




Heavy rains expected in next few weeks Page 3



New partnership to boost fishing sector Page 4



WCF lauded for offering quality services Page 6

Page 13

German president hails vast reforms, shows concern on colonial injustices

We have instructed our teams of experts to conduct regular dialogues and seek advice in various areas of cooperation, while initiating other areas of cooperation

By Getrude Mbago

VISITING German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier has hailed reforms in trade and investment in Tanzania alongside human rights and democracy, expressing the wish to cooperate with Tanzania by supporting its development endeavours.

The German Head of State, who is in the country for a three-day state visit, aired this sentiment at a joint press conference with President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the Magogoni State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Germany was committed to work with the Tanzanian authorities to address various social and economic needs and encourage private firms in Germany to initiate more investment projects, he said.

He expressed confidence in President Sa-

mia's leadership, underlining that the country has taken vibrant measures helping to improve business and investment conditions, alongside human rights and democracy.

"We have witnessed how the Tanzanian government is committed to improving democracy, the rule of law, investments and trade," he said, stressing partnership to maintain the friendship that has existed for decades.

The two countries agreed to strengthen ties in health, education, tourism, water supply as well as trade and investment, plus fighting impacts of climate change, he stated.

President Samia lauded the German statesman for agreeing to an invitation to visit Tanzania, reiterating the two leaders' concord to explore widening social and economic cooperation, strengthen cultural ties




President Samia Suluhu Hassan and visiting German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier head for a luncheon hosted in his honour at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

TURN TO PAGE 2

SPORTS

Page 20



Azam FC, Mashujaa FC desperate to get back on track

Page 19



Messi wins eighth Ballon d'Or as Bonmati claims women's award

Japan hands UNHCR 1.2bn/- for budget gap, new refugees

By Getrude Mbago

JAPAN has handed \$0.5m (1.2bn/-) to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the provision of safe shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene plus essential items especially for Congolese new arrivals in Kigoma Region refugee camps.

UNHCR country representative Mahoua Parums said at the presentation ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday that with Japanese funding covering March to December 2023, UNHCR has built 1,300

emergency family shelters and provided for 12,000 new arrivals.

The items required include sleeping mats, blankets, soap, kitchen sets, mosquito nets and buckets, while building 10 new water collection points, improving the water supply network at reception, transit centers and in the camps, she stated.

Since the start of this year, over 14,000 asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have crossed the border, she said, elaborating that UNHCR needs \$8m to adequately respond to the

DRC refugee outflows, urging more humanitarian support as needs are rising.

As of 30 September the country was hosting around 250,000 refugees mainly from Burundi and DRC, while UNHCR had received 32 per cent (\$37.3m) of the resources needed for this year, affecting the smooth implementation of projects including repatriation of refugees exiting their current sanctuaries, she stated.

UNHCR is facing a huge funding gap of \$78.64m, over 60 percent of total needs of \$115.9m, with Japanese Ambassador

TURN TO PAGE 2

The commission has no doubt that recommendations being prepared by the conference will contribute significantly to respective national plans for observing biodiversity

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE government has embarked on a

Vast mangrove project to protect shoreline ecology

project to protect nearly 160,000 hectares of mangroves along Tanzania's lengthy seashore.

Angellah Kairuki, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, made this observation here yesterday during the 24th session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission meeting, alongside the 8th African Forestry and Wildlife Week.

In addition to the mangroves, the government is upgrading 23 forest reserves to natural reserves while implementing ambitious afforestation and reforestation activities on degraded areas, she said.

With 25 plantation forest reserves, the project involves managing 270 hectares

of tree kernel sources for sustainable supply of tree seeds, she said, noting that Tanzania was in synchrony with the theme of the session, on the sustainable management of Africa's forests and wildlife resources.

It also features subthemes of boosting food security and resilience to climate change for improved livelihoods, with the minister asserting that Tanzania is endowed with vast biodiversity for wild animals, forests, fish stocks and marine life.

Tanzania has set aside about 40 percent of the country's area, about 6.5 percent of its marine surface and 33.5

TURN TO PAGE 2

Parliament adopts renewable energy agency statute

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE National Assembly has passed a resolution to endorse the statute of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), an inter-governmental agency based in the United Arab Emirates, with observer status in the United Nations.

Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy prime minister and Energy minister, tabled the statute in the National Assembly yesterday, saying that it will strengthen expertise, technology, research and understanding on renewable energy issues among policy makers and other stakeholders.

Adherence to the statute will help speed up investments to facilitate the development of renewable energy resources, he said, noting that the statute will enable the country to access key information on renewable energy, while allowing Tanzanians to make such investments in other countries.

The statute will also strengthen availability of investment capital, technical advisory on the development of renewable energy sources and access to affordable energy, vital

TURN TO PAGE 2



German president hails vast reforms, shows concern on colonial injustices

FROM PAGE 1

while addressing historical contentions over colonial era relics.

Discussions will be held to set out the return of the remains of resisting chiefs killed when fighting German troops in the 1880s and during the Maji Maji war for their descendants to see them.

President Samia hailed the contribution of the Frankfurt Zoological Society, a key stakeholder in northern tourist zone conservation efforts, as a key contributor to conserving tourist attractions.

"We have instructed our teams of experts to conduct regular dialogues and seek advice in various areas of cooperation, while initiating other areas of cooperation," she said, hinting that Tanzania was ready to host negotiations on the dialogue on development cooperation slated for next year.

German companies have initiated a total of 178 projects billed to take up \$408.11m in total, registered with the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), adding significantly to employment opportunities, she said.

"Tanzania and Germany have been collaborating on various strategic matters in trade and investment, water, health, gender equality, women's empowerment, biodiversity conservation, finance management, tourism, heritage and culture," the president affirmed.

Economic ties binding Tanzania and Germany are substantial, with bilateral trade standing at around euros 300m, with Germany being among the leading countries placing investments in Tanzania, she stated.

President Steinmeier is expected to visit the Maji Maji War Museum in Songea, Ruvuma Region, after the visiting statesman expressed the need to acknowledge and address past injustices, as "a key facet of reconciliation and a stepping stone towards a shared future."



Tanzania and Germany have been collaborating on various strategic matters in trade and investment, water, health, gender equality, women's empowerment, biodiversity conservation, finance management, tourism, heritage and culture

Vast mangrove project to protect shoreline ecology

FROM PAGE 1

percent of land for biodiversity conservation, making the country excel globally in biodiversity pursuits, she affirmed.

The country is among 36 world renowned biodiversity hotspots with more than a third of total plant species on the continent and about 20 percent of large mammals, including the 'big five,' she stated, referring to elephant, rhino, lion, leopard and buffalo.

Prof Dos Santos Silayo, the chairman of the 23rd session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC), meanwhile said

the biodiversity wealth contributes significantly to the sociocultural, economic and ecological uses including people's livelihoods

The commission has no doubt that recommendations being prepared by the conference will contribute significantly to respective national plans for observing biodiversity, he said.

Prof Silayo, the Tanzania Forestry Services Agency (TFS) CEO, said the Arusha meeting lays the groundwork for the 27th session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and contributes to the 33rd session of FAO regional conference for Africa set for next April in Morocco.

MPs adopt renewable energy agency statute

FROM PAGE 1

to economic development and poverty alleviation, he stated.

Other benefits include controlling the use of environmentally unfriendly sources of energy, thus mitigating the pace of climate change and promoting the use of environmentally friendly energy sources in line with global needs, he said.

Membership with IRENA will promote adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy on the basis of domestic priorities derived from a combined approach of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, he said.



The committee advises the government to work with various stakeholders in the private sector to attract renewable energy investments

Adopting the statute will also facilitate increased contribution of renewable energy to environmental conservation by limiting pressure on natural resources, he said, pointing at reducing deforestation of tropical species, desertification and biodiversity loss.

This will help in climate protection, economic growth and social cohesion via poverty alleviation and sustainable development, security of energy supply access, plus regional development and enhancing inter-generational responsibility, the minister declared.

Kilumbe Nge'nda (Kigoma Urban), chairman of the standing committee on Energy and Minerals, said endorsing the statute should not bar the country from using energy sources such as coal, gas and heavy petroleum gas.

He said the ministry should work with higher learning institutions like the Mbeya University of Science and Technology to train more technicians in renewable energy.

"The committee advises the government to work with various stakeholders in the private sector to attract renewable energy investments," he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi presents a certificate to NMB Bank's Zanzibar cluster manager, Naima Said Shaame, yesterday in appreciation of the bank's contribution to the growth of Zanzibar's blue economy. It was at a conference on three years of success, opportunities and challenges of Dr Mwinyi's presidency. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FROM PAGE 1

Misawa Yasushi saying at the event that over the past eight years, Japan has provided more than \$11m in refugee assistance.

The world is facing a number of humanitarian crises, including Sudan, Ukraine and Palestine, dramatically expanding the need for humanitarian assistance, he stated.

Given the scale of the overall crisis, Japanese assistance is limited, but as a responsible member of the international community, it has to provide steady assistance to the extent possible, he asserted.

Emergency grant aid provided back in May was also based on

Japan hands UNHCR 1.2bn/- for budget gap, new refugees

these considerations, he said, expressing the hope that various other countries will follow suit.

Japan regards humanitarian assistance to refugees as a vital pillar of its international contribution through international organisations, he said, noting that Japan seeks to mitigate the burden of Tanzania as a host country.

The UNHCR representative said that Tanzania started receiving refugees' years before independ-

ence and has remained peaceful, a hub to thousands of refugees from nearby states.

She thanked the people of Japan for their valuable and timely contribution to the DRC emergency that is enabling UNHCR to provide physical protection and essential items for Congolese new arrivals to have dignified lives in displacement.

She expressed UNHCR and international community appre-

ciation for Tanzania's provision of safe harbour for decades of populations forced to flee their countries, appealing to public and private donors to boost support for refugees to get essential needs.

In emergencies, access to shelter, water, sanitation facilities, and essential items for hygiene promotion is paramount to reducing mortality and morbidity and enhancing refugees' protection, dignity and quality of life, she added.



Medical specialists pictured at Muhimbili National Hospital-Mloganzila in suburban Dar es Salaam yesterday performing weight-reduction surgery on one of four people who were after the services. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MOGADISHU

The President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh, has appointed Ali Jeyte Osman as the president's office for the coordination of community fighters [Ma'wisley].

The appointment was announced in a brief statement broadcasted by the state media. This coincides with the government's plans to launch the second phase of the anti-Al-Shabaab offensive.

Ali Jeyte, a self-appointed Hiiraan State president remained silent on the appointment of the new position, which if he accepts will remove the existence of his administration from the existence of his administration in Beledweyne city, 350 kilometers north of Mogadishu.

Jeyte shined in the first phase of

Somali President tasks ex-governor to lead anti-Al-Shabaab operations

the war as he mobilised the public uprising against Al-Shabaab, which cleared the militants from many areas in the eastern parts of the Hiriraan region last year.

The president of Hirshabelle, Ali Gudaale Hussein, removed the governor from power this year which led him to announce in Baledweyne the formation of Hiriraan state.

The Somali president met Jeyte recently in Mahas town in the Hiriraan region, where they reached an agreement on participation in the war which enters a final stage this

year. As part of the agreement, Osman will receive support for the war effort directly from the federal government, enhancing coordination and efficiency in the ongoing battle against the Al-Shabaab.

Although the deal did not address the future of the Hiriraan State and local grievances with the federal government, it was decided that these issues would be discussed in more detail at an undisclosed future date.

Meanwhile, the Chief of the

Somali National Army, Ibrahim Sheikh Muhuddin visited the troops trained in Eritrea, who are stationed at the Air Force base in the capital.

In his speech, Major General Ibrahim instructed the fresh soldiers to prepare for the deployment of the frontlines and participate in the fight against Al-Shabaab militants.

The commander of the armed forces said that now is the best time for the army to liberate the whole country from Al-Shabaab as the US military is involved in the operations. **AGENCIES**



Japan's Ambassador to Tanzania, Yasushi Misawa (R) presents blankets to UNHCR Country Representative Mahoua Parums in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The blankets formed part of a consignment of non-food items worth US\$500,000 donated by the government of Japan to refugee camps in Tanzania. Photo: Carlos Banda

Parliament ratifies treaty for establishment of AMA

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

PARLIAMENT has ratified the Treaty for the establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA), which seeks to assure government's commitment to guarantee quality-assured, safe and efficacious medical products that are fundamental to the health and safety of consumers.

The regional agency aspires to provide support for the improvement of weak regulatory systems and build on the efforts of the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) initiative (2009), which is led by the Africa Union Development Agency - the New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD).

The endorsement of the treaty follows the government's decision to sign the Treaty that was adopted by Heads of States and government during their 32nd Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) General Assembly on 11 February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The AMRH initiative provides guidance to AU recognized Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Health Organisations (RHOs), to facilitate harmonization of regulatory requirements and practice among the national medicines authorities (NMRAs) of the AU Member States.

Tanzania became the 22nd AU member state to sign the Treaty on August 10, 2021, at the AU Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Presenting the treat in the National Assembly, Health Ummu minister Mwalimu said implementation of the AMA would help the country to promote cooperation, partnership and recognition of regulatory decisions, as well as providing regulatory guidance, scientific opinions and a common framework for regulatory actions on medical products.

The African Union Commission has continuously been encouraging all its member states to sign and ratify the Treaty for the establishment of the agency.

According to the minister, as of July 2023, about 30 countries had signed the Treaty for the establishment of AMA out of which only 23 of them had ratified it. They include the neighbouring Uganda and Rwanda.

The minister said that by ratifying the Treaty, the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) will receive yet another boost in control of public health, safety and security.

"Despite the success that TMDA has recorded, still, there are several challenges in the control of medical equipment. Others are lack of enough experts, presence of unofficial loopholes especially at border posts and ports that are used to infiltrate substandard products," she said.

The minister said that with the ratification of the Treaty, the country would strengthen systems for control of counterfeit products as well as help in seizing products smuggled in the country illegally.

By Getrude Mbago

TMA: Heavy rain imminent in 15 regions

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has said residents of 15 regions in the country should get prepared to receive heavy rains in the coming few weeks.

According to the TMA's climate outlook for the months of November 2023 to April 2024, the rains will be mainly above normal over most areas in the country.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TMA acting director general Dr Ladislaus Chang'a said the coming rains, also known as seasonal rains were likely to be enhanced by El-Niño

conditions.

Dr Chang'a said that the expected impacts of the changes in climate during this period will include the emergence of sufficient soil moisture levels which favour cropping in regions like Kigoma, Rukwa, Katavi, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, Lindi, Mtwara, Ruvuma and southern Morogoro.

He said rains are expected to start during the fourth week of October, 2023 over the western areas and spread in other areas

during the month of November, 2023 where the first half of the season (November, 2023- January, 2024) is expected to be wetter than the second half (February-April, 2024).

Seasonal rains are specific for the western, central, southwestern highlands, southern region, southern coast and southern parts of Morogoro Region. These regions experience a unimodal rainfall regime, which starts in November and ends between April and May of the following

year.

He however said that areas of Kigoma, northern part of Katavi, and Tabora regions are expected to feature mainly normal to above normal rains.

He called for extra precautions to be taken in activities related to various weather-sensitive sectors such as agriculture and food security, livestock and wildlife, natural resources and tourism, transport and communications, energy and water, among others.

"Periods of heavy rains may

lead to water accumulation and flooding leading to destruction of infrastructure and loss of lives, authorities have to take precautions over this," he said.

Dr Chang'a said relevant authorities concerned with public health and individuals are advised to take appropriate health measures such as water purification, prevention and destruction of mosquito breeding zones, and others so as to minimize the expected negative impacts on health.

LOSS OF ACADEMIC CERTIFICATE



REBECCA LEONARD MWENDWA, is announcing the loss of the University Certificate with registration number 0210006 issued by Tumaini University Dar es Salaam College in the year 2017, anyone who sees it should report to the Police Station. Police Report PHO/MBE/MBE/5094/2023.



Kamal

KAMAL GASES LIMITED

PUBLIC NOTICE

We Kamal gases Limited the number one manufacturer of industrial gases with quality certified by Tanzania Standards Body TBS.

We have discovered the existence of gas producers using cylinders with the KGL log against the law.

We notify producers, consumers of industrial gases and the public in general that it is against the law to fill, sell and distribute gas packed in cylinders with the kamal logo which is not manufactured by kamal gases limited.

Therefore, you are good news that; kamal gases limited are in the intensive exercise to monitor and catch all the persons who produce industrial gases and filling in cylinders with the logo or mark of kamal gases limited against procedure.

Kamal Gases Limited will take legal action including civil and criminal cases against anyone who wants to use gas cylinders with the Kamal Gases Limited logo to fill gas processed by themselves or processed by producers other than kamal gases limited

We call on our customers to continue using kamal gases limited's gas service through the stations approved and recognized by Kamal Gases Limited or come to the factory Chang'ombe industrial area plot no. 188/2 for more information call +255 765 169 444

issued by

executive director
kamal gases limited
Dar es Salaam

217690701



ADVERTISEMENT

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

TradeMark Africa (TMA), formerly TradeMark East Africa, is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organisation that was established in 2010, with the aim to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade, while helping make trade more pro-poor and more environmentally sustainable. TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by: Belgium, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Ireland, the MasterCard Foundation, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. TMA works closely with regional and continental inter-governmental organisations, national Governments, the private sector, and civil society. The East African Community (EAC) with support from TMA wishes to invite interested qualified and reputable consultants to participate in the following tender:

- Consultancy Services of a Customs Information Systems Expert [Tender Number: PRQ20230309]
- Consultancy for Technical Assistance for Programme Management Support to the East African Community Secretariat to Implement the East African Payment Settlement System Project [Tender Number: PRQ20230375]

Tender documents 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. The closing date for the submissions is on or before **23 November 2023 (4.00 p.m. Kenya Time)**.

Interested and qualified firms/consortiums MUST submit proposals via the emails indicated in the respective tender documents. The maximum size of each email with attachments should not exceed **5 MB**.

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



217690801

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZAFICO in new partnership to improve fishing sector in Z'bar

THE Zanzibar Fisheries Company Limited (ZAFICO) has entered into a partnership with US-based fishing company—Zanzi Fresh Inc for the operation of deep-sea fishing activities in the island.

Amiri Haidar Mshenga, ZAFICO operation director unveiled yesterday when addressing journalists about the direction of implementation of the blue economy plan through marine resources launched by Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi shortly after getting into office in 2020.

He said that the idea is to strengthen the fishing sector in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

He said the Zanzi Fresh Inc. has

international experience in deep sea fishing and will contribute to a large extent to bring about the reform of modern fishing and attract other investors from different countries to invest in the sector.

"ZAFICO's board of directors has approved the privatisation plan for the Zanzi Fresh inc contracts that have already been approved after the government approved the privatisation plan," he said.

He said experts from ZAFICO and the Zanzibar Maritime Transport Authority (ZMA) expect to leave this month to inspect the first Fishing Vessel MV CUTETA after the completion of the inspection of the vessel's permit documents before the company is registered in Zanzibar.

"The inspection will take place in Senegal, but the company itself comes from the United States before being registered in Zanzibar and after the inspection is completed it will be handed over the flag of Zanzibar by ZMA and the aim of the ship is to arrive in Zanzibar in December this year," Mshenga said.

He said that the ship is big and has a fish processing factory on board and ZAFICO will benefit from many things including the experience and skills of the workers apart from the jobs that will emerge after the company officially starts work.

According to him, fish factory is expected to be established in the ZAFICO building in Malindi and permission to do major repairs of the building has been submitted to the old town conservation authority before the action begins.

He said that the act of privatisation will help ZAFICO employees to gain knowledge and experience in deep sea fishing for international companies that have long experience in deep sea fishing activities.

"Until now, the ZAFICO company has two fishing vessels, a big challenge for the workers in terms of deep sea fishing. I remember we

once lost one trap worth 110 million shillings in the sea, we could not find it, but the government has bought new traps and the main reason is knowledge and experience," he said.

He also stated that the government has decided to bring about major changes in the fishing industry in collaboration with the private sector and has already allocated 34 billion shillings to strengthen the infrastructure, including building factories for the processing of seafood and processing fish fillets.

He said that the government is already building a modern seafood and fish fillet processing plant in the Kama District of Magharibi A Unguja, which will benefit fishermen from the areas of the district which will have 48 shops, banking services, affordable houses for entrepreneurs and construction has reached a major stage.

He said another seafood processing plant is expected to be built in Fungu Refu, North Unguja Region, along with a fish processing plant that will be built in collaboration with the government of the Union Republic of Tanzania in the Mkokotoni area through the international agricultural development project (IFAD).

"In collaboration with the government of Norway and Oman, the ZAFICO company intends to establish fish farming in ponds in the sea and on land and plans have already been prepared to achieve the intended goals," he said.

He said fish production has reached 61,794 tons worth 391.37 billion shillings per year.

Mwanakheri Muhammed Hilal, head of the finance, investment and marketing in the fisheries development department, said that the existing seafood processing plant project is expected to benefit 10,000 people including fishermen, transporters, vendors and finishers, a project that intends to spend 23 billion shillings including building a fishermen in the area as well as business services, auction market and shops.

