



PROPERTY WATCH

SPECIAL REPORT
AGAINST THE CLOCK: BENJAMIN MKAPA STADIUM IN OVERDRIVE TO MEET FIFA GRADE 'A' STANDARDS

UTILITIES
Construction facts on Benjamin Mkapa Stadium:

- US\$56 million** - The stadium construction cost, which was equivalent to \$400 at that time
- BIAD** - The architect behind the stadium is a Chinese government-owned firm
- 164** - Workers on board, comprising 100 Tanzanians and 64 Chinese
- US\$20 million** - Funding from China for the stadium construction
- 57,558** - The current seating capacity of the stadium
- 260** - Outdated stadium lights which are to be replaced with 352 new lights

Samia to grace fisheries summit next month
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Dar women urged to explore business opportunities
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Environmental protection everybody's duty - NEMC
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Mtibwa Sugar steam plant explodes in voltage surge



11 confirmed dead, says RPC

By Correspondent Idda Mushi, Mvomero

A SUDDEN increase in voltage in the Mtibwa Sugar factory's heating system electrical circuit ignited a blast one hour past midnight on Wednesday as technical personnel were preparing to operate it for production activity.

SACP Alex Mkama, the Morogoro regional police commander, said yesterday the incident occurred after midnight where 11 people were killed and two others injured, three of the dead being foreign nationals, with an Indian, Kenyan and a Brazilian.

The surge in the voltage touched off electricity circuit failure and thus the fateful blast, where electricity engineers were seeking to restore the malfunctioning power system in the plant's control room, he said.

The two injured people were in close observation at the Bwagala Mission Hospital, while remains of the blast victims were being kept the factory hospital mortuary, Turiani ward in the district.

Dr David Ruchwanisa, medical officer in-charge at Turiani Hospital said that they received the two injured technicians at around 4am where they conducted urgent treatment and referred then to the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in the capital for intense observation.

They had burns in various parts of their bodies including on the stomach, chest, legs and hands, he said, while Fadhili Chlombe, the power company's regional manager, said

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Operators of an open-air sugarcane juice 'factory' in business deep inside Dar es Salaam's bustling Tegeta Nyuki Bus Stand, as found yesterday. The surroundings may be far from welcoming, but the spot is usually as much of a crowd-puller as the many similar ones to be found elsewhere in the city.
Photo: John Badi

SPORTS
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Gamondi: 'Quality of Yanga players made the difference' in beating Dodoma Jiji

Page 18



Survival: NBC Premier League relegation permutations

Global travel agents start epic northern circuit tour

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

WITH 60 percent of global travel and tourism decisions influenced by travel agents, hosting 120 of the world's most influential agents is bound to skyrocket Tanzania's northern circuit in its profile and visibility, a tour organiser has stated.

Alice Manupa, the African Queen Adventures CEO, made this remark yesterday in relation to a landmark initiative aimed at bolstering Tanzania's tourism industry, where 120 global travel agents have embarked on an exclusive familiarization tour to experience the natural beauty first hand.

The brainchild behind this ambitious project, she expressed the feeling that the tour aims will offer influential agents' excellent experience of what the zone offers.

"This is a milestone for the Tanzania tourism industry," she stated, affirming that the tour will traverse the breadth of the northern tourism circuit, to view iconic attractions like the Tarangire National Park, Mount Kilimanjaro, Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Manyara, not to speak of the Serengeti.

"This immersive experience promises to create unforgettable memories for the travel agents and is expected to lead to a surge in Tanzania's tourist influx," she elaborated, while Murtaza Kalender, a prominent Turkey-based travel agent and vice-president of the Istanbul Tourism Association (ISTA), added weight to these expectations.

"Tanzania has all the ingredients necessary to attract 15m tourists in the next decade, provided that current efforts to engage global travel agents are maintained," he said, praising Tanzania's breathtaking landscapes and top-notch services as attributes likely to be noticed by the visiting global tourist agents.

Expressing his newfound dedication to Tanzanian tourism he promised to bring even more travel agents to future business to business events in the country, while local officials believe this initiative's success could usher in a new era for the tourism industry.

Plenty is being staked in by consistent engagement with global travel influencers, with some projecting exponential

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'School buses must have two guardians for more safety'
Government monitoring school transportation conditions, adding male and female guardians' requirement for emergencies

By Correspondent Paul Mabeja, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed that school buses field two guardians of different gender while at work to and from school to ensure the safety of pupils if an emergency occurs.

The premier issued this directive when responding to Nancy Nyalusi (Special Seats) during the direct questions hour.

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Jumbos: Minister, MPs hoping on chilli bombs

By Correspondent Idda Mushi, Morogoro

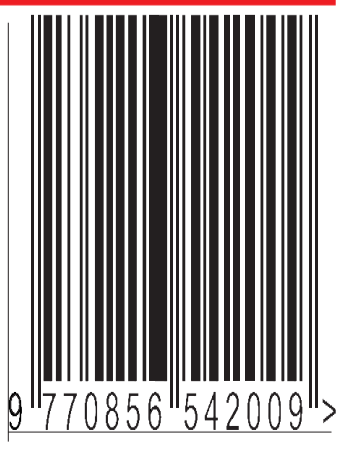
THE government has embarked on a 21-day special operation to scare and remove dangerous wild animals that create havoc in villages bordering national parks and other conserved areas.

Angellah Kairuki, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, received 4000 chilli bombs out of 15000, which were ordered for the work, with the bombs having been researched by the military Mzinga Corporation and the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI). This comes after the Ministry of

The initiative will greatly help to chase away elephants and other wild animals repeatedly disturbing and harming people while destroying crops and properties, she said after receiving the bombs here yesterday.

The bombs will be directed to villages that greatly face the challenge, she said, noting that innovation resulting in designing the bombs followed a directive from President Samia Suluhu Hassan that the ministry needs to come

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Minister, MPs hoping on chilli bombs against jumbos

FROM PAGE 1

up with a solution to wildlife intrusion challenges. More innovative measures will be sought as part of plans to strengthen security in villages near reserve forests and wildlife sanctuaries to prevent incidents of people being killed by wild animals, she stated, affirming that 44 districts will be the first targeted.

They have been found to face tough situations from animal invasions, with 51 other districts similarly facing animal intrusion challenges, she stated, so we are going to ensure that we greatly overcome the challenge," she explained.

Timotheo Mnzava (Korogwe Rural), the chairman of the Land, Natural Resources and Tourism standing committee of the National Assembly, urged the ministry to provide more rangers versed in how to scare the animals and prevent them from invading settlements and farms.

Districts that face animal invasions need to procure the bombs to sort out the challenge, he said, while Salma Kikwete (Mchinga) lauded the government for coming up with this innovation, persuaded that it will greatly help reduce human-wildlife conflicts in various districts.

Brigadier General Seif Athumani Hamisi, the Mzinga Corporation general manager, said studies in bio-control of wild animals have shown great success, expressing optimism that the bomb technology will perform well and bring about intended outcomes.

Dr Eblate Mjinga, the TAWIRI director general, said the chilli bombs took a long time to research upon, airing the view that the bombs have been improved from an original design and have high amounts of chilli.

They have a heavy blast and spreading lights which confuse and distress elephants while not hurting them, he stated, suggesting that the packaging of the bombs is good and strong. Experts are pursuing research to come up with more innovative measures to fight wild beasts bringing havoc to the people, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi swears in Capt Hussein Mohamed Seif as Deputy Chief of Zanzibar's Special Anti-Smuggling Force, popularly known as KMKM, at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Looking on is Zanzibar Government Chief Secretary Zena Ahmed Said. Photo: State House

Global travel agents start epic northern circuit tour

FROM PAGE 1

growth in visitations in the coming years, solidifying Tanzania's status as a global travel destination.

"With Tanzania's doors wide open to world travellers and strategic collaborations like this one taking center stage, the future of Tanzanian tourism looks promising, vibrant and poised for unprecedented growth," a top official noted.

Iman Nkuwi, the deputy conservation commissioner for research and training in the ministry, made a presentation on

Tanzania tourism investment opportunities, affirming that the country needs investors in state-of-the-art recreation facilities.

There are other needs like wildlife captive facilities, lodge and camps, bee keeping, forestry as well as meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions, as the latter represents a lucrative part of the tourism mix across the globe. 'MICE' can also be referred to as business tourism or business events, an online

entry explained.

The ministry has set aside a total of 179 investment sites for accommodation facilities, projecting an additional 7,744 bed capacity, he said.

Organised by the local dynamic duo of African Queen Adventures and Re-thinking Tourism Africa (RTA), the travel agents' summit convened by the International Ecotourism Society, wasn't just another industry gathering but a symphony of business possibilities.

Hundreds of local tour operators had

an opportunity to engage the travel agents in the B2B exhibition, eager to forge connections with the seasoned professionals.

Sirili Akko, a top local travel executive, said the arrival of 120 global travel agents is monumental, signalling their confidence in the country as a premier destination for travel and adventure.

RTA director Edna Foya said that as the B2B interactions unfold, local tour companies stand to gain, with open doors bridging continents and creating lasting partnerships.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured at Parliament grounds in Dodoma city yesterday having a word with teachers and students of Ruangwa District's Lucas Malia Girls Secondary School currently on a study tour of Dodoma Region. The PM is constituency legislator for Ruangwa in Lindi Region. Photo: PMO

Kenyan found dead after going missing on Everest

By Gloria Aradi, Nairobi

A KENYAN mountaineer who went missing near the summit of Mount Everest has been found dead.

