refund service, which allows overseas travelers to get an instant tax refund from the merchants after shopping.

After shopping at stores that provide the service, eligible overseas travelers can be rebated with the equivalent amount of RMB at the specific tax refund point. The service can fully meet the practical needs of overseas travelers and effectively improves their consumption experience.

Since the beginning of this year, the departure tax refund business in Beijing has maintained a high growth trend. As of now, the number of overseas travelers' applications for tax refund has increased by 2.1 times from a year ago, and the sales of tax refundable goods by 1.5 times year on year.

At a service counter at the SKP Beijing department store, a South Korean tourist and his friends were having their tax refunded. According to Ma Tao, tax manager of the department store, hundreds of shops in the mall

can handle departure tax refund business, which covers a variety of daily necessities such as clothing, shoes, bags, cosmetics, and watches.

In addition to fashionable items, specialty products of time-honored Chinese brands are also favored by many foreign tourists. "Thanks to the development of China's tourism industry and our increasing overseas influence, we are dealing with more departure tax refund businesses than before, with the majority of tax refundable goods being Chinese patent medicines and medicinal herbs," said Zhang Rui, deputy manager with a drug store of Tong Ren Tang, a traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) manufacturer established in the 17th century, in Dashilan commercial area, Beijing.

An official with Shanghai Municipal Tax Service of China's State Taxation Administration noted that they will continue improving the distribution of stores providing departure tax refund service and focus on inbound consumption scenarios, so as to make tax refund more accessible and promote the high-quality development of tax-free and refundable economy.

According to Medvedev, Washington, London and Brussels realize that language represents an important tool for maintaining traditions - which cement the bond between generations - a special social and cultural component and "a marker of political preferences."

"That is why the West deals an ideological blow against language as an element of civic solidarity. The goals are obvious: to provoke, acting from abroad, a crisis of self-identification and loss of historical memory and undermine the inherent values of our civilizations, such as justice, goodness, mercy, compassion, love. And most importantly, to replace them with the surrogate of the neoliberal agenda," he said.

He said the underlying reason for this is a persistent desire to destroy millennia-old algorithms of people's everyday lives.

"In order to hype up the made-up issue of the so-called Taiwanese language, Western forces are ready to latch on to differences in the writing of characters, minor changes in some lexemes and peculiarities of the South Ming dialect," the official wrote. "It is symbolic that the island's authorities have to bend over backwards as they put the language at the service of politics."

The efforts of the current Taiwanese authorities to highlight the differences between the island's and mainland languages look like an integral part of attempts to create a Taiwanese identity, according to Medvedev.

Another CIA and similarities with Ukraine

"A particularly destructive role in restraining China's development is played by the National Endowment for Democracy (designated undesirable in Russia). This dubious organization has long been engaged in subversive cognitive operations around the globe at the behest of its founders in the US Congress and is often referred to as a 'second CIA,'" he said.

Agencies



Photo shows the Sanya International Duty-Free Shopping Complex in Sanya, south China's Hainan province. (People's Daily Online/Ye Longbin)

People's Daily





## Kiazayidi: Victory over Azam FC showcases Tabora United's quality

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TABORA United head coach Anicet Kiazayidi has downplayed the impact of Azam FC goalkeeper Mohamed Mustafa's errors in their 2-1 victory over the weekend at Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium.

Kiazayidi (pictured) has attributed the win to his team's overall performance and not solely to the goalkeeper's mistakes.

Both of Tabora's goals were a result of Mustafa's errors. He misjudged a cross, allowing Heritier Makambo to score, and later conceded an own goal while attempting to clear another Makambo cross. Azam FC's goal was scored by Yoro Diaby.

Despite the goalkeeper's blunders, Kiazayidi believes that his team's overall strength was the key factor in their victory. He emphasized that the win was a testament to his team's quality and not just the goalkeeper's mistakes.

This victory continues their dominance against big teams, following their earlier 3-1 win against Young Africans. With this win, Tabora United have accumulated 24 points so far.

"Our victory was not caused by the goalkeeper's mistakes, but rather by the good quality and discipline of our players, from their good defensive and

attacking abilities.

"The secret lies in their good combination and unity, which has been there since I arrived," he said.

The coach added: "Tabora deserves more praise for their consistent good performance thus far, instead of focusing on the weaknesses of one side. Doing so is disrespectful, and that bothers me as the coach of Tabora."