She said that the pilot station for drying seafood has already started working in the Kizimbani area where until now two types of seafood have started to be dried including dried and cooked using special plants that use gas to dry as well as making other products derived from marine resources.

John Ntwale, project manager said that the project is being built by the Zanzibar Economic Development Force (JKU) and there has been no problem since its implementation began.

qctanzania@qcharity.org tel: +25522260075 / PO. Box. 8504 Dar ES Salami, Tanzania
 8504 دار السلام، تانزانيا / هاتف: +25522260075 qctanzania@qcharity.org
 Tanzania Office مكتب تنزانيا



Date: 24/10/2023

Qatar Charity/ Tanzania announces Tender for Constructing and furnishing 70 m2 Mosque.

Tender number	Tender name	Requested service	Bids submission system	Primary insurance	Closing date
0C/2023/6	Mosque projects	Construction/ Furnishing	Two envelopes	Letter of bank (2%)/ or cheque	6 th November 2023

About the tender:

It invites your respectful company specialized in this field to participate by submitting their bid, according to the following conditions:

- 1- Compliance with the specifications and conditions mentioned in the tender document.
- 2- The bid shall be submitted physically
- 3- The bid shall be for one model mosque only, but Qatar Charity is seeking to contract for more than one, based on the evaluation and capacity of the applicant. Total number to be constructed is 70 mosques.
- 4- Qatar charity is under no obligation to accept the lowest price or any offer.
- 5- The last date for submitting bids is before 12:00 on the date of 06 November 2023, and any bid received after this time will not be considered.

This announcement is considered an integral part and complement to the terms and documents of the tender.

In the event of any inquiries or comments, send an e-mail to qctanzania@qcharity.org by 2nd November sharp.



Ileje district commissioner Farida Mgomi (in pink attire) joins residents of Ishenta village in Ndola ward in a short run yesterday towards the venue where she addressed them shortly later, chiefly in connection with the challenges they commonly face. Photo: Correspondent Yassin Ibrahim

rikolto

INVITATION FOR TENDER
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FORFARMER BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS AND
COOPERATIVES IN NJOMBE, IRINGA,
MBEYA, AND KATAVI REGIONS

Rikolto in East Africa secured funding from the EU under AGRI-CONNECT Programme for a 4-year horticultural programme in Tanzania, which aims to improve and increase market competitiveness in the sector supplying both domestic and international markets.

Rikolto requires **Business Development Consultants** to undertake capacity Building, Mentorship, and Coaching to farmer business organizations and cooperatives based on weaknesses and Gaps identified through 2022/2023 scope insight assessment results. The consultants are advised and recommended to use more coaching, mentorship, and less classroom training /sessions. The consultant is expected to prepare work plans for the delivery of training sessions and the subsequent coaching sessions based on the TOR and the detailed capacity development plan.

For more information about the assignment, please visit our website at the following link below.

Tender: Capacity Development for Farmer Business Organization and Cooperatives In Njombe, Iringa, Mbeya and Katavi Regions | Rikolto in East Africa

Qualified firms/candidates are invited to submit their Technical and Financial proposal, Methodology/ approach, and CVs via email at eastafrica.procurement@rikolto.org by November 14, 2023.

217689801



WORLD BANK GROUP

SALE OF USED VEHICLE TOYOTA LAND CRUISER GXR V8

Lot#	Make	Model	Year	Reg. Number
01	Toyota L/Cruiser S/Wagon	1VD04 Diesel Engine	2015	T208CD142

Sealed bids are invited for purchase of the above vehicle. The vehicle are sold on "as is where is" basis with World Bank absolving itself from any responsibilities whatsoever.

Viewing: The vehicle may be viewed from **Monday 06th November to Thursday 9th November 2023 and from Monday 13th to 16th November 2023** from 10:00 to 14:00 hours at World Bank Offices (Parking Lot), at Plot 50 Mirambo Street, Dar es Salaam.

Contact Person: Resource Management Officer

Closing date: **November 17th, 2023** at 10:00 hours

Opening Bids: All Bids will be opened in public on **November 22nd, 2023** at 11:30 hours in the World Bank, Conference Room on **1st floor**, plot 50 Mirambo Street. All bidders or their authorized representatives must attend.

Minimum Bid Price: For Vehicle is **Tshs. 65,912,050.00**

Terms of payment: Currency: bids should be in either Tanzanian shillings or USD Dollar, but for comparison purpose, the offers in US\$ WILL BE CONVERTED to Tanzania Shillings at the Bank of Tanzania exchange rate (selling) applicable one day before the submission date. Bids in any other currency will be rejected.

The successful Bidder will be required to pay a non-refundable cash deposit on the spot which is **25% (twenty five percent)** of the offer. Full payment of the remaining amount must be deposited in the World Bank (IBRD) bank account within one week (five working days) from the date of submission of the bids. Failure to comply with this condition, will automatically nullify the sale without notice.

Please Note: The vehicle is exempted from duty. Successful bidder will be required to pay all Government taxes before being allowed to take the vehicle.

The Bids should be addressed to the Country Director, World Bank, P.O. Box 2054 Dar es Salaam, and should be sealed and clearly marked vehicle tendering as follows:
Lot # 01. T208CD142 Toyota Land Cruiser.

The bids should be deposited in the Tender Box at the World Bank Reception area, 5th Floor before the deadline for submission. The World Bank Office reserves the right to reject any or all Bids.

'Government set to complete review of disabilities policy'

By Polycarp Machira,

Dodoma

The government is set to complete review of the National Policy, 2004 in this financial year and subsequently review the Persons with Disability Act, 2010 in 2024/25, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities), said the plan is to review laws, policies and regulations governing persons with disabilities to resolve challenges facing them.

He noted that the Persons with Disabilities Act, No. 9 of 2010 clearly stipulates the rights of persons with disabilities, adding that there are some sections that deserve repealing.

Katambi made the statement in response to a question from Special Seats MP, Stella Ikupa (CCM), who had wanted to know when the envisioned reviews would take place.

In a question asked on her behalf by the Special Seats MP, Mariam Kisangi (CCM), the lawmaker also wanted to know what the government was doing to ensure people with disabilities are well conversant with their rights.

"There are many people with disabilities in the country who still do not understand their

rights and even the government's efforts to empower them" she said.

In response, the deputy minister explained that the government has embarked review of the policy and to complete it before review of the act.

"Policy comes before the law and it is in that spirit that the government is doing everything to review the National Policy on Disabilities this year and complete the review of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2010 in 2024/25", said Katambi.

On the awareness of their rights, he noted that the government has been working with different stakeholders to educate people with disabilities on how they can be empowered.

He said following the review on district council's loans to women, youth and the disabled, people with disabilities can now access the financial support individually unlike in the past where the money was disbursed to them in groups.

The deputy minister added that an individual person with disability can now access up to 50,000m/-, terming it one of the great reforms by the government to support them.

On the other hand, he said, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed relevant authorities to do what needs to be done to help solve challenges facing persons with disabilities across the country.



Muheza township executive officer Johari Mtango (L) pictured yesterday touring Kwamtiga suburb for a first-hand account of the damage caused by heavy rains. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt to employ more biomedical engineers

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is working out to fill in the gaps of more than 9,000 biomedical devices and appliances for engineers and technicians to cope with the increasing medical equipment in various public hospitals in the country.

Currently, the country has 350 medical engineers and technicians as the government has been working around the clock to improve health service delivery by ensuring the hospitals have the needed medical equipment.

The sentiments were issued here yesterday by Head of the Biomedical Services and technicians, Eng. Suniva Haule during the training of the biomedical devices engineers and technicians funded by the Kotra Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH)

He said the government in collaboration with KOFIH are staging the training aimed at equipping the engineers with technical know-how and management of the devices as the government is injecting a lot of money for their purchase for

improved health services.

Eng. Haule said there has been an increasing number of the medical devices and appliances in district, regional, zonal and specialized hospitals, thus, the need to have engineers and technicians with the need to manage them so that they last long is of paramount importance.

He said the government ensures that every council has at least one specialist and will keep on setting aside a budget for employment of the cadres.

Last year, Eng. Haule said, the government employed 147 biomedical devices specialists and this year, 100 have been employed.

Prof Ik Keun Kim from Muhimbili National Hospital, Mloganzila Campus said the changing technological patterns in the health sector has given the operations a new look, calling upon the trainees to be instruments for change in their services delivery in their respective hospital.

Gloria Kim, country office coordinator KOFIH said biomedical engineering plays a vital role in

quality service delivery from diagnosis to treatment.

She said KOFIH has initiated the training since 2015 to strengthen the capacity of local engineers and has trained 216 trainees, adding that this year's training it will add up to a total of 249 trainees.

KOFIH has financially supported CEOMETs training since 2015 and a total of 790,000 US dollars have been invested, this year being the highest whereas approximately 150,000 dollars will be spent for the mission.

She said KOFIH strongly believes that biomedical engineers play a pivotal role in strengthening the national health system, primary health care and ultimately in achieving universal health coverage.

"There is an urgent need for national strategic plans, guidelines and workforce plans that reflect biomedical engineers for more efficiency in health delivery systems," said Gloria, adding "We visibility of biomedical engineers to strengthen the Tanzania health system."

Milestone for MNH with weight-loss surgery done

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

MUHIMBILI National Hospital (MNH)-Mloganzila branch has managed to do weight-loss surgery to four women whose weight were at between 107kgs and 142 kgs.

The surgery, which took between 30 minutes and an hour and a half each, was performed by the hospital's expert surgeons in collaboration with Dr Mohit Bhandari of the Indian-based Medincredi Institute.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, MNH executive director Prof Mohamed Janabi described the surgery as the first ever to be done in Tanzania, saying that the four women were overweight at the third stage.

"Their age is between 36 and

40 when we operated on them, you will see that they are still young. Weight is not a disease, but a symptom of a disease, if you see that you are overweight like this, you have something causing it," Prof Janabi said.

On the surgery results, the specialist said: "The weight of those who received this service will gradually decrease between 20 to 30 percent over a period of 12 to 24 months."

He insisted on need for them to attend clinic, stopping eating sugary things, exercising, reducing carbohydrates, and taking time to rest.

According to him, being overweight may lead to non-communicable related diseases such as diabetes, heart diseases

and stroke, and it may also lead to infertility and to men it may cause erectile dysfunction.

In Tanzania, the surgery of this nature may cost around 15m/- per person, but outside the country may cost around 50m/- and 70m/-.

"What I emphasise is to stop eating frequently, if you eat in the morning, wait until noon and then eat in the evening from two to one in the night. Don't eat because it's time to eat, eat when you're hungry."

Regarding the balloon placement service established at the hospital in December last year, the surgical champion from the hospital, Dr Eric Muhumba, said 150 people have been given the service of placing a balloon in the stomach to control excessive weight.



Re - Advertisement

TEMBO NICKEL CORPORATION LIMITED: KABANGA NICKEL PROJECT

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below work package.

Tembo Nickel Corporation Limited ("Tembo Nickel") is an operating company formed via the Framework Agreement (19 January 2021) between Kabanga Nickel Limited ("Kabanga Nickel") and the Government of Tanzania ("GoT") for development of the Kabanga nickel deposits in Ngara District, Kagera Region, Tanzania ("Kabanga Nickel Project"). Under the Framework Agreement terms, Tembo (owned 84% by Kabanga Nickel and 16% by GoT) has been formally established for the mining, processing, and refining of battery-grade nickel with cobalt and copper co-products.

Kabanga is among the world's largest high-grade underdeveloped nickel sulphide deposits, with exploration upside on existing licenses. Once in operation, the Kabanga Nickel project will produce battery-grade nickel, cobalt, and copper refined metals in Tanzania. The mine-to-metal operation will use Hydromet Technology that is significantly more cost efficient than smelting. The Hydromet Technology will reduce the carbon footprint, minimise environmental impact, lower capital, and production costs, and contribute significantly to the economic growth of Tanzania.

Tembo Nickel, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest (EOI)" from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the following Services.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	TEMBO-2023-08-20	<p>Box-cut Earthworks & Civils: excavation and ground support installation:</p> <p>a. Supply and install Contractor site establishment, facilities, and services.</p> <p>b. Supply and install concrete batch plant, sand washing plant and crushing and screening plant.</p> <p>c. Install site perimeter fencing (5.5km)</p> <p>d. Carry out quarry operations at site to procure waste rock construction materials.</p> <p>e. Construct waste rock dump base including pollution control ponds and liners.</p> <p>f. Construct haul roads (+-2km), including cut and fill works (+-50 000m³ cut & fill), and layer works.</p> <p>g. Install groundwater dewatering measures</p> <p>h. Excavate box-cuts (+-200 000 m³) (drill and blast may be required).</p> <p>i. Install surface stormwater control measures.</p> <p>j. Mechanically install ground support at portal locations in box-cuts (automatic shotcrete spray, steel mesh, rock bolts, soil nails and cable bolts).</p>	<p>i. Must have a CRB registration of Class 2 or higher in Civil and active in payment of the board fees.</p> <p>ii. Must be compliant with the Local Content Legislation and have an approved Local Content Plan.</p> <p>iii. List and attach all earthmoving and concrete equipment including but not limited to dozers, excavators, haul trucks, graders, concrete mixers, concrete batch plants, shotcrete spray machines and mobile aggregate crushing and screening plants.</p> <p>iv. Demonstrate experience completing projects on mines, completing earthworks, quarrying (including drill and blast), concrete and mechanical ground support installation contracts in the recent 5 years. Provide detail of all contracts completed in the last 5 years including value, duration, references, and associated contact details.</p> <p>v. Provide details of current contracts in the execution phase.</p> <p>vi. Provide Typical Quality Control Plans for earthworks and ground support.</p> <p>vii. Provide Safety Statistics for the last 5 years.</p> <p>viii. Confirm that key personnel required will be available from 1st of March 2024. (Personnel and Labor Histogram)</p> <p>ix. Provide CV's of key personnel.</p> <p>x. Confirm that plant and equipment required will be available from 1st of March 2024. (Plant and equipment histogram).</p>

The above Services are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. If your company would like to be considered for pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Comprehensive company profile
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of Incorporation, Business License, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration
- Years of service and experience (CV's) of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required personnel and availability to perform the specific work
- Required equipment and availability to perform the specific work
- Typical Quality Control Plans (QCP's)
- Safety statistics
- Indicate the above reference number and description of your Expression of Interest (EOI) submission.

EOI's from Companies that can provide ALL services detailed in the Scope of Work above will be considered.

Kindly send your response by email to tenders@kabanganickel.com. The closing date for this re-advertisement is close of business **22nd of November 2023**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote the reference number in the subject line of your email. Submissions made in response to the original advertisement need not be resubmitted.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of **Tembo Nickel Corporation**.

US, Tanzania mark 1st-year success of USAID's Feed the Future Project

By Guardian Reporter

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) yesterday celebrated the first-year achievements of the USAID Feed the Future Tanzania Kilimo Tija (Productive Agriculture) project in Ugwachanya village, Iringa District.

Attended by Kilolo District Commissioner, Peres Magiri, USAID and Tanzanian officials, private sector representatives, and local farmers, the event showcased the project's success in involving young people in profitable horticulture farming and the significance of sharing best practices and technology with communities through partnerships with government, private sector, and local authorities.

During the first year, the project

awarded 100 in-kind grants totaling 727m/-, including 178m/- to 22 recipients in the Iringa region. These grants provided items such as drip irrigation kits, water pumps, and harvesting crates to support horticulture microenterprises and smallholder farming practices. As a result, youth-led groups including the Agrarian Youth Group in Ugwachanya village have successfully adopted best farming practices, which have benefited both their group and the surrounding communities.

"Without the support from the private sector, farming communities, and the government of Tanzania, this USAID project would not succeed," said USAID Feed the Future Coordinator Dr Tor Edwards. "Our partnership aims to support 2,500 Tanzanian micro, small, and medium enterprises

(MSMEs) to invest over \$20 million and generate 7,400 jobs, primarily for youth."

The goal of the USAID Feed the Future Kilimo Tija project is to transform Tanzania's horticulture sector into a regional powerhouse, creating economic opportunities and jobs for youth. Over its five-year period of performance (2022-2027), the \$38 million Kilimo Tija project will target regions in Tanzania's Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor, along with Zanzibar's Unguja and Pemba islands. Its primary goal is to increase economic opportunities in horticulture market systems, with a special focus on youth, by working with public and private sector associations, youth-led and women-focused institutions, and national and local government authorities.

Government sets aside 700m/- for purchase of hospital's medical equipment, supplies

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has set aside 700m/- for the purchase of medical equipment and supplies for hospitals, health centres and dispensaries in Njombe District Council, it has been revealed.

The Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), Festo Dugange announced this in the National Assembly here yesterday, noting that the amount was budgeted in the 2023/24.

He was responding to a question raised by the Lupembe MP, Edwin Swalle (CCM), who had wanted to know when the government would provide the equipment to health facilities in the district.

He also had wanted to know if there plans to increase the number of health workers in the district council, arguing that the existing number is not enough.

"In 2021/22 and 2022/23, the government has allocated 72 health workers to Njombe district in effort to reduce the shortage and improve provision of health services to the people" said the deputy minister.

He emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring that it sets aside budget every year for the purchase of medical devices and drugs for improving health services delivery.

The deputy minister said the intention is to ensure that all dispensaries and health centres in the country have the needed medical appliances and drugs, so that the public get quality health services.

He said the government will beef up budget for medical appliances and drugs as times goes on with availability of the financial resources as they want to ensure all dispensaries and health facilities have the needed drugs and medical equipment.

However, he said the government has directed the regional administration and local government authority to enforce local revenue collection part of which to be channelled to the medical services.

Meanwhile, the deputy minister also told the parliament that the government was working to ensure all leadership and professional posts at the district councils are filled by the relevant and professional staff.

He said it is true that some departments are headed by people with less than the required qualifications, noting that soon all the positions will get rightful staff.

He was responding to a supplementary question raised by the Special Seats MP, Halima Mdee (CHADEMA), who had wanted to know when the government would fill 747 positions in some 106 district councils that are led by less qualified staff.

Mdee cited the 2021/22 Controller and Auditor General (CAG)'s report that revealed that several departments in the councils were under people with fewer qualifications.

In response the deputy minister said, "The government has started vetting to get the right people with the required qualifications to fill the positions".



Dar es Salaam's Lions Club of Pwani president, Lion Naeem (2nd-R), presents foodstuffs, medical supplies and other items to representatives of Al Madina and Umrah Orphanage of Vikawe in Coast Region on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Industrialists urged to liaise with researchers on economic activities

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

INDUSTRIALISTS and the business community have been urged to provide the necessary cooperation to officials who will be involved in various researches on economic activities that will be conducted before the end of this year.

Dr Hashil Abdallah, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Trade made the call over the weekend in Dar es Salaam at the opening of the training of managers and researchers for the study of economic and social activities before the end of this year.

Dr Abdallah urged them not shy away from information as it is for statistical use for the benefit of

Tanzanians in general.

"All owners of economic and social activities, including all industry owners in the country, give the necessary cooperation in achieving the economic and social research of 2023 in mainland Tanzania," he said.

He also asked the 527 participants, including 27 managers and 500 researchers from mainland Tanzania to be patient, respectful and polite so that they can cooperate in collecting accurate and quality data.

He asked the officers who will be involved in the research to consider the training given to them to cooperate because the work they are doing is one and for the benefit of Tanzanians.

Also, Dr Abdallah asked the participants to ensure that they collect information that meets the intended goals that will be perfect to enable the government to formulate policies, plans, and monitor the implementation of various development programs.

He said that the study of these statistics is expected to help in the implementation of the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and measure the dispersion of economic activities in the country along with the National Development Vision of 2025 as well as the Third Development Plan of Five Years (FYDP III) 2021/22 - 2025/26

"We know that many of the products we use, including food,

are processed in factories, so production must be decent and sustainable. The country cannot achieve this goal by 2030 if we do not have the correct data that you are going to collect," he said.

Dr Abdallah also advised the National Statistics Office (NBS) that the provision of quality data is an important challenge in the successful implementation of the study by using a strategic plan to improve the provision of accurate data in the country in order to build an industrial economy.

He said the research will help increase the value of products and services in the three areas of production of industrial goods, agriculture, mining and other mining and service industries.

NIT wins award for its input in aviation sector

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Institute of Transport (NIT) has been recognized and given a prestigious award from Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) after the institute brings tremendous value to the aviation industry.

The award was presented by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to NIT's Rector Prof Zacharia Mganilwa on Monday in Dar es Salaam during the TCAA's 20th anniversary.

Prof Mganilwa said that the award demonstrates NIT's commitment to continue offering aviation courses as well as ensuring that many Tanzanian youth are getting opportunities to succeed in the air and space industry.

"TCAA has recognized National Institute of Transport for its contributions, excellence, and involvement in aviation industry. NIT strives to continue meeting the highest standards in all we do," he said.

He noted: "The award handed over to NIT is a sign and the beginning of the Institute's efforts to continue providing excellent aviation training."

"We would like to express our sincere thanks to the government through the Ministry of Transport and TCAA to continue supporting our Institute," he said.

He pointed out that due to the NIT meeting TCAA requirements, for the first time it has approved three aviation training programmes that are currently offered at their Institute.

He underscored that the three aviation courses are providing the nurture competent personnel for establishing, managing and operating safe air transportation systems.

