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**Seaweed farmers laud Z'bar govt** Page 4



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# MPs approve Universal Health Care provisions

*We have done a tremendous job in increasing the number of healthcare workers in the country, reaching 50.4 percent of needs*

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has listed down nine revenue sources to finance the envisaged Universal Health Coverage (UHC) passed in the National Assembly yesterday after a period of collecting views from stakeholders on its sustainability.

Health minister Ummu Mwalimu when tabling the UHC bill of 2022 dwelt on issues raised by stakeholders on the UHC draft bill, including a clear financing mechanism to enable 15 million people who are unlikely to pay for the scheme.

The minister said funds would be raised from carbonated drinks, liquors, cosmetics, electronic transaction levy, budgetary allocations and grants from development partners.

Other sources are sports betting, levies from vehicles and motor insurance as well as revenues from the insurance fund where members will pay for their being included in the scheme.

UHC will be regulated by the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) to oversee the role of members, the service provider, so that health insurance schemes are implemented, she stated.

The revamped bill directs for the establishment of private and public health insurance schemes carrying out self-evaluation exercises each three years or as the regulator may direct.

The sustainability and performance report will help the regulator and the minister to take any useful action, focused on the need for health insurance schemes to have enough capital and offer the required services, she said.

The two schemes are empowered to carry out private investments to expand operating capitals to strengthen sustainability, the minister noted, highlighting that the bill empowers the regulator, "to issue guidelines on the lifespan of the costs of running the schemes" as well as on administering its operations "without affecting provision of services to its members."

The bill provides that if a member dies, dependents will benefit from services from the scheme up to a specified time as directed by the minister.

The bill assigns registering members on employment basis as employees have to be registered within 30 days from the day employment starts. Private companies will be registered as private health insurance providers after meeting criteria set out in the regulations, the minister affirmed.

The duality is meant to enable individuals to choose the kind of scheme to be served, as plurality of schemes and greater competition promotes quality of services, she said.

Earlier, the Association of Private Health Facilities of Tanzania (APHFTA) called for the creation of a regulator for health insurance to oversee fairness and address challenges like delayed payments for services rendered by private hospitals.

The government is introducing the UHC policy in line with Tanzania's 2007 Health Policy which requires all Tanzanians to con-



Frederick Mlowe, a researcher with Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (Uyole Centre) in Mbeya Region pictured yesterday showing farmers a field where lime has been applied to reduce soil acidity and, by extension, restore the soil's fertility. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

# TAZARA gets more passengers, revenue

## Chinese firm picked for concession

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

THE number of interstate passengers using the Tanzania-Zambia railway went up by 14 percent, from 469,551 during fiscal 2021/2022 to 534,603 across fiscal 2022/2023, surpassing the target by seven percent.

Marco Mabala, the TAZARA board secretary, made this affirmation when unveiled this situation at a virtual board

meeting on Tuesday, releasing his remarks in the city yesterday.

The meeting brought on board Stephen Mbewe (sitting in for Fredrick Mwalusaka) and Prof. Godius Kahyarara, Transport permanent secretaries in Zambia and Tanzania respectively, along with Prof. Razack Lokina, Rukia Shamte and Irene Mwamba Lumbwe, board members.

Greater railway traffic arose from reo-

pening the Chambeshi Bridge and a concurrent rise in bus fares, he said.

Annual performance for fiscal 2022/2023 showed a remarkable improvement in revenue by 10 per cent, driven by a surge in the traffic average haul after Chambeshi Bridge reopened in September 2022, he stated.

During fiscal 2022/2023, revenue reached \$26.78m, a notable increase

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# Use AGOA export facility, business community urged

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

INDUSTRY and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji has called on traders to make greater use of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to access the vast United States market.

The Minister issued this appeal in Dar es Salaam yesterday when meeting AGOA stakeholders hosted by the Fair Competition Commission (FCC), noting that local traders have not properly

used the opportunity where they can sell a wide range of products duty-free.

Traders should take advantage of this opportunity and focus on the quality of their products to meet the criteria set for specific products in the US market.

Only one trader introduced himself in the meeting as sending his products to the US market via AGOA, she stated, underlining the traders still have a long way to go to get there. "The market is open for us, we need to seize the op-

portunity as others do," the minister declared.

Apart from focusing on quality, traders need to ensure that they have scaled amounts to meet sizeable orders that importers prefer, to be able to supply that market any time.

She urged small traders to unite to simplify the process of transporting their products by reducing transport costs, similarly asking them to develop the habit of cooperation by visiting each other's businesses to learn what each one is doing.

"I have been told that there are some who send products to the United States without seeking the AGOA facility," she

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# SPORTS

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**JKT Queens off to Abidjan for CAF Women's Champions League**

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**Saudi ready for summer or winter World Cup in 2034, says FA chief**

# 'Dyslexia is widespread but largely unknown'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

OBSERVING the national dyslexia awareness month has brought attention to this condition of learning difficulties mostly unknown to the public, affecting children as well as adults in various parts of the country.

Dr Edna Chonge Ntulwe, the acting regional medical officer said at the event's climax here yesterday that many children are born with dyslexia, a plight upon language formation and learning

"They are sometimes labelled as slow learners, but in reality these are children who wish to learn differently," she stated, noting that parents, teachers and guardians should assess youngsters with such constraints to provide home and classroom attention.

Dyslexia is shown by difficulties in understanding sounds, verbal memory and verbal processing, thus dyslexia affects most learning spheres where the problem, if it persists, gets worse with age and becomes malignant

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## 'Dyslexia widespread but largely unknown'

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in adulthood, she said. "It is wrong to punish a child who fails to grasp a certain topic in class at the same speed with others," the RMO underlined, cautioning that teachers who use cane end up hurting them for something they cannot help.

Dr Paschal Kang'iria, a psychologist, explains that dyslexia in children starts right in the womb, taking a while before the condition is detected; often after they start school.

Dyslexia Tanzania founder Caudence Ayoti said that it took seven years for her to discover that her child was suffering from dyslexia, elaborating that despite the fact that the problem exists, dyslexia is hardly mentioned in public or health gatherings.

"It was stressful. I didn't know what to do until after prolonged re-

search when it turned out that mine was not an isolated case," she said, pointing out that there are millions of other parents around the globe facing the same situation with their children.

Johns Tenga, the Dyslexia Tanzania co-founder and a tour operator, said he decided to set aside some of his earnings to assist people facing such problems.

Prof Raymond Moshia, who teaches philosophy and ethics, said that while 20 percent of the world population suffer from dyslexia, the condition is not hampering human development as 50 percent of aeronautics cadres in the United States were dyslexics.

What dyslexics need is undivided attention in class as well as tailor-made or specialised learning, as otherwise they are just normal people who can perform just as well, given the chance, he added.

## Use AGOA export facility, business community urged

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said, urging them to inform their colleagues about those opportunities, of sending products to the US without needing AGOA facilities.

The AGOA market has been open for years but local firms find it difficult to benefit from it, which needs experts to set out clearly what is needed for a trader to deliver products through AGOA, she elaborated.

An online entry says AGOA provides duty-free access to the U.S. market for most agricultural and manufactured products exported by eligible African countries. It was set up in May 2000, it has been renewed twice and is due to expire in September 2025, the write up asserts.

African countries eligible for the AGOA facility meet in South Africa this week, from Tuesday to Thursday to discuss the AGOA market and how traders can enhance its benefits by sending many products to the United States, the minister affirmed.

"We have seen that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has carried us a lot and she wants to see businessmen increase their contribution to

the economy," she stated, reiterating that businesses need to increase the value of the produce as this also creates jobs.

Dr Hashil Abdullah, the permanent secretary, said the sixth phase government seeks to ensure that it creates an enabling environment for traders and industrial operators in the conduct of their activities.

Jalia Majura of Compete Co, a participant, praised the minister for bringing to the fore the range of opportunity offered by AGOA, along with pooling export produce from individual products to joint transportation.

Weaknesses of Tanzanian companies to take up AGOA opportunities were noticed from the start, and in 2004 a new US ambassador Robert V. Royall raised the matter with the business community, expressed dissatisfaction with their positions and left two years later.

The programme was nearly halted during the past US president Donald Trump by congressional democrats who succeeded to retain it for another term, observers noted.

## MPs approve Universal Health Care provisions

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tribute towards their health expenses whenever they need them.

Debating the bill, members of Parliament called for a proper system to identify and recognize poor and needy people who will receive free services in the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to guarantee its sustainability.

They said the bill was a milestone in provision of quality healthcare, worried by criteria on who cannot afford paying for insurance services.

Josephat Gwajima (Kawe) said that for President Samia Suluhu Hassan the UHC was a game changer in healthcare provision, reaffirming that availability of drugs had increased from 60percent in 2022 to nearly 80 per cent by August 2023.

"We have done a tremendous job in increasing the number of healthcare workers in the country, reaching 50.4 percent of needs," he said, pointing at the need for a modality to cover over 15m Tanzanians in poverty and over four million in absolute poverty.

Many people are pushed to death from curable diseases as they lack the finances to pay for health services, he further asserted.

Bernadeta Mwashu (Special Seats, Kagera) hailed the government for taking up most of the views and opinions issued by stakeholders and MPs saying economic development derives from a healthy population.

She said non-communicable diseases (NCDs) take up most expenses that people pay for health services, suggesting that UHC will address

key challenges facing health service delivery as a whole.

Jackline Ngonyani (Special Seats) commended the government for coming up with a special fund for financially supporting the policy "which is essential to the general public."

She however, asked the government to come up with data on who exactly was called poor saying that the TASAF system was imperfect, to guarantee proper operations of the UHC.

She urged the construction of more health centers and employment of healthcare workers to complement the idea behind UHC.

Francis Mtenga (Iramba East) said the tabling of the bill was a sign that the president was calm because the bill was brought and returned to the government for further improvements.



**She urged the construction of more health centers and employment of healthcare workers to complement the idea behind UHC**



Russian Culture Centre director Alevey Bondaruk (R) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on an Education Forum and Exhibition slated for later this year. Second right is Bernard Sepetu, a programme manager with the centre. The upcoming event is planned as a platform to enable Tanzanian scholars to interact and engage with their Russia counterparts and to showcase scholarship opportunities for Tanzanians intending to study in Russia. Photo: Carlos Banda

## Govt commits to boosting investment in research, technology and health services

By Getrude Mbagu

THE government has expressed commitment to increasing investment in research, technology and health services infrastructure in efforts meant to reduce the growing disease burden.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said that the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) was rapidly growing, a situation that demonstrates that if they are not controlled, they can cause a significant increase in deaths in the country.

In a speech read on his behalf by the director of curative services at the Ministry of Health, Prof Paschal Ruggajo during the opening of a three-day regional non-communicable diseases scientific conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Premier stressed for increased joint efforts to fight the diseases.

He said the government under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan has committed to increase investment in research, technology and health services infrastructure (6.7trn/-) in order to transform the sector while facilitating access to quality and afford-

able health services to all.

"Non-communicable diseases have become a major threat to the health and well-being of our people. They are silently affecting our citizens, undermining the progress we are striving to achieve as a nation. The effects of these diseases extend beyond individual suffering; they affect our communities, our economy, and ultimately the future of our great nation," the Prime Minister said.

"We are committed to ensure that we take robust measures to prevent and fight NCDs, last month Minister for Health Ummu Mwalimu launched a national programme to extensively educate the public on NCDs.

The government is also implementing and giving priority on strategies to facilitate testing, easy diagnosis of diseases, investing in basic health especially through service providers at the community level as well as involving the community itself in preventing and controlling the diseases.

"NCDs currently seem to affect more people than communicable diseases, and 67 percent of these diseases occur before the age of 40 which is the national workforce.

He noted that as per the World Health Organisation (WHO), NCDs kill 41 million people each year, equivalent to 74 per cent of all deaths globally. Of all NCD deaths, 77 per cent are in low- and middle-income countries.

He said that the government, through support from the World Health Organisation (WHO), is set to conduct the National Step Survey 2023 regarding risk factors of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the country.

He commended the Ministry of Health (MoH) through the Non-Communicable Diseases Control and Prevention Programme in collaboration with Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and NCDs Alliance East Africa for organising the conference is one of the key interventions for tackling the rising burden of NCDs.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading cause of death and disability in Tanzania and other countries in the region.

Prof Apolinary Kamuhabwa, MUHAS acting Vice Chancellor said the conference will see experts and policymakers discuss the latest research and best prac-

tices on NCD prevention, surveillance and management.

He said Tanzania first held the National Non-Communicable Diseases Scientific Conference in November 2019 and since then this conference has been taking place every November kick starts the NCDs Week in the country with the aim of raising public awareness about the rising burden of NCDs in the country and globally.

This conference is an important opportunity to strengthen regional collaboration in the fight against NCDs. By working together, we can share experiences and develop common solutions to the challenges we face," he noted.

Valeria Milinga, manager of the NCD programme said the Ministry of Health and the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) are set to conduct a National Step Survey in the surveillance of risk factors for NCDs, in order to collect important data on the diseases.

She said the survey will provide important information on the health status of the community, areas of improvement and consequently set up improvement strategies to strengthen public health.



Technicians with the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) move to repair a leaking pipe in an effort to improve the supply of tap water at St Joseph Magengeni in Wazo ward, Dar es Salaam, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## TAZARA gets more passengers, revenue

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from the \$24.28m earned for 2021/2022, he said, affirming that TAZARA slipped on the traffic volumes after the bridge was closed, aside from equipment unreliability.

Freight volumes moved on the TAZARA line dropped by 3.7 per cent from 337,475 metric tonnes during 2021/2022 to 324,903 metric tonnes fiscal 2022/2023, while travellers across the various types of passenger trains witnessed a 1 per cent decrease to 2,710,104 passengers during 2022/2023, from 2,738,452 passengers documented in the preceding fiscal year, he stated.

Availability of train coaches was the primary limitation confronting passenger services, he explained, highlighting that the Udzungwa Shuttle between Kidatu and Makambako saw a 2.2 per cent growth in passenger numbers, from 351,826 passengers for the year ending June 2022 to 359,564 passengers for the period ending on June 30, 2023.

Conversely, the Dar es Salaam city commuter train witnessed a 4.1 per cent decrease in ridership as commuters dropped from 2,268,901 during fiscal 2021/2022 to 2,175,501 up to June 2023.

The board acknowledged the management's proactive efforts to improve performance, stressing the pivotal role of innovation in furthering these positive trends, he said.

The management was commended for engaging a second operator under open access arrangements, allocating 16 per cent of earnings from open access to maintenance, demanding that it be raised to 20 per cent, citing the need for enhanced track reliability.

Revitalisation of TAZARA operations was on the cards given the commitment of presidents Samia Suluhu Hassan and Hakaimde Hichilema, along with directives of the council of ministers, to revitalise TAZARA operations with the involvement of Chinese investors.

China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), a subsidiary of China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) is the company picked to negotiate on the TAZARA concession. A proposal from CCECC was expected at the start of this week, he added.



Dr Peter Majinge (in specs), a surgeon with Dar es Salaam's CCBRT Hospital, pictured yesterday leading a team of medical experts from the specialised facility and Lindi Regional Referral Hospital in operating on a patient at the ongoing fistula surgical camp at Lindi municipality's Sokoine Hospital. This is the second such camp in the region this year, the first having been run in July 2023 and having involved 30 cases. Since 2019 CCBRT, Equinor Tanzania and Lindi Region have been collaborating in supporting the treatment of obstetric fistula cases in the Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Tanzania HIV impact survey has been completed - govt

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania HIV Impact Survey (THIS 2022-2023) has been completed and its findings to be unveiled on 1st, December, 2023 during the World Aids Day, the government has stated.

This is the second PHIA survey in Tanzania to measure HIV incidence, HIV prevalence, and viral load of communities across the country as the first one was conducted in 2016/17.

Briefing journalists here yesterday, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination and Parliamentary Affairs), Jenista Mhagama said the trend shows reduced cases of new HIV/Aids infections in the country.

While insisting that more details in the survey launched in November, 2022 in Mwanza will be made public in December, she urged members of the public to rightfully use the data once released.

Mhagama added that the results from THIS 2022-2023 will help to inform key stakeholders about Tanzania's progress in reaching the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets.

"The survey findings, which will be released to the public soon, will include data on the percentage of people living with HIV, the number of new HIV infections occurring each year, and the percentage of HIV+ people with viral load suppression,

while assessing differentiation by age, sex, and geographic area," said the minister.

According to the minister, data collection for THIS 2022-2023, which began in November 2022 in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, was completed in just a few months.

THIS 2022-2023 has been made possible by financial support from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and technical assistance through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and ICAP at Columbia University.

The survey is led by the government through the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), Zanzibar AIDS Commission (ZAC), the Ministries of Health (MoH) of mainland and Zanzibar, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS), and the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG).

The survey was being implemented by NBS, OCGS, and ICAP in collaboration with local partners, including the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), the Zanzibar Institute of Health Research (ZAHRI), public health laboratories, the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), and the Zanzibar Integrated HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis and leprosy programme (ZIHHTLP).

## Portray positive image of country's development projects, journos urged

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTER for Information, Communication and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye yesterday emphasised the need for scribes to portray country's good stories on implementation of development projects.

He said it is imperative for the citizens to be well informed of implementation of development projects being undertaken by the government in their localities as well as give them an audience to air their views.

The minister expressed his sentiments at the launching of a first series of special meetings organised by the Director of Information Services, and Chief Government's Spokesperson, Mobhare Matinyi with Regional Commissioner and District Executive Directors (DED's) countrywide.

"The public has the right to be informed on how their taxes and revenues are being spent for development projects in their localities thus, Maelezo must flood positive content to the media and urge for massive coverage," he said.

He added, "The citizens must be given an audience to express that the development projects have been a blessing to their wellbeing and socio-economic welfare."

Nape said the government allocates a lot of money for development projects be it educational, health, agriculture and the likes in rural and various localities which the citizens are not aware of.

Matinyi called upon the regional and local authorities to communicate the information and has devised a novel strategy to streamline and expedite information sharing, especially focusing on implementation of development projects being undertaken by the government countrywide.

He insisted on the need for development journalism by citizens' engagement through information sharing as essential for open government and effective development.

Matinyi is well aware that this will demand a committed and responsive government too thus Regional Commissioners (RCs), District Commissioner (DCs) and District Executive Directors (DEDs) in each region will speak out on the development and implementation strategies in their respective areas.

The special programme, he said, intends to inform the citizens on the actions taken by the government in their respective regions.

"We have started this special programme in Dodoma today, and we will be heading to Morogoro, Coast Region and Dar es Salaam in the first round" he said.

Matinyi said the government is doing a lot, especially in-terms of executing development programmes, but in most cases the majority of citizens remain unaware of what is happening within their localities.

Closing the session, Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, regional administration and local government, Dr Festo Dugange directed the regions and local authorities to offer full support and information to make the programme work.

He also insisted on full utilization, facilitation and equipping of information officers in the councils so that the public remains aware of government investment in various sectors.

### LOSS OF PASSPORT



MUNA ABDALLAH TALIB ANNOUNCES THE LOSS OF HIS PASSPORT NUMBER TAE296072 ISSUED ON 05 FEBRUARY 20 BY THE PCO DAR ES SALAAM AUTHORITY. WHOEVER FIND IT TAKE IT TO A NEAREST POLICE STATION WITH POLICE REPORT NO. PHQ/ARU/ARU/1855/2023.



## ZANZIBAR REVENUE AUTHORITY (ZRA)



# CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

# SUCCESSFUL OF 3 YEARS IN OFFICE



His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi

IN CELEBRATING 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF DR. HUSSEIN ALI MWINYI LEADERSHIP SINCE TAKING OATH OF OFFICE AS THE PRESIDENT OF ZANZIBAR AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, THE MANAGEMENT, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND THE EMPLOYEES OF THE ZANZIBAR REVENUE AUTHORITY (ZRA), JOINS THE PEOPLE OF ZANZIBAR AND TANZANIANS IN GENERAL TO CONGRATULATE AND PRAY FOR HIS GOOD HEALTH TO CONTINUE LEADING ZANZIBAR TO ATTAIN ITS DEVELOPMENT.

TO ACHIEVE THE DEVELOPMENT, ZRA CONTINUES TO EMPHASIZE USE OF VFMS MACHINE AS WELL AS ISSUING RECEIPTS DURING SALE OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, AND BUYERS SHOULD DEMAND FOR ELECTRONIC RECEIPTS.

AS WE CELEBRATE THE THREE YEARS OF DR MWINYI'S PRESIDENCY, ZRA ACKNOWLEDGES THE INCREASE OF TAX COMPLIANCE ATTRIBUTED TO EFFORTS MADE BY

GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN PROMOTING VOLUNTARY TAX PAYMENT, MAKING THE COLLECTION OF REVENUE IN THE COUNTRY EASIER.

ZRA SINCERELY THANKS OUR BELOVED PRESIDENT DR. HUSSEIN ALI MWINYI FOR BEING NUMBER ONE IN MOTIVATING AND PROMOTING VOLUNTARY TAX PAYMENT AND APPROPRIATE REVENUE COLLECTION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ZANZIBAR.

AS ZRA CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN TAX COLLECTION BY IMPROVING SERVICES IN ALL ITS REGIONAL OFFICES, IT VOWS TO CONTINUE ACTING TOUGH AGAINST TAX EVADERS AND DISHONEST TAX OFFICERS.

**"PAY TAX FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ZANZIBAR"**

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## ZANZIBAR UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (ZURA)



# CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

# 3 SUCCESSFUL OF 3 YEARS IN OFFICE



His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi

The Board of Directors, Management and Staffs of Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority (ZURA) congratulate the President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council, His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, on the successful completion of his three years in office.

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## 'Men can play crucial role in curbing GBV'

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

MEN and boys have been called upon to participate fully in activism to protect women and girls against gender-based violence (GBV).

Dr Katanta Semwanza, country manager for male engagement strategist and senior programme made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam when addressing journalists ahead of this year's 16 Days of Activism against GBV coordinated by Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF).

According to Dr. Semwanza, men and boys play a key role in fighting against GBV because they have the ability to make the fight successful.