Kiazayidi, who has previously coached AS Vita Club, FC Simba Kolwezi, FC Les Aigles du Congo, and Maniema Union, has not lost a single game since joining Tabora United on November 2, this year. They are currently in fifth place after 14 matches.

Since taking over, the Congolese gaffer has led Tabora United in five matches, winning four and drawing one against Singida Black Stars, who are currently in fourth place with 27 points, the same as Young Africans. However, the Jangwani-based side have played fewer matches.

Azam FC lead the league with 30 points, followed by Simba in second place with 28 points.

Last season, Tabora United only won five games, resulting in a relegation/promotion playoff against Biashara United that earned them survival. This season, Tabora United are on a run of six unbeaten games.

## Dar Kings win 2024 TCA U-17 Boys Bilateral Series

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

**D**AR Kings triumphed in the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) U-17 Boys Bilateral Series, grabbing a 22-run win over Gairo Kings in the final last weekend.

The TCA U-17 Boys Bilateral Series' final was nothing short of spectacular, an association's officer stated.

The two top teams, Gairo Kings and Dar Kings battled fiercely in an unforgettable showdown at Leaders Club ground in Dar es Salaam, keeping everyone - who turned up to watch - on the edge of their seats.

Dar Kings set a competitive target, with Johnson David shining yet again, smashing a brilliant century in a high-stakes game.

The target turned out to be a tall order for Gairo Kings, despite the latter having given their all when they took the crease.

The Abdallah Hassan-led Dar Kings ended with 244/6 in the scheduled 30 overs once they won the toss and chose to bat.

The early wicket of the opener Ramadhan Abdul could hardly foil the batting team's resoluteness, as the other opener, David, put on a brilliant innings.

David ended with the best showing at the crease, given the cricketer scored 127 runs not out, nailing 18 boundaries and a sixer.

The youthful player made up for the brief stay his fellow opener had faced, as the latter ended one run short of two digits.

Salman Yasser saw to it that Dar Kings pursued a convincing score, notching 23 runs.

Dar Kings were 117-2 once Yasser left the crease after 16.6 overs, which meant opportunities for ending the turn with the bat with a much bigger total



Dar Kings' cricketers are pictured with the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) U-17 Boys Bilateral Series title upon the completion of the showdown in Dar es Salaam last weekend. They garnered a 22-run win over Gairo Kings in the final. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

were there.

Significant showing at the crease for the cricketers moreover came from Dev Mandania and Ayaan Shariff.

Both ended with two-digit figures, given Mandania secured 22 runs and Shariff chipped in with 17 runs.

Thirty-four extra runs given away by Gairo Kings were also a boost to Dar Kings' total.

The extras were made up of 24 wides, two no-balls, one bye, and seven leg byes.

Ayub Branson's 3-34 happened to be the best bowling display when Gairo Kings fielded.

The youthful bowler's turn stretched for three overs and ended with the 11.33 economy rate.

Wickson Costa, moreover, made his presence count for the Morogoro squad after taking 2-32.

Needing 245 runs to triumph, Gairo Kings responded with a spirited chase led by Branson.

Branson's magnificent 84 runs off 78 balls kept the Morogoro boys' hopes alive.

They faced an early blow

as one of the openers, Alfred Daniel, had a brief stay, leaving the crease for duck in his first knock.

Costa notched 38 runs, whereas the other opener, Jeremia John, sought to have Gairo Kings stay within reach of 245 runs, garnering 25 runs.

A successful chase was almost out of reach for Gairo Kings following Salehe Minda's dismissal for duck.

The low-order cricketer's dismissal witnessed Gairo Kings reaching 216-9 in the 28th over.

Gairo Kings' hopes went up in smokes following their failure to mount a successful chase, scoring 222/9.

Dar Kings ultimately held their nerves to emerge as champions, while Gairo Kings claimed the runners-up title.

Dar Kings' Prakash Chauhan ended with 4-36 and Taher Lukmanji finished with 3-33 as the bowlers solidly contained Gairo Kings' batting unit.

The clash was, the officer disclosed, undoubtedly the best match of the tournament, showcasing the immense talent in Tanzania's cricket.

Wickson Costa (Gairo Kings) lifted the Player of the Tournament gong, given the player showcased exceptional performances with both bat and ball throughout the series.

David (Dar Kings) walked away with the tournament's Best Batter honour, having turned out to be a consistent performer, scoring centuries when it mattered the most.

The youthful player's form throughout the tournament has been sensational.

The Best Bowler honour went to Mustafa Shabani (Combined Kings).

The youthful performer was consistently devastating with the ball, making crucial breakthroughs.