He named the three programmes that have been approved by TCAA to NIT are as aircraft maintenance engineering (airframe and powerplant), flight operations officer course as well as cabin crew for the first time in the country's history of the Institute.

"Apart from that we are in last

touches of obtaining certification for pilot courses and very soon, we will be among the best institutions in Africa that are offering aviation courses," he said.

Prof Mganilwa said TCAA has tirelessly supported them throughout the process of seeking pilot course certification. "We are pledging to the TCAA and the government that NIT will continue producing excellent graduates to fill the gap of aviation experts in the country."

He insisted: "The Institute's plan is to eliminate the existing gap of foreign aviation engineers who are more than 60 percent. The Institute wants to see indigenous aircraft maintenance engineers are graduated in a large number."

"National Institute of Transport as a major stakeholder in the aviation industry, we are pledging to continue producing quality and qualified training personnel that can meet the needs of the aviation industry."

He noted: "The aviation industry is struggling with the shortage of manpower; therefore, it is our responsibility as a transport institute to ensure that we produce enough graduates to solve this problem and satisfy the industry with sufficient human resources."

However, the National Institute of Transport has already trained over a hundred aircraft engineers since it began offering aircraft maintenance engineering courses in 2015 so as to satisfy the aviation industry that has a shortage of such professionals.

The transport institute has pledged to produce sufficient human resources aimed at meeting the higher demand of aircraft personnel that are needed in the air transport sector now growing at an average of 12 per cent per annum.

Subira Mwakoyoma, a former NIT student said: "I'm happy to see the National Institute of Transport received such an excellence award from TCAA, it is a clear sign that our Institute has international standards that are required by the regulators."



Rogatus Mativila (kneeling), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments - Infrastructure), inspects one of the cubicles at Dar es Salaam's mixed-goods Kariakoo market. The complex was gutted by fire, with its rehabilitation now standing at 91 per cent. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Parliamentary standing happy with WCF's major investments

By Guardian Reporter

THE Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Welfare and Development has expressed satisfaction with the major investments made by the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) to offer better services.

The Committee vice chairperson, Riziki Lulida made the remarks over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when the committee visited WCF offices.

The lawmakers were briefed about the implementation of the Fund's activities from the executives of the Fund, before listening to testimonies.

"I congratulate WCF for the great and good work you are doing, We commend President Samia Suluhu Hassan who has been at the forefront of helping various groups including women, youth and people with disabilities and what you are doing makes her proud,"

she said.

Katani Ahmed Katani, a committee member, advised the fund to focus more on providing education to the public so that the service can benefit more people.

"Because you are going well, it is our expectation that those who are injured at work place, you are the ones to wipe their tears," he said.

Esther John, a beneficiary of the fund said her husband who was an employee of Chunya District hospital in Mbeya Region, died in a car accident while performing his employer's duties.

"When we lost our loved one, I was away, I had no relatives, I underwent a reproductive operation, WCF, helped us, the monthly benefits I receive help me run my life and take care of the child," she said.

Hassan Jambau, told the committee members, WCF has been supporting him since he got injured

at work leaving him disabled.

Another beneficiary, Kelvin Mwemezi, who also hit a sharp object, said, the fund has been of great help and has been like part of his family after losing his parents.

"I thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan for making sure that this Fund remains active, I thank you so much the leaders and WCF staff, I almost gave up on life after being injured, and my mother died, but the fund has wiped my tears," he said.

Patrobas Katambi, deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Work, Youth, Employment and [People with Disability]), thanked the MPs for visiting the WCF.

"We thank our head of state for supporting the growth of the Fund and thus enabling it to provide quality services to workers as you have heard the testimonies here," he said.

Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Work, Youth and the Disabled), Engineer Cyprian Luhemeja wanted the Fund to continue with the campaign of providing education to the public making it sustainable for the majority of Tanzanians to know services offered by the Fund.

WCF general director, Dr John Mduma said the Fund has continued to build functional systems to facilitate access to services for its members.

He said WCF's main purpose is to provide for adequate and equitable compensation for employees who suffer occupational injuries or contract occupational diseases arising out of and in the course of their employment and in case of death, for their dependents.

More than 90 per cent of the services are available online thus enabling workers to access services easily," he explained.

KILIMANJARO
DRINKING WATER

A PRODUCT OF
The Coca-Cola Company



Winner of
**SUPERBRANDS
EAST AFRICA
2022-2024**



**Thanks to you
our customers**

 kilimanjaro_drinking_water  kilimanjarodrinkingwater  kdw@bbl.co.tz
 +255 762628166 | +255 659785276 | +255 272754422

Reported rise in search for DNA paternity proof tests noteworthy

WHILE the Government Chemist Laboratory Agency (GCLA) was set up to test diseases and arrest dangers when they appear, it appears to have a more urgent load of applications nearly each passing day. It is numerous individuals seeking to find out if the DNA of children they are supposed to have fathered reflect their proper genetic build, as many relationships lack the trust it takes to believe this or that claim of paternity. Yet this is also a syndrome of sickness in society, moral turmoil.

Senior officials in GCLA southern highlands zone speak of obtaining ten to 15 applications each month from parents seeking to know the DNA link between the father and a child in question, or more of them. A laboratory technician made this affirmation at an exhibition organized by the Small Industries Development Corporation (SIDO) in Njombe Region, where a technical outlook was given both on those applications and issues of what impedes fathering children. It was not clear how many such applications come out to be founded, or the fears confirmed.

While there is an eerie calm about the issue, and why such problems come up, what lies below is more acute in terms of what it says of broad based mistrust and levels of child neglect. This is one of those issues where a neat division of sentiments come up, as many see the men as victims from infidelity and lies on parentage, activists will point at even greater suffering on the part women in relation to raising children, even when parentage isn't at issue. When a couple does not

live together proof of parentage is often a non-issue, and reciprocally, when the couple live together contentions over parentage is what leads to seeking DNA tests.

For similar reasons as in the SIDO exhibition and the presentation of the GCLA, there will be no scientific survey on how far men are actually the victims of intentionally false attribution of parentage. Nor will there be research on how many men knowingly refuse to support co-parents when not in wedlock, as both these situations appear normal and left that way. Indeed that is also largely what is taken for granted in gender narratives; we hear of women educating their children, etc more or less as a matter of course, or starting own income generating projects, etc.

In that manner the GCLA report is just what there is on the surface, and beneath it is a series of undecided situations on family stability or child support. Yet part of the problem has been solved by the public authorities in making schools free most of the period. Thus even single mothers or negligent households where couples live together will go to school even with deficiencies; society makes up for families.

So the good news is that whatever the result of GCLA tests, and even in the confines of wilful neglect where parentage as such is not at issue, this doesn't entirely determine the fate of the children, the possibility of their schooling or making it in life. The GCLA tests are in a sense a storm in a teacup because it is wider social policy that decides schooling for children and even ability of mothers to take care of children outside wedlock. It isn't easy but it is the price of freedom.

Bravo, Speaker, for win in IPU presidency poll

LEGISLATIVE circles in Dodoma were mired in confetti on Monday when receiving House Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson, returning from an Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in the Angolan capital of Luanda. She won a hard fought poll for the presidency of that organisation, reputedly the first time the post goes to a lady speaker from Africa.

It isn't quite different from the recent event at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi where President Samia Suluhu Hassan became the third foreign dignitary and quite simply the first woman, to win a doctorate citation (honoris causa) from the university. It speaks well of the country.

Addressing a large audience of enthusiasts and admirers, the lawyer turned politician narrated ups and downs of how the voting went, with special mention of how social media outlets were used to put in question the suitability of her candidacy.

She talked of 'fellow Tanzanians joining with our enemies to fight our nation instead of bonding together, refuse to fight each other,' which was entirely valid but somewhat misplaced. In inter-parliamentary unions, loyalty is less to countries than to support in a political character, so she loses some home votes.

Taking some examples, everyone knows that ideological support groups cut across borders, often flimsy in character but they serve some purpose. The ruling party in Tanzania is allied with ruling parties in South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Zimbabwe and Mozambique principally, due to the Frontline States alliance of old. At the same time it isn't an accident that the IPU meeting was held in Luanda, as it is

another of allied progressive forces in Cold War outlooks, which still survives.

In actual fact, the Speaker's assertion that blurs in social media were the main contentious issue in the run to winning the poll shows that there was little of ideological contentions. That implies those who gathered for the IPU meeting are already of a particular camp, looking more or less like the Frontline States, and in that manner also it was surprising to hear those attacks from her own camp - if one sees Tanzania singularly as a leader of the Frontline States. Yet that was only fair, and back home we have seen 'social media' attacks during nomination polls, etc.

In that case it was slightly inaccurate to say that since other countries desisted from placing candidates against her as a Tanzanian candidate, all Tanzanians ought to have supported her. It would definitely be better that way but politics is a more complicated matter, and what took place was 'politics as usual,' part of the same freedom of expression that IPU is also expected to honour. Unanimity of opinion or sentiments isn't politics, nor is it true that it is struck if foreigners are there, as even at that point there are international ideological affinities that constitute the breath of politics itself. These are values that people stand for, not just nationality.

So there is every reason to congratulate the Speaker for the confidence that fellow parliamentarians have shown for her as a diligent and lucid, competent leader of parliamentary business. She has won lots of admirers but as it is true of all political affinities, there are those who see issues quite differently. Most likely, Tanzanians.

THE PROBLEM OF NOT QUOTING THE 'WHOLE THING'

THE MEDIA REPORT SAYS:
ISRAEL GROUND OPERATION ON HAMAS GATHERS PACE



China's BRI and Africa's infrastructure development ambitions

By Paul Frimpong

OVER the last decades, China has been at the forefront of championing multiple global initiatives, including the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilisation Initiative, amongst others.

One of such global initiatives is the Belt and Road Initiative, which has become known shortly as 'BRI'.

Launched in 2013 by President Xi Jinping, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects ever conceived in the history of our world.

The BRI is earmarked to recreate the historic Silk Road trade route in order to open up the world market and establish a trade and investment network spanning the three continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe to facilitate greater global growth and development.

For the Chinese leadership, they aspire to maintain an open world economic system and achieve diversified, independent, balanced, and sustainable development with a shared future. The BRI is now not simply an economic initiative but also a global public good instrument, where they're rallying resources to achieve this ambitious plan.

BRI MATTERS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

It's key to mention that the BRI is not a China-only story. The primary goal of the initiative is to address the vast infrastructure demand in developing countries.

As of August 2023, 155 countries were listed as having signed up to the BRI. The participating countries represent more than half of the world's GDP and nearly 75 per cent of its population.

Beyond the numerous global discussions surrounding the viability and relevance of the BRI, the initiative is active, with a number of projects already finished or in progress and contributing to economic growth and creating unlimited job opportunities.

As at October 2023, there has been over 3000 projects completed under the BRI generating over 420,000 jobs.

BRI member countries in the global south are aiming to maintain and increase their involvement in the BRI. To these receiving states, where infrastructure financing is desperately needed, geopolitical externalities are of secondary concern.

BRI & AFRICA'S CONNECTIVITY AMBITIONS

It's imperative to ask questions that border on the significance of the BRI for Africa's own development future. How does the BRI fit into Africa's infrastructure development agenda? - It's outright significant.

The primary infrastructure bottlenecks for the continent have long been identified as energy, water, sanitation, telecoms, and transportation. With 30 countries regularly facing power outages and slightly more than a third of Africans having access to electricity, By 2025, the African Development Bank estimates that the African continent will need to spend up to \$170 billion annually to upgrade its infrastructure, with two-thirds of that amount going toward brand-new infrastructure and the remaining one-third going toward maintenance.

In Africa, demand for electricity will increase by 93 per cent by 2035, around 47 per cent of roads will need to be paved, ports must increase their average container handling performance from 20 to 25 to 30 moves per hour, and an additional 300 million people must have access to the Internet to keep up with the continent's economic growth.

The World Bank estimates that in order to achieve universal Internet access throughout Africa, \$100 billion will need to be invested in infrastructure, such as 4G stations, and at least 250,000 kilometers of fiber will be required to build and maintain broadband networks.

For Africa to experience economic success and sustained growth, the infrastructure gap must be filled. Improved infrastructure would make it easier to conduct more intraregional and international trade, lower business costs, increase Africa's competitiveness both domestically and internationally, and act as a catalyst for the continent's economic transformation and diversification through industrialisation, value addition,

and sustainable and inclusive growth.

BRI is delivering infrastructure development across Africa, and the continent has a more positive view of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) than anywhere else outside China.

As of August 2022, 50 of the 55 countries in Africa had signed some sort of memorandum of understanding or other agreement on the BRI.

The African Union has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on BRI cooperation with China.

Some countries, such as Kenya, Tanzania, and Somalia (on the shores of the Indian Ocean), as well as Egypt and Djibouti (on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea), have strategic locations that make them natural BRI partners because they link Africa, Asia, and Europe.

For the rest of the many countries on the continent that have joined the BRI countries list, it's to help them meet their urgent infrastructural development needs.

BOOSTING INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE

Africa has an ambitious plan for a common and single market through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Transporting goods between nations has been a hindrance to intercontinental trade because the continent is made up of several small landlocked nations without access to ports.

The primary cause of this is a lack of streamlined and effective transportation routes throughout the continent, which leads to high expenses from shoddy infrastructure.

To remove integration bottlenecks, it is essential to invest in telecommunications infrastructure, ports, power generation, and roadway and railroad infrastructure.

China has aggressively been at the forefront of infrastructure

financing across the continent, helping African countries build a large number of infrastructure projects over the years.

According to research by the Center for Global Development, a US think tank, China's two major foreign development banks invested \$23 billion in infrastructure projects on the continent between 2007 and 2020.

That amounts to \$8 billion more than the combined contributions of the other top eight lenders, which include the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and the US and European development banks.

AFRICA'S AGENDA 2063 AND BRI VISION

In January 2015, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the 24th African Union (AU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government, Africans adopted a shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development called Agenda 2063.

It's meant to be a strategic guide to Africa's development in the next fifty years. The goal of Agenda 2063 is to fulfill seven aspirations, each with specific objectives that, if met, will bring Africa one step closer to realising its vision for 2063.

The Agenda 2063 states category aspiration number two of Africa's quest to build a connected continent in all shapes and forms within the next 50 years.

Africans aspire to build "an integrated continent, politically united, and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance."

This, according to the goals of these aspirations, would entail developing a world-class infrastructure crisscrossing Africa - "improving connectivity through newer and bolder initiatives to link the continent by rail, road, sea, and air; and developing regional and continental power pools, as well as ICT."

BRI is already delivering infrastructure development across Africa, and the continent has a more positive view of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

African infrastructure and economic growth may be unified and expedited as a result of China's participation in infrastructure projects on the continent, and the Belt and Road Initiative's goal of enhancing connectivity among member nations resonates directly with Africa's own ambitions for the next 50 years.

The writer is the Country Director, Africa Institute of Small Scale Mining Executive Director, Africa-China Centre for Policy & Advisory

Health misinformation: Another 'epidemic' that must be fought tirelessly

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

BECAUSE health facilities normally do not advertise their services for ethical reasons, their popularity mostly relies on testimonies of patients who have been treated there before as well as referrals. As a result, only those with outstanding service become the destination of choice for patients.

Mugana Designated District Hospital (DDH) in Misenyi District, Kagera Region has earned itself a name not only in the district it is supposed to serve but the entire region and the Lake Zone, especially when it comes to maternal health. Records here show that the facility receives patients from all corners of Kagera Region as well as the neighbouring ones such as Shinyanga, Geita and Mwanza, Simiyu Kigoma and Mara.

Started in 1956 by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bukoba as a dispensary for local community, it has since expanded its services and elevated by authorities to a health centre and finally a DDH status which it accomplished in 2010.

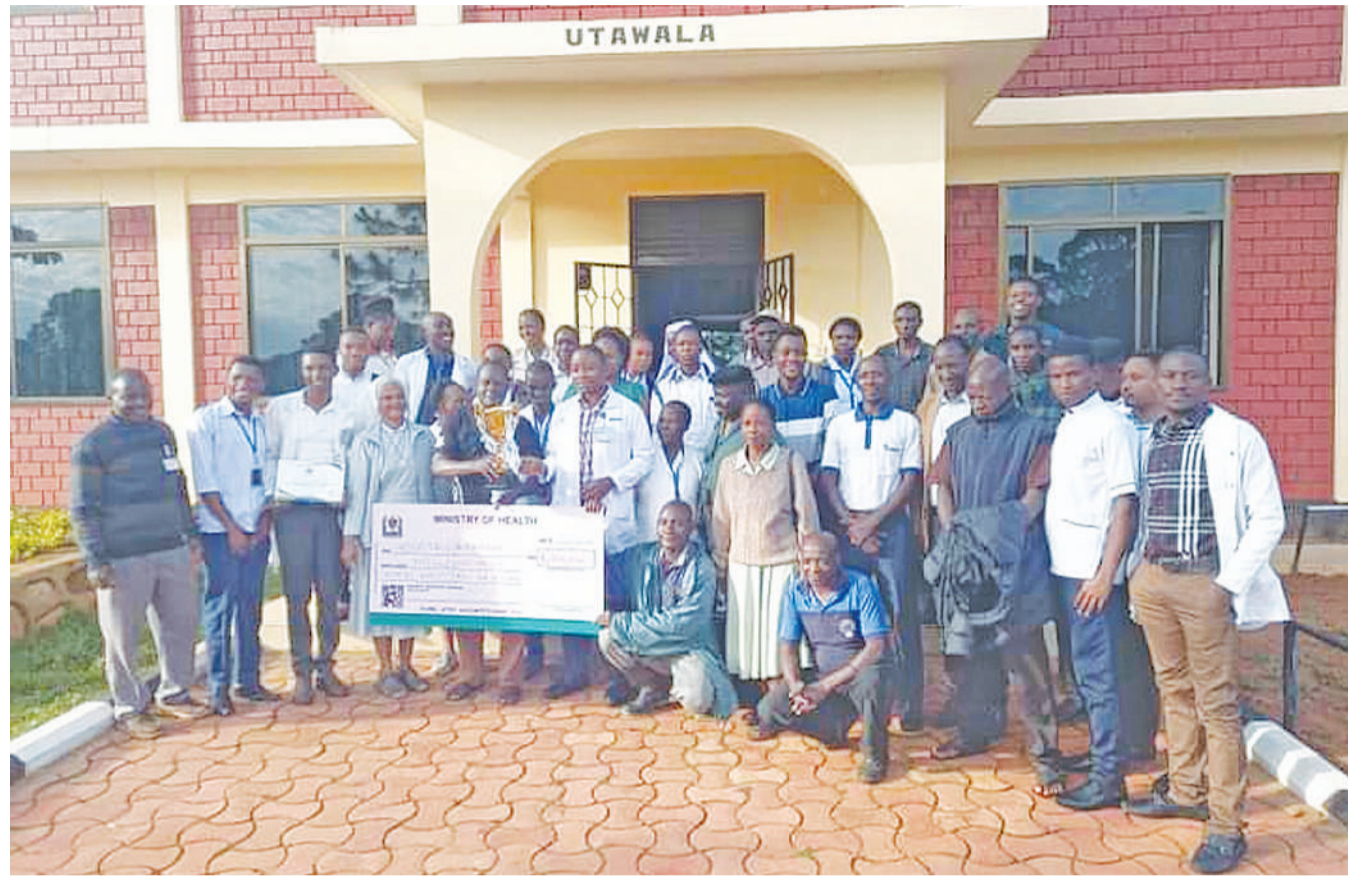
Maternal and child health department at the hospital is proud of having a clean record as there wasn't any mothers who died there during and after delivery in the whole of 2022, and as of September 2023. There were four stillbirths during that entire period and six children who died before mothers arrived at the facility.

There were 962 deliveries in 2022 out of which 661 were normal and 301 through cesarean section. From January to September 2013, there were 630 deliveries, 424 normal and 206 through C-section.

Dawson Muhindi, assistant nursing officer at the maternal ward said some mothers delay reporting to hospital which results in birth defects, adding that a pregnant woman should start attending clinic as early as possible, especially from six to eight weeks so as to give caregivers enough time to learn a lot of things about the pregnancy and carry some recommended tests.

"This is important because antenatal care attendance plays a major role in early detection and treatment of maternal health problems." He said.

Patricia Anatory, a midwife at the facility said reports from their department as well as other health facilities show that there is rumour mongering pregnant among mothers which derail critical interventions



Mugana District Designated Hospital staff in a group photo with certificate of recognition for outstanding service. Photo courtesy of Mugana DDH

such as taking a folic acid.

"Many expectant mothers believe the misinformation that taking folic acid causes excessive bleeding," she said.

"There should be a way of dealing people who spread such lies because they do not only endanger lives of mothers but also derail national maternal health targets."

The midwife said there is need to increase awareness and debunk lies on key interventions such as folic acid which helps prevent birth defects associated with babies' brain and spinal

cord development.

"Without enough folic acid in the body, the baby's neural tube may not close completely and they could develop health problems called neural tube defects such as spina bifida which is an incomplete development of the spinal cord or the vertebrae as well as anencephaly which is incomplete development of major parts of the brain," she said.

She added that babies with anencephaly usually do not live long while those with spina bifida may be perma-

nently disabled. Although such serious health complications are easily avoidable, they are still prevalent, thanks to misinformation and hearsay.