Forty-year-old Joshua Cheruiyot Kirui and his Nepali guide Nawang Sherpa, 44, disappeared on Wednesday during Kirui's bid to become the first African to climb Mt Everest without extra oxygen.

The guide is yet to be found by

the search team that had been deployed to locate the pair, a local tourism official said.

Climbing Everest, the world's highest peak, is considered extremely difficult and risky, even for experienced climbers.

Nepalese newspaper the Himalayan Times quoted Sherpa informing the base camp that Kirui had showed "abnormal behaviour" and "refused to return and even consume bottled oxygen".

Contact with the duo was lost

shortly after the message, base camp officials told the paper.

Kirui's close hiking friend, Kipkemoi Limo, said that he died from a fall.

He added that his family and friends are enquiring whether Kirui gave consent to be buried on Everest, or whether he wished for his body to be repatriated to Kenya, which will cost \$190,000 (£150,000).

Last week, Kirui said that he had undergone extensive physi-

cal preparations ahead of the challenge, with his descent planned for Wednesday.

"The major/specific preparation was climbing Manaslu, the eighth highest mountain in the world in 2023 September," he wrote in an email.

"However I've been climbing locally in Kenya, many stair climbs, gym workouts and running as specific preparation. Also for 10 years I've climbed, ran marathons and ultra-marathons

which adds to the general preparations".

In his latest Instagram post, Kirui had expressed confidence that he could conquer Everest without additional oxygen.

He however said that he had emergency oxygen support from Mr Sherpa and an emergency evacuation cover in case he ran into difficulties.

He was a banker with one of Kenya's biggest lenders.

Agencies

'School buses must have two guardians for more safety'

FROM PAGE 1

The MP asked for details on government plans to protect pupils when using school buses.

She said that education sector growth and the increase in private schools has led to increased transport services in schools, posing some risks and challenges, where the government needs to have a plan to enact a law to protect school going children in such buses.

The premier referred to laws regulating road traffic including school buses which need to be adhered to, for instance the driver must be qualified to drive passenger buses and carry students. The buses must be painted yellow so that they are recognized and have writings on the side and front, he elaborated.

"We are seeing these rules being followed but we know that the schools that have female and male children, so we now direct that each time they take pupils they must have two guardians, a man and a woman on board for the safety of our children during emergencies," he specified.

Even during holidays, the bus crew need to escort the pupils to their parents, he said, intimating that the government was conducting meetings with education sector operators to ensure the rules are followed.

The government has given the opportunity to Tanzanians to invest in the education sector, he said, expressing satisfaction that success was evident and visible.

The government was monitoring all the conditions that have been placed on buses transporting pupils for the safety of the children, with all the laws governing motor vehicles for the safety of passengers using such buses, he emphasized.

Mtibwa Sugar steam plant explodes in voltage surge

FROM PAGE 1

the system was using low voltage when turning on, with subsequent voltage normalisation occurring without hiccups.

The power system at the factory was disabled due to the blast, with the Tanzania Electric Supply Co,

(TANESCO) working to fix the power system to restore operations.

Juma Palamba, the Mtibwa Sugar head of instrumentation, said that engineers were in the room to test a steam power plant that had undergone improvements to increase operational capacity.

The plant was being tested before

commencing operations by May 24, he stated, affirming that all the devices were fixed very well but the accident occurred after engineers produced steam and opened the room to go to the power house to upgrade the turbines, to raise its capacity to 45 bars and 450°C.

Earlier the plant was using 24

bars and heat of around 300°C, he said, asserting that there was a small technical fault which occurred in fixing the devices.

"In improving the systems, there are various changes that are made before enabling the boiler to support receiving and producing steam at a greater level and this goes paral-

lel with testing whether the engine will withstand the relevant changes, and that is why the first test was to increase the power of the router (path) to be able to receive 45 bars," the engineer explained.

In the plant's operation room there were like 16 people but when the incident occurred he was out on

a phone call. While on the phone, his assistant also went out on a phone call. A few minutes later, the factory's manager went to the boiler to inspect if things were going well there, "so this means 13 people remained in the room. This is how we survived, it is a very hurting story," he added.



Dr Francis Mchomvu (C), acting Chief of Medical Services with Dar es Salaam's CCBRT Hospital, accompanied by a fistula patient undergoing treatment at the specialised medical facility in cutting a cake at an event held yesterday to mark International Day to End Obstetric Fistula. The Day is observed each May 23 chiefly to raise awareness, enhance efforts, forge alliances and rally, with a view to eradicate obstetric fistula. This year's theme is 'Breaking the Cycle: Preventing Fistula in Tanzania'. Left is the head of the facility's obstetrics and gynaecology unit, Dr Daniel Michael. Photo: John Badi

Police arrest four in city car theft swoop

By Henry Mwangonde

POLICE in Dar es Salaam have arrested four people and seized 12 vehicles believed to have been stolen from different places and sold fraudulently.

Dar es Salaam Regional Police Commander Jumanne Muliro said this yesterday in the city when speaking to journalists on a special operation which was conducted from December 2023 to May 22 this year.

He said that the operation involved various police commissions which facilitated the recovery of 12 stolen vehicles that have already been identified by owners after investigation.

"The ring leaders (34), a resident of Yombo Makangarawe in Temeke District (Dar es Salaam) and three of his colleagues have been arrested," he said.

Muliro said the suspects were allegedly stealing vehicles, erasing registration numbers and putting new registration numbers then sell the vehicles with fake cards.

He said in another development, police have arrested three suspects on suspicion of sabotaging infrastructure of Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco).

He said the suspects were arrested on May 15, 2024 at Kisarawe II area in Kigamboni District while they were stealing electric cables from high voltage poles.

Muliro said the suspects were arrested with 572 meters of 50mm electric wire that they had already separated, one pair of Tanesco wire holding gloves, climbing belts and a power cut-off device in case of a fault.

He said the suspects are expected to be taken to court to answer charges of theft among others.

"We ask the public to continue providing information on criminals. We will not have mercy, we will deal with them according to the law," he said.

Tanzania to host first Africa small-scale fisheries summit

By Carlos Banda

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is next month scheduled to grace the first Africa Small-scale Fisheries Summit which will deliberate on the opportunities available in the blue economy and ways to ensure artisanal fishers benefit from the subsector.

Abdallah Ulega, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, unveiled this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking to journalists ahead of the summit that will take place in Dar es

Salaam between June 5th and 7th, this year.

The first ever summit will bring on board fisheries stakeholders from various African countries, investors, experts and businesspeople in various areas to explore ways to make the fishery sector sustainable.

"It will be a platform to share experiences, exchange ideas and advanced ways of fishing and ensure the sector is sustainable by addressing illegal fishing for the benefit of the future generation. On our side, we had a discussion on how to help

youth and women in the sector on how to generate income and build a better tomorrow," he said.

He said such an opportunity did not come by chance but a result of various efforts made by the government.

"Tanzania was invited last year to attend a summit organized by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) for being among countries that prepared the best guideline to supervise small scale fishing. Nationally, 95 percent of the registered fishermen are small-scale

which consists of a value chain of six million Tanzanians who are highly dependent on the sector to generate income," he said.

"The sector's contribution to GDP stands at 1.9 percent and provides direct employment to more than 230,000 people. This sector touches the lives of many Tanzanians. Fishing business generates up to 3.4tr/- in general. When it comes to export alone, the sector generates 509bn/- annually which makes fish and other aquatic products help the country to earn foreign currency."

Ulega said the summit sets the ground to formalize the fisheries sector as well as attract investments and advanced technology, adding that small scale fishermen will have a chance to gain new knowledge.

"We want to make the sector loanable, attract investments and capital whereas doing so will elevate the sector's contribution to the GDP from 1.9 percent to 2.5 percent upwards. We want to ensure that small scale fishermen can earn income and develop," he said.

"The summit will involve partici-

pation of various people including representatives of small-scale fishermen from areas with lakes or dams and we will bring them together so that they can meet their counterparts from other African countries."

The summit is organised by the government of Tanzania in collaboration with the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources, FAO, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and other stakeholders with the objective of presenting views from the summit as one voice of Africa to the global stage.

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Kilimanjaro regional commissioner Nurdin Babu pictured yesterday watering a tree he had just planted in Mount Kilimanjaro Park in implementation of as a campaign meant to preserve native vegetation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Financial literacy training inspires Bukoba residents

By Correspondent Josephine Majula, Bukoba

RESIDENTS of Bukoba District in Kagera Region have commended the government for promoting financial literacy here through training.

They expressed their sentiments after the end of a seminar on financial literacy which was organised by the Ministry of Finance through its department of financial sector development.

Ivona Gasper, one of the beneficiaries, said the training empowered her and she will use the knowledge to train others on financial literacy and related issues.

"We ask the government to continue providing financial literacy education to the general public to ensure that it reaches many people throughout the country because most of the people lose money due to lack of education," she said.

Jackline Petro, community level peer educator, said after being trained on financial literacy, she understood proper ways of saving and spending her money.

Stanley Kibakaya, financial management officer, department of financial sector development in the Ministry of Finance, said that the government will ensure that all people who are targeted to get education in the first phase are reached as planned.

"We have planned to provide education to various groups, including service providers and users of financial services so that they have a common understanding on issues to be considered when giving or applying for loan," he said.