The TCA officer congratulated all participating teams for battling it out in a thrilling tournament.

According to the TCA officer, the future of Tanzania's cricket is bright, with the young stars leading the way.

The TCA U-17 Boys Bilateral Series was coordinated by the national cricket governing body to efficiently promote



Kinyerezi hockey team player Amina Omary (C) pictured recently negotiating her way past Buza players during the JMK Park Tournament held at the Jakaya Kikwete Sports Park in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Pamba Jiji place faith in new recruits to turn season around

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

PAMBA Jiji, having only secured two victories in fourteen matches this Premier League season, have strengthened their squad by signing experienced domestic and international players in the ongoing mini transfer window.

After a 21-year absence, Pamba Jiji returned to the Premier League this season. However, they made significant changes during the off-season, including firing head coach Mbwana Makata and

releasing several players.

Despite these changes, the team's performance has been underwhelming. The majority of the newly signed players have not met expectations, leading to the dismissal of coach Goran Kuponovic after a string of losses.

The Mwanza-based side are determined to strengthen their squad and have signed five foreign players, including former Singida Black Stars goalkeeper Mohammed Camara.

They have also secured three

local players: Deus Kaseke, Habib Kyombo, and Hamad Majimengi.

Pamba Jiji hope to add more firepower to their attack and improve their defense, confident that these new signings will help them achieve their goals this season.

Apart from Camara, who was a backup goalkeeper for Metacha Mnata at Singida Big Stars, Pamba Jiji have also signed Kenyan striker Mathew Teggsi Momanyi, Zambian midfielder Rally Bwalya, Burundian midfielder Tshassiri

Nahimana, and Cameroonian defender Cherif Ibrahim.

All these players are currently awaiting work permits and residency permits to join the team. It is reported that Camara will be officially unveiled by the club soon.

Pamba Jiji officials have stated their intention to strengthen the team to ensure survival in the remaining rounds of the league.

One of the club's officials, who requested anonymity, said: "Our performance in the first half of the season hasn't been satisfactory, so

we need to bring in experienced players to boost our chances of staying in the Premier League."

"The newly introduced players have already started training with the team to prepare for the upcoming match at KMC Complex in Dar es Salaam," added the official.

The club has also been linked with former Simba and Young Africans defender Kelvin Yondani, who could join other new local recruits like Kaseke in training for the upcoming match against KMC tomorrow in Dar es Salaam.

Pamba Jiji are currently in 12th place in the league after 14 games, with only two wins, six losses, and six draws, including their most recent goalless draw against JKT Tanzania.

With Fred Felix 'Minziro' at the helm, Pamba Jiji have scored seven goals while conceding 14, resulting in a goal difference of -7.

The club hopes to improve their performance this season with the addition of experienced players from the Premier League.



## Napoli beats Udinese 3-1 as Conte praises team's resilience

ROME

NAPOLI coach Antonio Conte was pleased with his side's performance in their 3-1 victory at Udinese on Saturday, saying no major tactical changes were needed to secure the comeback win, but he stressed the need for continued improvement.

Conte hailed Napoli's resilience against a tough Udinese side, pointing to his team's strong response to recent setbacks, including back-to-back defeats by Lazio that saw them knocked out of the Coppa Italia and lose their Serie A lead.

"Udinese are a very good side and I saw a strong response from my boys," Conte told DAZN. "We have to be realistic, fearless and understand that to win you have to take control of the game, as we did today."

Udinese went ahead when Florian Thauvin scored from the rebound after Alex Meret saved his penalty. However, a Romelu Lukaku strike, Lautaro Giannetti's own goal and a late Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa effort completed the turnaround for Napoli.

For Conte, the scoreline in the first half did not reflect his side's dominance. "We controlled the game from start to finish, even though we were 1-0 down. The penalty didn't change the game for us," the manager added.

"We created chances in the first half and we must continue to play that kind of football. Keeping possession, dominating the game, pressing high and dictating the game is crucial for us."

The win leaves Napoli two points behind Serie A leaders Atalanta, who beat 1-0 Cagliari earlier on Saturday. Conte's title-chasing side next face Genoa in a week's time.

REUTERS

## Luis Enrique happy with season despite PSG's troubles

PARIS

COACH Luis Enrique played down Paris St Germain's troubles on Saturday and said the Ligue 1 club had shown steady improvement over the course of their season, with the statistics telling a positive tale.

PSG have just seven points from six games in the Champions League and risk missing the cut for the knockout stage as they are in 25th place, one point outside the playoff positions.