Asked about yet another rumour in the community that many expectant mothers prefer C-section to normal delivery and health workers also play to the tune, Muhindi said that is not the case.

He said they are obliged to go for C-section when it can't be avoided and mostly it is for those with too small

pelvis to allow the baby move easily through the birth canal as well as those who have given birth by surgery more than once.

"Some people think it is a walk in the park to perform surgeries compared to natural birth. It is vice versa. Performing surgeries requires time and preparations which involve running here and there. It is a long process that one cannot opt for without a strong reason," he said.

Mugana DDH has medical, paediatric, surgical and maternity wards, outpatient department, reproductive and child health, laboratory, ultrasonography, computer technology solutions as well as X-ray departments.

It has received a number of certificates and trophies from various institutions for outstanding performance. In 2016, it received an award from Ministry of Health for reaching first stage of excellent performance in delivering emergency services to mothers and babies. And recently, it was awarded a safe care certificate from Ministry of Health for safe and quality care to patients.

The Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey 2022 shows decrease of under-5 mortality from 147 per 1,000 live births in 1999 to 43 deaths in 2022 and neonatal mortality rate stands at 24 deaths per 1,000 live births. The survey further shows that 81 per cent if women took any iron containing supplements during pregnancy.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target to accelerate the decline of maternal mortality by 2030. SDG 3 ambitiously targets to reduce the global maternal mortality rate to less than 70 per 100 000 births, expecting that no country will have a maternal mortality rate of more than twice the global aver-

The UN's 78th birthday: Revisiting its operational credibility

By Anwarul K. Chowdhury

ITHANK the United Nations Asia Network for Diversity and Inclusion (UN-ANDI) for inviting me to present the keynote speech on this special occasion for the observance of the United Nations Day.

I commend wholeheartedly the UN-ANDI and its dedicated team for their work, particularly its recent survey report on racism and racial discrimination despite the constraints of the global Covid pandemic of last few years. I am proud to be associated with the conceptualization of UN-ANDI in late 2019.

As the first ever effort to bring together the diverse group of personnel from Asia and the Pacific in the UN system, UN-ANDI needs all our support and encouragement.

In my decades of work for the United Nations, both representing my country as well as representing the organization, I have seen many faces of the world body - positive and not so positive, spirit- uplifting and also frustrating, focused and determined and also confused and politicized.

But the most enduring experience for me about the work of the United Nations in its 78 years of existence has been its contribution to making a positive difference in the lives of the millions of people of our planet.

Over the years, the United Nations has been tested time and again by conflicts, humanitarian crises and poverty and deprivation, but has always risen to live up to the challenges in a determined and inclusive way. It has been rightly called the "indispensable common house of the entire human family." Respected global peace leader and philosopher Daisaku Ikeda describes it as the "Parliament of the World."

It is worth reminding us that without attracting attention, the United Nations and its family of agencies and entities are engaged in a continuing gigantic endeavour against enormous odds to improve every aspect of people's lives around the world. It is also worth remembering that the UN's inspirational norm-setting role covers a very broad range of areas.

In my personal association with the application of my country, Bangladesh for membership of the United Nations in 1972 and since then, in my fifty-one years of collaborative involvement with the UN, I can affirm with great pride that all major aspects of Bangladesh's development architecture reflect the stamp of the UN.

Last Tuesday, as we observed the UN Day, I received many "Happy UN Day" text messages. I did not have the intellectual and moral energy to join them. So, reflecting the current realities, I responded by saying "A not-so-happy UN Day in a conflict-ridden world where the UN is found to be helpless." That helplessness pains me immensely.

The progressive British newspaper Guardian in its editorial on 26 October echoed that perception by saying that "The United Nations marked its 78th birthday on Tuesday but had little cause for celebration." It went on to say that "On the same day, Israel called for António Guterres to resign over his remarks on the Israel-Hamas war, and accused him of 'blood libel'."

The well-meaning peoples of the world should not be cocooned in our own isolation without recognizing and understanding the reality where we are at this



Over the years, the United Nations has been tested time and again by conflicts, humanitarian crises, poverty and deprivation, but has always risen to live up to the challenges in a determined and inclusive way. Credit: United Nations

of time. In the most unbecoming manner and forsaking all diplomatic decency, the Israeli Permanent Representative to the UN turned on the Secretary-General at the open session of the Security Council is inconceivable and totally unacceptable.

The earlier Guardian editorial appropriately wrote that "But 10 years ago, it would have been hard to imagine the contempt radiating from the Israeli Ambassador's announcement that UN representatives would be refused visas because 'the time has come to teach them a lesson'. That surely reflects the UN's reduced status."

The conservative Wall Street Journal went even further the day before on 25 October in its editorial board's opinion to say that "This is how the UN makes itself a fellow traveler in the advancing march of global disorder."

We need to revisit the operational credibility of our much-cherished world body. What was needed in 1945 to be enshrined in the UN Charter is to be judged in the light of current realities. If the Charter needs to be amended to live up to the

challenges of global complexities and paralyzing intergovernmental politicization, let us do that. It is high time to focus on that direction. Blindly treating the words of the Charter as sacrosanct may be self-defeating and irresponsible. The UN could be buried under its own rubble unless we set our house in order now.

I am often asked, during 'questions and answers' segment following my public speaking, if I want to recommend one thing that would make the UN perform better, what would it be. My clear and emphatic answer always has been "Abolish the Veto!" Veto is undemocratic, irrational and against the true spirit of the principle of sovereign equality of the United Nations.

In an opinion piece in the IPS Journal in March 2022, I wrote that "Believe me, the veto power influences not only the decisions of the Security Council but also all work of the UN, including importantly the choice of the Secretary-General."

The same opinion piece asserted that "I believe the abolition of veto requires a

greater priority attention in the reforms process than the enlargement of the Security Council membership with additional permanent ones. Such permanency is simply undemocratic. I also believe that the veto power is not 'the cornerstone of the United Nations' but in reality, its tombstone."

Abolishing the veto would also release the election of the Secretary-General from the manipulating control of the veto-wielding permanent members of the Security Council.

I would also recommend that in future the Secretary-General would have only one term of seven years, as opposed to current practice of automatically renewing the Secretary-General's tenure for a second five-year term, without even evaluating his performance.

After choosing nine men successively to be the world's topmost diplomat, I strongly believe that it is incumbent on the United Nations to have the sanity and sagacity of electing a woman as the next Secretary-General.

Also, I am of the opinion that a formalized and mandated involvement of and genuine consultation with the civil society would enhance the UN's credibility. The UN leadership and Member States should work diligently on that without fail for a decision by the on-going session of the General Assembly.

Transparency and accountability are essential in the budget processes of the UN and personnel recruitments at all levels. Two other areas which need more scrutiny are extra-budgetary resources received from Member States and consultancy practices including budgetary allocations for that by the organization. Special attention in these areas is needed to restore the UN's credibility and thereby effectiveness and efficiency for the benefit of the humanity as a whole.

The international community has reached a fork in the road. One path is to resign ourselves to the idea that an effective multilateral system is beyond our grasp, with the potential for reversion to the dangerous, anarchic world order that the United Nations was set up to improve upon. The other path, also rocky but considerably more hopeful, leads to global solidarity based on shared principles, objectives, and commitments, on oneness of humanity and on a global security architecture that has a chance of commanding the genuine respect as well as the true acceptance and adherence of all States.

Let me conclude by asserting that, all said, I continue to hold on to my deep faith in multilateralism and my belief and trust in the United Nations as the most universal organization for the people and the planet is renewed and reaffirmed!

This opinion piece is the enhanced version of the keynote address by Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations at the virtual observance of the United Nations Day (24 October) by the United Nations Asia Network for Diversity and Inclusion (UN-ANDI) on 27 October 2023.

Community solutions combat water shortages in Peru's highlands

By Mariela Jara

THE shortage of water is so severe in Peru's highlands that farming families are forced to sell their livestock because they cannot feed them. "There is no grass or fodder to feed them," says Fermina Quispe, a Quechua farmer from a rural community located at 4,200 meters above sea level.

Llarapi Chico, the name of her community, belongs to the district of Arapa in the southern Andean department of Puno, one of the 14 that the government declared in emergency on Oct. 23 due to the water deficit caused by the combined impacts of climate change and the El Niño phenomenon.

Arapa is home to 9,600 people in its district capital and villages, most of whom are Quechua indigenous people, as in other districts of the Puna highlands.

With a projected population of more than 1.2 million inhabitants, less than four percent of the estimated national population of over 33 million, Puno has high levels of poverty and extreme poverty, especially in rural areas.

According to official figures, in 2022 the poverty rate in the department stood at 43 percent, compared to 40 percent and 46 percent in 2020 and 2021, respectively - years marked by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The recession of the Peruvian economy could drive up the poverty rate this year.

In addition, Puno was shaken by the impunity surrounding nearly 20 deaths during the social protests that broke out in December 2022 demanding the resignation of interim President Dina Boluarte, who succeeded President Pedro Castillo, currently on trial for attempting to "breach the constitutional order".

The United Nations issued a report on Oct. 19 stating that human rights violations were committed during the crackdown on the protests, one of whose epicenters was Puno.

Fermina Quispe is president of the Women's Association of Huerto de Nueva Esperanza, which is made up of 22 women farmers who, like her, are getting involved in agroecological vegetable production with the support of the non-governmental organization Cedeapas Centro.

The 41-year-old community leader spoke to IPS in Chosica, on the outskirts of Lima, while she participated in the Encuentro Feminismos Diversos por el Buen Vivir (Meeting of Diverse Feminisms for Good Living), held Oct. 13-15.

With a soft voice and a face lit up with a permanent smile, Quispe shared her life story, which was full of difficulties that far from breaking her down have strengthened her spirit and will, and have helped her to face challenges such as food security.

As a child she witnessed the kidnapping of her father, then lieutenant governor (the local political authority) of the community of Esmeralda, where she was born, also located in Arapa. Her father and her older brother were dragged away by members of the Maoist guerrilla group Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which unleashed terror in the country between 1980 and 2000.

"A month later we found my father, they had tortured him and gouged out his eyes. My mother, at the age of 40, was left alone with 12 children and raised us on her own. I finished primary and secondary school but I couldn't continue studying because we couldn't afford it, we had nowhere to get the money," she recalls calmly. Her brother was never heard from again.

She did not have the opportunity to go to university where she wanted to be trained as an early childhood education teacher, but she developed her entrepreneurial skills.

After she married Ciro Concepción Quispe - "he is not my relative, he is from another community," she clarifies - they dedicated themselves to family farming and managed to acquire several cattle and small livestock such as chickens and guinea pigs, which ensured their daily food.

Her husband is a construction worker in Arapa and earns a sporadic income, and in his free time he helps out on the farm and in community works.

Their eldest daughter, Danitzta, 18, is studying education at the public Universidad Nacional del Altiplano in Puno, the departmental capital, where she rents



Pumps fueled by 180-watt solar panels draw water from rustic wells to irrigate vegetable crops in the highland greenhouses of Peruvian farming communities. In the picture, farmer Fermina Quispe is helping to move the solar panels. CREDIT: Courtesy of Fermina Quispe

a room. And the youngest, 13-year-old Franco, will finish the first year of secondary school in December. His school is in the town of Arapa, a 20-minute walk from their farm.

Fermina managed to build "my own little house" on a piece of land she acquired on her own and outside of her husband's land, in order to have more autonomy and a place of her own "if we have conflicts," she says.

She also began to look for information about support for farming families, bringing together her neighbors along the way. This is how the association she now presides over came into being.

However, the drought, which has not let up since 2021, is causing changes and wreaking havoc in their lives,

ruining years of efforts of families such as Fermina's.

"We have a water crisis and the families are very worried. We are not going to have any production and the cattle are getting thin, we have no choice but to sell. A bull that cost 2,000 soles (519 dollars) we are selling off for 500 (129 dollars). The middlemen are the ones who profit from our pain," she says.

Solar water pumps

In the face of adversity, "proposals and action" seems to be Quispe's mantra. She wants to strengthen her vegetable production for self-consumption and is thinking about growing aromatic herbs and flowers for sale. To do so, she needs to ensure irrigation in her six-by-thirteen-meter highland greenhouse where she uses

agroecological methods.

During her participation in Cedeapas Centro's training activities, she learned about solar water pumps, which make it possible to pump water collected in rustic wells called "cochas" to gardens and fields. She has knocked on many doors to raise funds to set up solar water pumps in her community.

"Fermina's gardens and those of 14 other farmers in her community now have solar pumps for irrigation and living fences made of Spanish broom (Cytisus racemosus)," José Egoavil, one of the experts in charge of the institution's projects, told IPS.

"They are small pumps that run on 120- to 180-watt solar panels," he says in a telephone interview from Arapa.

He explains that the solar

panel is connected to the pump, which sucks the water stored in the wells that the families have dug, or in the "ojos de agua" - small natural pools of springwater - present on some farms. Thus, they can irrigate the vegetable crops in their greenhouses, and the living fences.

"It is a sustainable technology, it does not pollute because it uses renewable energy and maintenance is not very expensive. In addition, the families give something in return, which makes them value it more. Of the total cost of materials, which is about 900 soles (230 dollars), they contribute 20 percent, in addition to their labor," he says.

Egoavil, a 45-year-old anthropologist, has lived in Arapa for three years. He is from Junín, a department in the

center of the country where Cedeapas Centro, an organization dedicated to promoting food security and sustainable development in the Andes highlands of central and southern Peru, is based.

"The focus of our work is on food security and a fundamental issue is water for human consumption and production. There have already been two agricultural seasons in which we have harvested much less and we are about to start a new one, but without rain the forecasts are not encouraging," he says.

Given the water shortage, they have promoted the community participation of families in emergency projects such as solar pumps, which help to ensure their food supply.

In addition, long-range water seeding and harvesting works are underway, such as the construction of infiltration ditches at the headwaters of river basins.

The participation of small farming families is the driving force behind the works and they are responsible for identifying the natural water sources for their conservation and the construction of the ditches that will prevent the water from flowing down the hills when it rains.

"The ditch is like a sponge that retains water, but if it doesn't rain, we don't know what will happen," says Egoavil.

Learning to harvest water

Jesusa Calapuja, a 27-year-old veterinarian born in Arapa, is one of the people in charge of technical assistance in agroecological production, planting and water harvesting at Cedeapas Centro.

Using the Escuela de Campo (countryside school) methodology, she travels by motorcycle to the different communities where she interacts with farming families. She came with Fermina Quispe to the feminist meeting in Chosica, where IPS interviewed her.

Calapuja also notes changes in the dynamics of the population due to water scarcity. For example, their production no longer generates surpluses to be sold at the Sunday markets; it is barely enough for their own sustenance.

"They don't have the income to buy what they need," she says.

She also notices that at training meetings, women and men no longer bring their boiled potatoes or soup made with the oca tuber, or roasted corn for snacks, but only chuño (dehydrated potatoes) or dried beans. The scarcity of their tuber and grain production is evident in their diets.

But Fermina Quispe hasn't lost her smile in the face of adversity and is confident that her new skills will help the women in her community.

"Our great-great-grandparents harvested water, made terraces and dams; we have only been harvesting, collecting and using. But it won't be like that anymore and we are taking advantage of the streams so the water won't be lost. We only hope that the wind does not carry away the rain clouds," she says hopefully.



Fermina Quispe (fourth from the right, standing) poses for photos together with other farmers from the Women's Association of Huerto de Nueva Esperanza, which she chairs and with which she promotes crop irrigation with solar pumps in her community, Llarapi Chico, in the municipality of Arapa in the southern Peruvian highlands, a region badly affected by drought. CREDIT: Courtesy of Jesusa Calapuja

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Leaders in the Congo to protect forests, combat climate change

BRAZZAVILLE

BRAZZAVILLE, the capital of the Republic of the Congo, had the privilege of hosting the summit of the three major tropical forest basins on the planet from October 26 to 28: the Amazon, Congo, and Borneo-Mekong basins.

These basins represent 80 per cent of the world's forest cover and approximately three-quarters of its biodiversity. Over 3,000 participants, including government representatives, international organizations, NGOs, civil society, scientists, researchers, environmentalists, and indigenous populations, took part in this event.

At least ten Heads of State from the continent, including Congo, DR Congo, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Sao Tome and Principe, were in attendance. However, no President from the Amazon or Borneo made the journey to Brazzaville. Colombia and Venezuela sent their respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

The primary objectives of the summit included building a global coalition to accelerate the energy transition and strengthening collaboration between these basins, recognized as the world's major ecological lungs, to go further. In the declaration following

the discussions, the participants reaffirmed their commitment to lay the groundwork for a roadmap towards establishing a common framework for cooperation among the three basins.

During the summit, President Félix Tshisekedi of the DR Congo, a country that alone covers 62 per cent of the forests in the Congo Basin, expressed concern about the destruction of ecosystems by a neighbouring country, specifically Rwanda: "Currently, in the Virunga Park (Eastern DR Congo), one of the world's most significant natural reserves in terms of forests and biodiversity, armed activities are jeopardizing this ecosystem, destroying it. And this decision wasn't made in Washington, Brussels, London, or Paris. It was decided in Africa, specifically in Kigali," he lamented.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, as well as French President Emmanuel Macron and former Brazilian President Lula, participated via video conference to applaud the initiative. President of the Republic of Congo, Denis Sassou Nguesso, provided the essence of the meeting: "This summit will primarily focus on, among other things, defining a governance framework within the scope of a new multilateralism through a cooperation agreement, aiming for a global alliance of the three basins," he stated.



Monica Hangi (2nd-L), TradeMark Africa's Regional Director for East and Central Africa, has a feel of some of the items displayed by entrepreneur Juliana Richard and Wamama Sokoni group colleagues. This was at an exhibition held yesterday at Dar es Salaam's Mchikichini market in marking the 15th anniversary of Equality for Growth Tanzania Institute. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

AKDN, UN to support initiatives meant to fight poverty to stimulate development in Tanzania

By Grude Mbago

THE Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) and the United Nations (UN) have expressed commitment to continue strengthening collaboration to support various initiatives meant to fight poverty and stimulate development in the country.

Michel Toto, country director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) made the affirmation in Dar es Salaam on Monday during the joint commemoration of the United Nations Day with the

Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN).

"The United Nations, together with other stakeholders, including the Aga Khan Development Network, is committed to supporting Tanzania in its endeavors to empower its youth. We are working to create an environment that allows for innovation, entrepreneurship, and the meaningful engagement of young people in the decision-making processes that affect their lives and their futures," he said.

He expressed his gratitude to the Aga Khan Development Network for their unwavering partnership

and commitment to the United Nations and the people of Tanzania calling for more increased efforts to positively continue to impact the lives of the youth and all Tanzanians.

"Just a few days ago, on October 24th, we came together at the Karimjee Grounds to commemorate United Nations Day under the theme "Investing in Tomorrow Today: Leveraging Tanzania's Youth." The government underscored its commitment to the United Nations and its vision of a better world for all," he said.

He said the gathering wasn't only

meant to recognize the work of the United Nations but also to celebrate the enduring partnership between the UN and the people of Tanzania.

"This collaboration is a testament to the shared values and common objectives that unite us in the pursuit of a more equitable and sustainable world."

Toto said the theme of emphasizing the critical importance of preparing our youth, who are the leaders of tomorrow, for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

In Tanzania, as in many other countries, the youth population

is not only the future but also the driving force behind the nation's development," he noted.

"To invest in our youth is to invest in the development of our nation. It means equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities they need to be active participants in building a better, more sustainable world. It means providing quality education, promoting employment opportunities, and fostering an environment in which their voices are heard, and their ideas valued," he asserted.

Dr Shelina Walli, chief executive officer of the Aga Khan Education

Services, Tanzania said it was important to continue establishing robust systems and provide the necessary support to bring positive changes and lasting impacts to the society.

"Our goal is on ensuring we support initiatives and see most vulnerable people utilizing quality, inclusive, and integrated basic education, health, nutrition and protection services."

She said students are the leaders of tomorrow and they need to see that life can continue with love, peace and promoting the rights of all human beings.

'Africa faces lack of experts to evaluate medical devices'

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

LACK of expertise to assess medical devices including those for maternal, newborn and child health has been cited as one of the challenges facing the African continent in ensuring quality, safety and performance of the devices circulating in the market.

This was revealed during a three-day workshop of the Africa Medical Devices Forum (AMDF) in Dar es Salaam yesterday aiming at enhancing the quality, safety and performance of medical devices critical to the health and well-being of mothers, newborns and children.

Kissa Mwamwitwa, director of medical devices and diagnostics control from TMDA said: "This workshop is a major milestone in overcoming this challenge as the training will produce a pool of experts for assessing the medical devices before being authorised for marketing."

The capacity building workshop geared and aimed at facilitating, supporting and ensuring that regulators from across Africa understand the need to have medical devices.

"The regulators will be looking at the requirements as per guidelines and ISO standards and be learning how to assess submitted data and use that information to make an informed decision regarding registration of a particular device," she added.

Paulyne Wairimu, AMDF chairperson applauded TMDA for capacitate National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) in the areas of MNCH Medical devices which it's regulation has been and continues to be ragging behind other commodities in health sector and yet medical devices are crucial and essential part of health system.