Keneth Mlilo, Kagera Regional Business Officer and Financial Services Coordinator, said that there was a positive response among people to get financial literacy, especially women's groups.

Dar RC urges women to value self-employment

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila has advised women in the city not to stay idle but strive to make a contribution to their families and the nation even through self-employment.

Chalamila made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the official launch of a programme dubbed

'Strengthening the Economy with Mama Samia'.

"It is vital for women to tackle various problems and challenges by doing business as an opportunity for them to rise economically," he said.

He said the programme seeks to empower women in groups through loans by ensuring that such loans go to the deserving beneficiaries.

"Daily efforts of entrepreneurial activities are the gateway to prosperity and longevity," he said.

Chalamila said that the programme which will be implemented by councils was introduced in the region on Tuesday through Dar es Salaam Women Leaders' Platform.

He said that in Dar es Salaam Region there are various opportunities, including

vegetable, chicken farming and modern fish farming (aquaculture).

"Plans are underway for the construction of modern markets in every district as you are aware that Kariakoo Market is in the final stage to be completed and will accommodate a big number of businesswomen as well as men," he said.

Beng'i Issa, National Economic Empowerment

Council (NEEC) executive secretary, said that the council through the programme intends to empower women, youth and special groups by encouraging them to participate in entrepreneurial activities.

"We urge Dar es Salaam authorities to set aside special economic zones so that women can process products as well as super markets that sell their prod-

ucts," she said.

Issa said the council has plans to connect women with various institutions, including the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) as well as Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to obtain various technologies and permits.

Sophia Mjema, Advisor to the President on women's issues, children, and special groups, said that the prob-

lems of capital, markets and participation of Tanzanians in economic activities are the reasons for the government to enact policies, laws and guidelines to assist citizens.

"This programme of empowering women, youth and special groups will be overseen by coordinators who are at the district, council and regional levels," he said.

Govt highlights strategy to achieve food security, end hunger by 2030

By Correspondent Christina Haule, Morogoro

THE government has pledged to implement a food security agenda by ensuring that borders are open for food commercialisation to end hunger by 2030 as stipulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Head of food security and marketing at the ministry of Agriculture Gungu Mibavu expressed the commitment in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the national food system pathways roadmap and action plan event organised by the Food and Ag-

ricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

He said available food was enough to feed the country with surplus for export which is the best way to achieve the agenda.

"Hunger is now not an issue in the country. We are now assisting others with food because we have a surplus which is at 124 percent," he said. Mibavu called upon stakeholders to dedicate themselves in the six remaining years to achieve SDGs.

He said that the country has signed protocols with the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community as well

as the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) to feed others and do business.

Coordinator for food systems from Zanzibar Sihaba Vuai said in ensuring that they transform the agriculture sector, the government of Zanzibar has focused on six value chain systems for prioritised crops.

Vuai who is also assistant director of policy affairs mentioned some of the priority crops as agricultural crops, fruits, spices, livestock and others, adding that the focus is on strengthening the production infrastructure in irrigated rice and vegetable crops.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Albert Chalamila (C), National Economic Empowerment Council Executive Secretary Beng'i Issa (2nd-R), Ilala district commissioner Edward Mpogolo (R), President Samia Suluhu Hassan's adviser on Women's Affairs and Special Groups, Sophia Mjema (2nd-L) and Dar es Salaam regional economic adviser Dr Elizabeth Mshote pictured in the city yesterday following proceedings at the launch of a presidential economic strengthening programme. Photo: Correspondent Damas Makangale

Tanzania-Uganda Business Forum kicks off in Dar city

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kasim Majaliwa yesterday launched a two-day Tanzania-Uganda Business Forum taking place in Dar es Salaam.

The forum is dedicated to enhancing economic and investment ties between the two countries.

The PM said the government is determined to increase people's participation in the industrial economy to increase incomes and reduce poverty.

To achieve this, Majaliwa said the government implements a blueprint which involves amendments of various laws,

policies and regulations to address loopholes and create a conducive business and investment environment.

He said the government has strengthened service delivery by creating and linking 55 electronic government systems in 50 public institutions.

In addition, 13 laws have

been amended to reduce or remove taxes, fees and charges as well as put exemptions of customs duties.

"The systems have been linked in order to facilitate exchange of information and completion of a new Tanzania electronic investment single window," he said.

The premier said apart from system improvements, the government has continued to strengthen discipline at work, control misuse of public funds, strengthen revenue collection and create a friendly environment for business and investment.

He added that many investors in local industries have also continued to enjoy tax reliefs to further stimulate investment.

Majaliwa said that a total of 15 new companies with a capital of \$215.48 million engaging in processing of agricultural products and minerals have been registered and given licences.

"The govern-

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REG NO. 96548

KENAFRIC INDUSTRIES TANZANIA LIMITED

NOTICE OF FINAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Final General Meeting of the above named Company will be held on the 24th day of June, 2024 at 10:00 hours at the registered office of the Company, Girl Guides Building, 1st Floor, Tower B, Kibasila Road, Upanga, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Members or their proxies who will not manage to attend physically are invited to join the Meeting virtually through the link and passcode that will be provided through their respective emails.

Agenda

- To receive the winding up report from the liquidator;
- To lay down accounts of the Winding up of the Company; and
- Any Other Business.

By Order of the Company liquidator

Florian Mutagwaba
Liquidator

Dated at Dar es Salaam this 24th day of May, 2024

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AfDB grants \$240m to Mauritius for economic diversification push

ABIDJAN

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group approved a loan of \$240 million to Mauritius in Abidjan on Wednesday to implement the second phase of the Economic Competitiveness and Resilience Support programme.

"Following the approval and implementation of the first phase of the programme in 2023, the aim of this second phase is to continue to support improvements in economic diversification and competitiveness, to improve the country's resilience and achieve more inclusive, sustainable growth. The proposed programme will support the economic recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic, through fundamental reforms to improve the business environment and the real economy," declared Kennedy Mbekeani, the African Development Bank's Country Manager in Mauritius.

Several government measures will be supported, including the government's approval of the fisheries framework bill to fill the gaps in current legislation, especially

regarding unregulated fishing and the use of sanctions. This will help boost the fishing sector and offer Mauritians new employment and income opportunities.

Another measure concerns the approval of the roadmap and strategic plan for the agriculture and livestock farming sectors 2024-2030 focused on increasing production for resilient food security, promoting sustainable, resilient production, as well as entrepreneurship and agro-industry.

The program's second phase will also support the installation of rooftop solar panels (using 1.5 kilowatt-hour solar kits) for households with modest incomes. Beneficiaries' monthly electricity bills will be reduced by 75-kWh for 20 years. The not only promotes the share of renewable energies in the energy mix and lower greenhouse gas emissions, but is designed to help reduce poverty among these types of customers.

The Mauritian Minister of the Economy, Planning and Development, and several other ministries responsible for the areas covered by the operation are the program's direct beneficiaries.



Weights and Measures Agency's acting CEO Alban Kihulla (L) briefs Trade and Industry deputy minister Exaud Kigaha (2nd-L) and Zanzibar's Trade and Industrial Development minister Omar Shaaban (R) at the launch of a Week of Industries and Trade exhibition held at Parliament grounds in Dodoma city on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Women urged to use online economic opportunities

By Correspondent James Kandoya

YOUNG women scientists in the country have been urged to grab opportunities presented by digital technology in various avenues to transform their lives and contribute to national development.

Annagrace Malamsha, a pharmacist, made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the ongoing Innovation Week Tanzania 2024 that was organized by Tanzania Commission for

Science and Technology (COSTECH) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Malamsha, one of the beneficiaries of the African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI) supported by UN Women Tanzania, said that digital literacy is a fundamental instrument for human development and therefore young women must utilise it.

She said the programme also empowered individuals to access

information, communicate effectively, secure employment, think critically and navigate the digital landscape responsibly.

"Digital literacy is very important to enable young women access a vast amount of information and resources online, expanding their learning beyond the confines of a traditional classroom," she said. Furthermore, she said that women can engage in interactive learning activities, col-

laborate with peers and gain a deeper understanding of complex concepts.

"We must make tech safe, affordable and accessible to girls wherever they live. We must tackle the ingrained gender norms that prevent girls from seeing digital roles as accessible career paths," she said.

Malamsha said that digital technologies have a huge potential to empower girls and women economically and socially to contrib-

ute to the national economy.

Data scientist Suna Salum called on foreign and domestic organizations to support girls and young women interested in digital technology.

Michael Jerry, Programme Analyst-Women Economic Empowerment at UN Women Tanzania, said that 110 girls and young women have been trained on code, graphic designing and robotics. He said that AGCCI is meant to bridge the

gender digital gap by empowering young girls between the ages of 17 and 25 to become programmers and innovators.

He said that AGCCI is further aimed at upskilling and empowering young women in Africa with digital literacy, programming and work-readiness skills.

Jerry said the programme is designed for girls and young women in South Africa, Kenya, Senegal, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania.

GENESIS
SCHOOLS

GENESIS SCHOOLS LTD.
P.O. BOX 105792.
Ali Bin Said Road, Oysterbay, Masaki.
Dar es salaam- TANZANIA
Email: info@genesisschools.co.tz
Phone: +255 784 612 222, +255718178070

REF: 0269/GEN/2024
7th MAY 2024

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT Board of Directors

Are you passionate about shaping the future of education in Tanzania? Do you possess the skills and expertise to guide a dynamic educational institution towards greater success? Genesis Schools Tanzania Limited (GNS) invites visionary leaders to apply for vacant positions on its Board of Directors, effective from the 1st day of August 2024.