While they have been much more dominant in the French league and remain unbeaten after 14 matches, they have drawn their last two games, allowing second-placed Olympique de Marseille to narrow the gap to five points.

In both their draws, against Auxerre and Nantes, PSG created a number of scoring opportunities and had at least 10 shots on target.

"Statistically, it's my best season as a coach. Even if you criticise, if there are lies invented, it's my best in terms of numbers, on the chances generated by us and the chances given away to the opponents," Luis Enrique told reporters.

"I've had seasons with great success. But I only see positive things here. No matter the negativity that there has been since the start of the season... Little by little things are falling into place and I'm very happy with this season."

"There have been difficulties in the Champions League but it is a process of growth which depends on the ability to overcome problems. The level of training is rising, the players are better every day... This is the best season of my career."

PSG attacker Bradley Barcola has struggled in front of goal recently, going three league matches without scoring after netting 10 times in the first 11 games.

Luis Enrique said Barcola was still contributing to the team, adding: "Bradley has been decisive in every game. You judge him on assists or goals but football is a much more complex sport."

"A player can be key without scoring or getting an assist. What is important is that the 11 players attack or defend together. That is the objective. Who wins the best player award, it is not important for us."

On Sunday, PSG host fifth-placed Lyon, who have won their last four matches across all competitions, including impressive victories over Qarabag and Eintracht Frankfurt in the Europa League.

"We know Lyon well. It's an opponent who is in very good form at the moment, well ranked both in Europe and in Ligue 1," the Spanish manager added.

"They have real quality in their team so that generates a lot of motivation and desire to be up to the task."

"The danger presented by Lyon is that they are capable of keeping the ball. They have some very good individual players."

REUTERS

# Arsenal deserved to beat Everton, coach Arteta says after stalemate

LONDON

ARSENAL manager Mikel Arteta said his side deserved to beat Everton and insisted he was still pleased with their performance after Saturday's Premier League match ended in a 0-0 stalemate.

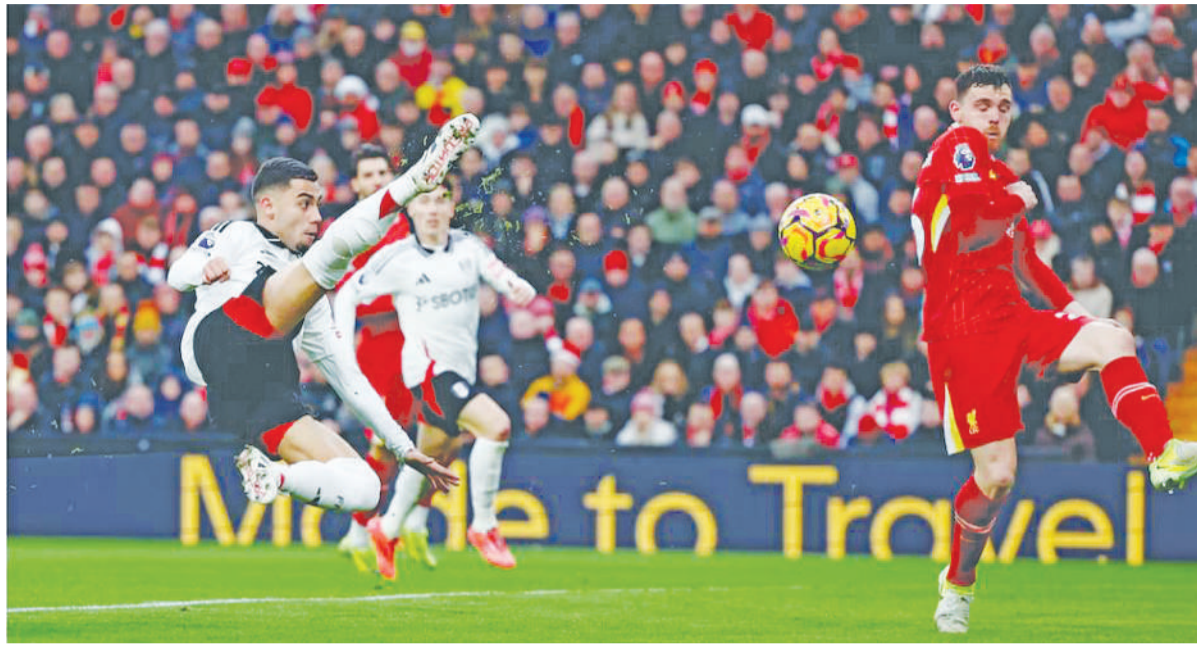
Arsenal, who squandered a chance to close the gap at the top of the Premier League standings after leaders Liverpool also drew at home to Fulham, dominated possession and had the better opportunities but just could not break Everton down.