"Maternal, newborn and child health medical devices have never been given adequate time or resources in terms of being reviewed by regulators, it is important because regulators are gatekeepers where the products are coming in. If regulators will not be well equipped with information will not be able to dispense this and therefore to protect the health," Wairimu said.



Inginga Regional Police Commander Allan Bukumbi shows journalists yesterday what he said were 30 pieces of elephant tusks found abandoned along the road at a place he gave as Kidamali. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

PCCB uncovers flaws in 27 development projects

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

PREVENTION and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Mwanza Region has established that 27 out of 35 projects it monitored between July and September this year worth approximately 8.2bn/- have different anomalies.

Some of the anomalies include implementation of the projects below standard,

swindling of equipment and use of substandard materials that do not meet the required objective.

That revelation was given yesterday, by chief of PCCB in Mwanza Region, James Ruge when speaking to journalists on the execution of the bureau in the area in that period of three months.

Projects were monitored by being inspected to know their quality and value of money spent to implement

them, he said, noting that projects involved health, roads infrastructure, education and administration.

He pointed out that investigations have started on projects with big anomalies and advice has been given to rectify those with small shortfalls including delays.

"With PCCB preventing corruption in the country, one of its responsibilities is to control loopholes of corruption at government and

Non-Governmental institutions by analysing systems of implementation of work and give advice on how to deliver good services and avoid acts of corruption", he said.

He underscored that PCCB in the region analysed a system of revenue collection on withholding tax between July and September, this year whereby different anomalies were observed including some district councils not collecting revenues on that

source. Other anomalies include low knowledge among businesspersons on the tax, some service providers such as local technicians not having Tax Identification Number (TIN), he said.

He noted that the situation leads to the government not collecting withholding tax directly when they are paid owing to services they provide.

According to him, the sys-

tems of district councils are not linked to those of Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

He said that PCCB in the region also continues to implement a programme of "Takukuru Rafiki" with a view to increase participation of people to combat acts of corruption in service delivery to community and implementation of development projects.

"In the implementation of this programme we have

reached 21 wards in all district councils in the Mwanza Region and sat with people whereby 158 chaos have been identified so that can be solved by service providers", he said.

He said that they will continue to closely monitor proper use of government and donor funds in the implementation of development projects as well as giving education to people in combating corruption.

Innovative financial services transform agricultural entrepreneurship in Africa

By Geoffrey Kamadi

SMALLHOLDER agricultural enterprises in Africa face a lot of challenges getting loans from financial institutions like banks due to the stringent requirements they can hardly fulfil. Investor confidence is usually lacking, given the risks involved in this sector of the economy.

Climate change has not helped matters either. Prolonged droughts and unreliable rainfall patterns have made them less resilient. And since a paltry 1.7 percent of climate finance goes to small-scale agriculture (according to the Climate Policy Initiative), small-scale farmers are left particularly vulnerable.

However, innovative financial solutions targeted at these farmers are transforming the sector in tangible ways in Africa. Organisations like Root Capital are working with small-scale agricultural enterprises using a financial model that is accommodative to their unique needs while addressing the climate change component on the ground.

Root Capital is a nonprofit that supports agricultural enterprises working directly with small-scale farmers. On the other hand, Mercy Corp - an international NGO - through its venture capital arm, supports entrepreneurs who are developing transformative technologies, innovative business models and effective climate adaptation resilience solutions which are usually tech-enabled.

Users of these technologies are in 35 most climate vulnerable countries, according to Scott Onder, the chief investment officer at Mercy Corp. In Kenya, for example, the NGO has partnered with Safaricom, the largest mobile network operator in the country through its DigiFarm product.

The product bundles together a range of solutions for smallholder farmers, helping them become more productive, increase their yields and grow their income.

Batian Nuts Ltd, an edible nuts processing enterprise based in Meru County in central Kenya has seen its operations expand, ever since it started working with Root Capital. This enterprise exports macadamia nuts internationally but also deals in peanuts processing for the local market. It has a base of 8,000 small-scale farmers.

"We chose to work with Root Capital because their interest rates are below what you would normally get from the financial market, plus their terms are very accommodative to a start-up like ours," says James Gichanga



A farmer tends to his tomatoes. Because of the risks in the agricultural sector, including climate change, many farmers were not able to get finance. Now several non-profits have come into the market to assist. Credit: Geoffrey Kamadi/IPS

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 20 -

By Felix Magezi: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezi@gmail.com

14. Place where Adam lived
16. a loud and confused noise
18. First ruling party in Kenya
20. color of blood
22. a unit of effective absorbed dose of ionizing radiation in human tissue, loosely equivalent to one roentgen of X-rays
23. an edible Japanese mushroom
24. a lyric poem
25. a mouse

DOWN:

1. Go in a specified direction
2. everyday
3. a lascivious look
4. harmony in opinion
5. Driving under the Influence
6. the lowest layer of the ionosphere, able to reflect low-frequency radio waves
9. situated on board a ship
10. ceum
15. flightless bird in Mauritius
17. part of town
19. originally called
21. thin piece of metal with a sharp point

ACROSS:

1. fashion or shape (a figure) in clay, wax, etc
4. Increase
7. sweep over so as to completely surround
8. sound produced
11. estuary in Spanish
12. make or become bigger
13. informal word for goodbye

PALESTRA **ARENA** **NOISES**
HARASSED **IWI** **LEI: PAN**
HAA: RAR **AREAS** **ENSNARE**
SEE **AGREE** **SAE**
SAE **AROMA** **WEST**

Yesterday's solution

S **A** **G** **E** **M** **O** **U** **R** **N** **M** **A** **L** **I** **N** **G** **E** **R**
A **W** **A** **S** **E** **O** **V** **E** **N**
M **A** **R** **R** **A** **M** **E** **V** **E**
I **S** **R** **A** **E** **L** **L** **I** **D**
A **H** **I** **D** **U** **D** **E** **Y** **S** **W** **I** **P** **E** **O** **W**
S **E** **I** **K** **I** **N** **G** **E** **O** **T** **T** **A** **W** **A**
E **G** **O** **L** **I** **O** **N** **S** **L** **A** **N** **E** **G** **R**
R **A** **N** **E** **E** **T** **U** **D** **E** **S** **A** **L** **O** **O** **N**
E **R** **S** **E** **T** **E** **S** **A** **L** **O** **O** **N**

the co-founder of Batian Nuts Ltd. He explains that commercial banks require considerable collateral, such as parcels of land or other assets, which they do not have. On the other hand, Root Capital will provide the finances they need, based on the commitment made by the overseas buyer of their produce. The buyer need only provide a letter of intent, committing to purchase macadamia nuts from Batian Nuts Ltd, and "Root Capital will give us money based on that alone," says Gichanga. In other words, the buyer of farm produce based in the US, Europe or Asia and the borrower (it could be a coffee cooperative in, say, Rwanda) - or Batian Nuts Ltd in this case - signs an agreement with Root Capital. And when the time comes for payment, the buyer pays Root Capital directly. "We take our principal interest and then pass the rest of the payment to the coffee cooperative," explains Elizabeth Teague, the senior director of Climate Resilience at Root Capital. Even though this type of financing

has existed before, their innovation involves applying it to the smallholder agricultural context. This, explains Teague, is a way of mitigating risk without requiring collateral from smallholder farmers. In addition, they provide small and medium sized agricultural enterprises with technical assistance through a programme known as "agronomic and climate reliance advisory." Prior to its partnership with Root Capital, Batian Nuts Ltd used to handle between 300-400 tonnes of produce per year. However, since 2017 when the collaboration began, the business has more than doubled this capacity to 1,000 tonnes, and its workforce has grown from 26 permanent employees to 55 currently. Its seasonal workforce has increased as well from a couple dozen to 160, who are engaged seven months in a year. Investors have traditionally shied away from putting their monies in small-scale farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, due in large part to higher cost and risk involved, thus creating an estimated USD 65 billion financing gap for small businesses in the region, according to Teague. "And then climate change exacerbates that and makes it even riskier for investors," she adds. Root Capital works with a network of 200 businesses and 500,000 farmers in Africa, Latin America, and Indonesia.

IPS UN Bureau Report

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM HIZI NAZO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MTA WA MAGOMA 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18:00 HRS BONGO TEN 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18:00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MBAYU ZANGU 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00-05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

BUSINESS

NCBA Bank posts 16.5bn/- net profit in three quarters, 2023

By Guardian Reporter

NCBA Bank Tanzania posted a cumulative net profit of 16.1bn/- in nine months of the current year, compared to a loss of 22.8bn/- recorded during the first three quarters of last year.

Unaudited financial statement for the third quarter of this year shows the cut of losses resulted from recovery of written off bad debt, reduced impairment losses, increased interest and non-interest income.

The statement shows the bank managed to recover 7.7bn/- written bad debt during the period of nine months of which 3.9bn/- were recovered during the third quarter of this year, while impairment losses on loans and advanced shrank to 8.9bn/- during the first three quarters of this year, from 19.1bn/- during comparative period of last year.

Cumulative net interest income grew to 28.3bn/- during nine months of current year, compared to 21.5bn/- during comparative period, while non-interest income went up to 9.4bn/- compared to 7.3bn/- respectively.

The increase of interest and non-interest income as well as asset recovery resulted into an operating profit amounting to 9.2bn/- during three quarters of this year, of which 3.7bn/- recorded during the third quarter, from an operating loss of 21.7bn/- during nine months of last year.

Basic earnings per share also gained to a profit of 121/- during the first nine months of this year from a loss of 210/- recorded during nine months of last year, while number of employees in none existing branches went up to 182 from 166 respectively.

The bank also managed to grow

its balance sheet to a total assets amounting to 513.8bn/- during the third quarter of this year, from 478bn/- during the second quarter of this year due to increase of balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT), sharp increase of balance with other banks and financial institutions, lending and investment in government debt instruments.

Balance with BoT increased to 34.6bn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to

30.6bn/- during the second quarter, while balance with other banks and financial institutions sharply increased to 25.1bn/- compared to 3.5bn/- respectively.

Investments in government debt instruments slightly increased to 86.2bn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 85.7bn/- during the second quarter, while lending to various sectors of the economy grew to 275bn/- compared to

237bn/- respectively.

The bank also managed to mobilize customer deposits amounting to 270bn/- as at the end of the third quarter from 239bn/- during the second quarter, while special deposits amounted to 113.9bn/- in Q3, 2023, higher than 83.3bn/- during the previous quarter.



Coffee producers urged to promote domestic consumptions

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

TANZANIA coffee producers have been urged to come up with a viable strategy of promoting domestic consumptions of coffee, instead of depending on export markets.

Speaking during the closing of the just ended 3-day Kahawa Festival, held at the Tanzania Coffee Curing Company (TCCo) area in Moshi Municipality, the Chairperson of the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB), Prof Aurelia Kamuzora explained that the event aimed at promoting sustainable local

consumption of coffee.

She further added that, if local consumption of coffee would be promoted well, producers will increase their income by having a well-built coffee markets within and outside the country.

Local consumption of coffee in Tanzania is estimated to be 7 percent, but TCB is striving to promote domestic consumption to at least 15 percent.

The rate is lower than Ethiopia, where domestic consumption of coffee is more than 60 percent.

Prof Kamuzora further ex-

plained that, coffee is number one drink in the world after water.

"Tanzania is among the countries worldwide that produce high quality varieties of coffees, so, more efforts are needed to promote its local market instead of depending on foreign markets," she said.

She appealed to Tanzanians to have a tendency of drinking coffee for a sustainable local market.

The Director General of TCB, Primus Kimaryo said that his board in collaboration with other coffee stakeholders is struggling to make

sure that Tanzania is increasing its production by producing high quality coffee that is suitable in both local and international markets.

"I'm happy that today, we have different coffee stakeholders in this Kahawa Festival event from Kagera region which produces almost a half of all coffees produced in the country," the TCB DG explained.

For his part, Moshi DC Kisari Makori applauded TCB for the good role they played by promoting coffee market, arguing more promotions of domestic consumption of coffee.

"TCB and the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI) have done a very laudable work in the promotions of production of coffee, but more effort is needed in the promotion of local consumption of coffee is highly needed," the Moshi DC further explained.

For his part, the Chairman of the Tanzania Coffee Association (TCA), Dennis Mahulu explained that, the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) in collaboration with crop stakeholders has formed a joint committee with a task

of organizing the best way to celebrate the event.

"The committee is composed of an individual from almost every actor in the coffee value chain. He added that, the Barista Competition has been organized specifically as a platform to advance the barista profession, recognize hundreds of baristas in the country and to encourage youth engagement in the Barista field," Mahulu explained.

"The competition will be conducted for three days during the festival and it will involve more than 40 contestants."

The TCA Chairperson further explained that, apart from barista competitions indicated in the Kahawa Festival Program, Cupping Competition will be one of the organized activities.

According to him, this will be the third ever official cupping competition in the country whereby all the cuppers across the nation participated and demonstrate their ability, speed, and accuracy in identifying different coffees basing on cupping attributes such as Aroma, Acidity, Body, Aftertaste, and Flavor.

Equity Bank posts 13bn/- net profit in nine months

By Guardian Reporter

EQUITY Bank Tanzania recorded a cumulative net profit of 13bn/- during nine months of this year, compared to 10.5bn/- during similar period of last year, thanks to increased interest income, reduced impairment losses on loans and advances, amid decrease of non-interest income.

Unaudited financial statement for the third quarter of this year shows net interest income grew to 34.8bn/- during three quarters of this year, compared to 31.4bn/- during similar period of last year, while impairment of losses on loans and advanced slowed to 10.4bn/- compared to 17bn/- respectively.

Non-interest income amounted to 31.8bn/- during nine months of this

year, compared to 37.1bn/- during similar period of last year, due to slight decrease of foreign currency dealing and transaction gains and other operating income.

Fees and commission went up to 16.1bn/- during the first three quarters of the current year, compared to 13.7bn/- recorded during similar period of the comparative year, while other operating income went down to 4.4bn/- compared to 14.4bn/- respectively.

The bank managed to increase number of employment opportunities to Tanzania as they increased to 496 during the period ended in September 2023, compared to 444 recorded during the period ended September 2022, with number of branches remained unchanged at 15.

The bank also managed to expand



its balance sheet closer to 1trn/- mark after increasing to 966bn/- during the third quarter, compared to 859bn/- during the second quarter due to increased balance with BoT, investment in government debt instruments, lending and interbank loans receivable.

Lending to various sectors of the economy jumped to 474bn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 470bn/- during the second quarter, while investment in government debt instruments went up to 172.7bn/- compared to 152.9bn/- respectively.

Balance with BoT nearly doubled to 136.2bn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 69.3bn/- during the second quarter while interbank loans receivables jumped to 36.89bn/- compared to 2.8bn/- respectively.

Customer deposits also increased to 701bn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 609.6bn/- during the second quarter, while special deposits amounted to 22.2bn/- compared to 14.07bn/- respectively.

Total shareholders' fund slightly increased to 128bn/- during the third quarter, from 127bn/- during the second quarter due to increase in profit account and reserves.

Sahara Group advocating market-based regime on Africa's gas sector

LAGOS

SAHARA Group, a leading international energy and infrastructure conglomerate, has urged African governments and regulators to adopt market-based regimes to stimulate the sustainable development of gas across the continent.

The company noted that appropriate pricing of the commodity will enhance investment, increase production and consumption growth.

It also called for the inclusion of investors in gas policy development frameworks as part of the process of enhancing capacity and competitiveness of the sector in Africa.

Speaking during the panel session on the subject, "The Game Changer: Enhancing

African Gas Development Strategies and Investment Opportunities," at the just-concluded African Energy Week, AEW 2023, in Cape Town, South Africa, Managing Director, Sahara Group Limited, Emmanuel Magani, said: "It is also important to have the private sector drive a lot of the gas projects. We have the West African Pipeline Project, WAGP that delivers gas to Benin, Togo and Ghana which has the potential to further play a huge role in regional gas development given market-based regimes and adequate investments."

He said: "It is important to have the right type of market regime in order to ensure adequate returns to all key stakeholders. We need to have a market-based price regimes to drive and

support the level of infrastructure required to transform gas development and

utilisation in Africa. Gas can also play an increased role in Africa's commitments to

reduce carbon emissions.

For instance, according to McKinsey & Co, Nigeria has

installed capacity of about 40 - 60 gigawatts, GW, of petrol and diesel generators.

Switching that capacity to the electricity grid, will lead to an almost 33 metric tons carbon dioxide emissions reduction annually - equivalent to about 12 percent of Nigeria's current greenhouse gas emissions.

Similarly, substituting firewood, Charcoal & Kerosene with LPG, would have a similar effect.

Magani noted that as a leading player in Africa's oil and gas sector, including operations in Asia, Europe and the Middle East, Sahara Group continues to seek investments and collaboration towards positioning gas as a key resource for transitioning to net zero.

"Sahara Group remains committed to providing ad-

equate energy for different purposes, including industrialisation and domestic cooking.

We are through our LPG operations contributing remarkably to efforts aimed at ending firewood and charcoal utilization by putting up the right infrastructure to drive storage, distribution, and access to LPG in Africa. In the power sector, Sahara Group provides 20 to 25 per cent of Nigeria's electricity supply on any given day. In other words, one out of four electricity bulbs is powered by us.

The number will be higher as we continue to expand. We work closely with other stakeholders in Africa to promote our vision of bringing energy to life responsibly, leaving no one behind," he added.



Emmanuel Magani, Managing Director, Sahara Group Limited

Eco Bank profit triples in three quarters, 2023

By Guardian Reporter

ECO Bank Tanzania's cumulative net profit grew three times to 4.7bn/- during the first three quarters of this year, compared to 1.3bn/- recorded during similar quarters of the previous year, thanks to recovery of bad debt as well as increased interest and non-interest incomes.

This has also enabled the triple increase of basic earnings per share to 38/- during the first three quarters of this year, compared to 11/- recorded during similar period of last year.

The bank's unaudited financial statement for the third quarter of this year shows

net interest income grew to 9.8bn/- in nine months of this year, compared to 7.4bn/- during the comparative period, while non-interest income grew to 11.2bn/- compared to 7.5bn/- respectively.

The sharp increase of non-interest income caused by tremendous growth of foreign currency dealing and transaction gain to 8.3bn/- during three quarter of this year, compared to 2.8bn/- recorded during nine months of last year, amid slowdown of fees and commissions.

The bank, with a total of five branches in Tanzania, also managed to record the recovery of 1.9bn/- written off bad



debt during the first three quarters of this year from 743mn/- recovered during three quarters of last year.

Total assets grew to 401bn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 348bn/- during the second quarter due to

increase of balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT), investment in government debt instruments, more than doubled balance with other banks and financial institutions and lending.

Lending to various sectors of the economy amounted to

138bn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 119bn/- during the second quarter, while investment in government debt instruments grew to 180bn/- from 161bn/- respectively.

The bank's rate of non-performing loans remained at 2.6 percent, which is far lower than the regulatory benchmark of five percent.

Balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT) went up to 21.1bn/- during the third quarter of this year from 14.8bn/- during the second quarter, while balance with other banks and financial institutions more than doubled to 16bn/- compared to 7.6bn/- respectively.

The bank's capital also grew to 24.35bn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 21.4bn/- during the second quarter due to increase of profit and loss account. This capital is far higher than the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) regulatory requirements of 15bn/-.

Customer deposits grew to 214bn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 138bn/- during the second quarter, while special deposits amounted to 41.19bn/- compared to 61.8bn/- respectively.

By Guardian Reporter

THE self-listed Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) Group recorded a profit after tax of 1.59bn/- during the third quarter of this year ended in September, an increase from 1.27bn/- recorded during similar quarter of last year.

Unaudited financial statement shows this has also pushed up both basic and diluted earnings per share to 67/- in Q3, 2023, compared to 54/-

DSE Plc earns 1.5bn/- net profit in Q3, 2023

recorded during similar quarter of last year, but slight below 69/- recorded during the second quarter of this year.

The statement shows the DSE Group's revenue grew to 3.09bn/- during the third quarter of this year from 2.48bn/- recorded during similar quarter of last year, due to

increase in listing fees, transaction fees, investment income and other revenue.

Listing fees went up to 1.11bn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 1.02bn/- during similar quarter of last year, while transaction fees increased to 474mn/- compared to 295.4mn/- respectively.

According to the statement, registry & CDS fees jumped to 514mn/- compared to 307.2mn/- respectively, while investment income increased to 854mn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 769mn/- recorded in Q3, 2022.

Other revenue also increased to 135mn/- compared to 87.8mn/- re-

spectively.

The statement shows the Group's total assets grew to 34.04bn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 30.7bn/- during similar quarter of previous year, while total shareholders' fund increased to 29.9bn/- an increase from 27.1bn/- respectively.

The increase of total assets resulted from increased current assets, specifically cash and cash equivalent, investment in short term deposit amortized costs, corporate tax receivables and trade receivables.

Trade receivables amounted to 1.4bn/- during the end of the third quarter of this year, compared to 1.0bn/- during the quarter ended in September 2022, while corporate tax receivables jumped to 79mn/- compared to 37.5mn/- respectively.