About GNS: Established in 2002 under the laws of Tanzania, GNS is committed to providing quality education to empower the next generation. With our registered office located at Ali Bin Said Road, Oyster Bay, P.O. Box 3550, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, we stand as a beacon of educational excellence in the region.

Join a Managed and Passionate Board: At GNS, we believe in effective governance and prudent management. Our Board boasts a manageable size, ensuring efficient decision-making and impactful leadership. We seek individuals who are driven by integrity, dedicated to GNS's interests, and committed to serving without personal bias.

Qualifications Needed: We are seeking individuals with specific expertise to complement our Board's composition:

Board's composition:

- One member with a PhD or Master's in Law, possessing expertise in legal matters related to educational institutions.
- Another member with a PhD or Master's in Education, bringing extensive knowledge of international education, particularly the Cambridge curriculum.
- The third member should be a CPA holder with PhD or Masters in Finance/Accountancy with a background in business management and leadership, along with experience in school accounting systems, tax, and business laws.

Responsibilities of Board Members: As a member of the GNS Board of Directors, you will play a pivotal role in shaping our organization's future.

Key responsibilities include:

- Defining our mission and purpose.
- Selecting key personnel and providing oversight.
- Ensuring financial stability and resource allocation.
- Upholding legal and ethical standards.
- Engaging in strategic planning and organizational development.
- Enhancing our public image and stakeholder relations.
- Monitoring and improving our curriculum and services.
- Supporting and evaluating the performance of our principal.

Adherence to Ethical Standards: Board members at GNS are expected to uphold the highest standards of conduct and accountability, including fulfilling the duty of care, loyalty, and obedience outlined in our Code of Ethics.

Join Us in Transforming Education: If you are ready to make a difference in the lives of students and contribute to the growth of our community, we invite you to apply for a position on the GNS Board of Directors. Together, let's embark on a journey of educational excellence and innovation.

To apply, please submit your resume and a cover letter detailing your qualifications and motivation to serve on our Board. Applications should be sent to principal@genesisschools.co.tz by Thursday, 30th May 2024.

Join GNS and be a part of a transformative educational journey!
Genesis Schools Tanzania Limited,
Ali Bin Said Road, Oyster Bay,
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NMB SHAREHOLDERS' NOTICE UPDATING BANK DETAILS AND TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN)

NMB Bank Plc would like to inform its shareholders to update their respective shareholder details, including Bank Account, contact details including next of kin details and Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) to ensure timely payment of dividends.

This applies to NMB Shareholders who:

- Have not shared their TIN number with NMB as per Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) requirements.
- New NMB shareholders whose details are missing in the Bank records.
- Have changed their bank details and not notified the Bank.
- Have not collected their previous dividends on NMB Shares.
- Who have changed their contact details (e.g Mobile phone, next of kin details).
- Whose accounts are closed or in dormant as per Banking operations requirements.

Shareholders are advised to fill dividend payment mandate form available to their nearest NMB branch, this form is also available on the Bank's Website www.nmbbank.co.tz.

A copy of valid identification document (Passport, Driver's License, National ID, or Voter ID) and Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) must be presented.

In case of any questions, please contact us via:
Phone number: +255 22 232 2913
Email Address: Dividend_Unit@nmbbank.co.tz

NMB Bank Plc - Head Office
Ohio/Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road
1st Floor- Investor Relations
P.O Box 9213, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

www.nmbbank.co.tz



Salim Kimaro, a financial management officer with the Finance ministry, lectures providing financial education to entrepreneurs and other residents of Ikungi District in Singida Region yesterday on financial literacy. It was in implementation of the ministry's plan to extend financial education to rural areas across the country particularly on personal savings and credit. Photo: Finance ministry

Obtain ERB registration to get jobs, engineering technicians counselled

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

WORKS Minister Innocent Bashungwa has called on engineering technicians in the country to register with Engineers Registration Board (ERB) to gain recognition for the government to empower them.

He said the new approach to be implemented through Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT) initiative will see young engineers and engineering technicians get practical training on handling small and big projects.

The minister made the appeal during the 6th Annual Engineering Technicians Day (AETD) held in Dodoma yesterday, noting that only 2758 engineering technicians are registered with ERB yet their number is much bigger.

According to Bashungwa, there are a lot of projects at local government authority level that local engineers can participate in but just a handful of them get double allocation of projects. "It is important to register with ERB in order to get recognition and certification that can enable you to work both with local and international engineers on small and big projects" he said.

The minister called on engineers in the country to work diligently, professionally and maintain integrity, stating that incompetent people will not win government projects going forward.

Bashungwa also urged the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) to constantly review registration of members to ensure efficiency. Earlier, ERB Chairperson David Manga said that engineering technicians are important stakeholders in the construction sector and national development.

He said that the board is working on review of some laws in efforts to help support local contractors and engineering technicians, among others.

"The board will cooperate with engineering technicians and work closely with the government on both small and big projects in the country" he said.

ERB Registrar Benard Kavishe said that the aim of the meeting was to help empower engineering technicians with new skills and knowledge for their projects.

Apex court orders retrial of US\$18.64 million loan case

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE Court of Appeal has ordered retrial of the \$18.64 million (47bn/) loan dispute between State Oil Tanzania and Equity Bank Tanzania Limited (EBT) and Equity Bank Kenya Limited (EBK).

The court issued the order last week after nullifying the previous ruling in favour of State Oil by the High Court Commercial Division in a commercial case number 105 of 2020.

The judgment was nullified due to procedural flaws in the case as

the court continued to hear the case without amending the plaintiff after adding the number of defendants from one to two.

The decision was made by a panel of three judges: Rehema Mkuye (panel leader), Abraham Mwampashi, and Zainabu Muroke on May 16, 2024 following an appeal filed by EBT and EBK.

The procedural flaw identified was lack of an order to amend the plaintiff after EBK was added as a second defendant which violated mandatory provisions of Order 1 Rule 10(4) of the Civil Procedure

Code (CPC) and affected the proceedings and resulting judgment.

"We nullify all proceedings arising from that order," the court stated in its decision written by Judge Mwampashi on behalf of the panel, concluding: "We also overturn the judgment and remand the records of commercial case number 105 of 2020 to the High Court, Commercial Division, for a retrial after fulfilling the requirements of Order 1 Rule 10(4) of the CPC."

Initially, State Oil filed the case against EBT, as an agent of EBK,

due to a dispute over a USD 18.64 million loan EBK claimed from State Oil.

Before the trial began, EBT's lawyers requested the court to join EBK as a second defendant due to its interest in the case, which the court granted, ordering EBK to file its written defence.

However, despite the addition of EBK, the High Court did not order the plaintiff to be amended to reflect the new defendant, proceeding with the original plaintiff and ruling in favour of State Oil. Consequently, both EBT and EBK

appealed the ruling.

On April 13, 2024, during the appeal hearing, the Court of Appeal raised the issue of whether it was proper for the High Court to hear and decide the case without ordering an amendment to the plaintiff after the addition of a new defendant.

Lawyers from both sides, Mpya Kamara and Timon Vitalis representing the appellants (the banks) and Frank Mwalongo representing State Oil, argued that the amendment was not necessary as it did not affect any party.

However, the Court of Appeal emphasized that due to the nature of the dispute and the significant amount of money involved, the requirement for a fair hearing necessitated the amendment of the plaintiff to comply with Order 1 Rule 10(4) of the CPC.

The court stated that without this amendment, State Oil had no claim against EBK and EBK's defence only responded to the case directed at EBT.

According to the case records, in 2018, EBK guaranteed State Oil to obtain a USD 18.64 million loan

PM urges parents to mind children's school routines

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has asked parents and guardians to monitor their children's behaviour to ensure that they attend school and learn as required.

Majaliwa made the call in the National Assembly during questions and answers session, when responding to a question from Sikonge MP Joseph Kakunda who wanted to know the governments' strategy to ensure that all pupils finish school except those who pass away.

"The government continues to strengthen children's attendance by building good relationship with parents and guardians to ensure that every parent supervises their child's attendance. When they return home, parents should monitor the progress to be sure that the child actually goes to school," he said.

At secondary school level, he said: "We are strengthening construction of dormitories for female and male pupils so that they can study there, sleep there and play there." He said instructions had already been given to all district councils as they are in charge of primary and secondary schools to construct dormitories.

"We have also strengthened our Quality Assurance Institute; one of its responsibilities is to monitor the number of pupils registered in class and it is required to question why others are not present according to their registration," he said.

"We believe that through these measures, absenteeism will decrease and we will begin to see registered pupils finish school by 98 percent."

Majaliwa was responding a question by Special Seats MP Stella Fiyao who sought to know the government's plan to provide education to everyone.

The PM said that the government continues to work on the issue through improvements of the education policy that are currently being carried out.



Musa Amini, a dentist with Samia Suluhi Hassan District Hospital in Muheza, pictured yesterday taking patients through ways of protecting teeth, as recommended by experts. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Guardian Reporter

NEMC: Environmental protection everybody's duty

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has appealed to Tanzanians to regard environmental protection as everyone's responsibility and not the duty of government authorities only.