The Gunners are third on 30 points from 16 games, a point behind second-placed Chelsea, who host Brentford on Sunday.

"Well, I feel very disappointed not to win the game because obviously there is a team that deserves to win. There is only one, which is Arsenal," Arteta told reporters after his side's second straight Premier League draw.

"We gave nothing away. No shots conceded, we dominated the direct play, didn't allow them to run, no set-pieces. Our high press was excellent. We generated the chances but the last 20 metres was missing to score goals."

"At the end, you have to try to generate the highest winning probability. When you draw the game you want more. Even if we win it



Fulham's Andreas Pereira scores their first goal against Liverpool during their Premier League match at Anfield, in Liverpool, Britain on December 14, 2024. The match ended in a 2-2 draw. REUTERS

we always want more, but I cannot ask much more from the boys apart from putting the ball in the net."

Everton kept the north London club off the scoresheet by swarming them every time they got near the penalty area, while goalkeeper Jordan Pickford made a string of excellent saves.

"Credit to them (Everton) as well, how they block shots, to Pickford for the saves that he's made, the way they defend," Arteta added.

"Honestly, it's difficult to ask something else from the team. Individually, can we do things a little bit better and deliver more quality and deliver the magic moment in that case? Yes, but that's something that is not easy."

The Spanish manager made a double substit-

ution in the second half, removing captain Martin Odegaard and Declan Rice and bringing on Jorginho and 17-year-old Ethan Nwaneri in midfield. Arteta said Rice's substitution was forced, adding: "Well, with Declan I had to take him out because he was feeling something, a niggle."

"With Martin it was a tactical decision to try to change the rhythm, especially on that side. I understand if Ethan comes in and scores the goal it's a great sub, but if he doesn't you have taken your captain out. That's football."

"I'm sure they want to continue to play the 90 minutes but that's why we have the subs to try to help the team."

Arsenal next host Crystal Palace in a League Cup quarter-final on Wednesday, before travelling across London to take on the same opponents in a league clash on Dec. 21.

Meanwhile, four days ago Liverpool boss Arne Slot was unhappy with a narrow Champions League victory at Girona but on Saturday the Dutchman was delighted with their resilience in a 2-2 draw against Fulham after his 10-man team twice fought back from a goal down.

Cody Gakpo and Diogo Jota scored for Liverpool, who remain top of the Premier League on 36 points from 15 games, five points clear of Chelsea, with Jota netting an 86th-minute equaliser to send the Anfield faithful into a frenzy.

"I think it's exactly the opposite from the Girona game, where I was pleased with the result (1-0), but not with the

performance," Slot said. "Now I'm very, very, very happy about the performance. Couldn't have asked for more."

"Of course, not with the result, because if you drop points in a home game against Fulham that's definitely not what you expect and what you want, but being two times a goal down, so many things go against you, except for one thing, that is our players and our fans, they were outstanding today."

Liverpool were reduced to 10 men in the 17th minute after Andy Robertson's awkward lunging tackle on Harry Wilson denied a scoring opportunity. There was a lengthy VAR check to confirm the red card and that Wilson was in an on-side position.

Slot said Robertson was still feeling the ef-

fects of taking an early knock to his knee and that contributed to the red card.

"I think what the team showed today, the character they showed, that is also what Robbo showed, and sometimes, if you get a kick like this, two studs on a knee, that can hurt for a few minutes, and then if you just keep on running, then it gets better and better, and that's what we are hoping for."

"I (also) only had one defender on the bench, which is not a left full-back as well. So we were hoping he (Robertson) was managing to come through it, but the moment I noticed that he wasn't completely himself was the one time that (Fulham) put the ball in behind and he started running. He was just able to head it back to (goalkeeper Alisson)."

"But I felt 'okay, let's see how this continues'. And I think it was quite fast afterwards where he conceded the red card. Nothing to blame on him, he showed character that he wanted to continue because he got quite a hard knock on his knee. Unfortunately, it led to a red card. That was a deserved red card."

The sending off ended what had already been a tough afternoon for Robertson who played a part in Fulham's opener. Andreas Pereira shot took a deflection off the Scotsman's thigh and flew into the net after 11 minutes.

REUTERS

## Real manager Ancelotti praises team's attitude in 3-3 draw at Rayo

By Fernando Kallas, MADRID

REAL Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti lamented his side's defensive mistakes and missed opportunities in their 3-3 draw at Rayo Vallecano on Saturday, but said he was not worried about the result, praising his players' effort.

Despite acknowledging the lack of focus in defence, Ancelotti said he saw plenty of positives from his side who he believes are moving in the right direction.

Real missed the chance to move above leaders Barcelona in LaLiga as they stay second on 37 points from 17 matches, one behind the Catalans who host Leganes on Sunday when Atletico, in third place on 35 from 16 games, welcome Getafe.

"It was a complete game, which also included many errors, but I thought we didn't suffer as much as the final result would suggest," Ancelotti told a press conference on Saturday. "I was much more worried about those draws against Mallorca and Las Palmas... Now we have the attitude and commitment of last year and that is promising."

"I look ahead and I see a 2025 that is very positive, although I could be wrong. It's very good, with the players showing a lot of desire and enthusiasm."

"We're in the hunt for

everything we're playing for. We're doing well, despite the many difficulties we've had due to injuries."

"Today we started without a lot of first-team players, up to seven. When they all come back, the team will be much better."

Defenders Dani Carvajal and Eder Militao will be sidelined for several months with ACL tears suffered early in the season while David Alaba is still to return from the same injury, sustained last year.

Forward Kylian Mbappe, fullback Ferland Mendy and midfielder Eduardo Camavinga have short-term injuries.

Ancelotti defended his decision to leave winger Vinicius Jr on the bench from the start as he did not want to risk any setbacks after the Brazilian returned only last week after missing four games with a leg muscle injury.

"He was coming back from injury and we wanted to be careful with him. I thought he played a good game," Ancelotti said.

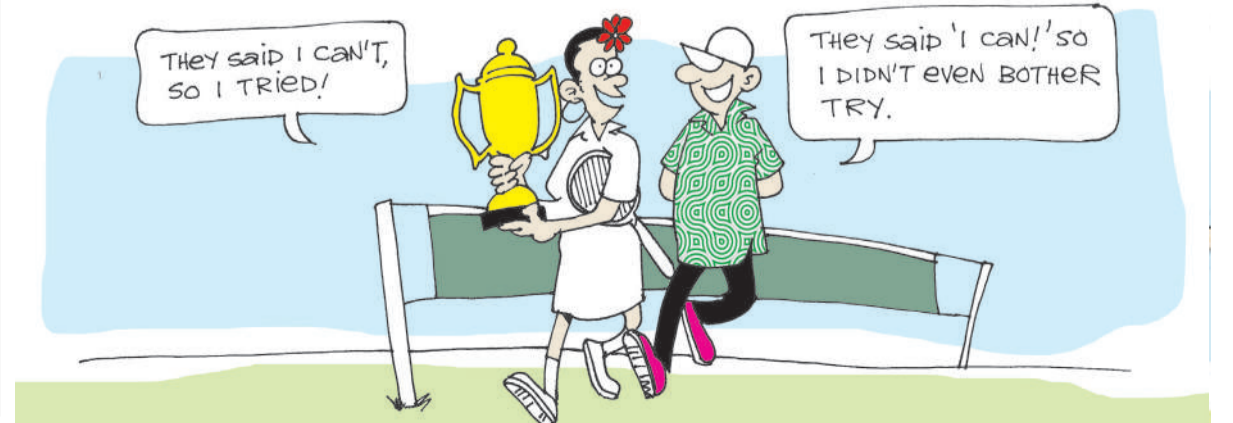
"It was hard to see my players giving more than they gave today. I see a good future ahead. On Wednesday we have to win the Intercontinental Cup (against Pachuca), that would be the icing on the cake (after the LaLiga-Champions League double)."

REUTERS



Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham looks dejected after Rayo Vallecano's Abdul Mumin scores their second goal during their LaLiga match at Campo de Futbol de Vallecas, in Madrid, Spain on December 14, 2024. REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Arsenal deserved to beat Everton, coach Arteta says after stalemate**

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## KMC coach Ongala now urges better finishing ahead of Pamba Jiji clash

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KMC head coach Kali Ongala has acknowledged the need for improvement in his team's performance to secure a strong finish in the ongoing Premier League.

The Kino Boys welcome Pamba Jiji today at KMC Complex with both teams eager to return to winning ways after promising previous performances.

Ongala (pictured) highlighted the need to bolster the team's attacking prowess to achieve their desired goals.

KMC have not won in four out of their last five games, with their last win coming against Namungo 1-0 on October 31.

The coach expressed satisfaction with the defensive improvements but acknowledged that there are still significant challenges, particularly in the attacking department.

The gaffer highlighted the team's poor scoring record, having scored only one goal in the last four matches. He emphasized the urgent need to improve their attacking performance to compete with other teams.

In their last four matches, KMC lost to Dodoma Jiji 2-1, drew 0-0 against Mashujaa, lost to Simba 4-0, and fell to Tabora United 2-0.

Despite their efforts, these results have been disappointing for KMC, especially considering their home match against Mashujaa.

Reflecting on previous league matches, Ongala expressed satisfaction with the team's improved attacking build-up from the back.

However, he highlighted the lack of focus and efficiency in the final third as a major issue.

"When we reach the final third, we encounter major challenges. We need to improve our finishing and the effectiveness of our forwards," said Ongala.

The former Azam coach emphasized the importance of improving the forwards' finishing during training sessions. He stressed that better cooperation between midfielders and forwards will be crucial in upcoming matches.

He acknowledged that creating scoring opportunities can sometimes be difficult but praised the team's efforts in building attacking plays.

"Being new to the team, we need to quickly implement our playing style to keep up with the league's pace. So far, I'm pleased with the progress.

"Our recent match was encouraging, and we're on the right track. We just need to work harder.

"Our strikers need to improve their finishing. We need goals to climb the league table," said Ongala.

Currently, KMC have 15 points after 14 games in the Premier League. They have won four matches, drawn three, and lost seven.

# Simba triumph in stoppage time thriller against CS Sfaxien



CS Sfaxien stopper Aymen Dahmen pictured yesterday failing to stop Simba winger Kibu Denis header to register their first goal at the CAF Confederation Cup Group A match held at Benjamin Stadium. Photo: Courtesy of DDC

By Guardian Correspondent

**A**BRACE from Kibu Denis secured a dramatic 2-1 victory for Simba Sports Club in their CAF Confederation Cup Group A clash against Tunisian side CS Sfaxien at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium yesterday.

Kibu's last-minute winner capped off a remarkable comeback for Simba, who had fallen behind early in the game. The result earned Simba another vital three points, with the group's other match between Algeria's CS Constantine and Angola's Bravos do Maquis scheduled to take place later that evening.

CS Sfaxien stunned the home crowd by scoring in just the third minute. Hazem Haj Hassen capitalized on a defensive error when Che Malone Fondor's misjudged back pass

to goalkeeper Moussa Camara was intercepted.

Haj Hassen calmly slotted the ball through Camara's legs to give the visitors an early lead.

Simba responded quickly, leveling the score in the eighth minute. Kibu found the back of the net with a perfectly timed header off a well-placed free kick from Jean Charles Ahoua, sending the home fans into rapturous celebration.

The hosts continued to pile on the pressure, but they failed to capitalize on

key opportunities. In the 33rd minute, Leonel Ateba squandered a golden chance to put Simba ahead after a miscommunication between CS Sfaxien defender Hichem Baccar and goalkeeper Aymen Dahmen left the goal exposed.

However, Ateba's shot sailed over the crossbar.

Ahoua also came close with an acrobatic effort that narrowly missed the target, while Moussa Camara redeemed himself with a crucial save in the 43rd minute, punching away a

powerful shot from Achref Habbassi to keep the score level at halftime.

The decisive moment came deep into stoppage time. In the 90+7 minute, substitute Yusuph Kagoma delivered a pinpoint cross into the box, and Kibu rose highest to head the ball past Dahmen, sealing a thrilling victory for Simba.

The win elevated Simba to six points, putting them level with group leaders CS Constantine, who had won their first two matches.

Angola's Bravos do

Maquis were on three points, while CS Sfaxien remained rooted at the bottom of the table with no points after back-to-back defeats.

Yesterday's triumph was crucial for Simba SC as they strengthened their bid for a spot in the knockout stages of the CAF Confederation Cup.

With the top two teams from each group advancing, this result significantly bolstered Simba's chances of reaching the quarter-finals.

