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## 'Uplift primary health care in universal coverage drive'

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

IMPROVING the primary health sector is vital to push towards attaining universal health coverage (UHC), the government has affirmed.

Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy prime minister and Energy minister, made this observation when launching the International Primary Health Care Conference 2024 (IPHC 2024) in the capital yesterday, where it will discuss "primary health care as a vehicle to achieve universal health coverage."

Standing in for President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the DPM said the government was sourcing funds to uplift delivering capacity in primary health care establishments.

"There is no way we can attain universal health coverage if we will not work to strengthen our primary health care services," he stated, illustrating expenditure on primary care and other medical facilities.

The government had so far allocated

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# Experts praise railways PPP with Bravo Group



These are some of the 50 out of a total of 140 youths from Ihanu and Mdabulo wards in Mufindi District living in difficult conditions, as found yesterday undergoing basic motor vehicle mechanics training conducted under the Youth Agency Mufindi project. Driver Shedrack Chumi is pictured showing them how a motor vehicle engine works. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

*"The government can remain with the property rights and rent out operational use to private companies"*

By Getrude Mbago

ECONOMISTS and transport stakeholders have hailed the government for adopting the public-private partnership (PPP) model in railway operations and service provision.

Interviewed experts said that the move will stimulate investments and widen employment in the sector, reacting to the recent accord between the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (Tazara) for open access Bravo Group, a local freight forwarding flagship firm, to facilitate seamless movement of freight trains the company will place on Tazara railway.

Dr Donath Olomi, the Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship Development (IMED) CEO, commended the government for coming up with the PPP system for use in various projects.

He said rail public utilities have perennially operated way below capacity while a growing amount of cargo is being transported by road, so the new partnerships will help boost cargo transportation, lowering costs and stimulating trade.

"We hope PPP will help revamp the business. Demand for transport along the Tazara Corridor is high and growing and we need a strong Tazara to respond," he stated.

Prof Haji Semboja, a veteran researcher at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), said the move will boost freight tonnage deliveries, increasing income and stimulating growth.

The Bravo Ltd trains will also help improve cargo clearance at the port of Dar es Salaam thus addressing congestion of cargo trucks at the port or the new inland dry port, attracting more importers and exporters to use the port.

"As the world system currently is, this is where we need to go," he said, noting that a number of countries are now leaving operations of major systems like roads, railways and airfreight or even ports to the private sector in order to boost efficiency.

With PPP, the central government will use less time on supervising operations of parastatal organisations and more on wider policy issues, he stated.

"Railway systems should be linked with other countries and we are fairly late in this need," he said, pointing at the need to widen PPP use, boosting cargo and passenger traffic.

"The government can remain with the property rights and rent out operational use to private companies," he said, supporting privatising local investors in the quest, as in the pact between Tazara and Bravo.

Rahel Japhet, a transporter, said that engaging private firms in operations of railways has big implications in economy, employment and technology.

Octavian Mshiu, a board member for the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) said multimodal transport and logistics format is the future of the logistics industry.

He said the foundation welcomes the pact as Tazara becomes the first railway operator to engage private sector operators through an open access pact with Bravo group. This stands to forge a strategic corridor with other member states of the Southern Africa De-

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## SPORTS



**YANGA PINS HOPE ON ZOUZOUA AS INJURIES CLOUD CAF CL LAST EIGHT CLASH**

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**UKRAINE EYE FIRST MAJOR TOURNAMENT SINCE RUSSIA WAR**

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## 'Direct efforts against Aids to high-population points'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government needs to intensify interventions for the control of spreading of HIV/AIDS especially in areas of high population densities, a parliamentary committee has declared.

Stanlaus Nyongo (Maswa East), the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on Health and HIV/AIDS, made this appeal at a press briefing after a committee session on planned allocations for the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) for fiscal 2024/25.

Specified prevention measures are needed in mining, long safari trucks, major bus terminals and recreational centres, with repeated awareness training on the need to use preventive gear, he stated.

He urged technologically friendly condom access points in such areas as part of measures to prevent HIV spread and new infections "There are some areas where they have started using condom access points that are friendly as they show improvement in fabrication technology," he said.

"We must look on how best the facilities will be fixed in various areas," he elaborated, noting that committee members endorsed the TACAIDS estimates document.

TACAIDS can attain its goals with efficient

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**23.3trn/- spent on SGR, 152bn/- revenue earned**

*SGR construction was moving concurrently with the renovation of the meter gauge railway, facelift of cargo wagons and passenger coaches, with 262 out of 600 cargo wagons renovated*

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has spent 23.3trn/- in the construction of the standard gauge rail tracks while collecting 152bn/- revenues for the past three years, with over 31,000 people getting employment opportunities in the ongoing rail construction project.

Masanja Kadogosa, the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) director general, highlighted this achievement at a briefing in Dar es Salaam yesterday, on TRC activities during the three years of the sixth phase presidency.

He said that 1.1trn/- has been spent to procure new wagons and locomotives, with 1,480 cargo wagons procured from China and ten sets of electric multiple units (EMU), described as two or more semi-permanently coupled carriages, from South Korea.

At the time that President Samia Suluhu Hassan took office, the construction of the first two stretches from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro (300 km) and Morogoro to Makupora (422 km) had largely been built.

It was after she took office that signing contracts with the contractor for the Makupora-Tabora (368 km), Tabora-Isaka (165 km) and Isaka-Mwanza (341km) was done.

These sections fall under phase one while the Tabora-Kigoma (506 km) section falls

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## Experts praise railways PPP with Bravo Group

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velopment Community (SADC), he said, urging other private sector actors to "use this new development of private sector participation in railway operations."

In line with the global initiatives on environmental sustainability, rail operations replace road haulage, thus cutting carbon emissions and road congestion as rail is a more sustainable transportation mode compared to road transport.

Bruno Chingandu, the TAZARA managing director, said at the signing event that the pact is part of the public-private partnership (PPP) policy as the government has opened doors for the private sector to invest in railway operations.

The ground-breaking pact follows a successful tender awarded to Bravo Group Ltd in the wake of a competitive tender process comprising local, regional and international companies.

Bravo Group will therefore get the rights to deploy rolling stock on the railway.

He said the process saw Bravo Group succeed as the qualified partner with a strong commercial proposal and technical expertise to complement TAZARA's effort to unlock Tanzania railways potential.

Angelina Ngalula, Bravo Group founder and executive chairperson, said that the company has invested \$35m in the new business outlet, expecting to start with two trains pulling 20 wagons each.

## 'Uplift primary health care in universal coverage drive'

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937.2bn/- for uplifting key infrastructure at various health centres, together with 364.7bn/- to procure various cloud-connected medical facilities, which shows commitment in heightening performance in the health sector.

So far a total of 52bn/- has been spent to purchase 528 vehicles serving patients at various medical facilities, he said, raising alarm on the global economic melting down propelling the prevalence of various diseases.

He urged patient conduct with the health sector workforce to boost their working morale, while cautioning against tendencies among some of them to violate ethical demands of their profession.

Dr Festo Dugange, the Regional Administration and Local Governments deputy minister in the President's Office, said that 6,933 health-care centres currently offer services as primary health care, with 26.9m patients across the country attending to the centres.

Dr Godwin Mollel, his Health counterpart, hailed President Samia for seeking out financing for elevating infrastructure, treatment

facilities and service delivery requirements across the country.

The health sector has been injected with 6.7trn/- that has enabled carrying out changes to improve facilities in various hospitals, he said, pointing out that the country is receiving larger numbers of patients from neighbouring countries.

There was need for further improving primary healthcare services as 74 percent of local population depend on primary health care facilities, he said, while

Irene Isaka, the director of social sectors in the East African Community (EAC) secretariat, said the conference is a clear message on the way to attain UHC by strengthening primary healthcare.

Dr Fedjo Gilbert, an expert with the World Health Organization (WHO), urged the forum participants to focus on how to improve mobile health services, empowering community health workers, as viable ways to amplify primary health care.

Attaining UHC demands working around the clock in preventing diseases at family level, setting an equitable health system enabling healthcare services to all citizens.

## 23.3trn/- spent on SGR, 152bn/- revenue earned

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under the second phase, he said, affirming that SGR is a unique rail because it connects the country with road, lake and rail transport modes in the region.

Presidential assent has been obtained for the amended Railways Act to facilitate open access arrangements on SGR with private freight services providers, he said.

Underscoring the need to involve the private sector in day to day train operations, he said that when operations start, current estimates project that it will take up to 15 years to recoup the construction costs.

SGR construction was moving concurrently with the renovation of the meter gauge railway, facelift

of cargo wagons and passenger coaches, with 262 out of 600 cargo wagons renovated, he said.

The Tanzania Intermodal and Rail Development Project (TIRP) projected to cost \$300m has been approved by the World Bank in pursuit of creating reliable open access railway infrastructure from Dar es Salaam and centred on Isaka terminal as a hub for interconnection with regional railways and other transport operators, he said.

The TIRP project is the first step to an eventual upgrade and expansion of the regional central corridor transport network, he stated, pointing out that the World Bank credit has sights to extend phase two of the SGR project.

## Suspects in Moscow attack appear in court

MOSCOW

Two of four suspects charged with carrying out the deadly concert hall attack in Moscow on March 22nd admitted guilt in a Russian court.

On Sunday, Moscow's Basmanny District Court formally charged a 32-year-old with committing a group terrorist attack resulting in the death of others.

The offence carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

A 30-year-old, a 19-year-old, and a 25-year-old also appeared before the judge.

The attack which was claimed by an affiliate of the Islamic State group killed at least 137 people.

The court ruled for the men, all of whom are citizens of Tajikistan, to be held in pre-trial custody until May 22.

A suspect was brought in direct-

ly from hospital and sat silently in the dock with his eyes closed throughout the proceedings.

He was attended by medics while in court, where he wore hospital gown and trousers and was seen with multiple cuts.

Citing the investigation, Russian news agency TASS reported that the 19-year-old was filming the terror attack.

The Moscow Region Health Ministry reported 182 people injured.

A total of 11 people involved in the attack have been apprehended, including 4 suspected attackers.

During his televised address Saturday (March 23), Russia's President Vladimir Putin said that Ukraine prepared a "window" for the attackers to cross the border.

Ukraine has denied accusations. March 24 was declared a national mourning day in Russia.



Education, Science and Technology ministry deputy permanent secretary Prof James Mdoe makes introductory remarks before the opening of the 8th EAC University Students Debate held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## 'Direct efforts against Aids to high-population points'

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inputs so as to ensure a conducive environment that is free from HIV infections, where community members don't live in fear of infections.

He lauded the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for its close monitoring of TACAIDS efforts with other partners to attain zero HIV infections, stressing that the country's economy depends on a healthy

workforce.

"Tanzania has clear goals to achieve by 2030, first to eradicate new infections (Zero new infections), to eradicate AIDS-related deaths (Zero AIDS deaths) and to eradicate stigma (zero stigmas)," he explained, noting that committee members we are happy with the current trend.

"We are doing well as a country because as we can see we have

made great strides in these three goals," he said, asserting that the public members of the public need to ensure that we are healthy, to achieve the goals of a better economy and completely eradicate AIDS by 2030.

Jenista Mhagama, the Policy, Parliament and Coordination minister at PMO, said that the government was conducting extensive awareness programmes

to educate the public on the need to go for HIV tests to know their status, especially men whose response is still low.

The government is working with the National Council of People Living with HIV (NACOPHA) as well religious institutions and community leaders to educate the public concerning stigma directed at people living with HIV/Aids, she added.



The US Ambassador to Tanzania, Michael Battle (C), poses for a photo with Mafia District Council officials at the weekend shortly after "handing back" to the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry (Antiquities) newly rehabilitated ruins on Mafia Island. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 2,155 houses near Msimbazi River Basin for demolition next month

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 2,155 houses are set for demolition starting on April 12, this year after the completion of compensation exercise costing 52.6bn/-.

Humphrey Kanyenye, project coordinator for the World Bank Financing at the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) unveiled this yesterday when addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam.

He said that a total of 2155 residents out of 2,329 people in the pay first list have received their payment.

"Among of the works of the project's contractor is to construct a river in order to prevent floods, which have been affecting the area every year, at the area also a City Park will be constructed," he said.

Kanyenye said the Dar es Salaam

Rapid Bus Transit depot at Jangwani will be relocated to the Ubungo Maziwa area.

He described the Msimbazi River valley as an area unfit for human settlement especially during rainy seasons, saying it poses serious threats to both human life and environmental well-being.

He said the project has three aspects: building a bridge, improving the river and relocating the BRT depot as well as building a City Park, where the whole work will cost \$260 million.

Kanyenye said the project coordination office in collaboration with the Dar es Salaam City and Kinondoni Municipality will supervise the demolition of the compensated houses.

"With this, all residents who have received their compensations should leave the areas before the

announced date," he added.

However, he said the demolition will involve only those who have reached the six weeks after receiving the compensation payment until February 29, this year.

He said that the second pay list book of 446 victims who were not reached in the first assessment after they boycotted the initial assessment because of boycotting on the compensation amount, have now accepted and signed.

He said the book will be submitted to the Chief Government Valuer for approval on March 26 this year, ready for compensation.

He said as per agreement, the compensated residents have to leave the area to pave way for the implementation of the project.

"Citizens with questions or needing more explanations about the demolition can contact the coor-

dination office through WhatsApp number 0738353854 or direct call to number 0738353855," he said.

Jamila Juma, Madaba local government member said she has received a compensation of 12m/- after refusing to take the previous one of 7m/-.

"I took all the money to purchase a new plot and didn't know if the demolition exercise would have begun on April 12, so I don't know what to do," she said.

She asked the government to provide them two more months in order for them to have time to prepare.

Another victim, Augustina Francis (54) said the first evaluation decided for her to get 7m/- but after those boycotted, the amount has jumped to 38m/-.

"I am waiting to receive the funds then I will move," she said.



# Avocado prices fall in Mufindi District, frustrating producers

By Correspondent Francis Godwin, Mufindi

AVOCADO farmers have expressed fears over the decline in the market value for avocados after prices fell to lower levels compared to last year.

This was revealed by Ester Kahama, a beneficiary of the Youth Agency Mufindi (YAM) project in Mufindi district, Iringa Region citing the need to improve the market for the crop to attract more farmers.

Kahama said that despite the plummeting price of avocado, the

YAM project has equipped participants with an adequate understanding on Avocado and how to improve efficiency and boost productivity.

Luhunga Aidan, an Avocado farmer, said that with many farmers motivated to venture in plantation of the crop there is a high probability for its market value to tumble, adding that, the government must intervene by attracting investors to come and build Avocado processing industries or build its own industries.

Luhunga said that the price of one kilo of Avocado decreased from

18, 00/- to 1500/- per kilo, a situation that endangers the farmers, a dangerous situation for an avocado farmer.

Aidan Kiwale, a trainer for the YAM project, said the people and the youth were highly dependent on avocados more than other crops due to the presence of a reliable market and buyers used to visit farm areas but the current situation is quite different.

Kiwale said that the harvesting season has started where they expected the prices to be good how-

ever a kilo was sold for 1500/- contrary to last year's price when a kilo was sold at 1800/- and other places 2000/-

He said the farmers have high hopes that the government, through the ministry of trade and industries, will attract investors to invest in horticulture and help farmers earn profit like other places that perform well in the production of cash crops.

Kiwale highlighted that the main worry is the speedy entry of many farmers who are motivated to grow the crop which threatens the avail-

ability of potential markets.

"Our hope is that President Samia Suluhu Hassan will hear our plea to have an Avocado processing industry built in our region just like the way the president heard our plea to have a road built to ease the transportation of our crops," he said.

Kiwale said maximum efforts have been invested in the YAM project to train youth from low-income families to invest in Avocado plantation, adding that the response has been positive due to the major profits tied to the crop compared to other crops

like maize and tomatoes.

"If an avocado tree is treated properly, growing avocado professionally by a measurement of 10 by 10 meters apart in a one-acre field, you will have 40 meters. After three years for some seeds, you will have an average of 1000 avocados for 10 trees.

Therefore, for 40 trees you will have 40,000 fruits. If one tree lasts for four or five years, it can produce 1200 fruits and therefore ensure the grower 1m/- in earnings from 10 trees annually unlike a maize farmer," he said.



Prof Kitila Mkumbo (R), Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment), congratulates Malkia wa Nguvu Ajaye' contest winner artist Jennifer Dickson (L) at a prize-giving ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Newly built ship starts trial operation in Lake Victoria

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

THE newly constructed largest ship on Lake Victoria, MV Mwanza Hapa Kazi Tu, has commenced technical trials to the deep waters of the lake.

According to the State-owned Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL), the ship has a capacity to carry 400 tonnes of cargo, 1,200 passengers, 20 vehicles and three Lorries.

In an interview with this paper yesterday, Eric Hamissi, the MSCL Managing Director said that the ship commenced three-day technical lake trials from yesterday-March 25 under a Tanzanian captain.

He said, once the trials are over, the ship will start to ply between Mwanza, Kemono and Bukoba (Tanzania) as well as Jinja and Port bell in Uganda.

"The ship started lake trials yesterday from Mwanza South port at 9:00 am to deep waters out of Mwanza vicinity, with about 60 experts on board that included contractors and suppliers of all vessel machinery from Germany and Portugal," he said.

He said that others came from The Netherlands, Philippines, Denmark, South Korea, and China and the crew of the ship included the Captain of the ship, Samson Bembele.

He said that the ship departed Mwanza South port yesterday to deep waters of the lake and also will

go to deeper waters today where tomorrow will go further, approaching Bukoba on the lake.

The aim of the trials is to measure the function of machinery, engines, generators, propellers, and power generation as well as integration of main engines and navigational sets of the vessel, he said.

He said that trials will ensure that the ship attains its maximum speed of 16 knots. Trials attain 96 percent of the building of the ship and 100 percent will be complete upon fitting furniture inside the ship, he said.

He stated that after the trials the contractor will hand over the ship to the government on May 31, this year, and thereafter procedures will be made for its operations.

## Tanzanian student awarded for vital role in the country's education sector

By Guardian Reporter

A YOUNG Tanzanian student at Rwanda's University of Global Health Equity (UGHE), Jennifer Dickson has been bestowed with an award for her contribution in the education sector.

Jennifer is a founder of Martha Onesmo Community Library in Msangeni ward, Mwanza District, Kilimanjaro Region, established the library to stimulate reading culture and enable citizens to acquire new knowledge.

She received the award in Dar es Salaam over the weekend at the Malkia wa Nguvu Awards ceremony organized by Cloud Media Group involving categories of health, education, innovation and social warfare.

Jennifer's community library dubbed: 'Martha Onesmo Community Library', in Msangeni ward, Mwanza District, was officially launched in January, this year by Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Prof Adolf Mkenda.

The facility is aimed to serve students, teachers, and other residents in Mwanza to increase their knowledge.

Speaking shortly after receiving the award, Jennifer said that she is greatly relieved to see her contribution to society recognized and the award has further encouraged her to continue doing social work aimed at benefiting many people.

She commended her parents, friends and family, and various donors who have helped her achieve her dream of opening a social library which has led her to receive the 'Malkia wa Nguvu' award given by Cloud Media Group.

She also thanked the organizers of the awards for seeing her contribution to society and also advised her fellow girls to believe in themselves and fight to achieve their dreams in life and ensure that they are not left behind.

"This award is a great example that if a girl child is empowered, can do big things in society, Jennifer is the result of her efforts and the cooperation of the whole community around her," said Dr Linda Ezekiel, one of Jennifer's family members.

The library's board chairman who is also the University of Dar es Salaam Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof Bonaventure Rutinwa congratulated Jennifer for reaching this far.

"It is interesting to see a young woman of her age having an innovative project that has a positive impact on the community, especially in rural areas; I call on her to

continue fighting so that she can do great things for the community and the nation as a whole," he said.

Jennifer established the library to fulfil her long-time dream to specifically help those in rural areas get library services to increase their knowledge.

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# Dar residents excited as prices of sugar fall

By Correspondent Pilly Kigome

THE price of sugar has dropped from 4,500/- to 2,600/- per kilogramme, a significant relief to Dar es Salaam residents. It has also brought a break to the residents in all parts of the financial capital.

A week-long survey shows that most wholesale and retail shops in Dar es Salaam sell sugar at the indicative price announced by the government due to the improved availability of the sweetened supply particularly during the holy month of Ramadan.

It's estimated that over 100,000 tonnes of sugar arrived in the country last month to address the sugar shortage challenge that caused its price to double in various parts of the country.

In separate interviews, a Kisutu resident in Dar es Salaam city, Bashir Mwantero, said the price has dropped to 2,600/- per kilo.

"I am surprised to find a shop that sells one kg at 2,600/- the government's decision to put indicative to this product is an important ingredient in this Holy Month of Ramadan," adding: "We ask the authority to monitor the implementation of the indicative price in practice because there are some traders who have been selling above the government's indicative price," said Mwantero.

Asia Mbawala, a Temeke resident said: "I am happy with the reduction in the price of sugar because, in the neighbourhood where I live, one kilo is sold for 4,000/- per kilo, that's why I came here to buy it for my sons' iftar. Traders should reduce the price because sugar is a major ingredient in iftar.

A Dar es Salaam businessman Komali Rizwan, has said that the number of customers who buy sugar has increased after selling at the government's indicative price.

Rizwan said that he has been selling for 2,600/- per kilo and he still making a profit and urged other

traders to reduce the price of the product to reduce the harshness of life for low-income earners.

"As business people, we need to be patriots, it's better to make a little profit than to make other people suffer. I reduced the price this morning and until now I have sold more than 300 kilos. I consider this to be the month of Ramadan, sugar is widely used in preparing various foods.

"Businessmen should not use tricks to show that there is no sugar because you are destroying the Government's plans which are trying to listen to the concerns of its people," said Rizwan.

Mustaqim Daruga, Mtendeni Street leader, said that people from different areas have been coming to the shops in the street to buy sugar due to its indicative price.

"At this shop, sugar is sold at 2,600/- per kilo, people used to buy a kilo for 3,200, 3,500/- and so on, but here we are buying at an indicative price. These are government efforts; the government has removed taxes and VAT to relieve people. We continue to thank the government for its efforts to ensure that sugar prices are friendly to enable every citizen to afford the essential product," said Daruga.

The government announced the indicative retail and wholesale price of sugar in the country not exceeding 3,200/- per kilo and urged all regions to follow those prices.

According to the indicative price, the Eastern Regions including Morogoro, Dar es Salaam, and Coast Regions, one kilo of sugar should be sold between 2,700/- and 3,000/-.

*"Businessmen should not use tricks to show that there is no sugar because you are destroying the Government's plans which are trying to listen to the concerns of its people"*



Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority director general Hamza Johari pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the opening of a meeting of Tanzanian aviation industry stakeholders on the prospects and modalities of Tanzania joining the African Common Aviation Market. Photo: Correspondent Dickson Mulashani

By Enock Charles

THE government has been urged to prioritize the delivery of reproductive health knowledge to adolescents in order to eradicate early pregnancies blamed for causing school dropouts and deaths.

Executive Director and Founder of Binti Salha Foundation, Salha Azizi made the call in Dar es Salaam at the weekend when addressing over 30 primary school pupils at a sensitisation seminar on reproductive health in Dar es Salaam.

The Foundation jointly organised the seminar with Msichana Initiative and WGNRR Africa where female and male pupils from Ilala Boma, Msasani, and Tandale primary schools participated.

According to her, the seminar intended to bring together the pupils so that they can share knowledge and experience on reproductive healthcare by discussing possible effects that are most likely to affect teenagers if they are not sensitized on reproductive health properly.

She argued that providing reproductive health education is inevitable if equal opportunities to access quality education by young girls are to be achieved.

"Every community member bears a

## NGOs team up to sensitise Dar pupils on reproductive health

responsibility of protecting teenagers by exposing them to deserved reproductive health knowledge," she commended.

She asked teachers to continue creating friendly relationships with girls in school so that they can have access to accurate information about various issues related to sexual violence for them to seek legal assistance timely.

Nesaa Mbwambo, a teacher at Ilala Boma primary school said that teachers have contacted pupils with reproductive health knowledge through sensitisation clubs.

Mbwambo commended the three NGOs for organizing the seminar in line with other stakeholders for continuing to provide health education in various schools.

"In reproductive health, we start with adolescent education, especially to identify how to protect yourself, problems arising concerning reproductive health, ways of protection so that you can avoid the effects that might occur," Mbwambo told the pupils.

She explained the major challenges

faced by teenagers at school include early pregnancies that in most cases lead to death.

According to her, early pregnancies are the result of young girls being tempted to get involved in unsafe sex with adults whom the majority take under the vantage of girls with life challenges by using money as a weapon to their ill intentions of impregnating girls.

Many of them face temptations on the way due to the distance to school and the poverty of their families, as well as the lack of reproductive health education.

The Tanzania 2022 Maternal and Child Health and Malaria Indicator shows that despite a decrease in the rate of early pregnancy from 27 percent in 2015/16 to 22 percent in 2022, there are still areas with a higher number of such pregnancies.

The report shows that regions such as Dodoma, Kigoma, Tabora, and Shinyanga have managed to cut down early pregnancy cases; the cases in Dar es Salaam have increased from 11.9 percent to 18.1 percent.

## e-GA to invest heavily in ICT to improve public services delivery

By Guardian Correspondent

THE e-Government Authority (e-GA) has affirmed to continue investing heavily in the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to improve public services delivery.

Eng Benedict Ndomba, the authority's Director General affirmed that the move is intended to increase efficiency and simplify access to better services.

In a statement issued by the authority over weekend, Eng Ndomba said that one of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's priorities was to ensure that public institutions apply the ICT in their operations and citizens get better services.

He said that digital services in the country are transforming the way people do business with the government by enabling more people to access services easily.

"In ensuring that we attain the President's vision, the e-GA in collaboration with other public institutions we have built various ICT systems which have helped to increase efficiency and enabled citizens to access services digitally," he stated.

For instance, the e-Mrejesho system enables the citizens to submit their complaints, opinions, questions and other concerns to any government's institution and get feedback digitally.

Eng Ndomba said the e-Mrejesho system enables citizens to save money and time as they do not need to travel a long distance to the public office to present their matters," he explained.

The new system is accessed through mobile phones, such as through calling \*152\*00# or using the e-Mrejesho mobile App as well as the website (e-mrejesho.gov.go.tz).

Recently, when swearing in some leaders at the State House in Dar es Salaam, President Samia directed the government leaders to use the e-Mrejesho system in receiving views from the citizens and giving feedback.

Dr Samia said the public leaders should understand and use various ICT systems available in the government, including the e-Mrejesho in order to improve efficiency in their responsibilities and service delivery.

"Go and use the e-Mrejesho so that you get feedback from citizens as well as citizens get information from you. This is how we can work efficiently," she said.

If the citizens fail to get satisfactory feedback from an institution that they sent complaint to, the system allows transferring the complaint to another institution at higher level.



Jane Goodall Institute

TANZANIA  
For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

### About Us

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is a global community conservation organization that advances the vision and work of Dr. Jane Goodall by conserving chimpanzees and inspiring communities to conserve the natural world we all share, we improve the lives of people, animals, and the environment. We strongly believe everything is connected and everyone can make a difference.

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) is a reputable and rapidly expanding non-governmental organization committed to wildlife research, conservation, socio-economic development, and environmental education. The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) was founded in 2001 by Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE. The JGI Tanzania with its partners makes a difference through community centered conservation, chimpanzees research projects, youths' environmental education, the innovative use of science and technology, we work closely with local communities in Tanzania, inspiring hope through a collective power of individual action.

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania is currently seeking to recruit a suitably qualified and competent Tanzanians to fill the following vacant positions:

<b>Job Position:</b>	<b>Motor Vehicle Drivers</b>
<b>Number of Positions:</b>	Two (2)
<b>Program/Department:</b>	Roots & Shoots & JGI Tanzania Admin
<b>Duty Station:</b>	Dar es salaam & Arusha
<b>Reporting Line:</b>	Office Manager (Dar es salaam) & Program Assistant Coordinator (Arusha)

### Job Summary:

This job position is responsible for providing driving services and support staff in the assigned office to perform their daily planned activities. The driver will also be responsible for ensuring safety of the vehicle and the tools assigned and observing all current JGI Tanzania policies and procedures for driving motor vehicles. The Driver will be responsible in assisting and identifying any vehicle mechanical fault and services, and reporting any discrepancies noted to the supervisor for immediate action. If necessary, the Driver will be required to carry out light mechanical duties and, with the authorization of the supervisor, assure the appropriateness of any mechanical work done by others.

### Key Responsibilities and Duties:

- Main responsibilities will include, but not limited to:
- Drive JGI Tanzania vehicles and adhere to speed limits as instructed by the road or traffic police and other authorities.
  - Ensure passenger safety and comfort during the field trips.
  - Maintain vehicles and other related car accessories to ensure smooth running of the vehicles.
  - Maintain regular inspections on vehicles and report any damages or loss to the supervisor for appropriate actions.
  - Advise supervisor on sources of vehicle maintenance and repair schedule and genuine spare parts and accessories.
  - Maintain general cleanliness, ensure security of the vehicles and related parts at all times.
  - Prepare schedules for vehicle repair, maintenance, and reports to the supervisor for appropriate action.
  - Prepare actual requirements for fuel, oils, and any safari requirements in accordance with the nature of vehicle trips and keep proper records for the same.
  - Fill in all trip logbooks and maintain trip documentation routinely.

### Minimum Job Requirements & Qualifications:

- The minimum job requirements and qualifications will include, but not be limited to:
- Form "IV" Certificate of the Secondary School Education and Vocational Trainings Certificate in Mechanics and/or Automobile from VETA or NIT. Attended a training and certified to drive VIPs.
  - Valid and relevant Driver's License with clean driving records.
  - Communication skills, fluent in Swahili and English, both verbal and written.
  - Minimum of five (5) years working experience as a Motor vehicle Driver in reputable Organization, whose nature of the job includes driving in remote areas with poor road infrastructure. Working experience in an International NGO is an added advantage.
  - Demonstrates interpersonal skills, strong communication skills, self-motivated person, a team player, and Sense of awareness.
  - Physical fitness and ability to lift and move heavy items as required.
  - Ability to perform routine vehicle maintenance checks.

### Application Procedure:

All applications should be submitted together with the most recent Curriculum Vitae (CV)/resume, copy of relevant academic certificates & transcripts, testimonials, three names of reputable referees, day-time telephone number or e-mail address, and should be sent to the following e-mail address: [recruitment@janegoodall.or.tz](mailto:recruitment@janegoodall.or.tz)

Applicants must indicate the job position applying in the email subject line. Sending applications more than one time is a disqualification.

Only the final shortlisted candidates will be interviewed and provided with the interview feedback.

### Deadline:

Monday, 01<sup>st</sup> April, 2024 before 5pm in the evening.

JGI Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and considers all applicants on the basis of merit without regard to race, national or tribal origin, religious belief, gender, and marital status.

QUALIFIED FEMALE APPLICANTS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.



## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### Farm Africa

#### Country Director, Tanzania

**Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

**Salary: GBP c60,000, plus benefits**

Effective agriculture has the power to change lives. It underpins prosperity, food security and stability the world over. Farm Africa focuses on transforming agriculture and managing natural resources sustainably. We work with farmers, rural communities and businesses in east Africa to boost yields, protect the environment and connect smallholder farmers to thriving markets.

We are recruiting a Country Director to lead the further development of our exciting and growing programme in Tanzania, someone with the drive and ability to engage with the private sector, institutional donors, and other agriculture sector stakeholders, to create and lead on new opportunities, grow the pipeline and expand both our geographical and technical footprint.

The Country Director in Tanzania plays a key role within Farm Africa's global senior leadership and you will be responsible for setting the strategic direction for Farm Africa's Tanzanian country programme, in line with our global strategy.

You will have a successful track record of working at Country Director level or equivalent, within the private sector, the NGO sector and a strong understanding of donor environments, working closely with communities and government.

You will have experience of Farm Africa's technical programme areas in agriculture market system development, and/or natural resource management, and have track record in strategic planning and human resource management. Exceptional networking, relationship building and financial management skills are pre-requisites.

If you are interested in this role, please visit the jobs page of our website for more information and details of how to apply [www.farmafrica.org/jobs/jobs](http://www.farmafrica.org/jobs/jobs)

**The deadline for applications is 9:00 AM (BST) on Monday, 15 April 2024.**

Note: Farm Africa will not accept third party application and recruitment consultants are respectfully asked to not get in touch with regards to this role.





Parliamentary Local Government Accounts Committee chairperson Halima Mdee (R) pictured yesterday leading members of the committee in assessing progress in the construction of Chatuu Secondary School in Muheza District and, shortly later, Muheza District Hospital. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

# Britain agrees \$100m trade finance to boost Africa food security

LONDON

DEVELOPMENT lender British International Investment said yesterday it had agreed a \$100 million finance facility with the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (TDB) to boost trade finance, farming and food security in the region.

The finance will help fund trade; including importing and exporting goods, on a continent where much debt burdened African economies face currency depreciation and rising debt and inflation compounded by issues such as climate change.

Providing more capital to help bolster trade finance in the region is important as many international lenders have pulled back from offering it, leading to a finance gap of up to \$120 billion a year, African Development Bank research shows, opens new tab.

By providing the financing to TDB, local companies will be able to buy essential materials such as fertilisers and machinery, helping boost output and cross-border

trade, food security, job creation and economic resilience, the lender said.

"This investment underscores the UK government's commitment to supporting economic and agricultural development across Africa," said Andrew Mitchell, Britain's Minister for Development and Africa.

BII, which has investments in over 1,470 businesses in emerging economies across 65 countries and total assets of 8.1 billion pounds, said that between 2022 and 2026 at least 30% of its total new commitments by value will be in climate finance.

The financing facility with TDB is the fourth of its kind to be struck with the lender and would help the bank address supply chain disruptions and forex shortages, said Admassu Tadesse, TDB Group President and Managing Director.

It would also help the group play an important role, "often working counter-cyclically to contribute to the security of supply of essential commodities in high priority sectors such as agriculture and healthcare," he added.

# Nigeria stampede at charity cash hand-out event kills 7 in Bauchi

By Mansur Abubakar, Kano

AISHA Usman Adamau, 14, was one of those who was killed in the stampede.

Seven people, including an eight-year-old girl, have been killed in a stampede at a charity event in Nigeria.

On Sunday, a businessman in Bauchi state, in the north-east, had invited residents to collect 5,000 naira (\$3.70; £2.90) each.

The event attracted a big crowd and "before you knew it things got out of hand," a local journalist said.

Recent economic strife has left many desperate for help. Five thousand naira could feed an average family for a day.

Police confirmed that seven people - four adult women and three girls, aged between eight and 55 - were killed in the incident in the Jos Road area of Bauchi city, though some locals have put the death toll

higher.

The authorities have said they are now investigating what happened.

Women normally attend these types of events as men are often reluctant to be seen in places where charity hand-outs are being offered.

Babangida Adamu lost his teenage daughter Aisha in the crush.

"She has never attended such events before yesterday and she went with some people," he said in a subdued voice on the phone from

Bauchi.

"I was sitting when a girl came to me crying that I should rush to the hospital. On reaching there [I learned] my daughter has died. We buried her alongside other victims on Sunday."

There has been no word so far from popular businessman Alhaji Yakubu Maishanu, who organised the charity hand-out in front of his office. It was part of his regular efforts to help poorer Muslims.

Such events are often held during the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan, when Muslims are encouraged to donate to charity.

This is just the latest incident of people losing their lives in similar circumstances in recent weeks in Nigeria.

Just last week some students died as rice was about to be distributed at Nasarawa State University in central Nigeria.

Last month, the Nigeria Customs

Service confirmed a stampede at its rice selling point in Yaba, Lagos, which led to fatalities and injuries.

The agency was selling subsidised rice amid high food prices across the country.

The cost of fuel has also risen dramatically over the past year as the government ended its policy of subsidising the price.

Wages have not kept up with inflation which has put many families in difficult circumstances.

## Big Announcement

# Change is Coming!...





## Tanzanians urged to have regular medical check-ups

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TANZANIANS have been advised to conduct regular health check-ups to identify potential ailments at an early stage.

Fr Christian Nyumayo, Pastoral Activities and Services for people with Aids Dar es Salaam Archdiocese (PASADA) advisory board Chairperson made the call over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the climax of the World Tuberculosis (TB) Day.

He said at times it's difficult to identify an infected person and with that, the community should not wait to see a patient suffocating at the end stage of a disease rather make regular medical check-up a norm before it's too late.

"It would have been okay if people could take time to check upon their health just like how they did during COVID-19 pandemic. People became more concerned about what could have caused the problem. Let us not wait for someone to sleep for us to note they are sick. One to cough for a long time, is one of the early signs that one might be sick," he said.

Fr Nyumayo said the Archdiocese values health services and most importantly to people living with TB and with that multi-initiatives have been done since 2003 to ensure that services are accessible to all populations including the vulnerable and the general population.

Cayus Mrina, PASADA executive director said the organisation's efforts are targeted on ensuring that by 2030, they are enrolled into Care and Treatment Units so that to achieve the three World Health Organisation (WHO) 95-95-95 targets, whereby 95 percent People living with HIV (PLHIV) should be diagnosed, the other 95 percent of those diagnosed with HIV should be receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART), and also 95 of all those receiving ART should achieve Viral Load Suppression (VLS).

He added: "Our motto says 'A healthy soul in a healthy body' which literally means that if a soul is healthy, the body will automatically be healthy. While the Bishop and other spiritual leaders PASADA will strive to ensure that."

## Project donates medical tools to boost healthcare services for mothers, child

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE USAID Afya Yangu project that is implemented by the Jhpiego Tanzania has donated medical equipment to improve the health of mothers and child in the Dar es Salaam Region, worth 38m/-.

The aid was handed over yesterday to the Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila by the representative of the Jhpiego's Director General, Dr Chosen Amon.

Speaking immediately after handing over the aid, Dr Amon said it is Jhpiego's hope that the aid will reduce the challenges that mothers and infants have been experiencing in the entire region of Dar es Salaam.

He said the USAID 'Afya Yangu' project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Tanzania and was officially launched nationally in June 2022. He said a five years project (2022-2027) is implemented by Jhpiego Tanzania together with its partners in 11 regions in Mainland Tanzania and islands.

"I would like to congratulate you for your strong leadership, your commitment and your vision which has been a compass in dealing with the concerns of Dar es Salaam residents. I would also like to thank the health management teams of the Council and the Region who have been at the forefront to ensure that the project is implemented as planned," he said.

He said that in the two years of the implementation of the project, in collaboration with the government at all levels, it has implemented various interventions aimed at preventing and reducing deaths from childbirth and deaths of children under five years, including strengthening family planning services where 97 service providers were trained and 27,683 clients received contraceptive services.

He said they have succeeded

in strengthening emergency services during childbirth where 26 anaesthesia providers, doctors who perform surgery and 39 operating room nurses in Kigamboni and Temeke councils were given on-the-job training.

He said that the project has successfully provided mentor training on mother and child services to 26 mentors who were able to teach their fellow employees about 214 from 127 centres.

Dr Amon said the project has succeeded in improving vaccination services by distributing vaccines from the district to various centres, enabling regional council teams to do collaborative management and enabling 165 centres to provide vaccination services at the community level.

He said they provided nutrition training to 39 mentors and the training has enabled these service providers to build the capacity of 424 other service providers in their centres to investigate, detect and treat severe malnutrition by using therapeutic foods derived from nature.

RC Chalamila praised Jhpiego for the support which he said will be a great help to mothers and children in the region and asked the parties to ensure that the support is used for the intended purposes to benefit the beneficiaries.

He said the government appreciates the contributions of various stakeholders who continue to cooperate in improving the health of Tanzanians in general, saying that health is a fundamental matter that the government has given priority to.

"We in the government really appreciate your contribution to the health sector because you have been helping in various areas and I assure you that the help you have given will be used for the purposes planned and benefit the beneficiaries. We welcome you to help when you feel like doing so again and again," he said.

PASADA is a social service agency operating under the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam that was begun in August 1992 when a small group of people with HIV gathered to seek mutual aid and support. PASADA strives to reach the poorest of the poor living with HIV and provide them with holistic care and support services. The services offered are available to all individuals without discrimination of any sort and completely free of charge.

PASADA has been closely working with organizations such as Stop TB-Partnership hosted by United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) so as to fairly contribute to pastoral activities.

"With Stop TB Partnership campaign, 23,885 people were educated on TB concerns such as services, and benefits to early screening, 3799 were tested and 579 were found positive.

Pauline Archard, Dar es Salaam Archdiocese health secretary, applauded the government's support on the provided services, urging it on the other hand to give a hand on X-Ray machines to support TB screening load.

Dr Jonas Lulandala, District Medical Officer (DMO) at the Temeke Municipal Council guaranteed PASADA that the government will support the services targeted to vulnerable and general population.

"The Dar es Salaam Archdiocese health secretary has underlined a concern on X-Ray as a prevailing challenge, I hereby guarantee you that it will be taken to the Regional Medical Officer (RMO) so that we can see on ways on how we can cooperate together to help the needy," said Lulandala.

According to him, the hospital has the equipment but a proper arrangement has to be made to support TB screening.

Shabani Salum, PASADA services beneficiary said the organisation has been of much help as initially he had no clue on how he will get clinic support to cure HIS TB illness but lucky enough PASADA came in and supported him by paying X-Ray screening that influenced his current well-being.

PASADA has been closely working with organizations such as Stop TB-Partnership hosted by United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) so as to fairly contribute to pastoral activities.



Dar es Salaam residents pictured at a shop in the city's central business district yesterday waiting to buy sugar selling at 2,600/- per kilogramme relative to an arbitrarily set 3,000/- or higher at most points across the country. Photo: Correspondent Pilly Kigome

## Mining firm in court over 'breach of contract'

By Guardian Correspondent

PULA Graphite Partners and their parent company, Pula Group LLC, have filed again a \$195 million lawsuit against Patrice Motsepe's African Rainbow Minerals Ltd (ARM) and three of its affiliates.

The lawsuit initial was filed in the High Court of Tanzania (Commercial Division) in December 2022 under Judge Abdallah Gonzi claiming a breach of the non-disclosure, non-competition agreement and standstill clauses. But in May 2023 Pula dropped the lawsuit for technical reasons. The complaint was refiled in November 2023.

The violation of the non-compete clause was because of an investment through Motsepe's web of companies into Evolution, an Australian-based company, which has a mining license in the Ruwanga

region, which is where Pula Graphite Partners is developing a competing graphite project.

Speaking recently on the withdrawal of the lawsuit, Pula President Dr Mary Stith is quoted to have said: "Withdrawing and refiling are the suit was based on a technicality. We are comfortable with the course of action recommended by our lawyers.

"We do intend to have refined our lawsuit because we believe our case is strong, and we believe that taking this action will ensure that Tanzanian companies will have a fair chance to defend their interests against foreign competitors."

In 2020, Pula boss, Ambassador Charles Stith met with ARM co-partner representatives, the company owned by South African, Patrice Motsepe. A non-disclosure and non-compete agreement was signed on behalf of Pula and

ARM, and the two parties agreed to possibly cooperate in mining activities in Tanzania.

And As a result of signing the contract, Pula related to Motsepe's group confidential information after signing a contract concerning mining business and investment in mining activities.

The information given was non-disclosure and about the nature of the business nature of its graphite mining exploration activities in Ruwanga, Tanzania, and including technical know-how on Tanzania's of the business mining in Tanzania graphite reserves in the region.

A key part of the contract was a commitment to not compete while the contract was valid. The initial contract between the plaintiffs and ARM was two years, but surprisingly Pula's suit is that the latter delayed in implementing the contract violated the non-compete clause

of the contract when they and decided to cooperate with another company called Evolution, which is a competitor of Pula in Ruwanga.

Aggrieved by the behaviour of the former partner Motsepe's group of companies, Pula Graphite Partners and their parent company, Pula Group LLC, filed its claim for damages.

On December 20, 2023, all parties were summoned to appear at the Commercial Court to receive orders about how to proceed with the action taken by Pula. Of the four Motsepe companies ordered to appear of December 20, only African Rainbow Capital showed up.

As a result, Pula filed an application for default against Patrice Motsepe, African Rainbow Minerals, and ARCH, a British company, which bought shares in Evolution and in which Motsepe's company is a major shareholder.



Edward Loure, coordinator of a CSO known as Ujamaa Community Resource Team, makes remarks at the launch of a project focusing on the integration of environmental conservation with the improvement of community welfare in Simanjiro and Kitemo districts. The event was held on Saturday at Orkesumet, a town and a ward in Manyara Region also standing as the headquarters of Simanjiro District. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## Researchers work on invasive snails destroying many crops

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

RESEARCHERS have cited climate change and improper use of pesticides as among major causes to the increase of invasive snails attacking crops in various farms in Mbeya and Songwe Regions.

The experts from the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI) unveiled this here at the weekend when they conducted a special activity to educate the public on how to control the pests.

They conducted the public awareness along with officers of the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB).

The invasive snails are claimed to destroy various crops such as coffee, beans, maize and sunflower in the

districts of Mbeya, Mbozi and Songwe in the region.

Aden Mbuba, pest researcher at TaCRI said the invasive snails were discovered in 2019 in the areas where an instant research commenced to dig the reason behind the increase of insects.

He said in the study, they found that climate change has greatly contributed to the increase of the snails in farmers being also catalysed by environmental destruction and global warming.

"To help overcome this, we have come up with new tactics which will help farmers fight the insects, we have trained them on the practices which if they will properly apply, will greatly help chase away the invasive

insects," he explained.

He said the farmers have been trained to ensure that their farms are clean but also eradicate the snails by spraying them with salt or soap water.

Farmers can also eradicate the snails by bordering their farms with ash, salt or fertiliser, he said.

TCB manager for Mbeya zone, Sijali Elius said invasion of snails in coffee crops threatens the goals of increasing production of the crop in the country.

He said the government's zeal is to increase coffee production from the current 80,000 tonnes to 300,000 tonnes that's why it has invested heavily in modern inputs and an increase of experts.

He said that if the pests are

not controlled in time, there is a possibility that the production of the crop will drop further and thus affect farmers' economy and development in general.

He advised farmers to stop using the pesticides carelessly in order to protect the crop, which has a high market abroad for more than 93 percent.

Some farmers said that the pests have become a threat to their crops, claiming that many farmers have been attacked and they don't know if they will harvest.

Godwin Mwantapila, one of the farmers thanked the experts for the training as they are going to apply the skills to eradicate the pests and thus rescue their crops.



# Sand dams built on seasonal rivers providing clean water crucial for communities in Kenya

NAIROBI

RHODA Peter is collecting water for her family. It's a daily task, but one that has become much easier since this sand dam was constructed.

The structure harvests waters from seasonal rivers that flow during rainy season but which dry out later in the year. It means she has a ready supply of the vital resource without the long journey she had to make in the past.

"I used to leave home with my children and walk to Mbooni Hills to fetch water from the springs. On the way, there were rocks that would hurt our feet and we would stumble. We would spend three hours a day getting water," she says.

Peter and her welfare group have built three sand dams along a river near their home in Kyalika village. The county Makueni, along with Machakos and Kitui counties, is classified as arid and semi-arid.

Only 5 percent of Makueni's nearly 245,000 households had access to clean piped water by 2022. The county produces about 30,000 cubic meters per day against a demand of 60,000 cubic meters.

Seasonal rivers flow a few meters a year here, and with little piped water and few reliable alternatives, many people depend on them for water. So sand dams have grown in popularity.

The barrier, typically made of concrete, impedes water flow and coarse grains of sand settle behind it, creating an artificial aquifer

that fills up during rainy seasons. Villagers from Machakos County are building one on a dry riverbed.

Africa Sand Dam Foundation is one non-profit supporting communities in Makueni, Machakos and Kitui to build sand dams.

Residents approach the non-profit with a request to build a dam and provide sand, rocks and other locally available material, plus labor.

Meanwhile, the non-profit, through partners, provides hardware material such as cement and skilled expertise. After construction, the community manages the sand dam.

Since it started in 2010, the non-profit has constructed 680 sand dams in the three counties.

"When you do a sand dam, anything below one meter of sand doesn't evaporate. So communities are able to access water within the sand dams during the driest month of the year, compared to open pans where it would dry or drilling of boreholes where the water salinity level increases as the year dries up," explains Andrew Musila, development director at Africa Sand Dam Foundation.

Access to water is increasingly important as human-caused climate change is leading to prolonged seasons of drought, scientists say, and the simple sand dam solution has gained traction across dry regions of Kenya and some other parts of Africa looking for reliable water sources.

As climate change makes drought more likely, scientists say sand

dams minimize water loss through evaporation because they store water within sand, and that helps with water supply during dry seasons.

Additionally, they say the structures rejuvenate surrounding vegetation and recharge groundwater, raising the water table.

Makueni county government has been building sand dams with partner organizations and residents, and by 2022, it had built 71, according to county government data.

"It's an interesting and beautiful phenomenon. It has two components. One, it protects the environment and stores the water for a long period of time and then gives not only just water, but clean water. Because part of our objective is to have clean water for access - both for human consumption and for those who want to also use it for their cattle," says Mutula Kilonzo, governor of Makueni County.

But experts also warn that finding the right sites for structures is key to making them work.

A study carried out in Kitui county found that about half of 116 sand dams surveyed were not functional because they were built in locations with unfavourable factors for enabling sand dams to supply water.

Factors to consider, the study says, include the rainfall amount, the percentage of clay in the soil and the presence of visible rock formations.



Maureen Swai (L), a relations and communications officer with the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority, presents foodstuffs and an assortment of other items to Dar es Salaam's Zili House Orphanage Centre director Emmanuel Zadock yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Dickson Mulashani

LILONGWE

# Malawi declares state of disaster over drought wrought by El Niño

MALAWI urgently needs more than \$200 million in humanitarian assistance, the president said as he declared a state of disaster in most of the country's provinces over drought.

Malawi has declared a state of disaster in 23 out of the country's 28 districts.

President Lazarus Chakwera announced that 2 million farming households have been affected by the El Niño-induced dry spells and need food.

The announcement by President Chakwera coincided with a food distribution exercise in Neno district, southern Malawi by the World Food Programme together with the Department of Disaster Management Affairs.

"I have a big farmland measuring

more than one acre and a half. Together with the children I stay with, we farm on this land. With good rains, I harvest 20-50kg bags of maize. This year, to be honest, I have harvested nothing," aid beneficiary Manes Kanjala said.

"We planted in November and the maize germinated because we had rains. In December, we had fewer rains. There was too much sun that scorched the whole field and crops."

Brighton Mphinga, the Disaster Risk Management Officer for Neno district anticipates more humanitarian assistance following the presidential announcement.

"The food you have seen we are distributing today is for the season

that we are in, but there is an additional type of hunger that we are facing because of the dry spell we have experienced. For Neno, it has been hit hard. So, the president's declaration means other people are going to come in now, lifting the hand of government where it wasn't necessarily able to do it. People are going to come because of that declaration."

The "Presidential Initiative to Stop Hunger" calls out to locals and the international community. Around 600,000 metric tons of food aid are needed. Malawi has been repeatedly hit by weather extremes in recent years. Neighboring Zambia declared a national disaster in late February.

said Lourenco in Jinan City, the provincial capital of Shandong.

Situated in the southwestern part of Africa, Angola borders with the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the north, Zambia in the east, Namibia in the south, and the Atlantic Ocean in the west and boasts a coastline that spans 1,650 kilometers. The capital city, also the country's largest city, Luanda, is located on the Atlantic coast of northern Angola.

Although the country is close to the equator, its climate is pleasant due to its high terrain and the influence of the Atlantic cold current.

# Angola's president woos Chinese tourists


SHANDONG

ANGOLA hopes to attract more Chinese tourists as part of its efforts to develop local tourism, said Angolan President Joao Lourenco in a recent interview with China Central Television (CCTV) in east China's Shandong Province.

Lourenco, who visited China from March 14 to 17, said he would like to invite more Chinese visitors to his country for its unique scenery.

"I want to introduce Angola as a country brimming with opportunities, especially for investors and as a country that offers a lot of sightseeing spots

for travel enthusiasts. Angola encompasses almost everything for those seeking to explore a different world and immerse themselves in the beauty of Africa. The country boasts beaches, sunshine, captivating waterfalls, and wildlife. We are planning to establish a large nature reserve in the south-eastern part of the country and it's called the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area. Tourists interested in large animals like lions and elephants will have the opportunity to witness them up close. This is the Angola we want to present to the Chinese people, who want to know our country,"



## INVITATION FOR BIDS

**Date:** 26 Mar 2024 (Tue)  
**Invitation No.:** KOICA-TZ-SM-1

1. KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) Tanzania Office invites foreign and local eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Supply and Installation of Solar Power Equipment and Rehabilitation Work for 'Serengeti Media Center' in Serengeti National Park.

**Brief of Bidding**

. Bid No.	KOICA-TZ-SM-1
. Bid Title	Procurement of Supply and Installation of Solar Power Equipment and Rehabilitation Work for 'Serengeti Media Center' in Serengeti National Park.
. Scope of Service	Solar power equipment supply, conveyance and installation Solar power system repair including electric works Rehabilitation of the Serengeti Media center
. Item	Solar Power Equipment (20 types, 656 items) Repair of roofing, windows, finishing, painting and decorations, plumbing, air condition and ventilation, fire alarm installation of the Serengeti Media center *For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment
. Procurement	Supply of required equipment with the same or higher specification listed in Requirements (Section 4.5), User manual in English or Swahili, Quality assurance are required
. Delivery	Delivery to the Serengeti Media center (The expense related to the delivery paid by the contractor) - Specific transportation schedules will be determined through coordination between the contracting entity and KOICA. - The contractor is responsible for bearing the transportation costs associated with the shipment. - The contractor is required to handle the transportation along the supply order and is accountable for any issues arising during transportation. - After completing the transportation, the contractor must notify KOICA and submit a final delivery confirmation document that can be verified by relevant country officials of TANAPA, stating that "all items were transported without any damage or issues."
. Inspection, installation and repair	Equipment inspection by KOICA Office, Construction Manager hired by KOICA office and TANAPA before and after installation. Solar power system repair including electric works
. Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of the Serengeti Media center *For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment
. Defects Liability Security	Defects Liability Security 2 year after KOICA's inspection on Installation, Rehabilitation and Repair
. Duration	total contract period : 6 months from the date of signing the contract <b>Delivery of the solar power system items : within 4 months from the contract signing date</b> <b>Installation of the solar power system : within 1 month from the date of delivery_</b>
. Project Budget	USD 152,545 (excluding value-added taxes and other fees)
. Projected Estimated Price	refer to the separate attachment

① **Goods for procurement :**  
 - Solar Power Equipment (20 types, 656 items)  
 - Repair of roofing, windows, finishing, painting and decorations, plumbing, air condition and ventilation, fire alarm installation of the Serengeti Media center (\* For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment)

② **Delivery :** Delivery to the Serengeti Media center (The expense related to the delivery paid by the contractor)  
 - Specific transportation schedules will be determined through coordination between the contracting entity and KOICA.  
 - The contractor is responsible for bearing the transportation costs associated with the shipment.  
 - The contractor is required to handle the transportation along the supply order and is accountable for any issues arising during transportation.  
 - After completing the transportation, the contractor must notify KOICA and submit a final delivery confirmation document that can be verified by relevant country officials of TANAPA, stating that "all items were transported without any damage or issues."

③ **Bid Type, ④ Selection of the Successful Bidders :**  
 - Lowest Price Technically Acceptable (LPTA), Qualification & Cost Based Selection  
 - Selection by Two-Stage Bidding (Technical Proposal and Price Quotation)

⑤ **Bidder's qualification requirement :**  
 (a) Those who have submitted the application for the participation in this bid by the deadline.  
 (b) A legitimate and lawful entity legally established by the relevant laws and regulations of Tanzania  
 - Must be a legally registered company;  
 - Has no impediments to tax refunds and fulfill their tax obligations.  
 - Bid applicant must possess the necessary documents, including the latest three years' tax payment certificates and social insurance payment confirmation.  
 - Bidders with outstanding payment records will be disqualified  
 (c) Anyone with licenses to perform required services in designated places  
 - ① Have a valid registration by Tanzania Government to perform procurement, installation and operation of equipment including solar power system in Tanzania at least for 5 years or more  
 - ② Have a valid work permit, resident permit and any legal permit to perform procurement of equipment in Tanzania  
 (d) Anyone not sanctioned or penalized by international organizations or governments as ineligible entities.  
 - Pledge (Such pledge shall contain the bidder's declaration that it has never been subject to any sanction prior to participating in this bid and it will not raise any objection against the termination and nullification of the contract if its declaration is found to be untrue)  
 (e) (In case of Korean firms) Anyone not sanctioned by the Korean government as ineligible (or such sanction is expired) in accordance with Article 27 of the National Contract Law (Law on Contracts to Which the State is a Party), Article 31 of the Local Government Contract Law or Article 39 of the Management of Public Institutions Law  
 (f) Anyone never been punished by any government on the charges of bribery.  
 - ODA Project Anti-Corruption Pledge  
 (g) Direct or indirect provision of cash or entertainment in exchange for a favor in this procurement procedure is prohibited.:  
 - Anti-Corruption and Integrity Contract  
 (h) The Bidders will not offer or receive money, goods, entertainment, or any other benefit directly or indirectly in the course of making or accepting a bid or signing or performing a contract (and even after the completion of the relevant project or the delivery of goods).  
 - Integrity Pledge ※ Whenever required by the Employer, the Bidders shall be able to present their legitimacy in manners that are satisfactory to the Employer.

⑥ **Details of the work scope : kindly refer to the Bid Data Sheet**

⑦ **Bidding explanation : None**  
 - In order to provide the same information to all bidders equally and fairly,

KOICA Tanzania Office will not respond to telephone inquiries.  
 - **Email to [tzkoica@gmail.com](mailto:tzkoica@gmail.com)**  
 - inquiry deadline : **02 Apr (Tue) - 03 Apr (Wed) 2024 15:00 pm**  
 - Response will be posted on KOICA Tanzania Office website on **04 Apr 2024 (Thu).**

⑧ **Application for bidding**  
**Any bidder who intends to participate in this bid must submit the application using the template 'Section 1-1. Expression of Interest\_SMC'.**  
 - Those who intend to participate in this bid shall submit the application via email [tzkoica@gmail.com](mailto:tzkoica@gmail.com).  
 - When the application is submitted, the title of email shall be the name of this bid.  
 - Deadline : by 28 March 2024 (Thu) 15:00 pm  
 - Email address : [tzkoica@gmail.com](mailto:tzkoica@gmail.com)  
 - Required documents : Application (in the prescribed form)

⑨ **Submission :**  
 - **Deadline (date) :** by 08 Apr 2024 (Mon) 15:00 pm  
 - Place (address) : KOICA Tanzania Office P.O.Box 31370, 8th floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No.G6, Chabruma Road, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam  
 - Person in charge : Ms. Jade Jonathan Program officer  
 - Contact details : +255 22-292-6581

⑩ **Time, date of opening :**  
 - Time, date of opening : 09 Apr 2024 (Tue) 11:00  
 - Place of Opening : **KOICA Tanzania Office** P.O.Box 31370, 8th floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No.G6, Chabruma Road, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam  
 ※ All bid participants are strongly recommended to attend such bid opening.  
 This may be attended by Bidders or their representatives.  
 ※ In accordance with Article 11.1. of the 'Regulations for Procurement and Contract in Grant Aid Projects, the bid limit is equals to the expected price.

2. The available budget for this procurement assignment is **152,545USD** and Bidders' Proposals should not exceed this budget. Any bid exceeding the project budget may result in rejection of its bid.

3. The Bidding Documents include the following documents: **refer to the attached Section 3 Bidding Forms of the bidding docs**

4. Language of Proposal: English

5. KOICA Tanzania Office requires that bidders and contractors observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, KOICA:  
 (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;  
 (b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by KOICA.

6. The KOICA now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries.

7. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at KOICA Tanzania Office webpage, [tzkoica@gmail.com](mailto:tzkoica@gmail.com) for inquiry and issuance of bidding documents and cable/telex/facsimile numbers].

8. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of five per cent (5%) or higher of Total Bid Price or stated fixed amount, and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or **prior to the bid date until after 30 days or more of the bid opening date.**  
 - Types of bid security: Bank guarantee, irrevocable credit, cash, certified check, or equivalent.  
 ※ The bid security will be surrendered to KOICA if the bidder who has been awarded the contract fails to conclude and sign the contract within the set period of negotiation or withdraws from the bid after the notification of award.

9. KOICA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.



## Food processors doing well on quality control but market lags

**M**ORE and more small-scale producers have been undergoing training on food processing, but many analysts fear they will have no answer on the paucity of market uptake.

Lately, 51 small and medium-scale food processors from various areas have been put to a brush-up on essential quality control skills and marketing strategies.

A look at one report on that event shows that the two aspects of their training stint are combined into one, basically focusing on improved quality.

It is this discrepancy that leads to reservations in the vast empowerment industry, whether it is neutral - as in this case, meant for small-scale producers generally - or when a gender dimension is added.

In the latter case, it can be said there are even greater challenges and concerns, for gender and inclusion strategies work best with optimal market outlets, where producing quality goods in any circumstance leads to benefits. When the market is constrained only the sharks win.

The scene with small-scale food producers is reminiscent of what commonly happens both to foods and more durable goods in the competition between markets, shop frames and supermarkets, in relation to pricing and being able to make a living on the basis of the prices a seller has to stick to.

The pricing is determined by the market uptake of the products, unavoidably pushing out less efficient producers. Thus family-based small firms lose out, as they need a living wage from produce.

It is helpful that there is an 'Alliance for Inclusive and Nutritious Food Processing (AINFP)' as a six-year programme (2018-2024) managed by an international agency boasting links with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID),

among others.

As in various other spheres, there is a rising amount of service offers while demand is low or stagnating. Urban wealth is rising, but not in tandem with the number of those entering business.

The major difficulty is that it is by and large savings that are being put into business in one way or another, while land being converted into backup asset for capital is still marginal.

Investors from abroad seek land merely to put up a factory and not to use it as a base to obtain credit, by its attachment as collateral.

Banks fear not because their titles are questionable but since they aren't in the least as secure as houses, where the danger of seeing the government annulling ownership title are negligible, unlike farmland.

Only by elevating land titles to personal ownership rather than mere occupancy documents can money flow into the land.

When this happens there will be a lot more demand for goods and services and, as the population will remain the same, it is the unemployed of today who will have to produce more goods for a rising market.

But Africa is hardly learning such lessons as it fears all sorts of foreigners and even local rich people, so it is making frantic efforts to manage poor growth and gross poverty in a democratic manner.

That provides a lot of room for blame politics, not solutions, since the only acceptable solutions are those found within a situation where, taking the example of democratic and partially chaotic Senegal, 97 per cent of the land is registered as state-owned and a lowly three per cent shifted by the former colonial power to private ownership. You may wish to try altering the percentages for other countries but the foundation is sure to remain the same; 97 per cent state land ownership equals poverty.

## Travel agents gathering needs southern circuit outreach gaze

**M**ORE than 100 travel agents from various parts of southern Europe and elsewhere are expected to arrive in Tanzania's tourism capital, Arusha, in May.

They will be chiefly out to explore the country's tourism landscape as part of an inaugural Tourism Summit 2024.

A local travel group, African Queen Adventures, is co-hosting the summit in tandem with TravelShop Turkey, an ally of the International Ecotourism Society.

What has particularly struck some local observers is that the gaze summit participants are likely to cast won't extend beyond some signature attractions like the wildlife scenes of the Serengeti and the shores of Zanzibar. Sampling various spots of the cultural ecosystem comes a distant third in the list of objectives enunciated by the local organisers and reciprocated by the co-hosts.

The northern circuit can evidently do with a lot of enhanced exposure especially to the rising tourist markets of southern and Eastern Europe, not to speak of western and south Asia, seemingly targeted in the summit endeavour.

As scores of exhibitions have shown, what Tanzania has to offer and especially in the northern circuit is largely unparalleled, placed second only to picturesque Brazil with its vast scenery treasure of the Amazon forest.

Part of the reason for this has to do with the organising effort itself, as it arises less from the tourism authorities than from some local and foreign stakeholders seeking to build synergies in that field.

visitations to the southern circuit.

A major problem is that local tourism marketing capacity is largely exhausted in northern circuit activity, while the southern circuit needs more specialised travellers like hunters and campers, not the usual sightseers.

There was a conference session online where nearly 400 tourism companies from about 100 countries participated in a Zoom meeting organised in late February by the organisers to promote the International Africa Tourism Summit.

There was a note of appreciation for the Turkish travel firm for helping to bring the conference to Africa, and to Tanzania in particular.

Noticeable mention was made of the epic 'Tanzania: The Royal Tour' documentary, whose use at the commercial and marketing levels has arguably reached its climax. It is time for new ideas.

For one thing, the organisers realise that Destination Tanzania is a relatively unexplored destination in Africa, a major reason for its potential being showcased gradually to tourism professionals worldwide. Yet it is hard to say why this remains the case, except that those in charge of the various tourism sites are the same people.

How far stakeholders at the summit will have ideas about the hinterland of Tanzania tourism is one thing, while what indeed the tourism authorities expect is another. Yet it isn't difficult to figure out that the tourism authorities are largely satisfied with what they have, which would not be the case if those protected areas were placed in private hands through a share sale.

It would not be surprising Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) and other agencies wholly but by offloading individual attractions to bidders. As there are unique features in each of those attractions, they will be in good market.

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By Thalif Deen

## 'World's democracies threatened by disinformation triggered in part by the rise of Artificial Intelligence'

**S**PEAKING at the third Summit for Democracy in South Korea last week, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned that a malicious "flood" of disinformation is threatening the world's democracies - triggered in part by the rise of artificial intelligence (AI).

But AI is also a critical arena in which democracy is being challenged. "So, while we seek to harness the power of AI and other digital technologies for good, some governments are abusing those same technologies to do just the opposite," he said.

They're using AI tools, like facial recognition and bots, to surveil their own citizens, harass journalists, human rights defenders, and political dissidents. They are also spreading mis- and disinformation that undermines free and fair elections, or sets one segment of our societies against another, Blinken said.

A Washington Post article in January titled 'AI is destabilizing 'the concept of truth itself' focuses on the upcoming US Congressional and presidential elections while pointing out that experts in artificial intelligence have long warned that AI-generated content could muddy the waters of perceived reality.

"Weeks into a pivotal election year, AI confusion is on the rise."

"Politicians around the globe have been swatting away potentially damning pieces of evidence - grainy video footage of hotel trysts, voice recordings criticizing political opponents - by dismissing them as AI-generated fakes. At the same time, AI deepfakes are being used to spread misinformation."

In the US last month, the New Hampshire Justice Department said it was investigating robocalls featuring what appeared to be an AI-generated voice that sounded like President Biden telling voters to skip the Tuesday primary - the first notable use of AI for voter suppression this campaign cycle.

Mark Coeckelbergh, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Vienna and author of 'Why AI Undermines Democracy And What To Do About It' (Polity Press, 2024), told IPS: "As we will see in the many elections that will be held this year all over the world, AI in combination with social media plays an increasing role in manipulation of elections and spreading misinformation."

"This is an imminent issue that needs to be addressed by policy makers. But as I show in my new book Why AI undermines democracy and what to do about it [https://www.politybooks.com/bookdetail?book\\_slug=why-ai-undermines-democracy-and-what-to-do-about-it-9781509560929](https://www.politybooks.com/bookdetail?book_slug=why-ai-undermines-democracy-and-what-to-do-about-it-9781509560929) democracy is not only about elections."



Democracy, he argued, is also undermined in its foundational principles due to, for example, bias and surveillance, which threatens basic democratic principles of justice and freedom.

In addition, he said, a knowledge basis is needed for democracy, but AI can lead to polarization and epistemic bubbles, in other words to a climate in which people are not interested in different opinions and where others are seen as enemies.

In such a climate, he pointed out, deliberative and communicative ideals of democracy cannot flourish, but are on the contrary undermined.

"We urgently need more binding agreements at national and global level to deal with these issues in order to safeguard and develop democracy. Democracy is very vulnerable, it can easily erode. If we leave things as they are, the desert of totalitarianism is waiting to emerge."

Nipuna Kumbalathara, Communications Lead at CIVICUS, a global alliance of civil society organizations, told IPS: "Indeed, a serious threat to democratic rights and values is emanating from right wing media channels and online portals who are adept at spreading disinformation and reinforcing prejudice against minorities and excluded people".

Politicians too, he said, are contributing to the growing epidemic of deliberate spread of half-truths and misleading information. Such trends were accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic when authoritarians and populists attempted to suppress the truth about the impact of the disease on affected people and sought to play up the effectiveness of their responses.

This promoted UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to call for a code of conduct on the integrity of public information in

his Our Common Agenda report. It is unclear how much progress has been made on the code of conduct.

Moreover, in times when civic space conditions are at a historic low around the world, he argued, "technology is being weaponised by repressive state apparatuses to illicitly surveil, malign and persecute civil society activists and journalists engaged in exposing lies and uncovering the truth."

Efforts to address this threat include promoting digital and media literacy, urging social media platforms to label AI-generated content, and raising awareness about the risks. Vigilance and collaboration are essential to safeguarding democratic institutions from AI-driven disinformation.

Elaborating further, Blinken told the Seoul summit: "Our democracies are hardly immune to the harms from AI misuse and failure, including impacts from the choices that tech companies make in deploying their innovations - from our citizens being able to access fewer and less diverse media sources because of the failures of AI-enabled search engines, to discrimination and bias that disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities.

"The United States is determined to shape the terms of our technological future in a way that's inclusive, rights-respecting, that sustains democratic values and democratic institutions. We've made historic investments in our technological capabilities and those of our democratic partners," he declared.

"We can see, we can feel the tremendous excitement about AI around the world, and in fact, nowhere more so than in the vast global majority countries. There's a sense that this is a tool, a means by which to genuinely accelerate progress. And we're already seeing

some of that".

Kenya, for example, has deployed a new AI-enabled bot that enables women and girls to access comprehensive and accurate reproductive health information.

Chile developed "Creamos," an AI-supported tool that encourages young people to contribute their ideas to foster social change and to advance sustainable development.

In Ukraine, an anti-corruption organization and tech companies came together on an AI-enabled system to accurately document attacks on cultural heritage and civilian infrastructure, which is strengthening Ukraine's prosecution of war crimes.

"We also know that AI has tremendous power to drive development that directly improves people's lives - and in doing so, earn the confidence of our people, people around the world, in our democratic model," Blinken said.

"But here's the reality. Right now, the world is on track to achieve just 12 percent - just 12 percent - of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. So, we are way behind."

But AI could accelerate progress on 80 percent of the goals - from improving agricultural productivity to combatting hunger, to detecting and preventing outbreaks of disease, to accelerating our clean energy transition that creates jobs and protects our planet at the same time.

Meanwhile, on March 21, the 193-member UN General Assembly adopted by consensus a U.S.-led resolution on "Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development" - the first-ever stand-alone resolution negotiated at the UN General Assembly to establish a global consensus approach to AI governance.



By Thomas Lyimo

# Business interests in the health sector should be minimised

**P**REVENTION is better than cure. This English saying suggests regular medical check-up to increase the possibility of retaining a good health which is an asset.

Human beings prefer good services but sometimes they cannot afford it. There are times when the situation does not suggest a possibility of getting what you desire this is when quietness and a moment of inactivity characterize people's lives.

In recent years we have witnessed some challenges in the health sector which up to now have not been solved adequately. There are hospitals which could not be in harmony with the new health benefit packages announced by the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), thus breaching contracts by temporarily suspending services to NHIF members. When business in the health sector collides it is normal citizens who get into trouble.

It is impossible to conduct any business without any promise of a gain of a kind. The gain motivates the undertakings making the services promising. What is important is to consider the economic status of the majority of Tanzanians.

Social welfare of any country cannot be expressed in isolation with health services. The government is hailed when her people are of good health. But due to critical evaluation of operations of governments of the world it becomes next to impossible for the government to operate without the private sector.

The number of Tanzanians who are in need of medical services is huge that the government alone cannot attend them. The inability of the government as it is the case of other countries is to provide health services to all people as well as giving an opportunity to the private sector to provide medical services.

It is indubitable that any business requires profit but much profit should not be expected from the health sector.

Nursing and treating people should be considered as avocation. When the spirit of helping to save lives fades in the society we may experience a lot of challenges in the health sector. Business interests should not be allowed to dominate the sector which carries hope of the people.

Medical technology and experts in the health sector are expensive to afford but there should be some efforts to prevent the desire to make the health sector an official business platform.

Private hospitals should get satisfied with the minimum profit just to keep them operating and not enriching some individuals. There are some lucrative business such as sell-



ing minerals that one could have ventured into to make huge amounts of money but not in the health sector which carries destiny of the people.

The value for life should be emphasized and hence being able to receive good health services at a reasonable price and hence making the country benefit in the following ways.

One of the benefits of good health services at a reasonable cost is saving lives of many people. Life is among the precious gifts given to us by God and therefore it is a wise decision struggling to save it.

When costs of medical services are affordable people are less stressed when they get sick. Doctors and nurses

should be proud of saving lives as that is what they vowed for. They should long for social significance that they will retain if they treat well patients making them regain their strength.

Another benefit of good health services which are affordable is promoting economic growth. For the country to excel economically, it needs healthy individuals who can work effectively. These healthy individuals are the results of good health services which must be affordable.

Business interests should not be allowed to reduce the possibility of having healthy individuals by some individuals considering the health sector as a platform for profit making. Health sector is the pillar of social welfare which

is attained by economic production which requires healthy individuals.

Also good health services which are not so expensive help to reduce the dependence ratio. It is encouraging when an individual can work for himself rather than waiting for assistance from others.

The possibility of having individuals who can work on their own is due to availability of health services. There should be efforts to prevent individuals from becoming dependents by making medical services accessible and affordable.

There is a great connection between productivity and health of an individual. It is good health services which are affordable that can help reduce the dependence ratio.

Again, good health services which are affordable help to attain social stability. High costs of medical services sometimes create some challenges among relatives who nurse their fellow. People may get into conflicts as they have to provide money which they do not have.

If the medical services become affordable some challenges like those will be solved. Failure to finance medical services makes individuals frustrated something which can cause them other health problems. This makes it necessary for the government and other people with good will to rethink of how the health sector should be organized.

The modern medical services are expensive though they are useful. There must be efforts to reduce the costs of medical services regarding the fact that the financial strength of many Tanzanians is not so promising. Health centres and hospitals should aim at generating a minimal profit to make the operations continue and not aiming at creating wealth. Health is a value.

*The author is a teacher based in Moshi. He can be reached at lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com*

# World Happiness Report: Young Tanzanians ranked the happiest

By Telesphor Magobe

**T**ANZANIA joined other countries across the world to mark International Day of Happiness on March 20, which coincided with the launch of World Happiness Report (WHR) 2024. The report evaluates the quality of people's lives in surveyed countries.

In this year's ranking, Tanzania 'slides two places' in WHR 2024 compared to last year's. This year it is ranked 131st out of 143 surveyed countries, while last year it was ranked 129th out of 137 surveyed countries worldwide. The report looks at the happiness of people at different stages of life: young people (below age 30), lower-middle, upper-middle and older persons (those aged 60 years and above).

According to WHR 2024, country rankings are based on life evaluations as a stable measure of the quality of people's lives and happiness is recognised as a fundamental human goal. This year's theme of International Day of Happiness is "Reconnecting for Happiness: Building Resilient Communities."

Although Tanzania seems to slide two places from last year's ranking, being the 131st out of the 143 surveyed countries, it is still ahead of the ranking of 2022 where it was ranked 139th out of 146 surveyed countries worldwide, which makes it rank higher than it was ranked in the two previous rankings.

This means that if we consider the number of countries left behind in each ranking, in this year's ranking Tanzania has improved more than in the two previous rankings as this year it leads 12 countries, while last year it led 8 countries and in 2022 it led only 7 countries worldwide. In this year's ranking, young people in Tanzania are ranked the happiest, while those in the upper middle group are ranked the least happy.

According to this report, in recent years there has been a gradual slight decline in average happiness worldwide as age increases. With regard to sub-Saharan Africa (and based on 40 surveyed countries), "life evaluations are highest for young people, fairly similar in the two middle age groups, and then higher for males and lower for females in the 60+ age group."

The report suggests that people are happier living in countries where the equality of happiness is greater. "Happiness inequality in sub-Saharan Africa has increased by more than 50 per cent for all age groups, and only slightly less so for those of middle age than for older persons and young people."

According to WHR 2024, measurement of subjective well-being continues to rely on three main wellbeing indicators: life evaluations, positive emotions and negative emotions. In positive emotions what is evaluated is laughter, enjoyment and learning or doing something interesting, while in negative emotions what is evaluated is worry, sadness and anger.

The UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/281 on June 28, 2012, proclaiming March 20 International Day of Happiness to be observed each year. WHR is released every year on March 20 as part of marking International Day of Happiness. Happiness is about life fulfilment (self-actualisation). When a person's needs, dreams and expectations are fulfilled in life the person will likely be happy and when they are unfulfilled the person could be unhappy and frustrated.



Positive psychology researcher Sonja Lyubomirsky in her book "The How of Happiness" describes happiness as "the experience of joy, contentment, or positive wellbeing, combined with a sense that one's life is good, meaningful, and worthwhile."

In proclaiming March 20 as International Day of Happiness the UN Assembly "recognised happiness and wellbeing as universal goals and aspirations in the lives of human beings around the world and the importance of their recognition in public policy objectives. It also recognised the need for a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes sustainable development, poverty eradication, happiness and the wellbeing of all peoples."

The report says World Health Organisation (WHO) suggests that by 2050 estimates that the global population of older persons (those aged

65 and above) will double. It further says as the global population of older persons continues rising, the number of persons living with dementia is also expected to grow, reaching about 139 million dementia cases by 2050. The report defines dementia as "an age-related clinical syndrome that results in progressive or persistent loss of memory and thinking abilities, which in turn can negatively impact wellbeing."

Research-based evidence suggests that "higher wellbeing is associated with better cardiovascular functioning, which in turn reduces dementia risk." Furthermore, the reports says studies conducted in many countries, including Australia, China, Europe, Israel, Korea, Singapore, and the United States suggest that "persons with higher wellbeing have better memory and thinking abilities, experience less declines in memory and thinking abilities,

and are less likely to develop dementia." This suggests that the more people are stressed in life the more they experience declines in memory and thinking abilities.

Therefore, the report recommends to world countries to formulate policies that enable equitable access to wellbeing and health-enhancing activities may be especially beneficial, such as those that increase equitable access to education, safe public spaces for physical and social activity, health screening, and affordable and effective healthcare.

"Such policies would provide individuals with the resources needed to maintain their wellbeing and health, resulting in widespread benefits for dementia prevention." Tanzania is capable of making all this possible and if it implements its priority areas well it will keep improving in world happiness rankings as it has done in the last three rankings.





# 3 YEARS OF MAMA SAMIA



## Three Years of President Samia in Office Spur Tanzania's Capital Markets



- **Strong, Sound and Resilient Capital Market Sector**
- **Tanzania on Record of FIVE FIRSTs in Sub Saharan Africa**
- **Increase in Internationally Recognized Capital Market Players**
- **Notable Strides in Financial Literacy and Capital Markets Awareness**
- **Enhanced Capital Market Efficiency**
- **Major Leaps in Attracting Foreign and Local Investors**

Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania has set legacy of impressive performance in the capital market frontiers in her three years period in the office. Commenting on the impressive performance, the Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA), CPA. Nicodemus Mkama highlights that, conducive policy, regulatory and operational environment provided and supported by the Sixth Phase Government under the noble leadership of Her Excellency Dr. Samia, have spurred significant development and growth in the capital markets. CPA. Mkama also highlighted that, economic diplomacy and international relations policy being implemented by Her Excellency Samia have attracted increased participation of local and international investors, resulting into the following key achievements:

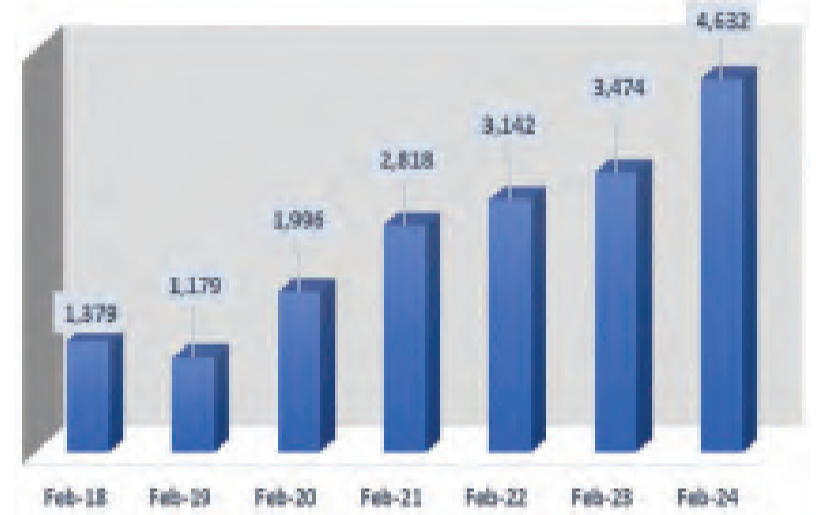


CPA. Nicodemus Mkama  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Capital Markets and Securities Authority  
(CMSA)



### Strong, Sound and Resilient Capital Market Sector

Despite the effects of Covid 19 pandemic and global geopolitical tensions, the Tanzanian capital markets recorded 20.6% increase in total value of investment to TZS 40.1 trillion as at 29th February 2024 compared to TZS 33.3 trillion as at 29th February 2021; combined trading turnover of equities and bonds on the stock exchange increased by 87.7% to TZS 11.2 trillion as at 29th February 2024 compared to TZS 6.0 trillion as at 29th February 2021; and Net Asset Value of collective investment schemes had 297.1% momentous increase to TZS 2.0 trillion as at 29th February 2024 compared to TZS 500.3 billion as at 29th February 2021.



Value of Investments in Capital markets up by 20.6%



Trading turnover on the exchange up by 87.7%



297.1% Momentous increase in the value of Collective Investment Schemes



### Tanzania on Record for FIVE FIRSTs in Sub Saharan Africa

The Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) has been at the fore in steering development of innovative sustainable capital market products that have facilitated successful issuance of FIVE FIRSTS. These include:

- First multicurrency social bond in Africa
  - First exchange listed green bond with big ticket size in sub Saharan Africa;
  - First gender bond in sub Saharan Africa;
  - First listed corporate sukuk bond in sub Saharan Africa; and
  - First Subnational water infrastructure green revenue bond in Africa
- These achievements have positioned Tanzania on the map of global capital markets that offer innovative and sustainable products attracting both domestic and international investors.

Mr. Mkama added that some of the notable strides in the Tanzanian capital markets that has contributed for Tanzania to be in the global map for development and successful issuance of innovative sustainable capital market products include:



CPA. Nicodemus Mkama, CEO CMSA, presents a dummy approval for issuance of "NMB Jamii Bond," to NMB Bank CEO, Ruth Zaipuna.

**First Multicurrency Social Bond in Africa**  
The Tanzanian capital market has celebrated issuance of a multicurrency Social Bond dubbed "NMB Jamii Bond" raising TZS 212.94 billion, a success rate of 284% and it is part of Multicurrency Medium Term Notes (MTN) worth TZS 1 trillion approved by CMSA. The funds raised from the Bond is being used to finance social and sustainability projects and businesses including those owned by youth. This initiative supports President Samia's vision on economic empowerment for youth.

#### First Exchange Listed Green Bond with Big Ticket Size in Sub Saharan Africa

The capital markets has also witnessed issuance of the first Green Bond with the big ticket size in the Sub-Saharan Africa dubbed "CRDB Kijani Bond" raising TZS 171.83 billion, a success of 430% and is part of Multicurrency Medium Term Notes (MTN) worth TZS 780 billion approved by CMSA. The proceeds of the bond are used to finance environment-friendly projects and businesses. This initiative supports implementation of Government commitment on Climate Finance to support adaptation and mitigation measures against effect of climate change.



Minister of State, President's Office, Planning And Investment Prof. Kitila Mkumbo receiving Information Memorandum of the CRDB Bank Green Bond from CMSA's CEO, CPA. Nicodemus Mkama during the launching of the Green Bond held on 31st August 2023.

#### First Gender Bond in Sub Saharan Africa



Tanzania's Finance Minister Dr. Mwuigulu Nchemba champions Sustainable Capital Markets in SADC via the Committee of SADC Stock Exchanges (COSSE)

Similarly, issuance of the first Gender Bond in Sub-Saharan Africa dubbed "NMB Jasiri Bond" raising TZS 74.2 billion to finance small and medium-sized enterprises owned and operated by women, as well as those owned by men but producing goods and services that has direct impact to women has been witnessed in the Tanzanian capital markets. This bond was part of the Medium Term Note (MTN) program worth TZS 200 billion and attained a success rate of 297%. The bond is listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) and cross listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE). This underscores the President's aspirations in empowering women and promoting gender equality in the country.

#### First Listed Corporate Sukuk Bond in Sub Saharan Africa

Also the Tanzanian capital markets recorded successful issuance of an Ethical Sharia Compliant Sukuk Bond dubbed "KCB Fursa Sukuk" which raised TZS 11 billion, a success of 110 percent. The funds raised from the Sukuk bond are utilised to finance small and medium sized Sharia compliant businesses. This augments Government's strategy of having diversified products in the financial sector that attracts a wide range of investors with different ethical background and therefore facilitating financial inclusion as enshrined in the Third National Financial Inclusion Framework.



KCB Bank, MD Cosmas Kimario unveiling the plaque during the launch event of KCB Bank Corporate Sukuk that was held on 9th November 2022 in Dar es Salaam



# 3 YEARS OF MAMA SAMIA



## First Subnational Water Infrastructure Green Revenue Bond in Africa

Further, in support of implementation of Government Alternative Project Financing (APF) Strategy launched by Hon. Dr. Mwigulu Lameck Nchemba, Minister for Finance, CMSA facilitated issuance of a 10-year Tanga UWASA Water Infrastructure Green Revenue Bond to raise TZS 53.12 billion for financing water infrastructure improvement and environment conservation in Tanga city. The Tanga UWASA bond which is an innovative, sustainable blended capital market product with elements of subnational, water infrastructure, green, revenue bond is a milestone pathfinder transaction, showcasing other subnational institutions and municipalities in financing revenue generating projects, through capital markets.

Hon. Dr. Philip Isidor Mpango, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, inaugurating the issuance of Tanga UWASA Green Infrastructure Revenue Bond on 22nd February 2024. Looking on is the Minister for Water Hon. Jumaa Aweso.

## Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Program Launched

CMSA has launched the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Program, marking another milestone in the development of capital markets in Tanzania. The CPD program provides a mechanism for market professionals to maintain their professional standards; meet regulatory requirements and keep abreast with global developments in the securities industry. Continuous development of knowledge and skills is an essential ingredient for effective regulation of the markets and protection of investor's interests as such market professionals would be appropriately equipped to manage emerging risks within and across markets on a continuous basis. This initiative is part of implementation of the objective of the Financial Sector Development Master Plan that calls for enhancement of human capacity in the financial sector.



Commissioner for Financial Sector Development, Ministry of Finance, Dr. Charles Mwachaja pulling the ribbon to launch Capital Markets Continuous Professional Development Program held on 29th February 2024. Looking on from right is CPA, Nicodemus Mkama, CEO of CMSA, Mr. Christopher Morris, President of National Advisory Council for CISEast Africa, second left is Board Chairman of CMSA, Dr. John Mduma and Ms. Mary Mniwasa, CEO of DSE.

## Increase in Internationally Recognized Capital Market Players

CPA, Mkama also pointed out that during the three years period of Her Excellency Dr. Samia in the office, CMSA implemented initiatives that led to increase in certified capital market professionals recognised internationally; increase in licensed market intermediaries and launching of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Program :

### Internationally Recognized Capital Market Professionals Up by 61.5%



The Deputy Minister for Finance Hon. Hamad Hassan Chande handing over certificate to one of the graduate of Capital Markets Certification Course during graduation ceremony held in October 2023. Looking on is CEO of CMSA, CPA, Nicodemus Mkama.

As part of the initiatives to increase the number of certified market professionals recognized internationally, CMSA collaborated with the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment (CISI), United Kingdom to conduct the Securities Industry Certification Courses (SICCs) in Tanzania. The objective of SICCs is to enhance the capacity of market professionals in keeping pace with developments in the global market space. Market professionals certified under the SICCs are globally recognized and eligible to apply for licenses to provide services in Tanzania, across the East African region and internationally. The number of certified capital market professionals recognized internationally increased by 61.5 percent to 798 during the period ended 29th February 2024 from 494 during the period ended 29th February 2021. This has increased the capacity of market professionals to structure innovative products in the capital markets.

### Licensed Market Intermediaries Up by 27.8%

Implementation of the Securities Industry Certification Courses has increased the number of licensed market intermediaries by 27.8 percent to 184 during the period ended 29th February 2024 from 144 during the period ended 29th February 2021. The increase in the number of market intermediaries serves to increase public access to financial services which is one of the key pillars enshrined in the Third National Financial Inclusion Framework.



CPA, Nicodemus Mkama, CEO of CMSA addressing capital markets stakeholders during stakeholders' consultation meeting.

## Notable Strides in Financial Literacy and Capital Markets Awareness

In bolstering financial literacy and public awareness, CPA, Mkama further added that CMSA implemented various tailor-made programs on the opportunities and benefits available in the capital markets. The programs implemented include the following:

### Capital Markets Universities and Higher Learning Institutions Challenge

Capital Markets Universities and Higher Learning Institutions Challenge (CMUHLIC) is a competition for students in universities and higher learning institutions whose objective is to enhance financial inclusion and literacy by testing knowledge and understanding on issues related to capital markets. The Challenge has attracted over 88,871 participants during the period ending 29th February 2024, recording an increase of 82.6 percent compared to the participation of 48,662 recorded during the period ending 29th February 2021. Positive outcomes of the challenge include creation of over 10,000 actual investors in shares of companies listed on the DSE; development of the Young Investors Forum with more than 6,000 members, whose objective is to provide financial literacy and experiences for the youth in subscription and trading of shares. This is part of President Samia's commitment to youth empowerment on financial matters.



The Guest of Honor Hon. Deputy Minister for Finance Hamad Chande presenting prize to winners of the CMUHLIC during Award Giving Ceremony held in October 2024.



Winners of the CMUHLIC attentively listening to an official from UTT AMIS during one week study visit which is part of award to top 12 winners of the challenge organised to orient them on practical aspects of the capital markets.

### Capital Markets Awareness Programs

CMSA conducted capital markets awareness programs to various targeted groups including, youth of different calibres, women's groups, entrepreneurs, policy makers, members of the parliament, public and private institutions, social groups and people with special needs. This endeavor contribute to attainment of the objective set under the Financial Sector Development Master Plan on raising public awareness on financial matters.



Ms. Adella Kaale, Manager Legal Affairs and Enforcement of CMSA making presentation during Crowdfunding Awareness program held in Dar es Salaam.

## Exhibitions and Crowd Pulling Events

CMSA participated in various exhibitions and crowd pulling events including, Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (SabaSaba); National Agricultural Show (Nane Nane exhibitions); National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) Exhibitions; Zanzibar International Trade Fair; and commemoration of National Financial Services Week and World Investors Week. This initiative is aligned with the Government aspiration of reaching out to the public for dissemination of education and feedback mechanisms.



Dr. Natu Mwamba, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Finance receiving information from CMSA Senior Officials during her official visit to the 46th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair.



CMSA Senior Officials with their trophy received during the Financial Services Week which was held in Arusha November 2023



CMSA Senior Official receiving feedback from one of capital market stakeholder during stakeholders' consultation meeting.

## Enhanced Capital Market Efficiency

The CEO of CMSA also outlined some measures that have been undertaken in the capital markets that has enhanced capital market efficiency. Some of the key measures that have produced positive outcomes include the following:



### Major Leaps in Attracting Foreign Portfolio Investment

Tanzania has implemented major reforms that have created conducive environment for movement of capital. The World Bank Report on assessment of movement of capital under the East African Common Market Scorecard raised the score for Tanzania by 157 percent from 7 out of 20 to 18 out of 20. The assessment report reflects significant strides in the Tanzanian capital markets on the free movement of capital. Currently, there are no restrictions in the flow of capital in equity, corporate bond and collective investment schemes operated in capital markets, making Tanzania an attractive destination for international investors.

### Enhanced Participation of Local Retail Investors in the Capital Markets

In the effort to ensure increased participation of local retail investors in the capital markets, CMSA approved establishment of "Faida Fund", a Collective Investment Scheme operated by Watumishi Housing Investments (WHI), raising TZS 12.95 billion in the Initial Public Offer (IPO), a success of 173 percent. The scheme provide opportunities to retail investors including youth and women to invest with a minimum amount of TZS 10,000 that are ultimately invested in Government bonds and corporate bonds listed on the stock exchange with a view of maximizing their returns through professional fund managers. This initiative is part of implementation of the Financial Sector Development Master Plan aiming at increasing the supply of affordable demand driven financial products.



Dr. Natu Mwamba, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Finance delivering key note speech during the launch of the Faida Fund Collective Investment Scheme issued by WHI.

## Increasing Participation Through Use of Technology

In the technology space, CMSA approved Sim Invest and Hisa Kiganjani which are technology-enabled applications that facilitate subscriptions and trading of securities in the capital markets. The initiative has enhanced access and usage of capital market products and services to a wider segment of population in urban and rural areas, particularly retail investors in stock exchange trading and subscription for units of collective investment schemes. This initiative has increased public access to financial services which is one of the key pillars enshrined in the Third National Financial Inclusion Framework.



In his concluding remarks, CPA, Mkama affirmed Tanzanian Capital Market Sector is strong, sound and resilient with increased participation of domestic and foreign investors and that the CMSA will continue to pursue initiatives that contribute to fuelling development of competitive economy for human development. CPA, Mkama wished Her Excellency President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan the grace of good health and success in her endeavours in bringing economic growth and social development in the Country.



# From corporate comfort to green venture of raising fruit trees

By Guardian Correspondent

TEN years ago, champion farmers Mary and Paul Mwanza lived in Nairobi and worked in the bustling hotel and IT industry. The tree-loving couple longed for rural change and to escape the frantic pace of life in Kenya's capital.

Moving 100km southeast to Makueni County in 2014, the pair traded air-conditioned offices for the outdoors and a small parcel of land growing trees. A decade later, Mary and Paul are champion farmers in ACIAR-funded efforts to utilise fruit trees to bolster climate resilience across East Africa.

### What was the experience in the initial stages?

Despite the challenges of water scarcity and nutrient-deprived soil, the couples' leap of faith and love for trees, evidenced in their homestead, proved to be a turning point for their lives and the community around them.

Growing requests from neighbours for a tree or two from the Mwanza's established Palma Mukuyuni Tree Nursery in 2016, which has since morphed into a commercial venture and training hub for farmer cooperatives, groups, individuals, and a blend of diverse stakeholders to meet the growing demand. However, their limited horticulture experience could only get the duos far in the business.

'We had specialised in Grevillea Robusta, locally known as Mukima, used for timber, poles, and firewood. However, since so many of us were growing this single species, the market was flooded,' said Mr Mwanza.

'Therefore, the profit margins were low or close to none. Additionally, we used to harvest soil from anywhere for potting. Still, the seedling outcome would be as frail as one harboring kwashiorkor a disease marked by severe malnutrition.'

### Relief with the birth of the project

A glimpse of hope appeared when the project was birthed, helping farmers like the Mwanza's increase fruit tree stocking and strategic siting to increase climate resilience, food security and nutrition for smallholders in Kenya and Rwanda.

The project provided much-needed training on tree nursery management, including seed sourcing, handling, procurement, vegetative propagation, managing pests and diseases, and business elements. The emphasis on maintaining high-quality standards in seedling production was a timely boost the couple needed to nurture their nursery into a thriving entity.

Climate change-related impacts such as prolonged droughts and low rainfall motivated the government to ensure more trees were grown and integrated with appropriate soil and water conservation measures, especially in



A snapshot of the vast nursery housing fruit, indigenous and ornamental trees.

agricultural landscapes, to capture and store carbon and build resilience against disasters.

### Evidenced impact through the projects' intervention

Palma has since blossomed into a commercial tree haven with accreditation and registration from regulatory agencies, including the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate (KEPHIS) and the Kenya Forest Service (KFS). Paul and Mary now collect seeds from certified sources to ensure purity and high seedling survival rates.

Collaborating with 84 groups and 164 nursery operators and training their staff and casuals under their primary and satellite nurseries, Palma's impact resonates far and wide.

Orders stream in from Bungoma County (592 kilometres away), Kwale (343 km), Kilifi (354 km), Malindi (338 km), Kajiado (193 km), Kitui (150 km)

and other parts of Kenya. With over 150,000 tree seedlings and aspirations to be a one-stop shop, floodlights illuminate Palma's 24/7 transactions, attending to travellers journeying through the night.

However, the nursery's role isn't limited to business; it has become a hub for learning. Paul and Mary guide clients on planting and raising the tree seedlings, ensuring success beyond the point of purchase.

Their vision for Palma transcends sales, extending into education. With Kenya's evolving lower school curriculum (ages 4 - 18), they aspire to educate the next generation about tree growing and climate change.

The nursery is a testament to perseverance, resilience, and embracing the unexpected. It is also a beautiful revelation of what a blend of partnerships can help achieve: a layer of richness and variety in running a business, especially when crowned with the ideal teachings.

Paul's strength lies in training as he oversees lessons and details about achieving the ideal outcomes based on what he's learned, and the knowledge continuously amassed through the project.

On the other hand, 'I run the managerial aspects, ensuring the nursery's procurement process and day-to-day running, including overseeing the nursery operators' work and welfare, remain on schedule. Also, I prepare lunch for our workers to ensure they're in the best shape to carry out the required tasks,' shares Mary.

Paul and Mary's journey transformed a parched plot into a lush

haven, courtesy of ACIAR and ICRAF's intervention. With every tree they nurture, the couple continues to script a story of growth, greenery, and boundless opportunity, and their son is developing a website to ensure their marketing gains digital wings.

### The spill over effect

Paul and Mary are just two of many benefitting from the project.

Through a collaborative effort with the county government and other community engagements, the project in Kenya has successfully reached 2,695 beneficiaries (46 percent women). This includes the Training of Trainers (ToTs) model, which provided training on improved tree-growing on good agricultural practices (GAP), gender-inclusive training for tree nursery operators, and the role of trees in climate change and carbon.

This covered 1,975 participants (916 females and 1,059 males), 21 of whom attended more than one training, thus translating to 1,954 beneficiaries. ICRAF's engagements with schools and provision of quality avocado seedlings reached 441 beneficiaries.

In Rwanda, ICRAF and the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB) researchers trained 1,148 beneficiaries, including 329 farmers and extension officers (211 male and 118 female).

Additionally, 432 farmers (178 women and 254 men) were engaged in tree-growing activities in Umuganda in the Rweru and Juru sectors. In comparison, an additional 387 farmers (201 women and 186 men) were trained in the citi-

zens forum.

Of the 111 farmers trained in tree nursery operations in Rwanda, 17 were nursery operators. After the training, the project has continued capacitating one existing cooperative nursery in Juru and another in Rweru. In contrast, four individual nurseries (2 Juru and 2 Rweru) are being set up with technical support from the project.

This totals six nurseries. Of the 77 staff trained in nursery operations in Kenya, 45 were nursery operators. Currently, 30 individual nurseries are being supported in Kenya (15 in Kiambu, especially nursery certification and access to quality true-to-type seedlings while 15 in Makueni are being strengthened on accessing quality seeds of indigenous fruit trees and their propagation.

As the 18-month project winds up, ICRAF will continue partnering with Palma Nursery. It will expand training to reach more stakeholders, including the county extension agents, youth, and women, to encourage them to take up the prescribed practices.

'Embracing gender-inclusive approaches in capacity strengthening efforts is key to ensure tree nurseries can produce healthy tree planting material that meets smallholders' multiple needs.

This creates green jobs and realises national and global targets on climate change, restoration, and biodiversity conservation,' concludes Prof Catherine Muthuri, Project Leader and Kenya Country Director and Regional Convener for East Africa, Center for International Forestry Research-World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF).

## THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 86 -

Crossword grid with numbers 1-24. Includes clues for Across and Down.

- 16. make slightly angry
17. Monetary unit of Denmark
18. saag
19. subject to debate or dispute
20. state of being legal
22. discharge
23. densely populated areas
24. a freeholder

Word fit puzzle grid with some letters filled in: T O O

- OPPONENT
NOEL
LOOSE
IMPACTS
OMIT
SAE
ECRU
TOO
TEA
LIVONIAN
VIPER
OTO, OLE
IDEATE
NUT, UNI

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with words: BAGAMOYO, CAREER, PEARL, NAMELESS, ABBA, NAIRA, ALANINE, EDITOR, RENAME, ELAN, NOVEL, EVEN, MAME, SHAYSALI.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Includes program schedule for Monday through Sunday and social media links.





GWI's digital snapshot report for Dec 2023

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Farmers face shortage of high-quality seeds

Page 14



Uganda's Umeme profit drops to USh11.5 billion

Page 15

## Kabanga nickel project secures 150bn/- funding

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER & AGENCIES

**K**ABANGA nickel project, jointly owned by Lifezone Metals with 84 percent stake and the Government of Tanzania with 16 percent stake through locally registered Tembo Nickel Corporation, has secured US\$50 million (nearly 150bn/-) funding from a consortium of marquee mining investors.

This comes after Lifezone Metals signed a Binding Subscription Agreement (BSA) for Unsecured Convertible Debentures with the consortium led by Harry Lundin (Bromma Asset Management Inc.) and Rick Rule on Thursday last week.

A debenture is a type of bond or other debt instrument that is unsecured by collateral.

According to the press release issued by Lifezone Metals last week and obtained by The Guardian yesterday, the secured funding will be used to continue the project's activities as well as general corporate and administrative purposes.

Kabanga is believed to be one of the world's largest and highest-grade undeveloped nickel sulphide deposits.

The company says the Kabanga Nickel project's Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS) is also on-track as will be completed by the end of the third quarter of this year.

Key terms of the deal, according to Lifetime Metals will include bear interest at a rate of the Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR") plus 4.0 percent per annum, subject to a SOFR floor of 3.0 percent.

During the 48-month term, the debentures can be redeemed early by Lifezone Metals, subject to the achievement of certain conditions, at a price of 105 percent plus interest otherwise payable to the maturity date.

Interest is payable quarterly via a mix of cash and shares during the first two years and all in cash during the last two years.

"The debentures are convertible into common shares of



Kabanga boasts the world's largest development-ready, high-grade nickel sulphide deposits. File Photo

Lifezone at the option of the holder," the release notes.

The conversion price will be determined on the closing date based on the lesser of a 30 percent premium to a trailing period Volume-Weighted Average price (VWAP) and US\$8.00 per share, and is subject to customary adjustments.

Usually, VWAP provides traders and investors with a measure of the average

price at which a stock is traded over a given period of time.

The release further says mandatory conversion can occur if Lifezone Metals' share price is greater than 50 percent above the conversion price for any 15 trading days within a 30 consecutive trading days period.

Closing and issuance of the convertible debentures is subject to customary clos-

ing conditions, it says.

Lifezone CEO Chris Showalter was quoted as stated: "The proceeds from the issuance of these convertible debentures enables us to maintain the momentum of ongoing work streams at our Kabanga Nickel Project and provides us with optionality to accelerate other opportunities."

The release notes that the convertible

debentures have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933 or with any securities regulatory authority of any state of the United States and may not be offered or sold within the United States absent registration or an applicable exemption from registration requirements.

Lifezone is a modern metals company with the aim of creating value across the battery metals supply chain of extraction, processing, and recycling using its Hydromet Technology.

The company reported attributable measured and indicated resources totaling 43.6 million tonnes, grading 2.02 percent nickel, 0.28 percent copper, and 0.16 percent cobalt (2.57 percent nickel-equivalent).

Showalter said the resource increases provide a strong foundation for a feasibility study.

"We believe that Kabanga has the potential to become a low-cost, long-life and environmentally responsible producer of nickel, copper and cobalt, which are critical metals for the green energy transition," Showalter was quoted as saying.

"We look forward to advancing the project in close coordination with the government of Tanzania, who has been highly supportive of our efforts."

## TGNP fighting to combat economic challenges facing rural women

By Francis Kajubi

TANZANIA Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) plans to open more Knowledge Centers (KCs) this year to economically empower rural women in lake and southern highlands zones, where gender discrimination is prevalent.

Since 2012, TGNP and partners have established KCs to help women seize economic opportunities, combat gender-based violence, and engage more actively in politics.

Operating with community officers, police gender desks, social welfare officers, and ward councilors, the KCs have been vital in promoting equality.

Lilian Liundi, TGNP's Executive Director, stated last week in Dar es Salaam that the KCs have been crucial in addressing gender-based discrimination and transforming women's lives through sustainable income-generating activities.

"Recently, TGNP has effectively es-

tablished 80 KCs across 17 regions, with Dar es Salaam hosting 18 KCs. There are plans to expand further, with new centers anticipated in the lake zone and south highlands regions," stated Liundi.

In a weekend interview with this reporter, Erick Anderson, the Secretary of Kivule KC, disclosed that the center, founded in 2021, presently boasts 30 engaged members, including five men.

Anderson explained that TGNP had provided training to the center's members on various socioeconomic issues, including how to interpret district council budgets, enabling them to monitor and address any gaps in the implementation of development projects in their communities. Additionally, he emphasized that members are responsible for sharing their knowledge with the general public, empowering them to hold local public officials accountable, particularly on matters relating to development.

Anderson also revealed that the center's upcoming project involves launch-

ing a Batiki tailoring initiative aimed at generating income for its members. The center has requested support from TGNP for two electric sewing machines to enhance their business plan.

"The KC has been equipped to run two horticulture projects at Kivule center and Kelezange street with the aim of generating revenue to sustain the monitoring and management of emerging cases of gender-based violence in Kivule ward," Anderson clarified. In 2023, the center generated a total of 600,000/- from the horticulture project, with 400,000/- allocated towards addressing two cases of gender discrimination.

He further pointed out that the center has been organizing seminars on various topics of people's concern within the ward and routinely donating sanitary pads in the five secondary schools.

In encouraging women to take part in politics, he defended; the center has been working with four women-led

savings and borrowing groups with 180 individuals to sensitize women within the ward to participate in the coming local government elections as contestants and voters.

Mosi Selemani, a 46-year-old member of Kivule KC, acknowledged that her involvement in the center has enhanced her understanding of key issues in combating gender violence. "Being a member has equipped me with the tools to effectively address discrimination and handle cases of gender-based violence in partnership with public officials," she shared.

Husna Membe, a 55-year-old resident of Kivule, noted the positive impact of the KC's seminars on her knowledge and empowerment regarding economic rights, including property inheritance, equal access to education for both boys and girls, and the importance of participating in community development meetings.

"The center has been instrumental for us, the residents of Kivule. Through collaborative seminars with professionals from diverse backgrounds such as bankers and lawyers, we have been enlightened on various crucial aspects of daily life," she expressed.

## The case of southern Africa's quest for cross-border energy projects - I

By Nj Ayuk

**A**S detailed in Standard Bank's recently released strategic discussion document, 'South African Gas Optionality,' Africa holds natural gas in abundance, both onshore and off, accounting for more than 7 percent of the world's proven natural gas reserves.

While Algeria, Egypt, and Nigeria together can take claim to more than 80 percent of Africa's gas production per 2020 estimates, these figures are rapidly evolving, and much of the gas industry's attention is redirecting further south to Namibia, South Africa, inland to Zimbabwe, and to the east in Tanzania and Mozambique, which is home to the continent's third largest store of natural gas.

African gas production rates are also on the rise, and forecasts indicate this movement will continue for decades to come. African gas output volumes have grown by 70 percent since the year 2000 and, as outlined in Standard Bank's report, should continue to grow to 2050, reaching a yearly output of approximately 520 billion cubic meters (bcm.)

The report also notes that with these relative newcomers to the African natural gas economy paired up with the more established producers in Nigeria, Senegal, and Mauritania in the west and with Algeria and Egypt covering northern Africa, practically the entire perimeter of the African continent could have liquefied natural gas (LNG) operations for the purposes of domestic use or export as early as 2027.

Factoring in Africa's current LNG capacity of 72 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), the number of LNG facilities either in operation or advanced development, and the supportive role small-scale LNG (SSLNG) operators will play going forward, the report estimates that Africa's capacity should increase by roughly 69 MTPA in the future.

### Cross-Border Cooperation Opportunities Abound

People may respect man-made borders, but fossil resources certainly do not.

Africa will follow the developed world in powering itself via a combination of wind, solar, and green hydrogen, but none of this will come to pass unless we work together

Hydrocarbons accumulated beneath the Earth's crust irrespective of where one nation or another decided their boundaries should be. However, the tendency of natural gas deposits to span borders – inherent to their location, size, and distribution – has, in many cases, already promoted international cooperation around the globe.

Nj Ayuk is the Executive Chairman, African Energy Chamber.



Members of TGNP's Kivule knowledge centre. Photo: TGNP



# GWI's digital snapshot report for Dec 2023

IT'S the balance between that increasing desire for authenticity and that it is coming right from the source so social media really enables and facilitates that but the other side of that is that we have the algorithms and what are they optimizing for or providing us, in short there is a lot to unpack there for brands or even publishers or users. This will continue to evolve and this is very visible in this report prepared by GWI, which provides audience insight to publishers, media agencies and marketers around the world.

## Podcast is the Future

The authenticity of it and the opportunity to connect with people as a brand never underestimate the value of it because when people tell you what they want you to give them and how it can add value to their lives, go with that. You need to deliver polished stuff, you can do polished, you can do live and you can do all sorts of things. For data miners they find the value incredible in terms of access and reach. The report covers the number of people that tune into blogs and live streaming. There is also a parallel insight on the number of people that use video as a source of learning and that includes live streams.

I recommend that you do a deep dive into the 2023 report if you want to understand a bit more of the business case for this but also from a learning perspective if you're not data driven to just jump or have a go at it seeing how it works for your business and your audience. In Tanzania there are many small businesses that take advantage of Facebook and Instagram to promote their businesses. If they consider this data their business decisions based on which platform appeals to their clients or reaches, can help them a lot.

If your content is compelling and adds value people will always come back to it. If it is boring or a promotional content that does not consider the clients desire it will be viewed partially then ignored because there are many choices of content to view so therein lies the trick. Don't ask yourself should I repeat this but

## DIGITAL MARKETING

### Alley Mbatya



is it worth watching more than once? If not then leave it, but if the next question that comes to mind is how can I evolve it just slightly? A content creator can come up with all sorts of different stuff and you can package that story up for different audiences at different times. Think about your marketing and the genuine advice there is. Try not to repeat and repeat in the way that we used to do on television because that isn't taking advantage of the opportunity. You can do it but their better ways of using your budget to deliver better outcomes.

The Growth in Social Media Platform Realistically there are different values in all of these different experiences and people are going to keep coming back to them in the same way that they keep coming back to Snap Chat and X and so forth. Users always have strong views, and they will always voice them but behind all of that are very genuine statements that we need to listen to. People value the experience they get on these platforms and they want multiple experiences so as a marketer let us not try and make it the same.

We've seen Tik-Tok continue to grow through the data its ads now reach a billion adults a month that's about 23 percent of adults outside of China which is very huge, what is also interesting is the amount of time users spend on Tik-Tok which is like a day a month which is 24 hours a month essentially so that is a lot of time on the platform when you think about it so in contrast to that the other set of people spend about 118 hours a month on Instagram exactly. So when you put the numbers together and contrast between each platform that is when you see that people actually spend more time on Tik-Tok, definitely a lot of money and time goes to Tik-Tok.

## Behavior, Affinity and Usage

What we also see in the report is that Instagram is preferred it is favored more, if you ask someone which is their favorite platform often times it is 46 percent of women under 34 years of age say it's Instagram versus 20 percent that only say Tik-Tok. What does this really mean for brands across all of these platforms that balance the idea of usage and reach versus affinity?

The easiest advice is first to try them all out for your audience and see what the outcomes that you care about that is the only way as a marketer you're going to decide which one of these platforms is best for your product. Even from one campaign to another the same team is going to have different outcomes on different platforms. So, Yes! There is a magic answer and that you can identify and that is Tik-Tok is performing good and now your mind is settled forever. That is definitely not the way it's going to be.

Indeed try things out for your audience and see what delivers the best outcome. Let's unpack data from AI, they used to be called Apani and their mobile expects in tracking mobile app trends. Like I said earlier, almost a day a month spent on Tik-Tok but also a day a month spent on YouTube, also 19 or 20 hours spent on Facebook and you got 11.5 hours spent on Instagram. So, if you ask people how much time they spend on social media each day, GWI survey finds that it is 2 and a half hours per user per day and that is spread across all platforms.

To be continued...

*Alley Mbatya is the founder of Eyeland Advertising and Analytics based in Dar es Salaam*

# Honelo: Tech has completely changed my career as driver

By Guardian Correspondent

THE advancement of technology has brought both opportunities and challenges.

There are many people who have benefitted from technology and they can give evidences on the good side of it; and those who their lives have completely destroyed due to an abuse of technology.

The 41-years-old father of three, Honelo Ally Ramadhani (pictured), who spent years, working as a conventional taxi driver to make a living. He is among of the beneficiaries of various opportunities brought by the technology.

With almost nine years of experience in the ride-hailing industry in Tanzania, Honelo has a lot to tell about the digital transport industry, which he has witnessed its growth since its early years to where it is now.

Honelo said he was formally a conventional taxi-driver since 2015; when ride-hailing set its foot for the first time in Tanzania.

He then decided to transform from conventional taxi driving to grab new opportunity, and he currently works with Bolt Tanzania platform as a ride hailing driver.

Ride-hailing is a private transport mode where a passenger hires a driver through a mobile phone App to take him or her to an exact location.

"It was during the advent of the technology that I thought of joining the bandwagon of ride-hailing, since conventional taxis were losing ground as many private passengers are opting for the new affordable and reliable ride-hailing services," he said in an interview.

Since he was among the first drivers to use the new mode of private transport, Honelo recalled how many ride-hailing drivers were finding it hard to operate the system through the mobile phone app.

"At that time, many of us could not read the map as indicated on the smartphone to locate the potential passengers and sometimes the App could experience a hitch which resulted in losses of revenue," Honelo explained.

He is however happy that the App has been improved at present and in case there is any hitch the drivers are notified immediately.

"In case of any network breakdown, the drivers are



within a very short period," he explained.

Commenting on how he is able to make more money in the city of Dar es Salaam which is notorious for traffic jams, particularly during peak times, Honela said he always consults his passengers on using link roads as opposed to main roads.

"As a ride-hailing driver, it is important to consult your passengers on whether you can use link roads to avoid traffic congestion on the main roads. This enables me to avoid taking too long on one route and eventually enables me to make more money.

"I also ask them whether they like listening to music or news bulletins as a way of making them comfortable. At first it was also not simple to communicate to foreign passengers due to language barrier but over the years I have learned a lot and at least I can engage them in little conversation," he explained.

Honela is glad that his life has changed since he transformed from being a taxi-driver to Bolt Tanzania as a hailing driver since he has managed to acquire his own vehicle through a loan that he acquired from a financial institution.

"I don't think I would have been in a position to buy a car as a taxi-driver but thanks to Bolt Tanzania I now have a car of my own through ride-hailing with the company," he appreciated.

However, as it is with other businesses, ride-hailing also has its difficulties such as rowdy and drunk passengers who refuse to pay the requisite amount when they reach their final destination.

"You have to use wisdom when dealing with such people. In case a passenger refuses to pay the required amount then I will report such a case to Bolt Tanzania who will refund me after sometime," he told this reporter.

Regarding safety when driving strangers, Honelo has no worries since ride-hailing apps such as Bolt provides all information on passengers as well as point of departure and destination for a specific passenger unlike conventional taxis.

"With ride-hailing, you speak to your passengers before even meeting them and all the information of the route is known through the App," he explained.

To cope up with new demands of passengers, Bolt Tanzania sends email to all drivers on all new products and services such as customers' offers and safety features, and this keeps the ride-hailing drivers abreast with all new developments in the company, Honelo stated.

The driver predicts a bright future for the ride-hailing services in Tanzania since many passengers want affordable and reliable services offered by ride hailing companies.

"Bolt Tanzania has done a great job of connecting us to customers who want affordable prices. It was very hard for us during the old days but things have been simplified through the use of technology," he admitted.

He advised other people wishing to join ride-hailing not to hesitate since the industry is safe, comfortable and flexible since it enables one to engage in other activities.

During his spare time when in not ride-hailing, Honelo spends his time with his wife and children at home.

Honelo's dreams are to buy a plot and build a house and then open a business which will sustain him even in old age when he can no longer engage in ride-hailing.

# Farmers face shortage of high-quality seeds

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

IMPROVED maize seeds prices have gone up in Tanga region, due to the shortages of supply, the situation which is increasing worries to farmers on whether they can afford to purchase.

Farmers who spoke to this paper recently stated that due the situation, some of them who prepared their farms on commercial purposes are in puzzled on where they will obtain seeds.

They have therefore asked the Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA) and other private seeds agencies to increase supplies into their agents' timely, as seasonal rains suitable for planting, are ongoing.

They explained that the price of package of two kilograms of maize seeds is sold between 25,000/- for the seeds that previously sold for 18,000/- and for the package of seeds which were sold 13,000/- are now sold for 18,000/-.

According to Ahmed Muhsin, agricultural expert, high prices of seeds

have been caused by the shortage of supply and increased demands, because many people especially small-scale farmers have been motivated to use improved seeds after showing positive results by increasing yields.

"Earlier before the usage of improved seeds, farmers were claiming that they were get low yields despite of cultivating large areas of land," he said

"The secret is that they might prepare large farms and plant timely during rainy season, but climatic conditions could be the factor that hinders their efforts. But, the use of improved seeds can assure the good harvests as they humiliate any climatic condition."

He further stated other reason is that improved seeds can also be grown in type of soil even if there is low or high rains.

He also said according to research, in one acre, a farmer is required to plant at least three to four packets of two kilograms each and at the end of it, a farmer may harvest up to 1,500 kilogrammes.



Farmers working in their field. File Photo



## LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND:

## Progress, prospects in Tanzania's sustainable development journey

By Mette Dissing-Spandet &amp; Francis Kiwanga

THE core of sustainable development is to "Leave No One Behind," ensuring the inclusion and prioritisation of those that are the furthest behind in our global community. Hence, in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing issues of inequality, discrimination, and marginalisation is critical. As we pass the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, questions arise about the well-being of our planet and the future for our people inhabiting it, specifically our youth & children.

Analysing progress, the 2020 edition of the Africa SDG Index and dashboards report, published by the Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) reveals that African countries face challenges in SDGs 3, 9, and 16, while excelling in SDG 13 and SDG 12.

In Tanzania, the pivotal factors propelling economic growth within the SDGs, encompassing infrastructure development, particularly in energy, transport, and information and communications technology (ICT); industrialization and value addition; human resource development; enhanced market access; and augmented private sector engagement, have been meticulously incorporated and integrated into the overarching framework of the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and the Zanzibar Development Vision 2050. This comprehensive strategy is presently unfolding through the FYDP III and ZADEP 2021-2026, collectively shaping Tanzania's developmental trajectory.

The 2023 Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report on Tanzania's progress toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reveals a mixed picture of achievements and challenges across various SDGs. The report points to notable achievements in several SDGs, including 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 16. These advancements highlight positive strides in education, health, gender equality, and other crucial areas. However, there is only moderate progress in goals 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17.

Positive impacts are particularly evident in education, showcasing an encouraging trajectory, although much more needs to be done, not least in the quality of education offered. Additionally, there is a positive outlook on gender equality, although a lingering shadow suggests that challenges persist. The report notes slow progress in reducing inequalities, emphasising the need for dedicated efforts to address this issue. Furthermore, the looming effects of climate change are becoming more evident in the Tanzanian environment, indicating the urgency of proactive measures to mitigate these impacts.

SDG 4 stands out with a commendable 79 percent of children over five years tracking well in literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning domains. Despite early childhood education showing promise, UNESCO data reveals that 28.6 percent of Tanzanians still cannot read and write in any lan-



guage. The illiteracy rate is higher among women (36 percent) compared to men (20.4 percent). Although 14,440 students are enrolled in apprenticeship annually, this number is small compared to the large influx of youth into the labour market (NBS indicates that 500,000 to 900,000 youth enter the labour market annually), necessitating a reform in Tanzania's education to align with 21st-century needs and challenges.

In the realm of Gender Equality, Tanzania has made commendable progress under SDG 5, propelled by the leadership of Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the nation's first female president. Her commitment to women's empowerment is evident through her role as the UN Women global champion for the Economic Justice and Rights action coalition. This commitment has materialised in tangible efforts with the establishment of the Tanzania Generation Equality Program (TGEPP), a multisectoral initiative aimed at advancing gender equality across various domains. The strides in gender equality extend to decision-making positions, with notable representation of women in key roles, including 30 percent of cabinet positions, 36 percent of parliamentary seats, and 30.1 percent in District councils. Impressively, the proportion of women judges stands at 41 percent, placing Tanzania among the select group of countries globally that have surpassed the 30 percent benchmark for women's representation in Parliament and decision making posts.

However, despite these advancements, early marriages pose a significant threat to the gains made under SDG 5. Data from the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) Country Report for Tanzania (2022) reveals that in 2021, 19 percent of women aged 15 and older, and 16 percent of women aged 20 to 24, were married before the age of 18, underscoring the need for a comprehensive legal framework to combat this issue.

Challenges persist, especially in reducing inequalities, as acknowledged within the Tanzania VNR report. Inequality in household expenditure remains a significant concern, with visible urban-rural disparities. The average monthly household expenditure per capita increased between 2019 and 2021, yet the divide persists, with urban areas spending TZS 534,619 com-



pared to TZS 361,956 in rural areas. Non-income inequality between urban and rural areas is still prevalent, favouring the former. Women's disproportionate representation among the poor, attributed to the burden of unpaid care and domestic work, necessitates strategic approaches to address these inequalities.

Climate change poses a pressing challenge and it contributes to greater inequalities. The climate crisis will affect marginalised groups. Women, girls, people living with disabilities face a disproportionate risk being left behind. This is due to the existing inequalities being perpetuated further by the effects of climate change in terms of limited resources, food insecurity, and duty of care.

Despite Tanzania's low greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions, the country faces the urgency of rising temperatures, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events. While important mitigation measures are outlined in the National Climate Change Response Strategy (2021) and the Zanzibar Climate Change Strategy (2014), there is a need for increased awareness and comprehensive measures to address climate issues effectively. The transition to clean energy remains vital, the ongoing efforts are commendable but more efforts should be made to ensure Tanzanians shift to using clean cooking energy. There is also a need to continue the fight against inequalities, in order to ensure equal participation in mitigation of climate shocks and stresses. In Tanzania, Denmark has supported civil society organisations such as the Foundation for Civil Society, Legal Services Facility, Policy Forum, TWAVEZA, Femina Hip, TAMWA Znz to name a few to address inequalities and contribute towards the SDGs.

Denmark has been at the forefront of climate action, being the first country to appoint a Climate Ambassador and passing the most ambitious Climate Act in 2020. Denmark has reduced emissions by 33 mil. tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (43 pct.) in 2020 compared to 1990, being on target towards 2030 with the expected further reduction of 16 mil. tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e under current policy. As one of the few countries in the world meeting the UN target of contributing 0.7 pct of its national Income (GNI) to development co-operation and being at the frontier in green transition, Denmark

cooperates with a number of the world's largest economies on the transition to cleaner energy systems representing two thirds of the total global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The recommendations for overall SDG implementation in Tanzania include localising the goals for greater impact and fostering local ownership. Furthermore, empowering local government structures to integrate the SDGs into decision-making processes is crucial to ensuring beneficiaries engagement. Exploring innovative financing mechanisms, such as green bonds, impact investing, public-private partnerships, and blended finance, alongside traditional funding sources, is essential for substantial progress.

Identifying key actors and actions is crucial for addressing root causes and promoting change. Recognizing duty-bearers' responsibilities under legal frameworks, assessing capacity and resource gaps, and determining responsibilities at different levels, whether government or the private sector, is equally essential.

Partnerships are crucial, as solutions will not solely come from the government but also involve civil society actors and the private sector.

Meeting the challenges ahead requires renewed commitment from all stakeholders, recognizing that sustainable solutions come from various sources, including the private sector. This involves strengthening coordination, leveraging digital technologies, prioritising high-impact initiatives, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of various actors, integrating climate change priorities at local government levels, addressing awareness gaps, and formulating specific policies. These steps are vital for Tanzania's sustainable development journey and achieving the SDGs.

**Mette Dissing-Spandet (L) is the Danish Ambassador to Tanzania and Francis Kiwanga (R) is the Executive Director, Foundation for Civil Society**

## Uganda's Umeme profit drops to USh11.5 billion

KAMPALA

UMEME, Uganda's electricity distribution company has recorded a significant drop in its full-year financial result for the period ended 31 December 2023, driven by accelerated amortization of intangible assets.

"As the natural term of concession is coming to its end in March 2025, the International Finance Reporting Standards (IFRS) require alignment of the amortization of underlying fixed assets to the shorter of the remaining contract duration or the underlying useful life of the assets that generate economic benefits to the company," noted Umeme in a notice.

The total assets as of 31 December 2023 were USh2,347bn compared to USh2,571bn

in 2022. Shareholder equity reduced by 7 per cent from USh1,010bn in 2022 to USh 937bn in 2023, due to lower profit after tax for the year and net dividends paid in the year. Revenue increased by 16.4 percent to USh2,196bn in 2023 compared to USh1,887bn in 2022 on account of an increase in electricity demand by 9.6 percent, increase in average tariff as determined by the Energy Regulatory Authority (ERA) of 5 percent, and revenues from the provision of electricity distribution construction services.

Uganda's electricity demand grew to 4,219 GWh compared to 3,849 GWh in 2022 driven by 10 per cent growth in customer grid connections, improved electricity supply reliability, reduction in energy losses and

general electricity demand.

During the period under review, electricity sales to domestic households, commercial, medium-industrial and large industrial customers increased by 10.8 percent, 11.7 percent, 9.2 percent and 8.8 percent, respectively. When compared to 2020, electricity sales have increased by 31.8 percent from 3,201 GWh.

"As we are in the 20th year of the distribution concession, the key priorities are to ensure continuity of service to our customers, business performance and investment in the distribution system while ensuring a seamless asset transfer to government per concession agreement terms," Umeme said in a statement.

Agencies



A technician from Umeme firm hard at work. File Photo

## Egyptian retailer secures US\$2M in startup funds

CAIRO

PHARMACY Marts, an Egyptian retail startup for pharmaceutical products, has attained \$2 million in total funding raised since its establishment after Acasia Ventures invested an undisclosed sum of money.

"The distribution of medication in Egypt is not reliable or smooth, but rather plagued with the inconsistent availability of products across pharmacies or geographical areas leading to a shortage in medication," said the co-founder of Pharmacy Marts Ahmed Kadous.

With a population of over 100 million people, Pharmacy Mart acts as a link in the medical drugs supply chain. Pharmacists who have subscribed to the retail service can search for drugs they have not stocked, order them from preferred manufacturers, and pay using a variety of options. This digitization ensures local pharmacies facilitate access to much-needed medication.

The Retail Pharmacy Market Report 2023 states that due to a rising prevalence of lifestyle diseases and technological advancements, the pharmaceutical industry will grow by 7.1 percent between this year and 2032. Acasia Ventures reports that Egypt has the largest pharmaceutical industry in the continent which is slated to grow by 12 percent over the next five years. The investment will enable the startup to begin its expansion into other African markets.

"We are excited about having Acasia Ventures on board; given its great presence in African markets that we are planning to enter, as well as their solid network of advisors and experts in the pharmaceutical industry," said Ahmed Kadous.

"Pharmacy Marts' solid team has a fantastic track record and is successfully delivering a compelling digital solution to alleviate a big pain point for thousands of pharmacies and indirectly, millions of patients," said Acasia Ventures managing partner Aly El Shalaky.

Agencies

VIEW FROM THE TOP



## WORLD

## Britain plans to boost nuclear workforce

LONDON

PRIME Minister Rishi Sunak will set out plans to boost Britain's nuclear workforce on Monday, as increased submarine building and the growing needs of the nuclear energy industry are forecast to create 40,000 new jobs by 2030.

The government will partner with defense companies BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce and Babcock plus energy giant EDF to invest more than 763 million pounds (\$961 million) by the end of the decade in skills, jobs and education, it

said in a statement.

The government needs to ensure there are sufficient nuclear workers to help build and maintain its fleet of submarines, vital for defense and security as they are the basis of the UK's continuous at-sea nuclear deterrent.

"Safeguarding the future of our nuclear deterrent and nuclear energy industry is a critical national endeavor," said Sunak, who will on Monday visit Barrow-in-Furness in the northwest, where Britain's nuclear submarine industry is based.

"Today we usher in the next genera-



Employees look up at the construction site of Hinkley Point C nuclear power station in Somerset, England, Oct 11, 2022. AP

tion of our nuclear enterprise, which will keep us safe, keep our energy secure, and keep our bills down for good."

Britain's nuclear submarine industry will expand in the coming years as new boats are built for the UK, and also Australia under the AUKUS security pact.

Further details on how Britain will deliver the capabilities necessary for to maintain its nuclear deterrent will

be published by defense secretary Grant Shapps on Monday in the "Defence Nuclear Enterprise Command Paper", Sunak's office said.

As part of it plans to boost the nuclear workforce, the government said it will invest 200 million pounds in Barrow over the next decade to help support people into jobs, improve the area's transport infrastructure and build more homes.

Agencies

## Britain's King Charles 'frustrated' by pace of cancer recovery

LONDON

BRITAIN'S King Charles is "frustrated" by the pace of his recuperation from cancer, his nephew Peter Phillips said on Sunday, becoming the first member of the royal family to speak in detail about how the monarch was faring.

The insight into the king's mindset comes after Kate, Britain's Princess of Wales, said on Friday she was undergoing preventative chemotherapy after cancer was found to be present, a fresh health blow to the royal family.

Phillips, the eldest of the late Queen Elizabeth's eight grandchildren and son of Princess Anne, told Sky News Australia in an interview that the King was frustrated as his recovery was taking longer than he'd like.

"He's frustrated that he can't get on and do everything that he wants to be able to do," he said, adding that while he was pragmatic and understood the need for recovery time, he was eager to get back to normality.

"He is always pushing his staff and everybody - his doctors and nurses - to be able to say 'actually can I do this, can I do that?'"

Charles, 75, is hoping to attend a scaled-down Easter service and family gathering next Sunday although his attendance will not be confirmed in advance.

Kensington Palace has said neither Kate nor her husband, heir to the throne Prince William, will be present for the Easter service.

Charles underwent a corrective procedure for an enlarged prostate in January. Buckingham Palace then



Britain's King Charles III poses for a photograph as he reads cards and messages, sent by well-wishers following his cancer diagnosis, in the 18th Century Room of the Belgian Suite in Buckingham Palace in central London on Feb 21, 2024. AFP

revealed in February that he was to have treatment for an unspecified form of cancer, meaning he

has had to postpone his public royal duties. Britain's Queen Camilla said her husband Charles

was doing "very well", as she greeted crowds on a visit to Northern Ireland on Thursday. Agencies

## African countries condemn terror attack at Moscow concert hall

NAIROBI

AFRICAN countries have condemned on Friday's terrorist attack at the Crocus City Hall in northwest Moscow, Russia, expressing their condolences and solidarity with Russia.

African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat said Saturday that the attack in which gunmen stormed the concert hall was shocking.

"I was shocked to learn of the horrific terror attack in Moscow, claiming many victims," Faki said on X, formerly Twitter.

"Our deepest condolences to the bereaved families and in solidarity with the people and government of the Russian Federation following this heinous attack

that we condemn in the strongest terms."

The death toll from Friday's terrorist attack has risen to 137, the Investigative Committee of Russia said on Sunday. In a televised national address Saturday, Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed to identify and punish all those behind the attack and declared March 24 a day of national mourning.

The Tanzanian government offered its condolences to the government and people of Russia, and further denounced the heinous act.

"We join Russia and the international community in denouncing these heinous acts and reaffirming our commitment to combat terrorism globally," said the Tanzanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation in a statement on Sunday.

Similarly, Kenya termed the terrorist attack barbaric, senseless, and a counter to all fundamental principles of shared humanity. "We convey our deep sympathies to all those affected by this heinous act," Musalia Mudavadi, prime cabinet secretary and cabinet secretary in the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, said via X on Saturday.

"They are an assault on humanity's collective moral consciousness." Namibian President Nangolo Mbumba on Saturday expressed deep sadness over the callous assault, emphasizing its disregard for human life.

"I join the international community in condemnation of this heinous act, which demonstrates complete disregard for human life," he said in a statement.

Ethiopia, through a press release by

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday, termed the attack "barbaric and a heinous terrorist attack against innocent civilians." Ethiopia also underscored that terrorism is a grave danger to humanity and requires the concerted efforts of countries around the world to prevent such loss of life, said the press release.

Clayson Monyela, head of public diplomacy in South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation, said the country condemns the act of terror: "Condolences to the families of the victims, and we wish the injured speedy recoveries," he said via X on Saturday. Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, in a statement, condemned the attack as he rejected all kinds of violence and extremism. Xinhua

## US bails Ukraine out after Moscow attack, covering Zelensky with ISIS – diplomat

MOSCOW

AFTER the Crocus City Hall attack, the US tries to bail Ukraine out by mentioning the Islamic State (IS, ISIS, outlawed in Russia) terror group, outlawed in Russia, and to cover itself and the Zelensky regime it created, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in an article for kp.ru.



"The American political engineers cornered themselves with their tales that the Crocus City Hall attack was carried out by the ISIS terror group," the diplomat noted. "Hence Washington's daily bailing out of its wards in Kiev, and the attempt to cover itself and the Zelensky regime they created with the scarecrow of the outlawed ISIS."

Zakharova (pictured) noted that a number of factors directly and indirectly indicate the US authorities' involvement in sponsoring the Ukrainian terrorism.

"Billions of dollar and an unprecedented amount of weapons, invested without accountability and with use of corruption schemes into the Kiev regime, the aggressive rhetoric regarding Russia, the rabid nationalism, the ban for peace talks on Ukraine, the endless calls for a force resolution of the conflict, the refusal to condemn the years-long terror attacks, carried out by the Kiev regime, and the massive informational and political support of any, even the most atrocious actions of Zelensky," she listed.

The spokeswoman also noted that previously, the US intervention in Middle Eastern affairs has led to the emergence, strengthening and institutionalization of a number of radical and terrorist groups that remain active in the region even today.

"What is the logic, you may ask? Money and power. And, considering the international legal ban on direct interventions, it is also about sowing a 'controlled chaos' and reshaping the world order by the hands of terrorists," she continued. "Attention, a question for the White House: are you sure it was ISIS, won't you change your mind later?"

## India, Russia have taken extra care to look after each other's interests, says EAM Jaishankar

SINGAPORE

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Sunday stressed that Russia is a country with which India has always had a positive relationship.

While addressing the members of the Indian Community in Singapore, Jaishankar (pictured) said that both countries have taken extra care to look after each other's interests.

"I will ask myself...Has Russia helped us or harmed us?... Are there gains to be made from Russia? or is it only damages that will come out of that?" he said while responding to a question.

"If I do my calculation from my perspective and my experiences, I will get the answer. And the answer in this case is that Russia is a country with which we have always had a positive relationship. Both India and Russia have taken that extra care to look after each other's interests," Jaishankar said.

EAM further emphasised that we should move forward with that confidence.

"So I think we should have that confidence as we go forward," he stated.

Jaishankar is on an official visit to Singapore, Philippines and Malaysia from March 23-27, 2024.

Moreover, he also emphasised India-Singapore ties during his interaction with the Indian community in Singapore and said it was a privilege to have been personally involved in this journey for at least a decade and a half.

Jaishankar said, "Today when we speak about India in the Indo-Pacific, the story in many ways actually began with Singapore." "As our connections grew closer, as the community has grown as India has become more globalized, the ties between India and Singapore have reflected that and it's been my privilege to be part of this journey at least for a decade and a half personally," he added.

His visit will further focus on enhancing bilateral relations with the three countries, and would provide an opportunity for engagement on regional issues of mutual concern, a Ministry of External Affairs release said earlier.

ANI

IN recent years, China has witnessed rapid development of mobile payment and is at the forefront in this regard globally.

With the expansion of China's visa-free "circle of friends," the exchanges between Chinese and foreign nationals have become even closer, highlighting the increasing need for foreign nationals to make payments during their trips to China.

In response to this, China has been further optimizing its payment services, enhancing a multi-level and diversified payment service system, which arouses high expectations from foreign nationals. They believe China's efforts will make it more convenient for them to work, study and travel in China.

Stuart Wiggan, a British vlogger who has been living and working in Beijing for 16 years,

## Optimised mobile payment services delight foreigners in China

is very accustomed to using mobile payment services. He believes mobile payment has been rapidly developing and is incredibly convenient in China, as he can use it on many applications and platforms.

For instance, when dining at a restaurant, he can use his phone to scan a QR code to order, and even apply discounts obtained from third-party applications like mini-programs. These services on different platforms can be seamlessly connected to each other.

Mahmoud, from Sudan, has been living and working in China for seven years. Recently, he was delighted to discover that WeChat allows direct binding of overseas bank cards, with

further optimizations in card verification and name format. The international version of mobile payment application Alipay also supports the binding of overseas bank cards, which allows him to pay directly by scanning QR codes.

"This is great news for foreigners like me, as it makes consuming in China more convenient. I love this payment method. It is easy. I'm happy to see this," he noted.

On March 1, a mutual visa exemption agreement for ordinary passport holders between China and Thailand came into effect, leading to a noticeable increase in Thai tourists visiting China.

"This is my second time trav-

eling to China, and this time it's very convenient to pay for my purchases," said Thai tourist Chitpong. He said he carried a lot of cash when he visited China for the first time, which was quite inconvenient. This time, he downloaded popular Chinese mobile payment applications in advance, ensured that his mobile network would work well, and carried just some change. As a result, he enjoyed his trip with no payment problems.

Not long ago, Polish tourist Julia traveled to China with a tour group. The group was received by CYTS International Travel Co., Ltd. She surprisingly found that the travel agency provided tips on foreign cur-

rency exchange and purchasing mobile phone cards, including guidance on how to exchange petty cash and pay with foreign bank cards.

Hu Jiyang, deputy general manager of CYTS International Travel Co., Ltd., said that when making small payments, it is advisable to have some cash on hand, so tour guides often assist tourists in withdrawing cash. For tourists who are interested in mobile payment, travel agencies and tour guides would help them download relevant apps on their phones, Hu added.

When opting for self-guided tours in China, some international visitors are more accustomed to paying in cash, in-

cluding Mark from the United States.

On the first day of his trip to China, Mark took a taxi and the fare was 370 yuan (\$514). He took out 400 yuan in cash, but the driver didn't have cash change and suggested transferring the payment through WeChat Pay. Mark didn't have the application on his phone, so he told the driver to keep the change. Unexpectedly, the driver drove to a nearby bank where he exchanged for a 200-yuan "change package," and gave Mark 30 yuan.

Mark said that the driver warmly introduced to him that Chinese banks now provide a "change package" service, which can exchange

banknotes. The service, providing consumers with exchanges for small banknotes, is now available in many Chinese banks. Later, Mark went to the bank and also exchanged for a 200-yuan "change package," which made it easier for him to buy food and souvenirs at small stores during his trip.

Charles from Cameroon is engaged in international trade and frequently travels between China and Cameroon. He remembered that a few years ago, the annual mobile payment limit for overseas travelers in China was relatively low. If the limit was exceeded, he had to go to the bank with his passport to apply for an increase, which was inconvenient for foreigners like him who regularly use mobile payment.

People's Daily



# Kenya holds China alumni symposium on Belt and Road Initiative

NAIROBI

A China alumni symposium on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was held in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi Sunday, with participants who included senior officials, scholars and students underscoring its positive impacts across socioeconomic spheres.

Held at the headquarters of Moja Expressway Company, the operator of the Chinese-built 27.1-km Nairobi Expressway, the symposium was organized by the Belt and Road College of Beijing Normal University, and supported by China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC).

The one-day symposium sought to capture thoughts and suggestions from Kenyans who have studied in China regarding the transformative impacts of BRI, and raising its visibility locally.

Xu Jianping, director general of the Department of Regional Opening-up at the National Development and Reform Commission of China, said that projects including infrastructure, agriculture, health sector, and capacity building under BRI have unleashed benefits to Kenya and the African continent, besides deepening ties with China.

The cooperation between China and Kenya has played a significant role in fostering people-to-people exchanges, promoting enterprise growth and contributing to the economies of both China and African countries, he said.

Noting that the successful cooperation under the BRI has be-

come a model for South-South cooperation, Xu said China is willing to work with countries in Africa to gradually turn the needs of countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative into reality through the joint efforts of governments, enterprises and people from all walks of life.

He reiterated China's commitment to implementing high-quality BRI cooperation as the initiative enters its second decade.

Jafeth Atito, an alumnus of Beijing Normal University currently working for Kenya's State Department of East African Affairs, said that BRI has facilitated the implementation of cross-border infrastructure projects, fostering trade in goods and services.

He emphasized that building the skills of local people and facilitating knowledge and technology transfer between China and Kenya will be key to realizing the full benefits of BRI.

Benjamin Tetile, an officer with the National Police Service Commission and alumnus of Beijing Normal University, said that skills transfer that is embedded in BRI has fostered Sino-Kenyan cooperation.

Francis Muniya, also an alumnus of Beijing Normal University who undertook a thesis on the impacts of BRI projects in Kenya, said they have created jobs, opened the Kenyan hinterland, and enhanced Sino-Kenyan trade.

Henry Rotich, chairman of the Kenya-China Alumni Association, said that infrastructure



Participants attend the China alumni symposium on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Nairobi, Kenya, March 24, 2024. (Xinhua/Wang Guansen)

projects domiciled under the BRI including ports, railways and highways have enhanced connectivity, human interactions and commerce.

"I'm happy to see big projects that are being built under BRI. One of the impacts of the BRI is shortening the distance for people, making businesses easier to do," Rotich said.

He singled out the 480-km Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), a BRI project for easing the mobility of passengers and bulk cargo in Kenya and neighboring countries.

Zhao Lianzhi, deputy general manager of CRBC, observed that under BRI, Sino-Kenyan friendship and cooperation have thrived, anchored on the implementation of modern infrastructure projects and skills development for the local youth.

Zhao mentioned that CRBC has since 2016 provided 100 Kenyan youth with scholarships to pursue bachelor degrees in railway-related technologies at Beijing Jiaotong University.

As the world's largest developing country and the continent home to most developing countries, China and Africa, in the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation, are joining hands to advance their respective modernization with distinctive features to build a closer high-level China-Africa community with a shared future. At the end of the event, Hu Biliang, executive dean of the Belt and Road College, presented alumni with certificates and encouraged them to continue to use what they have learned in China to promote local development and enhance the friendship between the two countries.

Xinhua

ANI

## Build consensus for ceasefire, pave roads for peace talks

THE conflict between Russia and Ukraine has dragged on for over two years, with prospects for peace remain uncertain. The prolonged hostilities not only exacerbate the suffering of the people in both countries but also pose unpredictable risks and challenges to the region and the world at large.

Therefore, there is a growing international call for peace and dialogue. Many countries have proposed initiatives and plans aimed at restoring trust, resolving the crisis, and rebuilding peace. China highly appreciates these efforts and hopes that a consensus can be forged among all parties to explore a solution to the conflict.

As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and a responsible major country, China takes an objective and just position on the Ukraine issue, and works actively to promote peace talks.

Since the full escalation of the Ukraine crisis, Chinese President Xi Jinping has had in-depth communication with leaders of countries including Russia and Ukraine, and has put forward four principles, called for joint efforts in four areas and shared three observations on Ukraine, which outline China's fundamental approach to the crisis.

One year after the full escalation of the Ukraine crisis, China formulated and released China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis, which covers 12 aspects including respecting the sovereignty of all countries, abandoning the Cold War mentality, ceasing hostilities, resuming peace talks and more.

As the Special Representative of the Chinese Government on Eurasian Affairs, I have been engaged in a series of diplomatic activities regarding the Ukraine crisis over the past year. Last May, I went to Europe for the first round of shuttle diplomacy.

In August, I attended a meeting in Jeddah on the Ukraine crisis, and I also met intensively with representatives from various parties in Bei-



jing to exchange views.

China's efforts to restore peace and achieve a political resolution to the Ukraine crisis have been widely recognized and highly appreciated by the international community.

After a year of communication with various parties, my greatest impression is that, despite the ongoing uncertainties and prominent conflicts, war is not good for the vast majority of countries, and achieving peace is the common aspiration.

In this regard, I recently embarked on a second round of shuttle diplomacy to Russia, Ukraine, and other European countries involved, with the aim of exchanging views and building consensus with all parties on promoting a political resolution to the Ukraine crisis.

During this visit, three impressions stood out to me.

Firstly, it is crucial to build consensus for a ceasefire and an end to the fighting. Conflicts and wars produce no winner. History has shown that all wars can only be resolved through negotiations ultimately. Every bit of consensus accumulated brings us closer to the dawn of peace, while every day of conflict adds to the risks in the world.

China has consistently supported and expected both Russia and Ukraine will act in the fundamental and long-term interests of their peoples, meet each other halfway, and resume direct dialogue as soon as possible, so as to achieve a ceasefire at an early date.

China is willing to create all necessary conditions for negotiations between Russia and Ukraine. China supports an international peace conference that is to be held in due course, recognized by both Russia and Ukraine, and is attended by all parties on an equal footing for fair discussions on all peace plans.

Secondly, the spillover risks of the crisis must be controlled. The Ukraine crisis, as the largest geopolitical conflict in Europe since World War II, has severely impacted relations between major countries and the global governance system.

The crisis has exacerbated instability in

the global industrial chain, leading to serious concerns regarding energy security, food security, nuclear security, cross-border infrastructure security, humanitarian crises, and other issues. These have significant impacts on global peace and development.

The prolonged and complex nature of the Ukraine crisis may give rise to various security risks that are not in the interest of all parties. A ceasefire and an end to the conflict as soon as possible is the right way to solve the problem.

Thirdly, the mistake of the Cold War must be avoided repeating. The Ukraine crisis has complex historical and realistic factors. The Cold War has been over for more than 30 years, but the Cold War mentality is still firmly rooted in some countries, strengthening military alliances, and provoking bloc confrontation, which ultimately led to the crisis.

China believes that the security of a country should not be pursued at the expense of others, the security of a region should not be achieved by strengthening or expanding military blocs, and the legitimate security interests and concerns of all countries must be taken seriously and addressed properly.

Only by abandoning the Cold War mentality, promoting dialogue and negotiation among all parties on an equal footing, and building a balanced, effective, and sustainable European security architecture, can long-term stability be achieved in Europe.

At the same time, we firmly oppose any attempt by individual countries to use conflicts to seek selfish gains, force others to take sides, threaten to decouple and sever supply chains, build "small yard and high fence," and attempt to repeat the mistake of bloc confrontation.

There is no panacea for defusing the crisis. However, I firmly believe that a political solution is the best and only way to address the Ukraine crisis, which is the most important conclusion of my shuttle diplomacy this time.

Both Russia and Ukraine are important strategic partners of China with long-standing friendly and cooperative relations. China

does not have selfish interests or seek to put up exclusive blocs. It has not added fuel to the fire or taken advantage of the situation.

The international community should adhere to the vision of a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, take each other's legitimate security concerns seriously, and promote the building of a balanced, effective, and sustainable security architecture for the region and the world, in order to jointly safeguard world peace.

Peace, like air and sunshine, is hardly noticed when we are benefiting from it. But none of us can live without it. Making the world peaceful, stable and safe is the strong desire of all people, the common responsibility of all countries, and more importantly, the right direction for the advancement of our times.

As a Chinese proverb puts it, it takes more than one cold day to freeze three feet of ice. There is no simple solution to the Ukraine crisis. Long as the journey is, we will reach our destination if we stay the course; difficult as the task is, we will get the job done if we keep working at it.

China is ready to work with all peace-loving and progressive forces in the world to play a constructive role in resolving the crisis and achieving peace. We will always stand on the side of peace and dialogue, that is, the right side of history.

People's Daily

## Houthi's Indian Ocean threats face skepticism, raise concerns over weapons proliferation

ADEN

ABDUL Malik al-Houthi, the leader of Yemen's Houthi group, raised alarms earlier this month with his declaration of intent to disrupt maritime traffic in the Indian Ocean, particularly around the strategic Cape of Good Hope. Broadcast on the group's al-Masirah TV, al-Houthi's pronouncement of ongoing operations to hinder Israeli-affiliated shipping has heightened regional tensions.

Further compounding these concerns are reports from Russia's RIA Novosti news agency, which indicated that the Houthis may have acquired hypersonic missiles.

This claim has elicited a mix of skepticism and apprehension among military experts, with some questioning the group's ability to effectively utilize such advanced technology due to logistical and operational challenges.

Ali Bin Hadi, a Yemeni military analyst, argued that the Houthis lack the means to disrupt maritime traffic near the Cape of Good Hope, as it exceeds the range of their existing arsenal.

Despite their demonstrated capacity to affect shipping in regional waters, notably the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, controlling far choke points like the Cape of Good Hope remains beyond their grasp.

"The cape lies thousands of miles away, well outside the operational range of Houthi missiles and drones, making any threats to that area highly unlikely," Hadi asserted.

Khaled Salman, a Yemeni political observer, said that while the Houthi group does not possess the technical know-how to develop either long-rang or supersonic missiles independently, "it may have illicitly obtained hypersonic missiles

through a third-party source."

The prospect of the Houthis wielding hypersonic capabilities is particularly troubling, Salman noted, as it could significantly threaten international navigation and maritime trade routes.

The observer also suggested that Yemen could inadvertently become a "testing ground" for major powers to test their hypersonic weapons in real-world scenarios.

Thabit Hussein, a Yemeni researcher and military expert, viewed the potential proliferation of hypersonic and long-range reaching technologies to non-state actors like the Houthis as deeply concerning, with implications for regional stability and conflict escalation.

The Houthi campaign against commercial shipping intensified last November, coinciding with increased tensions between Israel and Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip.

The group claims its attacks on Israeli-linked vessels are in retaliation for the Israeli offensive in Gaza and in solidarity with the Palestinians.

In response, the United States and Britain conducted airstrikes and missile strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen since Jan. 12, 2024. Far from deterring the group, these actions have led to a Houthi escalation, with the group expanding its targeting to include U.S. and British naval vessels.

The situation escalated dramatically on Feb. 18 when the Houthis attacked the British-operated cargo ship Rubymar with missiles in the Red Sea.

The sinking of Rubymar, confirmed by Yemen's internationally recognized government on March 2, marks the first such incident since the conflict escalated last November.

Xinhua



A protestor holds a model of a Houthi missile during a protest against Israel's continued war on the Gaza Strip and the U.S.-led airstrikes and sanctions against the Houthi group in Sanaa, Yemen, Feb. 16, 2024. Xinhua

US and Japan plan to strengthen security pact inked over 60 years ago

PARIS

THE US military plans to bolster functions of its command headquarters in Japan, as it aims for smoother cooperation with the Asian country's self-defence forces in tackling security threats posed by China and North Korea according to diplomatic sources cited by Kyodo news agency.

Japan and the United States will also work on further steps to enhance their response capabilities, Kyodo reported. Tokyo had in 2022 decided to acquire the capability to strike enemy bases even under Japan's war-renouncing Constitution.

Also, Japan is set to establish a joint headquarters to command its ground, maritime and air forces by the end of March 2025 with Kishida's government is aiming to deepen cooperation between the US military and the joint headquarters.

The development comes amidst what the two countries, which have been allies since the World War II, view as a growing threat from North Korea and China in the backdrop of Pyongyang's missile tests and Beijing's military activities in the South China Sea as well as the Taiwan conflict.

Notably, China (People's Republic of China) considers the self-ruled territory of Taiwan as part of its territory and claims there is only "one China.". China has increased military activities around Taiwan in recent years, including near-daily incursions into the country's air defence identification zone (ADIZ) and sending military ships near its maritime borders



# SPORT



Dar es Salaam youths play soccer at Kivule Primary School's ground recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Hemed Morocco sees FIFA Series as key to Taifa Stars' development

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIA's senior national football team interim head coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman, has stressed the significance of the maiden 2024 FIFA Series tournament, emphasizing its potential to enhance the team's development and performance.

Selected as the sole representative from the East and Central Africa (CECAFA) Zone, Taifa Stars is taking part in the inaugural 2024 FIFA Series, which got underway on March 18 and will climax on March 26.

Suleiman highlighted the importance of the clashes, noting their capacity to bolster players' growth and raise performance standards within the team.

Additionally, he underscored the role of the FIFA Series in maintaining and refining the team's competitive edge, recognizing the value of international matches of such caliber.

He emphasized: "The FIFA Series plays a crucial role in preserving and honing the team's competitive advantage, acknowledging the importance of high-quality international matches."

Moreover, Suleiman emphasized the potential of the tournament to foster team chemistry, crucial for success on the field.

He commented: "These matches are exceptional and pivotal for us as they will contribute to the development of our players and raise their performance levels."

He moreover acknowledged the necessity for the team to challenge itself against stronger opponents to

reach a higher level of competition.

Taifa Stars lost 1-0 to Bulgaria in the opening clash of the 2024 FIFA Series taking place in Azerbaijan and was yesterday scheduled to confront Mongolia in the second tie.

The FIFA Series initiative aims to provide member associations with regular opportunities to compete against national teams from different continents, unlocking technical development opportunities previously inaccessible to many.

The inaugural FIFA Series has Algeria, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia, and Sri Lanka as hosts, with Tanzania (CAF) participating in the Azerbaijan leg, alongside tournament hosts (UEFA), Bulgaria (UEFA), and Mongolia (AFC).

The series features a diverse array of teams, showcasing the global diversity of football talent.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino hailed the FIFA Series as a positive advancement for national-team football on a global scale.

The FIFA boss emphasized its focus on enhancing competitiveness and promoting the sport, rather than offering trophies or prize money.



Sukuma youths are pictured performing a dance during the launch of this year's Lake Zone Cultural and Tourism Festival- organized by Kilimanjaro One Travel and Tours firm- at the CCM ground in Bariadi District, Simiyu recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## SPORTS

## Opportunity for lifting second title beckons for Mamelodi Sundowns in 2023/24 CAF CL

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IN the past few weeks, there have been mixed feelings about the 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinal encounters between Yanga and Mamelodi Sundowns.

This is the most talked about match because one team is the best in Africa and another one is making the competition's last eight stages after 24 years.

Soccer lovers in Tanzania heard the word patriotism a lot last week, with fans being forced to support either Simba SC or Yanga against Al Ahly and Mamelodi Sundowns in the coming knockout phase fixtures.

Football is an open game, fans have the right to choose either what they want or what they feel about any particular match by either watching or going to the stadium to support the particular team.

After analyzing all teams in the quarterfinals, suggesting that it is now or never would be a bit unfair on Mamelodi Sundowns.

After all, there is every indication that Sundowns, nicknamed Brazilians, are going to be continental kings- be it this year or the next few years.

Yet, looking at the line-up of this year's CAF Champions League quarterfinalists, I cannot help but believe that the South African champions have arguably their best chance of winning the competition for the second time since they lifted the tournament's trophy in 2016.

For the first time in the history of the competition, there are a record least number of North African outfits in the quarterfinals.

Never has the CAF Champions League's dominant region had less than four teams in this stage, but this year the region has Al Ahly and Esperance.

It makes for a more open contest, with Tanzania incredibly the most represented country with two teams in Simba SC and Yanga- the latter being Sundowns' last eight opponents.

The Tanzania outfits made it to the knockout round after eliminating North Africa and Southern Africa opponents and have daunting challenges in clashes against Al Ahly and Sundowns.

However, the continental tournament's standing and history suggest that the Egyptians and the South Africans should prevail over Tanzanian opponents. I dare say that there will be the Ahly vs Sundowns final in the CAF Champions League.

And this being Sundowns' best opportunity to reach the ultimate stage of the premier continental club showdown, the club's technical bench head Rulani Mokwena, and his assistants will have no one but themselves to blame if the outfit would



Mamelodi Sundowns

not get crowned CAF Champions League champion.

Of course, beating Ahly will not be an easy task but it can be done. Well, I am getting ahead of myself because there is still the little matter of the quarterfinals for Sundowns' Themba Zwane and co to negotiate.

That I believe this is Sundowns' best chance has also got to do with the fact that their bogey team- Wydad Athletic Club- is out of the competition.

The Moroccans have been the stumbling block to glory for the multiple South Africa champions on numerous occasions in previous campaigns, last year's semi-final victory via the away goal perhaps turning out to be the most painful for Sundowns.

With Wydad AC out, Sundowns' toughest game could well come in the semi-final and I am assuming they will overcome Yanga- a squad the South African club will visit on Saturday for the first leg before hosting it in the second leg.

Mamelodi Sundowns is likely to face Esperance in the semi-finals- should the Tunisian outfit beat ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast in the last eight.

Esperance is a typical North African team that is very solid defensively and is pretty streetwise in continental competition- knowing exactly when to slow a match down, either frustrate the opposition or goad the referee into blowing decisions the club's way.

The squad is not a high-scoring outfit- as evidenced by seven goals scored in the premier continental tournament's Group Stage.

The outfit however did not let its defense get breached, the 'Blood and Gold' having conceded a mere three times in one match and shutting the opposition out in the rest of the fixtures.

And having previously beaten Sundowns in the competition, the Tunisian football powerhouse is sure to be a tough opponent, should the sides take on each other in the semi-finals.

This Sundowns nevertheless is high in confidence and is hungry for continental glory, having tasted it in the inaugural African Football League tournament.

The South African club got the better of Yanga 6-5 on aggregate in the premier continental tournament's qualifiers in the past and should prove too strong for the Tanzanian outfit, whose head coach Miguel Gamondi previously managed the South African side.

As Gamondi took Sundowns to the verge of glory last year until that own goal by center-back Mthobeli Mvula at Loftus Versfeld Stadium broke 'Masandawana's' hearts, Mokwena spoke about the stars seemingly being aligned.

Wydad AC's exit from the competition looks to many as stars being aligned much more than they were last year in Sundowns' favour at least with regards to them reaching the final for the first time since they won the trophy under tactician Pitso Mosimane.

And with Ahly likely to be Mamelodi's opponents in the final, would it be hardly poetic were the latter to be crowned champions out in Cairo as the outfit did eight years ago with a win over Zamalek?

Of course, stranger things have happened in this beautiful game that boasts great fanaticism but what would be strange for me is Sundowns not taking this evident opportunity of continental glory the club has.

Surely it has got to be now that Mamelodi Sundowns adds a second star above the club's crest.

## Junior Taifa Queens' coach attributes poor performance to lack of proper preparations

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadonga

TANZANIA's national junior netball team's head coach Haleluya Kavalambi has attributed its dismal showing at the just-ended Netball World Youth Cup 2025 Africa Cup Qualifiers- which took place in South Africa- to improper preparations.

The coach saw his team, alias Junior Taifa Queens, endure a six-game losing streak, conceding losses to South Africa, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, and Kenya.

The gaffer revealed all of his players lacked exposure and experience, adding they were playing under too much pressure.

"We had a team made up of inexperienced players, players who have never played any international game, they lacked experience and exposure," the former ace basketballer- who has also taken part in men's netball, noted.

"You have to appreciate the fact that all of our players came from Inter-Primary Schools Games and Inter-Secondary Schools Games and they had only one week to prepare for the qualifiers," the tactician disclosed.

He pointed out: "I did not select any player for the team, Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta) advised all

regions to send competent players born in 2004." "Many regions responded well, but the problem we had is that many of them are average while others did not have passports," the tactician noted.

"We asked their parents and guardians to pay for the passports but many protested that they don't have money for that purpose," the gaffer disclosed.

Kavalambi stated: "The other challenge was height- many of our players are short, this affected us from defending to shooting given we were facing tall opponents," the coach noted after the squad arrived from South Africa on Sunday night.

However, the coach said the country has the potential to do well at the international level, adding it should invest in grassroots netball, and have youth vibrant leagues and well-organized and serious national junior netball teams that can competently participate in international showdowns.

Junior Taifa Queens lost 75-7 to South Africa, suffered a 64-24 loss to Malawi, succumbed to a 55-17 loss to Namibia, endured a 62-17 drubbing when it took on Zimbabwe, and- on Friday- lost 44-23 to Kenya.

The youthful netball team had 12 players namely Jesca Leonard, Catherine Bunzari, Lilian Mwambisi, Fausta Chakawe, Scola Ramadhani, Heldegard Marwa, Rhoda Simbeye, Mecklina Mwita, Zuhura Ramadhani, Happy Kongoka, Rehema Mwita and Elizabeth Ambumbu.

Hafsa Ali served as team manager whereas David Zacharia was team doctor.

Some netball analysts in the country have said there should be more investment in the sport.

"There is no secret for netball development

considering it requires investment. First of all, investment should be at the grassroots... that's where you start from," Rose Mussa- a Physical Education teacher at one of Dar es Salaam-based secondary schools- disclosed.

"You have to build structures, you need to have youth teams, U-12s, U-14s, U-20s and U-23s. If you can organize the structure, the next stage is to participate in international events," Rose stressed.

She revealed: "This is why it is very important that a country should always have a presence in competitions at various age groups and then the senior team will come in."

"What you always see is that when you have invested, you have a long-term agenda. You will continue to participate and succeed," she concluded.



## Japan to advance in World Cup qualifying after North Korea game cancelled

TOKYO

JAPAN look poised to reach the final stage of qualifying for the 2026 World Cup without kicking a ball after FIFA said their match at North Korea will not be rescheduled.

North Korea were supposed to stage the qualifier today in the capital Pyongyang but five days before the game officials abruptly said the isolated country could not play host without giving a reason.

On Friday the Asian Football Confederation said the match was off and at the weekend FIFA said it "shall neither be played nor rescheduled", citing lack of space in the international football calendar.

"The matter and match outcome will be referred to the FIFA disciplinary committee," football's world governing body added.

North Korea could suffer a 3-0 forfeit as a result, which would send Japan into the third stage of qualifying for the World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Japan beat North Korea 1-0 in Tokyo on Thursday to make it three wins from three in Asian qualifying Group B.

Coach Hajime Moriyasu, who took Japan to the last 16 of the Qatar World Cup after wins over Spain and Germany, had been eyeing the North Korea game as an opportunity to make improvements following an unconvincing display in the home leg.

"It's unfortunate that we lost the opportunity to correct areas of concern and potential areas for improvement that came to light," he said on Friday. "We will aim to improve as a team based on what we have built so far."

Japan were dumped out of the Asian Cup quarter-finals 2-1 by Iran last month after entering the tournament as favourites.

Meanwhile, China captain Zhang

Linpeng is in line to play in a crucial World Cup qualifier on Tuesday, days after quitting international football over the "disgrace" of a draw with Singapore.

Known as China's answer to Sergio Ramos because he also plays centre-back and also has numerous tattoos, Zhang said he'd had enough after his team surrendered a 2-0 lead at Singapore on Thursday.

"We can't even manage to beat Singapore at this point," the 34-year-old fumed in the aftermath. "Personally I find it unbearable. It's a disgrace."

But with China's chances of reaching the World Cup for only a second time in the balance, Zhang has had a swift change of heart.

"Those words I said immediately after the match clearly had a big impact on the team and the players," the defender told state television at the weekend.

"In fact, what I wanted to say -- but maybe I didn't handle it the right way -- was that my own mistake put the team into that situation (in the game). In that respect, first of all as the captain, I don't think I led the team properly."

He added: "Now I've thought back over it, as long as the national team needs me -- whether that's as a first-choice player, as a substitute or even if I don't get on to the pitch -- I'm still willing to give everything I have for this team."

China host Singapore today in Tianjin and are third in their World Cup qualifying group. Only the top two advance to the final stage on the road to 2026.

South Korea top the group and poised to go through, with China and Thailand tied on four points, but the Thais have a better goal difference.

AFP

## USA beats Mexico 2-0 for CONCACAF Nations League title

ARLINGTON, Texas

GIO Reyna and Tyler Adams scored as the United States beat Mexico 2-0 in Sunday's CONCACAF Nations League final, giving the Americans all three titles in the event's history.

Adams scored a long-distance screamer in the 45th minute and Reyna fired home a loose ball from the edge of the box in the 63rd for the USA, who also won Nations League crowns in 2021 and 2023.

"It never gets old winning titles for your country. I'll never take any of them for granted," Reyna said. "The group of guys and the energy we have, I always love coming to camp. I'm at a loss for words right now."

Reyna hoped the "Three-peat" would provide inspiration for competing in Copa America on home soil this summer against South America's top teams.

"It's big for momentum," he said. "We've been together with our core group now. We know what it takes to win big matches. We can hopefully keep the momentum going into Copa America and maybe lift a trophy there."

The Mexicans appeared to have a lifeline into the match in the 73rd minute when a penalty was awarded after US defender Antonee Robinson was ruled to have fouled Santiago Gimenez in the penalty area.

But a video review overturned the decision and instead Gimenez was issued a yellow card for simulation, blunting the emotions for a Mexican fightback.

Play was halted in the 86th minute and twice more in stoppage time after Mexican fans yelled discriminatory language, a homophobic insult when the opposing goalkeeper kicked the ball.

When the final whistle finally came, the Americans had captured the crown at Arlington, Texas, on the home field of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys.

"Our goal this whole tournament was to advance and then get a chance to play in the final and win the final and we achieved it," US coach Gregg Berhalter said. The Americans won both prior CONCACAF Nations League crowns, beating Mexico 3-2 in extra time in the 2021 inaugural championship match and Canada 2-0 in last year's final after dispatching Mexico 3-0 in last year's semi-finals.

Mexico still leads the all-time rivalry 37-24 with 17 drawn, but the US men stretched their current unbeaten streak against Mexico in all competitions to a rivalry-best seven matches with five wins and two draws.

"Whenever you don't achieve something, you have to learn from it," Mexico manager Jaime Lozano said. "They were better in almost everything, in quality, in pressure, in scoring options. They pressed us well and we couldn't find solutions."

"They're deserved winners and from these experiences we have to learn as much as possible and turn it around quickly."

The United States took the lead in the 45th when unguarded Adams took a pass from Wes McKennie and from blasted home a right-footed shot from 30 yards out giving no chance to diving Mexican goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa. "I'm excited to be back with this group," said Adams, who has been plagued by injuries since the World Cup. "I always get up for big games."

His only prior international goal also came against Mexico, in a 2018 friendly. Mexico had frustrated the Americans much of the first half, shutting down passing lanes to contain the US attack with a pressuring physical performance.

US captain Christian Pulisic had only 15 touches in the first half, the stand-out striker largely thwarted by an aggressive Mexican defensive effort.

Adams was removed at half-time, a precautionary measure after two hamstring surgeries and a missed year at club level, having seen only brief action for AFC Bournemouth.

## Ukraine eye first major tournament since Russian invasion

LONDON

UKRAINE will bid to qualify for a first major tournament since Russia's invasion of the country when they take on Iceland in a Euro 2024 play-off final today, while Georgia target history against Greece.

Serhiy Rebrov's Ukraine missed out on the 2022 World Cup, losing in the play-offs to Wales, but will be favourites against Iceland in Wroclaw, Poland.

They appeared set to miss out when trailing Bosnia and Herzegovina late on in Thursday's semi-final, but kept their hopes of reaching the tournament in Germany alive with goals from Roman Yaremchuk and Artem Dovbyk.

"I told the players before the game that I hoped they would bring a bit of happiness to the people in Ukraine right now," Rebrov told reporters.

"Russia attacked Ukraine with 30 missiles last night. Missile attacks are happening every day."

"Our mission and goal here are to show that we are still alive, that we are still fighting against the Russians, that we need Europe's help."

Rebrov, a former Tottenham and West Ham striker who made 75 international appearances, took over in June last year but could not lead Ukraine to automatic qualification as they were edged out for second place in Group C by reigning champions Italy on head-to-head record.

Iceland have not reached a major tournament since the 2018 World Cup but have continued to punch above their weight, beating Israel



'Bring happiness': Ukraine are closing on a place at Euro 2024. Agencies

4-1 last week to move within one win of returning to the championship in which they famously reached the quarter-finals in 2016.

Ukraine made the last eight three years ago, their best performance at a Euro, before losing 4-0 to eventual runners-up England.

A spot in Group E at the Euros, with matches against Belgium, Slovakia and Romania, is up for grabs.

- Georgia on brink -

Georgia could qualify for a major finals for the first time as an independent nation when they host former winners Greece.

Willy Sagnol's side set up the clash with Greece by seeing off Luxembourg 2-0 and will be boosted by the

return of star forward Khvicha Kvaratskhelia from suspension.

Frenchman Sagnol has said he will likely leave either following the Greece match or after the Euro if Georgia qualify.

The winners will be placed in Group F for the tournament proper, alongside Portugal, the Czech Republic and Turkey.

The only other time Georgia have even come close to qualifying for a major tournament was when they suffered a 1-0 loss to North Macedonia in the play-off final in 2020.

Greece have only reached the Euro four times, most recently in 2012, but will be desperate to qualify to mark 20 years since their remarkable title

triumph against the odds in Portugal.

Wales are hoping to reach a fourth international tournament in five attempts having previously been absent from the top level since 1958, when they host Robert Lewandowski's Poland in Cardiff.

The winners will go into a strong Group D at the finals with Austria, the Netherlands and France.

"We've been there and done it, we know what we have to do, it doesn't faze us," Wales manager Rob Page told BBC Radio Wales.

"We've had a taste of major tournaments and we quite like it."

AFP

## Pele to Endrick: Five teen talents that lit up Brazil

LONDON

BRAZIL is unparalleled when it comes to footballing success and fervour, and for many the sport itself is synonymous with the Brazilian national team.

The five-times World Cup winners are renowned for their "jogo bonito" philosophy and reputation of churning out the world's most talented players, the latest being 17-year-old starlet Endrick who scored against England on Saturday.

AFP Sport highlights five teenagers who have donned the famous yellow jersey:

- Endrick -

The latest off the national production line of extravagantly talented attackers, Endrick made history at the home of football Wembley when he scored the winner for Brazil against England on Saturday in just his third international appearance.

Aged 17 years, eight months and two days, Endrick became the youngest male goalscorer for club or country at the stadium when he opened his account for the Selecao nine minutes after coming off the bench in the 1-0 victory.

The Real Madrid-bound forward is already a two-time Brazilian Serie A champion and has been hailed as the country's new golden boy since making his debut for Palmeiras at the tender age of 16.

"If he keeps up the attitude he has shown up to now, he will be a very important name in Brazilian football and world football," said Brazil coach Dorival Junior.

- Pele -

The late Pele remains the eternal benchmark against whom all new Brazilian stars are inevitably compared.

He became Brazil's youngest ever goalscorer at 16 years, eight months and 14 days and went on to net 77 times for his country -- the second most in Selecao yellow.

His international career was marked by World Cup glory, winning the country's first title in Sweden 1958 aged 17 before earning a second and third Jules Rimet trophy in 1962 and 1970.

- Ronaldo -

Ronaldo made his debut for Brazil in 1994 and became the country's third youngest ever goalscorer when he netted against Iceland aged 17 years, seven months and 12 days.



A star is born: Endrick (L) celebrates with Vinicius Junior after scoring against England. Agencies

After a heartbreaking loss in the 1998 World Cup final when he fell mysteriously ill before kick-off, the striker made amends four years later in South Korea/Japan scoring both goals in the final against Germany as Brazil claimed a record fifth world title.

A legend of the game across the globe, Ronaldo earned 99 caps and scored 62 goals across a 17-year international career.

- Neymar -

The greatest goalscorer in the history of the Selecao, with 79 goals in 128 games, Neymar is likely coming to the end of his career with the

national team but, despite not yet delivering a sixth World Cup, he has lived up to the hype since making his international bow aged 18.

With the weight of the country on his shoulders as Brazil hosted the 2014 World Cup, Neymar was imperious and scored four goals in five matches.

But disaster struck in the quarter-finals when he was injured against Colombia and without their talisman, the hosts then crumbled to a 7-1 defeat to Germany in the semi-finals.

- Alexandre Pato -

In most cases, the weight of foot-

ball expectations in the seventh largest country on earth is too great for young shoulders to bear. One such example of this was the promising Alexandre Pato.

When Pato scored the winner as an 18-year-old debutant seconds after coming off the bench against Sweden in 2008 -- the country a teenage Pele led Brazil to World Cup victory against 50 years prior -- many could not resist making the comparison.

But it was not to be and the fleet-footed centre-forward would go on to win just 27 caps, his last coming in 2013 at only 24 years of age.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Ukraine eye first major tournament since Russian invasion**

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## Mexime concerned about impact of international break

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli



Ihefu SC head coach, Mecky Mexime.

IHEFU SC has embarked on a camp in Arusha as they prepare to tackle three challenging matches in the Azam Sports Federation Cup and the NBC Premier League.

The Singida-based club's head coach Mecky Mexime has voiced concerns over the impact of the international break on the team's morale, citing their promising form before the hiatus.

Mexime expressed his concerns regarding the halt in the NBC Premier League, emphasizing its adverse impact on his team's morale and performance in league matches.

"The stoppage of the NBC Premier League reduces the fighting spirit of our team in the league matches," Mexime remarked.

Reflecting on his team's performance in the second round, Mexime the former defender and captain of Mtibwa Sugar acknowledged their commendable progress, attributing it to their consistent level of play.

However, he lamented the abrupt interruption of the league, saying: "We've maintained a good level since the beginning of the second round, which has contributed to our positive results and favourable position in the standings. But suddenly, the league has come to a halt."

Recognizing the FIFA calendar as the governing factor, Mexime highlighted its disruptive effect on team dynamics.

He voiced concerns over the challenge of regaining momentum after the hiatus, citing the need to play multiple matches to reclaim their previous form.

"I know it's the FIFA calendar, but this sometimes hampers our progress. When the league resumes, we'll have to play three to four matches to regain the level we had before the stoppage, which isn't ideal as the season draws to a close and competition intensifies," Mexime explained.

To mitigate the impact of the hiatus, Mexime revealed plans to organize numerous friendly matches. However, he acknowledged the difficulty in arranging these fixtures, particularly due to other teams' commitments, especially those vying for positions in the CAF Championship League.

"This poses a challenge, as many teams, particularly in the Premier League, are engrossed in the final stages of the season. Securing friendly matches won't be easy," Maxime admitted.

Mexime also lamented the disadvantage faced by larger teams without players involved in national team duties.

During the two-week hiatus, these teams are left with limited options, resorting to non-competitive exercises.

"This situation particularly affects bigger teams without players on national team duty. Throughout the entire two-week period of the league's suspension, teams often engage in non-competitive exercises," Mexime remarked.

In light of these challenges, Mexime emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum and competitiveness amidst disruptions to the league schedule.

He urged his team to remain focused and motivated, despite the uncertainties surrounding fixture resummations.

"We must stay focused and motivated, adapting to the challenges posed by the league's interruptions. Our goal remains to maintain our competitive edge and strive for success," Mexime concluded.

Ihefu SC finds itself in an uphill battle to avoid relegation in the NBC Premier League.

With 21 games played, the team has so far managed to secure 23 points, staying precariously in 11th position.

Their record of six wins, 10 losses, and five draws paints a picture of inconsistency that needs to be addressed.

The upcoming international break offers a brief respite, but Ihefu SC will need to hit the ground running upon their return.

A crucial Azam Sports Federation Cup clash against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC awaits, followed by a potentially season-defining league match against Tanzania's soccer powerhouse Simba SC.

This period will be a test of Ihefu SC's resolve. Can they turn the tide and climb away from the relegation zone, or will they succumb to the drop? Only time will tell.

## Struggling Mtibwa Sugar aims for dramatic turnaround in PL

By Guardian Correspondent

MTIBWA Sugar is gearing up for a crucial phase of the club's season, returning to training after a seven-day hiatus with the ambitious target of securing 30 points from the remaining 10 games in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League campaign.

In contrast, the outfit's head coach Zubeir Katwila expressed confidence in his players' improved psychological state following the break.

"After the conclusion of our match against Kagera Sugar on March 12, we granted the players a week's rest, and they have now returned to training camp," Katwila stated.

Despite making changes to the technical bench, Mtibwa Sugar - one of the oldest teams in the league - has struggled to secure favourable results and currently finds itself languishing at the bottom of the table with 16 points from 20 games.

The season commenced under the tutelage of Habibu Kondo, who was subsequently relieved of his duties due to unsatisfactory results. The reins were then handed over to Katwila, who joined from Ihefu SC.

Reflecting on the team's recent break, Katwila expressed optimism about the players' refreshed mindset, stating: "I believe each player has undergone a positive psychological shift during the break. As we resume training, my focus will be on regrouping the team and addressing our shortcomings."

Acknowledging the challenges they've faced, Katwila remained hopeful, saying: "We understand that the league is fiercely competitive, and our results haven't been up to par."

The former Mtibwa Sugar midfielder noted: "However, we remain steadfast in our belief that anything is possible. The technical bench is dedicated to fostering unity within the team and rectifying any fundamental errors."

"Our primary focus now is to approach the remaining 10 matches with a strategic mindset," the outfit's skipper Oscar Masai emphasized.

The center-back noted: "We're determined to achieve the goals we've set for ourselves and ensure that our team avoids relegation."

Masai emphasized the team's resilience, stating, "What we don't want to see is our team being relegated. We're committed to leaving everything on the field in pursuit of three points. As players, we are strong and ready to fight for Mtibwa."

Mtibwa Sugar finds itself sitting last in the NBC Premier League standings. With only 20 games played, the squad has managed to secure just 16 points. The squad's record includes four wins, four draws, and a league-worst 12 losses.

The defense has been a major concern for Mtibwa Sugar this season. The club has conceded a league-high 34 goals in just 20 matches.

Following a brief break, Mtibwa Sugar will return to action as the outfit will first play in the Azam Sports Federation Cup round of 16 match against Azam FC and later confront Geita Gold FC in an away game of the NBC Premier League.

As Mtibwa Sugar prepares to embark on the crucial final stretch of the season, the collective determination of both players and coaching staff underscores their unwavering commitment to turning their fortunes around and securing a brighter future for the club.

## Yanga pins hope on Zouzoua as injuries cloud CAF CL last eight clash



Tanzania's Yanga footballers participate in their club's training in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League and 2023/24 CAF Champions League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

HIGH expectations surround Young Africans SC (Yanga) midfielder, Pacome Zouzoua, as anticipation builds for his potential appearance in the club's upcoming CAF Champions League quarter-final clash against South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Saturday.

However, uncertainty looms over the Jangwani Street side's right-back Kouassi Attohoulou Yao and midfielder Khalid Aucho due to lingering injuries the two have had.

Zouzoua, currently with Ivory Coast's national football team, was among the substitutes in the squad's recent FIFA Series friendly against Benin held in Amiens, France, and ended in a 2-2 draw.

Despite not featuring in the match, Zouzoua trained diligently with the team and is expected to participate in the Ivorian national

team's upcoming fixture against Uruguay in Lens.

Ally Kamwe, Yanga's Information, and Communication Manager provided clarity on his club's injury situation ahead of the crucial quarter-final clash scheduled to kick off at 9 pm.

"We are optimistic that Pacome will join the squad on Saturday. Despite not playing in the friendly against Benin, he has been training with the Ivorian national team in France and was on the substitutes' bench. We anticipate his return after the Uruguay match," Kamwe disclosed.

While Zouzoua's potential return boosts Yanga's morale, the condition of another Ivorian player, Yao, remains uncertain ahead of the pivotal Saturday encounter.

Yao, grappling with thigh sprains, has been instructed by the club's medical team to undergo two days of rest before undergoing further evaluation to determine his fitness for the match.

"Yao's recovery status remains uncertain for Saturday's match as he requires additional medical assessment after the rest period. It's a fifty-fifty chance for his participation," stated a club source.

Nevertheless, Yanga's technical bench remains prepared with alternative options for Yao's position.

"We have competent players who can step in for Yao. While his absence is a setback, it will not deter us from delivering a strong performance against Mamelodi Sundowns on Saturday," Kamwe added.

Addressing reporters, Kamwe highlighted the progress of certain players' recovery, indicating that Zawadi Mauya has commenced training and is poised for the game, whereas Kibwana Shomari's fitness stands at 60 percent, awaiting further training sessions.

"Zouzoua and Khalid have made significant strides in their recovery, with their fitness levels exceeding 80 percent, and they have resumed training. However, Kouassi Yao remains at a 50/50 status due to ongoing concerns about his health," Kamwe affirmed.

Yanga's upcoming fixture against Mamelodi Sundowns marks the commencement of the quarter-final stage of the CAF Champions League, with both teams vying for a spot in the coveted semi-finals of the premier continental tournament.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**MJADALA**

**EATV TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Mpera Mpera  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
13:55 Dandao Za Mchiza  
14:00 5SPORTS (R)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
16:00 Zote Kunu  
16:55 Dandao Za Mchiza  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:25 Kurasa  
18:00 Kall Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (R)  
21:00 MJADALA  
21:30 Zote Kunu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

**eastafrica RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
14:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**