"Men and boys should not be left behind when we want to succeed in the fight against gender violence. They are the key stakeholders when it comes to fighting gender violence, they should see the importance of their involvement in this fight" he said.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), two percent GBV, hence need to actively engage in the battle.

"During these 16 days of activism, they should take the opportunity to report and talk because if they keep or bear with challenges that more gender-based violations can be made" said Dr Semwanza.

Theodosius Muhulo, WLAC executive director, urged religious leaders to invest more in sensitizing the fight against GBV.

"Religious institutions should partner with other stakeholders in reporting and take actions when they recognize gender-based violations among their followers" said.

She also said that politicians can also play a critical role in fighting against the vice by putting in place a conducive environment that in turn can protect women and girls against the barbaric behavior.

"Also, the government should increase the budget so that they can complete the formation of MTAUWA

countrywide, which will work by collaborating with other government organs in the fight against -based violence," she added.

Anna Kulaya, WiLDAF director, said that GBV has been one of the major threats and therefore causes harm to women, children, societies and the nation at large.

Anna said that gender-based violations make women to fail and participate fully in their daily life activities, their families, economic activities, politics and decision making.

"Through these 16 days of activism provides opportunities for everyone to invest and end all racist actions of which cause lack of equality, early pregnancies as well as female genital mutilation" said Anna

Anna Henga, executive director of the Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC) said that recently NBS issued the real situation of gender-based violation of last year which shows that 27 percent of women aged between 15 to 49 years reported gender-based violations also 61 percent of women who are married decisions are made by their spouses.

She said that either, 39 percent of women who are in relationships are being abused by their partners where by 18 percent is physical violence and 12 percent is sexual violence.

"Women and girls who have disabilities are once more affected because they have been stigmatized, isolated and therefore forced not to enjoy their basic rights. Also, the report shows that only two percent of the women who are in relationships are cruel to their partners," said Anna. She added that indicators showed that violence between couples including too much consumption of alcohol 52 percent and 61 percent is from jealousy of love.

The activist cited some of the leading regions for gender-based violence from Tanzania mainland as Mara 66 percent, Dodoma 54 percent, Kagera 53 percent, Iringa 50 percent and Njombe and Tabora 48 percent.



Dr Saada Mkuya Salum (C, facing camera), Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Finance and Planning), addresses members of the preparatory committee of the World Bank's 20th three-day (Dec 6 to 8) International Development Association (IDA) Mid-Term Evaluation Conference to be held in Zanzibar. The theme for IDA20, which covers the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025, is Building Back Better from the Crisis: Towards a Green, Resilient and Inclusive Future. Photo: Finance ministry

## Z'bar govt wins accolades for empowering seaweed farmers

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR seaweed farmers have lauded the government for introducing blue economy programmes that have freed them from abject poverty.

They made the observation yesterday when commenting on the three years of the blue economy under President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi leadership

Seaweed farmers have started reaping cash from the marine resources and the price has been lucrative per kilo compared to the

past.

Sihaba Mustafa Fatawi, treasurer of Paje Furahia women group said that one kilo of seaweed that has not been cleaned is currently being sold at 1,000/-, the processed one is at 12,000/- per kg, since the government provided them with seaweed processing machines.

"We still have one big challenge regarding the use of beaches among farmers and investors have been preventing us from using 30 meters when our production activities depend on the beaches since the establishment of seaweed farming

activities in Zanzibar," the farmer said.

She said they are grateful to Dr Mwinyi for increasing the price of seaweed despite the companies that were buying the seaweed crop at a low price to keep a grudge but he has taken care of the interests of the farmers and the development of the crop.

"Despite the success, the investors are still chasing us to use 30 meters of sea beaches despite these areas being available to us, we are being chased like dogs, I ask the leaders to deal with the solution to this

problem," she said.

She said that seaweeds are used in many maritime countries as a source of food, for industrial applications and as a fertiliser.

Some of the food vendors in Malindi fishing market appealed to the Zanzibar government to provide them with better shelter as it becomes a headache during rains.

Asha Saleh Msabaha urged the government to build better facilities for them to do business in a friendly environment that can lure customers to enjoy their services.

## Small miners now turn to irrigation

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

SOME of the artisanal miners in Mirerani Township, Manyara Region, have turned to irrigation farming, after realizing that it pays more.

The move has been attributed by the new government's initiatives to bring in collaboration with the private sector, which has empowered them with irrigation incentive that brought in more youth to 'fall in love' with farming.

In recent separate interviews, Bryson Mbuya said earlier he was a small scale miner, but now turned into irrigation after realizing that it pays more, thanking the Agro Tanzania organization which is

funded by Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) for supporting them.

"Officials of the organisation convinced me to drill a well and start irrigation agriculture particularly during the dry season," he said.

Mbuya who is also the chairman of farmers association within the area said this year he cultivated 10 hectares and planted maize where he expects to harvest more than 300 bags.

According to him, there are more than 3,000 farmers within Mirerani including some miners who turned to agriculture.

He asked AMDT to support them in purchasing the solar system that would enable them to conduct irrigation agricul-

ture more easily.

"Solar power is more reliable and affordable we want to get assistance in irrigating our farms during dry season," he said, noting that farmers around the area have decided to establish their own agricultural marketing cooperative society (AMCOs) so as to improve the economy and livelihood.

Charles Ogutu, AMDT chief executive officer (CEO) urged farmers to use modern irrigation technology during the dry season so as to improve harvest and income.

He said his organization has decided to sensitize farmers on irrigation farming since it can help them economically.

"We will not drill trenches or streams but we want to sensitize farmers and other people on mobile irrigation," he said.


According to him, the main aim is to help seed producers in the fight against climate change.

"Some areas have witnessed little rainfall which affect production, we hope mobile irrigation would help boost output," he said.

He also urged the community, particularly farmers to create a habit of planting trees.

"People have been cutting down trees for farming this might disrupt production because there would be no rainfall in the near future hence a forestation is needed," he said

He asked management of Agro Tanzania to arrange a study visit for the farmers to learn more from their fellows in nearby areas.



# BARRICK

BULYANHULU

**Advertisement**

**REQUEST FOR QUOTATION**

**SUPPLY OF ISUZU TRUCK (8T) FVR90L - BUL-RFQ-23-09-02**

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

**Isuzu Truck Specifications:**

- 1 x Isuzu Truck (8T) FVR90L - Powered by 5193cc, Diesel engine 4cylinder common rail turbocharged with intercooler; 6 speed transmission; 154(210) @ 2,600; 72(705) @ 1,800; Fuel tank 200 liters; GVM 15000 kg; Power steering; Air over hydraulic dual circuit; Multi leaf springs shock absorber double acting front suspension; Multi leaf spring with helper spring; Tyre size 12.00R 22.5 tubeless; With low drop side body; With AC inside cabin; With HIAB X-CL 12-3.

**Key documents:**

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

**Submission of Quotes:**  
Please submit your quotes via email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com).

The reference "BUL-RFQ-23-09-02 - SUPPLY OF ISUZU TRUCK (8T) FVR90L" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.


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

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

**Key Dates**

- Last date to submit quotes: **09<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited**



قطر الخيرية  
QATAR CHARITY  
qcharity.org

Date: 24/10/2023

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

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

**About the tender:**

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

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

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

In the event of any inquiries or comments, send an e-mail to [qctanzania@qcharity.org](mailto:qctanzania@qcharity.org) by 2<sup>nd</sup> November sharp.

# Govt offers 3.4bn/- to compensate 85 Dodoma City Council residents

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has provided 3.4bn/- for payment of compensations to 85 Dodoma City Council residents who were embroiled in land disputes.

John Kayombo, Dodoma City Council executive director said yesterday when speaking during the Land Clinic which engaged citizens and experts from the Land Development Division from the Ministry of Land and Human Settlements Development.

He said the money had been provided by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, saying the President provided the money so that the

85 residents who had lost land to brokers and corrupt land officials through theft and land allocation could be compensated.

"We have already received the money and what is now going on is a thorough verification exercise, therefore, we will provide information as to when payments will kick off," he noted.

Kayombo further added that the land clinic started last week and that so far, the turnout has been big as he equally insisted that it will be sustainable.

The clinic seeks to receive complaints and work on all land disputes reported by citizens.

According to him, about 1,014

people were registered at the complaints desk out of which 514 had been sorted, while authorities were working on issues raised by the remaining others.

"This clinic follows the directives by President Samia who does not want to see people shedding tears because of land related disputes," he said.

The Dodoma City director exuded confidence that his office wants to see all disputes cleared by January next year.

According to Dodoma District Commissioner, Jabir Shekimweri, there was a similar clinic previously but it was only dealing with public servants from different institutions,

but now it was going down to ordinary citizens, as he insisted that the land sector was leading in recording disputes in Dodoma city.

"We have all experts from all land departments at this clinic and we

have directed that there should be a compulsory consideration of elders, pregnant women and persons with disabilities," added Shekimweri.

He further advised all persons

attending the clinic to come with all crucial documents so that they fast track service delivery for all. At the event, the DC handed over certificates of occupancy to 12 land owners.



Kinondoni Regional Traffic Police Officer Solomon Mwangamilo (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday speaking at a training session on the use of mobile apps in helping traffic officers to collect information on road accidents more efficiently. It is all in implementation of a drive funded by a Tanzania Breweries Limited and AB InBev subsidiary. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Tanzanians urged to change their lifestyles to curb NCDs

By Getrude Mbago

TANZANIANS have been urged to change their lifestyles, promote and implement routine body exercises in order to make them stay fit and prevent spread of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Ubungu District Commissioner, Hashim Komba threw the challenge in Dar es Salaam recently at a special Fun Run organised by the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) with an aim of stimulating healthy living, tree planting and environmental conservation as part of the commemoration of its 20th anniversary.

DC Komba said that it was high time for Tanzanians to wake up and change their lifestyles to conquer the NCDs which involve adopting healthy food, conducting regular exercises, refraining from excessive use of alcohol as well as smoking cigarettes.

"As the government is working hard to improve health care through construction of hospitals, dispensaries and health centres, people should then support this by protecting themselves from diseases that can be avoided, we need to invest in body exercises as well as eating balanced diets, reducing portions in our plates," he said.

He commended TCAA marking its 20th anniversary counting a number of remarkable achievements in the aviation industry.

TCAA Director General, Hamza Johari hinted on the note that prioritizing body exercises as well as healthy eating was currently one of the priority initiatives which the nation was promoting in order to help curb the increasing NCD burden.

"We have organized this event to remind ourselves and the public of the importance of body exercises as well as a healthy lifestyle to protect ourselves from diseases, we are here also to promote tree planting in our areas in order to restore nature and conserve the environment," he said.


Johari said that the authority has recorded a number of achievements in improving the aviation industry including making Tanzania airspace safer to attract various international airlines thus increasing revenues.

According to him, in the past 20 years, the sector has recorded a number of achievements contributed by robust efforts of the government and stakeholders in investing in the sector.

"Apart from providing efficient and timely air transport, the aviation industry has been a big catalyst


in the development of various sectors including trade, agriculture, mining, health and tourism," he added.

He noted that through governments' efforts they have been able to increase aircrafts to 13 and improved airport standards in the country.



**ZANZIBAR PORTS CORPORATION (ZPC)**


## 3 SUCCESSFUL OF YEARS IN OFFICE



*President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar Excellency Dr Hussein Mwinyi*

The Board of Directors, management and all staff of the Zanzibar Ports Corporation join His Excellency Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi The President of Zanzibar on the successful completion of his Three years in office.

**" PORT FOR BLUE ECONOMY FOR ZANZIBAR PROGRESS."**



**PORT FOR BLUE ECONOMY FOR ZANZIBAR PROGRESS**



**ZANZIBAR FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION (ZFCC)**



## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

# 3 SUCCESSFUL OF YEARS IN OFFICE



Zanzibar Fair Competition Commission and its Secretariat and all Staffs of the Zanzibar Fair Competition Commission (ZFCC) congratulate the President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council His excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi , on the successful completion of his Three years in Office.



Facebook account: Zanzibar fair competition commission  
Instagram: Zfaircompetition  
YouTube: Zanzibar fair competition commission.

**Mohammed Sijamini Mohammed** **His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi**



## NOTICE FOR ASSETS DISPOSAL ON PURCHASING OF VARIOUS BANK ASSETS.

### A. ELEVEN (11) MOTOR VEHICLES LOCATED AT DAR ES SALAAM (ADA ESTATE), ZANZIBAR (KISIWANI), MWANZA (ZONAL OFFICE) & DODOMA (ZONAL OFFICE) AND VEHICLE ACCESSORIES (BUMPERS) LOCATED AT DAR ES SALAAM (ADA ESTATE).

CRDB Bank PLC (the Bank) is an African bank and a leading financial services provider in Tanzania with a current presence in Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi, East Africa. The Bank owns various assets, one of these assets is **Motor vehicles and accessories as per the below list;**

| I. MOTOR VEHICLES |                                  |                     |      |                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| S/N               | Model                            | Registration Number | YOM  | Chassis number    | Location                   |
| 1                 | Toyota Rav4                      | T396 CME            | 2013 | JTMBFREV105016890 | Dar es salaam (Ada Estate) |
| 2                 | Toyota Rav4                      | T903 CRM            | 2012 | JTEEB71J007017027 | Dar es salaam (Ada Estate) |
| 3                 | Toyota Rav4                      | Z318 EZ             | 2013 | JTMBFREV405017421 | Zanzibar (Kisiwani)        |
| 4                 | Toyota Landcruiser Hard top      | T618 CBS            | 2011 | JTERB71J600063035 | Dodoma (Zonal Office)      |
| 5                 | Toyota Landcruiser Hard top      | T965 ARQ            | 2007 | JTERB71J600040211 | Dar es salaam (Ada Estate) |
| 6                 | Toyota Landcruiser Hard top      | T525 CEA            | 2011 | JTERB71J900063983 | Dar es salaam (Ada Estate) |
| 7                 | Nissan Hardbody D/ Cabin Pick up | T518 AXC            | 2008 | ADNJ860000E002964 | Dar es salaam (Ada Estate) |
| 8                 | Toyota Landcruiser Hard top      | T330DEF             | 2014 | JTERB71J000078923 | Dar es salaam (Ada Estate) |
| 9                 | Toyota Landcruiser Hard top      | T380ARY             | 2007 | JTERB71J500040569 | Mwanza (Zonal Office)      |
| 10                | TATA Bus                         | T857 BJL            | 2009 | MAT38906790R00284 | Dar es salaam (Ada Estate) |
| 11                | Suzuki Jimmy                     | T238 DKG            | 2015 | JS3JB43VXG4103850 | Dar es salaam (Ada Estate) |

| II. VEHICLE ACCESSORIES- BUMPERS |                                       |        |                 |                              |          |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| S/N                              | Model                                 | YOM    | Accessory Types | Quantity                     | Location |                           |
| 1                                | Toyota Hilux pick Up D/Cabin, 2GD     | GUN125 | 2023            | Toyota Genuine front Bumpers | 10       | Dar Es Salaam, Ada Estate |
| 2                                | Toyota Landcruiser Hard top, 76Series | HZJ76R | 2023            | Toyota Genuine front Bumpers | 5        | Dar Es Salaam, Ada Estate |

### B. FIVE (5) BANK PLOTS LOCATED AT KARATU- MANYARA, MSIJUTE (DANGOTE AREA- MTWARA, NANYAMBA - MTWARA, CHAKE CHAKE LUSHOTO - TANGA, MKWAJUNI MANGAKA - NANYUMBU- MTWARA.

The Bank owns title to various landed properties in the country, one of those being plots as per the below list;

| S/n | Plot No                            | Location                      |
|-----|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1   | Plot No. 963 Block F (2,149)       | Karatu - Manyara              |
| 2   | Plot No. 88 Block A Mtwara (3,755) | Msijute (Dangote area Mtwara) |
| 3   | Plot No. 38 Block A (2,120)        | Nanyamba                      |
| 4   | Plot No. 97 Block E (2,708)        | Chake Chake Lushoto Tanga     |
| 5   | Plot No. 139 Block A (2,191)       | Mkwajuni Mangaka -Nanyumbu    |

The Bank intends to sell the above mentioned to any interested buyer under the following conditions:

- The sale of the assets will be conducted in line with the Bank's Procurement Policy. The selection will be done based on the highest evaluated bidder.
- All interested bidders are requested to visit the mentioned assets located area. The site visit can only be done on weekdays during normal working hours **(0900 hours to 1500 hours) from November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, to November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**
- The successful bidder must pay a deposit of 100% not later than five (5) working days after being awarded. In the event of failure to do so, the award will be cancelled and given to the second bidder.
- The purchaser will be liable for all taxes relating to this purchase.
- The deadline for submission of the proposals shall be before 1500 hours local time on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All bids/quotation should be encrypted and will be opened in public on the same date at 1500 hours, online presence of buyers are advised via the link available on the bank's website.
- All bids must be submitted in electronic form. The bids should be submitted in PDF format only (encryption is advised). Tenders should be sent to [tenders@crdbbank.co.tz](mailto:tenders@crdbbank.co.tz). The tender must be addressed to the Secretary of the Management Tender Committee, CRDB Head Office, Plot No. 25 & 26 Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road and Plot No. 21 Barack Obama Drive, P.O. Box 268, Dar es Salaam.
- Opening of the submitted bids/quotes will be done at CRDB HQ 6th floor-Procurement Office together with an online option via a link available on the bank's website.
- For further information, please contact us the office of the secretary of the CRDB Bank PLC Tender Management Committee, which is located on the 6th floor of the CRDB Head Office, along Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, and is open from 08:00 to 16:00 Monday through Friday, excluding public holidays. You can also visit our email address [info@crdbbank.co.tz](mailto:info@crdbbank.co.tz) for any inquiries.

217685601

## CCBRT, Equinor (T) change lives of Lindi women with obstetric fistula

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

THE Dar es Salaam-based CCBRT hospital in collaboration with Lindi Regional Commissioner Office with support from Equinor Tanzania, will conduct a one-week obstetric fistula surgical camp at Lindi Regional Referral Hospital - Sokoine.

This is the second camp of this year; the first one took place in July 2023 and treated thirty women from Lindi who had fistula as well as other conditions connected to obstetrics and gynaecology.

Speaking during the press conference, Sokoine Referral Hospital gynaecologist, Dr Jamila Athuman, revealed that the project has built the healthcare providers' capacity at the hospital, including doctors and nurses, of Sokoine Hospital. "We're grateful to all the healthcare providers who are participating, Sokoine hospital management for the facilitation, CCBRT, and Equinor for this life-changing initiative."

These camps are the result of a partnership between CCBRT, Sokoine Hospital, and Equinor Tanzania, whereby Equinor is supporting in providing fistula

treatment, holistic care, and economic empowerment to about 135 women and girls suffering from obstetric fistula from Lindi region for the three years (2023-2025).

The first two phases that took place from 2019 to 2022 treated a total of 57 women with fistula from Lindi region and provided Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for health providers at CCBRT and Sokoine hospital against COVID-19.

Addressing members of the press at Sokoine Referral Hospital, CCBRT's Manager of Projects, Yohana Kasawala, said: "CCBRT is incredibly grateful to the Government of Lindi region and Equinor for this fruitful partnership."

Kasawala said that a class of 11 cohorts who joined CCBRT's Mabinti Centre from Lindi Region with support from Equinor Tanzania in July this year, will complete their four months training on the 17th November, 2023.

He explained Mabinti Centre as a CCBRT project, trains young women recovering from fistula surgery in screen-printing, sewing, beading, and crochet. At the end of the training, each cohort is provided with a starter kit that contains a

sewing machine, pair of scissors, a supply of fabric, and a calculator.

Often these women arrive at CCBRT traumatised, vulnerable, and struggling to deal with their experiences and the heart-breaking impact that fistula has had on their lives. So at Mabinti is where further healing happens, it is where women are equipped with the tools to embrace life once again and make positive and empowering changes.

"Once again, we are grateful to our partner Equinor for supporting the training of these women; the Mabinti approach is holistic: recognising that true healing comes from not only increasing knowledge, confidence, and skills but also empowering women with information about their bodies, their health, and how to take these lessons back to their communities. Sessions on nutrition, HIV/AIDS prevention, and family planning all contribute to increased well-being," said Kasawala.

As many as 3,000 Tanzanian women develop obstetric fistula each year, a condition that leaves them incontinent, leaking urine and/or faeces uncontrollably. As a result, they are often excluded from their families and communities.



Dar es Salaam mayor Omari Kumbilamoto (L), has a word with journalists in the city yesterday on a free camp on non-communicable diseases organised by DSB Polyclinic. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Be environment-sensitive, Jafo advises cattle herders

By Guardian Reporter

DR Selemani Jafo, Minister of State (Union and Environment) has urged the country's herders to strategically protect the environment so that animal husbandry can be productive for sustainable development.

Dr Jafo made the call yesterday when inaugurating a week-long productive animal husbandry and environmental care exhibition that coincided with the launch of the Tanzania Environmental and Productive Animal Husbandry Association (CHAMAUTA).

He said that breeders in the country have to be good ambassadors and support the Government's efforts to preserve the environment by doing productive breeding activities for sustainable development.

Minister Dr Jafo said that sustainable breeding that does not affect the conservation of the environment will help in avoiding conflicts between farmers and breeders in the country.

"Let's avoid conflicts between farmers and herders that we are witnessing happening in some regions of the country, it causes misunderstanding between these two groups, a situation that can lead to a breach of peace, and we have a responsibility to protect peace," he emphasized.

Dr Jafo also encouraged the farmers who have received funding to take advantage of the 28th

Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 28) to participate fully.

He said that the meeting that is expected to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from November 28 to December 5, 2023 will be a great opportunity to promote our country in the way that Tanzania does environmentally friendly farming.

Minister Jafo also urged CHAMAUTA to use the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) to gain understanding about the rules and regulations governing the environment in order to avoid activities that damage the environment.

He asked the breeders in the country to support the efforts of the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan who continues to bring development to the country

including developing the water sector.

He said that through various projects, the government has been digging ditches for watering livestock, especially in drought-prone areas, a measure that helps.

Kongwa District Commissioner, Remidius Mwema praised the Office of the Vice President for managing the implementation of the conservation of water sources.

He said that strategies to conserve water sources in the Makutupora area are continuing and that the source has already started providing 61 percent of the water needs for the region.