UBA Bank posts 7.1bn/- profit in three quarters

By Guardian Reporter

UNITED Bank for Africa Tanzania posted a cumulative net income after income tax amounting to 6.9bn/- during the first three quarters of this year, from 2.1bn/- recorded during similar period of last year, unaudited financial statement for the third quarter ended in September, 2023 has shown.

The increased cumulative net profit resulted from growth of both interest income and non-interest income and slight decrease of income tax provision, which translated into operating profit of 7.1bn/- in three quarters of this year, from 2.3bn/- during comparative quarters of last year.

Net interest income grew by more than 200 percent to 11.7bn/- during

three quarters of this year, of which 5.1bn/- was recorded during the third quarter of this year, compared with a cumulative net interest income of 4.5bn/- recorded during three quarters of last year.

The statement also shows non-interest income went up to 9.8bn/- during three quarters of this year, of which 3.3bn/- being recorded during the third quarter, higher than 6.1bn/- recorded during nine months of last year.

The growth of non-interest income resulted from dramatic increase of foreign currency dealing and transaction gains to 4.6bn/- during the first nine months of this year from 958mn/- recorded in three quarters of last year.



The bank's basic earnings per share increased more than three times to 1,100/- during the first nine months of this year, compared to 337/- recorded during the comparative period of last year. On quarterly basis, basic eps increased to 498/- during Q3, 2023, from 190/- recorded during similar quarter of last year.

The statement shows the bank managed to increase number of branches to 8 from seven, which raised the number of employees to 141 during the end of September, 2023, compared to 127 recorded during the period ended in September last year.

Return on average shareholders' fund grew to 44.5

percent during the period ended in September this year from 8.06 percent during three quarter of last year, while return on average total asset grew to 5.1 percent, compared to 1.1 percent respectively.

However, the bank's balance sheet decreased to 250bn/- during the third quarter of this year, from 306bn/- in the second quarter, due to slight decrease of investment in government debt instruments, cash, loans and other assets.

Loans, advances and overdraft decreased to 61.7bn/- during the third quarter of this year, from 73.6bn/- during the second quarter, while other assets declined to 72bn/- compared to 118bn/- respectively.

The statement shows customer deposits also went down to 145.8bn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 195bn/- during the second quarter, while the shareholders' fund went up to 32.5bn/-, compared to 29.5bn/- respectively.



Akiba Commercial Bank total assets hit 200bn/-

By Guardian Reporter

AKIBA Commercial Bank (ACB) total assets surpassed 200bn/- mark at the end of the third quarter of this year, thanks to increased lending to various sectors of the economy, balance with other banks and financial institutions and cash.

The bank's unaudited financial statement for the third quarter shows this is an increase from 198.6bn/- during the second quarter of this year. The statement shows the

bank's balance sheet gains caused by the increase of cash to 15.3bn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 13.2bn/- recorded during the second quarter, as well as investment in government securities, which went up to 13.7bn/- compared to 12bn/- respectively.

Lending to various sectors of the economy at the end of the third quarter of this year amounted to 103.2bn/- compared to 100bn/- during the second quarter, while balance with other banks and finan-

cial institutions increased to 5.5bn/- compared to 1.9bn/- respectively.

The banks total liabilities also increased to 176.5bn/- compared to 170.9bn/- respectively due to increased customer deposits mobilization to 141.4bn/- during the third quarter, compared with 127bn/- during the second quarter, while special deposits went up to 200mn/- compared to 194mn/- respectively.

The bank's capital amounted to 27.1bn/- during the third quarter, which is higher than

the regulatory requirement of 15bn/-.

According to the statement the net interest income amounted to 14.9bn/- during the first three quarters of this year, slightly lower than 15bn/- during similar period of last year, while non-interest income gained to 6.1bn/- compared to 5bn/- respectively.

The bank also managed to reduce impairment losses on loans and advances to 691mn/- during nine months of this year, compared to 2.09bn/- during similar period of last

year.

Other operating income more than doubled to 2.4bn/- during nine months of this year, compared to 1.05bn/- during nine months of last year.

However, the bank managed to slightly reduce its net loss to 316mn/- during three quarters of this year, compared to 353mn/- recorded during nine months of last year while number of employee went down to 368 compared to 413 respectively.

China's gold appetite will stay strong through 2023

BEIJING

CHINA'S appetite for gold will stay strong through the rest of 2023, the World Gold Council said, just as domestic prices for the safe-haven soared to a record amid the strongest investment demand in more than two years.

Demand for gold bars and coins in China rose 16 percent year-on-year in the third quarter and will "remain robust" in the final three months, the council said in its latest outlook. Economic and political uncertainties, currency volatility and central-bank stockpiling have all fueled a buying binge.

"The fragility of the domestic economic recovery, along with intensifying global geopolitical risk, could continue to support Chinese investors' safe-haven demand for gold," the producer-funded association said. The Shanghai Gold Exchange's benchmark contract rallied on Tuesday to its highest ever, heading for a near-7 percent gain in October.

China's demand has also been propelled by a patchy and uncertain economic recovery that's made other assets from property to stocks less attractive.

Data released yesterday showed the country's factory activity back in contraction for October, suggesting that the economy remains fragile.

Global gold prices last week jumped past \$2,000 an ounce for the first time since May amid growing concerns over conflict in the Middle East.

The precious metal, traditionally a harbor for money in times of turmoil, reached a record in mid-2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic was wreaking economic havoc worldwide.

"Gold demand has been resilient throughout this year, performing well against the headwinds of high interest rates and a strong US dollar," the council said of the global market. "Looking forward, with geopolitical tensions on the rise and an expectation for continued robust central bank buying, gold demand may surprise to the upside."

Gold's allure in China will be boosted further if the People's Bank of China continues to build reserves in what's already one of its longest buying sprees, the report added. Still, it noted that a slightly later-than-usual Lunar New Year in 2024 might delay some demand into the first quarter of next year.

WORLD



Britain's King Charles III was given a ceremonial welcome at State House in Nairobi. (Photo: AFP)

King Charles visits Kenya with colonialism's scars in focus

NAIROBI

BRITAIN'S tarnished colonial past took centre stage in Kenya yesterday as King Charles began a four-day state visit, poised to acknowledge "painful aspects" of the countries' long shared history as local leaders press demands for reparations.

Accompanied by Queen Camilla on his first visit as monarch to a former colony, Charles arrived in the capital Nairobi overnight.

On a rainy morning, he was welcomed to the Presidential Palace by a 21-gun salute and a guard of honour and, accompanied by President William Ruto, planted trees in the palace grounds. The royal couple then laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Uhuru Gardens, where Kenya declared independence in December 1963.

Charles' visit comes at a time when former colonies are demanding that Britain do more to recognise the abuses of its colonial past. Some - notably Barbados and Jamaica - have been re-evaluating their ties to the monarchy.

While still heir to the throne, Charles surprised many at last year's summit of the Commonwealth - a voluntary association of countries that evolved from the British Empire - by acknowledging slavery's role in the organisation's roots.

Many citizens of former British colonies - including leaders of Kenya's Nandi people - want Charles to go further by directly apologising and endorsing reparations for colonial-era abuses, including torture, killings and widespread expropriation of land, much of

which remains in British hands.

Buckingham Palace said the visit would "acknowledge the more painful aspects of the UK and Kenya's shared history, including the Emergency (1952-1960). His Majesty will take time ... to deepen his understanding of the wrongs suffered in this period by the people of Kenya."

'AFTER APOLOGIES... REPARATION'

During the 1952-1960 Mau Mau revolt in central Kenya, some 90,000 Kenyans were killed or maimed and 160,000 detained, the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) has estimated.

The UK government has previously expressed regret for those abuses and agreed a 20 million pound (\$24 million) settlement in 2013.

Nandi King Koitalel Arap Samoei led a decade-long rebellion until he was assassinated by a British colonel in 1905. In the ensuing years, the British confiscated most of his people's land and cattle.

Samoei's great-grandson Kipchoge arap Chomu credited the British with contributions to Kenya like education and public health systems but said historical injustices must be remedied.

"We have to demand public apology from the government of the British..." he told Reuters. "After apologies, we also expect a reparation."

Charles also plans to meet entrepreneurs from Kenya's bustling tech scene, tour wildlife facilities and travel to the southeastern port city of Mombasa.

Agencies

World Youth Development Forum opens in Beijing

BEIJING

THE World Youth Development Forum opened in Beijing on Monday, with 100 projects related to the global youth development action plan released.

The cooperation projects, which were selected from 43 countries around the globe, center on topics such as food security, digital technology application, and poverty and hunger elimination, according to the forum's organizer.

Approximately 2,000 youth representatives from China and abroad

attended the forum online or on-site. The event is themed "Youth Strength for Solidarity and Innovation: Striving Together for Sustainable Development."

Losang Jamcan, vice chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, addressed the opening ceremony, saying that China is willing to join hands with other countries to guide young people and pool their wisdom in strengthening the facilitation of global development. The forum is hosted by the All-China Youth Federation and the forum's organizing committee. *Xinhua*

No plans to agree to ceasefire with Hamas, Israeli PM says

NEW YORK

ISRAEL will not agree to a ceasefire with the radical Palestinian movement Hamas because it would mean surrender, the country's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wrote in an op-ed for The Wall Street Journal.

"Just as the US wouldn't have agreed to a ceasefire after the bombing of Pearl Harbor or after the terrorist attack on 9/11, Israel will not agree to a cessation of hostilities with Hamas after the horrific attacks of October 7.

Calls for a ceasefire are calls for Israel to surrender to Hamas, to surrender to terrorism, to surrender to barbarism," he pointed out.

According to Netanyahu, "Iran has formed an axis of terror by arming, training and financing Hamas



in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen and other terror proxies throughout the Middle East and beyond." "In fighting Hamas and the Iranian axis of terror, Israel is fighting the enemies of civilization itself," the Israeli prime minister added.

He called on "civilized nations" to support Israel. "If Hamas and Iran's axis of evil win, you will be their

next target," Netanyahu said.

Tensions in the Middle East flared up again on October 7 after militants from the radical Palestinian group Hamas launched a surprise incursion into Israeli territory from the Gaza Strip, killing residents of border communities and taking people, including women, children and the elderly, hostage.

Hamas described its attack as a response to the aggressive actions of Israeli authorities against the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City. Israel announced a total blockade of Gaza and launched ground operations in the enclave, also carrying out air strikes on targets in the Strip, as well as on certain areas in Lebanon and Syria.

Clashes are also taking place in the West Bank.

US' attempts to undermine Russia's constitutional order doomed to fail - envoy

WASHINGTON

THE US' attempts to undermine Russia's constitutional order as well as its interethnic and interreligious accord are doomed to failure, Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov said.

"We consider the belligerent reaction of the Administration and local media to the incidents in Makhachkala as nothing other than an attempt to undermine the ethno-confessional unity of the Russian Federation.

Here, apparently, they were disappointed that the Russian law enforcement agencies were able to neutralize the risks of destabilization inspired from outside," the embassy press service quoted him as saying, commenting on events in Dagestan.

"It's time for Washington to cut its teeth: any attempts aimed at undermining the constitutional order in our country, as well as the interethnic and interreligious harmony that Russia has been for ages famous for, are doomed to failure," the envoy noted.

According to him, "local so-called strategists would do well to be concerned about the safety of their own citizens, who, among other things, are suffering from an epidemic of gun violence in the United States, including those motivated by racial hatred."

Earlier, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the unrest in Dagestan had been instigated via social networks by Western intelligence. He added that the Kiev regime, guided by its Western handlers, was trying to ignite pogroms in Russia.

Several hundred people gathered at the Makhachkala airport in Russia's Dagestan Region on the evening of October 29 to protest against the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. They broke into the airport's building and landing area.

The government of Dagestan reported that the situation was under control with law enforcement working at the site.

A crisis management center, led by the republic's head Sergey Melikov, was set up. Melikov slammed the actions by the protesters as a gross violation of law and warned about due consequences.



Africa sees renewed hope in malaria fight

NAIROBI

THE prevention and control of malaria in Africa is set to get a major boost from a new drug that is not only more effective, but also easier to administer than previous medicines, with the number of deaths attributed to the infectious disease expected to fall sharply as a result.

In case studies conducted in Kenya, second-generation artesunate for injection, developed by Chinese pharmaceutical company Fosun Pharma, has proved highly effective in treating severe malaria in children, Kenyan health experts said.

In addition, the new drug - produced under the brand name Argesun - can be easier and faster to prepare, and safer to inject, than its predecessor, which is produced under the name Artesun, and has been widely used in dozens of countries for more than 10 years.

Unlike Artesun, which requires a two-step reconstitution before use, Argesun only requires a one-step dilution before injection, which makes it more user-friendly for doctors and nurses and improves its accessibility, said Walter Otieno, a pediatrician and researcher with the Kenya Medical Research Institute.

"We think that this is a very good development. It is really going to cut our rate of deaths and also the complications caused by malaria," Otieno said.

In Kenya, the malaria transmission rate can be as high as 30 to 50 percent during the rainy season in some places near Lake Victoria, he said, adding that children under 5 face the highest risk of malaria in the country.

Through the use of the drug and other methods, including malaria vaccines and mosquito prevention and control, the transmission of ma-



laria in Kenya is likely to be significantly reduced, Otieno said.

Argesun was pre-qualified by the World Health Organization in June and has been registered in 18 African countries, according to Fosun Pharma.

Both Artesun and Argesun are innovative antimalarial drugs based on artemisinin, which was discovered by Nobel laureate Tu Youyou in the 1970s, and which has made significant contributions to global malaria control and prevention during the past two decades.

Wu Yifang, chairman of Fosun Pharma, said the company recognized the strategic value of antimalarial drugs based on artemisinin and restructured its subsidiary Guilin Pharmaceutical in 2004, to start introducing the drugs to the global market. Its first antimalarial drug entered Africa in 2007, and the company launched a training program for frontline medical workers in Africa in 2014.

"Through continuous innovation, Fosun Pharma has become a global leader in antimalarial drugs and one of the most influential Chinese brands in Africa," he said.

Malaria is prevalent in many African countries, and around 95 percent of all new malaria cases globally were reported in Africa, resulting in more than 600,000 deaths, according to the World Health Organization.

Increasing accessibility

"To win the battle against malaria, we have to eliminate it globally," Wu said, adding that the company is pushing to transform its antimalarial

drugs from "made in China and used in Africa" to "made in Africa and used in Africa", in order to increase the drugs' accessibility and affordability there.

Last year, Fosun Pharma started building a pharmaceutical production facility and distribution hub in Cote d'Ivoire, which will produce antimalarial drugs and antibacterial medicines.

On Oct 12, Fosun Pharma held a seminar on the management of malaria with the Department of Health in Kisumu, Kenya.

During the seminar, Kibor Keitany, head of the Kenya National Malaria Control Program at the Ministry of Health, emphasized Kenya's commitment to further expanding the use of injectable artesunate, alongside WHO-approved vaccines, to reduce malaria-related deaths among at-risk groups.

"The new generation of injectable artesunate is an important addition to existing interventions," Keitany said.

Robert Opoka, from Kenya's Aga Khan University Medical College, said the new drug's ease of use will make it more convenient for health workers.

Taliban must immediately release women human rights defenders, say UN experts

GENEVA

UN experts yesterday demanded the immediate release of women human rights defenders Neda Parwan and Zholia Parsi, who have been detained by Afghanistan's de facto authorities for over a month.

The two human rights defenders are affiliated with the Women's Spontaneous Movement. Neda Parwan's husband and Zholia Parsi's adult son have also been placed in custody. No reasons have been provided for their arrests, the experts said, but others

have been arrested in similar circumstances for exercising their fundamental right to engage in peaceful protests.

"The release of Ms Parwan and Ms Parsi and their family members from detention is an urgent matter. After more than a month in detention, we are increasingly concerned about their physical and mental wellbeing," the experts said.

They underscored the importance of upholding the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, a fundamental tenet enshrined

in international human rights law and warned that individuals must not be deprived of their liberty merely for expressing dissenting views and for exercising their legitimate rights. Women human rights defenders are particularly at risk and are more likely to be targeted because of their gender.

"The Taliban seem to be continuing to intensify their restrictions on civic space, especially through silencing of the voices of women and girls, thus creating a chilling effect," the experts said.

"We urge the de facto authorities to

demonstrate respect for freedom of expression, freedoms of movement and association including the right to engage in peaceful protest, in line with Afghanistan's international obligations under human rights instruments ratified by the State," the experts said.

A month after their arrest, Neda Parwan and Zholia Parsi and their family members have yet to be charged with a crime or brought before a court. They have not been granted access to legal representation.

ANI

ABU DHABI

COP28 President says world must unite on climate action

SULTAN bin Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE's Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President, addressed a record number of ministers and delegations from around the world at the opening session of Pre-COP, declaring that the international community needs to unite on climate action and that "we have to come through. We must unite. We must act. And we must deliver in Dubai."

Pre-COP, which is being held from October 30-31 in Abu Dhabi, is a preparatory meeting of

ministers and negotiators ahead of COP28. This year's event has seen record attendance, with 70 ministers and over 100 delegations coming together in the UAE capital, more than double the normal number of participants for a Pre-COP.

Acknowledging that "there are too many things out there dividing our world at this moment," the COP28 President declared, "Now more than ever we need to unite on climate and deliver a clear message of hope, solidarity, stability and prosperity. We need

to show that the international community can deliver and send a clear signal that keeps 1.5 within reach."

Al Jaber pointed out that before the Paris Agreement, the world was heading for more than four degrees of warming but is now on course for warming of two to three degrees, according to the latest reports. "We are heading in the right direction, but nowhere near fast enough," he warned.

Parties "must do better" in formulating agreements on issues

than they had done at previous conferences, Al Jaber stated. "We have no time to waste on disunity," he warned. "We must look beyond short-term thinking; we must end the excuses and delays, and redefine our self-interest as a common interest."

"Let this process prove that multilateralism still works. I believe we can fulfil our responsibility. I know that we must."

The COP28 President reiterated the need to deliver a robust response to the Global Stocktake and put the world back on track

on delivering the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. He highlighted key areas of focus, including a strong mitigation outcome, a comprehensive adaptation agreement, and "groundbreaking solutions" on finance.

"That includes delivering on the fund and funding arrangements for loss and damage," he added. "What was promised in Sharm el Sheikh must be delivered in Dubai."

"We need solid solutions for a 43 per cent cut in emissions by 2030 because that is exactly

what the science tells us," Al Jaber said.

On the issue of fossil fuels, he said, "I know there are strong views about the idea of including language on fossil fuels and renewables in the negotiated text. I need you to work together to come forward with solutions that can achieve alignment, common ground and consensus between all parties. We must be pragmatic. And we must leave no one behind."

Updating the meeting on pol-

icy, the COP28 President said, "More than 20 oil and gas companies have answered COP28's call to end methane emissions by 2030.

And I see positive momentum as more are joining. And we are engaging with all high-emitting sectors, like heavy transportation, aluminium, steel and cement, to lay out credible decarbonisation plans."

On finance, Dr Al Jaber emphasised the importance of ensuring capital flows to where it is most needed, notably the Global South and of rebuilding trust in developing nations.

ANI

Large migrant caravan sets off for US from southern Mexico

MEXICO CITY

A large migrant caravan comprising many Central Americans and Venezuelans left southern Mexico on Monday for the United States, organizers and officials said, as Washington grapples with renewed pressure on its southern border.

Officials in the southern state of Chiapas said some 3,500 people set off on foot from the city of Tapachula near the Guatemalan border, while one of the caravan's organizers, Irineo Mujica, said there were around 5,000 in the group.

US President Joe Biden, who is seeking reelection next year, is under pressure to curb the number of people crossing illegally into the United States from Mexico.

Most of the latest caravan are from Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras and Venezuela, according to Mujica.

Escorted by civil protection officials and ambulances, the migrants



Migrants start walking north on their way to Mexico City from Tapachula, Chiapas state, Mexico, April 23, 2023. AP

were walking on a coastal highway around midday, planning to spend the night in the municipality of Huehuetan, about 25 km

north of where they started. Mujica said the migrants opted to leave Tapachula due to frustration about not

being able to obtain humanitarian visas. Some migrants even offered to help recovery efforts in the port of Acapulco, which was devastated by a hurricane last week, but did not get a response from the authorities, he added.

The government's National Migration Institute did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Many migrants are fleeing poverty and political instability in their homelands, and this year has seen record numbers crossing the Darien Gap region connecting Panama and Colombia.

Millions of Venezuelans have left home due to the economic crisis plaguing the once-prosperous oil producing country.

"In Venezuela things are very tough, we can't live with the money we get, it's not enough for us, and that's why we're going to the United States," said Oscar Gutierrez, a Venezuelan migrant traveling with his wife and two daughters.

Tropical storm Pilar formed off Central America in the Pacific on Monday, and threatens to dump heavy rain on the region and parts of southern Mexico.

Malawi's Climate Change Minister praises UAE's COP28 preparations

DUBAI

MALAWI'S Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change Michael Osei has praised the UAE's exceptional work in organising COP28, especially its inclusion of small island states and donors.

In an interview with the Emirates News Agency (WAM), Minister Osei outlined several goals for Malawi's participation in the UN Climate Change Conference, including increasing support for country programmes and expanding funding. He stressed that this will require honest discussions and solutions to the challenges that have disrupted the smooth flow of funding.