### Simba starting line-up:

Moussa Camara, Shomari Kapombe, Mohammed Hussein (C), Abdulrazack Hamza, Che Malone Fondor, Fabrice Ngoma, Debra Fernandez, Jean Charles Ahoua, Awesu Awesu, Leonel Ateba, Kibu Denis

### Coach - Fadlu Davids

### CS Sfaxien starting line-up:

Aymen Dahmen, Rayane Derbali, Hichem Baccar, Haythem Ayoun, Mohamed Nasraoul, Pedro Sa, Firas Sekkouhi, Moussa Conte, Achref Habbassi, Hazem Haj-Hassen, Mohamed Dhaoui

Coach - Alexandre Santos

# Ramovic frustrated despite Yanga's late comeback against TP Mazembe

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans head coach Sead Ramovic has expressed his frustration despite his team salvaging a 1-1 draw against TP Mazembe in their CAF Champions League Group A clash in Lubumbashi.

A last-gasp equalizer from substitute Prince Dube gave Young Africans a lifeline in the competition, keeping their quarter-final hopes alive.

Speaking after the game, Ramovic (pictured) commended his players for their performance but lamented missed opportunities that could have secured all three points.

"I feel that we lost two points," he said. "From the first minute until the end, we dominated the game. I think this was our best game since I arrived because I'm very happy about the process. Of course, I'm not happy with the result, but the progress we are making is encouraging."

Ramovic praised his team's tactical execution, noting that they had effectively neutralized Mazembe's reliance on long balls and second-ball opportunities.

However, a defensive lapse allowed Mazembe to take the lead in the 41st minute through Cheikh Fofana, who had been on the pitch for just three minutes.

"Everything we analyzed about the opponents happened in the game," Ramovic explained. "We knew they would rely on long balls and second balls. We had to stay on them and follow their movements closely. Unfortunately, one lapse allowed a cross, and we conceded."

Despite conceding, Ramovic remained more concerned about Young Africans' profligacy in front of goal.

"From all the chances we created, we should have scored at least three or four goals, minimum," he noted. "In the end, when even the opposing fans applaud us, you know we played a very good game. Only the result didn't reflect what we actually wanted."

The match at Stade TP Mazembe saw Young Africans struggle in the first half, with the hosts controlling much of the play.

Mazembe's breakthrough came in the 41st minute when Fofana capitalized on a low cross that struck the post and bounced into the net past Young Africans goalkeeper Djigui Diarra.

The Ivorian referee Ibrahim Kalilou Traore called for a brief stoppage after the goal as Young Africans protested in vain.



Fofana had replaced the injured Gloire Mujaya in the 39th minute, making an immediate impact to put the Congolese side ahead.

Young Africans' attempts to respond before halftime were hindered by their lack of urgency and fluidity in attack. Diarra, who appeared injured, managed to finish the first half but was substituted at the break.

The second half saw Young Africans make multiple changes in a bid to turn the tide. Ramovic introduced Prince Dube, Clatous Chama, and Stephane Aziz Ki, who injected energy into the attack.

However, Young Africans' finishing woes persisted as chances went begging, with Pacome Zouzoua and Clement Mzize failing to convert key opportunities.

Mazembe, meanwhile, looked set to secure their first group stage win after drawing with MC Alger and losing to Al Hilal in their previous matches. But Dube, who had been enduring a 13-match goal drought, rose to the occasion in the dying moments.

In the fifth minute of added time, Dube found the back of the net, silencing the home crowd and rescuing a point for the Tanzanian champions.

The goal not only ended Dube's personal struggles but also prevented Young Africans from suffering a third consecutive defeat in the group stage.

Despite the draw, Young Africans remain at the bottom of Group A with just one point from three matches. Mazembe moved to two points, while group leaders Al Hilal have nine

points followed by MC Alger who have four points.

Young Africans' campaign has been far from smooth. They lost their opening two matches 2-0 at home to Al Hilal and 2-0 away to MC Alger placing immense pressure on their remaining fixtures.

The Tanzanian side must now win their last three games to secure a spot in the quarter-finals for a second consecutive season.

Young Africans' struggle in the CAF Champions League coincide with a period of transition under Ramovic, who replaced Miguel Gamondi earlier this season.

Gamondi, despite leading Young Africans to the group stage and a historic CAF Confederation Cup final last season, was dismissed following back-to-back defeats in the Mainland Premier League against Azam FC and Tabora United.

Under Ramovic, Young Africans have shifted from their trademark high-tempo attacking football to a more structured approach. However, results have been inconsistent, with the team still adjusting to the new philosophy.

Young Africans will face TP Mazembe again next week, this time in Dar es Salaam, before hosting Al Hilal and concluding their group stage campaign against MC Alger.

With a potential 10 points still up for grabs, Young Africans' quarter-final ambitions remain mathematically alive, but the margin for error is now razor-thin.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