DC Mwema has said that the Regional Government is continuing with the Campaign to Unite Dodoma where it continues to prepare nurseries to deal with the shortage of seedlings.



**Let's avoid conflicts between farmers and herders that we are witnessing happening in some regions of the country, it causes misunderstanding between these two groups, a situation that can lead to a breach of peace, and we have a responsibility to protect peace**



Prof Apolinary Kamuhabwa (L), acting vice chancellor of the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), presents an award to Prof Paschal Rugajo (R), Director of Medical Services in the Health ministry, at an international scientific conference on non-communicable diseases held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The latter received the token of appreciation on behalf of Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## 80 alumni of Russian universities, leaders to discuss educational, healthcare systems

By Getrude Mbago

EIGHTY alumni of various Russian universities and leaders of students' associations and education experts are next week set to meet in Dar es Salaam to discuss and learn how to make good use of their skills to bring changes in their home countries.

Organised collaboratively by the Russian Cultural Centre in the country, Rossotrudnichestvo and International Institute of Education and Development, the forum will bring participants from various countries in Africa representing the educational and healthcare systems.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, Russian Embassy Counsellor and Director of the Centre, Alexey Bondaruk said the forum which will go along with an exhibition will allow Tanzanian scholars to interact and engage with the scholars from Russia and showcase scholarship opportunities for Tanzanians to study in Russia.

It will also involve advanced training on management in education and healthcare.

"This is a platform for the exchange of experience and knowledge between specialists from the Russian Federation, teachers, students and students of the United Republic of Tanzania to further promote technology adoption to spur development," he said.

He said the Forum is designed to promote implementation and proliferation of the Russian language throughout the Russian cultural and educational environment abroad and will be attended by heads and employees of higher educational and healthcare organizations which represent educational and healthcare authorities in ten African countries, as well as the leaders of students' associations in African countries.

Bondaruk said Russian University Representatives will come to the Forum to discuss the issues of international cooperation in the area of education.

He underlined that Russia is committed and will continue strengthening its relations with Tanzania and other African countries for mutual development.

Benard Sepetu, programme manager, Russian Culture Centre said within the framework of the Forum, it is planned to conduct round table talks on topical issues of cooperation in the area of education, including growing connections between Russian and foreign educational organizations, joint scientific research, consolidation of the post-graduate community in the African region.

According to him, the Russian cultural centre runs a wide range of activities including educational, scientific, and cultural programmes.

It organizes exhibitions and presentations, scientific conferences, renders enrolment assistance to qualified Tanzanian students wishing to join universities, and engages in language development (teaching and translation).



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BULYANHULU

Advertisement

### REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

#### BUL-RFQ-23-10-05 – SUPPLY OF SANDVIK LH410 UNDERGROUND LOADER

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

**Sandvik LH410 Underground Loader Specifications:**

- 1x Sandvik LH410 Underground Loader; Powertrain Volvo TAD1140VE engine (235Kw, Euro Stage II/Tier 2) with power core air filtering, exhaust pipe with thermal insulation, catalytic purifier and muffler; Dana SOH 5000 series converter with lock-up; Dana SOH 33000 series power shift transmission with modulation and automatic gear shifting and DeClutch; Kessler axles with spring applied hydraulic operated wet disk brakes and limited slip differential; Tires 18.00x25 L5S; Operator's compartment ROPS&FOPS Certified safety canopy height 2385mm; Frame high strength structure with optimized material thickness; Hydraulic tank and cabin base welded to frame; Bucket GET abrasion system 4,0m3, width 2588mm, max density 2500kg/m3 ;Hydraulics door interlock for brakes, boom, bucket, and steering hydraulics; Load sensing hydraulic system with piston pumps.

**Key documents:**

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

**Submission of Quotes:**

Please submit your quotes via email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com).

The reference "BUL-RFQ-23-10-05 – SUPPLY OF SANDVIK LH10 UNDERGROUND LOADER" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

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

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

**Key Dates**

- Last date to submit quotes: **09<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited



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THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER, 2023

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Respect market forces in allocating trading space at Mwenje bus stand

CITY regional commissioner Albert Chalamila is on the news with a disclaimer about how to allocate trading space at the new Mwenje bus stand municipal facility. He was responding to contrasting concerns concerning the matter, with pavement traders wishing to be provided with space for a penny, while municipal authorities wish to rent at the normal market rates, a position to which the RC subscribes. The reason he gave is that the construction has taken a large amount of money, citing the total cost as 9bn/- and definitely the cash needs to be recovered.

The other view was tied up with the wider policy issue of facilitating small scale traders, in which case equity would demand that they obtain the new trading space more or less as a municipal priority. The trouble is that this wish is opposed to the commercial logic both of construction and renting out trading space, apart from another dimension of financial need at the municipality that isn't being highlighted at the moment. It relates to recent Treasury appeals that municipal authorities start using bonds to raise cash for development plans in their areas, with private firms.

Such policy thrusts came up in the past and failed, as banks need usable collateral where they can obtain a court order to seize property or attach the rent of portions of sequestered property to pay for debt. Banks can't lend against revenues that a municipal authority expects to collect, for there is no way such cash can be put to this or that use by order of a court. A trading facility is precisely the sort of asset that a municipal authority needs to show a bank as to how it will pay a bank if it raises a loan, or raise bonds within the

same understanding of its ability to pay up.

As the country moves into modernization, it needs to be part of administrative and Treasury aspirations that maintenance of street roads, or building of toilet facilities in schools around, or a labour ward in a new hospital, will be issues to be resolved at the municipal level.

They don't have to continue being subjects of legislative mention, or indeed for aid donations by various development partners and non-governmental organisations. That means municipal authorities have loanable assets and regularly account to banks what they have earned and are paying, enhancing discipline in municipal accounting, in fostering financial diligence as it often lacks.

In that case the RC is right that renting a place at the new complex has to relate to the status of the frame or trading space to be rented. The bus stand complex is likely to be an attraction for shoppers taking a bus to a major stand and finding everything in one place instead of a kilometer long stretch of shops as would otherwise be the case. Repayment and asset building requirements don't allow for a communal allocation of space, simply for the one seen to be most in need of it.

There will definitely be a sort of reallocation of trading space in the part of the city that is close to the new trading complex, in which case some currently costly trading space will slide in rental quotations as a section of traders move to the new zone.

Others may be new investors whose money would presumably push up prices in a number of well-placed streets, so the small traders will to an extent benefit from this shuffling of chairs in Sinza-Mwenje trading space distribution.

## Easier access to forex needs shows economy is stabilising

MONETARY policy setting committee members, an advisory cum think tank organ within the central bank, say that the supply of foreign exchange in the market is rising, and of late there was a waiver of some restrictions on foreign exchange trading. This of course reflects changing needs of the market, for instance the city of Dar es Salaam has successively hosted international conferences attracting thousands of participants at any one time. The trend is likely to persist as global consultations find Tanzania a land of compromise, initiative.

In that case foreign exchange can't just be treated like a scarce commodity needed solely for the country's most important import needs, a relic of dire poverty in the 1980s where forex allocations were being done with State House authorisation. When a country is more developed and wishes to be a hub of trading, tourist or conference activities as it is at present the case, it is without doubt that it needs to be more relaxed with regard to foreign currency, as those who bring in the money ought to find it easy to change it. Similarly, those who receive them or for whose activities such visitors come to town, they also need to feel at ease in seeking foreign exchange as all these links involve transactions, upon which trust is built.

The central bank governor made note of the committee's finding that the recent shortage of foreign currency supply had significantly declined, owing to higher income from tourism, sales of minerals, export crops and higher releases

of forex by the central bank. There was also substantial mention of gold sales, as this has been a particularly vital element in stabilizing the forex situation since the late 1990s as a strategic component of the country's economic outlook, basically.

The central bank said in a statement that improved economic activity and combating inflation, thus reducing the demand of foreign exchange in the country. It is also noticeable that oil prices have not been climbing in the pace that was visible last year, partly because some major producers like the United States took action to increase supplies, including a controversial method known as fraction which activists oppose as damaging to the environment. This way the price rising producers grasped the point, as they stood to lose money, so slowing supply cuts.

There is an appreciable recovery from foreign exchange shortages, as our situation is by most comparisons better than many other countries, wishing to see the pressure lessening in the same way. Part of the answer is that the country is rich in natural resources, and as the African Development Bank signaled mid-2021, countries that have extensive supply of oil and gas or minerals stood a better chance of making ends meet in the post-Covid 19 situation than countries that depend on agro-industrial proceeds solely. That is true but as BoT points out, there are governance factors that improve foreign exchange supplies, which need to be nursed or maintained. The method can be tricky or controversial but it is working.

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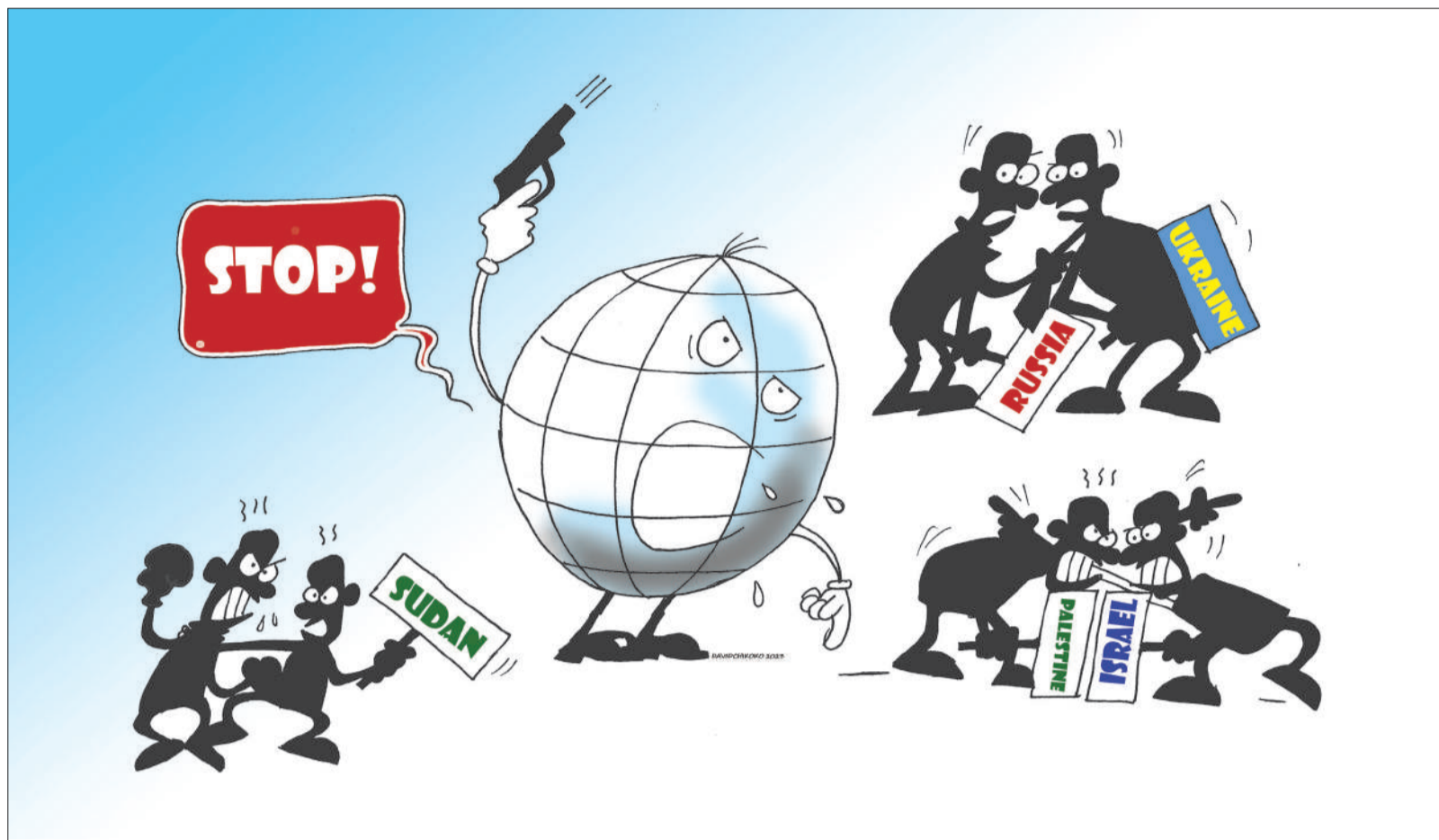
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By Mildred Tuhaie

CLIMATE finance is not reaching countries most in need, jeopardising trust between rich and poor nations the University College of London research findings indicate.

The report highlights that equitable finance distribution between developed and developing countries needs to become a focal point in actions taken to shape the architecture of climate finance.

While emissions in developing countries will grow substantially in the coming decades as a result of higher energy use to achieve greater economic development and improvements to the quality of life, currently most of the finance favours developed and emerging economies, particularly in East Asia & Pacific, Western Europe, and North America, which receive the bulk of funding.

Only a quarter of financing has gone to countries in other regions, with Africa receiving a mere 5% of total global climate finance.

The shortfall in investments in mitigation for low-income countries is particularly pronounced due to different investment risk considerations across countries.

In regions perceived as risky, equity investors and financial lenders apply high country risk premiums, for example the additional compensation that investors demand due to the increased level of risks associated with investing in a particular country.

For instance, within the African continent, lower economic and financial development,

## Inequalities in low-carbon finance flows to developing countries

poor regulatory quality and low business confidence cause Zambia and Ghana to experience premiums of around 18%, whereas in more conducive contexts like South Africa and Morocco, these premiums could be as low as 4%.

An important barrier to investment is also the level of electricity access among the population with low access levels in poorest developing countries putting them at further disadvantage in attracting capital as is the case with many countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

This highlights the importance of existing government programmes to increase energy access under the sustainable development goals. However, countries with large rural populations that struggle to achieve grid-based electrification are presently disadvantaged in accessing private capital.

As well, countries' climate vulnerability reduces their suitability for low-carbon investments.

The report recommends the need for multilateral development banks and international institutions to expand their financing capacities and ease lending conditions to improve access to finance in developing countries, where macroeconomic conditions exacerbate sovereign risk and increase the cost of capital.

This can be achieved through the provision of interest rates that are lower than prevailing market rates,

extending the grace periods for loan repayments and broadening the coverage of existing financing mechanisms.

The IMF's Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST), for example, provides affordable, extended financing to countries for tackling long-term challenges.

Notably, Rwanda stands as the pioneer African nation to leverage the RST in pursuit of climate-related objectives.

Additionally, it is essential for these institutions to deploy robust de-risking mechanisms that can absorb investment risks and foster a conducive investment environment.

An effective strategy in this regard involves a more substantial redistribution of IMF's special drawing rights (SDRs). These SDRs, function as international reserve assets and present a potent solution to mitigate currency risks, as put forth in the Bridgetown Agenda.

By supplementing official reserves of member nations and employing a distinct international currency, the SDRs can effectively provide the necessary liquidity support for low-carbon investments while addressing currency volatilities.

Ensuring a more equitable distribution of finance by targeting least developed and most climate-vulnerable countries can provide resources towards nations which do not have fiscal space to adopt new debt.

Global mechanisms for raising capital should be used for reconstruction grants after climate events and could compensate for greater exposure to climate risks, while boosting resilience and investment in more vulnerable economies.

Additionally, more innovative instruments, such as debt-for-climate swaps should be extended to nations towards climate action.

These financial arrangements involve a voluntary exchange or restructuring of a developing nation's debt in exchange for their commitment to invest in climate mitigation and adaptation projects or initiatives that promote sustainability.

Also, a better alignment of public and private finance can mobilise capital and overcome investment lock-ins created by path-dependencies in financing.

International (public) efforts should focus on installing a critical renewables base which signals confidence to financial markets, after which point private capital is mobilised at scale.

Combined with domestic policy instruments, these need to target the evolution and the medium-term growth of the renewables sector.

Innovative mechanisms are needed to move beyond project-specific inducements to support holistic renewable roadmaps and build networks of relationships to initiate path-dependent flows

## Increasing rice production in sub-Saharan Africa!

By Special Correspondent

SUB-SAHARAN Africa (SSA) faces multiple problems. The main one is improving the lives of the 30 per cent of its population that suffers from extreme poverty and food insecurity. As more than 70 per cent of the population lives off farming and related activities, agricultural development will have to play a major role in improving this situation.

Fortunately, Africa has an abundant supply of natural resources that can support a huge expansion in food, specifically rice production. Because of strong demand, rice area expansion in SSA is larger than for any other crop. Total milled rice production increased from 2.2 million Mg in 1961 to 9.1 million Mg in 2004. Rice imports into SSA also increased from 0.5 million Mg of milled rice in 1961 to 6.0 million Mg in 2003

and SSA currently accounts for 25 per cent of global rice imports, at a cost of more than US\$1.5 billion per year.

Therefore, many African governments accord high priority to developing their local rice sector as an important component of national food security, economic growth, and poverty alleviation. The abundant supply of agroclimatically suitable wetlands (-239 million ha) and water resources can support a large expansion in rice area and productivity. Currently, less than 5% of the potentially suitable wetlands are planted with rice because of various constraints. Expansion and intensification of rice cultivation in SSA will not compete with other crops in terms of land and water resources because, during the rainy season, only rice can be grown on low-lying wetlands, including inland valleys.

In addition, the labor-intensive

nature of rice cultivation will provide additional sources of work and income to the rural poor, especially women. Should labor shortages become acute, however, appropriate mechanization can be considered. Small farmers want to earn money from rice farming, but lack modern inputs and capital to fully exploit their rice lands as these items are limited or not available. This is where an innovative public-private partnership is desirable to support the intensification of rice farming.

Rice is cultivated in four ecosystems of SSA: dryland (38 pc of the cultivated rice area), rainfed wetland (33pc), deep water and mangrove swamps (9 pc), and irrigated wetland (20pc). Many abiotic stresses (drought, flood, and variable rainfall; extreme temperatures; salinity; acidity/alkalinity and poor soils, soil erosion, and high P fixation) and biotic constraints [weeds, blast,

Rice yellow mottle virus (RYMV), and African rice gall midge (AFRGM)] limit rice production on the continent. The changing climate is expected to further aggravate the abiotic constraints and reduce rice yields in all ecosystems. Rice production is also restricted by many technical, management, socioeconomic, health, and policy constraints.

The constraints to irrigated wetland rice in the Sahel of SSA are similar to those faced by Asian farmers in the 1960s; therefore, well-tested irrigated rice technologies from Asia and elsewhere are being introduced and adapted to local conditions to obtain fast returns on investment. For rice in irrigated wetlands in the humid and moist savanna zones, rainfed wetlands, and dry lands, locally developed NERICA (new rice for Africa) varieties and production technologies are being tested in target environments.



# We need new curriculum and more well-trained, motivated teachers

**T**HE debate about the quality of education provided in our country is not over. This signals the need of transforming our education system. Despite a lot of reforms undertaken before and the ongoing efforts to improve the curricula, many still hold that our education is not of the standards which the world market demands.

The need to know the global market standards cannot be disregarded when we take into account reports on employment which indicate that around 900000 Tanzanian youth enter the job market every year, but only 50000 get salaried employment.

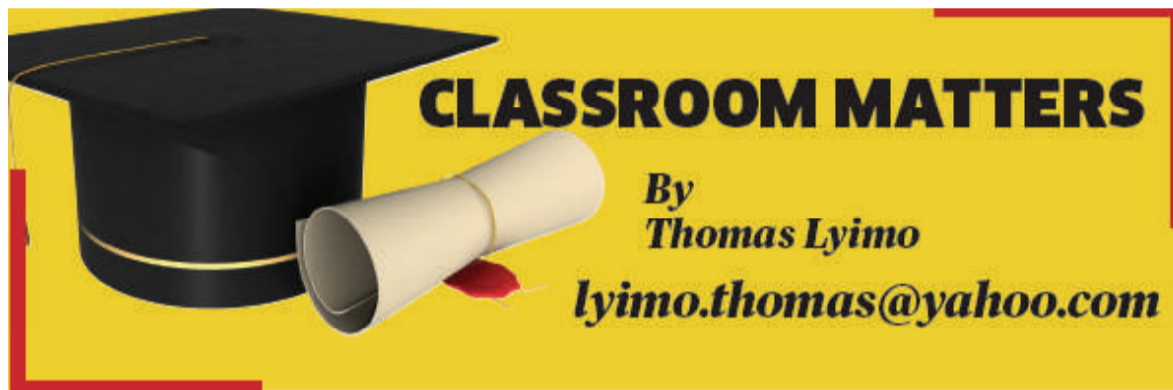
The enterprising ones amongst the remainder can employ themselves but many can be absorbed in the global job market. But for someone to fly, they must have wings. Whose duty it is to provide the wings? It is the ministry of education which is now set to introduce a new curriculum in 2024. Will this curriculum be the remedy for our educational challenges?

Stakeholders have proposed an education

system that can produce individuals who can compete globally and also use the local resources for betterment of the entire Tanzanian society. They want education that addresses challenges of communities. As the country is diversified in terms of resources, experts propose education to enable individuals utilize resources surrounding them for their development and that of the nation.

As we hope for a curriculum that can produce individuals we want, we should not forget of those who have succeeded despite coming from the curriculum which we blame. Where did they get extra training? Is it outside the normal school system? Were they taught by different teachers? When having both strong and weak products from the same production unit is when more research is needed to know where we fail.

Among the remarkable contributions made in the National Assembly on education is by one parliamentarian whose total expression could be summed up to expertise and resources as important factors in educational



development in the country. According to this former teacher, it is necessary to look at the importance of expertise and resources for development of our education.

Availability of qualified teachers and enough resources make learners interested in a certain subject. The government needs to make all necessary teaching and learning materials available at schools and colleges so as to ensure provision of quality education.

If curriculum is changed but there are not enough qualified teachers equipped with all necessary teaching and learning materials, it will be hard to see improvement in our education. How good or bad our curricula are may be determined by the kind of teachers and resources available at schools and colleges.

Another importance of having qualified teachers and enough learning resources is making lessons practical. Lack of practical lessons is what leads to graduates who are not competent. It is a fact that learners learn well when they are properly engaged in the lesson. For learners to be properly engaged in lessons, the presence of qualified teachers with needed expertise and enough resources are the most important factors.

Learners get practical knowledge when they use

devices in learning. There must be someone who can guide properly those learners on how to use such devices or objects so as to acquire the required skills. Learners enjoy the process when taught by a teacher who knows deeply what is presented.

Also, the presence of qualified teachers and resources in the teaching and learning process enables creativity and innovation. When learners are rightly introduced to some concepts or theories and then get a chance to test those concepts and theories practically is when creativity and innovation is enhanced.

Making sure that schools and colleges have qualified teachers and enough resources is very important as it enhances production of individuals who are capable of self-employment. When expertise and resources were prioritized by the government, many graduates will be able to employ themselves. If a learner is taught poultry in Vocational Skills subject, it is good if the school is enabled to have a poultry project so that learners can gain practical skills and not mere theories.

# Even rich nations now worried about dispute settlement rules

By Jomo Kwame Sundaram

**G**OVERNMENTS the world over are worried about investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) rules. These allow foreign investors to sue them for billions over new laws or policies reducing their profits.

Typically favouring powerful transnational corporations (TNCs), ISDS blocks policy changes needed to address new challenges. Companies have successfully sued governments for policy changes which allegedly reduce their profits.

## The wicked of Oz

Tobacco giant Philip Morris tried to block the Australian government's demand for 'plain packaging', with larger and more graphic health warnings on cigarette packs, by suing under ISDS and also in Australian courts. In the domestic case, Australia's highest court ruled the legislation constitutional.

The company then transferred Philip Morris Australia to Philip Morris Asia in Hong Kong. Invoking ISDS in the bilateral investment treaty (BIT) between Australia and Hong Kong, it sued Australia. Luckily, the ISDS tribunal ruled it had no jurisdiction as considering the case would constitute an abuse of process.

More recently, Australian Clive Palmer has hired a former Attorney-General to demand nearly A\$341 billion from state governments after moving his major mining companies to Singapore in 2019. His two ISDS claims invoke the Australia-New Zealand-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (ANZAFTA).

The first seeks about A\$300 billion in compensation and for 'moral damages' after Australia's highest court ruled in favour of the Western Australian (WA) state government. Palmer is challenging the 2022 WA legislation to indemnify the state, ensuring he would get nothing.

He is also demanding A\$41.3 billion in compensation for rejecting exploration permits for the Waratah coal mine in Queensland. The licence was refused on environmental grounds, including increasing carbon emissions.

Palmer is expected to take a third ISDS case against Australia's Federal and Queensland government decisions to reject his coal mine licence application due to its likely adverse impacts on the local environment, including waterways, and the Great Barrier Reef.

Even if the governments win these cases, they would still incur millions in legal expenses. The Philip Morris cases against Australia took five years, and cost A\$24 million in legal expenses, of

## Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS)

- ISDS mechanisms grant foreign investors the right to initiate dispute settlement proceedings directly against a foreign government (the "Host State") rather than suing the Host State in that State's courts
  - "Arbitration without privity"
- ISDS rights arise from provisions of certain bilateral investment treaties ("BITs"), international trade treaties, such as NAFTA's Chapter 11, and international investment agreements, such as the Energy Charter Treaty
- ISDS takes place under the auspices of international arbitral tribunals such as the LCIA, the ICC, the Stockholm C of C, or UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, but it most often is associated with arbitration under the rules of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, commonly referred to as the ICSID



Jomo Kwame Sundaram

which only half was recovered by the government.

## Evading ISDS?

After such costly experiences, almost a decade ago, Australia successfully demanded a 'tobacco carve-out' to the Trans-Pacific Partnership's (TPP) ISDS provisions.

Australia's new Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040, announced on 6 September 2023, promises to review existing free trade agreements (FTAs) with the region. This will include agreements containing ISDS clauses, including the ANZAFTA and other bilateral and plurilateral agreements.

Using side-letters, Australia has already opted out of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) ISDS provisions with both the UK and New Zealand.

In an ISDS case, the World Bank Group's International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes ruled Pakistan had to pay over US\$5.8 billion to an aggrieved investor. This is equivalent to its entire US\$6 billion

new IMF loan, about an eighth of its annual budget.

## Other ISDS second thoughts

The New Zealand government is now also against ISDS. While ISDS is part of several of its FTAs - e.g., the CPTPP and China-New Zealand FTA - its government has opposed ISDS provisions in FTA negotiations since 2018.

Hence, there is no ISDS in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the New Zealand-United Kingdom FTA, and the New Zealand-European Union FTA.

While it was considered too late to exclude ISDS entirely from the CPTPP at a late stage in negotiations, New Zealand has secured side letters with Australia, Brunei, Malaysia, Peru and Viet Nam. This means ISDS does not apply between New Zealand and these countries.

The current Chilean government is also concerned about ISDS. Hence, it has asked all other CPTPP governments for side-letters excluding ISDS between them, but only New Zealand

has agreed so far!

## Rich nations wary of ISDS

The US removed most ISDS provisions when the Trump administration replaced the old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in 2020.

ISDS was in the TPP because Obama administration negotiators wanted it. But most 2016 presidential aspirants to succeed him, including Democrats, rejected the TPP. Trump's US Trade Representative (USTR) Lighthizer specifically cited ISDS as the reason for US withdrawal from the TPP.

Biden and his USTR have maintained Trump's anti-ISDS stance instead of reverting to Obama's position. ISDS is not in Biden Administration 'economic cooperation' agreements such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

Meanwhile, the EU is urging withdrawal from the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) as its ISDS provisions will block needed European climate policies. Several EU and non-EU countries have already begun withdrawing from the ECT, arguing it constrains their ability to act against global warming.

Developing countries saying no

Many developing countries have already been withdrawing from their BITs while the RCEP does not include ISDS. So, the CPTPP, other BITs and FTAs' ISDS provisions are out of date. Worse, they block addressing emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and global warming.

Countries should reject and even withdraw from BITs and FTAs with ISDS. After all, there is no evidence ISDS attracts foreign direct investment. More and more developing nations - including India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Ecuador, South Africa, etc. - have already withdrawn from such BITs.

Governments should urgently review and remove ISDS provisions in all existing BITs and FTAs, or withdraw from them, to avoid more costly ISDS cases. They must be more critical and careful in ensuring future economic cooperation agreements to ensure they really serve their current and future best interests.

IPS UN Bureau

# Creativity pioneers who want to change the world

By Elena L. Pasquini

**I**T all fits into an off-road vehicle that can reach even the most remote parts of Southern Africa to bring cinema where the essentials are lacking, where there's no electricity to power a projector, and where perhaps no one has ever sat in front of a screen to watch a movie. With just the sun and a solar panel, a theater can be set up in areas where people struggle to access food and water and make a decent living. But what it truly requires is the courage to not view creativity as a luxury. Sydelle and Rowand, the founders of Sunshine Cinema, a network of mobile movie theaters, are not just entertaining people; they are crossing a bridge.

Crossing a bridge. That's what creativity leaders do, according to Lwando Xaso. She is a lawyer, writer, and storyteller from South Africa, and in mid-October, she was in Milan moderating a panel that posed a challenging question: "Can creativity change the world?" She was present at "A Creativity Revival," an "un-conference" whose participants shape the agenda and content. They are the "Creativity Pioneers," women and men whose work is supported by a fund from the Moleksine Foundation and who had gathered in Italy from various corners of the world. Much like Rowand and Sydelle, they answered that challenging question with a resounding "yes." "Creativity is not just something cute. It's not just something nice. But creativity is something relevant. That is the key element nowadays to transform society for the better," said Adama Sanneh, CEO of the Moleksine Foundation.

Crossing a bridge. That's what South Africa is doing as well. "Our starting point is a place of violence. We come from a history of inequality, injustice, indignity, and oppression ... We are moving across the bridge towards freedom, human dignity, equality, and justice. We're moving away from trauma toward healing," Xaso said. The tool her country is employing is its democratic Constitution, its "transformative constitutionalism." But how does creativity relate to this transformation?

According to "Assessing the Impact of Culture and Creativity in Society," a course and publication from the Impact Research Center of Erasmus University in Rotterdam, one of the most significant challenges in effecting social change is changing people's behavior. Or, perhaps, their "hearts," as Xaso emphasized. "A revolution can change regimes, but for transformation, we need to change hearts." Xaso also explained: "Creativity and art were instruments of liberation. At the core of the anti-apartheid movement lay creativity. The majority of the country was never going to win the war against the apartheid government with arms alone ... It was never going to happen. So, what are the other tools that can change the world? There was music. There was poetry. The ANC built a culture and a department for culture because they saw it as an instrument that can liberate the country ... Art and justice reinforce each other."

Rowand Roydon Pybus is also in Milan, sharing his experiences in crossing bridges. His tool is a network of solar-powered theaters that screen films



Creativity pioneers in Milan. Credit: Luca Dimoon/Moleksine Foundation

made in Africa for those who lack access or cannot afford it. These films spark conversations on critical issues such as land rights and gender rights, thereby fostering change. They shed light on often-overlooked subjects. It's not about just screening; Sunshine Cinema engages young people and train them as facilitators for these discussions. They use a vast collection of African movies to address vital questions in hyper-local environments, where the impact is most significant.

However, assessing the scale of creativity's social impact remains a challenge. As Eva Langerak writes in Erasmus University's magazine, "The assumption that the cultural and creative sector adds substantial value to society is widely debated, and the discussion on how that value takes shape is quite controversial." The social impact of arts, culture, and creativity can be defined as "those effects that go beyond the artifacts and the enactment of the event or performance

itself and have a continuing influence on people's lives." This definition draws from the 1993 multi-authored work "The Social Impact of the Arts: A Discussion Document." Measuring the social impact of creativity is not a straightforward task, but the significance of the cultural dimension has been recognized to the extent that participation in cultural life is considered a human right, as outlined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration. This participation is crucial as it underpins "the ability to represent oneself and exercise other rights, including freedom of expression."

Representing oneself is closely tied to identity, which is one of the questions that "creative pioneers" in Palestine are addressing through the "Wonder Cabinet," a project in Bethlehem. Designed by architects Elias and Yousef Anastas, the Wonder Cabinet is a space for creative communities to come together and establish a safe place for Palestinian voices to express themselves, not

only with regard to creative fields but also to share, learn, and gain exposure to different experiences. As Ilaria Speri, managing director, explained, "It brings together communities that have been physically separated over decades of occupation, with 65% of the West Bank under military rule, including checkpoints and segregated roads with different access permits." This space offers the Palestinian community machinery, tools, knowledge, and an opportunity for reflection on identity and self-representation, thereby ensuring that the regional and local versions of their story are heard.

Art and creativity have a profound impact on society, encouraging critical thinking and prompting individuals to question their own experiences as well as those of others. This perspective is championed by authors such as François Matarasso, an artist, writer, and policy advisor, as well as Pascal Gielen. These insights hold particular significance in regions affected by conflict and warfare.

In the words of Olena Rosstalna, the founder and manager of the Youth Drama Theater "Ama Tea" in Chernihiv, a city in northern Ukraine near the Russian border, the impact of art transcends the physical battlefronts. She observed, "It's not just the war on the land; it's also the war in the minds and for the minds, because the propaganda is very big. Brainwashing has persisted for decades." Countering propaganda is among Ama Tea's actions devoted to engaging the youth. Olena explained the genesis of their project: "We conceived this project in the early days of April or late March 2022, when the full-scale invasion by the Russian Federation happened. We were in a bomb shelter, thinking about what we could do to help in this dire situation." Teaching critical thinking through a "fresh perspective" on art and literature has been a central focus for her team: "We manage to show the cases of propaganda not only in Ukrainian history, but in European history, in Polish, in Germany, [and] also taken in the context of World War Two," she said. Olena's work is geared primarily toward the youth. She stressed the importance of nurturing "the small seeds of creativity, conscientiousness, and responsibility" in the young generation, firmly believing that by doing so, they can secure a future for their country.

Olena describes herself as a "very small fish in a very big ocean," yet she believes that everything starts from the ground up. "That's why I'm deeply involved in grassroots initiatives in my work. Supporting local initiatives worldwide is crucial. It all begins with small steps and grassroots efforts. If we have a world of pioneers, one by one, all these initiatives will flourish into a beautiful garden," she said. Communities often play a pivotal role in propelling social change. Community-led art projects, unite people to brainstorm solutions for local issues, according to scholars. Solutions even where it seems impossible - that's the essence of creativity, as Adama Sanneh eloquently wrote in *Folios*, the Moleksine Foundation's periodical: "Revealing and exploring what is possible in seemingly impossible contexts. It's about radical imagination and enlightenment during times of ignorance and resignation".



Adama Sanneh, CEO of Moleksine Foundation. Credit: Luca Dimoon/Moleksine Foundation

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## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

# HIV self-testing service helps to improve rates among communities in Kyela district

By Felister Peter, Kyela

**T**HE use of HIV self-testing kits among various societal groups has helped many people to know their health status and start medication, thanks to interventions made by the government in collaboration with partners including the HJF Medical Research International (HJFMRI).

Fishermen at the Kafyofyo fishing camp in Kilwa village, Kanjunjumele ward, Kyela District, Mbeya Region have benefitted from the freely distributed kits for HIV testing whereas most of them are now aware of their health status.

Geofery Mwakyusa (49) is one of fishermen at the Kafyofyo camp with a population of more than 300 people, he said the kits have given them comfort and courage to test HIV because it is done privately through oral swab and no blood is needed.

Mwakyusa, who was diagnosed with HIV in 2022 after doing a self-test, has been a good ambassador who convinces his colleagues to check their health and helps them get professional advice as well as starting treatment—antiretroviral therapy (ARVs).

"After being diagnosed with HIV, I also advised my wife to go for an HIV test, thank God her results were negative. We have two children, one is 23 years old and the other is 20 years old, they all know my health status and I always educate them on how to prevent themselves from being infected with the disease," he said.

Mwakyusa added that as an ambassador, he also distributes the oral self-testing kits for HIV and condoms to fishermen and other villagers. He also managed to convince his brother-in-law to check his status and was diagnosed positive.

"After being diagnosed positive, my brother-in-law was desperate but I comforted him and took him to Kanjunjumele dispensary where he was advised professionally and listed for ARV medication. He is doing well," said Mwakyusa, adding that taking the drugs properly makes a person healthy and reduces the risk of being attacked by diseases.

He said most of the fishermen at the Kafyofyo fishing camp engage in sex with multiple partners after spending the night out in the cold, trawling Lake Nyasa for fish.

According to him, fishermen start their journey around 5: pm and end at dawn the next day whereas after selling their daily catch, it is time for enjoyment and they drink and sometimes engage in unprotected sex with girls who are in need of money.

The dangerous behaviour fuels the spread of HIV among fishermen, he added.

A fisherman, Joseph Kalua said: "I tested myself last year and was HIV positive. I have used ARVs for one and half years and I am progressing well.

My wife is also on medication after she was tested positive at a village dispensary."

Kalua admits to having infected her wife with the disease because he had multiple partners. He said the money he earns after selling his daily fish catch gave him courage to seduce and have sex with other women as he earns not less than 80,000/- per day.

Martin Mwanyita is motorbike driver from Injisi in Kyela District; he received education on HIV self-test and was given the kit. He commends HJFMRI and the United States government for providing them with the kits because more men are checking their health status.

"The kits are good because one can do it privately and get results within a short period. I was diagnosed negative and decided to use the acquired education to educate my fellow 'bodaboda' drivers on the importance of knowing their health status," said Kalua who has so far educated nearly 200 motorbike drivers.

Community Based HIV Service Provider (CBHSP) from Tumaini Community Service Organization, Christopher Mwakajila said HIV self-test kits have been helpful by 70 percent as many people fear to go for testing at hospitals.

"We are grateful that 75 percent of the people, including fishermen, whom we provide with education on self-testing, receive it well and test themselves. We provide the kits to a person depending on the size of his or her family," he said.

Mwakajila said that one of the organization's responsibilities includes ensuring that newly infected patients use the medicine as prescribed for six months to have their viral load suppressed.

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By Getrude Mbago

## Furnishing public with accurate weather information, key to reducing disasters

**F**URNISHING the public especially those living in poor settlements with accurate weather information and warnings will greatly help reduce the potential negative impacts and build resilience by allowing people to prepare for the worst.

Executive director of the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) Dr Tim Ndezi made the remarks in Dar es Salaam recently during the stakeholders, residents and leaders' workshops as part of the implementation of the second phase of the Daraja Project which aimed to strengthen weather education and awareness among residents in Mnyamani and Kipawa wards in Ilala District.

The project is supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with its execution expected to go until the end of this year.

Dr Ndezi said that vulnerability to extreme weather and climate impacts was rapidly growing in informal settlements where the majority of the residents lack basic infrastructures and services including drainage.

He said through the implementation of Daraja project, residents in Mji Mpya and Karakata streets in Mnyamani and Kipawa wards respectively have been educated and increased their capacity to take mitigating or adaptive measures to reduce the impacts of severe weather conditions on life and property.

In particular, the project aims at improving accessibility, understanding and mobilisation on the importance and use of weather and climate information, enabling them to take measures to reduce impacts of weather events including floods, extreme heat and others.

He said the provision of timely and precise weather information could reduce the vulnerability of people to climate change risks.

The DG commended the government for increasing efforts by putting budgets to support improvement of weather information dissemination, cleaning of drainage, construction of roads and bridges as well as cleaning to rivers so as to reduce impacts of the weather impacts.

CCI programme officer, Prudensiana Luckago said: "Our aim is to increase understanding of weather issues and information among the public and ensure that the residents effectively use information on weather forecasts to mitigate climate change related disasters."



She noted the increased capacity of residents in the informal settlements to take mitigating or adaptive measures to reduce the impact of severe weather conditions on life and property by the provision of enhanced weather and climate information pilots.

A survey conducted by CCI recently showed that if well informed with weather updates and how to mitigate climate change impacts, residents in flood prone areas can make prior good decisions to make them and their areas safe throughout the year.

Prudensiana said the survey showed that over 80 percent of residents in Mji Mpya and Karakata are affected by floods with many of them losing between 150,000/- to 300,000/- to the extreme weather impacts.

However, due to implementation of various initiatives including the DARAJA project, the residents have wider understanding of the challenges and are able to take precautions prior to the occurrence of the disasters such as floods and extreme heat.

The residents in collaboration with local authorities have been taking various measures taken before the severe weather events which include repairing their houses, cleaning drainage, storing properties in safe places, deciding what to wear as well as relocating, she explained.

"These measures have been facilitating 51 percent of the residents to save up to 100,000/- which could be lost due to the weather impacts with some others saving up to 200,000/-," she added.

Mathayo Nyauleni, member of disaster committee at Karakata Street said the locals have been most of the time using affordable and locally available materials as a measure to control floods along this river.

"We have been struggling ourselves to reduce impacts of floods by conducting cleanliness, controlling wastes as well as putting sand sacks along the river," he said.

He also noted that town planners and government officials have been promising

to address the issue and their strategies have also shown the need for more investment to address the problem.

Hamis Amani from Mji Mpya urged authorities to control vegetable farming along Msimbazi River as this was affecting the river and thus increasing flood risks.

"I have every year been spending my money to fill in sand in packs and place them on the river banks to prevent water from coming into my house, life is not that easy because during heavy rains, many people lose their precious properties, but with this education I am sure that it will make me help others to overcome the disasters," he explained.

Halima Kidimo also from Mji Mpya said: "At our area, we have developed a culture of meeting every Saturday to discuss various issues including environment cleanliness and sanitation, this includes conducting deep cleanliness in our surroundings and houses as in canals," she said.

Khamis Matulanga, an economist from Ilala municipal council in Dar es Salaam commended CCI for executing the project saying that the initiative complements the government's efforts to address various climate impacts which include investing in weather dissemination, sanitation and environmental protection projects.

"In the last financial year, our environmental budget was 600m/- which also involved improvement of roads and drainage and in this fiscal year, the budget may be higher," he said.

Upendo Ngailo, community development officer in Mnyamani ward said they have been working hard to educate the public on environmental cleanliness as well as adhering to proper construction of houses which include denying to issue building permits to the flood-prone areas.

Kinondoni district disaster management coordinator, Bakari Mlanzi, said that the municipality has been also taking various measures to ensure that people live in peace even during disasters.

He said that the district has been setting a budget every year and in this fiscal year, many challenges such as drainage and cleanliness of canals will be addressed.

He acknowledged that with improved warning systems, it is possible to reduce the extent of damage by improving the resilience of at-risk populations and reinforcing the preparedness of the population to cope with extreme events.

# Violent conflict in Sudan has impacted nearly every aspect of women's lives

By Hala al-Karib

I HAD the privilege to speak at the UN Security Council open debate last week on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), an important opportunity to reflect on the urgency of this work and why women's rights must be central to addressing any conflict or crisis.

Sadly, my country, Sudan, which is currently going through one of the most gruesome atrocities in Africa, illustrates the consequences of failing to do so. The current violent conflict in Sudan is a result of decades of violence against civilians, violence that has impacted nearly every aspect of women's lives.

During this time, mass atrocities, including sexual violence, rape, and other forms of gender-based violence, have been used against my people. These atrocities took place under former president Omar al-Bashir, who led a militarized regime reliant on the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and armed militias like the Janjaweed in Darfur, which later became the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The mass protests led by women and youth that began in December 2018 and led to the fall of al-Bashir were, in part, a direct response to how women's bodies and voices have been systematically under attack for over 30 years.

In 2019, the Security Council celebrated Sudan's transition and heard from Sudanese women such as Alaa Salah, whose voice was one of many calling for freedom, peace, and justice. Al-Bashir was forced out of office by this women-led movement.

The transition between August 2019 and October 2021 saw popular support for inclusive civilian governance, increased attention to women's rights and space for women's civil society, and the adoption of a National Action Plan on WPS. Most important, is the space that women activists and rights defenders have managed to occupy and reflect on our demands as Sudanese women.

The transition, however, was short-lived, and further change did not come. Violence continued against civilians in Darfur and the women and youth protestors across the country. Transition authorities failed to address systemic violence, discrimination against women, and the impunity that has plagued Sudan. Perpetrators, in some instances, were appointed to top government positions.

The subsequent military takeover illustrates how only paying lip



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

service to the Women Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, without insisting on women's rights and women's meaningful participation in peace and political processes, is not enough to overcome the repressive, patriarchal, and dangerous status quo.

War erupted again in April, this time reaching Khartoum. The gendered nature of the conflict became obvious mere hours after the fighting began. The first case of gang rape was reported at noon on April 15 inside a woman's home in Khartoum. Alarmed by her screams, neighbors started gathering, and the perpetrators, identified as RSF soldiers, quickly fled. The same day, two other women were gang-raped inside their homes in the same area.

From that day on, reports of sexual violence and kidnapping flooded human rights and women's organizations. Women were subject to brutal atrocities, torture, and trafficking by the RSF in greater Khartoum and Nyala in South Darfur.

The RSF's brutality was in full display in El Geneina city in West Darfur, where they raped women from Masalit and other native African tribes in front of their families, whom they then killed. More than 4 million women and girls are now at risk of sexual violence in Sudan, and countless others have been slaughtered.

Both the SAF and RSF have committed serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

While calling on both parties to end such acts, UN experts have expressed concern at consistent reports of widespread violations by the RSF, including subjecting women and girls to enforced disappearance, sexual assault, exploitation and slavery, forced work, and detention in inhuman or degrading conditions.

Fear of stigma and reprisals means that we do not even know the full scale of violations. This pattern of widespread, ethnically motivated attacks, including sexual violence, could amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. In my view, the targeted attacks on specific communities in El Geneina also poses a serious risk of genocide.

Life after experiencing violence and torture at the hands of the RSF is unbearable—a number of these women and girls have died by suicide. Moreover, women's access to health care, especially comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, is limited, in part due to the lack of skilled medical service providers and attacks and occupation of hospitals.

This war has also resulted in millions of women losing their livelihoods and savings, limiting access to food and essential health care. Women and children are also the majority of the displaced and in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

Yet lack of funding and denial of humanitarian access and security and ad-

ministrative impediments imposed by the SAF, both pose serious challenges to reaching those in need. Further, humanitarian delivery is rarely informed by women's views despite their prominent role in the response.

The suffering of women in Sudan mirrors the suffering of women across Africa—we are being treated as collateral damage rather than as agents of our own lives. The fundamental premise of the Women Peace and Security agenda is that relegating women—and their rights—to the margins of decision-making further entrenches women's exclusion and prolongs violence. This must change now.

### As I addressed the Security Council this week, I urged its members to:

Demand an immediate cessation of hostilities and the adoption of a comprehensive ceasefire in Sudan that will end all violence targeting civilians, ensure the safe passage of civilians, and halt the destruction of critical civilian infrastructure.

• Reiterate that the full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of Sudanese women and civil society is critical to any de-escalation efforts or building future peace, and further, all efforts must place respect for human rights at its center. We repeat our demand for the meaningful representation of women, including feminist movements, at 50%, at all levels, from

beginning to end. We further call on the UN to ensure women's equal and direct representation in any peace processes it supports.

Call on all parties to ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access in line with international law. Urgently fund the Humanitarian Response Plan and the Regional Refugee Response Plan. Direct more resources to local civil society, including women's groups.

Pursue accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity by calling for, and/or initiating independent and impartial investigations based on the principle of universal jurisdiction. Hold all parties accountable for any acts of sexual violence, and strengthen the existing sanctions regime to include sexual and gender-based violence as a stand-alone designation criteria.

Update and strengthen the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) so that the mission is directed to take all possible actions to support protection of civilians and human rights, maintain all existing WPS-related provisions, and meaningfully consult with civil society.

Condemn any threats or attacks against women human rights defenders and peace activists, and remove any restrictions on civic space or their right to continue their essential work.

The current conflict in Sudan is a result of the failure to uphold women's rights and women's participation in shaping my country's future. I urged the international community not to repeat this mistake in other crises, where you have the power to do things differently and demanded them to stand with courageous women human rights defenders in crises around the world and show them you will not abandon them.

Show solidarity with Palestinian women, who have suffered the world's longest occupation and, today, an escalating crisis in Gaza, and support their calls for an immediate ceasefire.

Support the calls of Afghan women to hold the Taliban accountable for gender apartheid. Show the women of Ethiopia, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen and so many other conflicts around the globe that their rights are not dispensable.

And demand that the UN take a principled stand by ensuring that women's rights, and women's full, equal and meaningful participation are always a fundamental part of any peace process it supports. Uphold the central principle of the WPS agenda, which is that there can be no peace without protection of women's rights.

**Hala al-Karib is a Sudanese women's rights activist and the Regional Director of the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA). Twitter: @Halaykarib**

IPS UN Bureau

# RADIO One

## RATIBA YA VIPINDI

### JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

| MONDAY<br>TIME PROGRAMME   | TUESDAY<br>TIME PROGRAMME  | WEDNESDAY<br>TIME PROGRAMME  | THURSDAY<br>TIME PROGRAMME   | FRIDAY<br>TIME PROGRAMME   | SATURDAY<br>TIME PROGRAMME   | SUNDAY<br>TIME PROGRAMME   |
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Thursday 2 November 2023

# Banking assets quality improve as NPLs shrink to 5.2 pc

By Guardian Reporter

**B**orrowers should expect more relaxed credits issuance conditions and lowered interest rates by the banking sector, following the decline of the rate of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs), as the economy shape is getting better, after three years of effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic among other things, affected the ability of borrowers to repay their loans, which badly affected the banking sector assets quality, through increased impairment losses on loans and advances, due to slowdown of economic activities, specifically Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which accounts for the largest share of economic activities in Tanzania.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of Tanzania statement issued, following the 228th meeting over the weekend, shows that the rate of NPLs slowed to 5.2 percent in September, slightly higher than the benchmark of 5 percent, from 7.3 percent in September 2022.

This has also improved the banking sector assets quality and this is expected to motivate commercial banks to increase lending to the private sector.

The MPC statement issued by the central bank governor Emmanuel Tutuba said, following such developments, the banking sector remained adequately capitalized, liquid and profitable.

The situation has also been shown in the recent published banks' financial statements for the third quarter of this year, which show improved recovery of written off bad debts by number of banks, as well as decline in impairment losses on loans and advances.

According to the financial statements, most banks increased their profitability not only the increase of earnings from interest and non-interest incomes streams, but also assets recovery from written off bad debts.

The statements also shows that commercial banks also managed to expand their liabilities, specifically customer deposits, which has enabled them to get sufficient liquidity to lend into private sector players in various sector of the economy.



Tanzania Bankers Association Chairman Theobald Sabi, told The Guardian yesterday that profitability observed within Tanzania's banking industry can be attributed to a confluence of factors encompassing regulatory policies, institution-specific initiatives, and overall economic performance.

Sabi, who also doubles as NBC managing director said, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has implemented several pivotal policies in recent years, particularly in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic include facilitating increased credit to the private sector and adopting accommodating monetary policies, of which have stimulated banking sector activities.

For instance, he said, there were reduction of the discount rate from 7.0 percent to 5.0 percent per annum and the lowering of the statutory minimum reserves (SMR) requirement from 7.0 percent to 6.0 percent, which have effectively improved market liquidity. "The BoT's effective banking supervision has instilled stability and operational efficiency within the banking industry," he said.

According to Sabi, Tanzanian banks have also demonstrated a commitment to expanding their customer base and introducing services tailored to the market's needs.

Anticipations include the ongoing growth of the credit portfolio, driven by the expansion of banking services and post-COVID-19 economic recovery, as well as bolstered operational efficiency.

Furthermore, he explained, banks have significantly invested in digital financial services, extending their reach to more customers while simultaneously reducing operational costs.

"A notable achievement has been reduced Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) following the post-COVID-19 recovery, which has translated into improved returns from credit accommodations," Sabi said.

Also, the government's commitment to stimulating investment has boosted investor confidence and attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), positively influencing the banking system, he said.

Furthermore, an improved business environment, marked by comprehensive regulatory reforms as part of the Blueprint for Regulatory

Reforms to enhance the business environment, has fostered a conducive atmosphere for business growth.

According to TBA chairman, the post-COVID recovery of sectors significantly affected by the pandemic, such as the tourism industry, can be attributed to government efforts to revive this vital sector.

"The collective improvements in the business environment, pro-investment initiatives spearheaded by the government, and innovative banking solutions provided by financial institutions, coupled with the resilient performance of the Tanzanian economy, have substantially contributed to the industry's profitability," he asserted.

A stable macroeconomic foundation has also increased the banking sector's resilience to short-term internal and external shocks, he concluded.

Banking analysts are also optimistic that ongoing economic recovery, which has led into increased economic activities and investments, will increase public confidence on banking sector, through improved deposits and borrowing.

According to BoT, the economic

growth in the first and second quarters of 2023 was satisfactory, at 5.4 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively, and is expected to reach 5.3 percent in 2023, as projected.

The MPC says credit to private sector grew at around 22 percent in July and August, before moderating to 19.5 percent in September 2023, which was above the projection of 16.4 percent for end December 2023.

The sustained growth of credit to the private sector reflects high demand for new loans consistent with the improving business environment, reinforced by the less accommodative monetary policy and supportive fiscal policy.

Credit was largely registered in agricultural activities relative to others," the statement notes.

Agricultural activities continued to record the highest growth of credit at 52.4 percent, backed by policy measures that were taken by the Bank to promote cost-effective

credit intermediation, coupled with ongoing interventions by the Government to support the sector.

Meanwhile, personal loans continued to constitute the largest share of the total outstanding private sector credit, which also help to stimulate personal economies, followed by trade, agriculture and manufacturing activities.

The MPC also noted that, the recent observed shortage of foreign currency is gradually improving owing to earnings from tourism, minerals, manufacturing, and cash crops.

The BoT participation in the interbank foreign exchange market by selling foreign exchange to address accumulation of foreign currency denominated loans extended to importers have also contributed to the improvement, the MPC statement says.

The foreign currency condition is expected to continue improving in the wake of foreign exchange inflows from tourism, export crops and minerals as well as measures taken by the central Bank and the Government to address the situation.

In light of this background, the MPC decided to sustain the less accommodative monetary policy, which will continue to be implemented in close collaboration with fiscal and structural policies.

Monetary policy measures will also be implemented to achieve the targets under the Extended Credit Facility Program for the quarter ending December 2023.

The MPC noted that the implementation of the less accommodative monetary policy successfully maintained liquidity in the economy at appropriate levels in August, September, and October 2023.



## CRDB Group rakes 411bn/- pre-tax profit in 9 months

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed CRDB Bank Plc, recorded a pre-tax profit amounting to 411.3bn/- during the first three quarters of this year, an increase from 367.3bn/- during similar period of last year, the bank's unaudited financial statement for the third quarter of this year has shown.

Net interest income jumped to 609.7bn/- during nine months of this year from 531.9bn/- during the comparative period of last year, while non-interest income grew to 322.9bn/- compared to 290.9bn/- respectively.

This trend has also pushed up the group's earnings per share to 107.4/- in three quarters of this year compared to 98.2/- recorded in three quarters of last year.

The bank also managed to increase number of branches

to 261 at the end of September this year, compared to 247 recorded at the end of September last year, making it the largest in terms of branch network in Tanzania's banking sector.

According to the statement, the increase of number of branches has also resulted into increased number of job opportunities, after increasing to 3,894 during the end of September this year, compared to 3,752 during the end of September 2022.

CRDB Group has also managed to expand its balance sheet, after its assets increased to 12.7trn/- in the third quarter, maintaining its leading position as the largest bank, from 12.5trn/- recorded during the second quarter.

The expansion of the balance sheet resulted into increase of cash, cheques and items for clearing, interbank loans receiv-

ables, lending to various sectors of the economy and other assets.

Lending to various sector of the economy grew to 8.1trn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 7.6trn/- during the second quarter, while interbank loans receivables more than doubled to 363bn/-, compared with 161.7bn/- respectively.

The bank's liability also increased to 11.1trn/- from 11trn/- due to rising of special deposits, payment orders/transfer payable.

The Group's total shareholders' fund also expanded to 1.6trn/- during the third quarter of this year, compared to 1.48trn/- recorded during the second quarter due to increase of profit account and other capital accounts.

## G10 central banks hit rate plateau in October

LONDON

Central banks across major developed economies in September delivered no rate hikes for the first time since January 2022 while emerging markets extended their split between easing in Latin America and much of central Europe and tightening in Asia.

October saw five of the central banks overseeing the 10 most heavily traded currencies hold rate setting meetings, with policy makers at the Bank of Japan, the European Central Bank, the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Reserve Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of Canada opting to keep their benchmarks unchanged, Reuters data showed.

Central banks in Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Great Britain and the United States held no rate setting meetings.

That compares to September, where three major developed central banks delivered a last-gasp set of rate hikes, which took 2023 the year-to-date tally for G10 central banks to a total of 1,150 bps across 36 hikes.

While inflation was still high compared to central banks' targets, a rapid recent rise in global bond rout had changed the backdrop significantly thanks to the rise in yields at the long end of the yield curve across both developed and emerging markets, analysts said.

"The higher yields may be doing some of the tightening work for the Fed, the Bank of England and the European Central Bank, and a pause from central bankers to monitor the impact of previous hikes on the economy is increasingly likely," said Fabiana Fedeli, chief investment officer at M&G Investments.

The US Federal Reserve - which will announce its interest rate decision later

on Wednesday - was most likely the closest to the end of its rate hike cycle, Fedeli added.

Meanwhile, diverging rate trajectories continued to be on display in emerging economies where 12 out of the 18 central banks in the Reuters sample held meetings in October.

Latin America and central and eastern Europe are at the forefront of the easing cycle, with Chile, Hungary and Poland extending their rate cutting cycles to lower benchmarks by a cumulative 150 basis points (bps).

"Cuts are returning swiftly because the hiking cycle was arguably too fast and too furious for some," said credit strategist Barnaby Martin at BofA Securities, adding emerging markets had last seen rate cuts akin to the current ones during

the summer of 2020 when policy makers battled the fallout from the COVID-19 rout.

Meanwhile, Asian central banks were still in their tightening cycle with both Indonesia and the Philippines raising rates by 25 bps each. And Russia and Turkey - both battling pressures on their currencies due to idiosyncratic stories rather than the global backdrop - lifted benchmarks by 200 bps and 500 bps respectively.

Central banks in Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, Malaysia and Czech Republic did not meet in October.

The total tally for the year on rate hikes stood at 4,225 bps through 34 hikes, while policy makers also delivered 570 bps of rate cuts across 11 moves.



Central bank in Sweden

# EFFECTIVE COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CRUCIAL FOR BANKS – PART 1

By Kelvin Mkwawa

In the banking industry, excellence in customer service is the most important tool for sustained business growth. In addition, as a service organization, customer service and satisfaction should be the prime concern of any bank. By providing prompt and efficient services, banks will be able to attract new customers and retain existing ones. One of the major aspects of ensuring excellence in customer service is the management of customer complaints. Customer complaints are part of the business life of any bank and therefore managing those complaints is very important for banks. A customer complains because he/she is not satisfied with the services or products offered by a bank. Customer complaints arise mainly because of the inadequacy of the functions/promises made to customers or gaps in the standards of services expected and actual services rendered. Banks need to understand that customers have a right to register/report their complaints if they are not satisfied with the services or products provided by a bank. Complaints can be registered on different platforms: in writing, orally, or by telephone. Banks



Kelvin Mkwawa,

should have complaints management systems in place to ensure that customers have access to all platforms to raise their complaints. Banks must ensure that customers are fully aware of all avenues to escalate their complaints within the bank and their rights to alternative remedies if they are not fully satisfied with the bank's

response to their complaints.

Nevertheless, banks can minimize instances of customer complaints and grievances through proper service delivery and review mechanisms to ensure prompt redress of customer complaints. The complaint review system should help in quickly identifying shortcomings in services and product features. Responding to customer's complaints is considered by many as an essential task of customer service but, banks should have a team comprising of members from all units, not just the customer service unit, that deals with customer complaints. Each person involved in the complaint management process must prioritize the needs of customers and understand that complaints are helpful, not harmful. Complaints help banks detect flaws in their products and services hence improving quality. Every complaint received should be looked at as an opportunity to show customers that their time and opinions are valuable. Through the next two weeks, I will share why it is crucial for banks to have an efficient and effective complaints management system and how to set it up. This week, I will share

why it is crucial for banks to have an effective complaints management system.

**Improves Accountability** - For a bank to have meaningful and effective complaints management, a structured system needs to be built. A complaint management system is more effective and efficient when it has procedures that are precise, detailed, and well-documented. Such a system makes sure that the complaints are addressed quickly, fairly, and in the customer's best interest. In addition, the guidelines of the complaint management system should be made available to all staff (main office and branches) to ensure awareness throughout the entire bank. That awareness will allow the complaint management system to obtain feedback quickly on how to improve banks' services, therefore, decreasing the likelihood of problems with their customer base. By decreasing the likelihood of customers' problems, a well-structured complaint management system can improve accountability by making sure that customers' expectations are met and ensure that the products and services that banks are offering are

continuously being improved.

**Enhance Good Governance** - A customer complaint management system is an effective tool to enhance good governance. Without an effective complaint management system, and a lack of awareness about the rights and responsibilities of banks and consumers, customers can't seek help whenever there is an issue. By unveiling quality problems, a complaints management system might help to detect illicit practices as these often result in low quality and efficiency. Therefore, by promoting the rights and responsibilities of consumers regarding the complaint, banks will have no choice but to have a complaint process that is transparent, fair, and intact with the policy and procedures of handling complaints hence enhancing good corporate governance.

Next week I will share how banks can develop an effective and efficient complaints management system.

**Kelvin Mkwawa, MBA is the seasoned Banker. He can be reached through: Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com**

## International pressures on central banks

By David Marsh

The last few years have been tough for adherents of the doctrine that central bank independence is crucial for maintaining stable prices. Three to four decades ago, the world went through a major push - partly predicated on the track record of Germany's Bundesbank - to make central banks around the world independent of government policies.

The 2007-08 financial crisis, the Covid-19 outbreak and now the war between Russia and Ukraine have complicated the task. These institutions' lacklustre performance in first spotting and then controlling the inflationary surge of the last few years has weakened the claim that independent central banks are better at stabilising economies - and hence political systems - than elected governments.

In many jurisdictions - including the UK, Australia and continental Europe, where latterly the National Bank of Poland has faced scrutiny - central banks have come under pressure. The charges fall under two main categories and are partly contradictory.

Central banks have been told they carried on monetary easing for too long before realising that the allegedly 'transitory' 2021 inflation uptick represented a more durable problem. In the aftermath, they have been criticised for tightening money too severely, precipitating slowdowns in some countries and making life difficult for over-indebted governments.

As a result of these policy fluctuations, many central banks face large losses on their balance sheets. These have been caused by the effect of interest rate tightening in greatly reducing the value of massive amounts of bonds purchased during previous bouts of quantitative easing. These shortfalls may force some central banks to seek financial support from governments, which could constrain their freedom of action.

There have been plenty of warning signals. Pro-



fessor Charles Goodhart of the London School of Economics, a founder member of the Bank of England's independent monetary policy committee in 1997, has been telling central bankers for years that they need to enjoy their freedom while it lasts. His thesis is that, faced with a conflict between hiking interest rates to counter inflation and adding to default risks faced by indebted governments, central banks will bow to political pressure and retreat from their price stability mandates.

An OMFIF report produced with EY in 2012, 'Challenges for central banks: wider powers, greater restraints' foresaw that central banks would run into conflicts. This reflected the widening of their mandates into areas like banking supervision or countering climate change, beyond Bundesbank-style sole concentration on price stability. In the report Stephen Cecchetti, then head of the monetary and economic department of the Bank for International Settlements, underlined the central banks' dilemma: 'As they are given more responsibility they may end up with less independence.'

Full independence throughout EU

In the European Union, the statutes of all central banks - including in countries which stayed outside

the euro - were adjusted to a position of full independence more than two decades ago. This was the required prelude to establishment of the European Central Bank (owned by the EU's national central banks) in 1998 and the start of economic and monetary union in 1999. As a result, the ECB and its shareholders enjoy constitutionally enshrined independence outstripping that in other countries.

Independence can breed conflict. The early history of the Bundesbank, whose independence from government dates back to 1948 when West Germany was under allied occupation and had no government, is punctuated with episodes where the central bank ended on the winning side in tussles with successive chancellors. In recent decades, the administration has gained the upper hand.

Four of the six Bundesbank presidents since the 1970s left their jobs before the end of their statutory terms as a result of tension with government. Only some of these elements of discord were publicised at the time. The most famous, Karl Otto Pöhl, who resigned in 1991, was embroiled in a series of furious rows with Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

More recently, the governors of the Bank of England and Reserve Bank of Australia both faced strong attacks from their

governments last year. Turkey, with one of the most volatile economies in Europe, has had six central bank governors since the start of 2016.

Political considerations have had some marginal influence on interest rate decisions by the Federal Reserve, the world's premier central bank, in the past few years, notably in the decisions to go slow in monetary tightening in 2021. But the Fed's ability to raise interest rates strongly since March 2022, while at the same time remaining above the political fray, has contributed greatly to preserving the sanctity of central banking independence.

Importance of leadership positions

The virtually unassailable legal position of euro area NCBs has increased the importance of governmental decisions on their leadership. Poland has remained outside the euro. But the NBP's legal independence, and the selection and powers of its president, are now the focus of a public dispute. This pits Donald Tusk, a former Polish prime minister now likely to return to the job after the country's 15 October general election, against Adam Glapiński, the NBP president who has held the post since 2016.

The row has a strong personal element. Glapiński, an economics professor, was an adviser

to former Polish President Lech Kaczyński, who died in an air crash in 2010. He is the twin brother of Jarosław Kaczyński, leader of the governing Law and Justice party, which finished without a parliamentary majority after the hard-fought October election contest against Tusk's Civil Platform party.

Controversy over the NBP and the decisions of its nine-person monetary policy committee could be a distraction for Tusk. An intensifying dispute could detract from other pressing priorities and threaten the stability of the Polish economy at a difficult time. He faces the tasks of forming a three-party coalition, repairing the relationship with the EU, shoring up a faltering economy and safeguarding Poland's position as a key Nato member deeply affected by neighbouring Ukraine's war with Russia.

Central banks know they are steering a narrow path between constitutionality and competence. One well-known former European central bank governor related how he privately rented a flat in his home capital during his term of office, in case he decided to resign and relinquish his grace-and-favour apartment in a dispute over his independence.

Meghnad Desai, an economics professor and chairman of the OMFIF advisory council, gave a bitter-sweet description of the UK central bank's prowess in the House of Lords in July (where he sits as a cross-bencher). 'Independence of the Bank of England is all right, [but] what we need is competence. The Bank of England was more competent when it was not independent than it is now when it is.' Ultimately, in an ever more complicated political framework, the benchmark for central bankers' success or failure will be ability to fulfil their mandates.

**David Marsh (pictured) is the Chairman of the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum (OMFIF).**

## Global fund managers sharpen bank scrutiny after the crisis -survey

NEW YORK/LONDON

Global fund managers are exploring ways to spread their counterparty risk, with many regularly monitoring the credit ratings of their dealer banks following the recent banking crisis, according to an industry survey released on Wednesday.

Concerned that possible future bank failures could cause short-term liquidity squeezes or leave them without a provider for foreign exchange services to make payroll or key vendor payments, 80 percent of fund managers are now looking to diversify their counterparties, according to the 2023 MillTechFX survey.

MillTechFX, the fintech arm of specialist currency manager Millennium Global, surveyed 250 senior decision-makers at global asset management firms in the United Kingdom.

Fund managers use counterparties such as banks to trade foreign exchange or hedge currency risks. A counterparty's failure could put their hedges and the collateral that secures them in jeopardy.

That number rises to 100 percent for chief executives, indicating a strong desire from the heads of these institutions to review their banking setup to ensure proper systems are in place to mitigate the impact of any future crisis, the survey said.

An earlier survey of fund managers in North America by MillTech found a similar percentage looking at further diversification.

'One of the big lessons for fund managers from recent events in the banking industry is the importance of having access to multiple counterparties,' said Eric Huttman, CEO at MillTechFX.

The collapse of several regional and mid-sized US lenders and the Swiss government-orchestrated rescue of Credit Suisse by UBS sent shock waves through global markets.

Since then investors

across the board have been sharpening their scrutiny of banks and strengthening their cash-management guidelines to plug the gaps exposed in their approach to counterparty risk and liquidity management.

Huttman said that many companies may prioritize factors like prices when selecting foreign exchange counterparties but the recent banking crisis shows that 'the likelihood of settlement are equally important.'

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT IN FOCUS**

Several executives at asset management and advisory firms told Reuters that fund managers in private equity and alternative credit have been making their treasury and investment guidelines more robust by adding more banks. They are also clarifying how much deposit they are comfortable leaving at each bank, and specifying how often their policies and counterparties will be reviewed.

'It was not considered a high likelihood that some banks were going to go through the types of problems that they had,' said Matthew Pallai, chief investment officer at asset manager Nomura Private Capital.

'So, it just makes sense as a risk-mitigation tool to start thinking about how you diversify your exposure to any one of those counterparties.'

Danny Olds, a director in the treasury practice section at Lionpoint, a boutique consultancy, said March's crisis elevated interest in treasury management, a long-overlooked area of the industry.

Software provider Hazel-tree said there has been increased interest in treasury and liquidity solutions and analytics that look at bank health, provide real-time exposures across various banks and highlight potential areas of concern that aid decision making such as changes in banks' credit ratings.

By Francis Kajubi

# TADB launches strategic plan with three financial products

THE agricultural sectors financier Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB) has launched Five-Year Strategic Plan (2023-2027) alongside three products targeting at improving agriculture financing.

Addressing stakeholders in Dar es Salaam yesterday, deputy permanent secretary, Ministry of Finance responsible for economic management Elijah Mwandumba, said that the government recognises the immense importance of the crop, livestock, and fisheries in poverty alleviation and food security.

He called upon financial institutions to reduce interest rates to single digits, as the government observes other monetary, fiscal, tax and regulatory incentives for agriculture all aim to increase financial inclusion specifically in the rural areas.

Frank Nyabundege, TADB's managing director, said the 2023 - 2027 strategy will focus on five key thematic areas to catalyze increased financing to agriculture by other partnering banks.

TADB will also support value chain development by utilising the available

opportunities in the agriculture to facilitate investment in productive infrastructure, mechanization, crop storage, processing, logistics and trade.

During five years, the bank will focus on climate change and climate smart agriculture by addressing the challenges of climate change and enhancing the capability of farmers to respond to the adverse effects of climate change.

As for financial inclusion, the bank will increase the engagement of women and youth in agriculture where currently 46 percent of women and 44 percent of youth are involved in agriculture. He asserted that TADB is operating under its long-term 20-year business plan (2015-2035) which is implemented through a 5-year medium-term strategy.

"Notable achievements of the first five-year medium strategy which ended in 2022 include establishing a presence in the banking and finance space through expansion of service outreach by opening four zonal offices in addition to headquarters in Dar es Salaam;

Mobilization of low cost funds and long-term resources for lending, operationalization of Smallholder Credit Guarantee



Ministry of finance deputy permanent secretary responsible for economic management Elijah Mwandumba (2nd L) holds TADB's five-year Strategy (2023-2027) during its launching in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on are TADB managing director Frank Nyabundege (2nd R). Left is French Development Agency country director Celine Robert and right is Daniel Masolwa, a TADB board member. Photo: Courtesy of The Banker.

Scheme (SCGS) and consistent recording of profits for all 5 years," he said.

TADB provides short-term, medium-term and long-term finance to address challenges in the agricultural value chain through direct lending and through the Smallholder Credit Guarantee

Scheme (SCGS).

Launched in 2018 in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office, the SCGS provides a guarantee of up to 50 percent to partner financial institutions utilizing the scheme, aiming to increase finances channeled to the agriculture sector.

"As of September 2023, TADB through direct lending has advanced 642.3bn/- SCGS, benefiting farmers in all 27 regions of the country since 2015. Similarly, TADB through SCGS has guaranteed a total of 228bn/- and

smallholder farmers and Agri-SME's; Promote women and youth participation and employment in the sector; Improve and increase food security and nutrition; and Support climate smart and resilient agriculture," said Nyabundege.

benefited 16,431 farmers since its inception in 2018," he said.

Nyabundege revealed that TADB has received concessional funding worth Euros 80million (equivalent to 212bn/-) from the France Development Agency (AFD) with the primary objective of enhancing TADB's capacity to provide financing to the agricultural sector.

The concessional funds support three financial products offered by TADB namely; wholesale lending, Co-Financing and Smallholder Credit Guarantee Scheme - along with the provision of technical assistance to TADB and Financial Institutions (PFI's).

The funds will implement a transformative nationwide project called 'Improving Access to Agriculture Financing in Tanzania,' which is being rolled out through the 'TADB Agricultural Challenge Initiatives' program.

"Specifically, the project aims to: Increase access to finance for

Through wholesale lending, TADB will fund the PFIs on concessional terms where PFIs will use these resources to develop their agricultural financing portfolio in compliance with the targeting criteria and product features specified in the agreement.

The Co-Financing lending approach intends to enhance TADB's capacity to play its leading role as the apex agricultural development bank and financial institutions to increase financing to agriculture.

Through SCGS, TADB intends to increase guarantee coverage for women, youth-led projects, and climate-related projects from 50 percent to 75 percent.

This initiative will enable more women and youth to increase access to various agricultural projects for employment creation and poverty alleviation.



The Minister of Industry and Trade, Dr. Ashatu Kijaji speaks with businessmen about exciting marketing opportunities in the United States in the African Growth Opportunities Act (AGOA) meeting held at the hall of Fair Competition Commission (FCC) in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo by Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## China's central bank drain cash in financial system

BEIJING

China's central bank withdrew cash from the financial system, suggesting it views Tuesday's abrupt surge in short-term borrowing costs as a one-off disruption.

The People's Bank of China drained a net 109 billion yuan (\$14.9 billion) from money markets Wednesday by doling out a smaller amount of new short-term loans than was maturing.

The withdrawal came even as funding conditions tightened sharply in recent days due to month-end demand, tax payments and large government bond sales.

Still, the overnight rate had surged to as high as 50 percent in isolated transactions Tuesday, according to a trader, who asked not to be identified. That sparked concern over potential stress in the financial system.

"The PBOC likely viewed the incident yesterday as a temporary mismatch, not a structural issue," said Bruce Pang, chief economist for Greater China at Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. But, the need for liquidity to support bond issuance going forward means the PBOC will still likely cut banks' reserve requirement ratio within three months, with a possible move as early as in November, he added.

The weighted average rate of overnight repurchase agreements, a key gauge of interbank borrowing costs, fell as much as 15 basis points on Wednesday, another indication that liquidity stress has declined. It had gained 18 basis points on Tuesday, the biggest increase since Sept. 28, Bloomberg-compiled data show.

Funding conditions loosened Wednesday as large banks made more cash available for borrowing, according to traders who requested anonymity discussing private matters. Banks were able to take out loans below the weighted average rate while costs for non-banking firms were slightly higher, they added.

The PBOC typically withdraws cash via its daily open-market operation at the beginning of each month, as liquidity conditions usually ease due to a decline in financing demand. It tends to inject cash on a net basis toward the end of the month when banks are under pressure to meet regulatory requirements.

State broadcaster China Central Television blamed unidentified financial institutions for disrupting the market Tuesday. "Some institutions, with the aim of maximizing profits, depend too much on rolling-over financing, borrowing short and investing long - creating their own liquidity risks, which disturbs the market and creates a tense mood," CCTV said in a report.

## Chinese smartphone maker targets Tanzanian market

By Guardian Correspondent

Chinese-made smartphone brand OPPO has been launched in Tanzania, giving a wider choice for mobile telecommunication's gadgets lovers.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam mid this week, the company local manager Kenny Yue officially announced the company's establishment in Tanzania and the launch of its new smartphone lineup.

Yue said that the most important factors that influence brand choice when changing the mobile phones are technical problems, price, innovative services, brand, reliability, basic properties, design and outside influ-

ences.

"Since our first entry into the continent, we successful operations in various markets such as Egypt, Morocco, Kenya and South Africa, and our entrance into Tanzania is a testament to our unwavering commitment to making the world a happier place through the power of technology. We guarantee to deliver the best experience to all our users," he said.

He said that recent reports from Canalis have shown his brand market share has grown by 73 percent annually, ranking 4th in the continent.

"This shows that there is unique and untapped potential, and our investment in new markets



Invited guests experience the newly launched OPPO smartphones in Tanzania. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

such as Tanzania continues to show our belief and commitment to our users," he added.

On the new products

in the Tanzanian market, the CEO said it is uniquely designed to meet the needs of users, saying the OPPO A78 is a

perfect combination of style and performance which features an FHD+ AMOLED Display delivering immersive enter-

tainment, Dual Stereo Speakers, lightning-fast 67W SUPERVOOC™ flash charge and a long-lasting 5000mAh large battery.

Yue said the brand's debut in Tanzania is more than a launch, it is an invitation to embark on a transformative journey, saying as the brand steps into the vibrant Tanzanian market, it promises to deliver the best experience to its users, not just in the device range but also in its after sales service.

"As we embark on this exciting journey, we commit to bringing a legacy of innovation, dedication, excellence, and a promise to empower our fans with the best innovative technology and products for this market," said Farida Mwangosi, the Product Manager.

## WORLD



Medical staff wears PPE on a ward for COVID-19 patients at King's College Hospital in southeast London on Dec 21, 2021. AP

## UK rips up state guarantees on nearly \$12b of COVID loans

LONDON

THE UK government has scrapped guarantees on nearly 1 billion pounds (\$1.2 billion) of bank loans handed out to ailing businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving lenders on the hook for some of the borrowings that will not be repaid.

Previously unreported figures obtained by Reuters under a Freedom of Information request show that the state-owned British Business Bank - which administers the loan schemes - has removed state guarantees from 10,786 loans worth a combined 979 million pounds as of Oct 11, shielding taxpayers from some losses.

While the amount is only a fraction so far of the 77 billion pounds of loans issued, the move follows pressure from lawmakers and Britain's public spending watchdog who criticized the programs for being too lax. The figures could rise further - latest figures show just 17 billion pounds have been fully repaid by borrowers as of June 30.

Dozens of lenders took part in the government-backed schemes, including Britain's "Big Four" banks: Barclays, NatWest, Lloyds and HSBC. Barclays and HSBC declined to comment, while the other two were not immediately available.

Britain's emergency lending schemes echoed government finance initiatives deployed worldwide to prop up companies during lengthy lockdowns, but the full costs and who will ultimately foot the various bills is only now becoming clearer.

Public officials have ratcheted up their scrutiny of the schemes to try to ensure better value for money, three sources familiar with the matter told Reuters, just as ministers review strained state finances ahead of a key budget update later this month.

"In unprecedented times, we stepped up to support the country," a spokesperson for the UK's business department said of the loan schemes, adding that where necessary it was working with lenders to remove guarantees to protect taxpayer money.

Bank lobby group UK Finance said lenders were in regular discussions with the BBB, with some removing loans from the guarantee at their own discretion.

Lenders who answered government calls to keep credit flowing to Britain's shell-shocked economy from 2020 did so via three main schemes. The largest and most controversial, the "Bounce Back Loan" scheme, delivered 47 billion pounds and was specially designed to help Britain's smallest firms stay afloat.

Participants were requested to streamline their typical credit checks in order to lend up to 50,000 pounds within hours of an application. Under BBL terms, the government assumed 100 percent of the credit risk.

However, some lenders are finding they cannot claim on that guarantee, the FOI response shows. Following the removal, any financial loss is borne in full by the lender, BBB said.

The guarantees have been removed for a variety of reasons, the BBB said, including due to data corrections, application errors resulting in "duplicate" funds being sent to companies, as well as infringements of scheme rules.

Potential infringements could include evidence of poor treatment of borrowers, one of the sources said. The BBB has the power to offset a proportion of a lender's future claims for repeat infringements, but had not yet done so, the source added.

Mistakes had been identified voluntarily by the lenders themselves, or following discussions with the BBB, according to the FOI response.

All the lenders that participated in the emergency loan schemes have been subject to at least one audit, the BBB said.

### 'Prejudice commercial interests'

Reuters requested a breakdown of state guarantee removals by lender, but this was rejected by the BBB on the grounds this could be "prejudicial to their commercial interests." Lender views were canvassed on potential disclosure and they agreed on this, the BBB said.

The lending schemes have been mired in controversy, as evidence mounts of widespread fraud. A junior government minister, Theodore Agnew, resigned last year in protest, saying efforts to stop fraudulent abuse were "woeful."

The latest overall scheme data, published in September, showed the value of suspected fraud across all the schemes had hit 1.7 billion pounds as of June 30, up 43 percent on the previous estimate in March.

The figures also showed the government had paid out 7.4 billion pounds to lenders under the state guarantees.

"Lenders are doing all they can to ensure loans are repaid as well as taking action to tackle fraud," a UK Finance spokesperson said.

Suspected fraud is not necessarily a reason for removing a guarantee, provided the lender is otherwise compliant with scheme rules, another source said.

Agencies

## 'West deliberately conceals information about victims in Donbass'

UNITED NATIONS

THE Western countries deliberately conceal information about civilian casualties in Donbass and targeted strikes by Ukrainian army against civilian facilities, Russia's ambassador to the UN Vasily Nebenzya said at a Security Council meeting on the situation in Ukraine.

"Information about the victims of destruction on the territory of Donbass and near Azov is deliberately hushed up by our Western colleagues," he said, adding that during the period from May 2014 to September 2023, "on the territory of the DPR alone more than 9,000 civilians, including 230 children, were killed, more than 13,000 people, including 825 children, were wounded."

"From February 2022 to Septem-



ber 2023, the territory of the DPR alone came under Ukrainian artil-

lery and missile strikes more than 25 thousand times. On the DPR territory 4,712 civilians, including 139 children, were killed, and 5,289 people, including 356 children, were wounded during the reviewed period," Nebenzya said.

He stressed that the exact data on the victims of destruction in the new Russian regions was still being summarized, because "the Ukrainian military shells them almost daily."

Nebenzya pointed out that the Western countries were also silent about the fact that the Ukrainian army had been conducting "targeted attacks on critical civilian infrastructure" since the beginning of the conflict in Donbass in 2014, but "none of our Western colleagues has said a word about this over the years."

Agencies

## Russia actively trying to resolve situation with Russians held hostage by Hamas - diplomat

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is making active efforts toward resolving the situation surrounding Russian nationals held hostage by Hamas, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

"Security is number one. Therefore, there can be no details [disclosed] or any discourse [conducted] on this matter, either artistically inspired flights of fancy or more grounded expert opinions, until the moment of their release; [there can] exclusively only be information that might serve to facilitate their release or alleviate their fate," the diplomat said.

"This is the alpha and omega of the approach that has taken shape both here in our country and within the international community. The second point is the lack of quantitative indicators, names, personal data and so on. This is an issue that pertains directly to their security," she emphasized.

"The third point: We are actively trying to resolve this situation," Zakharova noted. "Yes, these are people who live permanently in Israel. We are talking about the fact that, according to our data, there are no people who would have come [just] to visit the country either among the victims or among the hostages."

There are only those who live permanently on the territory of Israel. But there are people there who have a second [citizenship], they called it a second [citizenship], for us it is [simply] Russian citizenship. We do not count in this case; we do not use an ordinal number, we [simply] have the understanding that, for us, they are Russian citizens," she said.

The diplomat pointed out that Russia continues to maintain contacts on this issue. "You are aware of the contacts both on the bilateral level and with those forces that have a direct influence over the situation. We are doing everything [we can] to help resolve the hostage situation," Zakharova stressed.

"We are in contact with all parties on this issue, with those with whom it is possible and necessary to do business. All of this [activity] has one goal: to defuse the situation and safely resolve the hostage crisis," she emphasized.

Tensions flared up again in the Middle East on October 7 when militants from the radical Palestinian group Hamas staged a surprise attack on Israeli territory from the Gaza Strip, killing residents of Israeli border settlements and taking more than 200 hostages, including children, women and the elderly.



Agencies

## High inflation in Africa drives up health costs

NAIROBI

THE depreciation of local currencies coupled with the increasing rate of inflation has raised the cost of healthcare in Africa, negatively impacting both the patients and the sector players.

According to a report titled "Regional Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa", published by the International Monetary Fund in mid-October, inflation at the end of the year is projected to remain in double digits in 14 countries, including some of the region's larger economies, such as Ethiopia and Nigeria.

Most of the African countries' currencies have depreciated against the US dollar, further increasing inflation in the region that is reliant on imports. Healthcare is one of the most affected sectors.

Anthony Mwangi, cluster head of eastern and southern Africa at Novartis Kenya, a pharmaceutical product manufacturer, agent and distributor in Nairobi, said prices of medicines have gone up by 10-20 percent, driven primarily by the depreciation of local currencies against major international currencies.

This has negatively impacted pharmaceutical players who import medicine which, in turn, has affected a number of people who would ultimately get quality and affordable medicine.

"The supply chain process has also been impacted," he said. "The cost of flight, packaging materials and production ... everything has gone up significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic. All these factors have impacted the cost of healthcare."

Cecilia Kagwira, sales and marketing manager at Travotech Agencies, a Kenya-based company that supplies medical equipment, machines,



A malnourished child looks on at the nutrition unit of the Gode General Hospital, in the city of Gode, Ethiopia, on Jan 13, 2023. File photo

reagents and laboratory consumables, said the currency depreciation has hit her company hard. "Operating a business has become very difficult; importing products is challenging and customers are taking a long time to pay with some even shunning buying the products," she said.

Kagwira said prices of products have doubled and sales have gone down significantly, adding that some of their customers haven't paid them since 2020. "Most of the private hospitals who owe us a lot of money are closing down. We also had to close two of our five offices due to the high cost of operation," she said.

"People are sick but (remain) at home because they can't afford to go to hospitals. We are just optimistic that the situation will improve soon."

Janet Auma, who runs a pharmacy in Kenya's capital Nairobi, said many people currently prefer over-the-counter medication as opposed to going to hospital where they will be charged more.

"Most of the patients say going to hospitals is currently very expensive because they will have to pay for the consultation, laboratory tests and then drugs," she said, adding they would rather go to a pharmacy where they will only pay for the drugs. Auma, however, said it's dangerous when people opt for over-the-counter medication, especially antibiotics because they could develop drug allergy or resistance.

### Soaring prices

She said due to the depreciation of the local

currency, the cost of drugs has doubled over the last four years, with many patients preferring generic drugs. "Some drugs like supplements, I only buy on order because the cost is so high and if I buy them, they end up becoming dead stock."

James Sakwa, the secretary-general of the Association of Kenya Medical Lab Assessors, said the economic downturn has affected their operations because they use imported kits.

"The fact that the Kenyan shilling is depreciating every day affects the cost of importation of all our reagents because the equipment, the apparatus and the consumables are imported. This affects even the cost of tests, which is passed down to the consumers," he said.

To address the challenge, Sakwa said they plan to start manufacturing some of the chemicals locally.

Hezron Onyango, the head of the radiology department at Nairobi Enterprises, one of the major distributors of medical equipment and medical consumables in the eastern and central African region, said the company is feeling the heat of currency depreciation.

He said the cost of importing medical equipment has gone up by 20 percent, leading to an increase in the cost of healthcare in Africa.

Sushil Dumbre, the technical sales support manager at Nairobi Enterprises, said they are working on increasing local manufacturing and reducing imports to stay afloat.

Agencies

## Israeli PM Netanyahu lists six goals for economy during war

TEL AVIV

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Tuesday attended a meeting of the special Socio-Economic Cabinet chaired by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, during which he outlined the main responsibilities it faces during the war in Gaza.

Netanyahu said the special cabinet's first goal is to maintain Israel's macro-economic framework so that the economy will function and not collapse.



The second goal, he said, is to allow the IDF and the security services to conduct the war.

The third goal is to make sure that reservists are not financially harmed.

The fourth goal, Netanyahu explained, is to make sure that civilians and businesses that have been hurt as a result of the war are properly compensated.

The fifth goal, he said, is to move

the economy forward to continued growth, by encouraging consumption and employment, as well as by assisting citizens.

The sixth goal is to rehabilitate the communities of the area adjacent to the Gaza Strip. Separately on Tuesday evening, a heavy rocket barrage was fired at central Israel.

Sirens sounded in Tel Aviv, Bnei Brak, Givatayim, Ramat Gan, Jaffa, Holon, Bat Yam, Rishon LeZion and other nearby communities. There were no immediate reports of direct impacts

or injuries.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for Yemen's Houthi rebels also confirmed the Iran-backed terror group fired ballistic and cruise missiles and launched aerial drones at Israel on Tuesday.

Houthi spokesperson Gen Yahya Sarea said the attacks will continue "until Israeli aggression ceases."

The IDF said it intercepted two ballistic missiles, one cruise missile and several drones above the Red Sea heading in the direction of Eilat.

ANI

## Chinese enterprises show strong vitality in innovation

"CUSTOMERS can get their cars delivered in only 10 days after placing an order on a mobile application," said the head of a workshop of Voyah, a luxury division of Chinese automaker Dongfeng Motor Corporation, in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province, explaining that Voyah has achieved customized and order-oriented production.

Voyah's production is driven by orders, which can eliminate the pressure of inventory costs. Customer can design their personalized high-end new energy vehicles (NEVs) on their phones - picking colors and configura-

tions - rather than settling for an off-the-shelf model.

In the workshop, vehicles with different colors and models can be made on the same assembly line. This flexible production allows the brand to build customized cars that meet different preferences, forming a user-centered innovation model.

It shows the innovative power of this traditional automobile enterprise in its active transition to NEVs. With over 2,400 patents, the automaker has R&D personnel accounting for 36.5 percent

of its total and stimulates the participation of employees in its shareholding.

Voyah fosters a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. It has vigorously ventured beyond existing products into new markets against the pressure of transformation and upgrading, creating an atmosphere of hard work and an impulse to seek opportunities.

Fostering an innovative ecosystem is key to driving enterprise innovation. This requires a supportive environment with

improving public services.

Across China, various measures have been taken to stimulate innovation in companies.

For instance, to assist technological advances, the Wuhan Economic and Technological Development Zone has built a comprehensive road network to facilitate the testing of intelligent connected vehicles. By linking the 5G communication network, digital space network and smart road network, it has enabled a favorable environment for NEV makers to innovate.

Additionally, to help researchers bridge the laboratory-to-market gap with high risk and cost, Huazhong University of Science and Technology pioneered a pilot-scale service platform. By providing resources to enterprises and reducing trial and error costs, the platform sparks enthusiasm for innovation.

Fertile soil nurtures beautiful flowers, and a supportive environment allows companies to thrive through innovation in niche fields.

In Wuhan, central China's

Hubei Province, information technology company Bitland is working to build a complete and controllable computer supply chain system, continuously improving its independent production of components. Zhongxing Innovative Material Technologies Co., Ltd. has become a specialized and sophisticated small and medium-sized enterprise that produces lithium-ion battery diaphragms.

Enterprises are the most active cells in the market economy, with each firm acting as an en-

gine of innovation. When companies in different industries spontaneously innovate, their collective efforts can generate the innovation potential of the entire economic system.

A new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation has spurred the growth of advanced, smart and green industries, which are crucial for industrial transformation and upgrading. Digitalization is empowering new industrialization and injecting powerful momentum into constructing a modern industrial system.

People's Daily



## FBI chief warns of threats in US inspired by Hamas-Israel conflict

WASHINGTON

THE ongoing Hamas-Israel conflict has heightened the potential threats of violence in the United States to a high level not seen in several years, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Christopher Wray warned on Tuesday.

"We assess that the actions of Hamas and its allies will serve as an inspiration the likes of which we haven't seen since ISIS launched its so-called caliphate several years ago," Wray said in his testimony at a congressional hearing, referring to the Islamic State group.

Wray said that multiple foreign terrorist organizations had called for attacks against Americans and the West since the beginning of the latest conflict in Gaza earlier this month, which raised the threat posed by homegrown US violent extremists.

"Our most immediate concern is that violent extremists, individuals



In this Oct 15, 2020 file photo, a young girl holds a poster as she joins the protesters in New York. (PHOTO / AP)

or small groups, will draw inspiration from the events of the Middle East and carry out attacks against Americans going about their daily lives," Wray noted.

But he also said the FBI isn't currently tracking an "organized threat" inside the country.

The FBI chief told lawmakers that

threats to the Jewish community in the United States are "reaching in some way sort of historic level."

The White House delivered alarm on Monday over reports of anti-Jewish incidents at multiple US universities as rising tensions prompted university officials to tighten security.

During his testimony, US Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas also said his agency had responded to an increase in threats against Jewish, Muslim, and Arab American communities across the country since the war started.

He highlighted that hate against Jewish students, communities, and institutions "added to a preexisting increase in the level of anti-Semitism in the United States and around the world."

The FBI has also opened a hate-crime investigation into the killing of a 6-year-old Muslim boy who police say was stabbed to death by his landlord.

"It is a time to be concerned. We are in a dangerous period," Wray said. "This is not a time for panic, but it is a time for vigilance."

## China urges protection for civilian infrastructure in Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS

A Chinese envoy on Tuesday called for efforts to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure in Ukraine.

The Ukraine crisis continues to drag on with millions of people displaced and with the humanitarian situation on the ground worrisome, said Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations.

There are no winners in war or conflict, which will only bring suffering to innocent people. The escalating conflict in Ukraine has already resulted in the destruction of critical civil infrastructure and shortages of water, electricity, heating, and other supplies in many conflict zones. With another winter approaching, the local population will experience the dual challenges of the flames of war and severe cold. China is deeply

saddened and concerned about this, he told the Security Council.

"China reiterates its call on the parties to the conflict to comply strictly with international humanitarian law, abide by the principles of necessity, distinction and proportionality, and make every effort to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure," he said.

The international community and humanitarian agencies should step up efforts to provide humanitarian relief to the people affected by the crisis and promote the repair of civilian infrastructure so as to help them tide over the difficulties, he said.

The crisis in Ukraine has affected global food, energy, and financial security, slowed down the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and impacted the recovery of the world economy and global development, with developing countries bearing



A destroyed cafe in the village of Hroza near Kharkiv, Ukraine, Oct 6, 2023. AP

the brunt, said Geng.

"We call on the countries concerned to revoke unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction measures, maintain the security and stability of the global industrial and supply chains, minimize the negative spillover effects of the Ukraine crisis and

reduce its adverse impact on the general public of all countries."

On the question of Ukraine, China has always called for a ceasefire and an end to the fighting as soon as possible. China has always been committed to promoting peace talks and has always hoped for an early politi-

cal settlement.

China urges the parties concerned to respond positively to the call for peace of the international community, strengthen engagement, garner consensus, and gradually create conditions for the resumption of peace talks as soon as possible, he said.

The countries holding significant sway over the situation should play a constructive role; refrain from exacerbating confrontation, increasing antagonism and prolonging the fighting; and should, instead, create favorable conditions for achieving peace, he said.

China will continue to stand on the side of peace and on the side of dialogue, will keep up contacts and communication with all parties concerned and work for a political settlement of the Ukraine crisis and the restoration of peace and stability in Europe, said Geng.

Xinhua

## Joe Biden to meet Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in November - White House

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden will meet Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in San Francisco in November, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre announced on Tuesday. She said that Biden looks forward to the meeting.

While addressing a press briefing on Tuesday (local time), Karine Jean-Pierre said, "We've been talking about the President, who said he was looking forward to meeting with President Xi.

And so, I'm not going to get into details about this meeting that's going to happen in November next month. It's going to be in San Francisco. It's going to be a constructive meeting. The President's looking forward to it."

When asked again if the meeting was happening, Jean-Pierre responded, "Yes." However, she refused to divulge details regarding the agenda of the meeting.

Other reporters then pressed Jean-Pierre on whether she just confirmed the meeting will happen. Jean-Pierre said, "What I'm saying is that we're aiming to have a constructive conversation meeting between the leaders in San Francisco in November so that's what I'm saying.

That's what is going to happen in San Francisco in the next month, in November. We are having a constructive conversation in San Francisco. I think I just confirmed it."

Karine Jean-Pierre said that

the US has been clear with its policy with respect to China and called it "intense competition."

She said that Biden will have a "tough but important" conversation with Xi Jinping. She spoke about the earlier meetings held between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his Chinese counterpart.

In the press briefing, Jean-Pierre said, "We have been clear; our policy and how we move forward with China haven't changed. This is intense competition, right? We have said that we want to move forward with China. We understand that intense competition means intense diplomacy; that's what you're going to see. That's what the president is going to be do-

ing—having a tough but important conversation."

"I am not going to get into any kind of decision made on this. This is going to be about diplomatic conversations. We have seen about three secretaries go to China and have these diplomatic conversations. We saw Secretary Antony Blinken, and we also saw National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan having important diplomatic conversations with their counterparts in China.

This is an important relationship. Again, this is about competition; that's what we want to see with China and this is going to be an important diplomatic conversation."

The meeting comes on the

heels of a meeting Biden held with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Washington last week. The White House said Biden "emphasised that both the United States and China need to manage competition in the relationship responsibly and maintain open lines of communication," and he "underscored that the United States and China must work together to address global challenges."

Joe Biden last met Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali in 2022. The ties between India and China have been strained since US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan, which China claims is part of its territory.

ANI

## Foreign passport holders crossing into Egypt via Rafah

GAZA/JERUSALEM/RAFAH

SOME foreign passport holders are crossing into Egypt yesterday from the Gaza Strip via the Rafah crossing, the only linking point between Egypt and the besieged enclave, local sources told Xinhua.

Yesterday morning, Egypt sent 40 ambulances to cross the Rafah checkpoint to transfer wounded Palestinians, according to an official security source.

Egypt has allocated three areas in Arish and Sheikh Zuweid cities to host the families of the wounded, the source told Xinhua on conditions of anonymity due to not being authorized to speak to the media.

Eight Egyptian hospitals in North Sinai and Cairo are prepared to treat the wounded, he added.

Meanwhile, some 70 humanitarian aid trucks crossed Rafah en route to Gaza. Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly on Tuesday visited the Rafah crossing and inspected the process of humanitarian aid delivery to Gaza.

### Release of hostages

The Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed

wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), said on Tuesday that it is ready to release, within a few days, some hostages with foreign nationalities it is holding in Gaza.

"We informed the mediators officially that we will release a number of them in the coming days as we no longer need to detain them," Abu Obaida, spokesperson of the brigades, said in a brief recorded conference press, adding that "some countries intervened through mediators to free some detainees with foreign nationalities."

Hamas militants attacked Israel on Oct 7, firing thousands of rockets and seizing many hostages in Israeli territory. Israel says about 240 hostages are still in Gaza.

Hamas has released four hostages, including two Americans and two Israelis, in two separate moves aided by Qatari and Egyptian mediation. However, efforts to negotiate a larger hostage swap have stalled.

Hamas has been asking Israel to free thousands of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the remaining hostages. Israel has dismissed the demand, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Ne-



People enter the Rafah border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip before crossing into Egypt on Nov 1, 2023. (PHOTO/AFP)

tanyahu suggesting that a ground offensive in Gaza may increase the chances of securing the hostages' release.

On Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also rejected calls for a ceasefire to facilitate the hostages' release. He faces growing pressure to free the hostages, as the Israeli army

is conducting an intense offensive on the Palestinian enclave ruled by Hamas.

On Tuesday, Israel intensified its ground offensive in the Gaza Strip, sending troops deep into the Palestinian territory and clashing with Hamas militants in fierce battles.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said its sol-

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

GENEVA

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

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

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

They underscored the importance of upholding the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, a fundamental tenet enshrined in international human rights law and warned that individuals must not be deprived of their liberty merely for expressing dissenting views and for exercising their legitimate rights. Women human rights defenders are particularly at risk and are more likely to be targeted because of their gender.

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

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

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

The experts welcomed the recent release of Mortaza Behboudi, an Afghan-French journalist, and Matiullah Wesa, the founder of the civil society organisation Pen Path, who ardently champions the right to education.

"We urge the de facto authorities to also release the women rights defenders and their family members without further delay, as there is no justification for their detention," the experts stated.

ANI

## Kenya hosts conference on promoting agricultural technologies in Africa

NAIROBI

THE inaugural African Conference of Agricultural Technology opened in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi on Tuesday, aiming to promote the adoption and use of biotechnology in African farming for food security.

Cohosted by Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), the four-day conference showcases agricultural technologies and innovations that can transform livelihoods in Africa.

The event, held under the theme of "Agricultural Resilience Through Innovation," brought together more than 500 delegates, including policymakers, industry leaders, representatives of women and youth farmers' organizations, innovators, and researchers.

Greater adoption and use of agricultural technologies are key to boosting food and nutrition security in the continent, said Mithika Linturi, Kenya's cabinet secretary for agriculture and livestock development, on behalf of Kenyan President William Ruto in his address to the conference.

He said climate change poses a serious threat to food security, adding that rising temperatures, frequent droughts, and floods have devastated crops, resulting in food supply shortages and pushing the most vulnerable into poverty, hence the need for effective application of science, technology, and innovations in agriculture.

Canisius Kanangire, the executive director of AATF, said the journey toward revolutionizing agriculture in Africa through technology adoption is a collective endeavor, guided by a shared vision and purpose.

Xinhua

diers had "fierce battles" with Hamas "deep in the Gaza Strip," adding that Israeli troops attacked hundreds of military targets of Hamas, including anti-tank missile and rocket launching posts below shafts and military compounds inside underground tunnels, and killed "numerous" Hamas militants.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed during a firefight in northern Gaza, the military said.

Hamas, the Islamic militant group that rules Gaza, said its fighters confronted the Israeli troops in several locations, including the Al-Tawam area and Al-Karama neighborhood in northern Gaza.

The Hamas-run Interior Ministry said some Israeli army vehicles advanced toward al-Rasheed Street, apparently trying to cut off Gaza City and the north from the south.

Heavy Israeli bombardment continued in Gaza on Tuesday, hitting Jabalia, a densely populated refugee camp in northern Gaza. The Gaza-based Health Ministry said in a statement that more than 50 people were killed, approximately 150 others injured, and "dozens" of others under the rubble.

The Arab League, Egypt, and Jordan have condemned the attacks on the refugee camp in separate statements.

Israeli fighter jets, acting on intelligence provided by the Shin Bet internal security agency, killed Ibrahim Biari, the commander of Hamas' Central Jabaliya Battalion. The Israeli military said Biari was one of the leaders responsible for the Hamas attacks on Oct 7, which killed at least 1,400 people in Israel.

Agencies



Dar es Salaam youths that form jogging groups based in Makumbusho Ward are pictured taking part in soccer at Raha Bar ground at Tandale last weekend after completing jogging that aimed at supporting the fight against sexual exploitation. The initiative was coordinated by non-governmental organization sensitizing communities on gender issues (WAJIKI) in cooperation with bodaboda, bajaj, na daladala drivers. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

## Deputy Minister Mwinjuma lauds Kilombero Golf Open tourney

By Guardian Correspondent

THE inaugural Kilombero Golf Open tournament, held from October 28-29 at the Kilombero Country Club located within the Kilombero Sugar Company estate in Morogoro, was a huge success.

The event, graced by the Deputy Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Hamis Mohamed Mwinjuma, celebrated the spirit of sports and unity and involved golf players and supporters from various golf clubs across Tanzania.

The guest of honour, Mwinjuma, highlighted the event's significance, saying: "The Kilombero Golf Open is not just about golf, it is about promoting a healthy lifestyle, fostering community engagement, and nurturing talent, especially among our youths. This event exemplifies the positive impact that sports can have on our community."

The Deputy Minister moreover encouraged Kilombero Sugar Company to expand its support in the sports industry by exploring the establishment of a football club as the firm implements its expansion project.

Kilombero District Commissioner, Dunstan Kyobya, expressed his delight at hosting the golf tournament in his district.

The official disclosed: "For the first time in 19 years, we have managed to host the first-ever golf open tournament in Kilombero."

"I applaud all who participated in

the planning of the event for the cooperation that enabled this event to be a success."

Kyobya added: "I expect, with shared experiences from other prominent golf clubs, the next year's tournament will be bigger and better."

The Chairman of the tournament's Organizing Committee, Fakihi Fadhili, who is also Kilombero Sugar Company's Finance Director, shared the show-down's key statistics.

Fadhili stated approximately 90 golf players participated in the show-down, including teams from over seven golf clubs.

He mentioned the golf clubs as Lugalo Club, Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club, Morogoro Gymkhana Club, Kili Golf Club, Mufindi Club, and the host Kilombero Golf Club.

This historic event marked the first-ever golf open tournament at the Kilombero golf course since its establishment about 19 years ago and is expected to become an annual event.

The success of the Kilombero Golf Open was made possible by the generous support of the competition's sponsors, including NMB Bank, Bwana Sukari, Kilombero Sugar Company, Unitrans, A to Z, and GardaWorld.

The Kilombero Golf Open tournament, the organizers revealed, promises to be a cornerstone of sporting activities in the Kilombero community, uniting people in the spirit of sportsmanship and cooperation.

## South Africa School of Soccer to participate in Chipkizi Cup

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THERE is a confirmation from the South Africa School of Soccer, whose players will be jetting into Arusha next month, ready to participate in the annual East African Youth Soccer Tournament, popularly known as the 'Chipkizi Cup'.

South Africa School of Soccer (SASS), also known as Talent Academy, made the confirmation through an official letter sent to the show-down's organizers, Future Stars Academy of Arusha (FSA).

The Johannesburg-based school is an academy that was established in 2018, soccer promotion being the core, whilst also championing education, child development, family support services, and life skills.

Alfred Itaeli, Future Stars Academy's Director, revealed that the 2023 installment of the 'Chipkizi Cup' has so far attracted more than 300 teams from all over the world.

"Nearly 310 soccer teams, coming along with 5000 players, will be jetting into Arusha for the full week-long event," Itaeli noted, explaining that the football event runs from December 11-17, 2023.

Itaeli added that the teams also bring along more than 6000 supporters, for the 14th season of the annual 'Chipkizi Cup'.

The East African soccer tourney features several categories, including U-7, U-9, U-11, U-13, U-15, U-17, and U-20 for both boys and girls.

Participating countries include DR Congo, Cameroon, Kenya, Japan, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Uganda, Zanzibar and the host Tanzania.

There will moreover be talent recruiting agents, scouts, and soccer teams from the United States, United Kingdom, Spain, Macedonia, Netherlands, Germany, Iceland, Kenya, and Malawi.

Chicago Fire from the U.S. and the Outreach Ministry of Malawi are some of the soccer entities that will be pitching camp in Tanzania for the 'Chipkizi Cup' in December.

The 2023 edition of the 'Chipkizi Cup', which runs for the 14th year now, will be taking place at various venues in Arusha.

The venues are Tanganyika Game Trackers (TGT) grounds, Aga Khan Sports Center, Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium, and the United World Colleges (UWC).

Zakayo Mjema, Arusha Regional Football Association (ARFA) Chairman, said the 'Chipkizi Cup' has been making Tanzania proud, by producing several players who are currently playing for various outfits abroad.

## Simba SC gets new main sponsor

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA'S leading brewer, Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL), has entered into a three-year agreement to sponsor Simba SC.

The NBC Premier League outfit will receive a 1.5bn/- funding from the company through its beer brand, Pilsner Lager.

With the Msimbazi Street outfit's sponsorship having been made public SBL's commitment to supporting soccer in Tanzania continues to grow rapidly.

The SBL was the main sponsor of Tanzania's senior national football team, Taifa Stars, until mid this year.

It is also the current main sponsor of Mainland Tanzania's

Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League (SWPL) through its other beer brand Serengeti Premium Lite.

Obinna Anyalebechi, SBL Managing Director, said when announcing the sponsorship: "When the opportunity to sponsor Simba SC arose, we felt a strong sense of duty and pride in extending our support to one of Tanzania's elite clubs, known for having the largest fan base in the country."

Anyalebechi pointed out: "Today, we are delighted to announce a 3-year sponsorship agreement with Simba SC through our flagship brand, Pilsner Lager."

"We are dedicated to offering the necessary resources to Simba Sports Club to achieve even

greater levels of success."

"This collaboration goes beyond merely promoting our brands, it's about nurturing a legacy that spans across generations," the SBL MD disclosed.

The Managing Director also expressed his gratitude to the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) for the federation's unwavering commitment to supporting football clubs in Tanzania and the sport.

The SBL MD moreover ensured the same commitment from the company's sponsorship to Simba SC through its beer brand Pilsner Lager.

"This sponsorship has arrived at a crucial moment, providing support that will help us proceed with the implementation of our strategic plans," Imani

Kajula, Simba SC Chief Executive Officer (CEO), stressed.

"It will undoubtedly empower our club to deliver outstanding performances in NBC Premier League and CAF Champions League," the official pointed out.

SBL is a seasoned football supporter in Tanzania, having first penned a four-year sponsorship contract with TFF for Taifa Stars from 2011 to 2017 followed by another six years of support for the national men's soccer team from 2017 to June 2023.

During the 10 years, Taifa Stars has qualified for the reputed continental soccer show-down, the Africa Cup of Nations, and improved its position in FIFA rankings.



Serengeti Breweries Ltd (SBL) Managing Director Obinna Anyalebenchi (3rd L) exchanges documents with Simba SC Chief Executive Officer Imani Kajula shortly after the two parties signed a sponsorship agreement worth 1.5bn/- through Pilsner Lager brand in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are SBL's Legal Director Lucia Minde (2nd L) and the club's Advocate Hosea Chamba (2nd R). PHOTO: JOHN BADI

## Eight countries set for CECAFA U-15 Championship as four teams pull out



Junior football players making Tanzania's U-1 team are pictured participating in drills at the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Center's ground at Mnyanjani in Tanga recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

THE Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) has confirmed eight countries will participate in this year's U-15 Championship following four countries resorting to pulling out of the tournament.

Tanzania has assured its participation in the tournament as the country's U-15 team's footballers participate in training at the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) sporting facility in Tanga. This week Kenya

revealed it opted to pull out of the CECAFA U-15 Championship set to kick off on Saturday at the Njeru Technical Centre in Uganda. The competition will run from November 4-16, 2023.

The Kenyan junior side ended as runner-up the last time the tournament was held in 2019, and the team has opted out despite expectations that it would take part in the tournament.

Uganda is the defending champion, having hammered Kenya 4-0 in the final four years ago.

CECAFA Secretary-General Auka Gecheo confirmed that

the body has been informed by Kenya that the country will not be entering a team for this year's championship.

Other teams that will not be taking part in the tournament are Sudan, Burundi, and the 2019 edition's hosts, Eritrea.

Eight teams that will take part in the tournament have been pooled into two groups.

Defending champion Uganda is in Group A alongside Ethiopia, Djibouti, and South Sudan. Tanzania, Zanzibar, Somalia, and Rwanda are in Group B.

According to Gecheo, the U-15

championship will serve as part of preparations for the AFCON U-17 CECAFA Zone qualifiers set for next year.

"We expect to have a very competitive competition, and we are using the competition to prepare our youngsters ahead of the AFCON U-17 Zonal qualifiers next year," Gecheo revealed.

Kenya is expected to host Zonal Qualifiers for the CAF African Schools Football Championship show-down and the Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) U-18 Championship later this month.

## Spain now thrash Swiss as England stumble in Belgium

ZURICH

WORLD champions Spain ruthlessly dispatched Switzerland 7-1 in the Women's Nations League on Tuesday while England's hopes of progression were dented by Belgium.

Alexia Putellas grabbed a goal either side of half-time and an assist as the Spaniards put Switzerland to the sword in Zurich.

The match was the team's first since FIFA announced on Monday that former Spanish football chief Luis Rubiales had incurred a three-year ban for his forced kiss on Jenni Hermoso.

If the news had any impact on the players, it was soon forgotten as Oihane Hernandez gave them the lead after four minutes, which Putellas then added to seven minutes later.

The world champions piled the misery on the hosts after the break, adding five goals. Alayah Pilgrim grabbing a consolation strike for the Swiss.

Star midfielder Aitana Bonmati was present for the occasion despite picking up the Ballon d'Or on Monday in Paris.

Spain sit five points clear of Sweden, who drew 1-1 with Italy, at the top of Group A4 with a maximum 12 points from four matches.

Switzerland, on the other hand, have endured a difficult start in a tough group, going down to four consecutive losses.

- England in trouble -

World Cup runners-up England slipped to a 3-2 defeat in Leuven that puts their Nations League hopes in the balance.

It was the first time that England have conceded three goals since Sarina Wiegman took over as coach in 2021.

Laura de Neve curled in a free-kick to give Belgium the lead on nine minutes, only for Lucy Bronze and Fran Kirby to put England back in charge.

The home side were level, though, before half-time through their captain Tessa Wullaert who struck deep into first-half additional time.

When Georgia Stanway was penalised for handball five minutes from time, Wullaert calmly put away the penalty to secure the win for Belgium.

The European champions languish third in Group A1 on six points, three behind leaders Netherlands who won 1-0 in Scotland.

France stumbled to a 0-0 home draw against Norway, but with 10 points they remain top of group A2, three clear of second-placed Austria who beat Portugal 2-1.

Herve Renard's side lacked inspiration but were denied three times by the post as well as some good saves by Norwegian goalkeeper Aurora Mikalsen.

AFP

## holders Leipzig knocked out of German Cup on night of shocks

BERLIN

WOLFSBURG produced the first shock of this season's German Cup, knocking out holders RB Leipzig with an inspired 1-0 win as fourth-tier Homburg upset Greuther Fuerth and Kaiserslautern sank Cologne.

Wolfsburg, coached by Niko Kovac, who guided Eintracht Frankfurt to glory in this competition in 2018, took an early lead through Vaclav Cerny - and Leipzig never recovered.

The Red Bull outfit have a rich recent pedigree in the competition, reaching the previous three finals, losing in 2021 to Borussia Dortmund first but winning the last two against Freiburg and Frankfurt.

However, Wolfsburg have not made it beyond the quarter-finals since lifting the trophy in 2015.

But on home turf, Kovac's side put their Bundesliga troubles behind them and pulled off their biggest victory of the season.

Despite going into this game having lost four of their last five league games, Wolfsburg flew out of the blocks.

Summer signing Cerny latched onto a perfectly-weighted pass by Tiago Tomas and unleashed an unstoppable left-footed drive into the roof of the net for his first goal of the season.

Leipzig struggled to find their rhythm and when Yussuf Poulsen saw red nine minutes into the second half for a clumsy second yellow, the reigning champions' chances disappeared.

In another surprise result, Greuther Fuerth of Germany's second division were beaten 2-1 at home by fourth tier Homburg with Phil Harres scoring a late winner.

Bundesliga strugglers Cologne were sent packing by second-tier Kaiserslautern, whose slick performance put them 3-0 up after 65 minutes and seemingly out of sight.

Cologne clawed it back to 3-2 but it was too little too late, ending the game with nine men after Eric Martel and captain Florian Kainz were sent off within the space of five second half minutes.

Cologne have now won only one of their last 10 games.

AFP

# Saudi ready for summer or winter World Cup in 2034, says FA chief

DOHA

Saudi Arabia is prepared to host the 2034 World Cup in summer or winter, its football chief told AFP, after the oil giant became the sole bidder for the tournament.

"Of course, we are ready for all possibilities," Saudi Arabian Football Federation president Yasser al-Misehal said late on Tuesday at the Asian Football Confederation awards in Doha.

Saudi Arabia's successful bid, just 27 days after announcing it, comes less than a year after neighbouring Qatar held the first winter World Cup, a decision that forced a pause to league competitions in Europe.

Summers in the desert kingdom can touch 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit), temperatures that would be considered dangerous for football and likely too hot for fans to be outside.

"Today there are many new technologies that help



The president of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, Yasser al-Misehal, says the kingdom is ready to host the 2034 World Cup in summer or winter. Agencies

you with cooling or adding air conditioners in stadiums, in addition to the fact that there are many cities in the kingdom that enjoy a very wonderful atmosphere in the summer," Misehal said.

Misehal also indicated that Saudi Arabia intends to push ahead and host the tournament alone, without asking its neighbours to hold any games.

The world's biggest oil ex-

porter would then become the first country to host the newly expanded, 48-team World Cup alone, after the United States, Canada and Mexico hold it in 2026 followed by Spain, Portugal and Morocco in 2030.

"Saudi Arabia will submit a separate bid," Misehal said, when asked if another country would host any matches.

- Extreme heat -  
Like the rest of the Gulf coun-

tries, most cities in Saudi Arabia experience extreme heat in the summer, with temperatures ranging between 40-50 Celsius.

But some cities enjoy temperate weather in the summer, including Abha, Taif and Al-Baha, which hosted the Arab Club Champions Cup in July and August.

However, none of those cities has international-level stadiums, and the bigger Saudi ven-

ues are clustered in the major cities of Riyadh and Jeddah.

Saudi Arabia, which has invested heavily in football as well as Formula One and golf, is set to take over from the unprecedented tri-continental line-up for the 2030 event, which includes three matches in South America.

At this point, only "expressions of interest" have been submitted, although bidding is closed. After the full bids for 2030 and 2034 are handed over, they will be evaluated by FIFA and put to a vote at two separate congress meetings at the end of next year.

But the absence of any competition leaves little room for suspense, while also raising numerous questions about the environmental impact of the 2030 event and the compatibility of the 2034 tournament with FIFA's human rights commitments.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has already confirmed the 2030 and 2034 hosts in a post on Instagram, adding that "the bidding processes were approved by consensus via the FIFA Council".

AFP

# The eight-month gap that sums up Manchester Utd's alarming decline

By Richard Jolly

ERIK ten Hag was dancing on the Wembley turf with Lisandro Martinez and Antony. It was a ritual from their Ajax days when they won a trophy, one that threatened to become a regular sight in England as well.

And, amid heady days for Manchester United, winning the club's first piece of silverware for six years was arguably still not their best result of the week.

Three days before beating Newcastle in the Carabao Cup final, United had come from behind to defeat Barcelona. Antony, one of Ten Hag's pet projects, had scored the decider. And when a seemingly catalytic Casemiro and a rejuvenated Marcus Rashford struck at Wembley, United were challenging for glory on four fronts. They had lost only twice in a run of 31 games, winning 17 of 21.

Ten Hag was the Old Trafford alchemist. It was easy to believe he was the best United manager since Sir Alex Ferguson. Despite his natural reserve, the Dutchman gushed about his surroundings. "I just love United," he said, with the glow of victory at the national stadium.

Eight months on, as two Uniteds reconvene in the same competition, Old Trafford scarcely feels shrouded in romance anymore. There may be more recrimination. There certainly is the now familiar sense of underachievement. Instead of emulating Ferguson, Ten Hag risks following in the footsteps of some of his immediate predecessors, by taking one step forwards and then two backwards.

Certainly after a season that - at the end of February, anyway - seemed to have bound-



United's fortunes have changed ever since beating Newcastle in the Carabao Cup final. Agencies

less possibilities has come one that offers rather fewer: there was no quadruple last year, though there was varying degrees of success in three competitions. But now the danger is their defence of the Carabao Cup ends at the start of November.

United risk going out of the Champions League - and perhaps even Europe altogether - in the group stages. There was the hint of a title challenge last season, but there will be none this year: eight points off the top four, this could be another season when United are cast out of contention for the Champions League spots in autumn and never recover.

Wembley may have represented a turning point: just not in the way United hoped. Newcastle were arguably the last elite side Ten Hag's team beat: they have since tasted victory against Real Betis and Aston Villa, who went on to finish sixth and seventh in Spain and England respectively, and a shambolic Chelsea, two years after they won the Champions League but

as they limped to a lower-half finish; they overcame Brighton in the FA Cup semi-finals, but only on penalties.

But they had defeated Liverpool in August, Arsenal in September, Tottenham in October, Manchester City in January and Barcelona and Newcastle in February.

Since then, the temptation is to say they have failed all the major tests. A week after Wembley, they were embarrassed 7-0 at Anfield. They lost to Liverpool in March, Newcastle and Sevilla in April,

Brighton in May, City in June, Tottenham in August, Arsenal, Brighton and Bayern Munich in September, Galatasaray and City in October.

The definition of elite can be debated but the broader trend is clear: United are beaten by the finer teams they face and, whereas that was confined to away games last season, now they have four losses at Old Trafford, too.

If the league table is a barometer, the best side they have seen off this season is Brentford: even that required an injury-time rescue act by

Scott McTominay. And in the current campaign, the Carabao Cup victory over Crystal Palace is their only triumph by more than one goal and the only genuinely convincing one.

And if the burden of proof at Wembley seemed to rest with the beaten finalists, since then, Newcastle have beaten United, Tottenham, Brighton, Villa, City and Paris Saint-Germain, albeit all at St James' Park but, in most cases, emphatically.

While Newcastle have lost seven total games since the Carabao Cup

final, United seven this season alone. After that run of just two defeats in 31, they have now lost 12 of their last 31.

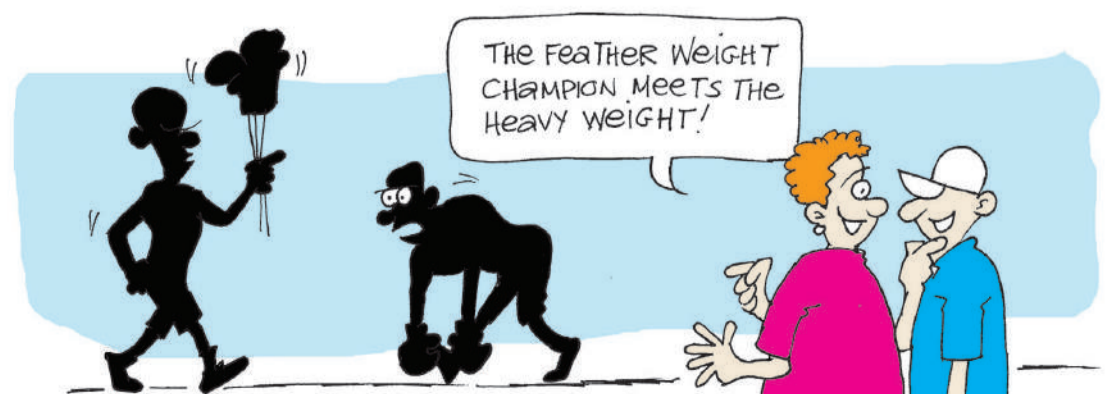
However the numbers are crunched, Ten Hag's suggestion on Sunday that United are heading in the right direction feels hard to justify. The evidence is that they have regressed since February.

Certainly it has been a chastening time for the scorers that day. Casemiro was substituted at half-time during his last outing, sent off in the previous one. Rashford has not scored in his last nine United games. And yet, with Newcastle beginning a week that brings meetings with Arsenal and Borussia Dortmund, with the absences of Alexander Isak, Harvey Barnes, Jacob Murphy, Sandro Tonali and Sven Botman meaning Eddie Howe lacks options, it could be a fine time to face the Magpies. But even if theirs is a weakened team, the task for Ten Hag's United is still to end their eight-month wait.

If Manchester United used to be the best, now they need to show they can overcome anyone even vaguely close to being the best.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

**Saudi ready for summer or winter World Cup in 2034, says FA chief**

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**5 EATV THURSDAY**

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Movie  
13:55 Dondoo za Michezo  
14:00 Movie  
14:30 Ujenzaji (I)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Ubungo Kids  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dondoo za Michezo  
17:00 SLEKET  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kuli za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (II)  
21:00 TOP 10  
21:30 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

**TOP 10**  
It is a list of the hottest Bongo Flava music videos that are loved by the viewers.

**eastafrika RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
14:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Twiga Stars seal Olympic qualifiers third round progression

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA's senior national women's football team, Twiga Stars, has advanced to the next round of qualifiers for the 2024 Olympic Games Women's Football Tournament following their second leg win over Botswana in Gaborone on Tuesday evening.

A first-half strike from forward Aisha Masaka sealed a 3-0 aggregate win for Twiga Stars, coached by Bakari Shime, at the National Stadium in Gaborone.

Twiga Stars will take on South Africa's Banyana Banyana in the next round of the qualifiers in February as they continue the journey to secure a spot in the final round.

Twiga Stars have twin duties as they are involved in both the Women's Olympic Football Tournament Qualifiers and the 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) qualifiers and are through to the final round of the WAFCON qualifiers.

Speaking after the match, Shime said their attention has now shifted to the second round of the Women's Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers.

Twiga Stars set up a meeting with Togo after eliminating highly rated Ivory Coast 4-2 in a penalty shootout of the first round.

Shime noted: "It was not an easy game. It was a difficult match as we expected because the tie was open despite winning 2-0 in Dar es Salaam."

"All in all, I congratulate the girls for adhering well to instructions and we were able to score an away goal. As said earlier, the match was very competitive," Shime pointed out.

"Our opponents were physical and fast, hitting long balls but we were able to contain them according to the plans we set for ourselves."

"With this result, it means we have qualified for the third round. We will play against South Africa in February. We have a long time to prepare."

"I hope that we will use the long period to prepare well and also evaluate ourselves for all the mistakes we made in the last two games," Shime stated.

"And also the good things we did, we will try to boost them because the next opponent is likely to be stronger than the previous one."

He added: "We strongly believe in preparation. We believe in the steps we take. All in all, we were focused on this game and the players will now return to their club roles."

"After that, we have the WAFCON qualifying game. A crucial match on November 30 against Togo in Dar es Salaam."

The gaffer noted: "And on December 5 we will have the return game in Togo. So, right now all our mind, body, and everything else is focused on the preparation for this game. We believe that if we win, we qualify for WAFCON next year."

## Yanga, Taifa Stars, Diarra, Mayele garner nomination for 2023 CAF Awards



Tanzania's Yanga center-back, Bakari Mwamnyeto (L), outfoxes Algeria's USM Alger attacker, Aymen Mahious, during the first leg of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final which took place in Dar es Salaam on May 27, 2023. Yanga lost 2-1 to USM Alger. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's Young Africans SC and the national football team, Taifa Stars, have been shortlisted for the 2023 CAF Awards nominees released by the continental football ruling body on Wednesday afternoon.

A panel of CAF Technical Experts, African football legends, and selected media representatives from several countries put together the preliminary list for the various categories.

The performance of the nominees between November 2022 and September 2023 has served as the period under consideration.

Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, together with nine others have been nominated for the Men's Club of the Year award.

The club's nomination has come about after it had enjoyed a stellar run in the CAF Confederation Cup, going all the way to the final last season.

Under the guidance of head coach Nasreddine Nabi, Yanga only lost the CAF Confederation Cup final against USM Alger on the away-goal rule.

The Jangwani Street-based club won the return fixture 1-0 in Algiers but the 2-1 defeat the club suffered at home in Dar es Salaam in the first leg proved detrimental.

Yanga will compete against the likes of CAF Champions League winners Al Ahly, Raja Casablanca, Mamelodi Sundowns, Espérance Tunis, ASEC Mimos

as, CR Belouizdad, Wydad AC, Marumo Gallants, and CAF Confederation Cup and Super Cup winners, USM Alger.

Djigui Diarra, Yanga's keeper, has been nominated for the Best Goalkeeper award alongside the likes of Mohammed El Shenawy, Yassine Bonou, Andre Onana, and Edouard Mendy amongst others.

The Mali international was key in Yanga's foray into the CAF Confederation Cup final. He is also one of the nominees for the CAF Inter Club of the Year Player Award.

In addition, Fiston Mayele who was instrumental in Yanga's CAF Confederation Cup run has been nominated for the CAF Inter Club of the Year Player and Men's Player of the Year awards.

Mayele finished as the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup top goal scorer with seven goals. He joined Pyramids FC of Egypt at the start of this season.

As for Taifa Stars, they have been nominated in the Men's National Team of the Year category.

Adel Amrouche-coached

Taifa Stars is one of the 24 teams that confirmed qualification for the 2023 AFCON finals that will take place next year in Ivory Coast.

Tanzania sealed a return to the Africa Cup of Nations for the first time since 2019 after securing a heroic 0-0 draw away from Algeria in September.

In their last Group Stage game, Tanzania earned the point they needed to finish second in Group F behind Algeria and ahead of Uganda.

Taifa Stars will fight it out with World Cup semi-finalists Morocco, African champions Senegal, Cape Verde, Guinea, Gambia, Mozambique, Namibia, and Mauritania for the big honour in Africa.

The other bunch of nominees released include Youth Player of the Year and Coach of the Year. The nominees for the women's categories will be announced in due course.

The ultimate winner of each category will be decided after votes from a voting panel consisting of the CAF Technical Committee, media professionals, head coaches & captains of Member Associations, and clubs involved in the group stages of the Interclub competitions.

The winners will be announced at the CAF Awards Gala scheduled for December 11, 2023, in Marrakesh, Morocco.

## JKT Queens off to Abidjan for CAF Women's Champions League

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's JKT Queens left the country on Wednesday morning ahead of Africa's premier women's club competition, the CAF Women's Champions League finals, slated to get underway on Sunday in Ivory Coast.

The tournament officially kicks off on Sunday and will be played in the Ivorian cities of Korhogo and San Pedro.

Six players and seven team officials boarded a 4 a.m. Ethiopian Airline flight at the JNIA Airport and arrived in Abidjan in the afternoon.

Sixteen other players, who were part of Tanzania's senior national women's football team Twiga Stars who played against Botswana on Tuesday, are expected to join JKT Queens in Abidjan today.

Eight Clubs will participate in the 2023 CAF Women's Champions League.

JKT Queens earned the right to represent CECAFA after beating Ethiopia's Commercial Bank 5-4 on penalties in the regional qualifiers final in July.

The CECAFA Zone qualifiers' final in Uganda finished



Players and officials making Tanzania's JKT Queens celebrate with a trophy upon the conclusion of the 2023 CAF Women's Champions League (WCL) CECAFA Zone Qualifiers that took place in Uganda recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

0-0 after extra time before JKT Queens prevailed in the shootout to secure their continental ticket for the first time.

JKT Queens, led by coach Esther Chaburuma, have been drawn in Group A alongside tournament hosts, Athletic FC d' Abidjan, inaugural champions Mamelodi Sundowns, and Sporting Club Casablanca of Morocco.

They are the second Tanzanian team to participate in the CAF Women's Champions

League after Simba Queens.

Reigning champions, AS FAR Women's FC of Morocco, headline a tough Group B consisting of Ghana's Ampem Darkoa Ladies FC, Huracanes of Equatorial Guinea as well as AS Mande of Mali.

The opening match will be played on Sunday at the Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium in Korhogo at 17h00 local time (GMT). Hosts Athletic FC d'Abidjan will face Morocco's Sporting Club Casablanca.

The four-time Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League champions, JKT Queens, begin their campaign against South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns on Sunday.

JKT Queens will then return for their second match against tournament hosts Athletic FC d'Abidjan three days later.

They will, thereafter, wind up their Group Stage campaign on Saturday next week against Sporting Club Casablanca.

The semi-finals are scheduled

for Wednesday, with the final set to be held four days later at Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium.

**JKT Queens full squad:**

Goalkeepers: Zulfa Ally Makau, Asha Ismail Mrisho, and Najia Ibrahim Idrisa.

**Defenders:** Anastazia Antony Katunzi, Esther Mabanza Gindulya, Anastazia Nyandago Simba, Diana William Mnally, Happiness Hezron Mwaipaja, and Christer John Bahera.

**Midfielders:** Amina Ally Bilali, Donisia Daniel Minja, Winifrida Hubert Gerald, Janeth Christopher Pangamwene, Violeth Nicholas Mwamakamba, Kadosho Shabani Shekigenda, Alia Fikiri Salum, Joyce Fred Lema, Eto Hamisi Mlenzi, and Fatuma Bashilu Makusanya.

**Forwards:** Stumai Abdallah Athuman, and Jamila Rajabu Mnunguka

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

IF YOU CANNOT HAVE WHAT YOU LOVE...

...LOVE WHAT YOU HAVE!