Minister Osei also confirmed that the Malawian government will be represented at the highest level at COP28, demonstrating its commitment to the process and ensuring that climate finance issues are discussed at the top level.

He expressed optimism that the conference, which is being held in the UAE this time, will deliver exceptional results.

Minister Osei said that it is necessary to be open with each other to discuss the root causes of the challenges surrounding climate finance, with a focus on financing adaptation to climate change as the main issue. He also emphasised the need for teamwork and understanding the impact that countries have suffered.

Osei also said that it is crucial to consider the issues of recovery from the impact of climate change, as without recovery, it will be difficult to address adaptation, mitigation, loss, and damage issues. He stressed the need to consider all aspects of climate finance and climate impacts.

Minister Osei expressed confidence that Malawi will benefit from this collective effort, noting that everything being discussed is relevant to Malawi's needs and aspirations.

On Malawi's efforts to address the impacts of climate change, Minister Osei said that the country is moving towards a comprehensive approach, rather than just a project-focused approach to ensure that no one is left behind.

Regarding Malawi's projects to reduce the impacts of climate change, especially on the agricultural sector, Minister Osei pointed to the launch of large-scale commercial farms based on new technologies by the President of Malawi. He said that this ongoing approach aims to help Malawi produce enough food to meet its needs and sell the surplus.

Minister Osei said that Malawi is considering the impact of climate change on multiple sectors, including agriculture, health, and housing. He emphasised the importance of building infrastructure that is resistant to the impacts of climate change, such as cyclones and floods. ANI

Achieving food security, energy transition instrumental to realise SDGs in Africa -UNECA

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) said on Monday that achieving food security and energy transition is instrumental to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa.

The UNECA said in a statement that with the global economy still grappling with the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on food and energy prices, achieving food security and energy transition is of paramount importance for African countries, particularly the North and West African regions.

According to the UNECA, the combined effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict are increasing borrowing costs and debt service in Africa, which is further exacerbated by the disproportionate impact of climate change which costs African countries 2 to 9 percent of state budgets.

It said amid the cascading crises, the food and energy security in North and West Africa experienced major setbacks. Figures from the UNECA show that between 2019 and 2022, almost 25 million additional people suffered from undernourishment in both regions combined.

The UNECA made the call ahead of its upcoming meeting of the joint Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (CSOE) for North and West Africa, slated to be held on Nov. 1-3 in the Ghanaian capital of Accra.

The joint meeting is expected to bring together representatives of 22 North and West African countries, along with representatives from regional economic communities from the two regions.

Israel-Hamas conflict: China calls for cessation of hostilities

UNITED NATIONS

A Chinese envoy on Monday called for an immediate cessation of hostilities in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The UN General Assembly on Friday adopted by an overwhelming majority a resolution calling for an immediate and durable humanitarian truce, which has pointed in the right direction, said Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations.

China solemnly calls on the parties to the conflict to cease all hostilities, disengage immediately, put in place a humanitarian truce, and make every effort to prevent the situation from esca-

lating further, he said.

China solemnly calls on Israel, as the occupying power, to fulfill its obligations under international humanitarian law, lift its full siege on Gaza, immediately rescind its emergency evacuation order, and expeditiously restore the supply of basic necessities so as to prevent an even larger humanitarian disaster, the envoy added. China also calls for greater diplomatic efforts to facilitate the release of hostages without delay and to work on this basis to open up space for dialogue, so as to return to the track of a political settlement, he said.

China calls on a certain major country with special influence on the parties concerned to put



Palestinians look for survivors after an Israeli strike in Rafah, Gaza Strip yesterday. AP

aside its self-interests and geopolitical considerations and make every effort to stop the war and restore peace, he said.

The decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict has shown that military means is not the solution. Absolute security cannot be achieved by imposing collective punishment on civilians, said Zhang.

"We call on the parties to the conflict to abandon their blind faith in the use of force and to commit themselves to breaking the cycle of violence and achieving common security," he said.

The council has so far held several meetings on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, he said, adding China once again calls on the council to strengthen unity, build consensus, and take responsible and meaningful actions as soon as possible. Xinhua

Top official: Boris's response to COVID was mad and dangerous

LONDON

FORMER British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's approach to dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic was "mad and dangerous" and his constant indecision made it "impossible" to tackle the virus, the government's top civil servant told officials.

The exchanges between Simon Case, the government's most senior official, and officials in which he also described Britain's response in 2020 as a "terrible, tragic joke", were shown on Monday to the inquiry into how the government handled the worst health crisis in almost a century.

In the autumn of 2020 when the government was discussing how to suppress the virus, Case said of Johnson: "He cannot lead and we cannot support him under these circumstances. The team captain cannot change the



call on the big plays every day." "IT HAS TO STOP". He then wrote in capital letters: Months earlier when the gov-

ernment was reopening after the first lockdown, Case said Johnson wanted to let the virus "rip" and compared Johnson's approach to the way US President Donald Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who were known for dismissing the threat of COVID, were handling the crisis.

"This is in danger of becoming Trump/Bolsonaro level mad and dangerous," Case told other colleagues.

A spokesman for Johnson, who will appear as a witness in the inquiry in the future, declined to comment.

The messages were released at the start of the week where a number of Johnson's senior officials are giving testimony that will reveal how his government worked during the pandemic.

Martin Reynolds, Johnson's former principal private secretary who appeared before the inquiry on Monday, said there was

a culture of dysfunctionality and misogyny at the heart of government during the crisis.

Reynolds revealed that he and another colleague wrote a report in May 2020 recommending reform of the way Johnson's team was operating to address the government's "suboptimal" handling of the first phase of COVID. Asked whether the report showed "dysfunctionality, lack of discipline, chaos and a significant degree of misogyny", Reynolds said he agreed.

Reynolds said there was "superhero culture" among some officials.

"In terms of the diversity of decision-making, in terms of the treatment of women, I agree. I think that remains an ongoing cultural issue, which I think we could have done more to address," Reynolds said.

Agencies

Gaza conflict key driver behind Türkiye's move to unblock Sweden's NATO accession

ANKARA

TÜRKIYE has unblocked Sweden's NATO accession protocol after more than a year of delays, a move that analysts say is driven by the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Ankara's efforts to secure a fighter jet deal with the United States.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan submitted the protocol to parliament for ratification on Oct. 23, with the parliament's foreign relations committee set to review it before a final vote at the Grand National Assembly, where Erdogan's ruling coalition has the majority.

In July, during a NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, Erdogan was committed to presenting Sweden's NATO membership bid to the parliament, but no progress had been made until recently.

Sweden abandoned its long-standing policy of non-alignment and applied to join NATO last year following the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Türkiye and Hungary are the only NATO members yet to ratify its accession.

A source in parliament, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told

Xinhua that the protocol could be voted on in 15 days "if everything goes according to plan," but warned of possible "complications" that could delay the ratification.

Analysts point out that the Gaza conflict is a significant factor in Erdogan's decision to push forward the ratification process, noting that the Turkish leader is trying to balance his support for Palestine, popular among his ruling party's base, with Western capitals' views of his government. "Erdogan is very keen on a mediator role in the conflict.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken skipped Ankara in his recent Middle East trips, and the U.S. has signaled its willingness to involve Türkiye in issues concerning Gaza only if Sweden's NATO entry is ratified," said Soner Cagaptay, an expert on Türkiye at the Washington Institute.

Serkan Demirtas, an Ankara-based analyst and journalist, also noted this decision to ratify Sweden's NATO accession can be seen as a way to balance relations with the West at a time when Erdogan is openly critical of Israel's military actions. Erdogan has repeatedly accused the West of failing



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

to stop the Israeli offensive in Gaza and criticized Israel's attacks on Gaza since the conflict broke out on Oct. 7. Erdogan also opposed the U.S. deployment of two aircraft carriers to the eastern Mediterranean and said the NATO ally has no role in the conflict.

The Turkish leader's public criticism of Israel and Western countries has found favor among many in Türkiye but has faced opposition from the Israeli government, setting the country apart from the positions of most NATO members.

Moreover, Türkiye also tries to link its request to buy 40 new F-16s from the U.S. with the advancement of Sweden's NATO membership.

Cagaptay said if the Biden administration requested to sell F-16s to Türkiye soon, the Turkish parliament would likely ratify Sweden's NATO membership quickly.

But he said it was unclear whether this would secure the 20-billion-dollar deal for the 40 new F-16s that Türkiye wants.

The situation is complicated by several key U.S. lawmakers who have raised concerns about authorizing the sale of fighter jets to Türkiye over issues unrelated to Sweden's NATO accession.

In addition to the NATO accession of Sweden and the Israel-Hamas conflict, Ankara and Washington face other challenges, particularly in Syria, where Türkiye considers Kurdish fighters, supported by the U.S. in the battle against the Islamic State, as terrorists. Tensions escalated on Oct. 5 when a U.S. F-16 downed a Turkish drone approaching U.S. forces in northern Syria.

SPORT



Dar es Salaam's wheelchair basketballers take part in training at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's courts recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Aziz Ki voted Yanga's Player of the Month for October

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

STEPHANE AZIZI Ki has been voted as Young Africans SC's men's Player of the Month for October by the club's supporters.

The attacking midfielder played a major part in helping Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, to amass nine points from a possible 12 in the NBC Premier League. He scored four of the 10 goals scored by Yanga in October's league games.

Aziz Ki's excellent showing in October began with him scoring against Geita Gold FC in Yanga's resounding 3-1 win in Mwanza.

The Burkina Faso international then scored a hat-trick against Azam FC to help the NBC Premier League defending champions reclaim the top spot.

Against the then-unbeaten Azam FC at a game played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium last week, Aziz Ki handed Yanga the lead nine minutes into the game.

The midfielder cut through Azam FC's Senegalese defender, Malickou Ndoye, to slot the ball past the on-rushing Ghanaian goalkeeper Abdullai Idrissu.

However Azam FC replied 10 minutes later through Gambian winger Gibrill Sillah.

After the break, Aziz Ki took center stage once again when he equalized for Yanga in the 68th minute.

His thundering free kick was spilled into the net by goalkeeper Idrissu to level the scoreboard. Prince Dube had scored for Azam FC from the spot kick at the hour mark.

A third goal would follow for Aziz Ki when

he beautifully connected home a through pass from Khalid Aucho in the 72nd minute despite heavy protests from the Azam FC players and coaching staff who felt the referee should have blown the whistle for a foul on center-back Daniel Amoah.

That impressive form saw him receive the major percent of the votes ahead of fellow contenders Dickson Job and Max Nzegeli.

He is the first player to win the Jangwani Street-based squad's monthly award launched recently. The award comes with a 4m/- cheque from sponsor NIC Insurance.

Under the tutelage of Miguel Gamondi, Aziz Ki has become one of Yanga's most important players, having netted 10 goals for the club in all competitions this season.



Cash windfall awaits Gor Mahia in kit deal with Tanzanian firm

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

FOOTBALL Kenya Federation Premier League giants, Gor Mahia, are on the brink of a groundbreaking sponsorship deal with a renowned kit manufacturer in East Africa, Tanzania's GSM Group.

This seismic shift comes as Gor Mahia's current partnership with Umbro, initiated in 2020 with a stipulated three-year term, nears its end.

While the financial specifics of the forthcoming partnership are yet to be unveiled, all signs point to this being a game-changer for the Kenyan football juggernauts.

Under the existing arrangement with Umbro, the technical staff and management of Gor Mahia have enjoyed a steady supply of branded apparel, equipment, and luggage for the past three seasons, nurturing a strong foundation for success. According to Gor Mahia's Secretary-General, Sammy Ochola, this move toward a new partnership was inspired by a benchmarking trip to Dar es Salaam, where he met Yanga's president, Hersi Said.

"Yanga and Gor Mahia FC share a lot in common in terms of football success in this region," Ochola stated.

The official pointed out: "Hersi Said told me that he understands Gor Mahia as a big club, and sought a partnership with us to bolster the development and sustainability of the sport."

Ochola noted: "I am also glad that soon we shall sign a kitting deal for five years with the sports apparel manufacturer GSM Group, beginning next season."

"The deal will see GSM Group distribute replica jerseys throughout the country and kit our team gallantly. Hersi Said is the CEO of GSM Group and he's happy to be associated with the most successful club in the region, Gor Mahia FC," the

official pointed out.

GSM Group, a company that already outfits Tanzania's record champions, Yanga, has several other clubs in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League adorned with the firm's label.

In a similar deal inked with Yanga in September 2022, the sponsorship was valued at a staggering 10.9bn/- (Ksh 655 million).

Hersi Said, GSM Group's CEO, shed light on the specifics of the Yanga agreement, revealing it was divided into two parts.

"The contract, which is divided into two parts, involves the first contract for the production and distribution of jerseys as well as various club products, in which every year GSM Group will pay Yanga 1.5bn/- (Ksh 90 million), which will increase by 10% and make the total value 1.915bn/- (Ksh 541 million) within five years," Hersi revealed during the unveiling.

"The second contract will be a guarantee, where GSM Group will pay 300m/- per year (Ksh 18 million), which will be increasing by 10% every year for five years, making the total 1.83bn/- (Ksh 108 million) for five years. The second contract allows GSM Group to place its logo on the jersey."

The agreements promise a substantial windfall for Yanga, with an estimated return of approximately 10.9bn/- (Ksh 655 million), a monumental blessing for the club that continues to strengthen its position in the football landscape. As the ink on this thrilling partnership which is now in its second season dries, football fans are eagerly awaiting the official financial details and the unique features of the collaboration that will shape the future of Gor Mahia.

With GSM Group's track record of success and the firm's investment in East African football, there is no doubt that this deal has the potential to reshape the club's destiny and set new standards for football sponsorships in the region.

SPORTS

Kilimanjaro Queens step up pursuit of Women's Cricket Premier League trophy

By Guardian Reporter

SWAUMU Godfrey showcased her prowess at the crease as Kilimanjaro Queens stepped up their pursuit of the top honour in the inaugural Tanzania Women's Cricket Premier League after defeating Usambara Queens by 42 runs on Sunday.

The third-placed Kilimanjaro Queens have, for that matter, garnered their second successive win after commanding a 46-run win over Mount Meru Queens the same weekend.

Kilimanjaro Queens posted 164/3 in 20 overs after they had gone in to bat first in the encounter against Usambara Queens at Leaders Club ground in Dar es Salaam, with opening batters coming in handy for the former.

The opening batting pair of Swaumu Godfrey and Fatuma Kibasu was in great form at the crease and had Kilimanjaro Queens amassing 71 runs when Fatuma was dismissed after 8.2 overs.

The team skipper that notched 30 runs was stumped by Usambara Queens' Zulfa Hussein from Sheila Shamte's bowling, leaving Swaumu to carry on the outfit's batting onslaught.

There was a drawback brought about by the dismissal of top-order performer, Nasra Hamza, fellow top-order player Swaumu Deo nevertheless kept on improving the total after posting 15 runs.

Zuhura Masudi partnered with Swaumu to have Kilimanjaro Queens wrapping up their batting stint with a convincing triple-digit score.

Zuhura notched eight runs not out and Swaumu had the best outing, having ended with 86 runs not out whilst clearing the boundary on seven occasions.

Nineteen extra runs that were given away by Usambara Queens, which included two leg byes, 16 wides, and one no ball were somewhat of a boost to Kilimanjaro Queens' score.



Swaumu Godfrey of Kilimanjaro Queens (R) is presented with the Player of the Match prize by senior cricketer, Athumani Siwa, when the former's squad came up against Usambara Queens in this season's Tanzania Women's Cricket Premier League tie at Leaders Club ground in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Hudaa Mrisho, skipper Perice Zakayo, and Sheila were the bowlers who attempted to stamp their authority for Usambara Queens after taking a wicket each.

Reaching the tricky target of 165 runs set up by Kilimanjaro Queens happened to be a tall order for Usambara Queens, as the latter amassed 122/7 in 20 overs. The Perice-led Usambara Queens got off to a wobbly start in the squad's chase, in which one of the openers Mwanaidi Amani had a brief spell that witnessed the performer posting six runs.

The fellow opener Hudaa Mrisho lasted a bit longer at the crease and chipped in with 16 runs and the efforts to mount a successful chase secured a boost when Perice took the crease.

The skipper went on to register 27 runs which pushed Usambara Queens' score to 59 runs after 12.1 overs, at the time the top-order player returned to the pavilion.

The fielding squad's Sharifa Rashidi curtailed Perice's efforts to make her stay at the crease longer, going for a catch to send the batter out off a Maimuna Fikiri delivery.

Except for Swaumu Borakambi, who was the batter with the most runs having posted 33 runs not out, there

was little to write home about in terms of the middle and low-order performers' contribution.

Even though Swaumu had an unbeaten partnership with Nice George that chipped in with seven runs not out, the duo could not have Usambara Queens living up to expectations.

Mariam Hussein's 2-21 in four overs and Fatuma's 2-8 in four overs had Kilimanjaro Queens dashing away Usambara Queens' hopes of getting down to a successful chase.

Swaumu was ultimately voted as the Player of the Match for her batting exploits which won the tie for Kilimanjaro Queens.

The Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)-organized Tanzania Women's Cricket Premier League has Mount Meru Queens, Ngorongoro Queens, Usambara Queens, and Kilimanjaro Queens taking part in it, aiming to raise the standard of women's cricket domestically.

Dafa News is the main sponsor of the league which is also supported by Unity Computers, Sports Box, Delaware Investments, Reliance Insurance Tanzania, GI Security, Meru, and General Petroleum Tanzania.



Simba SC players are pictured participating in training at Mo Simba Arena, Bunju in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for various tournaments including the 2023/24 NBC Premier League and CAF Champions League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS C

Simba SC coach concedes sloppiness as he strengthens defence ahead of Dar derby

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC head coach Roberto Oliveira has conceded the outfit experiences sloppiness in defense as he works to strengthen his charges ahead of this season's NBC Premier League duel against Yanga which will take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The side, which was recently knocked out of the inaugural African Football League (AFL), has allowed at least one goal in the last six fixtures in all competitions including three against Al Ahly in both legs of the AFL.

The 'Msimbazi Reds', as Simba SC is affectionately known, is unbeaten in all competitions this year despite bowing out of the AFL last week following the 3-3 aggregate scoreline against African champions Al Ahly.

Oliveira's side lastly kept a clean sheet in a league encounter against Coastal Union on September 21 to mark their fourth clean sheet of the season from 12 games in

all competitions.

The Brazilian gaffer is aware of the striking force that Yanga possesses in the domestic league as the side's attacking line has Stephane Aziz Ki, Pacome Zouzoua, and Maxi Nzungeli combined to notch 14 goals, with their side posting 20 goals in the top-flight.

Oliveira pointed out: "It is true that we have been conceding goals, which we are not happy about and it is not good for us, especially with the objective we have set for ourselves."

"Every day in training we have been working on it but these mistakes keep emerging. I have a new backline, a young goalie so we expect things like these at times."

"At the moment we have limited time before our next game, we will do our best to work on the defensive area to ensure that those mistakes are reduced," Oliveira revealed.

"I label them as minimal mistakes made by the players, credits where it's due, they have been doing a great job to make sure we are safe," Oliveira noted.

The Brazilian insisted: "I think it's not the time to blame them because they have been more productive on our ball progression."

Simba SC has converted 16 goals from six NBC Premier League games while allowing five goals, and their rival has conceded four goals in the process.

Oliveira, alias 'Robertinho', has settled his goalkeeping

discussion as Ally Salim becomes number one in the absence of Aishi Manula while Moroccan goalie, Ayoub Lakred, sits on the bench as number two.

Che Malone Fondoh and Henock Inonga will retain their center-back partnership while Shomari Kapombe and Mohamed Hussein are undisputed at fullback roles ahead of their tie against Yanga.

The Msimbazi Street squad has maintained an undefeated streak stretching six matches this season to accumulate 18 points from six matches.

They still have a game in hand to gain an edge over Yanga, which has the same number of points as the former, but the latter has the better goal difference.

Messi not thinking about long-term future after claiming eighth Ballon d'Or

PARIS

LIONEL Messi said Monday he was not thinking about his long-term future as he sought to enjoy winning the eighth Ballon d'Or of his storied career.

Messi, 36, succeeded Karim Benzema as winner of the prize, awarded on the back of his performances last season, when he inspired Argentina to glory at the World Cup in Qatar.

"The last one I won was also thanks to what we achieved with the Argentine national team in the Copa America (in 2021), but this one is much more special because it comes after we won the World Cup," Messi told various media including AFP after collecting his award at a ceremony in Paris.

"That is the trophy everyone wants to win the most, and it was a dream come true for me, my teammates and my country."

He dragged Argentina to a victory in Qatar that crowned his remarkable career and allowed him to see off stiff competition for the Ballon d'Or from Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland in particular.

Haaland came second in the final voting, with Mbappe third and Kevin De Bruyne in fourth place.

Former Barcelona superstar Messi scored seven times at the

World Cup and was named the tournament's best player after Argentina beat France on penalties in the final in Doha.

Yet Messi, who won his first Ballon d'Or in 2009, also had an underwhelming final season at Paris Saint-Germain, before leaving to play for Inter Miami in Major League Soccer.

He played down suggestions he could come back for another Ballon d'Or, possibly after the next World Cup in 2026, when he will be 39.

