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Three schools in Monduli get 130 desks Page 6



Global economy remains resilient despite uneven growth, challenges ahead Page 13

Govt ready to recruit 46,000 civil servants

...the government was recruiting Basic Mathematics and Science teachers in primary and secondary schools on the basis of budget allocations and disbursements

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has approved plans for recruiting 46,000 public servants that include 12,000 teachers.

George Simbachawene, the Public Service Management and Good Governance state minister in the President's Office, told the National Assembly yesterday that the health sector has over 10,000 posts allocated.

Contributing to debate on budget estimates for the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Governments (PO-RALG) for 2024/25, he said the government is confident that the recruitment will help to bridge the shortage of teachers in public schools.

The government is in the process of delegating teachers' recruitment mandate to regional commissioners' offices, he said, hinting that the 24,000 other recruited civil servants will be directed to other sectors.

Decentralization in teachers' recruitments will facilitate identification of schools with acute shortage of educators for priority in allocating new teachers, he said.

He was adding to an answer by Zainabu Katimba, the PO-RALG deputy state minister, who said that the government has plans of recruiting more teachers to contain the prevailing shortage in government schools.

She was responding to Bernadeta Mushashu (Special Seats) who wanted to know plans in place by the government for recruiting enough Mathematics and Science teachers.

The deputy minister said the government was recruiting Basic Mathematics and Science teachers in primary and secondary schools on the basis of budget allocations and disbursements.

During fiscal years 2020/21 and 2022/23 a total of 18,016 primary school teachers were recruited. However, 10,917 secondary school teachers were recruited during the same period.

The breakdown for Basic Mathematics and Science teachers during the period shows that in 2020/21 upwards of 3,000 teachers were recruited, while 2021/22 a batch of 3,742 teachers was recruited, with fiscal 2022/23 seeing another batch of 4,175 teachers being recruited, she added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango shows an award by the African Federation of Institutes of Internal Auditors (AFIIA) shortly after opening the 10th AFIIA general meeting in Arusha yesterday. Left is Zanzibar Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Saada Mkuya and the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Tanzania president, Zelia Njeza. Photo: VPO

VP appeals for internal auditors' greater liberty

Meeting participants have to discuss challenges currently facing the auditing environment in the world, to help governments and organizations gain resilience and control environmental impacts that arise

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN governments need to establish policies and laws that make internal auditors in public institutions freer, so that they can give true and realistic financial assessments of those institutions.

Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango made this appeal yesterday when opening the 10th general meeting of the African Federation of Institutes of Internal Auditors (AFIIA) at the Arusha International Conference

Centre (AICC).

He said African governments should have a clause in their respective Public Audit legislations to protect internal auditors from undue influence or interference in their duties.

The legal system could also establish the provision of operational and administrative information to internal auditors in line with international professional practices framework (IPPF) "as a possible solution to

TURN TO PAGE 2

Samia to get another doctorate award today

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

ANKARA University, the second largest in Turkey, will today confer President Samia Suluhu Hassan with an honorary doctorate (Honoris Causa) in Economics.

Prof. Necdet Ünüvar, the varsity rector, is expected to preside over the awarding ceremony and attended by faculty staff and students, plus members of the diplomatic corps from various African embassies in the Turkish capital.

This is the fourth LLD conferred to President Samia after the Jawaharlal Nehru University in India, the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and the State University of

Zanzibar (SUZA).

A statement by the university said that the award seeks to recognise her unique leadership, bringing about social, political and economic reforms in Tanzania and improving people's well-being.

The president's leadership had strengthened Tanzania's reputation in the world, promoting commercial, economic and political relations between Tanzania and other countries, with Turkey as an outstanding example, it said.

January Makamba, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, said on his X handle that after the event, President

TURN TO PAGE 2

Arusha to host May Day, after 22 years

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

WHEN Arusha gets to host International Workers' Day celebrations on May 1, it will be the first time in 22 years for the region to finally organize May Day at national level.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan who is expected to officiate at the event will also become the first national leader to lead the ceremony at the Sheikh Amri Abeid in recent memory.

The last time it was the late President Benjamin Mkapa who officiated at the ceremony back in 2002, hosted by the regional commissioner at the time, Daniel ole Njoolay, while first time voters now aged 22 have no memory of that event.

When asked why it took 22 years for Arusha to host the key event, the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) president Tumaini Nyamhokya wondered 'what is so special about Arusha anyway?'

Past national leaders like former president Jakaya Kikwete and the late John Magufuli led those events in various regional capitals like Tanga, Mara, Mbeya, Mwanza, Iringa, Dodoma, Morogoro and Dar es Salaam regions only.

Some regions, such as Mwanza, Dodoma, Iringa and Morogoro have been hosting the May Day celebrations at national levels twice or even thrice.

In 2023, Morogoro organized the May Day celebrations, with President Samia Suluhu Hassan gracing the occasion, in 2022 the events went to Dodoma, in 2021 it was Mwanza played the host.

President Magufuli led the Workers' Day

TURN TO PAGE 2

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Samia to get another doctorate award today

FROM PAGE 1

Samia will proceed to the presidential palace for talks with host President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Another key event is proceeding to Istanbul, the commercial capital, as a key guest in the Tanzania-Turkey business conference, on the second day of a five day state visit.

Talks with the Turkish leader are expected to focus on priority areas to further heighten ties and promote trade, where exploring business openings and education links are uppermost.

Trade volumes between the two nations reached \$22m last year from \$9m six years earlier with Tanzania's exports to Turkey including agro-produce and gems.

President Samia shall witness the signing of agreements on higher education scholarships, technology, document storage, science and innovation, an earlier statement indicated.

The Tanzania-Turkey Business

Conference is described as a landmark in boosting the presence of Turkish investors here, and expanding Tanzania's commodity markets in Türkiye, the minister had stated, affirming that Turkey is among the fastest growing economies in southern Europe.

"The President's visit is a great opportunity for us; we are going to benefit technologically as well as increase our trade volumes; we will also look at new business opportunities that would boost our exports," he stated.

Other export products from Tanzania include coffee, coconuts, raw tobacco, fish filets, rice and beans, with sales from these products reaching \$15.99m in the past year.

Local investments of Turkish companies are estimated at \$414.23m particularly in transportation, industrial production and tourism, creating an estimated 6,062 jobs for the country's youths in particular.

Needed: Efforts to bridge haemophilia awareness shortfall

By Carlos Banda

THE Ministry of Health has called for more efforts to increase awareness on haemophilia to address the gap in diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

Dr Hamad Nyembea, Director of Curative Services at the Ministry of Health, said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday during commemoration of the World Haemophilia Day at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), an event that was attended by medical experts, patients, policymakers and advocates.

"It is critical to bridge the gap between available treatments and those in need. Effective management of haemophilia should not be a privilege but a universal standard and this gathering here today emphasizes the collective drive towards more accessible and affordable haemophilia treatment," he said.

"Globally, haemophilia affects around one in every 10,000 individuals, with 97 percent of cases undiagnosed. This global challenge mirrors the situation in Tanzania which emphasizes the need for increased awareness and diagnostic capabilities," he said.

Dr Stella Rwezaula, President of the Haemophilia Society of Tanzania (HST), said the event marked a collective commitment to address the diverse challenges faced by individuals with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders, adding that the focus was not only on raising awareness but also to catalyse actions that ensure equitable healthcare access for every patient.

"These efforts represent a broad-

er strategy meant to enhance haemophilia care in Tanzania, reduce stigma and encourage more patients to seek treatment. As we commemorate World Haemophilia Day, HST continues to advocate for greater awareness, improved healthcare policies, and community support to elevate quality of life for those impacted by haemophilia in Tanzania," she said.

Prof. Mohamed Janabi, executive director of MNH said the hospital has remained dedicated to advancing care for bleeding disorders through ongoing professional training and enhancements of its medical facilities.

Prof Janabi added that despite over 6,000 Tanzanians living with haemophilia, only about 350 currently receive treatment, pointing to a significant gap in diagnosis and care, adding that the event targeted to foster better understanding and inform stakeholders about the critical need for early diagnosis and treatment.

"Treatment is available at major healthcare institutions across Tanzania including Muhimbili National Hospital, KCMC and others; each is fully equipped to manage and treat bleeding disorders effectively," he said.

Haemophilia is usually an inherited bleeding disorder in which the blood does not clot properly. This can lead to spontaneous bleeding as well as bleeding following injuries or surgery. Naturally, blood contains many proteins called clotting factors that can help to stop bleeding. However, people with haemophilia have low levels of such factors.

Arusha to host May Day, after 22 years

FROM PAGE 1

fete at the Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya in 2019 and following the outbreak of Covid-19 fete was skipped for 2020.

In 2018 the May Day event was held in Iringa at national level with President Magufuli officiating, and earlier in 2017, he presided over the ceremony at Moshi Cooperative grounds, after having led that event in 2016 at the capital, Dodoma.

President Kikwete officiated at the Workers' Day ceremony at the CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza during his last year in office, after Dar es Salaam hosted this event in 2014, preceded by Mbeya in 2013, Tanga in 2012 and Morogoro in 2011 and Dar in 2010.

During that event workers in Dar es Salaam carried a banner saying, "The 2010 election will be the solution to the workers' problems, pressing President Kikwete to raise the minimum wage to 300,000/- per month.

The president flatly rejected

the demand, asserting that he was ready to do without their votes in that year's polls, and created a new aphorism in cultural life, with an expression that "however intelligent what you have been told might be, add to that your own intelligence."

Mara hosted the 2009 May Day event, president over by then Vice President Dr Ali Mohammed Shein.

In 2008 Iringa had played host to it, while in 2007 the ceremony was held in Mwanza; earlier in 2006 the incoming president Jakaya Kikwete leading that event in Shinyanga.

Before Arusha hosted May Day at the national levels in 2002, it had organized it eight years earlier, in 1994, convened by the Organization of Tanzanian Trade Unions (OTTU) led by Secretary General Bruno Mpangala.

Backed by conservative leaders in the ruling party, he declined to invite President Ali Hassan Mwinyi who had a year to his second term, and in 1995 the organisation invited retired President Julius Nyerere to the Mbeya event.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi speaks when opening a capacity building training session for the Southern Africa Development Community Organisation of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC) in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

VP appeals for internal auditors' greater liberty

FROM PAGE 1

auditors need to acquire the most threats and obstacles from some CEOs in their institutions."

Governments and heads of public and private organizations need to allocate proper training budgets for young internal audit professionals to build more capacity in their expertise to face challenges that arise in internal audit report them correctly, enabling authorities to find the right ways to solve them.

Due to the rapid development of technology, especially the use of artificial intelligence (AI), internal

auditors need to acquire the most advanced technological skills to enable them to detect, check and control procedural handicaps that lead to violations, he said. Internal auditors should keep pace with rapid technological developments, review information management systems, operational models and business strategies to deal with rising cyber insecurity, he stated.

Internal auditors need to see the responsibility of carrying out their duties using international principles and standards, in which case

African governments and other stakeholders have to give impetus to approval of internal auditors as is the normal procedure in other disciplines, he further noted.

Meeting participants have to discuss challenges currently facing the auditing environment in the world, to help governments and organizations gain resilience and control environmental impacts that arise, he emphasized.

Dr. Saada Mkuya Salum, the Zanzibar Minister for Finance and Planning, said that the state of gov-

ernance, control and auditing was globally improving.

The international leadership of internal auditors leads various institutions in updating internal audit requirements and protecting professionalism, she said.

In Tanzania the public sector, the Office of the Auditor General on both sides of the Union employ more than 1600 overseers charged with ensuring that internal "auditors follow the guidelines set so that the government can achieve its goals," she added.



Angellah Kairuki, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, speaks at an international conference on the sustainable management of Miombo forests, in Washington DC in the United States yesterday. Photo: Courtesy of the ministry

Minister wants end of embezzlement of cooperative funds

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

AGRICULTURE Minister Hussein Bashe has directed the Registrar of Cooperative Societies at the Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) Dr Benson Ndiege to immediately end embezzlement of funds in cooperative societies.

Bashe said this here yesterday during the official opening of the 14th general meeting of coffee stakeholders in the country.

He pointed out that the issue of theft in cooperatives in the country needs to stop immediately as it has become one of the reasons for exploiting farmers.

"There are cooperatives whose leaders have taken 200m/- from

coffee buyers but they have refused to return the money or give coffee and all that debt is a burden to farmers.

"I instructed the Registrar of Cooperatives that this theft and robbery that is committed in these societies should end immediately and I have removed many DGs of this ministry from their positions because I was telling them like this but they did not take action," he said.

Bashe said that all leaders who have been involved in theft within cooperatives should be brought to court for the theft and not just allegations as it is now.

"It is very sad to see that the leaders have swindled money and when they are taken to court, they are charged with allegations of mi-

nor wrongdoing but the burden of debt is left to farmers while leaders continue to enjoy life in the streets; that is why people like these get hanged in China," he said.

The minister also said that many cooperatives, despite their leaders being thieves, have been part of exploitation of farmers by setting many levies.

"You find that the cooperative has set a fee for sacks of produce, protection costs, interest on loans and farmers' monies are being deducted without their knowledge of what percentage should be deducted," he said.

Prof Aurelia Kamuzora, Coffee Board chairperson, said that the goal is to produce 300,000 tonnes of coffee by 2025 from the current

80 tonnes.

She urged coffee farmers in the country to use an official system to sell their crops to avoid buyers who have been cheating them through cheap prices.

Mariam Ditopile, vice chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Industry, Commerce, Agriculture, and Livestock said that they will continue to remind the government to allocate sufficient funds for the agriculture sector.

She added that there is a need to invest in the domestic coffee market to ensure farmers get profit contrary to the current situation whereby unprocessed coffee sold in the international market is added value and imported into the country at higher price.



ACP Kennedy Mgani, the acting Shinyanga regional police commander, shows to journalists in the region yesterday the various stolen items including mobile phones, 320 litres of diesel and cannabis which they seized during a three weeks operation from March 28 to April 16. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

By Carlos Banda

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) in collaboration with GE Healthcare and Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) yesterday launched a new Senographe Pristina 3D Mammography technology to ease early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

Speaking at the launch event, Dr Hamad Nyemba, Director of Curative Services in the Ministry of Health, said the installation of the machine was part of the efforts of the government to improve the health sector through Muhimbili National Hospital.

"According to global statistics by WHO, at least 2.3 million women are diagnosed with breast cancer annually. In Tanzania, at least 42,000 are diagnosed with breast cancer but sadly, only 38 percent get access to medical treatment, meaning that only 15,000 women have access to treatment," he said.

"This is contributed by the lack of awareness in the society on breast cancer; people are unaware that treatment services are easily accessible from the rural levels to the national level. I would like to tell the public that these services exist and they have been well improved. It is high time for the people to go to the nearest health centres to get screened and get medical advice."

Dr Nyemba thanked the United States government and RSNA, saying that the bilateral relations between the countries have been key to the

MNH unveils cutting-edge breast cancer screening tech machine

accessibility of the state-of-the-art technology needed to boost breast cancer screening and treatment in the country.

Prof Mohammed Janabi, executive director of MNH, said that the new machine will enable early diagnosis and save lives of countless women in the country, noting that breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women in the country.

"MNH serves as a beacon of hope. We anticipate that 2,400 patients a year will directly benefit from screening with cutting-edge technology. I pledge that our Senographe Pristina 3D breast cancer screening machine will serve all with utmost professionalism and quality care," he said.

Eyong Ebai, Executive Zone General Manager of Sub-Saharan Africa at GE Healthcare, said they came to celebrate the first public hospital in Tanzania to host the fully digital mammography system which is expected to offer a full range of advanced applications, including contrast enhanced tomosynthesis and biopsy.

"This is absolutely required to identify breast cancer in suspicious lesions. This will enable faster better targeted identification of breast cancer which will save lives. Together we will help build a cohort of fellows that will clinically lead across Tanza-

nia and the wider region in the fight against breast cancer," he said.

"We will measure and evaluate the lead indicators to track progress and ensure we are successful. We will develop and deliver educational programmes to build capacity to ensure long-term sustainability. We will generate important data and information that will drive an evidence-based policy, regulation and resource allocation to improve breast cancer treatment in Tanzania."

Meredith McNeil, Director of International Affairs at the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) said with the installation of the Pristina Mammography machine in Tanzania, the technology will help ensure women get breast cancer awareness, treatment, general screening and prevention, adding that, there is still a long way to go to get many people trained and get women interested.

"Ideally this will set an example from Tanzania to the African region about what mammography can give to the population, including contrast enhanced tomosynthesis and biopsy. This is absolutely required to identify breast cancer in suspicious lesions. This will enable faster better targeted identification of breast cancer which will save lives. Together we will help build a cohort of fellows that will clinically lead across Tanza-

MPs blame shortage of council engineers for poor roads

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

LAWMAKERS have blamed shortage of road engineers in many district councils for poor implementation of projects, leading to short-lived infrastructure.

They have called for the central government to urgently facilitate the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) to initiate an emergency recruitment plan for construction experts.

Debating President's Office budget estimates of 10.125trn/- tabled in the National Assembly on Tuesday, legislators called upon the central government to come up with a well fixed bud-

et for recruitment of enough road engineers by the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (Tarura) apart from enough budget allocation for road projects.

In her contribution, Aida Kenan, Northern Nkasi MP, said that Tarura has a deficit of 849 experts, including road engineers.

"Tarura should be allocated enough funds for recruitment of engineers apart from road project funds; its failure in observing its duties means the failure of the President's Office which is its main custodian," she said.

Idd Kassim Idd, Msalala MP, argued that the area needs at least three Tarura managers but there is only one who serves 58 wards.

Ushetu MP Emmanuel Cherehani said that in his district there are 20 wards, 112 villages and 560 hamlets but there is only one Tarura manager who serves three constituencies namely Ushetu, Msalala and Kahama hence poses inefficiency in regulating implementation of road projects.

Kirumbe Ng'enda, Kigoma Urban MP, said that in his region there are two municipal councils namely Kigoma Ujiji and Kigoma District which are collectively served by one Tarura manager.

"The shortage of Tarura officials in district councils even makes project implementation harder apart from funds shortage," he said.

Selemani Kakoso, Mpanda Rural MP, said that 1,160 kilometers of dirt road network in Tanganyika District is under Tarura's custody and is currently badly affected by ongoing rains, calling for emergency rehabilitation.

Margaret Sitta, Urambo MP, called on the central government to double Tarura's budget for it to smoothly execute roads projects.

Tabling the ministry's budget on Tuesday, Minister for State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Mohamed Mchengerwa, said 841.19bn/- has been allocated in the 2024/25 financial year for construction and rehabilitation of dirt and tar-mac roads in urban and rural areas.

IN THE DISTRICT LAND AND HOUSING TRIBUNAL FOR KINONDONI AT MWANANYAMALA APPLICATION NO 73 OF 2024 ANDREW RUHIZA.....APPLICANT VERSUS ALEXANDRA ANNEMARIE HEYDEBREERESPONDENT SUMMONS/NOTICE TO: ALEXANDRA ANNEMARIE HEYDEBREE Take notice that the above matter is coming for mention on 08 day 05, 2024 before the Hon R.L.CHENYA Chairman of the Tribunal. You are hereby commanded to appear at 9:00 AM noon when the case will be mentioned/heard. Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal this 16 day of 04, 2024

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CSR projects halted, now awaiting new guidelines

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

A REVIEW of the prevailing corporate social responsibility (CSR) regulations is underway to allow local government authorities (LGAs) take full charge of monitoring and evaluating development projects implemented by local and foreign investors.

Minister for Transport Innocent Bashungwa told the National Assembly yesterday that to start with, CSR contracts for Dodoma Region have been suspended due to alleged irrelevance and fraud in their implementation.

Bashungwa said that the ministry and the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) have agreed to release joint guidelines on implementation of the projects.

He directed the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) to immediately stop ongoing CSR projects until the two ministries have issued new implementation guidelines.

"CSR projects are implemented as per regulations set by ministries; it depends on which sector the project falls into," said Bashungwa.

He was responding to arguments by legislators who demanded immediate suspension of the ongoing CSR projects to pave the way for a probe in value for money among other aspects.

In her contribution, Salome Makamba, Special Seats MP said that most of foreign investors have been dictating implementation of CSR projects with regard to global standards.

"Global standards don't align with force accounts and obligates that there must be a project consultant. The scenario leads to many CSR projects going unaccomplished," she said.

According to her, the scenario has also caused unrealistic or hiked CSR projects costs. For instance, she said that two drilled wells in Dodoma

Region have been reported to have cost 1.3bn/- by one of foreign investors.

"That is why we have been told that Nala Primary School in Dodoma has cost 2.3bn/- in construction. This is unrealistic. CSR projects should be audited and closely monitored," she said.

Joseph Musukuma, Geita Rural MP, was of the view that the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) should engage sectoral ministries in monitoring CSR projects, citing the minerals ministry as an example.

He argued that Geita District Council in the current fiscal year has been allocated 9bn/- for implementation of CSR projects but so far only 1bn/- has been disbursed.

"Councillors are not allowed by the current regulations to monitor and evaluate implementation of the projects. We need to review the regulations," he said.



Global standards don't align with force accounts and obligates that there must be a project consultant. The scenario leads to many CSR projects going unaccomplished



Coast Regional Commissioner Abubakar Kunenge (2nd L) receives a donation of 20 tons of food items and 300 gas cylinders and stoves from Lake Energies Co. general manager Nassoro Abubakari in Rufiji on Tuesday for supporting flood victims. Photo: Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Hanang

WATERAID Tanzania has rehabilitated the Nangwa Water Supply Scheme which serves some 26,690 people within 17 villages in Hanang District, Manyara Region.

The main water source in the district was affected by mudflow that hit the area last December and left 5,600 people without proper social services such as water.

Speaking recently during the project handover, Anna Mzinga, WaterAid Tanzania country director, said that her organisation rehabilitated the water infrastructure system to the tune of t 127m/- and is meant to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in the area.

"Following the crisis that occurred

WaterAid restores main water source in Hanang

last year, as an organization working towards achieving clean water, sanitation, and hygiene for everyone, this tragedy touched us dearly, hence, the implementation to rehabilitate the water scheme that was destroyed by the mudslides. We hope this project will bear fruit and become sustainable against the effects of climate change," she said.

According to her, a comprehensive refresher training session that covered the importance of household sanitation improvement

as a crucial element of emergency preparedness initiatives was also provided.

Among the beneficiaries of the training include community health workers, village executive officers and ward executive officers from four affected wards namely Dirima, Measkron, Waretu and Nangwa.

Mzinga said it aimed at enhancing sanitation and hygiene practices in communities across four wards, a project that has now been finalized and is already serving communities

in Hanang with clean and safe water. Hanang District experienced intense rainfall-triggered mudslides on December 3, causing a torrent of rocks, logs and a substantial volume of water to cascade from Mount Hanang towards Katesh Township.

Initial assessments revealed that 5,600 people were directly affected by the disaster, particularly in Hanang District. Furthermore, the relentless rains and resulting floods wreaked havoc on 750 acres of diverse crops and killed livestock.



NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

[Issued under Article 13 of the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club Constitution, 2017]

NOTICE is hereby given that the Adjourned Annual General Meeting of the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (which had been convened on Thursday, 28 March 2024 at 06:00 p.m.) will resume at the Roof Terrace of the Club on **Thursday 25th April, 2024** commencing at **6:00PM**.

AGENDA:

1. To read the Notice convening the Meeting and confirmation of Agendas
2. To elect the Trustees in accordance with Article 16(a) and (d) of the club's constitution 2017.
3. To elect the Chairman, the Honorary Treasurer, the Entertainment Member and the Grounds Member in accordance with Article 9 (d).
4. At the discretion of the Chairman, to consider any other business of which the Annual General Meeting is competent to discuss.

Issued in Dar es Salaam this 04th day of April 2024

By Order of the Management Committee.

Ronald Kato
HONORARY SECRETARY



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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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Do you want to make a positive difference to the future of people and our one shared home, the Earth? Working at WWF could be your opportunity of a lifetime. WWF Tanzania is seeking to hire a highly experienced, competent and motivated individual for the senior Project Officer role based in Masasi, Ruvuma Landscape

Major Functions: The Senior Project Officer will provide the coordination, technical support, knowledge, leadership to all activities within the Tanzania component of the WWF GBF Project. The incumbent will be generally responsible for the delivery of GBF-related initiatives from the community level and the leveraging of them to the national, regional and global levels. The post-holder will be responsible for the coordination of implementation of the project workplan and budgets, in coordination and collaboration with the implementing partners, stakeholders and WWF colleagues nationally, regionally and globally.

Major duties and responsibilities:

- Lead the development, delivery and adaptive management of GBF project work plans, budgets and the monitoring framework.
- Ensure the project is aligned to the global policy frameworks on environment and development and enable inclusive management for sustainable use of natural resources and conservation of biodiversity.
- Support and ensure effective, inclusive and responsive regional and national policy formulation and implementation in relation to global policy frameworks, particularly the CBD protocol.
- Support and influence gender inclusion and equitable use and sharing of benefits accrued from biodiversity resources.
- Be responsible for the development of the GBF project policy advocacy plan and monitoring.
- Engage, participate, and contribute to the WWF Global Policy and Advocacy Team discourses at the Regional Office of Africa and WWF International to foster high level GBF policy engagement.
- Be responsible for the development, oversight and monitoring and adaptive management of the GBF project.

Required Qualifications and skills: University degree in forestry, conservation biology, social science, international relations, policy management or related courses in an appropriate field such as natural resource management. At least five years of experience in the field, with experience in leading, developing, and managing programmes or large-scale projects in one or more of the above-mentioned fields. Experience with multi-disciplinary teams including experience with external partners. Experience on high-level policy advocacy engagement at national, regional and global levels. Knowledge of the global protocols, conventions and agreements linked to biodiversity conservation. Previous engagement in and knowledge of national and global biodiversity policy platforms.

Additional information: Detailed Terms of Reference can be obtained via http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/jobs/. Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees with the subject line – "GBF Senior Project Officer" and should be addressed to the Head of People & Culture, via email to: hresources@wwftz.org by **Wednesday, 01st May 2024 at 17h00**. Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted, and the interviews will take place in Dar es Salaam. Female applicants are encouraged to apply.

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Ally Gugu, (2nd R), the Home Affairs permanent secretary, listens to John Masunga, the Fire and Rescue Force commissioner general, shortly after inspecting the construction project for six storey buildings for staff houses already completed at Kikombo area in Dodoma yesterday. A total of 60 families will be housed in the staff quarters. Photo: Courtesy of the Ministry of Home Affairs

By Getrude Mbago

Corporates urged to help curb heavy NCD burden

COMPANIES operating in Tanzania have been urged to contribute to the health and wellbeing of citizens by putting in place robust strategies to reverse the worrying trend of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Marsha Macatta-Yambi, executive director of Global Compact Network Tanzania (GCNT), made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday at Corporate Wellness Conference.

Organized collaboratively by GCNT and ImpactAfy Ltd, the conference was conducted with under the theme 'Mitigating NCDs for Sustainable Businesses'.

According to Macatta-Yambi, the current health statistics are clear that Tanzania needs to double its collective efforts to reverse the trend as NCDs burden which affects businesses and the economy.

She said NCDs impose huge economic costs that fall heaviest on the low- and middle-income countries, including Tanzania, calling for more coordinated efforts to curb the challenge.

"Apart from the government putting in place policies and strategies to heighten the fight

against NCDs, companies have a big role to play to ensure that their employees are safe and healthy," she said.

She noted that businesses realise that their workforce is an asset when it comes to ensuring growth but with the rise in chronic diseases and the recent spotlight on mental health, it's becoming clear that promoting corporate wellness is a must.

She further said that in efforts to heighten the fight against NCDs, GCNT and ImpactAfy Ltd have signed agreement to implement 'Corporate Wellness and You' programme to increase public awareness and remind employers to improve health, productivity, reduce healthcare costs and scale up employee retention among other factors.

Suzanne Ndomba-Doran, chief executive officer of the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), said that it is hard for employers to generate profit if their workers are not healthy. "So, it is better for

employers to put in place robust plans and strategies to fight diseases such as NCDs whose burden is rapidly growing," she said.

She noted that safe and healthy working environments are not only a fundamental right but are also more likely to minimize tension and conflicts at work and improve staff retention, work performance and productivity.

Dr Omary Ubuguyu, assistant director and head of NCD, mental health and injuries in the Ministry of Health reiterated the government's commitment to continuing to work closely with stakeholders in the private sector to heighten the fight against NCDs in the country.

He acknowledged that many people have plunged into unhealthy lifestyles which affect their health and the nation's workforce.

"Tanzania's future prosperity depends to a large degree on improving health and education of its people; we need to increase our collective efforts to help address these challenges," he said.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR LICENCE UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received application for Licence under the Converged Licensing Framework from the following applicant: -

S/N	NAME OF APPLICANT	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS / NATIONALITY	SHARES %
1.	UNLIMIT TZ LIMITED	National Application Services	1. Unlimit SG Holding PTE.LTD -Singaporean 2.Unlimit Holding EU LTD- Cypriot	99 1

Pursuant to Section 8 Of Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licence to the applicant to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers this application.

Comments should be addressed to:

Director General
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
P. O Bo 474 | 14414 DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2
Fax: +255 22 2412009
E-mail: dg@tcra.go.tz

Issued on 18th April, 2024

Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mwasiliano Towers, 20 Sam Nujoma Road, P.O Box 474, 14414 DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA.
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Email: barua@tcra.go.tz, dg@tcra.go.tz, Website: www.tora.go.tz



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR WARMAN SLURRY PUMPS VERTICLE SPINDLE 100SP, GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED.

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company"), a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti ("AGA") is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5 km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of prequalifying suppliers for Warman Slurry Pumps Verticle Spindle 100SP and is, therefore, inviting eligible and interested applicants to submit expressions of interest as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST IN THIS SUPPLY. SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE SUBJECTED TO THE ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of Supply:

REFERENCE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
GGME01622	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF WARMAN SLURRY PUMP VERTICLE SPINDLE 100SP

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (MANDATORY)	
COMMERCIAL	20%
Company Profile and updated organogram	3%
Company Code of Conduct and Ethics	2%
Copy of Current Business License	2%
Copy of Certificate of Incorporation, the most recent BRELA search, and the latest BRELA application of annual return.	2%
Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate	3%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	3%
Compliance with Mining Act - Approved Local Content Plan.	5%
FINANCIAL POSITION AND TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Applicants audited financial statements for the past three consecutive years.	2%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's bankers regarding the supplier's credit position. If any.	1%
All bank statements of the applicant's active bank accounts for the past 6 months to date	1%
A guarantee from a reputable financial institution to support any declared alternative source of funds.	1%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.5%
Environmental compliance certificate	1.5%
Workers' compensation fund certificate	1%
Safety and Environmental policy	1%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients and value of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years	1%
Acceptance certificates /completion certificates	2%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	2%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01622)	60%
Proof of experience in supplying of Warman pumps to other mines or other heavy industries (5 purchase orders)	15%
Authorized dealership of Warman pumps, authorization extending to cover more than three years	15%
Proof on the ability to provide pump performance warrant	15%
Proof of the capacity to offer technical and after sales support (Posses internal skills to offer pumps support - CV of Technical Team)	15%
TOTAL	100%

III. Interested companies must submit their Expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting (GGME01622 - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF WARMAN SLURRY PUMP VERTICLE SPINDLE 100SP) on the subject of the email. Applicants must also submit supporting information to the Company, which states the full name, address, telephone, and e-mail address of the company, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why the Company is of interest to work with, what the company has to offer and how the skills and experience are valuable to the Company.

IV. All LOIs and supporting documentation (in PDF format) must be submitted to the Company via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com without copying any individual from the Company. Submission must not be later than **8.30 AM on 3RD May 2024**. (the "EOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions must not exceed 150MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 150MB, applicants must split the submissions into multiple emails.

V. Shortlisted Candidates will be notified within forty-five (45) calendar days from the submission deadline. Candidates not contacted within the forty-five (45) calendar days should consider themselves unsuccessful.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - STATUTORY DIESEL TANKS INSPECTION UNDER API653 STANDARD - GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED.

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company"), a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti ("AGA") is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5 km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of prequalifying service providers for statutory tanks inspection under API653 standard and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible applicants to submit Expressions of Interest for the service as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SUPPLY. SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of Service:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01831	STATUTORY DIESEL TANKS INSPECTION UNDER API653 STANDARD

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (MANDATORY)	
COMMERCIAL	20%
Company Profile and updated organogram	2%
Company Code of Conduct and Ethics	2%
Copy of Current Business License	2%
Copy of Certificate of Incorporation, the most recent BRELA search, and the latest BRELA application of annual return.	3%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate	3%
Current NSSF Compliance Certificate	3%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	2%
Compliance with Mining Act-Approved Local Content Plan.	3%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Supplier's audited financial statements for the past three consecutive years.	2%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position. If any.	1%
All bank statements of the Supplier's active bank accounts for the past 6 months to date	1%
A guarantee from a reputable financial institution to support any declared alternative source of funds.	1%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.5%
Environmental compliance certificate	1.5%
Workers' compensation fund certificate	1%
Safety and Environmental policy	1%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labor	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Program	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1%
Acceptance certificates / completion certificates (Prove of a. above where applicable)	1%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	2%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01831)	60%
Inspector's qualification:	
• Registered Mechanical Engineer with five (5) years' experience (4%)	20%
• Certified API Non-Destructive Test Technician Level 2 (8%)	
• Certified Welding Inspector level 2 (8%)	
Tools and technology:	20%
• Provide list of NDT tools with calibration certificates.	
Experience & previous history:	20%
• Provide CV of Three (3) Engineers and Four (4) technicians (10%)	
• Provide the previous history related to a similar project (10%)	
Total	100%

III. Interested suppliers must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting **GGME01831 - STATUTORY DIESEL TANKS INSPECTION UNDER API653 STANDARD** on the subject of the email. Interested suppliers must also provide full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the company, name of the principal contact and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why the supplier is of interest to work with, what the prospective supplier has to offer and how the skills and experience will be valuable to the Company.

IV. All LOIs and support documentation (in PDF format) must be submitted to the Company's Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com without copying any individual from the Company. Submission must not be later than **8.30AM 3RD May 2024**. (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions must not exceed 150MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 150MB, please split the submissions into multiple email.

V. Shortlisted Candidates will be notified within forty-five (45) calendar days from the submission deadline. Candidates not contacted within the forty-five (45) calendar days must consider themselves unsuccessful.

-END OF ADVERTISEMENT-

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

WOMEN councillors and young political leaders have been urged to take social media management seriously to understand how to effectively use the platforms, avoid pitfalls and leverage them to achieve their political goals.

"In today's digital age, it is important for politicians, especially women, to explore social media as one of the essential tools to help them push their strategies and maximize their impact in society. Politicians can also use social media to protect their reputations and achieve success," said Ruth John, Morogoro District Administrative Secretary at the opening of a one-day capacity building workshop on digital security and data protection.

The workshop that was held in Morogoro Region on Tuesday brought together women councillors and young political leaders from Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Pwani regions. It was organized by Tanzania Media for Community Development (TAMCODE), Youth Environmental Justice and Gender Equality (YOGE) and Article 19.

She challenged them to make sure

Women leaders urged to take social media seriously

they use social media productively by circulating information that ultimately builds a positive image for themselves as well as the nation. She said it is important for women leaders to be careful with what they share on social media because there are a number of young girls expecting to learn from what they do.

John added that with the rise of social media, politicians must take their social media management seriously to succeed in the political arena. She insisted on the need for them to make sure that content posted on their social media is accurate to avoid tarnishing their image.

She said digital security and data protection is crucial as social media platforms are powerful enough to enable them reach constituents and potential voters.

Rose Ngunangwa, TAMCODE executive director, said the training was conducted after realizing gaps in social media management amongst women councillors

and young politicians. She said the achieved knowledge would help to properly manage and use social media during the coming campaigns for civic polls scheduled for later this year as well as the 2025 General Election.

"Women have not yet acquired enough knowledge on the use of social media platforms to empower themselves economically. This is why TAMCODE, YOGE and Article 19 teamed up to build the capacity of women councillors and young politicians, she said.

Philomena Mwalongo, YOGE executive director said the training was aimed at empowering women councillors and young politicians to ensure they use social media profitably.

"There are some women politicians who are also entrepreneurs; make use of social media to promote your products as well as to look for markets. Digital platforms are a power tool to make you excel in politics and maximize business profit," she said.



Anael Mbise (L), the Monduli District administrative secretary, receives one of the 130 desks from NMB Bank northern zone manager, Ladislaus Baraka at the Sokoine Primary School yesterday, donated by the bank for three primary schools in the district. Others are Monduli MP Fred Lowassa (2nd L) and the bank's Monduli branch manager Farida Kilufya. Photo: Correspondent

Bank donates 130 desks to three schools in Monduli

By Guardian Correspondent, Monduli

NMB Bank has donated 130 desks worth 15m/- to three primary schools in Monduli District, Arusha Region.

The desks were handed over on Monday to Sokoine, Ngalash and Olarash primary schools located in Meserani Ward.

Speaking at the event held at Sokoine English Medium Primary School, are residents and leaders said partnering with NMB for many years has been both impactful socially and constructive developmentally.

"NMB Bank continues to support us remarkably and this should be maintained," Monduli District acting administrative secretary Anael Mbise, said in his speech to grace the handover of the classroom furniture.

"Schools in the district still face the challenge of inadequate basic learning facilities and materials, including desks. We are grateful NMB has realised this and taken the initiative to support us with these desks being handed over today," said Mbise who represented District

Commissioner Festo Kiswaga.

Meserani Ward Councilor Loth Naparana Tarakwa who also heads the District Education Committee, said currently the whole of Monduli District has a deficit of 1,114 desks.

The other major challenges he pointed out are a shortage of 887 latrines and a lack of 282 houses for teachers.

NMB Northern Zone Manager Ladislaus Baraka said for the past seven consecutive years, the lender has been allocating one percent of its net income annually to finance corporate social responsibility (CSR) budgets.

He said that together with the efforts the government continues to make, NMB is obliged to make social investments to address challenges facing communities.

Baraka said the involvement of the bank in development matters in Monduli was a good example of the support it is accorded countrywide, which enables it to meaningfully champion social causes.

"The challenges in Tanzania's education sector are a matter of top priority for NMB Bank and this is because education is a

key development aspect in all countries," he said.

He explained that the bank has supported Sokoine and Ngarash schools with 50 desks each while Olarash got 30.

Head teachers of the three schools said NMB support has helped them lessen the challenge of inadequate desks they had and called on other stakeholders to emulate the bank's philanthropic gesture.

Sokoine's Abdallah Hoza said before the bank's intervention they had a shortage of 70 desks whereas the deficit at Olarash has been wholly sorted out.

"The desks have enabled 150 pupils at our school to start learning comfortably unlike in the past when some were either studying while sitting on the floor or more than four inconveniently sharing a desk," said Ngarash's Clara Mleli.

Monduli MP Fred Lowassa praised the bank for not only creating supportive learning and teaching conditions in the area but also closeness it has with all Tanzanians.

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

THE United States government yesterday launched the \$40million USAID Lishe (Nutrition) project to expand access to nutritious foods, clean water and nutritional services.

Currently, 30 percent of Tanzanian children face high rates of childhood malnutrition.

Many communities struggle with access to healthy foods and seasonal shortages and many parents lack awareness on healthy childhood diets and access to local health clinics for nutrition services.

Rural areas suffer from inadequate clean water and sanitation facilities, contributing to persistent malnutrition. USAID Lishe will work in close collaboration with partners in Tanzanian government and private sector to address these challenges.

"Through USAID Lishe, we are empowering communities to

US launches nutrition, clean water project worth \$40m

make tangible changes in their health and well-being," said USAID Mission Director Craig Hart.

"Together, we are doing more than just raising awareness about nutrition and sanitation; we are investing in projects that drive real, long term change," he said.

Including this new project, USAID's investment to improve nutrition in Tanzania now tops \$100 million over the past decade. Over the last 15 years, through USAID, the US government invested \$3.2 billion in the health of Tanzanians, including in maternal and child health, combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis prevention and treatment, family planning, and malaria prevention and treatment, among other areas.

The USAID Lishe project will

also increase access to clean water supplies, especially in rural areas; improve practices like pit emptying in urban areas; and promote locally available sanitation services and hygiene products such as safe toilet pans designed to reduce insects' ability to spread disease.

During the next five years, USAID Lishe project will increase access to healthier food, educate communities on nutrition promotion, prevent waterborne illnesses and support 3,000 health care workers in 1,300 clinics to reduce malnutrition.

The project is meant to improve health and lives of more than two million children and women in 29 districts in Kigoma, Katavi, Njombe, Rukwa and Songwe regions.



GGML supply chain manager Cyprian Mtwewe makes a presentation on the firm's procurement process and policies during the on-going workshop in Geita on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania, other countries joins Africa recall of J&J cough syrup

By Guardian Reporter and agencies

DRUG regulators in Tanzania, Rwanda and Zimbabwe have recalled a batch of Johnson & Johnson's new tab children's cough syrup - as a precautionary measure after their Nigerian counterpart said laboratory tests found high levels of toxicity.

The countries join Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa in recalling the same batch of the syrup, which is used to treat coughs, hay fever and other allergic reactions in children. South Africa has also recalled an additional batch.

Laboratory tests on the syrup by Nigeria's health regulator showed a high level of diethylene glycol, which has been linked to the deaths of dozens of children in Gambia, Uzbekistan and Cameroon

since 2022 in one of the world's worst waves of poisoning from oral medication.

Diethylene glycol is toxic to humans when consumed and can result in acute kidney failure.

The batch of Benylin Paediatric syrup recalled was made by J&J in South Africa in May 2021, although Kenvue

Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) said it had begun the recall on April 12 after hearing about the Nigerian test results.

"This is an exercise that does not involve investigation but rather monitoring to ensure that those affected drugs are removed from the market," TMDA spokesperson Gaudensia Simwanza said on Monday.

A spokesperson for Kenya's drug

regulator said its test results on the syrup would likely be ready yesterday.

"A review of our safety database doesn't reveal any adverse events reported," the Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority said in a statement dated April 12.

"However, Rwanda FDA issues the present recall for precautionary measures."

Zimbabwe's Medicines Control Agency said that it did not have a record of the product's importation into Zimbabwe; but that it was concerned the syrup could enter the local market illegally. It said it would step up inspections in case.

Kenvue said in a statement that it was conducting its own assessment and working with health authorities to determine a course of action.



PRESIDENT'S OFFICE PLANNING AND INVESTMENTS
MJI WA SERIKALI-MTUMBA 1 BARABARA YA ARDHI, P.O BOX 104, 40403 DODOMA.
info@planninginvestment.go.tz

NAME, LOGO AND SLOGAN DESIGN COMPETITION "Be part of the Investment Revolution in Tanzania"

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has decided to merge the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) with the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA). This merger leads to the establishment of a new institution, tasked with facilitating and promoting investment, skillfully leading and managing the development of special economic zones and production for export.

Following this decision; Invitation is extended to individuals and institutions to design and conceptualize the Name, Logo, and Slogan of this new institution (Authority) in the country.

The proposed **Name, Logo, and Slogan** should possess the following qualities:

- Incorporate and reflect the activities and responsibilities of TIC and EPZA.
- Have a unique and appealing appearance.
- Be easily understood and pronounced.
- Have the potential for diverse and inclusive use.
- Not bear resemblance or relationship to the Name, Logo, and Slogan of other institutions.
- Uphold Tanzanian culture and values.

This competition is open to any Tanzanian aged 18 or older.

Prizes:

- First Prize: Tsh. 3,000,000/-
- Second Prize: Tsh.2,000,000/-
- Third Prize: Tsh.1,000,000/-

Deadline: Submit your design in pdf format, including your full name and phone number to: tic.epza@tic.go.tz before April 22, 2024, at 03:30 PM.

For more information about TIC and EPZA, visit the following websites:
www.tic.go.tz or www.epza.go.tz



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VALVE ACTUATORS TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company"), a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti ("AGA") is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5 km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring Valve Actuators and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expressions of Interest for the supply of these Valve Actuators as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST IN THIS SUPPLY. SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE SUBJECTED TO THE ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION
GGME01627	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF VALVE ACTUATORS

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	
COMMERCIAL	20%
Company Profile and updated organogram	3%
Company Code of Conduct and Ethics	2%
Copy of Current Business Permit and Trade license	2%
Copy of Certificate of Incorporation, the most recent BRELA search, and the latest BRELA annual return.	2%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VRN certificate	3%
Copy of company memorandum and article of association	2%
Current NSSF Compliance Clearance Certificate	3%
Compliance with Mining Act - Approved Local Content Plan.	3%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Applicant's audited financial statements for the past three consecutive years	2%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's bankers regarding the supplier's credit position. If any.	1%
All bank statements of the applicant's active bank accounts for the past 6 months to date	1%
A guarantee from a reputable financial institution to support any declared alternative source of funds.	1%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.5%
Environmental compliance certificate	1.5%
Workers' compensation fund certificate	1%
Safety and Environmental policy	1%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1%
Acceptance certificates /completion certificates	1%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	2%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01627)	60%
Proof of Technical Capabilities and Quality Certification - An essential component of a credibility Supplier is technical knowledge. Analyse the supplier's engineering expert, and quality assurance practices.	5%
Manufacturer's quality certifications - Check certifications such as ISO 9001 (Quality Management System)	5%
Supplier technical expertise-Examine the technical team of the supplier's qualifications, experience	5%
Supplier's references-Testimonials from current or former customers	10%
Dealership letter in Various Brands of Valve Type trading expertise. Provide details type of valves and brand traded during business	10%
After-Sales Support -Look for a supplier that offers reliable after-sales support, including assistance with installation, troubleshooting, and maintenance	10%
Supplier dealership accreditation /Appointment letter more than four Brands -From any reputable brand industrial valves manufacturer	10%
Quality control Plan-(QCP) -The QCP shall include reference to actual documents including VDS and MDS, TDS, Technical drawing, non-conformance report remedial & all applicable tests and inspections shall be included in the plan FOR THE CURRENT type & Model of valve BRAND OEM traded	5%
Total	100%

Interested companies must submit their Expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting (**GGME01627 - SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF VALVE ACTUATORS**) on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL**. Applicants must also submit supporting information to the Company, which states the full name, address, telephone, and e-mail address of the company, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why the Company is of interest to work with, what the company has to offer and how the skills and experience are valuable to the Company.

All LOIs and supporting documentation (in PDF format) must be submitted to the Company via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com without copying any individual from the Company. Submission must not be later than **8.30 AM on 3RD May 2024**. (the "EOI" Submission Deadline". EOI submissions must not exceed 150MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 150MB, applicants must split the submissions into multiple emails.

Shortlisted Candidates will be notified within forty-five (45) calendar days from the submission deadline. Candidates not contacted within the forty-five (45) calendar days should consider themselves unsuccessful.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

THURSDAY 18 APRIL, 2024

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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RCs monitoring loans to fake groups not a cure but can help

A surprising directive was lately issued in the National Assembly when the minister responsible for Regional Administration and Local Governments in the President's Office (PO-RALG), demanded that heads of regional secretariats not to tolerate approval of loans to fictitious special groups. It was a reference to the way in which the ten percent district council revenues accounts have been run, and now RCs, rather than DCs as would otherwise be the case. It is easy to see that this remark will soon be forgotten, while on DCs it would have been taken as a weighty directive, whereas it is not meant to be restrictive.

There wasn't much elaboration on what is expected on disability, youth and women loans, if any unremitted payments are still expected to be collected, but the minister's remarks resolved the matter.

It isn't that the groups have not paid up but there is hardly any groups to be pursued, or just a few, as the rest were fictitious. That means the money has been distributed to aid family businesses of those well-connected to the council or district administration. It is largely an illustration of the reasons, less palatable, for local popularity of elected officials.

The issue of loans for special groups has rocked the government for a while, since decision was torn between accountability - chiefly in relation to eligibility and repayment - and evident clashes with its popular use, as a mobilisation tool. Unavoidably it is the latter aspect which won, and the president allowed the restoration of the 'get to know you' loan facility, and despite its blemishes, it helps foster unity at local government level, and solidarity at the national level. That way we can expect more of the same, but there can be some

improvements.

One reason for expecting that this will be the case is that RCs are likely to have been instructed to take a closer look, which means that the loanable groups may have to be approved at the regional level, even if they are prepared at the district level.

This may help to check some allocation abuses although it may not have the capacity to monitor the use of loans thereafter, in which case there will be an improvement in allocation, which also implies an improvement in the rate of repayment. It isn't an issue of being held accountable but improved procedure.

One problem with allocating such loans is the usual maxim of how loans given to those who have a viable basis - like relatives of council members - have greater chance of repaying. In that case it is a paradox that extending loans to ghost special groups for women or youth and they have some back up uplifts economic activity in those places. Loaning to those living below the poverty line risks to be unworkable since they definitely would do with a TASAF sort of cash hand-out that has no obligation to be repaid. They are needy, not efficient.

At the same time, the ministry has selected ten district councils for testing a new model of issuing the loans that will be conducted through commercial banks. It is one thing that commercial banks will be holding the money as a correction for eligibility for loans and provision of identity, and it is another issue if the banks would be issuing loans, backed up by council funds in a guarantee role.

That way the cash would be rapid and become a revolving fund, but the stakeholders are not gunning for this, as council leaders want to decide who gets loans, while there is a clamour around them that the loans be directed to the really needy.

Bagamoyo port roll out shows the pressure for PPP isn't high

IT is now official that the government will start the building of Bagamoyo port in the next financial year, as an in-house project conducted by the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA). A sizeable sum of 22bn/- has been slated for the purpose in the new fiscal year, with compensation already conducted to residents in the area whose dwellings in the 887 hectares of the project area will be erased. How far this project is being implemented with 'force account' methods is unclear, as 22bn/- isn't altogether breathtaking at the Treasury, needing no loans to do that.

That the issue was just cash all along was visible in remarks in answer to an MP's question, where a deputy minister said that the project is at an advanced stage of updating the feasibility study conducted in 2010.

Lack of surpluses to pursue the project in-house or loans to build it characterized the mood for more than a decade, that is, until now, but there are some financing ends that need to be looked at closely. The deputy minister said the review and update of the feasibility study was ending, and procurement documents be prepared, soonest.

What is also at issue is the capacity targeting since Dar port is also being vastly improved, but nobody says there is no role for Bagamoyo port especially for trade sourced in Zanzibar, when it isn't targeting the city market specifically. It is also

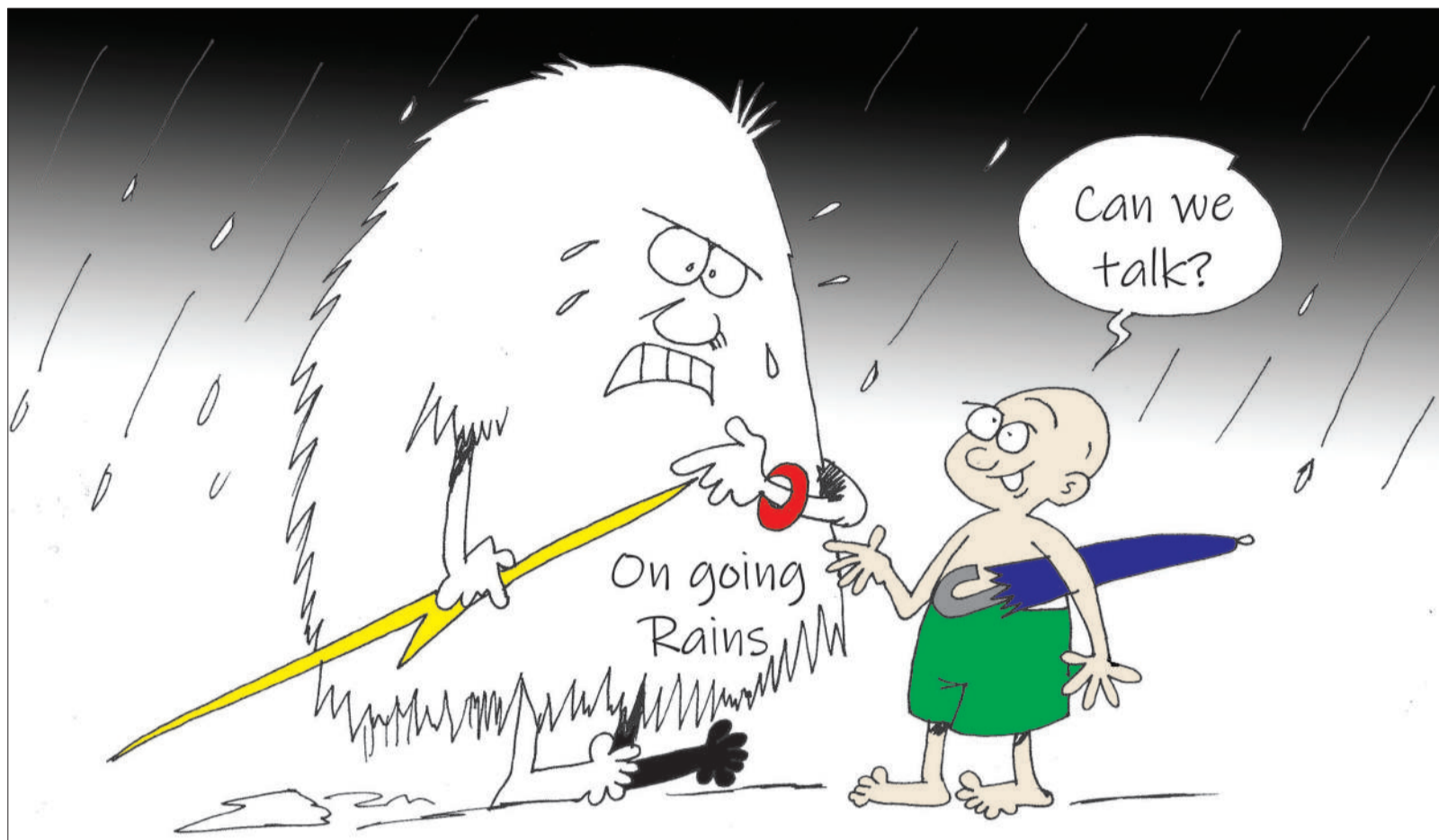
unclear if its status as a fishing port can be improved, though its specific praise in the past was natural deep water harbour, a characteristic that may cut project costs to an extent and thus not place a heavy burden on authorities as to its investment return period.

While some would have preferred a saving on public funds via PPP, at times there is reason to avoid controversies that come up, meanwhile as a port entirely operated by an independent firm is unfamiliar.

Suggesting that the port construction is strategic as it is intended to stimulate industrial and commercial activities in the area and the special economic zone in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region was in a way less than inspiring.

There was more talk of its making a difference in central transport corridor but its conditions have somewhat paled as the port of Dar es Salaam will now have much greater capacity than earlier, and the SGR also starting from Dar, altered the picture somewhat.

In that case tying Bagamoyo port to the special economic zone is realistic enough as after all plenty is going on in the neighbourhood, especially when eastern DRC finally becomes peaceful and Burundi has a thrust in industry, as well as the city hinterland of Kibaha. Bagamoyo port will not be lacking a role as business shapes up in various directions in the next ten years.



Africa pushing limits to boost renewable energy supply system and its security

By Aimable Twahirwa, Abu Dhabi

INVESTORS, regulators, researchers, policymakers, and representatives of renewable energy companies, acknowledged the key challenges of shifting away from fossil fuels to renewable energy in Africa when they gathered in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) this week.

The latest estimates by the African Development Bank show that Africa's energy potential, especially renewable energy, is enormous, yet only a fraction of it is currently employed. Official projections indicate that the demand for energy could also be around 30 percent higher than it is today over the next decade on the continent.

Francesco La Camera, the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) stated that the energy transition is accelerating rapidly, but it clearly remains off track, with an unacceptable uneven distribution of renewable growth that still disproportionately affects the Global South.

"African governments and other stakeholders should adopt innovative solutions to overcome pressing challenges and achieve the energy transition," La Camera said.

According to him, there is opportunity [for the continent] to prioritize and narrow down collective actions to overcome the structural and systemic barriers that are impeding progress.

In Africa, experts believe that there are multiple dimensions to energy poverty, which is associated especially with the lack of clear plans and a clear understanding of what the continent wants to achieve.

"Electricity remains the backbone of Africa's new energy systems, powered increasingly by renewables but a large part of the continent is still left out of the energy transition," said Bruce Douglas, the Chief Executive Officer at the Global Renewables Alliance, one of the global coalitions of leading industry players committed to accelerating the global transition to renewable energy.

Yet several new commitments were made at the latest UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28) that took place in Dubai, UAE, last year, giving further momentum to the energy transition. Experts are now exploring priorities for the energy transition and immediate steps to ensure that current policies



Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid is the current African Union (AU) commissioner for Energy and Infrastructure. She believes that cross-border approaches are critical for clean energy affordability.

on the continent are improved to encourage greater deployment of renewables.

The latest estimates show that, with Africa accounting for around 39 percent of the world's renewable energy potential, several renewable energy milestones can be achieved.

"Private and public investment is critical to tackling the multiple dimensions of today's energy crisis on the continent but to ensure energy security, diversification of various sources is also essential," Douglas said.

Africa, for example, has abundant hydro, solar, wind, geothermal, hydrogen, and bioenergy resources, but still, the continent's current energy generation mix continues to rely on fossil fuels, while renewable sources account for nearly 18 percent of the electricity output, it said.

Whereas countries committed on the sidelines of last year's UN Climate Change Conference to accelerate progress towards tripling renewable power capacity globally to at least 11 terawatts (TW) by 2030, some experts believe that this is still not a long-term solution as more than half of the population still lacks access to electricity.

Amani Abou-Zeid, the Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union Commission (AUC) said that a cross-border approach is critical for participating countries in the transition to clean energy affordability.

"Some countries in Africa have embarked on cross-border projects

on clean energies but much more effort is needed to develop really sustainable transitions and adequate instruments," she said.

The Africa Continental Power System Masterplan, a blueprint currently being developed by the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), highlights some key strategies for countries across the continent to identify key components at national and regional levels that will enable the creation of a smart power systems master plan that promotes access to clean, affordable, reliable, and sustainable electricity supplies across the continent by 2040.

Adja Gueye, Director of Promotion and Cooperation at the National Agency for Renewable Energies in Senegal points out that overall, African country need appropriate plans at the policy level to overcome some key hurdles on the path to clean energies.

"To facilitate this transition, it would be appropriate for African countries to revise their regulatory framework and move towards harmonization, since the continent needs to improve regional and cross-border electricity interconnections," she said.

Both Gueye and Abou-Zeid are convinced that without infrastructure and appropriate green energies policies and strategies at national and regional levels, it is challenging and impossible to buy and sell electricity across borders.

"Top-down governmental policies and long-term plans

on clean energies in Africa are essential," Abou-Zeid said of the current strategy to establish a long-term continent-wide planning process for power generation and transmission involving all five African power pools.

These include the Central African Power Pool (CAPP), East African Power Pool (EAPP), Northern African power Pool (COMEC), Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) and Western African Power Pool (WAPP).

Dr. Jimmy Gasore, Rwanda's Minister of Infrastructure, who is also the current chair of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) points out that Africa's climate goals necessitate collective recognition that the energy transition is not just about technological change but also about ensuring equity and justice.

"We need to ensure that the benefits of the energy transition are universally accessible, prioritizing the needs of the most marginalized communities," he said.

To optimize and diversify green energies on the continent, some experts also stress the importance of encouraging effective cooperation between the private and public sectors in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

"To prepare for the current transition to renewable energy, partnerships are essential," said Gueye of the National Agency for Renewable Energies in Senegal, one of the few dedicated national agencies dealing with clean energies in Africa.

Internet access to learners with disabilities crucial in developing digital literacy skills

By Guardian Reporter

INCLUSIVE education, described as the act of ensuring all children regardless of status quo, receive their right to education, in spite of physical or mental condition. For instance, integrating children with disabilities in schools who have been traditionally excluded, be given equal opportunity to go to school, interact with peers, learn, and develop the skills they need to thrive in their lives.

This is becoming a reality in the country as several secondary schools are tapping into digital tools provided the private sector, who are promoting equal opportunities for all in education, health, and economic empowerment sectors.

Vodacom through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm, Vodacom Tanzania Foundation has been driving digital education initiatives since 2017. It is the same year where Vodacom through its Foundation, activated its e-learning portal, known as e-Fahamu, which provides digital learning materials to students and teachers.

Recently, Vodacom Tanzania Foundation, set up a full-fledged ICT laboratory with desktop computers, TV screen, furniture and one year of internet connectivity, and provided access to the e-Fahamu portal at Buhongwa Secondary School in Nyamagana district, Mwanza. The laboratory was established as one of many of plans to establish e-Fahamu legacy schools in the country.



An expert showing students how to access the e-Fahamu platform at one of the schools benefiting from the project which is implemented by Vodacom Tanzania Foundation. Photo: Guardian Reporter

A student from Buhongwa Secondary School, shared this as a result of the infrastructure set up by the Foundation, "e-Fahamu has helped us to access more educational materials because our school has a lot of students, and our library doesn't have enough books."

Access to digital technology and the internet is still limited in many parts of Tanzania, mainly

in rural areas. Bridging this digital divide is crucial to ensure students have equal opportunities to access educational resources and develop digital literacy skills. This year, the e-Fahamu program introduced digital skills content, teaching learners how to navigate through the internet space safely and ethically, as well as how to use search engines effectively and efficiently while

online.

Mtesigwa Bulenga, a teacher at Buhongwa Secondary School, said, "This school has an inclusive education system that brings together all students with special needs. We have a lot of students, so these technological advancements ease the teaching process." e-Fahamu is a portal that provides access to extensive learning ma-

terial contents, that facilitate self-learning for students which complements what they learn in the classroom. Teachers also have access to teaching materials that can enhance their lesson delivery from the content menu. For instance, e-Fahamu curates, TESSA teacher's resources content channel that demonstrates how a teacher can prepare for a class lesson. Whereas students can tap into contents offered by the Phet channel that provides interactive maths and science subjects.

The mode of operation for the Foundation, has been to invest in infrastructure, champion advocacy on the adoption of ICT education and financing by the government in public secondary schools. The objective is to ensure application of ICT is mainstreamed across the country for learners to enjoy the benefits of being connected in a digital savvy world.

Speaking on the focus of e-Fahamu program, Zuweina Farah, Director of External Affairs and Vodacom Tanzania

Foundation, says, "By the virtue of being a mobile technology company, we feel compelled to provide educational solutions that leverage technology to bring closer learning resources to pupils and teachers, to ease access to primary and secondary level education, for both urban and rural communities."

Zuweina further added that, "In the interest of working collectively as private sector and the government, coming together to improve learning outcomes in the country. Our objective is to drive Tanzanians into the digital age, and education is a critical sector for us to intervene on."

The Vodacom Tanzania Foundation is dedicated to transforming the lives of Tanzanians by leveraging mobile technology means. The Foundation's efforts are closely aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG number 4 which focuses on Quality Education, and SDG number 10 aimed at Reducing Inequalities.

CONSERVATION

By Guardian Reporter

THE government through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has since 2018 been implementing the Resilient Natural Resource for Tourism and Growth (REGROW) project which is financed by the World Bank.

Apart from its core objective of improving tourism in the southern circuit, the \$150 million (350bn/) project also empowers communities residing near the targeted national parks—Ruaha, Mikumi, Udzungwa and Nyerere.

The empowerment programs have resulted in improved livelihood of the villagers especially women and girls. A good number of women had their welfare more improved under the various economic activities and group projects that are supported by REGROW.

Under the project, women are being empowered through various programmes as well as entitled to leadership at different levels of management in the project. A number of them have also been provided with training and scholarships. The project has facilitated a range of trainings to over 9,106 people, of whom, 5,386 are women (59.1percent).

There are 17 female project staff out of the available 64 across implementing institutions, a 36 percent representation. At managerial level, women led positions includes, the Deputy Project Coordinator (DPC), Environmental and Social Specialist (ESS), Financial Management Specialist (FMS), and the Procurement Management Specialist.

At district level, REGROW has appointed 11 district focal persons, of whom four (36 percent) are female. In addition, at the village level, REGROW is managed by 61 community facilitators (CFs), of whom 22 are female (36 percent).

Through Community Conservation Bank (COCOBA), villagers are provided with capital and seed money to further improve their designed projects. Data from the ministry indicates that until February this year, the capital of COCOBA groups has been increasing at a 4 percent rate per month from 61,382,550/- in January 2023 to 1,319,925,033/- in January 2024. The number of group members qualifying for loans has also increased to 3,496 from the previous 483.

Method Misimbe is the Acting Mi-

Project empowers women adjacent to national parks



Ajuta Mwenda attends to a customer at her shop in Mkata village, Mvomero District, Morogoro Region. Photo: Guardian Photographer

kumi Ward Executive Officer, he told The Guardian that the project has largely contributed to improved livelihood and welfare of women in the area, with most of them engaging in businesses such as poultry farming, saloon, restaurants, pharmacies, shops sunflower and rice cultivation.

"There are those who had nothing at all, but they are now economically stable. We are thankful to the ministry for coming up with the COCOBA program, thus enabling women to easily access loans for improvement of their businesses," remarked Misimbe, adding the government is also benefiting from the project through the various levies and taxes paid by women traders.

Secretary of the Pamoja COCOBA group in Mikumi village, Mikumi Ward, Morogoro Region, Mgeni Mfalingundi said

the 25 members group is implementing a poultry farming project whereas they are planning to have over 300 chickens which will be sold after every two months.

"With the support from REGROW, individual members can now get a loan of up to 3m/-. Previously, a member could get a loan of between 100,000/- and 400,000/-," explained Mfalingundi who owns a pharmacy.

Merycardo Valence, a member of the Amani Uriithi Wetu COCOBA group has seen her business capital growing to 2m/- in two years. She engages herself in a whole sale maize business sourcing the grains from rural villages across Morogoro Region.

"I can get a profit of up to 50,000/- per 100kg sack. I can pay school fees for my son and repay the loan accordingly,"

she told The Guardian.

Nadya Mohamed said: "REGROW has completely changed my life. I received a 6m/- loan and bought two motorbikes that are each generating a profit of 70,000/- per week. I have repaired my house and bought new furniture."

Catherine Haule, a member of Tupendane Chekereni COCOBA group in Mikumi village said the project is a game changer as her business has grown.

Haule who owns a pub and a pork butcher has seen her profit increasing to more than 100,000/- per day.

She said the group has already secured a 12 acres farm for sunflower cultivation, adding that plans are to process sunflower cooking oil.

"We are now finalizing construction of the building where machines will be installed. Our

plans are also to buy sunflower from villages to ensure we have enough raw materials," she said, noting the group was provided with a 28m/- capital and a seed money of over 10m/-.

Khadija Said, a resident of Mkata village in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region and member of Mkata Wildlife Protection group said through the loans she has been able to expand her business with her capital increasing from 1m/- to 6m/-.

"We are thankful to President Samia Suluhu because most women own businesses. I am getting a 500,000/- profit per month. I have been able to complete construction of my house," she added.

Ajuta Mwenda, who owns a shop at Mkata village which is adjacent to Mikumi National Park said that with the support from REGROW, her business

capital has now reached to 17m/-.

"I have constructed three houses; I am enjoying the benefits of conservation," said Mwenda.

REGROW Coordinator from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Aenea Saanya told The Guardian that a total of 75 women equivalent to 10 percent have been employed at the various projects implemented by the REGROW project including construction of airstrips at Ruaha, Udzungwa, Mikumi and Nyerere national parks.

The women are from the villages of Mwasemi, Ikwiriri, Madundasi, Luhanga, Igurusi, Tungamalenga, Idodi, Iringa Mjini, Mapogoro, Kitiisi, Msembe, Mang'ula A, Mang'ula B, Sanje, Mgudeni, Mkula, Mwaya, Ifakara, Udekwa, Mji Mpya, Kikwalaza, Tambukareli, Kidoma and Magoma

He said during execution of the primary canal and 10.6 kilometre secondary canal at a popular rice growers' scheme in Mbarali District, a total of 127 women (31 percent) were employed.

They are from Mkunyuwa, Ikoga Mpya, Nyakadete, Chalisuku, Mahango, Iheha and Nyamakuyu in Madibira wards. Others were from Miyombweni, Mapogoro, Mlungu, Nyakazombe and Magigiwe villages in Miyombweni ward.

"Ten women (16 percent) have been employed at a water project in Madibira ward. They are from Uturo, Gonakuvagologo, Matebete, Chosi na Herman, Isele, Njombe, Mbuyuni, Makangalawe, Igumbilo, Isitu and Madibira villages.

"We will continue to engage women as drivers of community development especially the marginalized and vulnerable groups in communities near protected areas," remarked Saanya, noting the success of the project depends on the contributions of women across all levels.



Cavers descend into the Bone Caves' Uamh an Claonaite underground passage

Inside Scotland's ancient Bone Caves

Steven McKenzie,

HIGH on a limestone cliff in the North West Highlands are caves that have fascinated visitors to the area for at least 135 years.

The first scientific excavations of the Bone Caves at Creag nan Uamh, by geologists Ben Peach and John Horne in 1889, uncovered remains of Arctic animals and also evidence the caves were used by hunters about 8,000 years ago.

In the years since Peach and Horne, discoveries have included large chambers, 2 miles (3km) long of underground passages - and a possible polar bear bone.

Speleologists - experts in cave exploration - believe further finds could be made in the area near Inchnadamph in Assynt.

A rocky trail leads to the imposing cliff at Creag nan Uamh and its four main caves.

There is a warning along the way of the potential risk of rock falls and the ground drops steeply away on one side of the narrow path as it nears the cliff.

At the entrance to the caves, water drips down from the sheer rockface above.

There are views out over the barren hills to the valley below and the rushing waters of Allt na Uamh stream.

The area's system of caves was formed 200,000 years ago before the landscape was changed by the last ice age, which ended about 15,000 years ago.

Over the last 135 years the landscape - and what lies beneath it - has fascinated geologists and palaeontologists

Peach and Horne's discoveries in the caves included bear and

reindeer bones.

More recent investigations found the remains of other animals that are long extinct in Scotland such as lemming, wild horses, lynx and wolf.

The 1889 excavations were followed by further digs in 1926-27.

Major discoveries were also made in 1967, when Kendal Caving Club explored a passage its members named Uamh an Claonaite.

Further underground areas were dived in 1975 and - by Grampian Speleological Group - in 1995.

Uamh an Claonaite passages are currently estimated to be about two miles long but could potentially extend further.

Flooding is one of the many obstacles and hazards which hamper exploration of the area's underground systems.

But Alan Jeffreys of Scotland's oldest caving club - Grampian Speleological Group - said there is still scope for new discoveries.

"Passages lying some 20m beneath the Bone Caves might be extended in the future and perhaps even more passages might be found running north along the flank of Breabag (a nearby mountain).

"There is everything to play for."

The discoveries are recorded in the group's recent book, Caves of Assynt.

Mr Jeffreys added: "Our members have also opened a new cave system in the riverbed in the north fork of the Allt nan Uamh valley.

"This reveals that a possibly extensive network of phreatic passages, formed when completely full of water and now filled with glacial debris and mud, could

lead us into some major, previously unsuspected territory."

Dr Tim Lawson, who has studied animals remains from the Bone Caves, said they got into the cave entrance chambers either by the creatures just walking in, or being carried there by predators.

He added: "The bears show that the caves were important hibernation sites over many thousands of years - we have individual bears dated to 1,700 years ago, 13,000, 26,000 and 45,000 years ago."

"The huge numbers of reindeer present show that Assynt was an important reindeer calving ground, again going back at least to before the last ice sheet grew and covered the land."

The honorary research assistant at Aberdeen's Geosciences faculty said the 1880s and 1920s excavations had yielded the largest amount of animal remains from anywhere in Scotland, and date back more than 50,000 years.

He said: "The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, so unauthorised digging is not allowed."

"However, I am now part of a project with the University of Aberdeen's geography and archaeology departments which is re-assessing sites in the region."

"Hopefully we will get permission to do at least some limited re-excavation in the Bone Caves in the next couple of years."

He added: "Presently we have been looking at radiocarbon dated remains, and extending the dates to new specimens, which is yielding an interesting further twist to the story of the cave deposits."

Rainwater reserves: A tenuous lifeline for Sumatran community amid dry season

By A Special Correspondent

DAHNIAR starts worrying after a few days without rain during the dry season here on the northeast coast of Sumatra.

Traders selling water will complain of supplies drying up. Even Dahniar's neighbors are reluctant to sell their water when the heat is on and anxiety begins to drip through Kuala Selat village.

"It's difficult if there's no water - it's even hard to buy," Dahniar, a small business owner in her 50s, said.

Indonesia's meteorology agency, the BMKG, recorded a months-long drought last year across most of the archipelagic nation. The 2023 dry season was exacerbated by the El Niño and positive Indian Ocean Dipole climate patterns, leaving much of Sumatra praying for rain well into October.

Across the world, climate change is worsening the water stress felt in villages like Kuala Selat. Some 436 million children live in areas of high or extreme water stress, while three-quarters of all natural disasters from 2001-2018 were water related, according to UNICEF, the United Nations' children's fund.

Kuala Selat and other communities lacking access to piped water or viable wells are sustained mainly by the rain. A jerrican of rainwater here fetches between 15,000 and 80,000 rupiah (roughly \$1-\$5) depending on the size of the drum. And some families go to significant lengths to ensure they will meet their basic needs.

Kuala Selat resident Abdul Rahman owns 20 large water drums to catch enough rainwater on his land to last the dry months ahead. Dani Sartika, the principal of the An-Nur Islamic boarding school here, said he has to procure water for the school's 70 students from people who live nearby, like Suryati.

"For those who can't afford it, sometimes they'll ask us," Suryati said. "If we know they're hard up, we give it away for free."

Those with means will make calls to traders selling 19-liter (5-gallon) water bottles. Others will travel two

or three hours by boat to the Penjuru River to collect water, ensuring that they journey far enough from the coast that the water is not brackish.

Most families in Indonesia count on wells bored several meters into the aquifer for water. However, many coastal communities can't rely on this method owing to saltwater intrusion or excess iron in the aquifer.

Doing the laundry using groundwater in Kuala Selat will turn clothes the color of rust.

"Because the iron content is high, the water is yellow - it's the people's habit still to consume rainwater rather than [bottled] water," said Rony Fahamsya, secretary of the Indragiri Hilir district planning agency, Bappeda.

There's no sewage network in Kuala Selat, and Suryati said she suspects the water crisis is linked to bouts of diarrhea, the leading cause of child mortality in Indonesia. Every day, more than 1,000 children around the world die due to diarrhea.

When an outbreak occurs, some residents will pack up and stay with family outside Kuala Selat.

Unsustainable The sixth of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 - and to be achieved by 2030 - aspires to ensure access to "clean water and sanitation for all."

Like more than 500 other district and city governments across Indonesia,

Indragiri Hilir is working toward that goal by supporting the local water utility and drilling wells for outlying communities.

The district utility, known as PDAM Tirta Indragiri, serves only households in the district seat and lacks the capital needed to pipe water 80 kilometers (50 miles) across the region's characteristic peat swamps to places like Kuala Selat.

That leaves Indonesia's community water and sanitation program, known as Pamsimas, a lifeline for water-stressed villages.

Since 2008, the national program has provided a source of drinking water to 22.1 million people in 31,700 villages (the program also brought basic sanitation to 15 million people). The World Bank assessed that 81 percent of villages in the Pamsimas program were free from open defecation in 2021.

"Almost all villages have the Pamsimas service," Indragiri Hilir's Rony said.

But Kuala Selat isn't adequately covered by the initiative. The neighboring village of Tagaraja, around 15 km (9 mi) north of Kuala Selat, has a 14-hectare (35-acre) reservoir of water. However, the capacity has become increasingly strained under drought and the local government says it can't expand supply from Tagaraja.

The Indragiri Hilir government says it will likely cost tens of billions of rupiah to fix the problem, potentially millions of dollars. Drilling a one-off well

with the necessary filtration system would cost up to 250 million rupiah (\$15,800), but these wells can prove unsustainable for local government finances, Rony said.

"The fear is that people will not be able to buy water," he said. "Many Pamsimas managements have also stalled because operational costs are not commensurate with the cost of drinking water fees."

The number of home water connections installed in urban areas in Indonesia was 3.5 times greater than in rural settings between 2012 and 2021.

Muhammad Reza Sahib, coordinator of the People's Coalition for the Right to Water (KRuHA), an Indonesian civil society group, said this inequity in water access reflects years of underinvestment in public infrastructure.

"Whatever the problem is, invest in the solution," Reza said.

In Kuala Selat, children at the Islamic boarding school wash outside their school using containers of increasingly scarce rainwater.

Abdul Rahman's 20 large drums to collect rainwater turned out not to be enough; after two months of drought last year, his family ran out of water.

And for Dahniar, the dry season in Kuala Selat requires her to rely on her neighbors' goodwill.

"Whether we like it or not," Dahniar said, "we beg them instead of not being able to cook."



Containers kept to collect rainwater in Kuala Selat houses in Indonesia

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Banks play a key role in reducing maternal and child mortality in the Lake Zone regions

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE financial institutions have been playing a crucial role in reducing maternal and child mortality in Lake Zone regions – Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, and Geita.

They have been doing so through corporate social responsibility (CSR), which in turn complements the government's efforts in improving people's well-being.

In this area, NMB is one of the banks that made several strides in containing public health problems in the Lake Zone.

Like all other parts of the country, the densely populated region is a major recipient of medical supplies and equipment the bank supports health facilities with to back efforts of the government in bettering delivery of public health services.

The assistance, according to sectoral authorities, beneficiaries, and officials of the bank in the zone, has among other things helped to greatly boost Maternal and Child Health (MCH) care in the NMB Lake Zone regions, namely

They recently told journalists and NMB officials from head office that the delivery beds, hospital beds, mattresses, bedsheets, and delivery kits provided by the bank have been a worthy investment and a lifesaving intervention, which the public highly appreciates.

The team, which was in the zone to assess the impact of the lender's Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiatives in three regions, was also informed of the tremendous improvement in treatment and other service delivery conditions.

Consequently, that has helped to drastically reduce mortality and morbidity rates but also went on to increase the number of MCH customers, the doctor-in-charge at Buzuruga Health Centre in Mwanza, Dr William Mtinginya, said.

"We have been able to reduce preventable deaths of mothers and newborns but on the other hand the number of maternal care customers has increased with 20 new mothers being attended every week," he told the CSI revisit team.

"Previously, we were handling 200-300 deliveries a month but the number has now reached 600, which is a huge improvement that NMB has helped us to attain," he added, noting that giving birth at home has equally plummeted.

At Katoro Health Centre which has also



Former Misungwi District Commissioner, Col. Wilson Sakulo (3rd R) claps hands after receiving hospital beds and one examination bed for Luzinga Dispensary in the district from the then NMB Bank's Acting Lake Zone Manager, Dickson Richard during a handover ceremony in October last year. File Photo

been a beneficiary of NMB corporate philanthropy, Dr Rhoda Haule rooted for similar support from other corporate entities, emphasizing that it was vital for closing the remaining gaps in the national bid to increase maternal and child survival.

She said the NMB beds have helped the health facility in Geita Region to do away with bed-sharing whereby three to five expectant mothers used to share the same bed before delivery.

Together with the remarkable achievement in the MCH wards that are now accommodating 750-900 mothers every month, Dr Haule said there was still room for more improvements, especially in the labor ward.

"In total, we have 107 beds, which means that the service delivery situation will further improve if we can get more support from well-wishers like NMB Bank," she stated, pointing out that the health center urgently requires modern laundry facilities.

In Misungwi District, Mwanza, where Mwanangwa Dispensary serves a population of 20,000 people in Mabuki Ward and several neighboring villages, the CSR team learned a lot from Dr Consolata Simba.

Thanking NMB Bank for its support of seven delivery beds and ordinary hospital beds plus bedsheets and

other supportive items, she said MCH care is essential not only to the lives of mothers and infants but also to the general welfare of society and well-being of the whole country at large.

Dr Simba attributed some of these deaths to long distances to facilities and home deliveries that are not overseen by well-trained attendants.

Most MCH challenges are also an outcome of a critical shortage of skilled health providers, lack of basic equipment, a wanting referral system as well as low availability of emergency obstetric and newborn care services.

With about 390 children under five believed to die every day due to mainly preventable and treatable conditions in Tanzania as well as lack of basic equipment, newborn deaths account for about one-third of all child deaths nationally.

Sectoral experts and child health practitioners say the deaths are inextricably linked to the health of the mother during pregnancy and the conditions of delivery and newborn care, showing why the NMB healthcare support matters.

According to them, CSR, the bank continues to make in the health sector should not only be emulated by other corporates wishing Tanzania well but

also scaled up for betterment of the quality of essential maternal, infant, and child health services across the country.

As a socially responsible business, NMB Bank Plc is an unrivalled good corporate citizen in the Lake Zone regions, where like in all other parts of the country it leads sectoral peers in championing and undertaking noble social welfare causes.

"In line with our commitment to give back to society, we invest heavily in various social impact programs by setting aside one percent of the bank's profit after tax every year for CSR spending," the new NMB Lake Zone Manager, Wogofya Mfalamaogha, said.

"Last year, the CSR budget topped over 6bn/- to cater for sustainability activities that included tree planting to help address the effects of climate change," Wogofya told the revisit team, noting that the health sector was among the top priorities of the bank's social investments.

The CSR policy of NMB Bank is anchored on five pillars, which are education (and financial literacy), health, environment, agriculture, and entrepreneurship.

In line with national development priorities in the provision of quality healthcare, the lender finances the

supply of medical supplies and equipment to health facilities across the country with a clear understanding of bed capacity being one of the challenges in many public hospitals.

Part of the 12bn/- CSR investments it had made in 10 years to 2021 supported over 600 health facilities nationwide and 42 that were financed during 2020-2022 when the CSI budgets amounted to 6.3bn/- benefited over 210,000 people.

NMB also supports the health sector with roofing materials as it did in Mara Region where in 2022 it provided 30m/- for the construction of an MCH ward at Busawe Dispensary in Serengeti District.

Doctor-in-charge Juma Rajabu Ali said that when the modern facility opens next month (May), four mothers will be able to deliver at a go compared to 2-3 deliveries that are currently handled in a day.

The youthful medic said the other positive impact of the support will be a reduction of infant mortality, which is now 15-20 percent due to the long distances expectant mothers have to walk to get MCH care.

"The timely intervention of NMB Bank to support completion of this project has impressed both leaders and people in this area because of its relevance in their lives and the wellbeing of their families," a member of the project's implementation committee, Alexander Faustin Machungu said.

The chairperson of Busawe Village, Suto Richard, said what NMB did was not unique to them but also a rare development that motivated people to volunteer labor and other construction services.

"We are grateful for the support this bank has accorded us because soon pregnant mothers in this area and neighboring villages will no longer have to walk long distances to deliver their babies," Robina Mahemba Machota said.

Commenting on other CSR initiatives, the Branch Manager of NMB Mugumu Branch, John Nyoni, said they work closely with local authorities and leaders to address societal challenges in the spirit of creating a positive imprint in society.

By Jeffrey Moyo, Harare

WITH heavy sweat drenching his face and his shirt soaked in the sweat, 39-year-old Proud Ndukulani wrestled with a homemade knife, which he dipped in some used oil, before turning the glistening knife upon a rather tough and dusty tyre obtained from what he said was a forklift.

His assistant stood by his side as he (Ndukulani) cut some tough rubber from the giant tyre lying outside an open shade roofed with aging asbestos sheets at Juru Growth Point, located 52 km east of Harare in Zimbabwe's Goromonzi district in the country's Mashonaland East province.

From these rubber pieces, Ndukulani, operating his entity known as Sinyoro, said he made suspension bushings for vehicles of all shapes and sizes, while he also made the same for engine mountings, a business he said he has been running for the past three years.

At a popular nightclub known as CNN, a dressmaker in his 80s was busy on his sewing machine. A pile of clothes he was mending was scattered on his old wooden table, upon which also sat his old sewing machine, branded Singer, with customers, young and old, swarming around him.

Despite business confidence being at its lowest across Zimbabwe's towns and cities, backyard entrepreneurs' activities in remote areas are thriving, although they are contending with their own share of hurdles amid Zimbabwe's comatose economy.

"I make bushings for vehicle suspension and engine mounting. I have been in this business for the past three years," Ndukulani said as he wiped some sweat off his face using the back of his right hand.

He (Ndukulani) boasted of making about USD 300 to 400 each month at his workshop, housed in the shade once

Rural entrepreneurs thriving against all odds in Zimbabwe



Tapera Saizi, a carpenter stationed at Juru Growth Point, has managed to take care of his family through his rural business.

used as a market for vendors.

Forty-year-old Tapera Saizi, a carpenter also stationed at Juru Growth Point at his workshop named Madzibaba Furnitures, said he had come a long way with his enterprise.

For years, Juru Growth Point has become famed for its bustling activities as it teems with entrepreneurs of all shapes and sizes, some like Saizi, who is making wardrobes, kitchen cabinets, chairs, and beds.

For over two decades since the Zimbabwean government seized land from white commercial farmers in its quest to address land ownership imbalances, the economy

has taken a nosedive.

Dozens of industries shut down, leading to ballooning joblessness in the country, with the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) putting the rate of unemployment at 90 percent countrywide.

ZCTU is the primary trade union federation in Zimbabwe. Yet even so, the southern African nation's rural dwellers have endured, stepping up with survival means amid the mounting hardships.

Like 46-year-old Mashoko Kufazvinei, a proud owner of a vehicle repair workshop at Juru Growth Point, who said he had been operating his workshop for two decades.

"I started working on this business in 2004. I was working in the Midlands, where I trained as a motor mechanic and I had to come here in 2004 to set up my business," Kufazvinei said.

From the proceeds of his enterprise, he said he is paying for his children's education—five of them, while his first-born son, 24-year-old Simbarashe, is already working with him after completing his high school education.

Not only that, but Kufazvinei said that thanks to his motor repair enterprise, he has also built his own rural home, and he now owns a piece of land that he bought at Juru

Growth Point to build another family house.

As a Mazda open-truck vehicle drove into Kufazvinei's workshop, he said, "I have my own car, the one you are seeing arriving here, which I bought using proceeds from this business."

Like Saizi, who lamented that business was slow at Juru Growth Point, Kufazvinei also acknowledged that these days' things were hard as vehicle owners were without money to spend on fixing their vehicles.

For five years, Saizi said he has been operating as a carpenter at Juru Growth Point, and just like many, such as Kufazvinei, through his carpentry business, he has managed to take care of his family, paying fees for his five school-going children.

"We don't struggle to find at least a little money, even if we may fail to overcome all the difficulties. We won't fail to raise money to buy basics like salt and slippers for children and other basics," Saizi said.

But local authorities are not pleased with the rural entrepreneurs' endeavours, blaming them for triggering disorder, particularly at Juru Growth Point.

"These backyard entrepreneurs are often dirty and they don't want to work outside the center of the growth point where we allocate them space. They prefer being within the shopping center. Usually, the places we allocate them are far from the shops, but they want where there is activity where they can meet customers," Rose Hondo, a revenue officer at the council office at Juru Growth Point said.

As rural entrepreneurs thrive in this southern African nation, the country's permanent secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Mavis Sibanda, has gone on record in the media claiming the government is scaling up rural industrialization.

Birth, death, escape: Three women's struggle through Sudan's war

By Mat Nashed

On April 14, 2023, Yasmine* stepped off the plane and into the arms of her sister in Khartoum, Sudan's capital.

The Sudanese human rights activist was five months pregnant and living in a nearby country, yet she was happy to be home. She was looking forward to spending some quality time with her parents.

But the next day, her life and her country changed forever.

"I woke up to sounds of very heavy artillery at about 5 or 6am, and it lasted until 7 or 8am," Yasmine, 31, said over voice messages from Khartoum, where she still lives.

"I remember rushing to turn on Al Jazeera. They were talking about a heavy conflict."

The roar of fighter jets and crackle of gunfire she, her brother, sister and 2-year-old niece heard in their top-floor apartment confirmed Yasmine's worst nightmare. Sudan's civil war had started and Yasmine was torn between comforting her siblings and telling the world about what was happening.

She recalls having to stop a phone interview with a journalist from the BBC when she heard an army jet overhead.

"I remember screaming so loud in the interview when I saw the plane and we had to hang up," she said.

Looking back, Yasmine says she was terrified but not surprised when the violence erupted.

After months of brewing tensions, Sudan's army and the rival Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary had squared off, with no regard for civilians caught in the middle.

It was the collapse of a tense alliance which dated back to mass pro-democracy protests that overthrew autocratic President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019.

Shortly after his departure, a military-civilian government assumed control of the country. It was to govern for three years and hand power to an elected government.

But the army and RSF upended Sudan's frail democratic transition, jointly mounting a coup to topple the administration in October 2021.

Tensions soon heightened as they competed for foreign alliances, weapons and economic assets, trying to consolidate their power.

As the nation was roiled with protests against the coup and the coup masters quarrelled, the United Nations mediated a framework agreement to restore a transitional government.

The deal, signed in December 2022, effectively pitted the army against the RSF, specifying that the latter would have to be integrated into the former.

A major dispute over the timeline for the integration emerged as the army pushed for two years but the RSF insisted on 10.

Yasmine had been following the news closely in the days leading up to the war. She could see the RSF prepare for a confrontation by relocating many of its troops from the vast western region of Darfur - its historic stronghold - to Khartoum.

She could see the army digging in as it insisted its sole purpose in signing the framework agreement was to rein in the paramilitary, bringing the two forces closer to conflict.

In Yasmine's family home, as the bombing began, they all thought they would die at any moment.

"I was trying to comfort my sister because we were hearing bombing in our neighbourhood... We realised that this [war] isn't going to end soon," she said.

"I knew this war was going to end the lives of so many people I know."

Genesis: The rise of the RSF
When the war started in Khartoum, people across Darfur relived traumatic memories from the 2003 Darfur war. They knew they would not be spared.

In 2003, al-Bashir exploited ethnic tensions to undermine politi-



Noon* and the women in her family would hide for hours in a small room, terrified of being raped. This AI-generated photo is for representational purposes only and used to preserve the individual's safety

cal grievances, starting an inferno that devoured Darfur for years and killed about 300,000 people from armed conflict and the disease and famine the war brought, according to rights groups.

Darfur is often referred to as being inhabited by "Arab" and "non-Arab" tribes - both are Black, Muslim tribes who embrace two different ways of life and have lived side by side and intermarried for centuries.

The "Arab" tribes are traditionally camel herders or pastoralists while the "non-Arab" tribes are more sedentary farmers.

Some "non-Arab" tribes had long felt that their needs and demands were disproportionately ignored by the central government in Khartoum.

The built-up grievances led to an armed rebellion, which started when two rebel groups captured an airport in an attack on government troops in el-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur.

Spooked by how quickly the rebels captured the airport, al-Bashir recruited and armed "Arab" tribes for a violent counteroffensive.

At the time, Hind*, a human rights activist from West Darfur's Masalit "non-Arab" tribe, was in North Darfur attending university.

She said the "Arab" fighters - who are popularly known as "Janjaweed" or "devils on horseback" in Sudanese Arabic - had impunity to kill, rape and plunder "non-Arabs", often supported by the army's indiscriminate aerial bombardment.

Hind's uncle, a tribal elder, was among the victims at the start of the war. As he was heading to Central Darfur for a meeting of tribal chiefs hoping to mediate an end to the killing, he was ambushed and killed.

Hind, in North Darfur far from her family, feared for her father.

"The first time I came home from university in 2004, I hugged my father and started crying.

"There was a heavy Janjaweed presence ... they searched our house more than once. They even accused my father of supporting the armed movements," Hind said.

Hind's father survived the worst days of the war and lived a long life until he passed away from old age

in 2010.

In that same year, the International Criminal Court indicted al-Bashir for war crimes and genocide. But rather than rein in the Janjaweed, al-Bashir repackaged them as the RSF three years later.

Mohamad Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo, a relatively unknown "Arab" Darfur fighter, headed the new paramilitary, tasked with cracking down on rebellions across the country and protecting al-Bashir from a possible mutiny in the army.

In return, Hemedti was bestowed the title of "general" despite never attending military college. Over the years, he captured lucrative gold mines and leased out his fighters to regional wars, earning tens of millions of dollars.

Flush with wealth and power, the RSF quickly threatened the army for supremacy in Sudan.

Looking back, the army's decision to outsource a counter-rebellion to "Arab" tribal militias was fateful - 20 years after terrorising civilians in Darfur as bedfellows, they were fighting as foes.

When the war started, Hind knew that neither side cared about civilians in Darfur, but she was more scared of the RSF.

Despite the RSF's efforts to rebrand, for foreign audiences, as a legitimate, benevolent fighting force, she knew they were still "Janjaweed". After university, Hind had spent two decades documenting their human rights violations in Darfur, moving to the nearby town of Mourni.

"My heart was telling me that a catastrophe was going to happen," she told said.

The RSF began summary killings, rape and plunder, just as it did in 2003, and Hind's tribe, the Masalit, were targeted.

The paramilitary seemed to want to exploit the war to drive the Masalit off their land and consolidate control over agricultural and water resources.

On June 15, the group killed West Darfur Governor Khamis Abbakr - a Masalit - moments after he accused the RSF of genocide against his tribe on a live broadcast.

Hours after the killing, footage emerged of an RSF truck driving

over Abbakr's corpse while women threw rocks at his mutilated body.

The assassination sent tens of thousands of Masalit fleeing the capital al-Geneina. Many were shot as they tried to get away.

A communications blackout meant Hind did not know that her brother was among those killed by the RSF until she met his fleeing neighbour in Mourni about a week later.

Escape: Running to the unknown
Hind had no time to grieve for her brother.

Three days after learning about his death, the RSF attacked Mourni on June 26.

Masalit villagers picked up weapons and fought alongside the Sudanese Alliance, an armed group formed to protect the Masalit and headed by Abbakr before he was killed.

But Hind knew they were no match for the RSF, a rich, powerful paramilitary with decades of experience.

As artillery shells and bullets rained down, Hind hid under her bed with her sister and niece as they listened to the shells landing on their roof.

By noon, they made a run for it, taking their mother and their brother's children and heading for the mountains. At sundown they moved on, fearing the RSF would look for civilians there.

They walked for miles until they reached a displacement camp east of Mourni; Hind's feet and legs were swollen from the long walk but she did not have time to nurse her pain. She had to plan an escape.

"I stayed with a relative [in the displacement camp] for 21 days. I didn't tell anybody where I was because I heard people in the camp were helping the RSF find activists and fighters.

"They had pictures of the people they were looking for - I was one of them," she said.

Hind eventually found a smuggler "close to the Janjaweed" who agreed to drive her to al-Geneina, where the violence had somewhat died down.

In exchange, she handed over her precious gold ring, a gift from an old love and the one valuable she had left.

As they pulled out of the camp, Hind crouched in the back to avoid being seen by RSF fighters. Once they reached al-Geneina, she saw a message spray-painted across the walls of a looted and deserted street market.

Hind stayed with a friend in al-Geneina and borrowed their car the next day to go to Mourni and rescue her family, taking them to Nyala, the capital of South Darfur.

Birth: Finding meaning in suffering

By September 2023, most middle-class civilians had fled Khartoum but Yasmine stayed behind with her newborn.

Khartoum had turned into a bloody, lawless, violent shell of itself. The RSF was in control and its fighters seizing homes and controlling food markets - inflating the price of goods to profiteer from the poor and desperate.

Its fighters also looted the cars, trucks and motorbikes in the city, leaving no form of transport except donkey carts.

Yasmine joined one of the emergency response rooms (ERR), civil initiatives set up by activists at the start of the war to help civilians by moving them to safety or providing help.

The ERRs also collected donations to finance hundreds of soup kitchens across Khartoum State, a vital source of food for civilians going hungry because aid was not reaching them.

"It was so difficult to start the soup kitchens... but it was all worth the risk. It helps people process the war and I feel honoured and blessed to be part of this experience," Yasmine said.

Failure: The fall of Gezira

Just south of Khartoum, a young journalist named Noon* was working in Gezira State's capital Wad Madani, an hour's drive away from her family who lived in Hasaheesa to the north.

Noon, a writer, knew her work was dangerous, but she never told her family about the risks she was taking to cover all aspects of the war. Like other journalists, she was under surveillance and worried about being arrested but Noon continued to report, knowing what she did mattered.

"Military intelligence always accused me [of being some sort of spy] at every checkpoint," she said. "They would constantly question my identity and the validity of my travel documents."

Being a woman, she faced an extra, sexual, layer of harassment at checkpoints, she said, often being called a "Habashiyaa" - a term describing a woman from Eritrea or Ethiopia - and accused of providing the RSF with sexual favours.

Mustering: Popular mobilisation

In March, Noon left Hasaheesa to look for work as a journalist to support her family.

She eventually reached Kassala State in east Sudan, where panic and militarisation were widespread.

After the fall of Wad Madani, men, women and children across eastern, central and northern Sudan picked up weapons in fear that the army would not be able to protect

them from the RSF. They became known as the "mustanfireen".

"There is total chaos right now," Noon said. "Every night, I can hear them shooting [in the air] and banging cars. The [mustanfireen] often resist any sort of [command structure] and will soon pose a threat to peace and security in Sudan."

Figures from Sudan's Islamic movement exploited the panic amid reports of RSF abuses to remobilise fighters and recruit civilians, telling communities in River Nile State that the RSF would occupy their villages, kill their children and rape their women.

The speeches would incite hatred and suspicion against poor workers, often from Darfur and Kordofan, regions where the RSF recruits from its "Arab" tribal base. The governor of River Nile said in a speech that beggars, informal workers and veiled women were RSF collaborators.

Liberation: Freedom or reprisal?

With the help of the mustanfireen, the Sudanese army has begun to turn the tide in the war. In February and March, it won two significant battles in Omdurman, the largest city in Sudan and part of the national capital region known collectively as Khartoum.

After both victories, photos emerged of Sudanese civilians greeting the army as liberators, relieved to no longer live under the lawless RSF. But not everybody felt safe once the army arrived.

The mustanfireen looted furniture from empty houses as well as aid from a convoy that received army clearance to pass through Omdurman to reach Darfur, according to a worker at a UN agency who spoke on condition of anonymity to not jeopardise aid access.

In both cases, army troops did not attempt to stop the mustanfireen, presumably out of fear of triggering a backlash, said Suliman Baldo, an expert on Sudan.

"The army is going to have a problem in the future if it is unable to discipline its fighters," he said. "We haven't seen any disciplinary measures taken by the army against their fighters when they commit more serious crimes, such as executing RSF prisoners or people suspected of being informers for the RSF."

Just across a bridge from Omdurman, activists and civilians have tried to adjust to life under RSF rule in Khartoum. Many know RSF fighters in their neighbourhoods and are friendly with them to try to pacify them.

Aid volunteers are still detained, robbed and attacked sometimes, yet most can help their communities without fear of being shut down.

Many may welcome the army as liberators if they wage a violent campaign to retake the entire national capital. However, "People are afraid that the army would slaughter them if they came here", Yasmine said.

"The people that stayed here after the war - especially those working in mutual aid - have given me such relief," she said, adding: "I just feel very privileged to be alive."



Thursday 18 April 2024

CAG uncovers lending, deposits loopholes, capital inadequacy on gov't owned banks

By Guardian Reporter

THE Controller Auditor General (CAG) has uncovered various credits issuance and deposits taking loopholes, over expenditure among three state-owned commercial banks and a financial institution, as well as capital inadequacy ratio on the development bank.

These irregularities might result into increased risks of losses among commercial banks and the capital inadequacy bank to be put under the statutory administration of BOT.

In its audit report for financial year 2022/2023, the CAG has therefore recommended various measures that the government and the boards of directors need to take in order to ensure efficient operations of state owned banks in accordance with the industry's laws and regulations as well as banks corporate policies.

Uninsured deposits

The CAG review has found that TIB Development Bank and Tanzania Agricultural Bank (TADB) accept fixed deposits from customers that take more than one year to mature, but they are not protected by Deposit Insurance Board (DIB). TIB Development Bank and TADB argued that the accepted deposits were maintained by the commercial banks where their accounts were held and therefore the premiums on their deposits are paid by commercial banks.

However, the CAG review noted that the deposits in commercial banks were owned by respective banks and not individual customers holding deposits.

"I am concerned about the risk of exposing depositors not being covered by the insurance plan as required by the law and hence subjected to loss in case of bank failure," CAG Charles Kichere revealed.

"I recommend that DIB hold a consultative meeting with TIB Development, TADB and Bank of



Lillian Mbassy, Acting Managing Director, TIB Development



Frank Nyabundege, Managing Director TADB



Ester Mang'anya, Managing Director, Azania Bank



Adam Mihayo, Managing Director, TCB

Tanzania to agree on the appropriate modality of securing their customer's deposits."

Section 38 (1) of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 requires every bank or financial institution to contribute to the DIB and to pay into the fund such annual amount and at such times, as the board may determine.

The CAG review found that DIB collected premiums directly from only 46 out of 48 banks for financial institutions but the two banks were missing.

TIB Development Bank's inadequacy capital

The CAG report has also discovered that TIB Development Bank core capital as at 31 December 2023 was only 88.12bn/- which is below the minimum regulatory capital requirement of 200bn/- that fall short by 111.88bn/- equivalent to 127 percent.

Regulation 22(1) of Banking and Financial Institutions (Development Finance) Regulations, 2021 details that a development finance institution shall commence operations with and always maintain a minimum core capital of not less than 200bn/-, or such higher amount as the bank may determine.

Further, the bank explained that the Ministry of Finance through Treasury Registrar (TR) aims to disburse 118bn/- through the government budget of 2023/24, to improve capital position as the core

capital has been affected by the recurring losses.

Also, CAG noticed a balance of 37bn/- which is not recovered since 2019, a period of five years from the Treasury Registrar.

In 2019 TR was obligated to pay 37bn/- to TIB Development Bank being an amount that it owed the TIB Corporate Bank Limited that ceased its operations and taken over by Tanzania Commercial Bank.

However, until my audit on 6th March 2024, the amount was still not settled by TR, according to CAG report.

TIB Development Bank explained that the equity investment worth 37bn/- was recorded as receivable from the TR following the TR 99 Controller and Auditor General GR/PA/2022/23 commitment via letter with Re No CAB.25/337/01 dated 5 May 2021, but up to March 2024 the funds had not been released.

"Unfavourable capital adequacy ratio poses a risk for the development bank to lose its eligibility to operate, therefore, it might cause the Bank to be put under the statutory administration of BOT," CAG report alerts.

In addition, long outstanding receivable of 37bn/- is crucial to TIB Development Bank as it could improve the core capital of the Bank.

According to CAG Kichere, TIB Development Group continued making a loss before tax, in 2023 the loss amounted to 5.92bn/-

(2022: 131.97bn/-).

The Group has accumulated losses of 221.62bn/- b (2022: accumulated losses of 215.03bn/-).

While Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB) made a loss before tax of 41.40bn/- (2022 profit before tax of 6.87bn/-) an increase of 48.27bn/- equivalent to 703 percent.

The reported loss by TCB was mainly contributed by impairment loss from non-performing loans inherited from merger of TIB corporate bank.

Non-Performing Loans (NPLs)

The Non-Performing Loans (NPL) records indicate that TIB Development Bank had a ratio of 21.50 percent as of 31 December 2023 (2022: 20.28 percent), while Azania Bank had NPLs ratio improved to 7.44 percent as of 31 December 2023 (2022: 18.25 percent).

"Despite the notable decrease in NPL ratios at Azania Bank from the preceding year, I observed that both banks still exceeded the acceptable threshold set by the Bank of Tanzania (BOT) which is 5 percent," CAG said.

TIB Development Bank and Azania Bank altogether had Non-Performing Loans of 206.04bn/- (2022: NPL 262.72bn/-), a decrease of 56.68bn/-.

Loopholes in lending

The audit report has uncovered that TCB extended loans amounting to 728.07bn/- to five sectors namely personal, transportation

and communication, hotels, restaurant and tourism, building and construction, as well as education, which exceeded the approved limits set out in the TCB Policy and were disbursed without obtaining the board's approval.

Also, the bank issued loans totaling 6.21bn/- to the sectors including warehousing and storage, water, electricity, fishing and health, which are neither approved by the board nor addressed in the existing Lending Manual.

TCB explained that the sectors with their corresponding limits were updated in the Lending Manual 2023 to be in line with sectors allocated by the Regulator in their reporting schedules while the Lending Manual 2023 was already approved internally awaiting approval from the Regulator.

TCB also stated that the updated sectors include all sectors mentioned as unapproved in the findings and the TCB undertakes to regularize sectors by encouraging borrowing in other sectors.

CAG observed that there is an increased risk of potential losses for loans issued to unapproved sectors since the loans disbursed above limit involve large volume.

"I recommend that TCB strengthens controls on management of the issued loans including monitoring and tracking the issued loans and ensure loans are issued after the appropriate approval of the Board of Directors and fall within the limit stipulated in the Policy," said the

CAG.

The CAG also said TCB provided loan facilities amounting to 6.56bn/- to six customers who had not provided collaterals as stipulated in the loans contract.

Also, the bank extended additional loans amounting to 5.50bn/- to two customers without revising their mortgage deeds to secure the new liabilities.

Further, valuation reports and spouse consent of the pledged securities of six corporate customers involving 8.34bn/- were not perfect as required by the Lending Manual (2022).

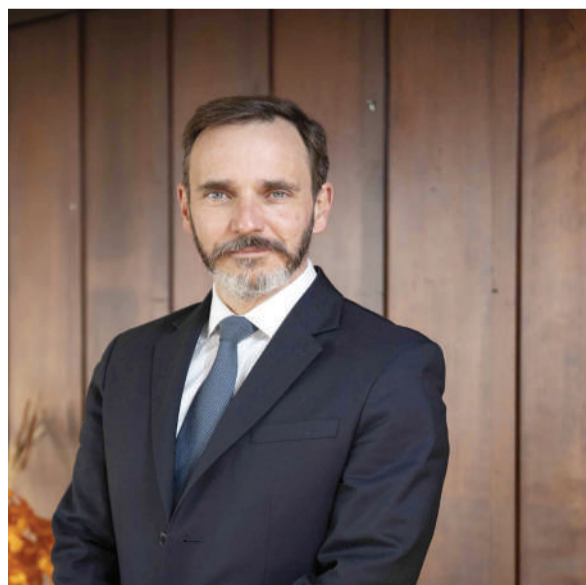
Also, the CAG review found that Azania Bank's PLC collateral information used in the computation of the expected credit losses was incomplete as it missed documents such as the valuation reports and insurance covers involving 383.22bn/- from 60 borrowers.

"I am of the view that incomplete collateral documents create a credit risk that the bank may not be able to recover the loan in the event of default. I recommend Azania Bank Plc and Tanzania Commercial Bank ensure the loans issued are backed up by adequate and quality securities; and controls on management of the issued loans including monitoring and tracking of the issued loans and its collaterals are strengthened," said CAG Kichere.

The audit report also uncovers that SELF Microfinance had credit facilities amounting to 38.89bn/- that were extended to 4252 customers, but the microfinance did not submit the borrowers' credit information to the Credit Reference Bureau (CRB) which provides a room for borrowers to engage into another credit facilities from other microfinances/banks.

Also, SELF MF systems, Oracle and IMPAS systems that were aimed to generate reports with detailed information to be uploaded in the Credit Reference Bureau were not properly configured to generate such report, the report says.

Global economy remains resilient despite uneven growth, challenges ahead



By Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas

DESPITE gloomy predictions, the global economy remains remarkably resilient, with steady growth and inflation slowing almost as quickly as it rose.

The journey has been

eventful, starting with supply-chain disruptions in the aftermath of the pandemic, an energy and food crisis triggered by Russia's war on Ukraine, a considerable surge in inflation, followed by a globally synchronized monetary policy tightening.

Global growth bottomed out at the end of 2022, at 2.3 percent, shortly after median headline inflation peaked at 9.4 percent.

According to our latest World Economic Outlook projections, growth this year and next will hold steady at 3.2 percent, with median headline inflation declining from 2.8 percent at the end of 2024 to 2.4 percent at the end of 2025. Most indicators continue to point to a soft landing.

We also project less economic scarring from the crises of the past four years, although estimates vary across countries. The US economy has already surged past its pre-pandemic trend. But we now estimate that there will be more scarring for low-income developing countries, many of which are still struggling to turn the page from the pandemic and cost-of-living crises.

Resilient growth and rapid disinflation point toward favorable supply developments, including the fading of energy price shocks, and a striking rebound in labor supply supported by strong immigration in many advanced economies.

Monetary policy actions have helped anchor inflation expectations even if its transmission may have been more muted, as fixed-rate mortgages became more prevalent.

Despite these welcome developments, numerous challenges remain, and decisive actions are needed.

Inflation risks remain

Bringing inflation back to target should remain the priority. While inflation trends are encouraging, we are not there yet. Somewhat worryingly, progress toward inflation targets has somewhat stalled since the beginning of

World Economic Outlook Growth Projections

	2023	2024	2025
World Output	3.2	3.2	3.2
Advanced Economies	1.6	1.7	1.8
United States	2.5	2.7	1.9
Euro Area	0.4	0.8	1.5
Germany	-0.3	0.2	1.3
France	0.9	0.7	1.4
Italy	0.9	0.7	0.7
Spain	2.5	1.9	2.1
Japan	1.9	0.9	1.0
United Kingdom	0.1	0.5	1.5
Canada	1.1	1.2	2.3
Other Advanced Economies	1.8	2.0	2.4
Emerging Market and Developing Economies	4.3	4.2	4.2
Emerging and Developing Asia	5.6	5.2	4.9
China	5.2	4.6	4.1
India	7.8	6.8	6.5
Emerging and Developing Europe	3.2	3.1	2.8
Russia	3.6	3.2	1.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	2.3	2.0	2.5
Brazil	2.9	2.2	2.1
Mexico	3.2	2.4	1.4
Middle East and Central Asia	2.0	2.8	4.2
Saudi Arabia	-0.8	2.6	6.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.4	3.8	4.0
Nigeria	2.9	3.3	3.0
South Africa	0.6	0.9	1.2
Memorandum			
Emerging Market and Middle-Income Economies	4.4	4.1	4.1
Low-Income Developing Countries	4.0	4.7	5.2

Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook, April 2024

Note: For India, data and forecasts are presented on a fiscal year basis, with FY 2023/24 starting in April 2023; when in the 2023 column, India's growth projections are 6.7 percent in 2024 and 6.3 percent in 2025 based on calendar year.

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the year.

This could be a temporary setback, but there are reasons to remain vigilant. Most of the good news on inflation came from the decline in energy prices and in goods inflation. The latter has been helped by easing supply-chain frictions, as well as by the decline in Chinese export prices.

But oil prices have been rising recently in part due to geopolitical tensions and services inflation remains stubbornly high. Further trade restrictions on Chinese exports could also push up goods inflation.

Economic divergences widen

The resilient global economy also masks stark divergence across countries.

The strong recent performance of the United States reflects robust productivity and employment growth, but also strong demand in an economy that remains overheated. This calls for a cautious and gradual approach to easing by the Federal Reserve.

The fiscal stance, out of line with long-term fiscal sustainability, is of particular concern. It raises short-term risks to the disinflation process, as well as longer-term fiscal and financial stability risks for the global economy. Something will have to give.

Growth in the euro area will rebound but from very low levels, as past shocks, and tight monetary policy weigh on activity. Continued high wage growth and persistent services inflation could delay the return of inflation to target.

However, unlike in the United States, there is little evidence of overheating, and the European Central Bank will need to carefully calibrate the pivot toward monetary easing to avoid an inflation undershoot. While labor markets appear strong, that strength could prove illusory if European firms have been hoarding labor in anticipation of a pickup in activity that does not materialize.

China's economy remains affected by the downturn in its property sector. Credit booms and busts never resolve themselves quickly, and this one is no exception. Domestic demand will remain lackluster unless strong measures address the root cause.

With depressed domestic demand, external surpluses could well rise. The risk is that this will further exacerbate trade tensions in an already fraught geopolitical environment. To be continued

Professor Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas (pictured), is an economic counsellor and director of research at IMF. This article is based on chapter one of the April 2024 World Economic Outlook.

WHY CREDIT CARDS ARE BETTER THAN DEBIT CARDS - PART 2

BY KELVIN MKWAWA

Last week, we saw that credit card usage in Africa trails other continents significantly, mostly because of the extremely rural nature of most residences. I shared that in Africa, Tanzania has the lowest average percent of people aged 15+ who have a credit card which is 0.31 percent per TheGlobalEconomy.com study in 2021.

Nonetheless, if you have an opportunity to choose between debit cards and credit cards on your next purchase, I would propose you choose credit cards as I believe credit cards are better than debit cards in many ways.

Last week I shared two reasons why I think credit cards are better than debit cards: credit cards offer better safeguards against theft than debit cards, and credit cards give a consumer more power to dispute charges.

With credit cards, a customer does not have to worry about how many days it has been since fraudulent charges have appeared as fraudulent charges are covered by credit card issuers, and since credit cards are not connected to a customer's checking/saving account, customer's balances on their bank's account are not affected by fraudulent charges.

But if a thief gets hold of a customer's debit card and wipes out the checking account, the customer

will have no cash to spend until the bank clears up the theft and gives the customer his/her money back.

If a customer uses a credit card to buy something and if something goes wrong with the item the customer bought, the customer can dispute the charges to the bank who will work directly/indirectly (through credit card networks) with the vendor or manufacturer to resolve the issue. This week I will share one more reason why I think credit cards are better than debit cards.

Credit Cards don't have Steep Holds Many credit cards offer certain purchase and travel protections than debit cards hence for someone who travels a lot, credit cards



Kelvin Mkwawa

should be a preferable bank card to use. In addition, when a customer is using a debit card at international hotels and rental car agencies,

the merchant will place a hold on the customer's account for a specified amount to guarantee/confirm that the customer's checking account has sufficient funds.

The hold can be more than twice the customer's purchase amount; for example, a purchase of \$10 can result in a hold of \$30. Also, some merchants like hotels will put a block on the customer's account for the total of your estimated bill until the customer checks out and the charge clears the account.

For example, if a customer stays at a hotel that costs about \$50 per night and plans to stay for five (5) nights, then the hotel will put a "block" on the customer's debit card for at least \$250. This is hindering the customer's

ability to spend that "block" amount on his/her checking account until the day the customers check out.

On the other hand, merchants do not put a "hold" or "block" on credit cards. With credit cards, merchants do charge the exact amount at the time of the purchase hence the customers know exactly the available balance to use for the next purchases.

To summarize, for the past two weeks, we have seen when a customer purchases with a debit card, it takes the money directly out of your bank account. While, when the customer purchases with a credit card, it takes the money out of a credit card line which is separate from a customer's

bank account.

Also, I shared that both banks' cards- debit and credit cards- are important and useful in our daily lives but I believe credit cards are better than debit cards.

Credit cards are better than debit cards because credit cards offer better safeguards against theft than debit cards, offer more power to dispute charges, offer certain travel protections than debit cards, and do not have steep holds and blocks like debit cards on international hotels and rental agencies.

Kelvin Mkwawa is the Seasoned Banker based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached through Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com

Msalala DED encourages voluntary tax compliance

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE District Executive Director (DED) of Msalala Council, Khamis Katimba, is encouraging residents to voluntarily pay fees, levies, and taxes; as funds collected, are vital for supporting the council's initiatives to improve development within the community.

Katimba delivered this message during the weekend at the unveiling of Isaka's new bus stand. He emphasized that the government is working hard to fulfill its promises and achieve its goals, with funding coming from the fees and taxes paid by citizens.

Katimba emphasized the importance of citizen contribution to government funding by remarking: "Government belongs to the people. It is crucial that we pay our levies and avoid tax evasion. These funds support vital social development projects, such as the one being inaugurated today." He said Isaka bus stand is one of the government's long-term plans and its opening will increase the economy of not only individuals but also the government.

"I call on people of Msalala Council and the surrounding areas to use this stand because its presence will be one of the reasons for the growth of the Isaka Township," he said.

The director said that among other things, the stand is aimed at providing transport and transportation services and is the main council's source of income.

He promised that in collaboration with his team of experts will ensure that revenues are collected and used as directed by the government.

He also said until March 31, 2024, the council had already collected 4.6bn/- which is equivalent to 91

percent of general fund. The Msalala Revenue Officer, Salehe Msole, thanked the council's leadership for emphasizing the excellent performance of its employees which has helped to increase the council's revenue collection.

"The clear truth is that, the cooperation of the Chairman of the Council, Mibako Mabubu and our director (Katimba) as well as the staff has greatly helped this council, especially to put the first priority in the daily work," he said.

He said that the situation has led to good management of income, especially the emphasis of each councilor in his area to ensure that government fees are paid as required.

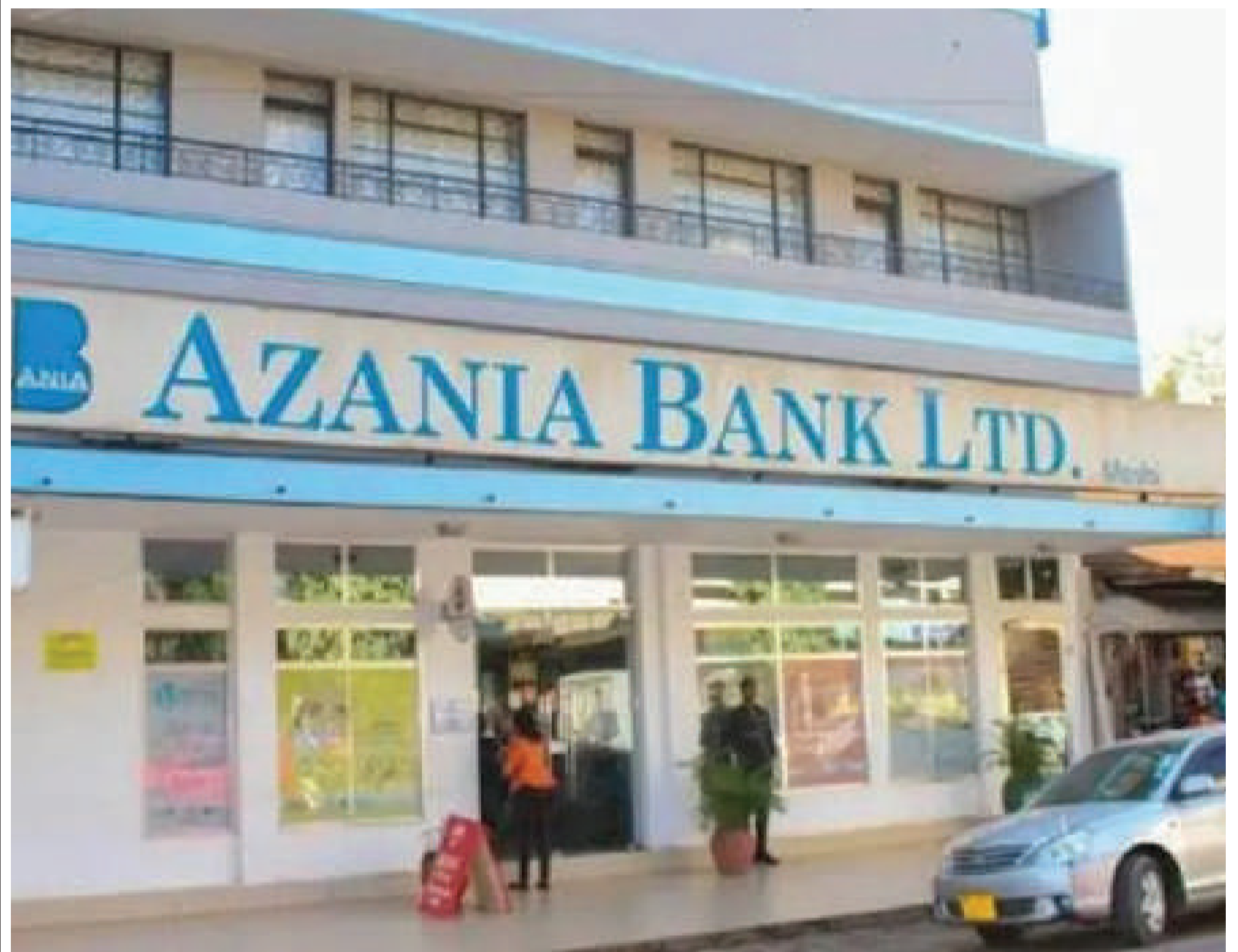
The revenue officer said the director of the council created a task force that he oversees.

"I am in charge of the squad, we patrol day and night to ensure that we control the tax evasion, since we started we have arrest at least four cars, so I call on businessmen to pay council fees voluntarily to build the economy of our country," he said.

The official guest at the opening of the stand, Majuto Pazi, who is the Councilor of Isaka Ward, asked people of Isaka to use the opportunity of the stand to increase their income.

He said that the completion of the stand is a joint effort of the executive director, councilors, council experts at village and ward levels, village chairmen and all citizens.

"I thank President Samia for bringing funds to facilitate the construction of this stand, I also thank Msalala Member of Parliament, Idd Kassim Idd for influencing, managing and ensuring that the government and investors provide funds on time to implement projects within the council," he said.



Azania Bank records 7.3bn/- net profit in three months

By Guardian Reporter

AZANIA Bank has reported a net income after income tax amounting to 7.3bn/- during the first quarter of this year, compared to 6.9bn/- recorded during similar quarter of last year.

Unaudited financial statement for the quarter ended on 31st March 2024, the increase of profitability resulted from growth of both funded and non-funded incomes, which resulted into an operating profit

of 9.8bn/- compared to 7.2bn/- respectively.

Funded income (net interest income) amounted to 22.86bn/- during the first quarter of this year, compared to 18.34bn/- recorded during the first quarter of last year, while, non-interest income nearly doubled to 10bn/- compared to 5.2bn/-.

The sharp increase of non-funded income resulted from nearly tripled foreign exchange profit, growth of income from fees and commissions, dividend

income and highest growth of other operating income.

Fees and commission amounted to 5bn/- during the first quarter of this year, higher than 3bn/- recorded during the first quarter of this year, while foreign exchange profit and other operating income reached to 3bn/- and 2bn/- respectively from 1.6bn/ and 554m/- respectively.

Basic earnings per share also slightly gained to 158/- from 151/- while two branches were

added during the period, which translated into increase of employees to 627 from 570 respectively.

The statement shows the bank's total assets amounted to 2.2tr/- during the first quarter of this year, compared to 2.1trn/- recorded during the fourth quarter of last year.

Loans, advances and overdrafts increased to 1.68trn/- during the first quarter of this year, from 1.62trn/- in the fourth quarter of last year, while in-

vestment in government securities amounted to 225bn/-.

The statement shows, the bank also managed to increase its customer deposits mobilization, as during the first quarter of this year, they amounted to 1.59trn/- compared to 1.54trn/- in the fourth quarter of last year.

Shareholders' fund amounted to 305bn/- during the first quarter of 2024, compared to 298bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year.

Firm launches home, office fiber internet

By Guardian Correspondent

TIGO, a local telecommunication firm, has introduced a fiber-to-home and office internet service, aimed at enhancing connectivity for households and businesses by offering a reliable and seamless internet experience.

The ground-breaking service underscores Tigo's commitment to support the digital transformation in Tanzania with the deployment of cutting-edge technologies and services benefiting

every consumer and business in their localities.

Yesterday, Tigo's Chief Executive Officer, Kamal Okba, expressed his pride in the company being the pioneering telecommunication service provider in Tanzania to introduce this innovative service.

Okba stated, "By introducing this service, we are solidifying our position as leaders in digital lifestyle transformation and supporting the digital Tanzania agenda."

Speaking during the launch, Head of Brand and Communication, Anna Loya, she said that service will help and take another level people who doing business in the country.

"We are commitment to innovation and customer satisfaction, we have invested extensively in deploying state-of-the-art fiber technology to deliver unparalleled connectivity experiences empowering businesses and households with enhanced productivity and collaboration capabilities," she noted, adding,

"The new Tigo Fiber service promise ultra-fast stable internet speed, unmatched customer services and support to revolutionize the way Tanzanians connect and engage with the digital world."

The initial recipients of Tigo's fiber internet service will be the residents of Mbweni town and its surrounding areas in Dar es Salaam. The second phase will extend to include Sinza, Mbezi, Goba estates, and subsequently, other regions in the country.

'Understanding basics of Tanzania's venture capital'

By Irene Gunze

STARTUPS and small businesses in Tanzania often struggle to find the necessary funding to grow their businesses. Many are unaware of the concept of venture capital, a key source of funding for businesses looking to scale.

In this article, we aim to shed light on the importance of venture capital in Tanzania and highlight some of the key players in the industry. We will also discuss the challenges and opportunities that exist for venture capital in the country, providing valuable insights for entrepreneurs looking to take their businesses to the next level.

What is venture capital?

Venture capital is a form of financing that provides funding to startups and small businesses with high growth potential. This type of financing is usually provided by investors or venture capital firms that are willing to take on the risks associated with investing in early-stage companies. In exchange for their investment, these investors receive an ownership stake in the company.

Legal framework for venture capital

The legal framework for venture capital in the country is governed by various laws and regulations such as The Companies Act, (Act No. 12 of 2002, Cap 212), which provides for the regulation of companies in Tanzania. It sets out the requirements for the incorporation and management of companies, including venture capital firms.

There is also The Investment Act (No. 10 of 2022), which provides for the regula-



Premier Kassim Majaliwa officiated the Future Ready Summit 2024 in Dar es Salaam, designed to support startups in building profitable businesses. File Photo

tion of foreign investments in Tanzania. It sets out the requirements for foreign investors, including venture capital firms, to register their investments with the Tanzania Investment Centre.

On the other hand, The Capital Markets and Securities Act, Cap 79, R.E 2002 also play a vital role as it provides for the regulation of securities and capital markets in Tanzania. It sets out the requirements for venture capital firms to register with the Capital Markets and Securities Authority and comply with securities laws and regulations.

Legal challenges facing venture capital firms

Despite the existence of laws and regulations governing venture capital in Tanzania, there are still several legal challenges facing venture capital firms. Some of these challenges include the following:

Limited legal and regulatory frameworks

The legal and regulatory frameworks governing venture capital in Tanzania are still relatively new and underdeveloped. This can create uncertainty for both investors and investee companies.

Contract enforcement

Contract enforcement in Tanzania can be challenging, particularly for foreign investors. This can create risks for venture capital firms and discourage investment.

Intellectual property protection

Intellectual property protection in Tanzania is still developing. This can make it challenging for venture capital firms to protect their investments and the intellectual property of investee companies.

How does venture capital operate?

Venture capital in Tanzania operates similarly to other countries. The process typically involves the following steps:

Sourcing potential investment opportunities

Venture capital firms in Tanzania source potential investment opportunities through various channels such as referrals, industry events, and business plan competitions. They usually look for startups and small businesses with high growth potential in sectors such as technology, healthcare, and agriculture.

Conducting due diligence

Once a potential investment opportunity is identified, the venture capital firm conducts due diligence to assess the viability of the investment. This process involves analyzing the financials, management team, market potential, and scalability of the company.

Negotiating terms of investment

If the investment opportunity is deemed viable, the venture capital firm negotiates the terms of the investment with the company. The terms usually include the amount

of investment, equity ownership percentage, and expected return on investment.

Providing ongoing support

Once the investment is made, the venture capital firm provides ongoing support to the company. This support includes providing access to networks, resources, and expertise to help the company grow and achieve its potential.

Key players in Tanzania's venture capital

There are several venture capital firms operating in Tanzania, both domestic and international. Some of the key players in the industry include GroFin Tanzania, a venture capital firm that provides financing and support to small and medium-sized enterprises in Tanzania. They focus on sectors such as healthcare, education, and agribusiness.

Another key player includes Savannah Fund, an Africa-focused venture capital firm that invests in early-stage technology startups. The fund has made several investments in Tanzania, including in companies such as JUMO and Mkopa.

Tanzanian Venture Capital Network is also a player in the field. It is a network of venture capital firms and investors in Tanzania. It aims to promote the growth of venture capital in the country by providing support and resources to members.

Challenges and opportunities

Despite the potential benefits of venture capital, there are several challenges facing its development in Tanzania. Some of these challenges include a limited pool of capital available for investment in Tanzania, which limits the number of investment opportunities available to venture capital firms.

Another challenge is related to underdeveloped legal and regulatory frameworks, whereby it still relatively new and underdeveloped, hence create uncertainty for both investors and investee companies.

Venture capital in Tanzania also face shortage of high-quality investment opportunities; this makes it challenging for venture capital firms to find viable investment opportunities.

Despite these challenges, there are several opportunities for the growth and development of venture capital in the country which include increased investment in domestic venture capital firms, the development of appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks, and collaboration between government, private sector, and international organizations.

With increased investment in domestic venture capital firms, the development of appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks, and collaboration between government, private sector, and international organizations, venture capital can contribute to the growth and success of Tanzania's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The potential benefits of venture capital in Tanzania include job creation, increased economic growth, and the development of innovative solutions to local and regional challenges.

Irene Gunze is an Advocate and Head of Corporate Services from Rive & Co, a law firm known for its commitment to trust, credibility, and innovation in providing top-tier legal services. This article is for informational purposes only. For personalized legal advice, consult a qualified professional.

Local group triumphs with international market growth

By Beatrice Philemon

At least members of Upendo Processing Group in the Kisarawe District, Coast Region, now have a reason to smile after securing a significant market for dried fruits, cinnamon, cashew nuts, turmeric, and ginger in Ireland, Germany, the UK, and India.

Yesterday in the Coast Region, Lydia Jacob, the chairperson of the group, spoke to our journalist and revealed that they were facing challenges in accessing international markets for their products.

"We are thrilled to have secured a significant market for dried fruits, cashew nuts, cinnamon, and ginger in these countries. However, our main challenge lies in the absence of essential machinery such as fruit and vegetable drying machines, cashew grading machines, cashew nut boiler machines, cashew nut drying machines, cashew nut cutting machines, cashew nut shelling machines, cashew peeling machines, and sunflower oil extraction machines," she explained.

So far, the group has received orders from Germany for a total of 10 tons of cashew nuts, fruits, and vegetables, Ireland for one ton of various spices, India for 100 tons of cashew nuts, and the UK, where they have already exported 800 kg of cashew nuts.

Currently, they are seeking donors to support the acquisition of advanced machines that will enable them to manufacture high-quality products that meet international standards. By investing in these machines, they will not only improve their own businesses but also pave the way for economic growth in their communities by utilizing locally sourced materials.

So far a total of 106 hectares of land has been allocated for organic horticulture and cashew nut farming at Masizi village, Mzenga Ward in Kisarawe District for domestic and international markets.

"Those who wish to support us can do so, our members have successfully cultivated a variety of crops such as cowpeas, amaranth, nightshade, jackfruits, mangoes, pawpaw, cashew nuts, banana, sunflower, and other crops for both domestic consumption and commercial purposes," she noted.

Jacob lamented that despite the vast number of orders pouring in from various regions domestically and internationally, the company would not be able to meet the demand due to a lack of vegetable and fruit drying equipment, as well as the necessary food processing infrastructure, particularly for cashew nuts.

She urged various stakeholders to explore opportunities to support women and youth engaged in organic horticulture by visiting their group.

"In doing so, stakeholders can comprehend the challenges faced by these individuals and offer the required support. Additionally, she recommended providing training programs to assist them in improving the quality of their produce to meet international standards," she clarified.

She elaborated on additional challenges faced by these business owners, stating that they require food processing infrastructure such as a food processing laboratory to assess moisture levels in their crops and ensure food safety measures are met.



Akiba Commercial Bank Plc managing director Silvest Arumasi (2nd - L) and chief commercial manager Webster Kaunga (2nd - R) during the ACB Visa Card launch in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Coffee board targets to produce 300,000 tons by 2026

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) is implementing a strategy seeking to heighten production of coffee beans from the currently 81,000 tons to a total of 300,000 tons by 2025/26 harvesting season.

The strategy aimed to stabilize the country's position in the international coffee markets through increasing quality in the production of the coffee beans in order to attract satisfying prices.

The strategy was unveiled by Primus Kimaryo, the TCB Director General (DG) during his remarks at the 14th General Meeting 2014 of the coffee stakeholders in Tanzania, convened in Dodoma Capital City.

Held under the theme of 'Proper Application of Fertilizer Is Opportunity to Improve Productivity in Coffee Production in Tanzania', the timely forum attracted potential stakeholders, including agro-researchers from various coffee institutions, processors

and leaders from numerous coffee-related Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS).

Among others, the gathering was tailored to provide a crucial podium to the attended members to delve on various agendas meant to improve general performance of the vital sector.

Itemizing the meaningful priorities set to be executed by the state-owned Board in the envisaged 2025/26 growing-harvesting seasons, Kimaryo unveiled that plans are to increase production and productivity in the coffee beans.

"Moreover, the vision is to ensure the local coffee beans being produced is of high quality to the enable attracting improved prices, but also, stabilizing the country's position in the international markets," he expressed.

Giving further concern, he added that there are several strategies to improve and standardize condition in coffee doing business in Tanzania.



The Director General of the Tanzania Coffee Board, Primus Kimaryo

Kimaryo detailed that production in the crop has maintained impressive growth between 2017/18 to date, due to concerted efforts by the Board to produce improved seedlings.

"Our targets, however is to continue cooperating with the Tanzania Coffee Re-

search Institute (TACRI) to conduct thorough research on improved seeds and fertilizers, as well as disease and pesticide management" he added.

As part of the strategy, he said the coffee growers in all growing parts in the country will be imparted with recommended agronomic practices and proper use of fertilizers.

"In the period of five years we managed to produce and made available to the farmers in the country a total of 71million seedlings of improved seeds, and our annual production rate stand at a total of 20million seedlings" he informed.

To ensure for increased productivity, he revealed that the goal is to improve accessibility and availability of improved fertilizer towards the coffee farmers across the country, training the farmers on how to rehabilitate coffee plantations through uprooting the old plants and replace them with the fresh and improved ones.

"There are useful plans also to embark on

a constructive strategy to venture onto the wide irrigation schemes initiatives in order to boost production," Kimaryo expounded.

And he added, TCB has already picked and placed agriculture officer to assist the farmers in each of the coffee growing areas, together with a total of 51 coffee inspectors, being crucial strategy to stimulate performance of the economic cash crop.

Currently, the Board is working to elevate the country's local coffee consumption from the currently 7 percent to at least 15 percent.

Despite topping the East and Central Africa (EAC) countries for harboring many processing industries and value addition for the instant coffees, it's a grim revelation that the country lags behind when it comes to coffee consumption.

"The impeccable coffee consumption record in the country is currently stands at between 5 to 7percent, the percentage low in comparison to the country's coffee growing status," Kimaryo informed.

WORLD

UN committee unable to agree on Palestinian bid for full membership

UNITED NATIONS

A United Nations Security Council committee considering an application by the Palestinian Authority to become a full UN member "was unable to make a unanimous recommendation" on whether it met the criteria, according to the committee report seen by Reuters on Tuesday.

The Palestinian Authority is still expected to push the 15-member Security Council to vote - as early as Thursday - on a draft resolution recommending it become a full member of the world body, diplomats said. Security Council member Algeria circulated a draft text late on Tuesday.

Such membership would effectively

recognize a Palestinian state. The Palestinians are currently a non-member observer state, a de facto recognition of statehood that was granted by the 193-member UN General Assembly in 2012.

But an application to become a full UN member needs to be approved by the Security Council, where Israel ally the United States can block it, and then at least two-thirds of the General Assembly.

The United States said earlier this month that establishing an independent Palestinian state should happen through direct negotiations between the parties and not at the United Nations.

The UN Security Council has long endorsed a vision of two states living side by



United Nations Climate Chief Simon Stiell speaks during a plenary session at the COP28 UN Climate Summit, Dec 1, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. AP

side within secure and recognized borders. Palestinians want a state in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip, all territory captured by Israel in 1967.

Little progress has been made on achieving Palestinian statehood since the signing of the Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in the early 1990s.

The Palestinian push for full UN membership comes six months into a war between Israel and Palestinian Hamas militants in Gaza, and as Israel is expanding settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The Security Council committee

made up of all 15 council members - agreed to its report on Tuesday after meeting twice last week to discuss the Palestinian application.

"Regarding the issue of whether the application met all the criteria for membership ... the Committee was unable to make a unanimous recommendation to the Security Council," the report said, adding that "differing views were expressed."

UN membership is open to "peace-loving states" that accept the obligations in the founding UN Charter and are able and willing to carry them out.

Agencies

Lavrov states West's growing concern about BRICS plans to develop own financial tools

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated the West's growing concern about the work of the BRICS countries to develop their independent financial mechanisms.



"This work - we know - is increasingly worrying the United States and its allies, who understand that if this work is successful, and we achieve this (develop independent financial mechanisms - TASS), it will seriously question the mechanisms of globalization that are currently functioning under the leadership of the West," Lavrov said at a meeting of the commission of the General Council of the United Russia party on international cooperation and support for compatriots abroad.

According to the minister, Russia is interested in increasing the role of the BRICS states in the international monetary, financial and trading systems, developing interbank cooperation, expanding the use of national currencies and creating its own exchange.

The Russian top diplomat noted that the West has begun to "shamelessly abuse" international mechanisms, using them to suppress competitors and punish dissenters.

Russia assumed the one-year rotating chairmanship of the 10-member BRICS intergovernmental group on January 1, 2024. On Moscow's watch, BRICS will carry out over 200 events covering a wide range of issues. The key event of Russia's chairmanship will be the BRICS summit in October 2024 in Kazan, Tatarstan, in Russia's Volga region.

Agencies

Xi meets German chancellor, calls for achieving mutual success

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, calling on the two sides to carry forward the distinctive characteristics of mutual benefit and win-win outcomes and achieve mutual success.

Noting that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the all-round strategic partnership between China and Germany, Xi said over the past 10 years, despite tremendous changes in the international landscape, China-Germany relations have maintained steady growth, and bilateral cooperation has strengthened and deepened across the board, providing impetus for the development of both countries.

Currently, transformation not seen in a century is accelerating across the globe, and humanity faces growing risks and challenges. These problems can not be resolved without major-country cooperation, Xi said.

As China and Germany are respectively the second and third largest economies in the world, the consolidation and development of their relations carries significance that goes beyond the bilateral scope, and has a major impact on the Eurasian continent and the entire world, Xi said, calling on the two countries to view and develop bilateral relations from a long-term and strategic perspective, and work together to inject greater stability and certainty into the world.

He underscored that both China and Germany have made major contribution to



Chinese President Xi Jinping and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz take a walk in Beijing. Xi met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on Tuesday. Xinhua

the progress of human civilization. The two countries do not have clashing fundamental interests between them and pose no security threat to each other. Cooperation between China and Germany benefits not just the two sides but also the world at large.

The more instability in the world, the greater the need for the two sides to strengthen the resilience and vitality of their relations, Xi said, calling for joint efforts to keep to the overall direction of cooperation and development in growing bilateral ties, and stick to the characterization of all-round strategic partnership.

China's policy toward Germany is highly stable and consistent, Xi said, noting that the two sides need to continue engaging in close exchanges with an open mind and enhance strategic mutual trust. As long as the two sides uphold mutual respect, seek common ground while reserving differences, enhance

exchanges and mutual learning, and pursue win-win cooperation, China-Germany relations will continue to enjoy solid and sustained progress.

Xi noted that the industrial and supply chains of China and Germany are deeply intertwined, and that the markets of the two countries are highly interdependent. Mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Germany is not a "risk," but the guarantee for a stable bilateral relationship and an opportunity for the future.

There is huge potential to be tapped for pursuing win-win cooperation in both traditional sectors such as machinery and automobile, and new areas such as green transition, digitization and artificial intelligence, Xi said.

It is important for the two sides to promote the win-win features of their relations and enable each other to succeed, Xi said, adding that China's export of electric vehicles, lithium batteries

and photovoltaic products has not only enriched global supply and eased global inflationary pressure, but also made important contribution to the global response to climate change and the green and low-carbon transition.

Noting that both China and Germany are countries built on industries, and both support free trade and economic globalization, Xi said it is important for the two countries to stay vigilant against the rise of protectionism, adopt an objective and dialectical view on the issue of production capacity through a market and global perspective and based on the laws of economics, and devote more efforts to the discussion on cooperation.

China is committed to the basic national policy of opening up, and hopes that the German side can provide a fair, transparent, open and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese enterprises in Germany, Xi said.

Underscoring that China and Germany share a lot in common on the issue of world multipolarity, Xi pointed out that a multipolar world is, in essence, one where countries with different civilizations, systems and paths respect each other and coexist in peace.

He said China and Germany need to independently carry out collaboration on multilateral fronts, push the international community to take real actions to better address global challenges such as climate change, unbalanced development and regional conflicts, and make greater contribution to the balance and stability of the world.

Xinhua

Exhibition on China-France exchanges in 17th, 18th centuries hosted at Palace Museum

An exhibition focusing on the exchanges between China and France in the 17th and 18th centuries recently kicked off in the Hall of Literary Glory (Wenhudian) of the Palace Museum in Beijing, capital of China.

The exhibition "The Forbidden City and the Palace of Versailles: Exchanges Between China and France in the 17th and 18th Centuries" was jointly held by the Palace Museum and the Palace of Versailles.

It features about 200 works from the collections of the two museums and other institutions, attracting many who are interested in Chinese and French cultures.

In the second half of the 17th century and the 18th century, centered around the Forbidden City and the Palace of Versailles, there were extensive and profound exchanges of personnel, ideas, and cultures between the two countries.

The exhibition showcases some rare ancient books including "Nouveaux Mémoires sur l'état présent de la Chine" by Louis Le Comte and a collection of correspondence by French astronomer Jean-Jacques d'Ortous de Mairan. These books have provided information about China, disseminated Chinese culture, and deepened Europe's understanding of China, leaving a profound impact on Europe.

These drafting instruments, comprised of both Chinese- and French-made ones selected by the

imperial workshop of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), make up a complete and practical set.

French culture had a significant influence on the science, art, architecture, medicine, and cartography development of the Qing dynasty, as reflected by the items collected by the Palace Museum, including Euclid's Elements and Si yang-ni okto-i bithe (Handbook of Western Drugs) in Manchu language, the etchings of structures in the Yuanmingyuan Park, or the Old Summer Palace, as well as French clocks, multifunctional mirrors and essential oil.

At the same time, a large number of Chinese handicrafts and

books entered France, sparking a "Chinese-style art" trend centered around the Palace of Versailles and spreading to various European countries.

Chinese porcelain was highly admired by Europeans, and the French would even decorate and modify porcelain ware to better suit their taste. For instance, Parisian craftsmen added Rococo-style gilded copper ornaments to the top, rim, and base of Chinese celadon perfume bottles, giving them a fountain-like shape.

In addition to porcelain, the French actively drew inspiration from Chinese culture in various fields such as painting, textiles,

lacquerware, architecture, and gardens. China became an important source of inspiration for French artists and intellectuals.

An engraving in the 17th century just depicted how beautiful the Trianon de Porcelaine was. Inspired by the Porcelain Tower of Nanjing in China, France built the Trianon de Porcelaine in 1670. Located on the outskirts of the Palace of Versailles, the Trianon de Porcelaine was adorned with blue and white ceramics, with ornate roofs featuring vases, children, and animal figures. The interior of the palace was decorated with silk fabrics featuring Chinese floral patterns.

People's Daily

Barrick on track to achieve 2024 targets

TORONTO

BARRICK Gold Corporation has reported preliminary Q1 production of 940 thousand ounces of gold and 40 thousand tonnes of copper, as well as preliminary Q1 sales of 910 thousand ounces of gold and 39 thousand tonnes of copper.

As previously guided, Barrick's gold and copper production in 2024 is expected to progressively increase each quarter through the year, with the Pueblo Viejo plant expansion ramping up from Q2 and the Porgera mine restart continuing in line with plans. "We remain on track to achieve our full year gold and copper guidance," a statement reads in part.

The average market price for gold in Q1 was \$2,070 per ounce while the average market price for copper in Q1 was \$3.83 per pound.

As planned, preliminary Q1 gold production was lower than Q4 2023 mainly as a result of planned maintenance at Nevada Gold Mines and mine sequencing at various sites. In line with our plans, as a result of the lower produc-

tion, Q1 gold cost of sales per ounce is expected to be 4% to 6% higher, total cash costs per ounce are expected to be 6% to 8% higher, and all-in sustaining costs per ounce are expected to be 7% to 9% higher compared to Q4 2023. Costs are expected to drop in the successive quarters of the year as production ramps up.

Preliminary Q1 copper production was lower than Q4 2023, driven primarily by lower grades mined at Lumwana in accordance with the mine plan.

Compared to Q4 2023, driven by the lower production and in line with plans, Q1 copper cost of sales per pound is expected to be 9% to 11% higher, CI cash costs per pound are expected to be 10% to 12% higher, while all-in sustaining costs per pound are expected to be 14% to 16% higher. Costs are expected to drop in the successive quarters of the year as production ramps up.

Barrick will provide additional discussion and analysis regarding its first quarter 2024 production and sales when the company reports its quarterly results before North American markets open on May 1, 2024.

World leaders call on nations to swiftly ratify UN ocean treaty

ATHENS

THE European Union and the governments of 13 countries urged nations on Tuesday to prioritize the ratification of a UN treaty to protect the world's oceans from overfishing and other human activities.

The EU and the governments of Belgium, Bermuda, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Greece, South Korea, Nigeria, Palau, the Philippines and Seychelles committed that the "High Seas" treaty swiftly secure the 60 ratifications needed to get into force at an "Our Ocean" conference held in Athens this week.

The global pact to conserve biodiversity in the high seas was formally adopted by the United Nations last year and is seen as a crucial tool to meet a target to protect 30 percent of the Earth's land and sea by 2030, known as "30 by 30."

So far, four countries - Palau, Chile, Belize and the Seychelles - have formally ratified the treaty, while 89 countries have signed it, expressing their intent to ratify it.

The European Union committed to spend 3.5 billion euros (\$3.71 billion) to protect the ocean and promote sustainability through a series of initiatives this year, its top environment official said on Tuesday.

In total, more than 400 new commitments amounting to \$10 billion were announced during the conference.

The EU's 40 commitments, announced during the annual conference, range from fighting marine pollution to supporting sustainable fisheries and investments in the so-called blue economy - sustainable use of marine and freshwater resources for economic activity.

"We hope to gather the other 60 ratifications needed for the agreement's entry into force as soon as possible," said EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius. "The ocean is part of who we are, and it is our shared responsibility."

Warming oceans

The European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service said last month that ocean temperatures hit a record high in February, according to data that goes back to 1979. Overfishing and plastic pollution are also major threats to oceans.

The biggest part of the EU funds will be used to support 14 investments and one reform in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Portugal and Spain. Other EU initiatives are directed to helping African countries develop their blue economy.

Greece will spend 780 million euros on 21 commitments which include a ban on bottom trawling in all of the country's marine protected areas, he added.

The country also pledged to create two more marine parks, one in the Aegean Sea for the protection of seabirds and one in the Ionian Sea for the protection of sea mammals, which will cover more than 4,000 sq km (1,545 sq miles) of areas protected under the EU's Natura 2000 network of sites.

"Mitigation and adaptation are not enough. We must also focus on protection and restoration to insulate land and seas from harmful human activity and to give space to nature to heal," Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

The marine park in the Aegean Sea has irritated neighboring Türkiye, which said last week that it was not willing to accept a possible "fait accompli on geographical features whose status is disputed". In response, Greece accused Türkiye of "politicizing a purely environmental issue".

Environmental groups have also urged Greece to halt its gas exploration plans in the Ionian Sea.

The "Our Ocean" conference has mobilized more than 2,160 commitments worth approximately \$130 billion since its launch in 2014.



The multihued waters of the Aegean Sea sparkle by the islet of Kounoupa off the island of Astypalea, Greece, on Aug 30, 2021. AP

China's hydrogen energy industry gains momentum for development

CHINA'S first hydrogen-powered urban train recently completed a test at a speed of 160 km/h in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin province.

The train, developed by China's CRRC Changchun Railway Vehicles Co., Ltd., is equipped with a built-in hydrogen power system and an independently developed hydrogen-electric hybrid energy control system.

During the test, the train's average energy consumption was 5 kWh per km, with the maximum range exceeding 1,000 km.

"Compared to urban vehicles powered by internal combustion, hydrogen-powered trains emit water while running. Over the entire lifecycle of a hydrogen-powered train, carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced by approximately 50,000 tons, which is equivalent to the emissions from 50,000 cars driving 5,000 km simultaneously," said Wang Jian, deputy director of the new technology research department of the engineering research center of CRRC Changchun Railway Vehicles Co., Ltd.

Hydrogen energy is a secondary energy source that is abundant, environmentally friendly, and widely applicable. Its development and utilization are crucial for building a clean, low-carbon, safe, and efficient energy system.

China is the largest producer of hydrogen in the world, with a production of 35.33 million tons in 2022, accounting for over 1/3 of the world's total.

The hydrogen energy industry in China is experiencing a promising growth trajectory. The country has initially mastered key technologies and techniques for hydrogen production, storage, transportation, hydrogenation, and system integration. In some regions of China, hydrogen fuel cell vehicles have been put into use for demonstration on a small scale.

China Hydrogen Alliance estimated that by 2025, the output of China's hydrogen energy industry will reach 1 trillion yuan (\$138.2 billion). By 2050, the demand for hydrogen will approach 60 million tons, which is expected to reduce approximately 700 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions; hydrogen energy will account for over 10



A hydrogen-powered urban train runs on a test track in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin province, March 21, 2024. (Photo courtesy of CRRC Changchun Railway Vehicles Co., Ltd.)

percent of China's end-use energy system, with the industrial chain generating an output of 12 trillion yuan.

The Chinese hydrogen energy industry has also seen rapid progress in international cooperation. In recent years, an increasing number of foreign companies have entered the Chinese market and engaged in cooperation with their Chinese partners. For instance, carmakers like Hyundai and Toyota are working on their hydrogen fuel cell projects in China; multinationals including Cummins and Siemens have started hydrogen production through electrolyzers in China. At the same time, Chinese companies are also expanding the global market and forging partnerships and collaborations with their foreign counterparts.

For example, China Energy Engineering Corporation has signed an agreement with the Egyptian government, according to which it will build a green hydrogen plant worth \$6.75 billion in Egypt's Suez Canal Economic Zone. The plant is expected to generate 1.2 million tons of green ammonia and 210,000 tons of green hydrogen each year.

The Egyptian government believes that the green hydrogen plant will significantly contribute to Egypt's energy transition and sustainable development. Egyptian Ambassador to China Assem Hanafi noted that the joint efforts of Egypt and China in promot-

ing hydrogen energy cooperation will lead to a green transition that benefits everyone.

In April 2023, China Energy Investment Group and Electricité de France signed an agreement to jointly build a 1.5GW offshore comprehensive smart energy island demonstration project in Dongtai, Yancheng, east China's Jiangsu province.

In early 2023, Jiangsu Guofu Hydrogen Energy Equipment Co., Ltd. reached a strategic cooperation agreement with Brazil's YDRO. The two sides will establish a joint venture and build an electrolyzer-producing factory in Brazil in 2024. The factory is expected to build more than 50 water electrolysis hydrogen production systems by 2025.

Besides, companies like CRRC Zhuzhou Institute Co., Ltd. and Feichi Technology based in Foshan, south China's Guangdong province have supplied hydrogen-powered buses and light rail vehicles to a hydrogen energy transportation demonstration project in Malaysia.

Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Climate Action Selwin Hart, noted that China will continue to play an active role in the development of green energy sectors such as the hydrogen energy industry, which will make renewable energy accessible to more people in the world.

People's Daily

US to impose new sanctions against Iran after attack on Israel

WASHINGTON

WHITE House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan has said that the US will impose new sanctions on Iran's missile and drone programmes and new sanctions against entities backing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Iran's Defence Ministry in the coming days.

In a statement, Sullivan said, "Following Iran's unprecedented air attack against Israel, President Biden is coordinating with allies and partners, including the G7, and with bipartisan leaders in Congress, on a comprehensive response."

"In the coming days, the United States will impose new sanctions targeting Iran, including its missile and drone program as well as new sanctions against entities supporting the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Iran's Defence Ministry," he added.

Jake Sullivan said that US also expects its allies and partners to impose sanctions against Iran. He said that the US continues to work to further strengthen and expand the successful integration of air and missile defence and early warning systems across the Middle East to further erode the effectiveness of Iran's



This picture taken from Israel's southern border with the Gaza Strip shows Israeli army vehicles driving along the border with the Palestinian territory on Tuesday. AFP

missile and UAV capabilities.

Sullivan said, "We anticipate that our allies and partners will soon be following with their own sanctions. In addition, we continue to work through the Department of Defense and U.S. Central Command to further strengthen and expand the successful integration of air and missile defence and early warning systems across the Middle East to further erode the effectiveness of Iran's missile and UAV capabilities."

He noted that the new sanctions and other measures will continue a "steady drumbeat of pressure" to contain and degrade Iran's military capacity and effectiveness and confront the full range of its problematic behaviours. He recalled that the US, in the past three years, in addition to missile and drone-related sanctions, has imposed sanctions against more than 600 individuals and entities connected to terrorism.

Jake Sullivan said, "Over the last three years, in addition to missile and drone-related sanctions, the United States has sanctioned over 600 individuals and entities connected to terrorism, terrorist financing and other forms of illicit trade, horrific human rights abuses, and

support for proxy terrorist groups, including Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and Kataib Hezbollah. The pressure will continue.

"We will not hesitate to continue to take action, in coordination with allies and partners around the world, and with Congress, to hold the Iranian government accountable for its malicious and destabilising actions," he added.

On April 14, US President Joe Biden met with the national security team for updates on Iran's attacks against Israel, calling its commitment to Israel's security against threats from proxies and Iran "ironclad."

In the wake of Iranian drone strikes on Israel on Saturday, Biden held a meeting with his national security team. In a post on X, Biden stated, "I just met with my national security team for an update on Iran's attacks against Israel. Our commitment to Israel's security against threats from Iran and its proxies is ironclad."

Earlier on Saturday, Iran launched several drones and missiles towards Israel in retaliation for the alleged Israeli air strike on its consulate in Syria that resulted in the killing of Iran's three top generals, The Times of Israel reported.

On Sunday morning, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari also said that 99 per cent of the 300 or so projectiles fired by Iran at Israel overnight were intercepted by air defences.

"The Iranian threat met the aerial and technological superiority of the IDF, combined with a strong fighting coalition, which together intercepted the vast majority of the threats," Hagari said.

In addition, Hagari said that Iran fired 120 ballistic missiles at Israel. "As you can see now, the base is functioning and continues to perform its tasks. In the picture, you can see the runway at Nevatim," he said, showing live footage from the airbase.

Lauding Israeli forces for intercepting Iranian missiles and drones, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said on Sunday that it was an "incredible military achievement" by Israel.

In his remarks at the NBC News "Meet The Press", Kirby said that the action taken by Israel demonstrates an extraordinary example of military superiority. He stated that the action shows that Israel has friends. He said that the US will continue to help Israel defend itself.

ANI

Uncertainty clouds 2024 EA Junior Athletics Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadono

UNCERTAINTY has surrounded this year's edition of the East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships (EAAR) as Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, which was scheduled to host the showdown at the end of this month, is under renovations.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) Acting Secretary-General Jackson Ndaweka disclosed the news in an interview, saying the association is looking for an alternative venue for the championships.

The championships were slated for April 26 and the AT official said, currently, the association is having discussions with the Zanzibar Athletics Association (ZAA) counterparts to look into the possibility of hosting the championships at New Amaan Complex in the Isles.

Ndaweka said the final decision on the venue will be made by EA leaders soon.

"The country was given the rights to host the EAAR, we discussed with Benjamin Mkapa Stadium authorities who, in the first place, gave us a green right but, later, we were informed that the time for the championships would collide with the minor renovations now in progress at the facility," the AT leader pointed out.

The AT Acting Secretary-General revealed: "The renovations will involve the running track which is currently in bad shape, due to the state of the running track all, athletics events' results recorded at the venue are not recognized by World Athletics (WA), due to this, we thought it wise to consult our ZAA counterparts. For now, it's too early to say if the championships will be held at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar, the final decision will be made by the EAAR leaders."

"The good thing with New Amaan Complex is that results recorded at the facility are recognized by WA, as the running track possesses the required standard," he said.

The AT leader also disclosed that local junior athletes who perform well in the U-20 category will be drafted into the senior team slated to represent the country in this year's Africa Athletics Championships slated for June in Cameroon.

Meanwhile, Ndaweka said the national trials for the youth and seniors, which were slated for this Saturday, have been postponed to another day, and their venue will be announced later.

This would have been the third time in a row that Tanzania hosted the regional track and field championships and he described the chance as an opportunity for the country's junior athletes.

Tanzania finished third in the previous year's championships. The showdown brought together six nations, namely Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Somalia, Zanzibar, and the

host Mainland Tanzania.

Kenya emerged as the showdown's overall winner with 13 gold medals, five silver, and one bronze medal, Zanzibar came second with a single gold medal, three silver medals, and two.

The showdown's host, Mainland Tanzania, managed to collect one gold medal, four silver medals, and eight bronze medals to grab third place.

The Mainland Tanzania team's gold medal was won by Arusha-based athlete- Elisha Chani- in the long jump category (6m 29cm).

Fourth-placed Uganda won a single silver medal and two bronze medals, South Sudan garnered fifth spot having taken one silver medal and one bronze medal.

Somalia finished the championships with no medals to settle for the last place on the medals table.

Athletics Tanzania vice-president William Kallaghe thanked all countries that battled it out in the showpiece, pointing out they made it a success.

He said the EAAR Youth Athletics Championships are vital for the development of athletics in the region, hence, the need to emphasize the showpiece.

"We are extremely thankful to all nations which took part in these championships, this has been very successful mainly because of the commitment shown by the organizing committee and all stakeholders."

"We also particularly thank the government for making this facility (Benjamin Mkapa Stadium) available for us and supporting us in other needed areas," he said.

He asked all EAAR member nations to start preparations for the Africa Junior Athletics Championships which will take place in Zambia later this year.

Jackson Tuwei, EAAR Athletics Chairman, hailed tremendous athletics development initiatives by EAAR member states.

He said the region has a lot of world-class athletes due to its efforts in youth programs.

Tanzania was represented by 19 athletes in the previous showdown. The athletes were selected in the open championships that took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, bringing together more than 200 junior athletes.

The 19 athletes are Siwema Julius, Shija Donald, Salma Samwel, Christian George, Elizabeth Kirario, Bravo George, Kimena Kibesa, Damian Christian, Fedelis Amadi, Baraka Tullili, Emmanuel Amos, and Elizabeth Ilanda.

Others are Gaudensia Manono, Elia Clement, Nicodemus Joseph, Nelson Mangura, Jackson Sylvester, Dickson Mangura and Malcom Kazmir.

The athletes were under the tutelage of Mwinga Mwanjala and Robert Kalyahe.

Yanga fans urged to respect Simba SC amidst outfit's recent struggles

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE Dar es Salaam derby is set to explode with passion in Dar es Salaam on Saturday as Young Africans SC calls upon the squad's supporters to paint the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in its colours.

The stakes are high as Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, locks horns with Simba SC in a fierce battle for NBC Premier League supremacy.

Currently boasting a commanding nine-point lead in the NBC Premier League standings, Yanga is determined to secure the third consecutive league title.

Ally Kamwe, Yanga's Information and Communication Manager, emphasized the critical role fans play in the team's success, saying: "Our fans and members are incredibly important in this game. We need them to fill the stadium and create an electric atmosphere. This is a chance to make the day truly unforgettable and leave Simba SC's supporters outnumbered."

Kamwe cautioned fans against complacency, despite Simba SC's recent struggles.



Simba SC defender Henock Inonga (L) attempts to clear the ball against Yanga midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki when the sides locked horns in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League match at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. Yanga won 5-1.

"While Simba SC hasn't won in four matches, we can't afford to underestimate them. They possess experienced players who thrive in high-pressure derbies. We need a ruthless mentality to secure victory," he declared.

The official also addressed injury concerns in Yanga, revealing that key players Kennedy Musonda and Pacome Zouzou are

nearing a return to fitness.

He noted: "We won't rush anyone back, Yanga has a strong squad, and we'll be approaching the match with an aggressive spirit," he clarified.

This highly anticipated encounter promises a thrilling display of Tanzanian football. Yanga's passionate fanbase holds the potential to swing the mo-

mentum in the club's favour.

With a packed stadium chanting Yanga's name, the squad can take a significant step toward claiming a third consecutive league title.

The Jangwani Street-based side is the league leader by a wide margin and the outfit has been nearly unstoppable, racking up 18 wins and only losing twice in

21 games.

Their offense is on fire, leading the NBC Premier League with a whopping 52 goals and midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki is the league's top goal scorer with 14 goals.

These two teams have a history of facing each other in closely contested games. In their last five league meetings, either squad has only won once, with the other three games ending in draws. However, Yanga's recent 5-1 thrashing of Simba SC is sure to be on everyone's mind, and Simba SC will be eager for revenge.

This game is much bigger than just three points. It is a battle for city bragging rights and, more importantly, the championship title.

Soccer supporters ought to expect a tense match with both teams desperate to win. The stadium will be rocking as either side's fans witness a clash that could decide the fate of the league.



Simba SC players are pictured participating in training in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBASC

Simba SC sets camp in Zanzibar ahead of Dar derby

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC has opted to camp in Zanzibar ahead of this season's NBC Premier League clash against long-time rival Yanga to be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Wounded Simba SC is without a win in four games in all competitions including two knockout tournaments.

The Msimbazi Street squad bowed out of the CAF Champions League quarterfinal having lost to Egypt's Al Ahly 3-0 in the two-leg tie.

Simba SC made its way back and was knocked out of this season's CRDB Federation Cup after

losing 6-5 to 10-man Mashujaa FC via penalties.

Speaking before leaving for the Isles, the club's Information and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally said Simba SC is heading to Zanzibar as requested by head coach Abdelhak Benchikha.

The official revealed: "We are heading to Zanzibar as requested by head coach Benchikha, the team needs maximum concentration to get over the barrier of bad results that we have obtained in the recent games."

"Results hurt everyone in and outside the club as fans are not happy, but I ask fans to prepare and be in high spirit just like the team, Benchikha is gearing to

change the wind of bad results," Ally disclosed.

"We know we will have four games left, we will play after each two days and all these games need total concentration and ways for motivating ourselves- that is why we decided to head to Zanzibar as coach Benchikha elaborated," Ally revealed.

Simba SC lost 5-1 to Yanga in the NBC Premier League first-phase match, a result not too many supporters of the former would want to remember in the long run.

Benchikha is not pleased with his side's finishing in front of goal, as previously noted by assistant coach Suleiman Matola

who said they need to quickly work on their clinicality.

"To continue to be in the race for the league title, there is no way out other than winning the derby. It will be a do-or-die match and we will have enough time to prepare for it," Matola said.

The former Simba SC midfielder added: "We create a lot of chances that need to be converted and the way forward is to work on it on the training ground as much as we can and show progress on our Derby match versus Yanga."

With a game in hand, Simba SC (46 points) is currently trailing league leader Yanga Yanga (55 points) by nine points.

Simba SC hierarchy set for major changes

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER posting a series of unappealing results, Simba SC's honorary president Mohammed Dewji has held a meeting with the leaders to find out and solve the challenges facing the club.

Simba SC has failed to realize two of the side's goals which were revealed to the squad's fans, namely booking a place in the semi-finals

of this season's CAF Champions League and winning the CRDB Federation Cup trophy. Egypt's Al Ahly knocked Simba SC out of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League last-eight, commanding a 3-0 aggregate win over the latter in the two-leg tie.

Mashujaa FC had Simba SC exiting the CRDB Federation Cup, beating the latter 6-5 on penalties after settling for a 1-1 draw in 90 minutes.

Last Saturday, Simba SC drew 1-1 with Ihefu SC in an NBC Premier League duel, leading to the Msimbazi Street side trailing the leader- Yanga- by nine points in the domestic top-flight log.

Dewji, who is also the club's investor, moreover asked the club's supporters to show up in big numbers in the remaining NBC Premier League fixtures and together turn the season around, even

though the Msimbazi Street squad has slim chances.

"I have held a meeting with the leaders of Simba SC to find out where the challenges are and how to solve them. The session has gone well, Simba SC should not lose hope, let's continue to cooperate," Dewji remarked.

Major changes are about to take place in Simba SC's leadership as Barbara Gonzalez is expected to return

to the club as the Board of Directors Chief Executive Officer.

Board of Directors Chairman Salim Abdallah is more-over slated to step down from his position next season and join the members of the Board of Directors.

Current club CEO Iman Kajula is also in his final days as the club's leader as he is expected to leave his role, with the club now searching

for his replacement in South Africa.

The club's former advisor to the investor, Crescentius Magori, is expected to return as a Board of Directors member to solve the player transfer issues that have failed to prove successful in recent seasons in the club.

Current club Chairman Murtaza Mangungu has decided to continue on his role at the club, he will not step

down to give way for a new interim chairman to lead the club before a mini-general election seeking to elect a new leader.

Simba SC is responding to multiple calls from the club's members and fans who are not pleased with the ongoing series of bad results that are allegedly linked to the club's officials due to decisions that affect the club dynamics and results on the pitch.

Giant-killers Atalanta ready to deal fatal blow to Liverpool

LONDON

ATALANTA have a chance to make history today as they welcome Liverpool to Bergamo with one foot in the Europa League semi-finals thanks to a stunning first-leg win at Anfield.

Atalanta once again punched way above their weight last week by dishing out a 3-0 hammering to Liverpool and are on the verge of reaching the last four of a European competition for the first time since 1988.

Back then Atalanta were a Serie B team and knocked out of the Cup Winners' Cup by Belgian outfit Mechelen, but nowadays the Italians are competing with and beating an altogether higher class of opposition.

Last week's win in England was probably the greatest European night in Atalanta's history as their run to 2020 Champions League quarter-finals -- where they were desperately unlucky to lose to Paris Saint-Germain -- came at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic which devastated Bergamo.

It was also unexpected as Atalanta's recent form has been patchy with three wins in 11 matches, and throwing away a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 with struggling Verona on Monday reminded coach Gian Piero Gasperini of the dangers of complacency.

"Verona managed to score two goals against us in four minutes so we need to be careful. Liverpool are a team that came back from three goals down in a Champions League final against a team of greats," said Gasperini to Sky Sport on Monday.

"We know that nothing has been decided and that we will have to play really well."

A historically small club playing in the shadow of -- and competing for fans with -- the Milanese giants down the road, Atalanta have reached new heights since Gasperini took over as coach in 2016.

Atalanta have a habit of breaking new ground, playing modern attacking football while maintaining close ties with a local community which has seen their team overtake traditionally bigger clubs like Fiorentina and Lazio.

Liverpool will step out onto a pitch surrounded by a partly-built Gewiss stadium, a project Atalanta have been moving forward ever since striking a deal with the city of Bergamo to buy the old Stadio Atleti Azzurri d'Italia in 2017.

The shiny new stands, which will pulsate with some of the most passionate support Italy has to offer, are a reminder of the dilapidated arenas most of Italy's clubs have to play in and the progress Atalanta have made in the last eight years.

The only thing missing from Gasperini's reign in northern Italy is a trophy, but with last week's incredible win the path to May's final in Dublin has opened up.

AFP

Title breakthrough has Alonso's Leverkusen hungry for 'more'

LONDON

HOURS after sealing Bayer Leverkusen's maiden Bundesliga title win, coach Xabi Alonso told thousands of delirious fans "we want more", laying down a marker in pursuit of a remarkable treble.

"We want more. We want the (German) Cup, we want Europa League," the 42-year-old said over the stadium PA to thousands of Leverkusen fans after his side 43rd straight match without defeat.

With a German Cup final meeting with second-division Kaiserslautern already booked for May 25, Leverkusen's next task is Thursday's trip to London to face West Ham in their Europa League quarter-final second leg.

Alonso's side hold a 2-0 lead after the first leg, meaning anything other than a stunning loss to David Moyes' men will keep their treble dreams alive.

Sunday's 5-0 win over Werder Bremen not only broke Bayern Munich's 11-year stranglehold on the German top-flight title, it flushed Leverkusen's unwanted 'Neverkusen' tag for good.

With two major titles in the club's history before Sunday, Alonso's side can more than double their tally by completing the treble.

This season, Alonso has repeatedly said the club needed to be patient, even as the Bundesliga title grew more and more likely. On Sunday, he pushed talk of Thursday's West Ham match away, saying: "Now is the moment to celebrate and enjoy it all."

If overturning a 2-0 deficit seems like a mountain to climb for West Ham, the stats speak even less in their favour.

Alonso's side have only failed to score once in 43 games this season and have laid on 123 goals at the other end.

West Ham have only kept one clean sheet in their past 18 fixtures -- although that did come against German opposition in their 5-0 drubbing of Freiburg in the last-16 second leg at the London Stadium.

AFP

Mbappe's PSG punish 10-man Barca to reach Champions League semis

BARCELONA

KYLIAN Mbappe struck twice as Paris Saint-Germain battled back to beat 10-man Barcelona 4-1 and book a place in the Champions League semi-finals with a 6-4 aggregate triumph on Tuesday.

Raphinha fired Barcelona ahead early on but Ronald Araujo's 29th-minute red card turned the tide in PSG's favour, despite the Spanish champions leading by two goals following a 3-2 quarter-final first-leg win.

Ousmane Dembele and Vitinha levelled the tie for PSG and the deadly Mbappe hit a brace to put them into the final four for the first time since 2021, setting up another meeting with Borussia Dortmund, who they played twice in the group stage.

"Hats off to Kylian, look at how he pressed, that's how you lead a team," said PSG coach Luis Enrique, noting the striker's all-round contribution.

"When Kylian can give that we are much, much better."

The French champions have never won the trophy despite huge investment but demonstrated they have the attacking weapons in their squad to do so.

"I dream of winning the Champions League with Paris, it's another step overcome against a great team," said Mbappe, who has his sights set on this year's final.

"We're going to try and go to Wembley."

Luis Enrique, who led Barca to the 2015 Champions League, said he believed his PSG team would turn things around despite never having managed to after a first-leg home defeat, and so it proved.

"It looked bad but the team



Paris Saint-Germain's French forward #07 Kylian Mbappe scores his second goal and his team's fourth goal during the UEFA Champions League quarter-final second leg football match between FC Barcelona and Paris SG at the Estadi Olympic Lluís Companys in Barcelona on April 16, 2024. AFP

concentrated -- whatever happened, we had to beat Barcelona," said Dembele, whistled heavily by fans of his former club.

Five-time winners Barcelona were dreaming of a first semi-final return since 2019 but Araujo's red card for pulling down the relentless Bradley Barcola undermined their grip on the tie.

It became another in a series of European nightmares for the Catalans, who last won the trophy in 2015, with Xavi blaming the referee.

"With 11 against 10 it's practically impossible," said the coach.

"I think the red card is not necessary, it's unfair and needless."

The visitors started with determination and penned Barcola back in their own territory, but it was the hosts who took the lead.

Explosive 16-year-old starlet Lamine Yamal ripped

past Nuno Mendes and crossed to the near post where Raphinha turned home his third goal in the tie.

The other PSG forwards found the net but it was Barcola who tilted the match in PSG's favour.

The winger teed up Mbappe but Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen denied him well, before Araujo was sent off for bringing him down.

The Uruguayan centre-back pulled Barcola back as he burst into the area, leaving Barca with 10 men.

Dembele struck after 40 minutes from another Barcola cross, which raked across the area to the back post where he was arriving to fire into the roof of the net.

Barcelona sacrificed Yamal for defender Inigo Martinez after Araujo's red card and it left them with few outlets in attack.

- No escape -

With PSG controlling the game Barcelona soon paid the price. Vitinha was given far too much space on the edge of the box and he drilled into the bottom corner to put PSG ahead on the night.

Ilkay Gundogan hit the post at the other end for Barcelona before their coach Xavi was sent off for a show of dissent on the touchline.

"Since I've been here we're not getting any refereeing decisions, they've all been bad for us," added Xavi.

"The refereeing was very strange."

Despite the finger-pointing the Catalans were losing their heads and Joao Cancelo clumsily fouled Dembele to hand PSG a penalty.

Mbappe, who had been kept quiet in the first leg, hammered it into the top corner for his 40th goal across all competitions.

The striker's future may lie in Spain, with Real Ma-

drid aiming to sign him in the summer at the end of his contract, and he made no friends in Barcelona by hopping the advertising hoardings and running towards fans to celebrate.

Another member of Barcelona's backroom staff was dismissed after Gundogan had a penalty appeal waved away and it became clear the hosts had no response.

Mbappe wrapped up the win in the 89th minute after a fine Ter Stegen double save, leaving Barcelona the victims of another bitterly disappointing night in Europe.

"In Europe playing with 10 you know you are going to suffer," Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong told Movistar.

"We tried and we fought to be in the semi-finals, it's a tough blow because we were convinced we could get through."

AFP

Dortmund sink Atletico to reach Champions League semi-finals

DORTMUND

BORUSSIA Dortmund fought back to beat Atletico Madrid 4-2 in their quarter-final second leg on Tuesday, securing a 5-4 aggregate victory and a first Champions League semi-final since 2013.

Trailing 2-1 from the first leg, goals from Julian Brandt and Ian Maatsen had Dortmund 2-0 up at half-time.

Visiting coach Diego Simeone made three changes at half-time including bringing on Angel Correa and his energy told immediately, Mats Hummels conceding a poor own goal before the Argentine netted to put Atletico back ahead in the tie.

But those goals brought a sluggish Dortmund back to life, with Niclas Füllkrug and Marcel Sabitzer each scoring in a three-minute period to send the Bundesliga club through.

"It was magical. I try not to go overboard in interviews, but it was really magical. The stadium was on fire today," Füllkrug told DAZN.

Former winners Dortmund, fifth in the German top flight and struggling to qualify for next season's Champions League, will next face Paris Saint-Germain for a place in the final at Wembley on June 1.

"We did give them



Borussia Dortmund are into the UEFA Champions League semi-finals for the first time since 2013. AP

chances and goals in the 15 minutes after half-time, we have to improve that for sure, but our response to it was sensational," said Brandt.

Atletico were bidding to reach the last four for the first time in seven years, but fell at the quarter-final stage for the third time in five seasons.

"It was tough," Atletico captain Koke told Movistar. "Their goals hurt a lot -- the fact that they got them so quickly after each other."

"We are angry because we wanted to get through. This is football and it can be cruel."

The home side should have been level in the tie after three minutes but Sabitzer took an extra touch with the goal beckoning, allowing Atletico to cover.

Just moments later, Atletico had a major

chance of their own, as Alvaro Morata raced through one-on-one with the goalkeeper but chipped the ball well wide of the post.

chance of their own, as Alvaro Morata raced through one-on-one with the goalkeeper but chipped the ball well wide of the post.

Buoyed by an 80,000-strong home crowd trying to one-up last week's atmosphere

in the Spanish capital, Dortmund pushed and prodded, with Karim Adeyemi shooting straight at Jan Oblak.

Dortmund broke through on 34 minutes, Brandt collecting a Hummels chip and shooting on the turn, the

ball bouncing through Oblak's hands.

The Germans were ahead in the tie just five minutes later, Maatsen threading in from an acute angle after he was given space to run in the Atletico box.

With Simeone sensing his chances of qualifying for the semis for a fourth time as Atletico boss slipping away, he shuffled his deck at half-time, making three changes including hooking the ineffective Morata for Correa.

Dortmund's wobbles suddenly returned, letting the visitors back into the tie.

Hummels turned Mario Hermoso's header into his own net from an Atletico corner under little pressure and with goalkeeper Gregor Ko-

bel waiting to save. Atletico smelt blood and could have levelled when Correa dragged the ball just wide.

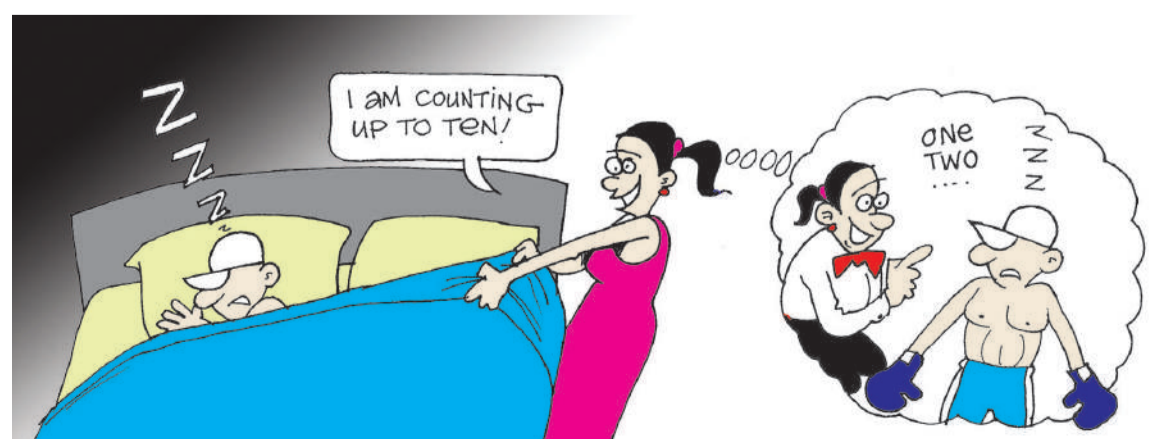
The World Cup winner made up for his miss on 64 minutes when he lashed a loose ball inside the box in off the cross-bar, putting Atletico in front on aggregate.

The goal jolted Dortmund back into action and Edin Terzic's men scored twice in three minutes to retake the overall lead.

Fuellkrug headed in a Sabitzer cross and the Austrian midfielder then got a goal of his own, shooting through the Atletico defence and into the bottom corner from the edge of the box, grabbing Dortmund a famous victory.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Mbappe's PSG punish 10-man Barca to reach Champions League semis

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CAF CL set to replace CAF CC as second-tier continental tournament

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Confederation of African Football is set to scrap its second-tier club competition, the CAF Confederation Cup, for clubs to become more commercially viable and obtain hard cash out of the African Football League (AFL) and CAF Champions League.

Early this year, CAF president Patrice Motsepe said the CAF Confederation Cup could be sacrificed for the more lucrative and financially viable AFL and CAF Champions League.

The CAF Confederation Cup was established in 2004 from a merger of the CAF Cup and the African Cup Winners' Cup.

Last year CAF introduced a new competition, the African Football League, which started with eight teams and will now be expanded to include more teams - bringing the number to 24.

The AFL will now be the major club competition on the continent, the CAF Champions League will take the place of the CAF Confederation Cup as Africa's second-tier club competition.

The winner of the African Football League will now be representing the continent in the FIFA Club World Cup in 2029.

When the AFL was introduced last year, several well-run national leagues around the continent complained about the threat of the AFL to their competitions, Motsepe highlighted why CAF aims at cancelling the CAF Confederation Cup.

"We have got to look at the African Football League within the context of what we are trying to achieve. Let me immediately start with what is not possible, being more careful that we don't have the football players playing too many fixtures, too many matches, and the other thing we must also not undermine the professional football leagues in Africa," Motsepe said.

"So, I understand when some of the professional leagues are worried about African football. My family spends a hell of a lot of money since I'm the CAF president. I had to take several steps away. So, we do want the professional football leagues in Africa to succeed and the clubs to make money."

"So, we want to get the Champions League and the African Football League to make them more commercially viable and make sure that the clubs make money out of them but the other thing that's very important as well is we have to have the CAF Confederation Cup canceled. We can't have too many competitions."

After the AFL became an instant success with only eight teams taking part in the pilot season, the second edition is set to have 22 teams and possibly play the whole season.

As the talk intensifies around the cancellation of the CAF Confederation Cup, Motsepe is clear that they are looking at competitions that will bring more revenue to CAF.

"The CAF Champions League is excellent and we want to protect and promote it. I deliberately didn't make the prize money of the AFL, make it more than the CAF Champions League because I didn't want to create a perception that at this stage immediately the AFL is above the CAF Champions League but I'm clear, I'm not making money from the CAF Champions League."

"I need the money to give to the member associations. I need the money for academies, for football development to help with transport, and the same with the CHAN that I won't cancel," Motsepe noted.

For teams that will participate in the African Football League, their points will be credited to the CAF Club Rankings.

Clubs that will qualify to play in the African Football League will not take part in the CAF Champions League as it will serve as the second-tier competition.

Simba SC vows revenge in Dar derby after first-round defeat



Simba SC players are pictured participating in training in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC's management has issued a rallying cry to club members and fans ahead of the high-stakes clash against long-time rival Young Africans SC.

Despite recent setbacks, the Msimbazi Street club emphasizes the importance of unwavering belief in the team's ability to triumph.

The upcoming match, also termed the Dar es Salaam derby, holds significant weight for Simba SC, particularly considering their heavy 5-1 defeat to Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, in the first round last November.

Simba SC Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, implored members and fans to unite behind the team, expressing his unwavering confidence in their collective strength.

Ally stated: "We acknowledge the loss in the first round, however, we are determined to avoid a repeat defeat this season. I understand that Simba SC fans are hurting, but I urge them to come to the stadium and fight for our club."

"Together, we are an unstoppable force. Our mission is to go to the Dar es Salaam derby and reclaim our pride," Ally admitted.

Ally emphasized the importance of the upcoming match, not just for Simba SC, but for Tanzanian football as

a whole.

"This is a game that carries the weight of Tanzanian football's reputation, Simba SC has the opportunity to uphold our honor in this pivotal match. We must enter the field with unwavering focus and secure victory," he declared.

Simba SC's dedication to the upcoming challenge is evident in their decision to set up a training camp in Zanzibar.

The team departed Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, fully committed to strategizing

and honing their skills for the crucial game against Yanga.

Simba SC head coach, Abdelhak Benchikha, implemented a clear strategy to secure victory in their upcoming match against rivals Yanga.

Before departing for a pre-game training camp in Zanzibar, Benchikha held a focused meeting with his players, emphasizing the importance of the encounter.

Determined to avoid a repeat of past defeats against Yanga, Benchikha views this

match as a pivotal moment for Simba SC's season.

He expressed his dissatisfaction with the recent 1-1 draw against Ifeju SC in the Premier League, particularly the team's string of four winless games.

This undesirable performance likely fueled Benchikha's decision to establish a training camp in Zanzibar, offering a peaceful environment for focused preparation.

On April 16 last year, Simba SC emerged victorious against Yanga with a 2-0 scoreline, thanks to goals from Hennock Inonga and Kibu Denis. However, some remain skeptical of Simba SC's ability to repeat this feat.

With elimination from the CAF Champions League and CRDB Bank Federation Cup already a reality, Simba SC sets its sights firmly on reclaiming dominance in the domestic league.

A win against Yanga on Saturday is crucial if they are to regain their footing in the Premier League title race.

Yanga and Azam FC avoid each other in Federation Cup quarterfinals

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has confirmed the CRDB Bank Federation Cup quarterfinal draw following the conclusion of entertaining Round 16 matches last week.

The draw was conducted in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday afternoon and was televised live. With eight NBC Premier League teams left in the draw, it meant that all-top-flight ties were produced for the quarterfinals.

The remaining big two - Azam FC and Young Africans SC - have avoided each other in this stage of the tournament.

As was the case last year, the competition's quarterfinal draw was accompanied by the semi-final draw.

The quarterfinal ties will be played between May 2-4, with the winners going through to the semi-finals. The exact date and times of the fixtures are to be confirmed.

The tournament holder Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, has been presented with Tabora United as a quarterfinal opponent, with the former playing the match at home as the outfit looks to defend the title for a third time in a row.

The Jangwani Street club qualified for the quarterfinals after beating Dodoma Jiji FC 2-0 in the Round of 16 clash at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma.



Yanga's midfielder Maxi Nzengeli (L), races past Dodoma Jiji FC's footballers in a CRDB Federation Cup match that took place in Dodoma last week, culminating in a 2-0 win for Yanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Yanga defeated Azam FC in the final of the 2022-23 Federation Cup to secure the trophy for the third time since its return in 2015. Kennedy Musonda's goal was the difference in a 1-0 victory at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga.

Tabora United secured a 3-0 win over Singida Fountain Gate FC in the Round of 16 clash at CCM Kirumba Sta-

dium in Mwanza.

The Tabora-based top-flight debutants are however caught up in a fierce relegation battle involving almost half of NBC Premier League teams.

Azam FC, the winner of the Federation Cup in 2019, will host Namungo FC at Azam Complex Stadium.

The Chamazi Street outfit

eliminated Mapinduzi FC in the Round of 16 while Namungo FC knocked Coastal Union out of the Round of 16.

It will be a repeat of a league game that was played last week, with Azam FC winning 2-0 on the road.

When the two teams met earlier in the season, Namungo FC triumphed 3-1 at Azam Complex Stadium.

Mashujaa FC, who stunned Simba SC in the previous round, will travel to Mbeya to confront Ifeju SC in the hope of keeping their cup run going.

The last quarterfinal tie will pit high-flying Coastal Union against Geita Gold FC. Coastal Union was the losing finalist two years ago. They secured a spot in the last eight on a penalty shootout victory over JKT Tanzania.

Geita Gold FC, who are involved in the 2023/24 Premier League relegation battle, progressed to the CRDB Federation Cup quarterfinals after seeing off Championship League side Rhino Rangers.

The winner of the forthcoming round's tie between Coastal Union and Geita Gold FC will face either Azam FC or Namungo FC in the semi-finals.

The semi-finals will be played on May 23. The final will be played in Manyara, with the showpiece taking place on June 2.

Winners of the knockout cup competition will earn a ticket to represent Tanzania in one of the Confederation of African Football inter-club showpieces as well as bag 100m/- from the sponsors.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

WHERE THERE IS
a WHEEL...

...THERE IS
a WAY!