Arnold Mapinduzi, NEMC Temeke Zonal Manager made the call on Wednesday evening while speaking during an event to award start-up companies focusing on increasing resilience and sustainable development by supporting locally developed solutions.

He added an example to protect the envi-

ronment by implementing the strategy of the government to discourage the use of firewood and charcoal and promote alternative clean energies for cooking.

"This will help individuals' health and protect the environment. Similarly, those who have industries should observe the law on levels of industrial waste that can be emitted, if it is water or air then they should make sure that they are released at the levels allowed," said Mapinduzi.

Regarding the young people who partic-

ipated in the event, he said that the council supports them by providing guidance and exposure so that people can see them and recognize their creative ideas, adding that the council is also tasked with researching various areas related to the environment.

One of the participants, Richard Rafael, said during an interview at the event that they are dealing with the processing of coconut palms that they use to produce coco peats.

He added that coco peats have many

uses in the agricultural sector, especially in vegetable farming and that their product aims to reduce the use of chemicals and thus help in enhancing sustainable farming.

Managing Director of Sahara Consult, the implementing partner of the initiative in Tanzania, Nancy Kiondo, said that they were pleased to see that 10 start-up companies made it to the Demo Day, out of which five emerged winners and will be provided with cash prizes.

"Those who participated were able to show how they help the society in preserving the environment through various innovations that focus on climate adaptation and resilience," he said.

In the competition, the first winner was Coastal Biotech which received 10,000 euros (28,173,132/-), the second was Africa Harvest, the third Lima Africa, the fourth Kilimo Maendeleo and the fifth MOTO Poa which were all given a capital of 7,500 euros (21,129,810/-).

AfDB signs \$70m agreement to support private sector in Africa

By Brian Canup

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) and Banque Centrale Populaire (BCP) have entered into a \$70

million risk-sharing agreement (RSA) aimed at invigorating private sector financing and enhancing trade across Africa. This agreement allocates an over-

all risk limit to local African banks, bolstering their ability to support economic activities on the continent. The collaboration between AfDB

and BCP is set to enhance financial inclusion for economic operators, with a special focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). By consolidating the foreign trade capacities of these enterprises, the initiative is projected to catalyse approximately €200 million in trade.

"This partnership with BCP includes objectives to diversify Morocco's production capacity, strengthen its competitiveness, generate additional tax revenues, while creating new job opportunities," commented Achraf Tarsim, AfDB's Country Manager for Morocco.

The agreement underscores BCP group's ongoing commitment to financing trade transactions in Africa. It presents an opportunity for BCP to further support its clients and fortify relationships with local African banks, which are increasingly challenged by declining financing and confirmation lines from foreign cor-

respondents.

"Hand in hand, we are offering solutions to unleash the potential of companies that believe in their continent, invest in it, and create added value and jobs," said Mohamed El Azizi, AfDB's Director General for North Africa, at the signing ceremony.

The new RSA is expected to significantly bolster BCP's capacity to finance trade across Africa, providing crucial support for commercial transactions of African companies. It is also aimed to promote better integration of local banks into the international financial system.

"This new agreement with the African Development Bank represents an ideal model of South-South collaboration, offering a comprehensive solution adapted to the development needs of pan-African trade and Africa's trade with the rest of the world," stated Kamal Mokdad, CEO

of BCP and the group's international operations.

The AfDB-BCP partnership reflects a shared vision of promoting sustainable economic growth and development in Africa by empowering SMEs and enhancing trade capabilities, thereby contributing to the broader goal of economic resilience and prosperity across the continent.



This partnership with BCP includes objectives to diversify Morocco's production capacity, strengthen its competitiveness, generate additional tax revenues



Delegates to a two-day conference on the participation of women in constitution leadership and elections held in Dar es Salaam in celebratory mood at the conclusion of the event on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

Diplomats laud FOCAC for uplifting Africa-China ties

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN diplomats have praised the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) for strengthening the partnership between the two sides and promoting South-South cooperation.

At a high-level conference on Ethiopia's role in FOCAC in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa on Tuesday, diplomats said of the many partnership platforms Africa has today, FOCAC remains the most strategically intertwined and far-reaching in its depth, scope and level of cooperation.

"FOCAC is the result of genuine efforts to institutionalize the

China-Africa partnership and is considered a model for South-South cooperation," said Tefera Derbew, the Ethiopian ambassador to China, while presenting a paper on the FOCAC platform at the conference.

He noted that unlike other partnerships that African countries established with external actors, China has been providing comparatively better resources for implementing FOCAC and transferring technology, knowledge and skills to Africa.

"FOCAC has yielded significant outcomes, including large-scale infrastructure projects, increased trade and investment between

China and African countries, capacity-building initiatives and cultural exchanges," said Derbew.

The diplomat added that FOCAC adheres to non-interference principles and largely aligns with Africa's aspirations and priorities of Agenda 2063, with a special focus on enhancing political, economic and cultural cooperation.

Ayele Lire, Ethiopia's permanent representative to the African Union (AU), said FOCAC prompts equality and mutual benefits for Africa and China and has given impetus to South-South cooperation.



Manager, Purchasing and Supply Chain

The Aga Khan University (AKU) invites applications for the following position based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania:

Manager, Purchasing and Supply Chain

The Manager, Purchasing, and Supply Chain will maintain and implement purchasing and supply chain management internal controls, improve productivity and efficiency, reduce cost, and secure high-quality goods and services at Aga Khan University. S/he will work closely and collaboratively with Faculty and Staff.

Position Responsibilities.

- Plan, coordinate, and direct activities of purchasing, receiving, warehousing and storage of supplies and invoice submission to Finance.
- Negotiating terms and prices with suppliers and freight companies, monitoring and assessing their performance, and maintaining cost-effective practices.
- Contract Management.
- CAPEX Budget optimisation and Prepare and monitor divisional operating and capital budgets; short, medium, and long-term plans.
- Analyze the supply chain data and solve any issues by implementing alternative plans.
- Purchase Order approval as per Approval Matrix
- Ensure the most economical fares are selected, signing travel request forms and monthly travel reports for finance.
- Search appropriate housing, prepare lease agreement, coordinate with TRA (through Finance) for VAT exemptions, ensure timely renewing of the lease, and coordinate with landlords for any issues tenants raise.
- Work collaboratively with users and supply chain leadership to develop and maintain processes to deliver quality service.
- Provide leadership and problem-solving support to peers, direct reports, and customers in a manner that facilitates the building of solid relationships.
- Lead the team in developing and implementing quality improvement programs in the supply chain function.
- Manage the recruitment, retention, and development of employees in the Department.
- Coach, guide, and motivate the PSCMD team on Quality Systems and departmental Compliance.
- Coordinate PSCMD functions with other departments by preparing reports on Key Performance Indicators.
- Be the primary liaison with ICT for the Division's information needs and Finance department during internal and external audits.

Professional Skills, qualifications, and experience

- Bachelor's degree in supply chain management, Business Administration, or procurement and logistics. A Master's degree in a related field will be an added advantage.
- Professional membership with CIPS and PSPTB membership is required.
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in a similar or related role
- Excellent business acumen and analytical skills, along with in-depth knowledge of ERP
- Experience in supply chain or logistics and operations in a busy setup

How to Apply

If you meet the requirements of this position, please send your application package, which should include an application letter and an updated CV, to hr.tanzania@aku.edu. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. For further information, please visit <http://www.aku.edu>.

Application Close: 07th June 2024

MWANZA CITY COMMERCIAL COMPLEX CO. LIMITED (MCCCCL)



TENDER NOTICE FOR HIRING OF CLEANING AND GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES, FUMIGATION SERVICE, FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM, SECURITY SERVICES, SERVICE FOR GENERATOR, GARBAGE COLLECTION SERVICES, AND MAJOR REPAIR OF ESCALATOR AND ELEVATOR AT ROCK CITY MALL - MWANZA.

Tender No: REF/MCCCCL/PROCUMENT/2024/2025/S/01-07

Mwanza City Commercial Complex Company Limited (MCCCCL) is the owner of Rock City Mall - Mwanza hereby extends the invitation to companies with the necessary experts and experience in retail and commercial building only for the following services

S/No	Description	Bid Reference Number
1	Cleaning and Ground Maintenance Services	REF/MCCCCL/PROCUMENT/2024/2025/S/01-01
2	Fumigation services	REF/MCCCCL/PROCUMENT/2024/2025/S/01-02
3	Security Services	REF/MCCCCL/PROCUMENT/2024/2025/S/01-03
4	Garbage Collection	REF/MCCCCL/PROCUMENT/2024/2025/S/01-04
5	Service for Fire Protection System	REF/MCCCCL/PROCUMENT/2024/2025/S/01-05
6	Service for Generator	REF/MCCCCL/PROCUMENT/2024/2025/S/01-06
7	Major Repair of Escalator and Elevator	REF/MCCCCL/PROCUMENT/2024/2025/S/01-07

Closing Date for Submission; All interested service providers are requested to submit their sealed quotations as per prescribed procedure to this office on or before **10:00Hrs of 06th June, 2024**

Tender Documents are available at the Management office of Rock City Mall 3rd Floor Wing "A" - Mwanza.