"I am not thinking about the long-term future. I am just enjoying the day to day at the moment," he said.

"We have a Copa America coming up in the United States, where I am now, in which we are the holders, so I am looking forward to coming into that in good shape and then just see how I am getting on from there."

Messi admitted on his return to the French capital that his two-year stint at PSG had not turned out the way he imagined upon signing from Barcelona in 2021.

"Things didn't turn out as I hoped but I enjoyed the city a lot, and my kids liked it a lot and found it hard to leave," he said.

"It is a spectacular city and I was lucky to live here. Football-wise it did not go the way I hoped but I prefer to remember the many good things."

AFP

French football under microscope after Lyon team bus attack

PARIS

FRENCH football clubs on Monday came under intense pressure to bring their supporters under control after Lyon coach Fabio Grosso suffered cuts to his face when his team's bus was pelted with stones near Marseille's stadium.

Sunday's Ligue 1 match between Marseille and Lyon was postponed after the attack on the bus on its way to the Velodrome.

Grosso's face was left bloodied and his assistant Raffaele Longo was also injured. A club source said Grosso had also been experiencing dizzy spells.

TV pictures showed Grosso with a bandage on his head as he emerged from the stadium's medical room.

A photo circulating on X, formerly known as Twitter, appeared to show Grosso lying on a stretcher with a cut above his left eye.

The match was postponed at Lyon's request despite even though the stadium was already half full.

It was the latest incident in an already trouble-scarred season in France.

Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera said the incidents were "unacceptable" and called on the clubs to take firm and swift action.

"If it is proved that supporters were involved... then clubs cannot remain on the sidelines of that," she told France 2 television. "All the authorities in sport must be made responsible," she added.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said nine people had been arrested as a result of the incidents.

He said 500 officers had been on duty for the match between two of French football's best-supported clubs and so "there was no fault" on the part of the police.

"It is up to the club to manage its supporters," he said.

As the incidents took place outside the stadium, the clubs are not, in theory, liable.

The French league's director general Arnaud Rouger said: "This is not our responsibility, but as with any incident we stand side by side with the government and I fully support the words of Gerald Darmanin who has called for a stronger penalties for the perpetrators of these particularly serious incidents."

In a related incident, Lyon fans were said to have aimed racist chants at their Marseille counterparts on the approach to the stadium, which could be punishable under the French league's rules.

The alleged taunts lead the Marseille public prosecutor to announce on Monday he was opening an investigation into "incitement to racial hatred and racial insults", offences punishable by up to five years in prison.

"Some of the Lyon supporters made a number of Nazi salutes and made monkey noises at the Marseille supporters," public prosecutor Nicolas Bessone told a press conference.

Marseille club president Pablo Longoria said he was disgusted by the attack on the Lyon bus.

"These are completely unacceptable circumstances," he said. "My first thought is for Fabio Grosso, someone I respect and have known for a long time. I went to see him as soon as I arrived at the stadium, I saw how he was."

The timing of the incidents is highly damaging for French football authorities who are trying to negotiate a new deal TV rights deal.

Earlier this month, a match between Montpellier and Clermont was abandoned after a firecracker was thrown on the pitch and four men were arrested for attacking the Rodez goalkeeper at a Ligue 2 game in Bordeaux.

The French league also took action against Paris Saint-Germain for homophobic chants by their supporters in the home match against Marseille on September 24.

Last season, Nice were docked a point after their home game against Marseille was abandoned because of fan violence, there was a pitch invasion when Lille visited Lens and battles in the stands when Marseille visited Angers.

In January, Paris FC and Lyon were both thrown out of the French Cup after violence forced their tie to be called off at half-time.

With global stars Lionel Messi and Neymar having left Paris Saint-Germain, the images of a bloodied Grosso and a postponed match as a result of supporters' violence will do little for the game's marketability in France, where the league is aiming to drive the rights sale up beyond one billion euros (\$1.06 billion).

AFP

Messi wins eighth Ballon d'Or as Bonmati claims women's award

PARIS

LIONEL Messi won the eighth Ballon d'Or of his remarkable career at a glittering ceremony in Paris on Monday, while Spain's World Cup-winning star Aitana Bonmati took the women's prize.

For Messi, the trophy rewards, above all else, his inspirational performances at last year's World Cup in Qatar, when he dragged Argentina to victory, scoring seven goals and being named the tournament's best player.

It was the crowning moment of his astonishing career, and it allowed him to see off stiff competition, in particular from Erling Haaland and Kylian Mbappe, to take the award on the stage of the Chatelet Theatre in Paris.

It was a return to the French capital after his departure from Paris Saint-Germain in June and his subsequent move to Inter Miami in Major League Soccer.

"This is a gift to the whole Argentina team for what we achieved," said Messi on stage after receiving his award from David Beckham, the co-owner of Inter Miami.

Messi dedicated the trophy to late Argentina legend Diego Maradona, who would have celebrated his 63rd birthday on Monday.

"Happy birthday Diego. This is for you too," he said.

Messi benefits from a recent change which means the award is based on a player's record over the last season, rather than over the calendar year.

He won despite an underwhelming final season at PSG, even if he was a Ligue 1 title winner.

- Mbappe, Haaland just miss out - Mbappe was the star player in



Lionel Messi and Aitana Bonmati with their trophies after winning the men's and women's Ballon d'Or awards on Monday. (Agencies)

that team, scoring 41 goals, and was also the World Cup's top scorer with eight goals, including a hat-trick in the final which France lost to Argentina on penalties.

Yet he fell just short for the Ballon d'Or, finishing third, while Norway striker Haaland came second after scoring 52 goals in 53 games for the Manchester City team that won the treble of English Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League.

Messi is 36 and won his first Ballon d'Or in 2009. With eight, he is now three ahead of his old rival Cristiano Ronaldo, the next most decorated player in the history of the award.

It remains to be seen if Messi will again feature in the running for the prize, which is voted for by one journalist in each of the top 100 nations in the FIFA ranking.

"I am not thinking about the

long-term future. I am just enjoying the day to day at the moment," he said.

Messi will struggle to hold off the next wave of superstars, led by Mbappe, Haaland and Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham, but his World Cup performances made his victory this time feel inevitable.

The women's prize seemed even more clear cut, as Bonmati was rewarded for starring as Spain won the World Cup in Australia in August.

The 25-year-old midfielder was named the best player at the World Cup as the Spanish team overcame off-field turbulence, including protests against their national federation and coach Jorge Vilda, to lift the trophy.

- 'Unique year' -

Bonmati also starred as Barcelona won the Champions League last season and was recently named as

the UEFA Women's Player of the Year.

"It is difficult to improve on this. It has been a unique year," she told various media including AFP.

"If anyone said to me when I was little that I would play at the Camp Nou, win the World Cup, two Champions Leagues, a Ballon d'Or, a UEFA award, these are extraordinary things."

She was one of four members of the triumphant Spain team to feature among the 30 nominees, with Alba Redondo, Salma Paraluolo and full-back Olga Carmona, who netted the winner in the final, all shortlisted.

Last year's Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas, also part of that Spain side, was not nominated after missing almost all of last season with a knee injury.

Australia's Sam Kerr came second with Paraluolo in third place.

Putellas had won the Ballon d'Or in each of the previous two campaigns. Norway's Ada Hegerberg won the inaugural award in 2018 and USA star Megan Rapinoe succeeded her a year later.

Bellingham won the Kopa Trophy for the best player of last season aged under 21.

The 20-year-old has started his Madrid career with 13 goals in 13 games, although the prize rewards his performances in his final campaign with Borussia Dortmund.

Bellingham's Madrid teammate, the Brazil forward Vinicius Junior, won the Socrates prize in recognition of his off-pitch work.

Messi's Argentina colleague Emiliano Martinez won the Yashin Trophy for the best goalkeeper of the season.

Kidnapping of footballer's father in Colombia: What we know

BOGOTA

A MASSIVE search is under way for Liverpool winger Luis Diaz's father, kidnapped in Colombia Saturday along with his wife, who has since been released.

Police have been tightlipped about details of the investigation, but here is what we know:

*- The kidnapping -

Colombian media has reported that Luis Manuel Diaz and Cilenis Marulanda were kidnapped Saturday by armed men with motorcycles at a gas station in the Indigenous family's home town of Barrancas, near the border with Venezuela.

Footage from a security camera, the location of which AFP has verified, showed a high-end pickup truck in the vicinity, followed by a motorbike.

Hours after the kidnapping, President Gustavo Petro said the footballer's mother had been rescued, but her husband was still unaccounted for.

The search involves at least 200 police, soldiers, commando members, cartographers, judicial police and pilots of special search and rescue aircraft.

At a press conference Sunday, Attorney General Francisco Barbosa said the missing man "could be" in Venezuela, without providing further details.

*- The investigation -

Police chief General William Salamanca said Monday his officers were doing a sweep "house by house," collecting information.

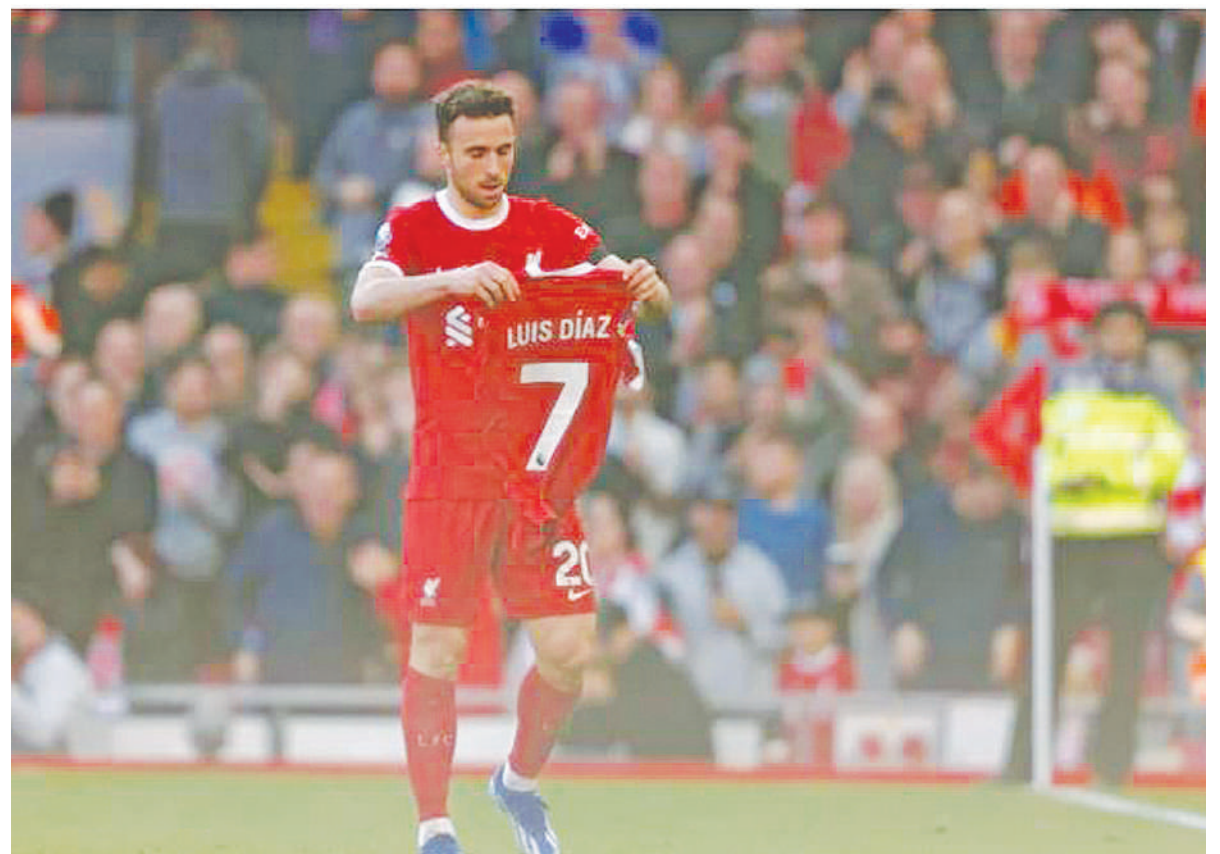
Police have offered a reward equivalent to \$48,000 leading to information on Diaz's whereabouts.

"We have information on people who may have been linked to the event. There was planning," deputy police director General Nicolas Zapata told reporters.

Colonel Giovanni Montanez, director of the elite military unit against kidnapping and extortion, told Blu Radio that "so far no demands have been made... no calls have been received" for ransom.

Colombia is coordinating the search in collaboration with the Interpol office in Venezuela, said Salamanca.

*- Armed groups -



Liverpool's teammate, Portugal's Diogo Jota, dedicated his goal in a Premier League clash on Sunday against Nottingham Forest to Diaz, who did not play. Agencies

Barrancas with its 38,000 inhabitants is in a northern part of Colombia where criminal groups as well as rightwing paramilitary fighters, dissidents of the now-defunct FARC armed group and ELN guerrillas, are known to operate.

After being rescued, Diaz's mother could not reveal "anything in particular" about her captors, said Montanez.

In six decades of civil conflict, Colombia has registered some 38,000 kidnappings, mainly by armed groups funding their operations through ransom money.

*- Who is Luis Manuel Diaz? -

The senior Diaz used to be an amateur coach at the only football school in Barrancas, where his son showed promise from a very young age.

He is credited with aiding the meteoric rise of the Liverpool and Colom-

bia striker known as "Lucho" -- the first Indigenous Colombian to make it to world football's top echelons.

In his hometown, resident Leonardo Diaz, 41 (no relation), told AFP he was "sad and dismayed" by the kidnapping of a man he described as "a humble person of the people."

The younger Diaz has played for his country 43 times and arrived at Liverpool last year from Portuguese club Porto.

He has played 11 games with Liverpool and scored three goals.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Messi wins eighth Ballon d'Or as Bonmati claims women's award

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Coastal Union players jubilate when the squad grabbed a goal in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League tie against Mashujaa FC in Tanga last week. Coastal Union defeated Mashujaa FC 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COASTAL UNION

Coastal Union, Namungo FC aim for consistency

By Guardian Correspondent

COASTAL Union will be looking to make it two wins in a row in the NBC Premier League when they host Namungo FC at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga this evening, with kick-off slated for 7 p.m.

The tie will see Coastal Union once again battle to push away from the Premier League's relegation zone.

Both teams have been struggling to perform well so far in the season. They have amassed six points apiece and are only separated by goal difference in the bottom half of the standings.

Coastal Union claimed a 2-0 victory over Mashujaa FC last week, courtesy of goals netted by Khamis Bakari and Lucas Kikoti. It was their first win of the season having played seven matches.

'Wagosi wa Kaya', as Coastal Union is affectionately known, is occupying the second bottom spot in the NBC Premier League standings.

The squad is a point behind 12th-placed Tanzania Prisons and stands to move away from the relegation zone with a win over Namungo FC.

The early struggles have pushed out the Tanga squad's head coach Mvinyi Zahera. This will be the club's first assignment without the former head coach as Fikirini Mahiza takes over from the Congolese gaffer.

Interim head coach Mahiza has taken encouragement from their last performance and acknowledges the difference against most of the teams they have faced came down to a lack of goals.

As much as changes are to be expected, goalkeeper Ley Matampi is one player who should keep his number.

The veteran Congolese goalkeeper was outstanding in the most recent clashes against Ihefu SC and Mashujaa FC, keeping his back-to-back clean sheets.

Coastal Union's goal came under siege and Matampi was the difference between one point and none against Ihefu SC as he pulled off a string of fine saves to keep the latter, alias 'Mbogo Maji', at bay.

There are no suspension concerns and the Tanga-based side is yet to report any injuries coming into this encounter.

Taking charge of his first official game, it would not be a surprise to see Mahiza make a few alterations to the squad that started against Mashujaa FC.

Meanwhile, Namungo FC breathed a sigh of relief when they defeated Azam FC 3-1 in their last game, snapping a six-match winless run.

Following a tough start to the season under Burundian gaffer Cedric Kaze, in which they went six games without victory, Namungo FC, popularly known as 'Southern Killers', turned to their former coach Dennis Kitambi to take over.

After thumping Azam FC on Saturday, Kitambi will be targeting to inspire victory in his first two league games at the helm.

In head-to-head records, this will be the ninth league meeting since 2020/21. Namungo FC has been more successful historically with three wins, three draws, and just two losses in the last eight league clashes against Coastal Union.

The Lindi-based squad picked a draw when the outfit last visited Mkwakwani Stadium in January this year.

Singida FG FC seeks first PL home win against Ihefu SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

AFTER losing to Yanga in their previous game last week, Singida Fountain Gate FC will attempt to get back to winning ways this Wednesday afternoon when the club hosts Ihefu SC in the latest NBC Premier League fixture.

The visitors are currently just a single point above the relegation zone, adding plenty of pressure onto this particular fixture, which has its kick-off slated for 4 pm at Liti Stadium.

Singida Fountain Gate FC followed up the club's impressive away victory over Namungo FC with a 2-0 loss to Yanga at the weekend, which led to them dropping down to 10th place in the table.

They now find themselves just two points above the relegation zone, which is a situation they will be aiming to push away from as soon as possible, starting with trying to grab maximum points today.

However, Singida Fountain Gate FC is yet to win a single game at home in the NBC Premier League this season, which is a run of form that head coach Ricardo Ferreira needs to change sooner rather than later.

In three home games, they lost to Simba SC while drawing with Prisons and Tabora United.

Team manager Nizar Khalfan declared Ihefu SC presents them an opportunity to reverse the poor home record and appease their fans.

"Briefly, I think we haven't won at home in any match since the league started. So it's a match that the fans are looking forward to," Khalfan said ahead of the game. "And the team is focused on winning because we have not made our fans happy since the start of the league this season."

Khalfan noted: "Therefore, it is a match in which the players will give 200 percent so that we can win at home for the first time."

Coach Ferreira will continue to cope without first-choice goalkeeper Benno Kakolanya, guaranteeing back-to-back starts for Benedict Haule.

Forward Frank Mkumbo and Kenyan center-back Joash Onyango are close to returning and both may be available to feature at some stage.

Meanwhile, Ihefu SC will look to exploit this encounter, especially since a win for the side in mid-week would guarantee the squad move above the hosts in the league table.

There is only a single point between Singida Fountain Gate FC and Ihefu SC at the moment.

Ihefu SC, nicknamed 'Mbogo Maji', has a tendency to show up in big games, having already beaten Yanga this campaign, and the Mbeya club's head coach Moses Basena will have had more weeks to understand his team since his appointment.

However, Ihefu SC is having an unimpressive form on the road, given the side has lost all of its past five road trips including three this season.



Singida Fountain Gate FC's head coach Ricardo Ferreira.

Azam FC and Mashujaa FC desperate to get back on track

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

AZAM FC will be looking to end a two-game winless run in the NBC Premier League when the club makes the trip to Kigoma to face hosts Mashujaa FC at Lake Tanganyika Stadium this afternoon.

After seven matches in the books, the visitors from Chamazi find themselves sitting third in the table- five points behind leaders Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, and second-placed Simba SC.

It might be early into the season, but the NBC Premier League title race is unforgiving, and there is no room for complacency.

The last week has been disastrous for Azam FC's technical bench led by head coach Youssouph Dabo.

With consecutive losses, the most recent being a defeat at the hands of Namungo FC, pressure is mounting, and a strong performance against Mashujaa FC is not just desired- it is essential.

Senegalese coach Dabo will be aware that his team's defensive deficiencies cannot continue if they are to challenge Simba SC and Yanga this term, and they have now conceded three goals in each of their last two league matches.

With diminished confidence, starts could therefore be handed to fringe players such as forward Ayoub Lyanga, fullback Nathaniel Chilambo, backup goalkeeper Ali Ahamada, and winger Kipre Junior.

Despite Azam FC's recent slump, the outfit is still the third-highest scorer in the division, having netted 13 goals in seven outings (1.9 goals per game).

Midfielder Feisal Salum, striker Prince Dube, and winger Iddy Selemani have been their go-to men for goals this season.

Meanwhile, Mashujaa FC suffered a 2-0 defeat to Coastal Union in Tanga last time out, conceding 16 shots while failing to keep the home attack at bay.

The Kigoma club has now managed to win just one of the outfit's previous five league encounters, recording two draws and two losses in the process.

In terms of the bigger picture, Mashujaa FC, coached by Mohamed Abdallah 'Baresi', has taken eight points from a possible 21 this term, leaving the club in the bottom half of the table and only two points clear of the relegation zone.



Azam FC forwards, Ayoub Lyanga (R), and Allasane Diao engage in the side's training at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

With a measly four goals to their name, Mashujaa FC has scored the fewest NBC Premier League goals this season.

They have not found the back of the net in their past three games. That said, they possess the best defensive records in the division, as no other side has conceded fewer goals in 2023-24 than the three they have let in.

Far more positive for Baresi is that Mashujaa FC is unbeaten in the club's three home games, with 2-0 wins against Kagera Sugar and Ihefu SC and a 0-0 draw with Geita Gold FC.

In head-to-head records, this is the first-ever competitive meeting between Azam FC and Mashujaa FC.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV WEDNESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MJADALA (I)
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Mpera Mpera
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zile Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kati Za Wana
18:00 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (I)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 EATV SAA 1

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

eastafrika RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Plane! Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM