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President Samia Suluhu Hassan has an audience with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) President Chang Won Sam in the South Korean capital, Seoul, yesterday chiefly on cooperation between Tanzania and South Korea. Photo: State House

## Samia urges strong clean cooking agenda in Africa

**By Salome Kitomari, Seoul**

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has urged African Heads of States to put in place strong strategies that promote the clean cooking energy agenda to address health challenges facing women and reduce environmental degradation.

Addressing the first Korea-Africa Summit here yesterday, she said that these efforts will also help countries to achieve goal number 7(I) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The goal is geared at ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable and modern sustainable energy for all by 2030, she stated,

highlighting that South Korea, the 12th largest economy in the world, can genuinely contribute to this quest.

It needs to work to support this agenda, to reduce environmental degradation and protect women and the public in general, the president noted, stressing the need for

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### Govt refutes \$2.5bn loan 'link' with sea resources

**By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole**

SOUTH Korea has not been given access to Tanzania's ocean resources and minerals as part of conditions for the \$2.5bn loan, the government has affirmed.

Mobhare Matinyi, the chief government spokesman, made this clarification in Dar es Salaam yesterday, objecting to such assertions aired by international media agencies.

He said that the \$2.5bn loan that Tanzania has obtained has the usual conditions and not tied to the granting of access to its resources, referring to online reports that Tanzania has signed two accords during the president's visit to that country.

The reports talked of granting South

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Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba tableting the Finance ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2024/2025 in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## 'Technology shift vital in boosting postal services'

**By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha**

BOOSTING the use of technology in the delivery of postal services is essential to match the speed of technological growth around the world, the Zanzibar government has affirmed.

Dr Mzee Suleiman Mndewa, deputy permanent secretary in the Zanzibar Ministry

of Infrastructure, Communications and Transportation underscored this need here yesterday at the opening of the 42nd meeting of the African Postal Union (APU) administrative council.

The use of technology makes life easier and reduces shipping costs as well as bringing efficiency to shipping services

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## Treasury presents 18trn/- estimates, as TRA's collections goal set at 29.4trn/-

*Revenues from gaming are projected at 24.89bn/-, while the board persists in educating the community on the negative effects of gaming, alongside managing operation of the national lottery*

**By Correspondent Paul Mabeja, Dodoma**

TREASURY yesterday tabled 18trn/- total estimates while expecting to collect 44.19trn/- during fiscal 2024/2025 in a snapshot of recurrent and development expenditure estimates.

Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said in delivering those estimates that key priorities of the budget include strengthening systems of revenue collection, expenditure and management of government assets, listing these systems as IDRAS, TANCIS, MUSE, NeST, CBMS and GAMIS.

Servicing the government debt on time and improving the database for maintaining debt information, providing financial services education to promote integrated

financial services are key aspects of Treasury work next financial year, he stated.

Capacity building for internal auditors, audit committees and risk management coordinators in public institutions will similarly be accentuated, he stated, citing priorities of the National Audit Office for fiscal 2024/25 as including "auditing incomes and use of public resources as approved by Parliament for 2023/24."

Technical audits, efficiency audits or auditing development projects and IT systems are on the cards, as initiating specialized audits is a main focus, the minister explained.

Improving the working environment by building and renovating regional offices and building the capacity of parliamentarians to promote integrated

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## Treasury presents 18trn/- estimates, TRA's collections goal set at 29.4trn/-

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mentary standing committees to understand the reports of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) will also be initiated, he said.

Some Treasury priorities for fiscal 2024/25 will be implemented in collaboration with educational institutions, professional and academic boards, as well as regulatory organisations for financial management, taxes, procurement and supply, gaming, investment and statistics, he said.

Training, research and professional advice will have pride of mention in Treasury institutions, with five educational institutions under the ministry expecting to admit a total of 86,098 students. Up to 12,450 will be pursuing advanced diplomas, 18,848 ordinary diplomas, 49,549 first degrees and 5,251 taking master's degrees, he said.

The flagship Institute of Finance Management (IFM) expects to enrol 17,775 students, the Tanzania Institute of Accountancy 30,972 students, the Arusha Institute of Accountancy 19,136 students, the Institute of Rural Development Planning 16,652 students and the East African Statistics College 1,563 students, he elaborated.

The institutions at present expect to conduct 85 research projects and provide 818 professional services, he said, affirming that during fiscal 2024/25, Treasury educational institutions expect to receive 8.94bn/- in subsidies for strengthening the teaching and learning environment, with five such projects lined up.

The Tanzania Revenue Authority expects to collect tax and non-tax revenue totalling 29.42trn/-, where 28.87trn/- is tax revenue

and 541.10bn/- is non-tax revenue, amidst efforts to combat smuggling and cut loopholes for loss of government revenue.

TRA expects to receive 25.97bn/- from the Treasury for improving government revenue management systems, purchasing work tools and improving the workplace environment, especially office buildings, he said.

The National Board of Accountants and Auditors expects to register 300 accountants and auditors at various levels of membership.

Providing training on the preparation and auditing of financial statements for 12,500 accountants and auditors, conducting quality audits on the preparation of financial statements for 75 institutions and companies.

The board will conduct a quality audit of 58 accounting audits for 65 audit companies, conducting professional examinations at various levels in two phases for 14,540 candidates.

The board expects to register 3,500 procurement and supply professionals, conduct training and professional counselling for 6,500 candidates and conduct professional examinations for 4,000 candidates.

The Gaming Board of Tanzania expects to issue 12,456 licenses, including 1,26 new licenses and renew 11,330 licenses, conduct 12 inspections based on risks in various games, he stated.

Revenues from gaming are projected at 24.89bn/-, while the board persists in educating the community on the negative effects of gaming, alongside managing operation of the national lottery, he added.

## 'Technology shift vital in boosting postal services'

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through the Post Office as it rapidly moves towards the digital economy, he stated.

African postal service experts say that African countries should invest in advanced communication infrastructure to promote the digital economy and participate in international networks.

"Without the digital economy right now, Africa will not be able to participate in international development," he said, while Dr Sifundo Moyo, the PAPU secretary general said that the meeting will discuss opportunities, challenges and solutions for improving postal services by enhancing efficiency and reducing user costs.

"One big thing here is to see how technology can help in the advancement of postal services, which we believe is convenient and will reach many people at the same time wherever they are," he declared.

Postal stakeholders will be seeking to plan ways of meeting challenges facing the sector, to be solved in collaboration with various coun-

tries that have taken steps to provide modernised services, he said.

Chande Maharage, the postmaster general, said that the postal sector has a contribution in the national economy, making it important for the sector to adopt technologies for the best use of available opportunities.

"The economic contribution of postal services includes helping to facilitate business among African countries and with other continents," he said, asserting that technology need not replace postal services but make the use of technology an opportunity to further develop those services.

The PAPU administrative council meeting from June 3 to 14 will bring together experts from PAPU member countries and various regional stakeholders and the World Postal Union, he further noted.

Upwards of 30 countries regularly participate in the conference, examining development plans for the African postal sector plus the world postal development strategy for 2025-2029, he added.

## Govt refutes \$2.5bn loan 'link' with sea resources

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Korea access to ocean resources and minerals crucial for clean energy technologies, such as nickel, lithium and graphite.

"Korea has not been given a part of our sea, what we are doing is collaborating with them to gain experience and expertise from our friends to improve our fishing activities by using advanced expertise and various technologies," he said.

He asserted that Tanzania is not the only one that gets that kind of loan as there are 59 countries included in the loan arrangement in Africa and elsewhere.

Mortgaging national property is not part of the conditions, he said, elaborating that during the visit, President Samia Suluhu Hassan witnessed the signing of one contract and two memoranda of understanding (MoU), apart from the joint declaration communiqué with the host government.

The contract related to the \$2.5bn loan for infrastructure projects under the country's economic cooperation fund (EDCF), he said, insisting that the loan is concessional.

It will be given within five years from now and it will start being paid after 25 years, he stated, referring to explanations by Ambassador Togolani Mavura and the Planning and Investment minister, Prof Kitila Mkumbo.

"The loan will be paid for a period of 40 years and when we say it is a cheap loan, it is because the interest on this loan is 0.01 percent," the information czar intoned.

The loan has no conditions to mortgage anything and this is not the first time that Tanzania has received a loan under the EDCF, he stated.

Tanzania has received similar loans twice, where for the first time it received \$733m stretched from 2014 to 2020 and \$1bn for 2021-2025, he added.



Singida Regional Referral Hospital's acting Chief Medical Officer, Dr David Mwasota (2nd-R), briefs Singida regional commissioner Halima Dendego (3rd-R) yesterday on the proposed three-storey building at the hospital whose construction has reportedly stalled since 2022. Photo: Correspondent Martha Miata

## Samia urges strong clean cooking agenda in Africa

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countries to enhance investments in clean cooking energy technologies.

Unsustainable energy sources have a significant impact on the environment, including air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change and affecting people's health, the president emphasised.

Under the theme "the future we make together: shared growth, sustainability, and solidarity," the major diplomatic event has gathered 28 African Heads of State, international organizations, key figures from the Korean and international business communities, academia and non-governmental organizations.

President Samia, a champion of clean cooking energy for women in Africa, said clean and sustainable energy will greatly help reduce deforestation and diseases caused by pollution, an intense cause of discomfort for women.

Investment in clean cooking energy in Africa provides economic opportunities in the various countries, thus she has tapped Dr Akinwumi Adesina, the African Development Bank (AfDB) to assist in working to raise funds for this agenda.

"So I humbly ask the government of the Republic of Korea to join us in this campaign," the president intoned, underlining that it is a good opportunity for Africa.

It will help to create an economic partnership with a strong inclination to address imbalances in eco-

nomical and social development of the various countries, she said.

"It is our expectation that the economic partnership between our countries and the Republic of Korea is feasible and we have gathered here in Seoul with great confidence that this meeting lays the foundation for strengthening economic cooperation and the exchange of technology to spur development of our countries," she further noted.

It is encouraging that there will be a system to monitor the progress of decisions of the meeting to ensure there are positive outcomes, she said, pointing out that currently Tanzania is working with a Korean company in graphite mining, while it welcomes more investors in strategic minerals.

The meeting is being held 18 years

after Korea obtained African Union (AU) observer status, making great strides to transform its economy despite its agricultural economy background and few mineral or other resources.

The meeting ending today shall issue a joint statement of the Head of States, where a notable feature is Korea opening its economy towards Africa.

President Samia and host President Yoon Seok-Yeol signed accords for cooperation in strategic minerals such as nickel, lithium and graphite.

Other sectors covered in the agreement include infrastructure, blue economy, development of natural gas and innovation, to promote the economy, increasing direct and indirect jobs.



Lawrence Mafuru (C), executive secretary of the National Planning Commission in the President's Office, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on preparations for a conference on the National Development Vision 2050 scheduled to be held in the city on Saturday (June 8). He is with his deputy, Dr Mursali Milanzi (R), and Vision 2050 vice chairman Joseph Semboja. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

## Kenyan driver filmed beating police nabbed

NAIROBI

POLICE in Nairobi have arrested a 19-year-old teenager captured on video assaulting a police officer in Mirema, Nairobi County. The video which went viral on Sunday shows the driver assaulting the officer who ended up in a ditch.

Authorities tracked down the

suspect on Sunday evening, subjecting him to intensive overnight questioning.

Reports suggest the interrogation involved torture and insults. The teenager claimed it was his first altercation with a police officer and that the officer had demanded an excessive bribe.

The suspect believed to be a gang

leader from Mwiki with 10 pending court cases, was arrested in a white car, which officers suspected he was using to attend a club in Mirema.

The incident began Sunday morning when a traffic police officer stopped the driver for making an illegal U-turn and blocking traffic.

During the confrontation, the officer entered the car and directed

the driver to a police station. The driver then diverted and pulled a sword from under his seat, forcing the officer out. The driver continued to attack the officer, causing injuries. Bystanders intervened and rushed the injured officer to a medical facility. For specialized care, the officer was transferred to Mama Lucy Hospital.



## Africa CDC in partnerships for vaccine access in Africa

SEOUL

THE Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), International Vaccine Institute (IVI) and Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) yesterday hosted an event on the sidelines of the inaugural 2024 Korea-Africa Summit, bringing together government officials, public health experts, and industry leaders to foster partnerships with a shared aim of enhancing vaccine access and health security in Africa.

Inspired by the summit's theme, "The Future We Make Together: Shared Growth, Sustainability and Solidarity," the side event explored opportunities for Korean African public-private partnerships to deliver on the African Union's ambition to manufacture 60 percent of the continent's vaccine needs by 2040.

Presentations from each of the hosting organizations as well as a series of best practice case stories from the point of view of global health funders, vaccine manufacturers, government and inter-governmental agencies, and academia, namely, the RIGHT Foundation, Biovac, EuBiologics, IVI, Africa CDC, and Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, all highlighted the importance of multilateral and multisectoral cooperation to meet this target and other African development goals.

The ongoing projects between these partners showcased a comprehensive and sustainable approach to strengthening the continent's vaccine ecosystem.

The Korea-Africa Health Partnerships: Enhancing Vaccine Access and Health Security in Africa side event took place yesterday at The Westin Josun in Seoul.

Dr Jerome Kim, Director General of IVI, said: "With its headquarters in Korea, a new Africa Regional Office based in Rwanda, the Country

and Advancing Vaccine End-to-end Capabilities in Africa (AVEC) Project Office in Kenya, and a long history of working closely with and among government agencies, research groups, academic institutions, and commercial entities in Africa, IVI is delighted to help facilitate and build Korean-African health partnerships to advance vaccine access in Africa."

A core tenet of IVI's approach to sustainable global health is building impact-driven partnerships and capacities throughout the vaccine R&D ecosystem, and we are happy to collaborate with Africa CDC and KDCA to realize our common goals."

Dr Youngmee Jee, Commissioner of KDCA, said: "The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) has formulated the National Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan to ensure the prompt availability of vital medical countermeasures, including vaccines and therapeutics, within 100 to 200 days to prepare for future pandemics effectively."

In addition, KDCA will forge strong collaborations with the IVI and the Africa CDC to successfully develop vaccines for emerging infectious diseases and firmly establish Korea as a global leader in health security."

Dr Raji Tajudeen, Ag. Deputy Director General of the Africa CDC said: "The Africa CDC's New Public Health Order calls for respectful and action-oriented partnerships; our collaboration with IVI and KDCA is a foremost example of a successful partnership that aims to join hands with the continent's initiative to achieve self-reliance when it comes to vaccines and other health products."

He further said: "The continent looks forward to leveraging the technology advancements of Korea to strengthen Africa's health systems through equitable access to locally manufactured life savings vaccines."



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured yesterday arriving at the Korea International Exhibition Centre (KINTEX) on the outskirts of the South Korean capital, Seoul, for the Korea-Africa Summit. Photo: State House

## Korea, African leaders launch discussion on critical minerals

GOYANG

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and leaders of African countries yesterday agreed to forge deeper trade and business cooperation and launched a "critical minerals dialogue" aimed at sustainable development of the continent's resources.

Hosting a first-ever summit with the leaders of 48 African nations, Yoon said South Korea would increase development aid for Africa to \$10 billion over the next six years as it looks to tap the continent's rich mineral resources and potential as a

vast export market.

"The Critical Minerals Dialogue launched by South Korea and Africa will set an example for a stable supply chain through mutually beneficial cooperation and contribute to sustainable development of mineral resources around the world," Yoon said in his closing remarks.

He also pledged to offer \$14 billion in export financing to promote trade and investment for South Korean companies in Africa.

South Korea is one of the world's largest energy buyers and is home to leading semiconductor producers.

It is also home to the world's fifth-largest automaker, Hyundai Motor Group, which is making a push for electrification.

Partnering with Africa, which has 30 percent of the world's reserves of critical minerals including chrome, cobalt and manganese is crucial, Yoon's office has said.

In a joint declaration issued by South Korea, the African Union (AU) and its member nations, the leaders pledged to speed up talks for economic partnership agreements and trade and investment promotion frameworks.

They also called for advancing

cooperation for Africa's food security with South Korea's support with agricultural technology and smart farming.

African leaders welcomed South Korea's "Tech4Africa" initiative aimed at supporting the education and training of Africa's young population.

AU chair and Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, at a joint news conference with Yoon, said African countries were looking to learn from Korea's experience in developing human resources, industrialisation and digital transformation.

## SA's treasury aims for balanced fiscal stance under coalition gvt

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's National Treasury aims to stick to a balanced fiscal stance under a coalition government, its director-general said yesterday after the African National Congress (ANC) lost its majority in last week's election.

The ANC has up to two weeks to agree a coalition pact or another form of power-sharing arrangement with other political parties after its share of the vote dropped below 50 percent for the first time in the post-apartheid era.

Its potential partners diverge widely, from

the free-market Democratic Alliance (DA) to the more radical uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF).

Although it may have to agree to some policy concessions or give away some cabinet posts as part of coalition negotiations, analysts do not expect the ANC to cede control of the finance ministry, which determines the country's fiscal strategy working with the National Treasury.

"A balanced macro-fiscal stance becomes more defensible in an uncertain political environment. And we intend to continue managing the fiscal stance along those

lines," Duncan Pieterse, the top technocrat in the Treasury, told Reuters in an interview.

"I think that our fiscal strategy is achievable, even in a coalition environment," he said.

The business community has voiced concern over the prospect of the ANC entering a coalition with the EFF, which is calling for the seizure of white-owned farms and the nationalisation of mines and banks, or with former president Jacob Zuma's MK which also talks about land redistribution without compensation.

But South African markets rallied on Monday as investors bet on the ANC opting for a coalition including the Democratic Alliance.

In the year to March, South Africa's Treasury managed to achieve a primary budget surplus - where revenue exceeded non-interest expenditure - for the first time in more than a decade.

That could help it arrest a rapid build-up in debt that has worried investors, although Pieterse said it did not give the government any room to deviate from its current fiscal path.

"If you achieve a primary fiscal surplus over a number of years and you start to see debt actually peak and come down, which is what we expect in 2025/26 ... then one can start having a conversation about fiscal space," he said.

The Treasury said in this year's budget presented in February that gross public debt as a percentage of gross domestic product was at its highest since 1947. Gross debt-to-GDP was seen hitting 73.9 percent in March, rising to 75.3 percent in March 2026.

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**Note:** No prices/rates are required at this stage and this invitation does not bind HOPAC to issue any tender or contract to the vendors expressing their interest.



Institute of Rural Development Planning rector Prof Hozen Mayaya plants one of 1,000 trees at its Miyuji North campus in Dodoma Urban District yesterday - the eve of World Environment Day (June 5). Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

## Institute plants 1,000 trees to mark World Environment Day

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) yesterday planted 1,000 trees here to celebrate this year's World Environment Day (WED).

Speaking during the event, IRDP Rector Prof Hozen Mayaya said that the institute decided to initiate Mipango Environmental Club (MEC) to ensure improvement of the environment surrounding all its campuses.

"Apart from the fact that we offer diverse environmental-related courses from basic certificate to master's degree, we have also developed a strategy to raise awareness on environmental conservation," he said.

"We have been organising a series of regular exercises through which we collaborate with local government officials to engage communities in environmental protection activities," he said.

Prof Mayaya said IRDP makes use of the activities to educate the involved residents on the importance of conserving the environment, including planting as many trees as possible.

He said they work in collaboration with different development partners and have

so far implemented a number of projects for improvement of the environment in different areas.

For instance, he said through funds from the European Union the institute implemented a project to set up an eco-village that tested and evaluated over 20 climate change adaptation technologies in the semi-arid Dodoma Region.

"The project was executed in Chololo Village under partnership of six local agencies led by IRDP," he said.



**We have been organising a series of regular exercises through which we collaborate with local government officials to engage communities in environmental protection activities**

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

## Joint green efforts by Africa, China key for mutual growth

AFRICA'S vast potential for renewable energy, combined with China's technological expertise and investment capacity, presents a unique opportunity for mutual economic growth, experts have said.

This collaboration can drive sustainable development, alleviate energy poverty and stimulate economic activities across the African continent, they said.

Speaking during the just-ended African Development Bank Group's annual meeting in Nairobi, Kevin Kariuki, the bank's vice-president for power, energy, climate and green growth, said the continent needs to tap into renewable energy for industrial growth.

"I believe that by investing in Africa's renewable energy infrastructure, China can help build large-scale solar farms, wind farms and hydroelectric plants. These investments can provide reliable and affordable energy, which is crucial for economic growth," he said.

The continent has not fully tapped into its renewable energy sector, according to the State of Africa's Infrastructure Report 2024

published last month by the Africa Finance Corporation.

This has continued to affect its economic growth rate, especially in the manufacturing sector, the report said.

"Our inability to tap into the renewable energy sector continues to slow down our growth rate," African Development Bank Group President Akinwumi Adesina said.

"Today our continent harnesses only a fraction of its renewable energy resources, with 1 percent of its solar potential, 5 percent of gas-to-power, 6 percent of geothermal, 7 percent of wind and 11 percent of hydropower. Hence, we cannot compete with other regions."

Africa should forge renewable collaboration with China to unlock its energy potential, Adesina said.

In recent years, China has expanded investment in renewable energy in Africa. In Garissa County, Kenya, a Chinese-built solar power plant has contributed to Kenya's energy grid, supporting local

industries and communities, while helping reduce more than 43,000 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually, Kenya's Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation said.

"One of the ways is to share expertise and provide training," Adesina said. "China can help build local capacities to manage and sustain renewable energy projects. This can be done through joint ventures, scholarships for African students in Chinese universities and the establishment of research and development centers in Africa."

In addition to benefiting from Chinese technology, delegates at the meeting also called on African countries to develop renewable energy regulatory frameworks that foster investments and partnerships.

"China can assist by sharing its experiences in creating effective renewable energy policies and regulatory frameworks," Kariuki said. "Collaborative efforts can also

focus on developing regional energy markets and grid interconnections, enabling countries to share renewable energy resources more efficiently."

Paul Muthaura, CEO of the Africa Carbon Markets Initiative, identified financing as a major obstacle hindering renewable energy projects in Africa, highlighting China's potential to offer low-interest loans, thus bolstering support for such initiatives across the continent.

Although African countries in general lag behind in renewable energy development, countries such as Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa are implementing ambitious renewable energy development policies.

"It's no doubt that renewable energy has the potential to provide electricity to the 600 million Africans currently deprived of it, create jobs and stimulate industrial revolution in the continent," he said.

## Experts produce hydrogen from solar energy, manure

CHICAGO

UNIVERSITY of Illinois Chicago engineers have helped to design a new method to make hydrogen gas from water using only solar power and agricultural waste, such as manure or husks.

The method reduces the energy needed to extract hydrogen from water by 600 percent, creating new opportunities for sustainable, climate-friendly chemical production.

Hydrogen-based fuels are one of the most promising sources of clean energy. But producing pure hydrogen gas is an energy-intensive process that often requires coal or natural gas and large amounts of electricity.

In a paper for Cell Reports Physical Science, a multi-institutional team led by UIC engineer Meenesh Singh unveils the new process for green hydrogen production.

The method uses a carbon-rich substance called biochar to decrease the amount of electricity needed to convert water to hydrogen. By using renewable energy sources such as solar power or wind and capturing by products for other uses, the process can reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero.

"We are the first group to show that you can produce hydrogen utilizing biomass at a fraction of a volt," said Singh, associate professor in the department of chemical engineering. "This is a transformative technology."

Electrolysis, the process of splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen, requires an electric current. At an industrial scale, fossil fuels are typically required to generate this electricity.

Recently, scientists have decreased the voltage required for water splitting by introducing a carbon source to the reaction. But this process also uses coal or expensive chemicals and releases carbon dioxide as a by-product.

Singh and colleagues modified this process to instead use biomass from common waste products. By mixing sulfuric acid with agricultural waste, animal waste or sewage, they create a slurry-like substance called biochar, which is rich in carbon.

The team experimented with different kinds of biochar made from sugarcane husks, hemp waste, paper waste and cow manure. When added to the electrolysis chamber, all five biochar varieties reduced

the power needed to convert water to hydrogen. The best performer, cow dung, decreased the electrical requirement sixfold to roughly a fifth of a volt.

The energy requirements were low enough that the researchers could power the reaction with one standard silicon solar cell generating roughly 15 milliamps of current at 0.5 volt. That's less than the amount of power produced by an AA battery.

"It's very efficient, with almost 35 percent conversion of the biochar and solar energy into hydrogen," said Rohit Chauhan, a co-author and postdoctoral scholar in Singh's lab. "These are world record numbers; it's the highest anyone has demonstrated."

To make the process net-zero, it must capture the carbon dioxide generated by the reaction. But Singh said this too could have environmental and economic benefits, such as producing pure carbon dioxide to carbonate beverages or converting it into ethylene and other chemicals used in plastic manufacturing.

"It not only diversifies the utilization of biowaste, but enables the clean production of different chemicals beyond hydrogen," said UIC graduate Nishithan Kani, co-lead author on the paper. "This cheap way of making hydrogen could allow farmers to become self-sustainable for their energy needs or create new streams of revenue."

Orochem Technologies Inc., who sponsored the research, has filed for patents on their processes for producing biochar and hydrogen, and the UIC team plans to test the methods on a large scale.

In addition to Singh, Kani and Chauhan, the paper was co-authored by UIC graduate student Rajan Bhawnani. Other co-authors come from Stanford University, Texas Tech University, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Korea University and Orochem Technologies Inc.



**We are the first group to show that you can produce hydrogen utilizing biomass at a fraction of a volt**



Zanzibar House of Representatives Deputy Speaker Mgeni Hassan Juma closes a meeting of representatives of civil society organisations in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## PM urges full utilisation of empowerment facility

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called on residents of Nyang'hwale District in Geita Region to utilise the newly-built centre for economic empowerment to start their businesses to fully participate in the national economy.

Majaliwa made the call here at the weekend when speaking shortly after inaugurating the centre in the district.

Built by the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC), the centre was designed to help residents get various empowerment opportunities offered by the council.

"This district is endowed with various opportunities, including agriculture, poultry and mining. That is why the government through NEEC decided to build this centre to bring services closer to the people," he said.

He added that through the facility, residents will be provided with entrepreneurship training and business formalisation as well as access to soft loans.

The premier said that at present there is no reason for area residents to complain about capital as the government built that building to facilitate access to loans.

He however reminded them that

those who secure loans through the facility should make sure they return it to allow others to borrow as well.

Majaliwa urged residents to focus on starting small businesses such as processing crops, tailoring activities as well as making batik garments.

He urged Nyang'hwale residents to adopt modern farming and possess few and improved cattle breeds with high productivity.

Bengi Issa, NEEC executive secretary, said that the facility will attract residents to do business because it provides them with various services that spur their growth and enable them to achieve their ambitions.

"In this building, coordinators from the regional and district level will be available and officials from the council and other institutions such as banks, Small Industrial Development Organization (SIDO), Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), BRELA, TANTRADE, NIDA and TBS," she said.

She added that the facility built by the council is one of the 20 centres across the country which have so far provided loans amounting to 6bn/-.

According to NEEC reports, 21,852 people have already visited the centres and their businesses have been formalized.



Tanzania Education Authority director general Dr Erasmus Kipesa (L) has a word with Tanga regional commissioner Dr Batilda Burian at the Education, Skills and Innovation Week exhibition held in Tanga city at the weekend. Photo by Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## 'Offer bodaboda regular road safety drills to curb accidents'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

ILALA District Commissioner Edward Mpogolo has called on relevant authorities to offer regular road safety training to motorcycle riders (bodaboda) to reduce accidents.

Mpogolo made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a function to award certificates to 1,518 motorcycle riders who were

registered and certified by the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA).

He said Ilala District has over 20,000 motorbike riders, most of whom operate their businesses without observing road safety rules.

He cited recent statistics from Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) which show that out of 8,600 accident victims attended to at the institute, 60 percent were

motorbike riders.

Mpogolo said further that out of the number, 96 percent were youth aged between 15 and 35 years, a situation which calls for more attention in curbing the accidents.

"Motorbike accidents are on the increase among young people in the Dar es Salaam Region. I call on LATRA in collaboration with other relevant authorities to conduct training to this particular

group to reduce deaths, injuries or dependants," he said.

LATRA Director General Habibu Suluo said that in the ceremony 1,518 riders were awarded certificates by the authority, making a total of 2,517 riders who have been certified so far.

According to him, the riders have to go through a short training which is provided online during registration before qualifying for

certification.

Suluo said the procedure for registration and certification is covered under regulation 4(l) of the Land Transport Regulatory Authority Act Cap.413 with a goal to improve road safety and reduce accidents.

He unveiled the authority's plan to conduct training to bus and train crew for the standard gauge railway. "Our goal is to ensure services

provided by upcountry buses and new electric trains meet international standards," he said.

Mohamed Mpinga, Drivers Certification Committee Deputy Chairman, said that the aim of conducting the training to drivers and riders was to reduce deaths and injuries. "Our duty as a committee is to certify all qualified drivers and riders who have undergone training," he said.

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## World Environment Day: Tari prioritises agriforestry growth

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

TANZANIA Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) is implementing strategies to improve performance of the agriforestry sub-sector.

The initiative includes research and production of improved seeds for agriforestry tree varieties as well as soil health.

Some of the tree seeds involved include leucena pallida, moringa oleifera, mucuna pruriens and local mukungo and amla for germplasm collection.

Speaking in an interview during the ongoing exhibitions ahead of World Environment Day (WED), Mshaghuley Ishika, National Coordinator for Technology Dissemination and Partnership at TARI, said agriforest trees being produced are environmentally friendly.

"The tree varieties produce numerous potentials because they cater for medicinal use, food for human and animal feeds as well as timber production and prevent soil erosion and improve soil health," she said.

Ishika said that apart from researching and hatching agriforest varieties, TARI also imparts with farmers to provide knowledge on agriforestry farming recommended practices for food security as well as household income.

"The vision is to cement efforts by the government to curtail severe effects of climate change by supplying farmers with improved seeds which are intercropped with environmentally-friendly trees," she said.

To ensure effective coordination of the subsector, she said that the institute has earmarked two of its 17 centers to specialize in research of agriforest and soil health.

"Our Tabora-based center TARI Tumbi is specific for the agriforest research whilst TARI Mlingano based in Tanga Region deals with soil health research," she said.

On technologies, she said the Institute has started disseminating simple seed planter machines named RAFIKII.

"The machine which uses only one litre petrol has been designed to facilitate planting of cotton, sunflower and maize.

"This machine operates fast as it takes between 45 minutes to one hour to plant one acre and uses a single operator compared to normal methods whereby more than 10 farmers spend several hours to plant the same acreage," she said.

Rice nursery sheet, known in Kiswahili as Kitalu Mkeka is the other recently invented technology for rice planting which the institute rolled out to curb impact of climate in the subsector.

In curtailing soil degradation, she said the institute is working to impart farmers with best practices on how to create tied ridges.

"We have also developed an effective map on soil acidity and management options for improvement of soil health in Tanzania as well as crop suitability map, particularly for sunflowers in Dodoma and Singida regions," she said.

On June 5, 2024, Tanzania joins other countries to celebrate World Environment Day whose theme this year is 'Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience'. The theme aims to mobilize efforts to restore degraded lands, combat desertification and enhance resilience against climate change.

*The machine which uses only one litre petrol has been designed to facilitate planting of cotton, sunflower and maize.*



Arumeru district commissioner Emmanuela Kaganda (R) is briefed yesterday on one of several innovative corporate projects implemented by students in 11 secondary schools based in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Secretariat calls DC, councillor over alleged violation of ethics

THE Public Leaders Ethics Secretariat has summoned Tanganyika district commissioner in Katavi, Onesmo Buswelu and the Cheyo councillor in Tabora Municipality, Yusuph Kitumbo, for alleged violations of public service ethics.

According to a statement issued yesterday by Commissioner of the secretariat Judge (rtD) Sivangilwa Mwangesi, the two leaders are expected to appear before the secretariat this Friday at a conference hall within Dodoma

regional commissioner's office to be questioned over alleged violation of code of ethics for public servants.

The advisory said that the matter will be heard openly and citizens who want to listen to the session will be allowed without any restrictions.

It said that one of the duties of the secretariat is to investigate behaviours and actions of any leader with the aim of ensuring that provisions of code of ethics for

public servants are observed.

Recently, the secretariat said that there are some leaders who have avoided providing explanations on the sources of income they have and the value of assets they have on the asset declaration form.

It said that some leaders have failed to fill in the information of their spouses, especially financial information while others had received various gifts without making a declaration.

The secretariat said that the flaws give the impression that some leaders still do not have understanding about how to fill in the declaration of assets and the issues that need to be classified.

The Public Leaders Ethics Secretariat is an independent department of the government under the President's Office. It is established by Article 132 of the constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977, (Cap 2).



Maduhu William, a lawyer and human rights activist, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on recent reports that a Kagera Region child with albinism had been abducted. He appealed to law-enforcement agencies to speed up investigations into the incident. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Climate finance: \$100bn target reached as need soars in Africa

By Jean Marie Takouele

AT least 80 percent of the \$115.9 billion invested in climate in 2022 was raised by public funds from bilateral and multilateral channels.

This figure comes from climate finance provided and mobilised by developed countries in 2013-2022, the seventh assessment by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) of the target of \$100 billion a year in climate finance set by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at COP15 in Copenhagen (Denmark) in 2009.

When western countries failed to keep their word, the target was finally moved from 2020 to 2025. "It is good to see that the developed countries have exceeded the target of 100 billion dollars by 2022," said

Mathias Cormann, OECD Secretary-General.

Materially exceeding this annual commitment by more than 15 percent is an important and symbolic achievement that partly makes up for the two-year delay, which should help to boost confidence."

According to the assessment published on 29 May 2024, multilateral climate finance has grown the most, increasing by \$35 billion, or 226 percent since 2013. The growth in public finance in 2022 was accompanied by a 52 percent or \$7.5 billion, jump in private finance mobilised, which reached \$21.9 billion in 2022 after several years of relative stagnation.

The report also notes an increase in financing earmarked for actions to adapt to climate change. After a slight drop in 2021, funding for

adaptation reached \$32.4 billion in 2022, three times the level in 2016. The amount of public funding for adaptation tracked by the OECD in 2019 was \$18.8 billion and \$20.3 billion.

Climate financing for low-income countries has remained relatively low (10 percent in 2022). However, the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have benefited from a greater amount of funding for adaptation (around 50 percent) than the average for all developing countries (25 percent).

This progress observed in 2022 needs to be qualified, in the light of the increasing number of increasingly extreme climatic phenomena in the global South, mainly in Africa. After five years of drought, the Horn of Africa, for example, is currently experiencing

floods that have already claimed more than a hundred lives in Kenya. There is also the extreme heat wave that is particularly affecting the Sahel, with many deaths caused by power cuts in Mali.

While scientists attribute these heatwaves to the El Niño meteorological phenomenon, their intensity is exacerbated by climate change. Faced with these disasters, the countries affected need more funding to help their populations adapt and remain resilient.

Ambassador for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the target of \$100 billion a year is no longer sufficient to meet the growing needs of African countries.

To implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the continent's states will need 2,800 billion dollars between now and 2030.

## Climate change, growth worsen effects of rains in eastern Africa

By Special Correspondent

AN international team of climate scientists recently released a report on climate change and city growth. They found the effects of heavy rains that struck East Africa in recent months were worsened by climate change and fast development in cities.

The report was produced by World Weather Attribution (WWA). The non-profit scientific group studies the links between human-caused climate change and extreme weather events.

Heavy rains from March to May caused major flooding across East Africa that killed hundreds of people. The damage also displaced thousands of others, killed thousands of farm animals and destroyed hundreds of hectares of crops.

The researchers used weather data and computer modelling to compare how the severe weather events happening today have changed since pre-industrial times. Specifically, they looked at how human-caused climate change may have affected the floods.

They examined areas where the effects were most severe, including Kenya, most of Tanzania and parts of Burundi.

The report found that climate change had made the harmful rains twice as likely and 5 percent more intense. The study predicted that with further warming in the future, heavy rains would continue happening more often and become stronger.

Joyce Kimutai is a researcher at Imperial College London and was lead writer of the study. She said, "We're likely to see this kind of intensive rainfall happening this season going into the future."

The study also found that the quick growth of East African cities is increasing the risk of flooding.

Highly populated areas were

greatly affected by the intense rains, also called downpours. The rains flooded numerous houses and city roads. In some places, the downpours showed weaknesses in city planning to meet the demands of fast-growing populations.

March to May is known in East Africa as the "long rains" season. This is when most of the area's average yearly rainfall takes place. And often, the rains are very heavy.

In 2023, East Africa also suffered widespread flooding after a period of "short rains" from October to December. And before that, the area experienced a three-year drought. WWA scientists found that both events were worsened by climate change.

Philip Omondi is a climate change specialist at the Climate Prediction and Applications Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. He was not involved in the study. He said human-caused climate change results in intense, repeated flooding and droughts.

Shaun Ferris is senior technical advisor for agriculture and climate change at Catholic Relief Services in Nairobi. He said more intense weather can put a new level of pressure on old and unplanned buildings and infrastructure. Ferris called for putting up infrastructure that can survive the effects of climate change.

"There is huge pressure on basic services," he said. As an example, he named Kenya's capital Nairobi, where the population has doubled over the past 20 years.

Ferris said the world community needs to start using the United Nations' supported loss and damage fund for climate disasters. The fund was created during the U.N. Climate Conference in 2022 to aid countries most affected by climate change.

Ferris suggested that countries could start using money from the fund now to repair and improve basic infrastructure systems.





By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda

# Lake Victoria Zone's forest conservation efforts pay off



IT is a fact that forests are important as primary habitat for a wide range of species, forests support biodiversity maintenance and conservation. Their growth sequesters and stores carbon from the atmosphere, contributing to regulation of the global carbon cycle and climate change mitigation. Forests are also important for wildlife habitats.

Forests are a source of revenue for the government due to the fact that they produce products such as timber and non-timber products from various activities including beekeeping. In that regard, it is important to protect forests to continue benefiting from them.

The Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) in the Lake Zone manages forest resources in five regions—Mwanza, Geita, Kagera, Simiyu and Mara.

Forests located in mentioned regions are managed by officers' in-charge who is also the heads of forest plantations. TFS plantations in the Lake Zone regions include Buhindi in Sengerema, Rubya in Ukerewe, Rubale in Bukoba and Silayo in Chato.

TFS Manager in the Lake Zone, Mohammed Bakari said they have natural forests as well as forest plantations. He said in Lake Zone, the agency manages 24 natural forest reserves covering 423,980.8 hectares whereas forest plantations cover 99,219.9 hectares.

The senior assistant conservation commissioner told The Guardian that TFS has planted trees on degraded land to restore nature and ensure the environment is supportive for sustainable development.

"We have 24 tree nurseries where grow different types of seedlings. We produce about four million tree seedlings annually which are distributed to communities and institutions such as schools, prisons, colleges and interested individuals," said Bakari, noting some of the seedlings are also planted at government plantations, boundaries of natural forest reserves and hills.

The agency plant trees to restore nature and demarcate forests, thus reducing encroachment in reserved areas, he said, adding they collaborate with the community in managing 24 forest reserves and four forest plantations.

Bakari said that forest management activities at the area has resulted in a number of benefits including formation of over 50 forest conservation groups in the past two years. He said members of the groups that are formed by villager are allowed to conduct activities such as bee-keeping so as to generate income and protect forests.

He added that the conservation groups have suc-

cessfully helped the agency in controlling illegal activities in forest reserves such as tree felling for charcoal and firewood, farming, grazing and mining.

TFS has also trained over 500 villagers on sustainable forest management to enable them to conduct income generating activities without causing deforestation.

Villagers in the specific districts have plenty water for their livestock following construction of dams in Magu District,

Mwanza Region as well as Chato in Geita Region.

"We had recently established a new forest plantation at Lwamugasa in Geita Region. The farm covers 28,000 hectares. We have also introduced sport activities at the Rubale trails and Geita Usindakwe forest reserve. Recreational running promotes tourism and encourage villagers to continue protecting the forests.

According to him, major challenges that TFS faces in the

area include forest encroachment like farming, tree felling for charcoal and illegal small mining activities as well as grazing in forests.

The official mentioned some conservation challenges such as an increased number of fishing camps at Maisome and Kome Islands within Lake Victoria in Sengerema District, Mwanza Region. Fishing activities fuels illegal utilization of forest products such as tree felling for firewood and construction materials.

The agency plans to plant more trees to increase production of timber, poles as well as other forest products. It is also determined to increase the number of extension forest officers who will provide education to the community through village meetings and seminars.

The move according to him would encourage more people to participate in conservation activities, thus boost revenues.

(TFS Chief Executive Prof Dos Santos Silayo was quoted saying that in Tanzania, the forest sector provides almost 90 percent of cooking energy to rural dwellers while at international level, forest products were in 2022 ranked sixth in contributing to foreign money ahead of minerals and other several products.

In Africa, 2 percent of the land is covered by forests while in Tanzania 15 percent of the land is covered by forests, said the TFS boss.

Across Tanzania and much of the developing world, deforestation for charcoal remains a serious problem threatening lives, shrouded by poor access to clean cooking solutions.

Africa's net forest loss exceeded 4 million hectares per year between 2000 and 2005 and approximately 3.9 million ha annually between 2010 and 2020, according to a 2020 report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The global forest loss between 2015 and 2020 was 10 million hectares per year with a net forest loss of 7 million hectares per year from 2010 to 2020.

# Appeals for action as orphanages struggle to cope with financial stress

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast

IN rural Kagera, a narrative of struggle and resilience unfolds within the walls of orphanage centres where the dreams of countless children hang in the balance.

With statistics showing that only 47 percent of children in the country are on the path to full growth, the implications are dire: a future marred by dependency, lack of productivity, and heightened vulnerability to societal challenges.

At the heart of this narrative lies UYACHO, an orphanage centre nestled in the tranquil surroundings of Hamugembe ward, Bukoba municipality in Kagera Region.

Established in 1999, UYACHO has been a beacon of hope for hundreds of children facing adversity. Today, with 302 children under its care, the centre stands as a testament to the unwavering dedication of its founder and director, Saada Selemani.

Behind the façade of resilience lies a stark reality, UYACHO like many orphanage centres across the country, is grappling with severe financial constraints.

Selemani, a 90-years-old woman raises concerns over declining support from donors, leaving the centre on the brink of collapse. "These children need a lot of help from the government and community," she asserts, adding: "I am getting too old to serve them."

Challenges faced by UYACHO are emblematic of a larger crisis gripping orphanage centres nationwide. In a country where resources are scarce and the needs of vulnerable children are immense, the struggle for survival is a daily reality.

The National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (NM-ECDP) highlights the importance of nutrition and protection in ensuring children's holistic development. Yet, orphanages like UYACHO faces financial constraints and is unable to provide the quality food and nutrition that are crucial for children's growth.

The situation is compounded by the abandonment of infants in perilous environments, thus straining the resources of already overstretched centres.

Each passing day, the gap between the needs of these children and available resources widens, threatening the survival of the centres.

Kagera Region's Social Development Officer, Issa Mrimi acknowledges the pressing need for support from development stakeholders and the community.

"Let stakeholders and the community come forward to help these children," Mrimi urges, noting the regional government is ready to assist when it receives special requests.

In a resounding call to action, Tanzania's Minister for Social Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Doroth Gwajima emphasizes the urgent need for collaborative efforts to address the plight of orphaned and vulnerable children.

"This is a continuous challenge; both the government and communities should support the centres to ensure the welfare of these children," stated the minister.

Gwajima underscores the need for a shared responsibility of both society and government in safeguarding the welfare of orphans whose laughter echoes



The Tanzania Teachers Union women wing in Kagera Region presents various items to a child care centre on May 2, 2024.

faintly within the walls of orphanage centres like UYACHO.

According to the 2022 Tanzania Demographic Survey, which for the first time included statistics on early childhood development, 53 percent of the children in mainland Tanzania and 39 percent in Zanzibar are developmentally off track in their health, learning, and psychosocial well-being.

James Barongo, Chief Executive Officer, Tanzania Development and AIDS Prevention (TADEPA) emphasize the importance of daily commitment using the 'Mtoto Kwanza' slogan.

He said: "Not only by words but most importantly by implementing the highlighted activities including contributions to young children especially those un-

der eight years. We need to promote their ability to thrive and ensure their survival."

The immediate and long-term repercussions of family separation and unsuitable alternative care demand a concerted response, one that prioritizes the holistic well-being of every child.

The rallying cry is clear - let us join hands, not in mere words, but in tangible action, to ensure that no child is left behind in the pursuit of a brighter, more equitable future, added Barongo.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) states: "Every child has the right to grow up in a supportive family environment. Children may be separated from their parents and placed in alternative care for various reasons. The vast majority of children without pa-

rental care have living family members, including at least one parent or other relative."

As the world grapples with the staggering realities of millions of children living in residential care, it is evident that the time for decisive action is now.

"Children in alternative care are regularly isolated from their families and local communities," UNICEF warns. "Deprived of parental care, they can endure physical, psychological, emotional, and social harm - with consequences that last a lifetime.

These children are also more likely to experience violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation." As Tanzania, and indeed the world, confronts this pressing humanitarian challenge, the imperative to act becomes increasingly urgent.

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

05<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

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Nyanza Cooperative Union 1984 LTD is a limited liability Secondary Cooperative Society with registration No. 4152 Dated 21.04.1984. It is registered under the Co-operative Societies Act No 6 of 2013. It is owned by 253 registered Cooperative Primary Societies located within Mwanza Region. It is a member of the National Apex Organization of the Co-operative movement in Tanzania, i.e. The Tanzania Federation of Co-operatives Limited (TFC). NCU (1984) LTD one of the largest Co-operative Unions in Tanzania.

## 2.0 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

Nyanza Cooperative Union invites dynamic, proactive, experienced and suitable qualified Tanzanians to fill three (3) vacancies; post of the Chief Internal Auditor (1 Position), Extension Officer (1 Position), and Information and Communication Technology Officer (1 Position)

POST	CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR (1)
EMPLOYER	NYANZA COOPERATIVE UNION
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Overall, in-charge of all auditing activities in the Union</li> <li>ii. Chief advisor to the General Manager and the Board on all internal control procedures within the Union</li> <li>iii. Overseeing preparation and making sure regular review of internal audit work programs are strictly adhered to at all times</li> <li>iv. Keeping the General Manager and the Board informed at all times of the progress and problems of the Internal Audit Unit and the whole Union in relation to audit work</li> <li>v. Setting and continuously evaluating performance in the directorates with the view of maintaining high standards and keeping the staff morale high</li> <li>vi. Assessing the degree of adherence to policies and regulations by different departments</li> <li>vii. Developing comprehensive audit programs of the Union with a view to establishing adherence to established systems, procedures and regulations and ensuring their accuracy</li> <li>viii. Conducting regular audits of all offices to ensure that up to date financial records are kept and that approved management and accounting procedures are followed</li> <li>ix. Ensuring that the Union's assets are adequately controlled, safeguarded and insured</li> <li>x. Investigating frauds or misappropriations committed by staff</li> <li>xi. Reviewing audit reports with the Union's external auditors</li> <li>xii. Performing any other duties relevant to the scope of work that may be assigned by the supervisor.</li> </ul>
DESIRED ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent</li> <li>• Adaptability in changing business environment</li> <li>• Confidentiality</li> <li>• Ethical Standards and High integrity</li> <li>• Innovative and excellent analytical ability</li> <li>• Fluent in English and Kiswahili</li> <li>• Excellent interpersonal and communication skills</li> <li>• Customer focus</li> <li>• Ability to work within a team, and to interact with superiors, peers and subordinates.</li> </ul>
QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holder of Bachelor Degree in Accountancy, Finance, Business Administration majoring in Accountancy or Finance or equivalent qualifications from recognized institutions</li> <li>• Holder of CPA (T), or equivalent professional qualification recognized by the NBAA.</li> <li>• Minimum of 2 years relevant experience in a similar role from a reputable organization.</li> </ul>
REMUNERATION/ SALARY SCALE	As Per NCU Salary Scale

POST	EXTENSION OFFICER(1)
EMPLOYER	NYANZA COOPERATIVE UNION
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Advising farmers, agricultural businesses, rural industries, government and other development partners on appropriate practices for agricultural production, processing and distribution of farm produce</li> <li>ii. Facilitating farmers' group formation and advice in making better decisions to increase agricultural production</li> <li>iii. Capacity building of farmers' groups to enable them make better decisions and access required products and services to increase agricultural production</li> <li>iv. Ensuring good relations/ communication between private sectors, government agencies and farmers</li> <li>v. Coordinating farmers' field days by linking together different players for technology exhibition, technical and marketing information sharing</li> <li>vi. Provide timely and accurate written and verbal reporting</li> <li>vii. Contribute to project strategic planning and to well-written, focused project reports, annual implementation plans, success stories and other written products.</li> <li>viii. Performing any other duties relevant to the scope of work that may be assigned by the supervisor.</li> </ul>
DESIRED ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Approachable</li> <li>ii. High integrity and Innovative</li> <li>iii. Values diversity and able to work cross-culturally</li> <li>iv. Excellent analytical ability</li> <li>v. Fluent in English and Kiswahili</li> <li>vi. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills</li> <li>vii. Customer focus</li> <li>viii. Ability to work within a team, independently and to interact with superiors, peers and subordinates.</li> </ul>
QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor's Degree in (B.Sc.) in Agriculture, Agronomy, Agro business or related field.</li> <li>• Minimum of 2 years relevant experience in a related field or functions from a reputable organization.</li> </ul>
REMUNERATION/ SALARY SCALE	As Per NCU Salary Scale

POST	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER (1)
EMPLOYER	NYANZA COOPERATIVE UNION
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	<p>Duties and responsibilities of the ICT Officer;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Develop and maintain consistent critical guidelines that are in line with the ICT Policy of the party/association and guidelines issued by the office of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies;</li> <li>ii. To implement the ICT policy of the Association;</li> <li>iii. To operate and coordinate the crosscutting information system of AMCOS members;</li> <li>iv. Provide education to leaders, executives and members of AMCOS, so that they can start and continue using the ICT equipment for communication in their agricultural activities and production;</li> <li>v. To provide guidelines, education and regular training to executives when they are stuck so that they can carry out their duties;</li> <li>vi. Conduct regular research on the use of ICT for member associations and their members to determine the increase in use and the growth of efficiency in use;</li> <li>vii. Providing technical advice to the Association Board on the issues related to ICT;</li> <li>viii. Providing opportunities for executives to get regular ICT training to keep up with the rapid growth of Technology in the country and the world;</li> <li>ix. Establishing and promoting access and use of ICT to the Member Primary Cooperatives in order to facilitate efficiency in their work performance;</li> <li>x. To analyze and bring recommendations for the creation of computer systems that can simplify daily operations of the Union such as 'application software' and advertising the Association in various social networks to show the investment opportunities available in the Association;</li> <li>xi. Ensuring all internal and external network infrastructures are working at the required efficiency;</li> <li>xii. To strengthen the official communication between the Cooperatives, the Government and other key stakeholders through social networks and the website of the Union;</li> <li>xiii. Champion, facilitate and support smooth operations of the CSMIS (MUVU) in the Union;</li> <li>xiv. Managing and repairing ICT equipment and when it fails, technicians from outside will be sought under management of ICT department professionals;</li> <li>xv. To monitor the entire trend of ICT equipment and identifies the equipment that obsolete/redundant and submits recommendations for proper disposal procedure;</li> <li>xvi. Develop and have a strategic plan for all member AMCOS to have effective ICT policies, expand the scope of email use and ensure that all member AMCOS have email addresses with the Union's domain; and</li> <li>xvii. Advise and support the purchase of software and ICT equipment in the office.</li> </ul>
DESIRED ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High integrity and innovative.</li> <li>• Values diversity and able to work cross-culturally.</li> <li>• Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.</li> </ul>
QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A first university degree preferably in computer science, Information technology, network Administration/Engineering or related field preferred</li> <li>• A minimum of two (2) years' experience in providing ICT services</li> </ul>
REMUNERATION/ SALARY SCALE	As Per NCU Salary Scale

## 3.0 GENERAL CONDITIONS.

- i. Applicants must attach an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV) having reliable contacts; postal address/post code, e-mail and telephone numbers;
- ii. All applicants must be Citizens of Tanzania;
- iii. Applicants should apply on the strength of the information given in this advertisement;
- iv. Applicants must attach their certified copies of the following certificates:-
  - Postgraduate/Degree/Advanced Diploma/Diploma/Certificates;
  - Degree/Advanced Diploma/Diploma transcripts;
  - Form IV and Form VI National Examination Certificates;
  - Professional Registration and Training Certificates from respective Registration or Regulatory Bodies, (where applicable); and
  - Birth certificate or NIDA ID.
- v. Attaching copies of the following certificates is strictly not accepted:-
  - Form IV and Form VI results slips; and
  - Testimonials and Partial transcripts.

- vi. An applicant should indicate three reputable referees with their reliable contacts;
- vii. Deadline for application is 05th, July, 2024
- viii. Only shortlisted candidates will be informed the date of interview;

Application letters, CV should be written in English and all Attachments must be addressed to:

GENERAL MANAGER,  
NYANZA COOPERATIVE UNION (1984) LTD,  
P.O. BOX 09,  
MWANZA

Or Through email: info@ncultd.or.tz

Issued by

  
BOARD CHAIRMAN

# Indigenous people, NGO grow wildlife corridor in the world's oldest rainforest

By Latoya Abulu

INDIGENOUS ranger Jason Petersen remembers how he used to watch the world's oldest rainforest in wonder as a child. When the rains arrived, they would wash the dust from the trees, revealing the lush colors of the forest. Now, as an adult, he says he hopes his son will experience the same awe as he plants a new wildlife corridor on this same land.

"I hope our children will be able to start seeing a positive change. Once the movement of the animals starts from up in the mountains and down into the riparian areas it will be immense," Petersen says.

In Australia's Cape Kimberley, environmental charity Climate Force is collaborating with the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people and rangers to create a corridor that runs between two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef. To do this, they will need to plant 360,000 trees.

Wildlife habitats in this region have become fragmented. The area where this new forest will be planted is a 213-hectare (526-acre) plot of land that was cleared for cattle in the 1960s and then used as a commercial banana farm until the 1990s. It was choked with invasive Guinea grass and covered in abandoned farm machinery.

"For a good while now our Country [Indigenous land] has been bare," Petersen said.

The fragmentation of forests leads to a loss of diversity and decline in species. But strips of land that make up wildlife corridors can help connect wildlife populations. They ensure foraging for food, connecting different populations for mating and other migratory need, say conservationists. In December 2022, the U.N. biodiversity framework recognized ecological corridors as an important conservation measure alongside protected areas.

For the Daintree Rainforest, conservationists say a wildlife corridor will help protect endemic Bennett's tree kangaroos (*Dendrolagus bennettianus*), spectacled flying foxes (*Pteropus conspicillatus*) and southern cassowaries (*Casuaris casuaris*), the closest living species to dinosaurs.

Conservationist Barney Swan, founder of Climate Force, raised \$2.5 million to buy the abandoned farmland in 2021 and launch the Tropical ReGen project. Funds were also used to develop a digital twin of the forest, to support the reforestation project.

"A lot of the wildlife use this [wildlife corridor] as a highway and they haven't been able to get through because of the grass and the fences," Swan says. "If we get it right, it can support hundreds of thousands of acres of land [in the Daintree Rainforest] because it's so significant."

## Regenerating an ancient corridor

The 180-million-year-old Daintree Rainforest is part of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people's ancestral lands, handed back to them by the Australian government in 2021. The Eastern Kuku Yalanji people have been involved with the Tropical ReGen project since the beginning and continue to guide the Climate Force team on what trees to plant to help replenish the rainforest. Elders underlined the importance of planting red cedars (*Toona ciliata*), known as birthing trees. For centuries, birthing trees were used by Aboriginal women as a place to shelter and give birth.

"Elders talked about when the area was first colonized and [they] were forced to do most of the deforestation [for income]," says Crag Cartling, tourism facilitator of the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, which manages and protects the Daintree Rainforest.

"This included cutting down the birthing trees. A lot of the red ce-



Native seeds gathered by the Climate Force team

dar, which were called 'red gold' from the price they could fetch, were birthing trees of elders who had passed, and those trees were considered to be family."

The Indigenous rangers from the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation also took the Tropical ReGen team of conservationists, farmers and international volunteers on walks through the forest to collect native seeds.

The Tropical ReGen team members had to spend a month clearing trash and removing fences from the former banana farm and turning an old greenhouse on the land into a working plant nursery. They also installed water and solar power for their research center.

But before they could start planting the trees, they also needed to regenerate the soil on the land. "Transition from a bacteria-based grass system to a fungi-rich forest system is hard. It takes mulch, it takes organic decay," Swan says.

Now, three years later, with the help of more than 300 volunteers, they have 25,000 trees from 180 species growing, including red cedar, Noah's walnut (*Endiandra microneura*) and black palm (Normanbya normanbyi), which can feed cockatoos and cassowaries. Of these trees, over 10,765 are planted and the rest are growing in the nursery.

Nigel Tucker, a restoration ecologist based in Queensland state, where Daintree is located, and who isn't associated with the project, agrees that the black palm and other trees to feed cassowaries are important to plant. After eating the fruit, the cassowaries can disperse large seeds that other animals aren't capable of moving, he says, thereby helping propagate the forest.

But he says it's also important to plant trees that can attract multiple animals, such as the blue quandong (*Elaeocarpus grandis*). The fruits from this tree are eaten by cassowaries as well as spectacled flying foxes, fawn-footed melomys (*Melomys cervinipes*) and musky rat-kangaroos (*Hypsiprymmonod moschatous*).

"High-value fruit crops will attract a lot of birds and animals into the area. They will bring with them the seeds from the adjacent forest that add to the diversity you could never hope to plant yourself," Tucker says.

While cassowaries may live in the rainforest, they also search for food in mangroves and along beaches. As they roam, they leave behind the seeds of what they've eaten. Conservationists say they hope the wildlife corridor between the Daintree Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef will encourage them to do this even more.

## Ambitious and challenging

At 213 hectares, about two-thirds the size of New York City's Central Park, the Tropical ReGen project is a huge wildlife corridor, says James Watson, professor of conservation science at the University of Queensland, who isn't involved in the project. While ambitious, this also comes with challenges, he says.

"You've got to make sure it functions like [the] ecosystem it used to be," Watson says. "Great that it's ambitious, but they have to have the budget and the time to make sure the trees make it."

Much of the funding for the project comes from selling trees and donations, and a continued stream of this income is needed to complete the project and expand the nursery. At the moment, individuals and corporations are paying \$100 (\$66) to have a native tree planted on their behalf. In the last three years, the project has raised more than \$6.5 million (\$4.3 million). Sources didn't say how much more is needed to complete the project.

Tropical ReGen's progress can be tracked with the help of its digital twin software and geotagged trees. Those who buy a tree can see what species it is, where it's planted, and monitor its growth.

The software also helps organizers by showing them which trees have been successful and which have failed. It revealed that 50% of their trees that had died were killed by feral pigs. "The mulch that we place around the trees brings in the grubs and the pigs have a buffet," Swan says.

In December 2023, northern Queensland also experienced its worst flooding in modern history. "We had 3 meters [10 feet] of rain in a week, so all of our water intakes got smashed," Swan says.

He adds they'll know if they've successfully regenerated the land in five years' time if the trees reach canopy closure and the weeds stop growing. "That will be a huge moment. We will have then created a blueprint on what it took to do it," Swan says.

To make the project a success, Indigenous rangers and the Climate Force team say they're working closely together on planting days. Some of the trees grown in Climate Force's nursery sprouted from seeds that the organization and rangers collected together.

"They shared what mulch to use and which trees can grow quickly to create a canopy, and that only comes from experience," Petersen says.

This wasn't a skill needed before in an untouched rainforest, he says. "The advice] is coming from Climate Force and not our elders as our elders didn't do broad-scale planting," Petersen says.

Cartling of the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation says it's still too early to determine the success of the project, but expresses admiration for the strides they've made so far. "They are the first group to do rainforest restoration organically without using pesticides and leading the way in terms of transparency using lidar and blockchain reporting."

Tropical ReGen is now sharing its software and progress with researchers at James Cook University and plans to work with universities in Southeast Asia.

"Nature is already good at healing," Swan says. "But what would take 2,000 years, we can do in 100 years if we work well with it."

# Enhancing of disaster preparedness among communities saves lives and livelihoods

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale, Morogoro

IN December 2023 Tanzanians were thrown into grief as landslide on Mount Hanang in Hanang District of Manyara Region hit Katesh town killing about 89 people, injuring 117 and displacing about 5,000 others. Alongside these casualties the disaster, torrential downpour also wiped out 750 hectares of farms as well as unspecified number of livestock.

As Tanzanians were recovering from the Hanang tragedy, disaster struck again when heavy rains in March and April this year caused severe floods in many parts of the country killing at least 155 people and injuring 236 others. The intense downpour also destroyed roads bridges and railway lines making some parts in the country inaccessible.

Crop farms were wiped off, threatening food shortages to community members in the affected areas and although government and humanitarian organisations provided seeds to enable farmers plant again. The second planting season met the same fate. Food shortage is imminent.

Experience shows that Tanzania will continue to be at risk to disasters due to several vulnerability factors. They include climate change and weather variability, rising population, unplanned settlements and environmental degradation.

This calls for disaster management which entails organization, planning and application of measures to be employed before disaster strikes, responding to impacts and recovering from disasters.

Preparedness requires a community to have a planned and coordinated rapid-response capability. This involves, among others, educating

them on preventive measures, understanding and utilizing weather information as well as identifying appropriate to be taken and identifying recovery measures in the aftermath of a disaster.

According to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, disaster preparedness entails knowledge, capabilities, and actions of governments, organizations, community groups, and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions.

Preparedness efforts range from individual-level activities, to household actions, community efforts and governmental strategies that provide early warning systems, and public information dissemination, among others.

"We need a holistic approach to disaster management. We must have a strategy that spells out what action should be taken at various levels from district, ward and village level. We have a national strategy that covers from 2022 to 2027 which, however, does not respond adequately to area-specific cases. The district strategy we are formulating spells out actions to address actual situations on the ground and will make rescue, recovery and other activities more effective," explains Abdallah Selega, Red Cross Coordinator for Morogoro Region. He was speaking during preparation of the Morogoro District Disaster Preparedness Strategy which was initiated by Climate Action Network Tanzania (CAN Tanzania) through Flood Response in Tanzania project. The activity took place recently in Morogoro Municipality.

According to Selega, formulation of disaster preparedness strategy has been inclusive to ensure that



Some staff members of Morogoro Municipality undergoing training on providing first aid to flood victims. Photo: CAN Tanzania

there is adequate information on the situation on the ground. "It is important to know, among others, the geography of the areas that are vulnerable, the terrain of such areas, available property and number of residents in the area as well as accessibility of the same. All these count for effective disaster response," he says.

CAN Tanzania has trained technical staff to draft disaster preparedness strategies for Ifakara, Malinyi, Kilwa and Lindi District Councils. It has also trained some ward leaders, village government leaders and community members in providing first aid treatment to victims of disasters and provided relief aid to victims.

Until implementation of this project began, district councils in Morogoro Region did not have disaster preparedness and management

strategies. They depended on the regional strategy which was rather general and, as such, could not be applied to deal with specific cases.

Mariamisa Kasanga is the CAN Tanzania Coordinator for Flood Response Project that has been implemented since December 2023 and will conclude this year. "Disaster preparedness and response is not just about helping the victims to survive; nor is it only about floods but covers all types of disasters although flooding is most prominent. It is about taking appropriate action before disasters strike, what should be done during disasters and conducting activities in the aftermath of disasters," she explains.

"The ultimate aim is to reduce impacts on people and property and respond to victim's

needs so that life goes on. This needs education and awareness on the part of potential victims to enable them to take the required actions," she adds.

According to the Coordinator, Morogoro, Kilombero, Malinyi, Kilwa and Lindi do not have disaster management strategies, hence the need for CAN to spearhead the preparation of one for every district in consultation with the district staff. "The strategy we are preparing will go a long way towards helping disaster committees to manage situations and take action while waiting for support from other stakeholders. Appropriate action taken in real time usually limits the impacts of a disaster on people, property and the environment," she says.

In implementing the project CAN has conducted education and awareness campaigns in 120 wards in Malinyi, Kilombero, Rufiji and Kilwa Districts in order to build the capacity of ward leaders and the public to understand weather information and use it appropriately for handling disasters.

"When the strategy becomes operational it will improve the way we handle disasters in villages as it has been prepared with due concern to geographical, social and environmental conditions. Formerly we were guided by the regional disaster management strategy but it fell short of addressing issues in specific situations," explains Elizabeth Badi, Municipal Disaster Coordinator, adding that WEOs, VEOs and village government officials will undergo training on how to implement the strategy. "The population is increasing and similarly disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity. We need to improve the way we handle disasters so to cope with current challenges," she adds.

Flashfloods and other disasters have become more intense over the years and communities have become more vulnerable. This calls for scaling up disaster preparedness that includes disseminating clear weather information which should form the basis of actions that community members may be required to take.

"This strategy spells out how to deal with situations in particular areas as it identifies the geography, the terrain, property that is available and existing ecosystems. It also focuses on educating community members on actions they can take without waiting for assistance particularly when disaster is impending, how we should handle people who are affected in various ways and what post-disaster actions we should take with full participation of community members," explains Martina Hezron from the planning department of Morogoro Municipal Council.

Improved practice and response mechanisms as provided for in disaster preparedness strategies save lives and strengthen the communities' ability to reduce the impact of disasters. Understanding the occurrence and frequency of natural hazards, as well as the risks, vulnerabilities and potential impact on people and assets, helps to improve preparedness. Disaster preparedness is cost-effective and saves lives and property.

Preparing for disasters saves countless lives, speeds up people's recovery and saves money. "It is important to improve the local preparedness and response capacity of communities with the ultimate aim of preventing and reducing the impacts of disasters on communities. Disaster preparedness plays an important role in building the resilience of communities. The objective is to reduce the loss of life and livelihoods," says Ms. Kasanga.

# Experience with Chinese firms improving skills of young Cameroonians

YAOUNDE

THE sun overhead was shining brightly in Cameroon's southern town of Kribi.

Chinese and Cameroonians worked side by side in complete harmony at a vast construction site at Kribi Deep Seaport, where China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd (CHEC) is building phase II of the port.

The CHEC routinely pairs Cameroonian crew with experienced Chinese colleagues, who assist them in performing their tasks until they are able to continue unaided.

Eric Defo Fotso and Larissa Ekale Koule, Cameroonian workers at the CHEC, said that such a working environment has contributed significantly to the knowledge transfer and skills development of local employees.

"I have learned a lot when it comes to managerial duties and how to oversee activities on the site. It is a real honour for me to work on such a project for my country and also for the CHEC," said 28-year-old Koule, whose main task is to ensure that all workers on the site are in good health and no one suffers from job-related injuries.

Fotso, 34, coordinates projects at the site. "The first thing I learned is how to work in a multicultural environment. Given that the project follows Chinese standards, there is first the understanding and application according to Chinese standards," he said.

Jonas Hadomaha, 31, now works at a sophisticated tollgate of the Kribi-Lolabe highway, also part of the project. He joined the CHEC as a translator but gained knowledge and skills thanks to collaboration with Chinese colleagues.

"This is my first time to work with a company that manages a highway, and I have learned a lot about the functioning of a highway," he said.

Like Hadomaha, Fotso and Koule, thousands of Cameroonians are employed by Chinese firms, who train them on the job or through formal programs.

In addition to creating jobs for locals, Chinese firms are helping Cameroonian youth upgrade their skills and better contribute to the country's industrialization.

Jules Elanga was among the first to join engineers of Chinese construction company CGCOC Group when they arrived in Cameroon's West Region in 2014 to build a water treatment plant and related facilities that would supply 10,000 cubic meters of



Cameroonian and Chinese talk in an operating system room at a drinking water treatment plant in Bafoussam, Cameroon.

water a day to Bafoussam, the region's capital city. It was part of a project to provide water to nine cities in Cameroon.

Elanga spent over a year working side by side with Chinese engineers.

"Technology transfer was very well done, especially in terms of management of electro-mechanical equipment, workshop management and other devices," said Elanga, who now heads the maintenance department

of state-run Cameroon Water Utilities Corporation (CAMWATER) in the region.

"Since the transfer (of technology, skills) three to four years ago, the company now functions without the assistance of the Chinese," he said. "The upkeep, the maintenance of equipment is done by us. This is thanks to the Chinese."

Martin Donkeng, who heads the CAMWATER production department

in the region, said: "Today, our production capacity has increased by 30 percent."

In Kouekong, about 15 kilometers north of Bafoussam, there is a multi-purpose stadium built by China Machinery Engineering Corporation.

Eric Sama Ndo and Ndjinjou Abdelkader, who have been working at the stadium since 2014, said the company's systems have been created in a way that gives workers an opportu-

nity to experience various areas of the project.

"There has been a lot of skills transfer. Many people were unskilled labourer's when they joined, but now they are skilled workers," Ndo said. "This is good for them and good for the country."

Abdelkader said he stayed with the company and learned a lot there. "It's good collaboration. It's win-win."

# Trend of bad faith and unnegotiated polygamy growing in SA

By Nicholene Nxumalo

A video of The Mommy Club actress Nozipho Ntshangase and her family has recently gone viral on South African social media platforms. It shows her husband, Zola Ntshangase, leaving their home after an outburst over his recent decision to marry a second wife, allegedly without the consent of the first.

This has reignited the Constitutional Court's highly regarded 2013 decision in the matter of Mayelane v Ngwenyama 2013 4 SA 415 (CC).

Polygamy – isithembu – is not a new phenomenon in South African law. Historically, polygamy is a cultural and religious practice that goes back centuries which allows a man who is already married to a woman to enter into further customary marriages.

It was popular television personality and media tycoon Musa Mseleku who first brought polygamy back to our television screens with the launch of his reality show, Uthando Nes'thembu. That's apart from TV shows like Kwakhala Nyonini in the 1980s, where the polygamous lifestyle was also depicted in a chaotic way.

Over the years, Mseleku's show has highlighted the good, the bad and the ugly of the polygamous lifestyle. It has often sparked polarising debate and left many South Africans conflicted.

Since then, polygamy has been played out on the public stage through social media and other shows such as Mnakwethu and most recently The Mommy Club.

Since the Ntshangase video came to light, it has become clear that countless more South African men have acted in bad faith, where they actually initiate lobola negotiations and deliver lobola for their potential new spouse without first obtaining the consent of the first wife.

In some cases, the first wife and/or key family members are unaware that this has transpired until after it has happened. This is not only a distortion of the culture, but also a clear violation of the constitutional rights of the first wife.

It is important to contextualise this phenomenon by



exploring the legal implications invoked the moment when the marriage is negotiated, and the lobola is delivered without the knowledge of the first wife.

### Marriage legal systems in SA

Before Mseleku, polygamy, although well-known and widely practised, had always been a taboo subject asso-

ciated with "outdated" cultural beliefs and a clear contradiction of contemporary ideals. This is because marriage laws in South Africa have been influenced by Eurocentrism, which advocates a nuclear family structure.

Legally, polygamy is only recognised under African customary law in terms of s2 (3) of the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act 120 of 1998 (RCMA). At some point, contemporary trends in South Africa showed that individuals were moving away from traditional family structures, which refers to large family units consisting of extended family members living in family households for various reasons. As a result, family dynamics are changing and some cultural protections are being lost.

Meanwhile, another pandemic is gaining momentum and wreaking havoc in South African households. A 2021 study shows that only 3.9% of children live with their fathers, and family law has done little to address this issue of absent fathers.

Today, marriage is no longer a guarantee that a mother will never be a single parent. There are high divorce rates, high numbers of married single mothers, and unconventional relationships where people opt for commitment without marriage.

This is a major contributor to what is known as the "broken" family, referring to the absence of a father figure. All this is to say that polygamy was seen as a way of ensuring the expansion of a family, and under no circumstances should the arrival of a second wife cause the first wife to leave, or compromise the family unit. If that happens, then the attempt at polygamy has failed.

### Polygamy and its legal implications

In a quest to understand the correct procedure for initiating a plural marriage in South Africa, it is important to distinguish what is custom and what is law.

Firstly, cultural diversity offers a range of practices that are not only socially acceptable but also agreeable to each family.

Secondly, there is an existing legal framework that allows for the legalisation of polygamous unions and case law that reflects people's lived experiences. Emerging trends suggest that we are moving further away from the Mayelane decision.

In that case, the court was confronted with the question of the consent of an existing (first) wife in a customary marriage. The court engaged in a value assessment of the role of consent in a customary marriage in an attempt to develop the rule should it be found to be prejudicial and inconsistent with the Bill of Rights.

It ruled that consent should be opted for prior to any steps being initiated

towards further marriage, as this gives effect to the first wife's right to equality and human dignity.

Interestingly, Kwakhala Nyonini is also crucial to the development of matrimonial law because it brings to light the intricacies that would later be addressed by the RCMA – essentially, that a civil marriage and a customary marriage cannot coexist.

The nature of umfazi wephepha (a character portraying a civil wife in possession of a marriage certificate among other customary wives) makes it clear that in some cases where men are already in a civil marriage, and attempting to marry a second wife, it becomes much more complex. The parties would have to dissolve their marriage under the Civil Marriage Act and enter into a customary marriage. Failure to do so would render the second marriage invalid.

### No options for women

It is difficult to ignore the harsh impact that "isithembu behind your back" has on women. Most women are unsuspectingly pushed into a corner of extreme measures with limited options to respond. The most popular option is to quietly submit and reluctantly give consent because there seems to be no other alternative.

Or, many women have taken this as a sign that the marriage has broken down irretrievably, and therefore choose to initiate divorce.

Unfortunately, there seems to be no "soft" legal remedy available to women. Apart from applying for an injunction restraining the husband from proceeding with the marriage until such time as consent is properly obtained, there is not much that can be done.

It is worth noting that being a first wife is a very precarious position. You cannot legally challenge your spouse and still maintain good family relations. Women also do not consider leaving as a first option because of financial dependency. After many years of unpaid care work, their careers are often stagnant and they cannot easily enter the labour market.

In general, the courts are a last resort, as most put the family before individual interests as standing up to one's spouse often comes with a high price that is not easily paid. As a result, there is little or no legal protection that can be offered to women in such predicaments against their will.

Perhaps the legislature needs to consider an amendment to the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act under s2(3) to include a clause declaring a default status of invalidity for any further marriage entered into without the consent of the first.

DM

**THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT-115**

By Felix Magezin: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezin@gmail.com

1 pigs are descended  
12 Zambia's sole producer of lime  
14a Bolivian Aymara tradition  
15 fit to be eaten  
17 skilled person in Kiswahili  
18 A topic  
Down:  
1 a very brief period of time  
2 Capital city of UK  
3 iambus  
4 an account of past events  
6 a short African tree with a very thick trunk and large edible fruit, living to a great age  
8 a person who is addicted  
9 to be in a state of extreme muscular fitness  
13 official inspections of an organization's account  
16 Wife of Adam

Across:  
5 former name of Malawi  
6 to be next to or share a boundary with  
7 Bantu ethnic group  
10 a taro corm or plant of a West Indian variety with many edible cormlets  
11 a tusked wild pig from which domestic

OTA  
SEN  
YACHTIE  
FLYOVER  
MACERATE

FAMOUS  
RATED  
ENAMEL  
VERONAL  
ORE

UNTONED  
SEAL  
ARENAS  
ITAL  
OMEN

Yesterday's solution

SENATE P SICK S  
E O UASI KNEESUP  
CAREERS VINANEY  
REMS OSLO R SYCE  
ERASE UT TREATED  
TALES R I FIRE  
T NOVENA N I OIL  
COMER W G RANEE  
R AWAKE MESS

**RADIO One**

**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 HALLI 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 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALUYOMO 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 HALLI 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 YALUYOMO 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 HALLI 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 YALUYOMO 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 HALLI 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 YALUYOMO 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 MALUMBRANO 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 HALLI 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 A 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 20:10 HRS CHEMBA 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 HALLI 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 - FAMILIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18:00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MBEVU 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**

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# BUSINESS

## AfDB 2023 report: Climate finance soars, strong net income achieved

### Digital transformation: A top-three priority for banks, says new report

By Guardian Reporter

THE 2024 edition of The African Banking Digital Transformation report revealed that 76 percent of banks rank digital transformation as either their top priority or among the top three, while the remaining 24 percent also view it as important.

A statement issued by African Banker yesterday, indicated that with almost half of the continent unable to access any form of bank account, including approximately 60 percent of women, this result reflects the opportunity for banks to grow their customer base through an inclusive digital offering.

A growing African population - forecast to be 2.49 billion by 2050 - coupled with spectacular increases in the number of devices such as smartphones and tablets (mobile phones now account for 75 percent of web traffic in Africa) is the perfect recipe for an explosion in digital banking.

Benefits include speed, convenience, and enhanced user data, meaning that banks can much more readily tailor solutions for their clients. In 2021 - the last year for which full figures are available - 55.07 percent of the African population owned a bank or mobile money account, compared to 23.33 percent in 2011.

This year, cloud computing was the most cited technology being incorporated into digitisation strategies. This overtakes Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity & Resilience as the primary driver since our 2023 survey. The result can be explained through the growing sophistication of AI solutions, which sees it spill over into other technology areas including Cybersecurity.

Interviewed for the report, Ecobank Group Chief Digital Officer Nvalaye Kourouma said: "I really see AI as a game-changer, both internally and externally" because AI-powered tools help overcome language barriers for engaging customers in different countries.

"We now have the capability to build local natural languages into our AI interactions so that language and writing are no longer barriers. Speech and image can be used to communicate more effectively. AI opens the door for a different level of engagement with our customers, so it's encouraging," he added.

The 2024 edition of the report draws on comprehensive survey data from more than 150 banks spanning 35 countries, providing an in-depth analysis of current digital banking trends, key innovations, and digital transformation progress.

The report was launched during GITEX Africa 2024, in Marrakesh, Morocco and it is a collaboration work between African Banker and Backbase.

While the Backbase is on a mission to re-architect banking around the customer the African Banker is dedicated to reporting on the banking industry across Africa.



**We now have the capability to build local natural languages into our AI interactions so that language and writing are no longer barriers**



AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina. File Photo

By Guardian Reporter

IN 2023, approvals for climate finance registered a substantial increase over the previous year, reaching \$5.8 billion, representing 55 percent of total approvals; Bank achieves strong net income - UA 1,729.89 million.

The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) released its Annual Report for 2023 on Wednesday, painting a picture of improved financial performance and robust support to its member countries across Africa.

A statement issued by AfDB and shared to this journalist, indicated that the critical financial support has resulted in increased resilience and recovery despite the challenging effects of regional conflicts, economic shocks, climate change, and the after-effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the face of stubbornly high inflation, public debt and associated financial vulnerabilities, African countries balanced efforts to spur growth and measures to contain the impact of rising cost of living on their citizens, earning commendation from Bank Group president Dr. Akinwumi Adesina.

"Our nations, our economies, and our people

continue to show remarkable fortitude," he noted in the report's foreword. "Despite the overall economic slowdown, 15 countries posted output expansion of more than 5 percent and Africa retained its position as the fastest-growing economy after Asia with real GDP growth close to the global average of 3.2 percent."

The Annual Report reports that Bank Group approvals for 2023 (UA 8.03 billion) were 30 percent higher than those for 2022 (UA 6.16 billion), and close to the highest approvals in the history of the Bank Group.

Approvals for sovereign operations - projects financed with the guarantee of a sovereign entity such as a national or sub-national government - in 2023 increased sharply by 43 percent, to reach UA 6.76 billion as the Bank provided extensive sustainable finance to boost several African countries in their post Covid-19 recovery.

The Bank's High 5 priorities: to Light Up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Industrialize Africa, Integrate Africa, and Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa all saw increased approvals in 2023, except "Feed Africa," which showed a decrease. The positive decrease from the exceptionally high

level in 2022, is a result of the newly created African Emergency Food Production Facility, set up to offset disruption of food supplies across the continent due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The report records the impressive results of projects delivered across the High 5's in 2023: 2.4 million people with access to new electricity connections; 11 million farmers used improved techniques including micro-irrigation, fertilizer, and climate-resilient seeds; over 440,000 enterprises had access to finance, and almost 233,000 of them are women-owned, 3.5 million people gained access to better transport services; and 9 million people had new or improved access to water and sanitation.

Bank maintains gender markers, pursuing innovative financing solutions to offset risk

AfDB continued to categorize its approved sovereign operations using the Gender Marker System, which seeks to differentiate operations to focus on those that have a greater impact on reducing gender gaps.

In 2023 a record 100 percent of sovereign operations were categorized using the Gender Marker System, of which 58 percent contributed directly to women's access to social services and skills.

The Bank showed innovation in safeguarding its ability to bear risk in carrying out its strategic development objectives while maintaining its AAA/aa rating. In particular, guarantees for sovereign operations rose to UA 1.71 billion in 2023, the highest level since the Bank started offering these instruments in 2000.

Also in 2023, approvals for climate finance registered substantial increase over 2022, reaching UA 4.3 billion (USD 5.8 billion,) representing 5 percent of total approvals.

The African Development Bank Group experienced a significant increase in income in all its three entities reaching UA 1,729.89 million up from UA 774.79 million in December 2022. The increase was a result of heightened loan activities and favorable returns on treasury and other investments. Although, this was largely offset by higher borrowing expenses, the Bank achieved very strong net income of UA 406.05 million, close to double the UA 239.39 million in 2022.

## Banking counters dominate DSE trading on week's opening

By Guardian Reporter

BANKING counter dominated the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) activities during the opening day of the week, with share indices ended up in downward trend.

The daily market report shows that all Share Index (DSED), Tanzania Share Index (TSI) and Banks, Finance & Investment declined by 0.93 points, 0.36 points and 1.21 points respectively.

Top mover was CRDB counter, which recorded the transactions of 351,603 shares, valued 178.6m/- traded through normal market board at a weighted average price of 510/- per share in 181 deals.

NMB counter emerged as second top mover, after recorded the transactions of 25,693 shares valued 136.2m/-, traded through



Stock brokers at work. File Photo

normal trade at a weighted average price of 5,325/- per share in eleven deals.

Other banking counters which recorded trading activities during the opening day of the week were DCB, which transacted

1,780 shares valued 195,800/-, followed by Maendeleo Bank (MBP), which transacted 10 shares valued 3,000/- and Mkombozi Commercial Bank (MKCB) counter which transacted 1,122 shares valued 0.6m/-.

Apart from banking sector, TCCIA Investment Limited (TICL) was third top mover, after recording the transaction of 14,129 shares valued 2.6m/- traded at a price ranging from 185/- to 190/- per share in 30 deals.

The market report shows a total turnover of 324 was recorded during the opening day of the week, through the transaction of 400,510 shares traded in 290 deals.

Local investors dominated the activities as they accounted for 100 percent of total value of shares bought and 99.87 percent of the value of total shares sold.

Other non-banking active counters were self-listed DSE, Precision Air (PAL), Tanzania Cigarette Company (TCC), Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCC), Tanzania Tea Packaging (Tatepa) and Vodacom Tanzania.

Top gainer of the day was cross listed East African Breweries Limited (EABL), which its share slightly increased by 1.31 percent to 3,100/-, compared to 3,060/- recorded dur-

ing the closing day of the last week.

Four counters including Jubilee Holdings Limited (JHL), Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Mkombozi Commercial Bank (MKCB) and TCCIA Investment Limited (TICL) saw their share declining at the opening of the week.

On government bonds board, a 20-year bond with a coupon rate of 12.10 percent and a face value of 0.01bn/- was traded at 85.06 percent in one deal, while a 20-year bond with coupon rate of 15.49 percent and face value of 0.15bn/- was traded at prices of 100 percent, 100.38 percent, 104 percent, 105.49 percent and 106.022 percent in six deals.

The market also traded a 25-year bond with a coupon rate of 12.56 percent ad a face value of 0.03bn/- at 90.145 percent in one deal, while a 25-years bond with coupon rate of 15.95 percent and a face value of 2.05bn/- was traded at prices ranging from 102 percent and 112 percent in four deals.

## Africa Energy Bank ushers in a new era of hydrocarbon growth

By Guardian Reporter

CONTINENTAL group The African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO), in collaboration with multilateral financial institution the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has signed the requisite documents for the establishment of the Africa Energy Bank - an institution set up to facilitate, promote and finance the development of oil, gas and energy industries in Africa.

A statement by African Energy Chamber (AEC) released yesterday and shared to this journalist, has that the signing ceremony was held in Cairo on June 3, 2024 and marked the official creation of the institution.

As the voice of the African energy sector, AEC commends the efforts by APPO and Afreximbank

to not only establish such an important financial institution but to fast-track its creation. The AEC believes that the Africa Energy Bank will play a central role in strengthening energy access and growth in Africa by providing the financing needed to get large-scale projects off the ground.

The signing ceremony comes ahead of the continent's biggest energy event - African Energy Week (AEW) which aims to drive new investment across the continent's energy value chain. Uniting investors and projects developers with African energy projects, the event has long-advocated for the establishment of an Africa Energy Bank, and in 2024, the conference will further unpack the role the institution will play across the continent.



Oil worker engages in upstream oil production. Photo: File Photo

AEW is the platform of choice for project operators, financiers, technology providers and government, and has emerged as the official place to sign deals in African energy.

Despite the role oil and gas has and will continue to play in Africa, global efforts to transition to alternative sources of fuel have created a significant investment gap worldwide. In recent years, fossil fuel funding has been declining rapidly, while IOCs divest their oil and gas assets, favoring more strategic investments.

At the same time, Africa still faces an energy crisis, with more than 600 million lacking access to elec-

tricity and over 900 million lacking access to clean cooking solutions. The International Energy Agency estimates that delivering modern energy to the entire continent will require up to \$25 billion in annual spending until 2030, highlighting a significant opportunity for financiers.

The Africa Energy Bank aims to directly address funding challenges by providing an African solution to financing energy projects.

With \$5 billion in initial capital raised from African signatories, the institution aims to close the funding gap by providing capital to oil and gas projects across the continent. In a relatively short period of time, the

institution has garnered substantial interest from African governments and development financial institutions, all of which recognize its role in funding future projects.

APPO Secretary General Omar Farouk Ibrahim announced in March 2024 that the bank had already started receiving funds from APPO member states - underscoring the level of interest in supporting its establishment. The bank is seeking approximately \$83 million from each of APPO's 18 signatories, amounting to almost \$1.5 billion.

With the establishment of the bank, African countries will not only be able to benefit from a new source of financing but will be able to reduce their reliance on foreign capital. Between 2016 and 2021, over 88 percent of the general financing of the 24 largest fossil fuel companies in Africa was foreign funded, showcasing the level of reliance on foreign institutions.

This has left the continent susceptible to foreign policies and capital trends, leading to difficulty in raising capital despite the urgency of oil and gas development. With the Africa Energy Bank, project developers can tap into African-raised funds, therefore driving project forward.

"The AEC is proud to see organizations such as APPO and Afreximbank taking concrete steps towards financing African energy projects. Despite ongoing pressure to relinquish fossil fuel financing and redirect capital towards renewables, these organizations are promoting a just transition in Africa - one that prioritizes Africa's development and recognizes the role oil and gas plays. The Africa Energy Bank will play a catalyzing role in expanding the energy industry in Africa while driving sustainable and equitable growth for the continent's population," stated NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the AEC.

## The post-Covid revitalisation of the global airline industry

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

In 2023, the global airline industry rebounded from Covid challenges, achieving profitability after three years of losses. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) reported a net profit of \$27.4 billion, surpassing previous projections a remarkable increase from the \$3.5 billion loss in 2022.

It is noted that initially forecasted to be around \$23 billion, the industry's performance exceeded expectations.

According to Statista, IATA's Director General, Willie Walsh hailed the industry's successful recovery from the pandemic, while also warning that the industry's profit margins remain "wafer thin."

"We deserve to celebrate the hard work that has brought our industry back from the brink, while acknowledging that we remain squeezed between a fiercely competitive environment downstream and the oligopolistic upstream supply chain's lack of competition," Walsh said at the IATA's 80th Annual General Meeting in Dubai on Monday.

The IATA's Director General added: "onerous regulation" and persistent supply chain problems also stand in the way of sustainable industry-level profits.

Despite the positive financial outcomes, experts point out that the journey to full recovery is far from complete. Richard Aboulafla, Managing Director at AeroDynamic Advisory, notes that while passenger numbers are climbing, the industry faces significant structural issues.

"The increase in passenger volume is encouraging, but the industry needs to tackle rising operational costs and supply chain disruptions that have persisted post-pandemic. These factors can quickly erode the thin profit margins airlines are currently enjoying," said Aboulafla.

Echoing this sentiment, Andrew Charlton, Managing Director of Aviation Advocacy, stresses the impact of regulatory challenges. "The regulatory environment is becoming increasingly complex, with governments around the world imposing stricter environmental regulations. Compliance costs are rising, and airlines



A ground crew member ensures smooth aircraft operations on the airport ramp. File Photo

need to innovate rapidly to meet these demands without compromising profitability."

Supply chain issues have been a recurring theme in the airline industry's recovery narrative. According to aviation analyst Alex Macheras, the pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities in the global supply chain, particularly concerning aircraft manufacturing and maintenance.

"The oligopolistic nature of the aircraft manufacturing industry means that delays from a few key suppliers can have a ripple effect throughout the sector. Airlines are finding it challenging to expand their fleets or even maintain their current capacity due to bottlenecks in the supply chain," Macheras explains.

IATA's Walsh also pointed to the need for a more

resilient supply chain. "We need to ensure that our supply chains are not only robust but also flexible enough to handle unexpected disruptions. This requires cooperation across the entire aviation ecosystem, from manufacturers to service providers."

Furthermore, sustainability is another critical aspect of the airline industry's future. The pressure to reduce carbon emissions and adopt greener technologies is mounting.

According to a report by the World Economic Forum, the aviation industry accounts for about 2-3 percent of global carbon emissions, and this figure is expected to rise. Experts argue that achieving long-term profitability will hinge on the industry's ability to transition to sustainable prac-

tices.

Paul Steele, IATA's Senior Vice President for Environment and Sustainability, emphasizes the importance of investment in sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs) and innovative technologies.

"The transition to sustainable aviation is not just an environmental imperative but also a financial one. Airlines that lead in adopting SAFs and improving fuel efficiency will be better positioned to meet regulatory requirements and customer expectations, ultimately enhancing their profitability," he said.

Looking ahead, the IATA expects industry revenues to reach a historic high of \$996 billion in 2024, as 38.7 million flights are expected for the year, just 0.2 million short of the 2019 supply.

Passenger revenue is expected to reach \$744 billion, exceeding the 2019 total by more than 22 percent, driven in part by an increase in passenger volume and in part by improvements in passenger yields.

Net profits are expected to climb to \$30.5 billion this year, which is more than previously forecast but still not enough to build financial resilience and invest in a more sustainable future, according to Walsh.

Media reports has that the airline industry is on the path to sustainable profits, but there is a big gap still to cover. A 5.7 percent return on invested capital is well below the cost of capital,

which is over 9 percent. And earning just \$6.14 per passenger is an indication of just how thin our profits are - barely enough for a coffee in many parts of the world.

Moreover, the path to a robust and resilient global airline industry is fraught with challenges, but it is also paved with opportunities for innovation and growth. Industry leaders and experts agree that collaboration, regulatory adaptation, and a strong focus on sustainability will be key to navigating the post-pandemic landscape.

As John Strickland, Director of JLS Consulting, aptly puts it, "The recovery is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of the airline industry. However, sustaining this recovery will require airlines to not only manage current challenges but also anticipate future disruptions. Strategic investments in technology, sustainability, and supply chain resilience will be crucial in shaping a profitable and sustainable future for aviation."

Therefore, while the airline industry has made significant strides in recovering from the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic, it must continue to evolve and adapt to ensure long-term sustainability and profitability. The delicate balance between navigating immediate operational challenges and investing in future growth will determine the industry's trajectory in the years to come.

## Global oil prices fall after OPEC+ extends supply cuts

NAIROBI

GLOBAL oil prices fell below the USD 80/barrel mark just a day after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC+) meeting where oil-producing countries agreed to extend output cuts into 2025.

Kenya's supplier UAE Murban eased by 3.6 percent to USD 78.93/barrel while the global benchmark Brent Crude oil decreased by 3.5 percent to USD 78.17/barrel. Additionally, WTI eased by 3.8 percent to USD 74.01/barrel, all falling below the USD 80.00/barrel mark on Monday.

In the Sunday meeting, OPEC+ agreed to not only extend supply cuts through 2025 but also allow phasing out of voluntary cuts of 2.2 million barrels per day from October 2024.

Additionally, the United Arab Emirates got an extra production boost of 0.3 million barrels per day in 2025 following a consistent push of higher production. The group agreed to extend the additional voluntary cuts of 1.65 million barrels per day that were announced in April 2023, until the end of December 2025.

Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Oman held a meeting in Riyadh on the sidelines of the 37th OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting (ONOMM). The meeting aimed at underpinning precautionary efforts of OPEC+ countries and to bolster oil prices.

The group agreed to extend the additional voluntary cuts of 1.65 million barrels per day that were announced in April 2023, until



the end of December 2025.

"Moreover, these countries will extend their additional voluntary cuts of 2.2 million barrels per day, that were announced in November 2023, until the end of September 2024 and then the 2.2 million barrels per day cut will be gradually phased out on a monthly basis until the end of September 2025 to support market stability. This monthly increase can be paused or reversed subject to market conditions," said OPEC in a statement.

The next OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting will be held on 1st December 2024.

With the expected surplus supply as a result of gradually phasing out the production cuts, which came in ear-

lier than expected, oil prices are seeing a bearish trend in the medium term with dimming demand pressures. OPEC+ remains cautious stating that decisions would be market dependent and therefore subject to change.

Since the November 2023 meeting, oil prices have been ranging around the \$80/barrel mark. Despite the recent price drop, global oil prices remain prone to geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and Ukraine.

In Kenya, effects of global oil price increases and decreases lag on account of different landing cost prices and exchange rate used during the review cycles by EPRA.

Agencies

## AEW set to fuel project development with dedicated upstream E&P forum

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN Energy Week (AEW) will host a dedicated upstream E&P forum to showcase licenses and active assets to global investors and industry leaders. The forum serves as the principal platform to connect investors and project developers with available acreage.

A statement released yesterday by African Energy Chamber (AEC) stated and shared to this paper, indicated that the forum will feature private sector executives, ministers and senior and government officials as they drill down on key issues and offer progressive solutions for maximizing the value of Africa's energy resources.

Representing the ideal platform for leading players throughout the continent and abroad to build on a shared commitment towards bringing Africa out of energy poverty, the forum aims to bolster energy access through resource exploitation and monetization.

AEW is the platform of choice for project operators, financiers, technology providers and government, and has emerged as the official place to sign deals in African energy.

In 2024, Africa's E&P landscape is witnessing unprecedented growth owing to regional demand, with recent large-scale discoveries and calls by African stakeholders to advance hydrocarbon monetization.

While major oil producing countries such as Algeria, Angola and Libya look towards expanding production on the back of new exploration campaigns, nascent markets such as Namibia and the Republic of Congo have put forward ambitious upstream agendas which aim to position the countries as both producers and exporters.

Africa is making strides to expand its oil and gas reserves, with multiple countries introducing new licensing rounds and accelerating ongoing ones. Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to spearhead this growth, with more than 11 licensing rounds planned for 2024

and 2025.

Namibia is awarding new E&P licenses in two 2-month periods in 2024 as part of a new open-door system entitled the New System, which was launched in January to address a backlog of permit applications. The country received applications for its onshore blocks from April to May and is poised to receive applications for offshore E&P licenses from September to October.

Meanwhile, Angola's national

concessionaire - the National Oil, Gas & Biofuels Agency (ANPG) - is set to launch its 2025 Limited Public Tender, offering up to 10 offshore blocks in the Kwanza and Benguela basins in 2025. In March 2024, the ANPG announced winners for a 12-block oil and gas tender covering the Lower Congo and Kwanza onshore basins. The government's updated Hydrocarbon Exploration Strategy 2020-2025 showcases the immense potential within the country's geologi-

cally-appraised concessions and sedimentary basins, with underexplored prospects such as the Kwanza Basin and Namibe Basin serving as some of the world's leading frontiers for hydrocarbon exploration.

Additionally, Nigeria launched its 2024 licensing round in April, offering 19 blocks - including seven deep offshore assets and 12 new assets. The licensing round will conclude in January 2025, highlighting a strategic opportunity

for E&P players. Uganda is also expected to launch its third licensing round in mid-2024, offering blocks in the Open Albertine Graben basin, while Somalia is set to offer some 26 offshore blocks in its 2024 bid round - expected to close in 2026. Kenya and Tanzania are preparing to launch their own respective licensing rounds this year, underscoring frontier opportunities in East Africa.

Across the continent, E&P players are already making strides towards developing untapped resources. In April, energy giant TotalEnergies signed an MoU with Algerian state-owned energy company Sonatrach for the appraisal and development of gas resources in the North-East Timimoun region. Meanwhile, the same month saw the discovery of a well in Libya by the country's state-owned National Oil Corporation with the potential to produce 16.8 million cubic feet of gas per day. In addition to gas, the discovery also shows the potential for the well to produce 646 barrels of oil per day with a specific density of 49 API.

On top of these recent advancements, large scale discoveries in the Orange Basin and the MSGBC Basin have positioned Africa as one of the world's top oil and gas markets. In Namibia - compounded by favorable fiscal incentives and a large-scale investment landscape - discoveries include the Graff-1, Venus-1, Jonker-IX, La Rona-1, Lesedi-IX, Mopane-IX and most recently, the Mangetti-IX concessions, which have attracted oil and gas supermajors including TotalEnergies, Shell, Chevron and ExxonMobil, as well as independents players such as Azule Energy, Galp and ReconAfrica.

Meanwhile, the Sangomar Field Development - Senegal's inaugural offshore oil project - anticipates first oil in mid-2024 and is set to process 100,000 barrels per day once operational. Straddling the maritime border between Mauritania and Senegal, the development of the Greater Tortue Ahmeyim LNG project is nearing completion.

"What Africa needs to make energy poverty history by 2030 is for more wells to be drilled. The Upstream E&P Forum will be crucial for moving projects forward and prioritizing the funding of large-scale oil and gas projects to fuel economic growth and accelerate industrialization," stated NJ Ayuk, AEC Executive Chairman.



Upstream works include the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas. File Photo







# AU warns of rise in conflicts, unconstitutional government changes in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) on Monday warned of the combined effects of escalating conflicts and unconstitutional government changes that threaten the democratic foundations and security of African countries.

The statement was made by Alhaji Sarjoh Bah, director of conflict management within the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department of the AU Commission, while addressing a continental peace and security-themed meeting on Monday at the AU headquarters in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

"Africa has, unfortunately, witnessed an escalation of conflicts in regions such as the

Horn of Africa, the Sahel, and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo," the statement quoted Bah (pictured) as saying.

The director stressed that such events "create vacuums that are exploited by terrorist groups and violent extremists, as external actors further destabilize our societies and hinder our progress toward sustainable peace."

Bah said the AU, faced with the challenges, has provided essential assistance to its conflict-affected member states in mitigating the impacts of conflict and instability.



He called for concerted efforts to further strengthen continental peace and security initiatives, including the strong presence of the African Standby Force in responding to conflict and emergency situations across the continent.

Meanwhile, the director underscored the urgent need to address the negative impacts of the current geopolitical tensions, which he said have further exacerbated Africa's peace and security challenges.

"The current global landscape is fraught with geopolitical tensions, major power rivalries, and a fragmented international order. Africa is not immune to these challenges, as we witness the rise of transnational threats that test the very fabric of our security architecture," said Bah.

# Xi sends congratulatory letter on 30th anniversary of Chinese Academy of Engineering

BEIJING



CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Monday called on the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) to play its role as a national strategic sci-tech force and make new contributions to the country's great self-reliance and strength in science and technology.

Xi (pictured), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in a congratulatory letter sent to the CAE on the 30th anniversary of its founding.

Xi extended warm congratulations and sincere greetings to academicians of the CAE and other engineering technology workers on behalf of the CPC Central Committee.

Xi said that over the past 30 years, the CAE, under the strong leadership of the Party, has united academicians and engineering technology workers to promote the development of engineering technology, overcome sci-tech difficulties and build major national projects and equipment, thus making important contributions to promoting China's innovation and progress in engineering technology as well as high-quality economic and social development.

Xi emphasized that engineering technology is an important engine driving the development of human society. He expressed the hope that the CAE, at a new starting point, will play its role as a national strategic sci-tech force, lead the innovation of engineering technology, accelerate breakthroughs in key and core technologies, and strengthen its function as a high-end national think tank.

My fellow Indians, The biggest festival of democracy, the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections, are concluding today in our nation, the Mother of Democracy. After a three-day spiritual journey in Kanniyakumari, I have just boarded the plane for Delhi. Through the day, Kashi and numerous other seats have been in the midst of voting.

# New Sankalps from the Sadhana in Kanniyakumari

My mind is filled with so many experiences and emotions... I feel a boundless flow of energy within myself. The 2024 Lok Sabha elections are the first in the Amrit Kaal. I began my campaign a few months ago from Meerut, the land of the First War of Independence of 1857. Since then, I have traversed across the length and breadth of our great nation. The final rally of these elections took me to Hoshiarpur in Punjab, the land of the great Gurus and a land associated with Sant Ravidas Ji. After that, I came to Kanniyakumari, at the feet of Maa Bharti.

ocean expanded my ideas, and the expanse of the horizon continuously made me realize the unity, the Oneness, embedded in the depths of the universe. It seemed as if the observations and experiences undertaken in the lap of the Himalayas decades ago were being revived.



studying the democratization of technology, and major global institutions are advising many countries to adopt elements from our model.

Today, Bharat's progress and rise are not just a significant opportunity for Bharat alone, but also a historic opportunity for all our partner countries around the world. Since the success of the G-20, the world has been increasingly envisioning a bigger role for Bharat. Today, Bharat is being acknowledged as a strong and important voice of the Global South. The African Union has become a part of the G-20 group at the initiative of Bharat. This is going to be a crucial turning point for the future of African countries.

fundamental principle to make our country a 'Viksit Bharat'. We need to work quickly in all four directions: Speed, Scale, Scope, and Standards. Alongside manufacturing, we must also focus on quality and adhere to the mantra of 'zero defect-zero effect'.

It is natural that the fervour of the elections was echoing in my heart and mind. The multitude of faces seen in rallies and road shows came in front of my eyes. The blessings from our Nari Shakti...the trust, the affection, all of this was a very humbling experience. My eyes were getting moist...I entered into a 'sadhana' (meditative state). And then, the heated political debates, the attacks and counter-attacks, the voices and words of accusations which are so characteristic of an election...they all vanished into a void. A sense of detachment came to grow within me...my mind became completely detached from the external world.

Friends, Kanniyakumari has always been very close to my heart. The Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanniyakumari was built under the leadership of Shri Eknath Ranade ji. I had the opportunity to travel extensively with Eknath ji. During the construction of this Memorial, I had the opportunity to spend some time in Kanniyakumari as well.

From Kashmir to Kanniyakumari... this is a common identity that is deeply ingrained in the heart of every citizen of the country. This is the 'Shakti Peeth' (seat of Shakti) where Maa Shakti incarnated as Kanya Kumari. At this Southern tip, Maa Shakti performed penance and waited for Bhagwan Shiva, who was residing in the Himalayas at the northernmost parts of Bharat.

pose. Bharat has been a cradle of ideas for thousands of years. We have never considered what we have acquired as our personal wealth or measured it purely by economic or material parameters. Therefore, 'Idam-na-mama' (this is not mine) has become an inherent and natural part of the character of Bharat.

The development trajectory of Bharat fills us with pride and glory, but at the same time, it also reminds the 140 crore citizens of their responsibilities. Now, without wasting a single moment, we must step forward towards greater duties and larger goals. We need to dream new dreams, convert them into reality and begin living those dreams.

Friends, We should take pride in every moment that God has blessed us with birth in the land of Bharat. God has chosen us to serve Bharat and fulfil our role in our country's journey towards excellence.

We must redefine our heritage in a modern way while embracing ancient values in a modern context.

As a nation, we also need to reassess outdated thinking and beliefs. We need to free our society from the pressure of professional pessimists. We must remember that freedom from negativity is the first step towards achieving success. Success blossoms in the lap of positivity.

My faith, devotion, and belief in the infinite and eternal power of Bharat are growing day by day. Over the past 10 years, I have seen this capability of Bharat grow even more and have experienced it firsthand.

Meditation becomes challenging amidst such huge responsibilities, but the land of Kanniyakumari and the inspiration of Swami Vivekananda made it effortless. As a candidate myself, I left my campaign in the hands of my beloved people of Kashi and came here.

Kanniyakumari is the land of confluences. The sacred rivers of our country flow into different seas, and here, those very seas converge. And here, we witness another great confluence—the ideological confluence of Bharat! Here, we find the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, a grand statue of Saint Thiruvalluvar, Gandhi Mandapam, and Kamarajar Mani Mandapam. These streams of thought from these stalwarts converge here to form a confluence of national thought. This gives rise to great inspirations for nation-building.

Bharat's welfare benefits our planet's journey to progress as well. Take the freedom movement as an example. Bharat gained independence on August 15, 1947. At that time, many countries around the world were under colonial rule. Bharat's independence journey inspired and empowered many of those countries to achieve their own freedom. That same spirit was seen decades later when the world came face to face with the once in a century COVID-19 pandemic. When concerns were raised about the poor and developing countries, Bharat's successful efforts provided courage and assistance to many nations.

Today, Bharat's governance model has become an example for many countries around the world. Empowering 25 crore people to rise above poverty in just 10 years is unprecedented. Innovative practices such as Pro-People Good Governance, aspirational districts, and aspirational blocks are being discussed globally today. Our efforts, from empowering the poor to last-mile delivery, have inspired the world by prioritizing individuals standing at the last rung of society. Bharat's Digital India campaign is now an example for the entire world, showing how we can use technology to empower the poor, bring transparency, and ensure their rights. Inexpensive data in Bharat is becoming a means of social equality by ensuring the reach of information and services to the poor. The whole world is witnessing and

Today, we have the same golden opportunity. Let's dedicate the next 25 years solely for the nation. Our efforts will create a strong foundation for the coming generations and the coming centuries, taking Bharat to new heights. Looking at the energy and enthusiasm of the country, I can say that the goal is not far away now. Let us take swift steps...let us come together and create a Viksit Bharat.

Amidst this detachment, amidst the peace and silence, my mind was constantly thinking about the bright future of Bharat, the goals of Bharat. The rising sun at Kanniyakumari gave new heights to my thoughts, the vastness of the

The grand statue of Saint Thiruvalluvar in Kanniyakumari seems to be looking at the expanse of Maa Bharati from the sea. His work Thirukkural is one of the crown jewels of the beautiful Tamil language. It covers every aspect of life, inspiring us to give our best for ourselves and for the nation. It was my great fortune to pay my respects to such a great figure.

Friends, Swami Vivekananda once said, 'Every nation has a message to deliver, a mission to fulfil, a destiny to reach.'

For thousands of years, Bharat has been moving forward with this sense of meaningful pur-

We must see Bharat's development in a global context, and for this, it is essential that we understand Bharat's internal capabilities. We must acknowledge Bharat's strengths, nurture them, and utilize them for the benefit of the world. In today's global scenario, Bharat's strength as a youthful nation is an opportunity from which we must not look back.

The world of the 21st century is looking towards Bharat with many hopes. And we will need to make several changes to move forward in the global scenario. We also need to change our traditional thinking regarding reform. Bharat cannot limit reform to just economic reforms. We must move forward in every aspect of life towards the direction of reform. Our reforms should also align with the aspirations of a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) by 2047.

We must also understand that reform can never be a unidimensional process for any country. Therefore, I have laid out the vision of reform, perform, and transform for the country. The responsibility of reform lies with leadership. Based on that, our bureaucracy performs, and when the people join in with the spirit of Jan Bhagidari, we witness a transformation taking place.

We must make excellence the

These thoughts were penned by PM Modi (pictured) on 1st June between 4:15 PM and 7 PM during his return flight from Kanniyakumari to Delhi.

# EU imposing security dialogue on global South while looking weapons for Kiev – diplomat

MOSCOW

THE European Union is seeking to impose a security dialogue narrative on countries of the global South in a bid to find more weapons for Kiev and means of countering Russia, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

"The European Union is making efforts to impose security and defense dialogue on countries of the global majority," she said in a commentary following the Schuman Security and Defence Forum in Brussels.

"But a priority for the European Union is not what the global majority is interested in

but rather the 'Ukrainization' of any international agenda, raising weapons for Ukraine, investing in the confrontation with Russia, China, Iran and other independent centers of power, as well as producing an appearance of supporting anti-Russian ultimatums based on the inviolable 'Zelensky formula'."

According to Zakharova, the European Union is undergoing cardinal changes having turned "from a peaceful economic project into a militarist association." "It is secret to no one that having lost its political independence under Washington's pressure, the European Union has proclaimed itself as a NATO pillar. The current

consolidation of these US-led blocs is geared to try to ensure, by all means - from economic and political to military ones, domination of the West and its global oligarchy under the umbrella of the rule-based world order.

This Western-centric order is called to continue maintaining the system of the West's political and economic parasitizing on the resources and wellbeing of the rest of the world," she stressed.

She drew attention to the fact that despite the initial plans to hold the ministerial Schuman Security and Defense Forums every two years, this year's one was organized in the following year after the previous one.



"Notably, it can be called a ministerial forum only conditionally, like last year's one. First, not all of those invited took part. Second, only a few countries were represented at a high level. Nearly half of countries found it enough to be represented at the level of their diplomatic missions in Brussels," Zakharova noted.

**Weapon of propaganda**

The Russian diplomat noted that it was quite illustrative that many EU nations did not delegate to the forum ministers or at least ambassadors to the

European Union. "Although EU foreign and defense ministers were holding a meeting in Brussels literally on the same days. It means that the EU is not ready for a serious discussion of security problems that are of concern for countries of the global South and East," Zakharova went on to say. This also reveals the European Union's colonial attitude to countries of the global majority that are still seen by EU leadership as 'jungle'."

According to Zakharova, this is not the first event that is used by the EU as an instrument of political manipulation and a propaganda weapon against its geopolitical rivals. "The added value of these discussion is

dubious," she said. "The participation of a US deputy secretary of defense proves that Washington continues to seek to expand supplies of American weapons to the European and global markets. And the statement by the Dutch defense minister that the Hague will allow Kiev to use US F-16 fighter jets to deliver strikes on 'military targets' in Russia is yet another proof."

**EU's lost positions**

She also drew attention to the announced "network of defense agreements." "Like the notorious rule-based order, it will be built on the principles of the West's superiority and ignoring legal interests of those who are unwilling to become the EU and NATO's dependent partner," she said. "No surprise that due to its egocentric policy and double standards, the European Union is inevitably losing both its political positions in the world and confidence from countries of the global majority."

"EU officials are trying to compensate for this by making 'collective photos' in various formats, picturing the presence of foreigners at their events as an alleged support for its approaches. We are convinced that next time there will be less of those willing to take part in such EU geopolitical shows as extras," Zakharova added.

Agencies

# SPORT



Dallas Mavericks head coach Jason Kidd shouts instructions to his players during the first half of Game 5 of the Western Conference finals in the NBA basketball playoffs against the Minnesota Timberwolves on Thursday, May 30, 2024, in Minneapolis. AP Photo

## Jason Kidd passes on vindication as he leads Mavs to NBA Finals

DALLAS

JASON Kidd isn't big on personal vindication.

Leading the Dallas Mavericks to the NBA Finals as their coach 13 years after he was the point guard on the franchise's only championship team means more to Kidd than proving he was right about Luka Dončić and Kyrie Irving needing time to grow into a title-seeking tandem.

There's part of the 51-year-old, a Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame player, who believes he doesn't have much to prove at all.

"I know how to win," Kidd said. "Done that since elementary school, to the highest level. I've won gold medals. I've won championships. And I've won a championship as a coach, assistant coach. Now I get the opportunity to do it as a head coach."

When the Mavericks tip off at the Boston Celtics in Game 1 on Thursday night, they'll be three months removed from a 1-6 slide that once again had pundits questioning how much longer Kidd would be the coach in Dallas.

The Mavs will be almost 14 months removed from Kidd dealing with questions about his job security and the club's curious decision to quit with two games left, still with a chance to make the postseason.

The Dončić-Irving pairing had faltered in the two months after the blockbuster trade that brought Irving from Brooklyn in 2023. Never mind that just a year earlier, Kidd's coaching debut in Dallas ended with Dončić's first trip to the Western Conference finals.

"You have to go through some failures I suppose to really believe it's going to work," said Kidd, whose title as an assistant came with the Los Angeles Lakers in the 2020 playoff bubble. "We weren't very good. But it's OK. As much as people feel like they should be traded or fired because of failures, it's sometimes sad. We had to go through it."

Now, Kidd will try become the eighth person to win a title as a player and coach for the same franchise. Seven more have done both with different franchises.

Kidd did it by giving the mix of perennial All-Stars Irving and Dončić time to marinate, and persuading the offensive wizards to play defense.

"He understands me and Kyrie's role because he's been in that role," Dončić said of the two-time Olympic gold medal winner. "So he helps us a lot. But everybody. He kept everybody together. We were down a lot, especially during the season. It was ups and downs all the time, but he kept us together."

Kidd and his staff pivoted with the midseason trades for P.J. Washington, a 3-and-D wing, and Daniel Gafford, a pick-and-roll rim protector to add depth at center with rookie Dereck Lively II.

A team that started the season with Kidd's mantra of "our offense is our defense" morphed into a defense-first group similar to his first season in 2021-22.

Here's the bottom line.

In the 10 seasons from the 2011 championship to Kidd's arrival as coach, the Mavs didn't win a playoff series. They've won five in his three seasons, losing to Golden State in the West finals two years ago.

"It doesn't happen a lot you go from the lottery to the finals," Kidd said, referring to the draft pick the Mavs preserved – and turned into Lively – by tanking at the end of 2022-23. "But we truly believed that we had the pieces. Sometimes you take a step back to view what you have."

Even after the Mavs felt they had found the right mix, the 1-6 slide came after a seven-game winning streak. They were six games over .500 and flirting with the play-in tournament, which would have put Dallas at risk of missing consecutive playoffs after such a promising start under Kidd.

A 16-2 stretch followed, vaulting the Mavericks to fifth in the West. Now they've won three series without home-court advantage and will try to do it again. Houston, at No. 6 in 1995, is the only lower seed to win a championship.

"I think at one of the points in the season, everyone thought the world was coming to an end," Kidd said. "But we kept coming to work. We were positive and things kind of turned around for the better. I think that's just who we are. It's just about trust, about working and having fun at the same time."

The Mavericks are a reflection of their coach, stoic in the face of the criticism and questions a year ago, with maybe a little vitriol sprinkled in when there's a feeling of, "That's enough."

Kidd has long preached it's OK to fail, which left an impression on Lively as the 20-year-old quickly blossomed into an impact player the club wasn't necessarily expecting this soon.

"He's putting me in positions where he's expecting me to fail, and even if I fail, he's going to leave me in there to learn," Lively said. "He's walking into the locker room and then asking, what do we think? Being able to have a coach like that who's going to make the players speak, make the players talk to one another and then say what he thinks, is an amazing process."

Kidd dropped an expletive on a reporter last year when asked about the vote of confidence he got from then-owner Mark Cuban as the season fizzled at the finish, essentially saying those questions weren't being asked during the 2022 West finals run.

A 10-time All-Star who is second in career assists behind John Stockton, Kidd looks back on that chaos with a shrug.

"You guys ask all the tough questions. These are tough questions," Kidd said. "You guys are doing your job. As the head coach of the Mavericks, I'm doing my job. They were tough questions last year, tough questions that will come from this series. I will give you the answer. Some may like it. Some may not."

Either way, Kidd has a contract extension. He got that just after the first of his three series victories this spring.

AP

## SPORTS



Vijana basketball team coach Colimel Msuya (with the ball) gives instructions to his players during a training session at the Jakaya Kikwete grounds in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Former African Sports defender counsels TFF

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) has been urged to, through the federation's technical committee, appoint scouts who will be tasked with going to all parts of the country to explore hidden soccer talents.

Elisha John Semti, the former African Sports defender, issued the appeal in Tanga recently.

According to Semti, the federation has lately been struggling to assemble competent players for national teams that will successfully qualify for various CAF and FIFA tournaments.

The former African Sports defender explained that domestic soccer stakeholders should take a leaf from the just-ended CAF African Schools Football Championship (ASFC)'s book.

The second edition of the annual continental showpiece, which aims at promoting soccer talents from the

grassroots, took place at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar.

"Tanzania has a lot of talents but who should explore them? CAF has brought the program to our country because we not only have good sports facilities but also are supposed to learn something exceptional by improving the talents we have in our schools," the former footballer revealed.

Semti pointed out: "The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training put sports tournaments' programs in our education curricula, which means sports competitions are starting from primary schools to universities, but the participating players end up receiving trophies and other awards, there is hardly a plan for identifying and developing such players."

Hefurther said that if the TFF technical committee closely collaborates with the schools' administrations and has a better system for monitoring players,

Tanzania will have a lot of talented players that will make it easy for gaffers to select players for national teams.

"If the scouts will be active, such a move would help to address difficulties that national teams' coaches experience in selecting players because there will be a database of talents from junior to senior level in both women's and men's categories," he said.

He added that firing national team coaches is not happening because of the tacticians' lack of qualifications, instead, the problem lies in domestic soccer authorities.

"Just go to watch local soccer leagues in the areas we live, there are a lot of talented players who would become good players if they were selected and given special programs," Semti noted.

The former defender said: "However, our football authorities are busy thinking of firing coaches once the national teams have done poorly."

## Singida Fountain Gate FC aim for solidarity on technical bench

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC have identified the need for recruiting a new head coach who will, in cooperation with the leadership, develop a competitive squad ahead of the next season.

The move was reached after the now Mwanza-based side had reviewed its participation in the just-ended 2023/24 season.

In the 2023/24 season, Singida Fountain Gate FC was under the tutelage of several coaches on both permanent and interim bases, and, by the end of the season, the number totaled seven.

In the first phase of the Premier League season, Singida Fountain Gate FC parted ways with three coaches, namely Netherlands national Hans van der Pluijm, German coach Ernst Middendorp, and Brazilian coach Ricardo Ferreira.

South African Thabo Senong, domestic coaches Jamhuri Kihwelo and Ngawina Ngawina, as well as technical director, Burundian Ramadhan Nsanzurwimo, all led the team at different times.

In his first season as the interim head coach in top-flight football, Ngawina, who led the club to the final day of the Premier League, had the side ending 11th in the league log with 33 points.

Ngawina, the former striker for DR Congo's TP Mazembe, is not expected to retain his position at the helm of Singida Fountain Gate FC's technical bench as the squad is expected to hire a new head coach.

The club is on the verge of losing left fullback Nickson Kibabage, now on loan at Yanga, to the Jangwani Street-based club, with talks between the two clubs to seal a permanent move now in progress.

Singida Fountain Gate FC have, for that matter, begun searching for the left fullback's replacement.

Apart from Kibabage, midfielder Yusuph Kagoma is on his way out to Yanga, as the Premier League champions attempt to bolster the midfield.

Kagoma is set to play alongside Ugandan Khalid Aucho in defensive midfield.

Singida Fountain Gate FC's president Japheth Makau said the outfit will review the season through the interim head coach's report and decide on the players' recruitment and hiring a new head coach to fight for a top-four finish next season.

The club's top leader remarked that after receiving the end-of-the-season report, the outfit's next step is to build the team with the new head coach as well as identify his needs.

"We would not like to, next season, see a repeat of what happened in our technical bench this season, we want concentration on our coaches and players to build a strong team, our search is underway," Makau pointed out.

"Finishing 11th in the league log is not good for our club compared to last season, which saw us end fourth in the league," he stated.

"We also lost a lot of key players in our team in the just-

## Zanzibar Sparks U-14 girls to be honored at Farafa Sports Awards

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Zanzibar Sparks U-14 girls' team will be awarded at the FARAFa Sports Awards slated for Saturday in the Isles.

The FARAFa are renowned for coordinating sports awards in Zanzibar and the Saturday event will be held at the Michenzani Mall Hall, Zanzibar.

Petra Karume, the executive director and co-founder of Women Empowerment Zanzibar (WEZA), said the team's striker Riziki Sharif Hija will be awarded a Charity Award on behalf of her team during the event.

She said the awards will be presented by the guest of honour, Minister of Blue Economy and Fisheries, Shaaban Ali Othman, and they are a recognition of the team's significant efforts in promoting inclusivity and valuing the abilities of all girls through sports.

"The Zanzibar Sparks team exemplifies the true spirit of inclusivity, welcoming every girl, regardless of ability or background. Their diverse roster includes girls with hearing impairments and albinism, reflecting their commitment to embracing all abilities," she said.

The Sparks team was established in 2023 with support from the local NGO Women Empowerment Zanzibar (WEZA) and the Twende Olympics 2024 project. Since then the team has made remarkable strides.

The project, launched by the French Embassy in Tanzania in 2023, aims to support sports practice in Tanzania and promote the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris 2024.

Last month, Zanzibar Sparks embarked on an inspiring journey to France to compete in the Mondial Pupilles, one of the world's most prestigious international youth football tournaments.

The tournament has seen players like Thierry Henry and Dimitri Payet on their path to becoming professional footballers.

"For the 26 girls in the team, football represents hope and a shared dream that remains out of reach for many girls in Zanzibar. Cultural norms and deeply ingrained gender stereotypes pose significant obstacles to girls aspiring to play football."

"The Zanzibar Sparks team continues to break down these barriers, proving that the football field is a place for every girl to thrive," said Karume.



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# SPORT

France, England lead the contenders  
as Germany hosts Euro 2024

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Taifa Stars get set for Zambia clash as key players join camp

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN a bid to secure a spot in the 2026 World Cup finals, Tanzania's national football team, Taifa Stars, is set to be bolstered by key players, including those who are yet to join the team's camp.

The players, including Novatus Dismas, Haji Mnoga, Kibu Denis as well as Simon Msuva, and several others from Azam and Young Africans who were participating in the Federation Cup final last Sunday in Zanzibar, are expected now to join the provisional national squad.

These players are among the 34 selected by Taifa Stars' acting head coach, Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman, for the crucial World Cup qualifying match against Zambia next week.

Despite their inclusion in the squad, they have yet to report to the national team camp, raising questions about their availability.

Clifford Ndimbo, the Information Officer of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), addressed the situation, explaining that each player's absence from the camp was due to valid reasons.

"Each of the players has a reason for not being in the squad at the moment, but they all expect to join the Stars on Tuesday," Ndimbo stated. "The players who are not visible but have been called are on other duties but will join the team when it returns to the country from Indonesia and then heads to Zambia for the World Cup qualifier."

Taifa Stars recently played an international friendly match against Indonesia, which ended in a 0-0 draw. This match was part of their preparations for the upcoming World Cup qualifying campaign.

Upon returning from Indonesia, the team will immediately shift focus to the high-stakes encounter against Zambia in Group E of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

Coach Morocco has been meticulously preparing his squad for the challenge ahead. The addition of key players from Simba, Azam, and Young Africans is expected to significantly enhance the team's chances. These clubs have consistently produced top talent, and their players bring valuable experience and skill to the national team setup.

The absence of the aforementioned players has been a point of concern for fans and analysts alike. However, Ndimbo assured them that their late arrival will not disrupt the team's overall preparations.

"The timing of their arrival has been planned in such a way that they can integrate smoothly with the rest of the squad," he explained. "We are confident that their participation in the recent Federation Cup final has kept them in top form, and they will be ready to contribute fully to the national team."

As Taifa Stars gear up for the qualifier, the focus is on ensuring that the team is well-prepared both mentally and physically. The match against Zambia is crucial, as it could determine Tanzania's chances of making it to the World Cup for the first time.

The team has shown promise in recent years, and with the right combination of players and strategy, they aim to make history.

The Tanzanian football community is eagerly awaiting the outcome of this match, hopeful that Taifa Stars will rise to the occasion. The inclusion of star players from different top teams is seen as a positive move that could tip the scales in Tanzania's favor.

The journey to the World Cup is never easy, but with determination, skill, and the support of their fans, Taifa Stars are poised to take on the challenge.

The upcoming match against Zambia is a stepping stone, and the team's performance will be closely watched by football enthusiasts both locally and internationally.

## TCA set to unveil new junior cricket development programme

By Guardian Correspondent



Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar speaks during a meeting bringing together the association and local cricket clubs in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

TANZANIA's cricket clubs have agreed to scrap the current regional junior leagues program in favour of developing a new, robust youth development system.

Atif Salim, Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Information and Media officer, said the clubs reached the agreement at the quarterly meeting organized by the association in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

It was attended by nearly all clubs in Dar es Salaam and was led by TCA Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar and the association's vice-chairman Ashish Nagewadia.

The clubs, Salim revealed, also concurred that the decisions reached by the coach and selectors regarding the selection of players for national teams at all stages should be final and binding.

The meeting also addressed several achievements attained by the new management and discussed the challenges facing the association.

The TCA Information and Media officer noted that cricket stakeholders provided valuable input and support for the board's strategies to overcome the drawbacks.

The stakeholders were formally introduced to the national men's team head coach, Rivash Gobind, with a detailed presentation of his credentials and experience.

The national women's team head coach, Arun Yadav, was also formally introduced and the new jersey designs for both men's and women's national teams were unveiled.

The hosting rights for the ICC U-19 World Cup's Africa Qualifiers Division B, to be held in Dar es Salaam from July 31, and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional qualifiers slated for September were announced.

Salim said for the first time TCA quarterly accounts from January to April 2024 were shared with the stakeholders.

It was further announced that the association will host a Legends Meet on September 27 to honour past domestic cricket stalwarts.

The TCA board, according to Salim, intends to continue holding quarterly meetings with the clubs, with the next meeting scheduled for September 2024.

Salim disclosed that the initiative by the current TCA management aims to involve clubs in decision-making and daily operations, fostering a sense of ownership among cricket stakeholders.

The inclusive approach, according to him, has been well-received, making everyone feel integral to the association's functioning.

The official also noted that a minute of silence was moreover observed in memory of ICC Regional Development Manager for Africa, Patricia Kambarami, who passed away recently.

Meanwhile, Tanzania's U-19 men's cricket team's camp is in progress after the players, who totaled 56, were reduced to 27.

The national cricket team's head coach, Gobind, who also takes charge of the junior cricketers, has organized three trial matches slated to take place at the Leaders Club and University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) grounds at the end of this week.

Salim disclosed that the 27 players have been divided into two teams, Kilimanjaro and Serengeti, with each player allowed to showcase his skills and teamwork in a match format.

As the selection process advances, the squad will be further reduced to 20 players, then short-listed to 16, and finally trimmed to 14 players who will represent Tanzania in the upcoming Africa Qualifier for the 2026 ICC U-19 Men's World Cup.

This intensive selection process, the TCA Information and Media officer revealed, aims to ensure the best talent is chosen to represent the nation, fostering a competitive and high-performance environment for the young cricketers.

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## Yanga yet to decide on coach Miguel Gamondi's future



Young Africans Sports Club president Engineer Hersi Said (L) and the team's head coach Miguel Gamondi holding the trophy after winning the Federation Cup final match against Azam at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar on Sunday. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondent Michael Mwehe

YOUNG Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi has spoken about his future at the club.

Gamondi strengthened his case to stay on as Young Africans boss by lifting the Federation Cup on Sunday with a penalty shootout 6-5 win over Azam.

However, his current contract with Young Africans has expired while it is still unknown whether he will keep his job.

The Argentine was officially announced as the new head coach of Young Africans during the club's Annual General Meeting last year.

He signed a one-year contract as a replacement for Nasreddine Nabi, who led Young Africans to the CAF Confederations Cup final.

Gamondi has had a successful campaign in charge of the club. He steered Young Africans to a record-extending 30th league title last month as well as the Federation Cup.

He took the Tanzanian giants to the quarter-finals of the CAF Champions League, where they were eliminated by South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns via penalty shootout.

Gamondi confirmed his future with Young Africans remains in the balance pending discussion with the club.

"I need to think because my contract is ending today. We need to discuss. We will sit with the club and president to discuss and we will decide the future."

"I think Yanga needs to improve not only at the local level but the goal of the president and the board is to be at a higher level in African competitions."

"Yanga is starting to make a name in

African competition and I said not only Yanga but it is Tanzanian football. I think if the league continues improving infrastructures and competitions, the other clubs can grow up for better competition."

"It is good and beneficial for Tanzanian football. I repeat that for Yanga to rise above this level next season will be difficult," he said.

The 59-year-old was introduced to African football back in 2000 as an assistant coach at Libyan side Al-Ahly Tripoli before going to other continental elites like CR Belouizdad of Algeria, Wydad Casablanca of Morocco, Esperance and Ettoile du Sahel both from Tunisia.

Before joining Young Africans, his major achievement was in 2008 when he guided South Africa's Platinum Stars to the round of 16 stage of the CAF Confederation Cup.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