Tender Fee; A non-refundable tender fee of **Tsh. 200,000.00** (per service required) must be deposited using the following bank details:

Account Name : **Mwanza City Commercial Complex Co. Limited**
 Bank Name : **CRDB Bank PLC**
 Account Number : **0150335378100**
 Branch Name : **ROCK CITY BRANCH**

Bid Reference Number & Company Name must be used as a reference number for payment. Proof of payment must be submitted before the tender document can be issued.

The Technical Bid will be opened on the same day i.e **06th June, 2024 at 10:00Hrs** in the presence of authorized representative of bidders.

Annette Shoo
 Company Manager,
MWANZA CITY COMMERCIAL COMPLEX CO. LIMITED (MCCCCL)

FRIDAY 24 MAY 2024

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

WHO report on STI surge plus HIV, hepatitis merits attention

NEW and disquieting reports have surfaced from another annual review, this time from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The study shows that global HIV, viral hepatitis and traditional sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are threats on the rise, causing 2.5 million deaths globally on average.

This is provided in a sobering executive summary on the extent to which STIs pose significant public health challenges in the context of efforts to implement global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs for 2022-2030.

It no longer looks realistic, if it ever did, that year 2022 saw WHO member states set out to reduce adult syphilis infections ten-fold by 2030 to 710,000 globally.

While the data on disease look accidental enough given intense ambitions to fight diseases, the background is far less confusing.

The number of new syphilis cases among adults aged between 15 and 49 years increased by over a million in 2022 to reach 8 million.

The highest increases were noticed in the Americas and the African Region chiefly on account of intensifying poverty for instance due to war and dislocations, with inflation crippling earnings. Poorer people are more exposed to risky relations, amidst bacterial and virus resilience largely due to earth warming.

The issue is whether individual countries and UN agencies linked with the health sector can still be optimistic on the 17 global sustain-

able development goals (SDGs) is at issue. This also relates to how housing, employment, food security and political stability make it easier for public agencies to do their job.

This is not the first report where the viability of the thrust towards the attainment of the SDGs by 2030, now well beyond halfway since 2015, is tested.

Another report mid last year said half of the world's poor by 2050 will be African children, if things remain what they are, that is, changing at the same pace as at present.

One especially blinding parameter visible in this report, just as in other reports by UN agencies, is precisely 'to whom the bell tolls'.

This is primarily because there are two parameters still clearly unresolved in the matter: the agencies' perspective that rolling back disease is an issue of global cooperation to achieve it and then the reality.

The issue, like various others in the societal or developmental parameter as a whole, elicits interest and allocation of funds globally. But this is entirely at odds with the sort of resources that UN reports suggest are needed, and this is not 'doable' in many African countries.

While there is a more traditional school of reform that seeks fast economic growth for both the jobs that diminish poverty and the revenues that enable governments to plan for health outlays and possibly also minimum subsistence allowances for unemployed as they do in developed countries, this matter is awaiting a different revival.

Appropriating illegal fishing nets from shops would indeed save fish species

IT is anyone's guess how far the relevant authorities in Mwanza Region can adequately or visibly respond to appeals to intensify patrols to control the sale and use of unauthorised fishing nets, with a view to protecting certain fish species in Lake Victoria from extinction. Concerned individuals, including fishermen, made such appeals in a small media survey on the issue at some fishing spots in the lakeside city. The survey showed that some fishermen use nets that have been restricted to catch immature fish species especially the Nile perch as it has a high commercial value. That can't help.

Clearly the happiness when the fish is sold in the local market and supplied to processing industries to obtain fillets for export is bound to have some negative results not in the far future, and indeed other measures have been suggested as well. One is the three month fishing moratorium along the other major lake to the west, Tanganyika, where the riparian states, sharing the border, agreed on the temporary stoppage of fishing activities. We do not hear much of such initiative with regard to Lake Victoria management, despite that it has a more active administrative layout compared to the other.

Those who conducted the survey as well as the respondents were in no doubt that immature Nile perch are being fished in significant quantities as the loads are sold in different local markets, while unauthorised nets are openly sold in different streets in the city. In addition there are rather isolated islands where illegal fishing can be done more conveniently, which some stakeholders fear may lead to depletion of fish stocks in the water

body. Someone would say it doesn't require a master's degree to visualise as much, but those with responsibility to check the situation bend their fingers, sort of.

One limitation is that there doesn't appear to be much of a thrust in putting up a fishing moratorium each year, whether not the fishing gear remains the same or it can also be altered. The fishing gear has from time to time disturbed the relevant authorities, and at some point in the past the ministry then overseeing the sector supervised an energetic campaign against five millimetres, demanding that right nets are at least seven millimetres. For one reason or another this campaign was not being repeated from one year to another, which points at two related possible reasons, reciprocity and unpopularity.

For a lake that is shared between three countries, they all need to agree on any move to standardise fishing nets, whereas at that time Tanzania had apparently acted alone. For one thing, Kenya has a relatively small share of the lake and its fishermen have been pushing into islands in the lake, at one time causing violent disputes among island inhabitants as to which country that island belonged. Just lately the two countries were working hard to eliminate a whole series of trade barriers, which means they weren't exactly on the same wavelength on the fishing nets issue. One country was likely to be somewhat opportunistic, remain relaxed about fishing nets even if the fish stocks are depleted. With a clearer intent to eliminate trade barriers, they could finally come on board to standardise fishing nets.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

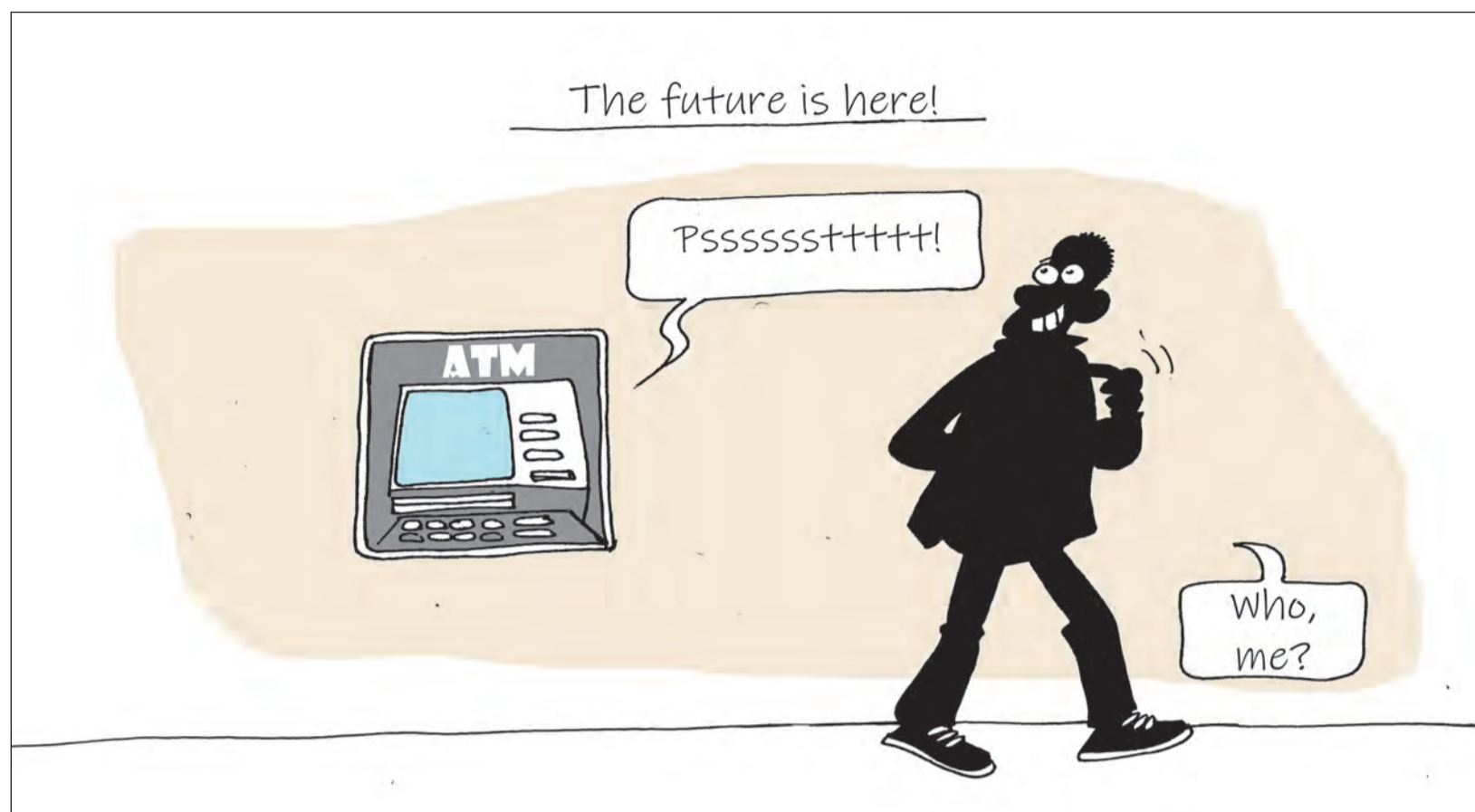
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
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As economic power in East Africa grows, southern Africa is left waiting in the wings



While East Africa shines with impressive growth rates and strategic economic policies, Southern Africa grapples with underperformance.

By **Elsabé Loots**

WITH an economic growth rate exceeding its population growth, Africa should be achieving economic development advances – but that is not the case. Poverty remains widespread, and there are huge differences in performance between the continent's five regions. This is influenced by geographic location, structures of individual economies, commodity dependence, regional political dynamics, and resilience to global shocks.

In the African Development Bank's African Economic Outlook 2023, East and Southern Africa's economic growth rates stand out (see graph). Over the 2021-25 period, southern Africa is the continent's worst regional performer, while East Africa is number one. In fact, projected growth rates indicate that East Africa will accelerate while Southern Africa will continue to underperform.

How do these two regions compare? Of the 13 countries in southern Africa, 69% are middle-income economies. In contrast, only 38% of East Africa's 13 nations hold middle-income status, with most still classified as low-income. The general notion that low-income countries tend to grow faster than middle-income countries could favour East African economies in their growth trajectory. But that is not enough to fully explain the two regions' varied performance.

Differing economic structures

The broad structures of the two regional economies differ. Ten East African countries are non-resource-intensive economies, versus seven in southern Africa. Both regions have one oil-exporting country – South Sudan in East Africa and Angola in Southern Africa.

Southern Africa dominates with five economies rich in non-oil resources,

while East Africa has only two. The fact that East African countries are less exposed to global commodity booms and busts in their economic structure may benefit the region. This is evidenced by the 2023 Macroeconomic Performance and Outlook report, which indicates that from 2021-24, non-resource-intensive economies tended to grow faster than the other categories.

Southern Africa contributes 22% to Africa's gross domestic product (GDP), while East Africa's contribution rose from 14% in 2018 to 17% in 2022. A 2023 Euromonitor article reported that East Africa's contribution to continental GDP is projected to account for as much as 29% by 2040. This projected growth in the region's GDP depends on a continued high-growth path in this part of Africa.

Apart from the influence of the global economy, shocks and geopolitical events, regional dynamics and neighbouring countries' performance have strong knock-on effects. In the case of Southern Africa, South Africa and Angola together account for 75% of the region's output. In East Africa, four economies – Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda – account for around 84% of the region's output.

Even though all the economies are exposed to global geopolitical shocks and continued global uncertainties, East African countries tend to be more resilient than those in Southern Africa in terms of growth.

Underperformance in Southern Africa could predominantly be attributed to the stagnation of South Africa's economy and its impact on the region. The numerous political, structural, and macroeconomic challenges in South Africa and other countries in the region affect

physical and social infrastructure. This reduces productivity and constrains domestic demand.

Botswana and Mauritius have above-average long-term growth performances, with higher growth expectations for Mozambique and Zambia. Despite this, Southern Africa's economic growth is expected to be insufficient to carry the region forward significantly. Moreover, Southern Africa is plagued by high external debt burdens, poverty, inequality, and especially youth unemployment.

In contrast, East Africa's robust economic performance is driven by the strong showing of seven of the region's 13 countries. Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Djibouti, Kenya and Seychelles are the highest performers, with average growth rates of over 5%. Rwanda was one of the key sustainable growth success stories with a growth rate exceeding 7% on average annually. These impressive results benefit the rest of East Africa despite Somalia and Sudan's political instability.

Economic policies

Several key policy decisions drive economic growth in East Africa: the Look East Policy of embracing China, investment in road and communications infrastructure, support for agriculture, and prioritising connectivity and trade within the region.

Mega infrastructure projects cover roads, ports, airports, railways, dams, bridges, hydropower projects and crude oil pipelines. Examples include Kenya's 592km Standard Gauge Railway, a train line between Addis Ababa and Djibouti, Uganda's Karuma Hydropower Project, Tanzania's newly planned Bagamoyo Port, the Buge-

sera International Airport Expressway in Rwanda, and South Sudan's Juba International Airport.

The region is now reaping the benefits of these infrastructure projects, even though financial arrangements with China remain complex.

A large part of East Africa's growth is driven by the service sector. Government spending and strategic investments have supported in-country connectivity and intraregional trade. With a rising middle class, regional demand for banking, insurance and healthcare is also increasing. East Africa is known for its agricultural exports, and the modernisation of agricultural production was a crucial part of government spending. Djibouti, for example, improved its transport infrastructure to become an interregional logistics and trade hub.

Although both Southern and East Africa are exposed to the effects of climate change, skills shortages and unemployment, continued growth and development in the two will depend on internal and regional growth dynamics.

While East Africa is on a positive, sustainable growth path, Southern Africa is stagnating. Growth and development in these two regions will depend on the extent to which the economies can individually and collectively navigate their growth trajectories. Southern Africa should focus on political and policy certainty, macroeconomic stability and enhanced regional cooperation to address its lagging growth.

Elsabé Loots is the Professor of Economics, Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, University of Pretoria.

SPECIAL REPORT

Data uncover chances for women in Tanzania's political landscape

By Francis Kajubi

CULTURAL factors are holding back equal participation of women in politics.

Far from socio-economic obstacles, the majority of men are not willing to be politically led by women due to historical backgrounds according to UN Women research findings.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan goes down in history not only as the first female head of state in Tanzania but also in the East African region as a whole. However, President Samia stands as the first Vice President in the country serving between 2015 and 2021.

On the other hand, Dr. Tulia Ackson, Speaker of the National Assembly emerged as the first female President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) from Africa and the third one globally. She is the 31st President since the inception of the IPU in 1889.

In the National Assembly, Nenelwa Mwiambi, serves as the first female Clerk since the establishment of the law making body in 1926 when it was known as the Legislative Council of Tanzania Mainland, then known as Tanganyika.

The struggle of these three women in assuming such top political positions is viewed by some political analysts as finally Tanzania is at least seeing the light at the end of the tunnel towards gender equality in the country's political landscape.

Experience by interviewed politicians testifies that a woman sweat away more than a man in becoming an established politician with discouragements rising from the family level to stiff competition within the corridors of political parties.

Their point of view can be proved through this year's International Women's Day (IWD) that went by the global theme: 'Count Her In: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress.'

The global theme aligns with the priority theme for the United Nations (UN) 68th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 68) and examines pathways to greater economic inclusion for women and girls around the world.

In Tanzania, the same day was celebrated under the theme: 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress', a resounding and critical call to action for the government, private sector, civil society organizations and individuals to collectively act towards ensuring commitment to gender equality and women empowerment.

As defenders of women rights are raising their voices on gender equality, women claim to be left behind in assuming top political positions due to economic, education, cultural and ethnic related setbacks.

It's been six months ahead of the 2024 local government elections and women rights defenders recommend that to successfully achieve the 50/50 gender equality in political leadership, women empowerment is inevitable.

In Tanzania, there were only eight elected female parliamentarians after the first multiparty elections in 1995. Ten years later, 17 women were elected to parliament, representing 7 percent of legislative seats.

Jesca Msambatawangu, Iringa Urban Legislator (CCM) says it is high time to break all sorts of segregation and stereotypes against women in politics.

Stereotypes against women in the local political landscape have been scaring them away in getting into politics, adds Msambatawangu, a senior politician with an experience of 15 years.

"Since independence, Tanzania is finally led by a woman president. She is not just a woman, but a woman with her own abilities and courage to lead a male dominated leadership system," says Msambatawangu, adding since President Samia assumed the top office in March 2021, she has become a motivational to senior and junior politicians in the country.

The President has been appointing women to hold political positions at different levels in line with Article 21 (1) of the country's Constitution of 1977 states that: "Every citizen of the United Republic is entitled to take part in matters pertaining to the governance of the country, either directly or through representatives freely elected by the people, in conformity with the procedures laid down by, or in accordance with, the law."

According to Msambatawangu, the journey to achieving equality in politics has been steadily achieved in the sixth regime under President Samia.

John Mnyika, CHADEMA Secretary General, argued that cost for the election process is one of the setbacks for women to contest for political positions.

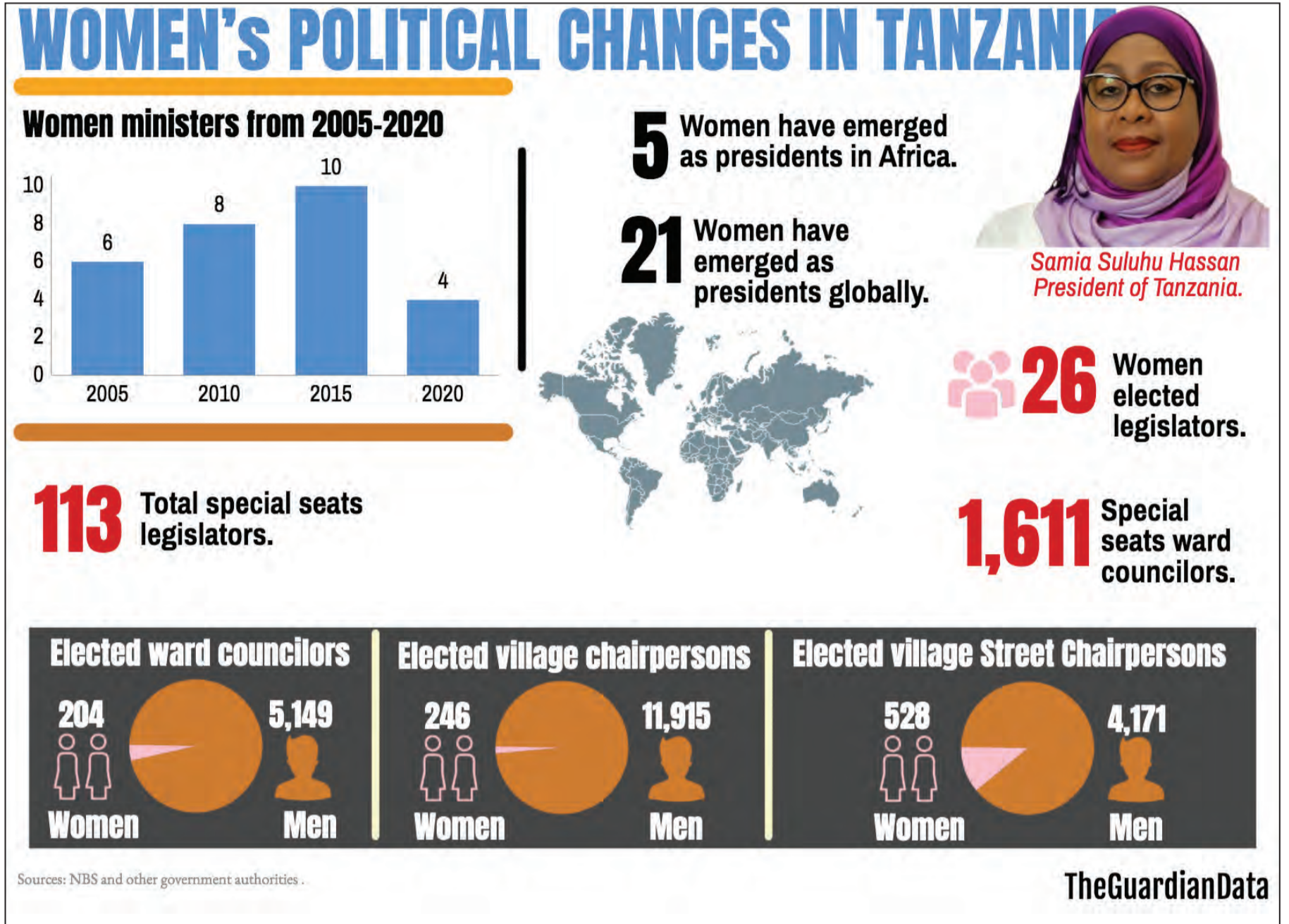
He said most women lack resources starting at the family level whereas some communities deny them access to basic rights such as land ownership.

"We need proportional representation in political decision making bodies. Why are special seats only for women? Questioned Mnyika: highlighting the need to review the attitude if equality is to be attained.

Inequality during elections is also observed in media outlets, insisting candidates should be given equal air-time during campaigns, at both public and private media.

Mnyika's arguments are in line with Article 74 (3) of the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Elections Act 2024 which states: "Every government owned media house that publishes information concerning the election process shall be led by the pillar of avoiding favouritism and any sort of segregation in the way it treats contestants in its new coverage."

Reports form the President's Office, Public Service



Management and Good Governance shows that women ministers had increased from six in December 2005 to eight in December 2010.

In December 2015 there were 10 ministers, the number dropped to four in December 2020. As of April 2024 the cabinet had seven women ministers and four deputy ministers.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) report for 2020 indicates a total of 264 election constituencies in the United Republic of Tanzania of which 50 are in Zanzibar islands.

It states that four popular political parties had at least 20 percent of women candidates in constituencies for the 2020 general elections.

The ruling party Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) from the 264 constituencies picked 27 women candidates for the Member of Parliament (MP) positions.

The leading opposition—CHADEMA had chosen 64 women, ACT Wazalendo had 23 women candidates and the Civil United Front (CUF) had 32 candidates.

NBS indicates that there are 26 sitting elected women MPs in the National Assembly equivalent to 10 percent of the 264 total elected MPs.

There are 113 Special Seats MPs forming a total of 139 women MPs (37 percent) of all 393 MPs in 12th National Assembly.

Elected women ward councillors accounts for 3.8 percent (204), there are 1,611 special seats councillors, (30 percent) making a total of 1,815 women councillors (33.8 percent) of all the 5,353 councillors. Of the number, men councillors are 5,149 (96.2 percent).

Mainland Tanzania has a total of 185 district council chairpersons of whom six (3.2 percent) are women.

The 2019 local government election results as announced by the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), shows there are 246 women village chairpersons (2.1 percent) of 12,161 while men are 11,915.

It states that women elected street chairpersons are 528 of 4,699 while men are 4,171. Hamlets' elected women chairpersons are 4,201 of 66,813 while men are 62,612.

Vanessa Rutabana (21) the sitting President of the Students' government at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) said negative community perceptions over women leaders is the main challenge towards achieving 50/50 in politics.

"It wasn't easy for me to be elected to this position as men dominated the number of candidates and voters. I contested with three male students," said Rutabana.

Akila Mollel (23) Retired President of Students' government at Mzumbe University Morogoro Main Campus (2022-2023) said that confidence which most young women lack helped her to win the position against four male students who contested for presidency.

Mollel recommends that political parties should invest in grooming young women to become competent politicians.

Data for the 2022 Global Parliamentary Report by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) shows that 21 women

have emerged as presidents and heads of governments globally since the past three decades.

Africa has had five presidents which are: Joyce Hilda Banda-Malawi (April 2012- May 2014), Ellen Johnson Sirleaf-Liberia (January 2006-January 2018), Ameenah Gurib-Fakim-Mauritius (June 2015- March 2018), Sahle-Work Zewde-Ethiopia (October 2018 to date) and Samia Suluhu Hassan-Tanzania (March 2021 to date).

The IPU report states that as of January 2021, women parliament speakers were 20.9 percent (The percentage might have increased following the appointment of Dr Tulia Ackson as the Speaker of the Parliament on January 20, 2022).

Women deputy Speakers form 28.3 percent; Women MPs form 25.5 percent which is an increase of 14.2 percent from 11.3 percent in 1995.

It asserts that globally, only six countries have achieved the 50/50 representation in parliaments namely Rwanda (61.3 percent), Cuba (53 percent), Nicaragua (52 percent), Mexico (50 percent), New Zealand (50 percent) and United Arab Emirates (50 percent).

"There are 23 countries globally that have exceeded 40 percent of women MPs in their law making bodies of which 13 are in Europe, six are in Africa, three in Latin America and the Caribbean while one country is in Asia," reads the IPU report.

The report ranks Tanzania as the second country in East Africa with the highest women MPs in parliament behind Rwanda which has 61.3 percent.

The report indications are supported by Section 10 (c) of the Political Parties Affairs (Amendment) Act No. 3 of 2024 which states: political parties shall administer programmes and initiatives for promotion of gender and social inclusion by initiating programmes for capacity building for women, youth and persons with disability to become leaders in or outside the party as well as establishment of gender and social inclusion desk for coordinating the implementation of gender and social inclusion laws and policies and handling complaints regarding gender issues.

Rights for women participation in politics and vie for political positions is in line with treaties that the government has signed such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, Beijing Declaration, the Sustainable Development Goal No. 5 and the 2030 Agenda which have been adopted in domestic legislations.

Lilian Liundi, Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) Executive Director said in a recent interview that Tanzania needs to register more elected women leaders in the coming local government elections, especially those under the age of 35.

According to her, unequal ownership of resources such as land and material wealth at the family level are among key setbacks for young women to fully engage themselves in active politics alongside household duties that claim up to 90 percent of time spent by rural young women in household duties.

She told The Guardian that for the past five year young women and girls have been performing wonders in edu-

cation especially at secondary and university level. She says the young girls stands a chance to become committed patriotic political leaders.

Liundi commended the government's efforts towards achieving 50/50 on top political positions as for the first time in history the public has seen a woman appointed to a Clerk of the National Assembly.

"With a number of recorded successes, Tanzania is yet to realize 50/50 in political leadership positions. There is a need to put more effort into increasing women's dominance in political positions especially in decision-making positions," Liundi asserts.

TGNP is playing its role in encouraging young women to participate in elections as candidates and voters. It recently organized a three-day workshop that brought together 97 young women university student government leaders from eleven universities who were sensitized on leadership related matters.

"Candidates selection in political parties for streets, villages, wards and provinces positions should observe the 50/50 benchmark," said Liundi.

Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson said the new political parties' law doesn't entail any sections that obligate political parties to observe 50/50 in nomination of their election candidates.

"Each political party has procedures for candidates' nomination. The 50/50 benchmark must be achieved through fair competition in political parties. We cannot uplift women in politics just because they are women but only if they are competent contestants," said Dr Ackson.



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By Abu Siddique

While coffee expands in Bangladesh hills, conservationists worry about ecosystems

TEA'S history in Bangladesh as a popular recreational drink is almost a hundred years old. However, with economic development, the popularity of coffee is growing gradually in urban areas of the country.

According to data, the projected revenue in the coffee market in Bangladesh would be \$48.97 million in 2029, with an annual growth rate of 13.52%, up from the figure of \$25.98 million in 2024. Most of the current demand for coffee is met through exports from different countries.

Considering this, the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and various nongovernmental organizations, including Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation known as PKSF and USAID Bangladesh, have been promoting coffee cultivation among farmers under their programs, creating livelihood options through cultivating cash crops like coffee and others.

According to DAE, two varieties of coffee, arabica and robusta, are cultivated in Bangladesh. Due to favorable weather conditions, cultivation is mainly focused on the Chittagong Hill Tracts, comprising of three hill districts – Bandarban, Khagrachari and Rangamati – located in the southeastern part of the country.

Meanwhile, DAE has initiated a project titled Research, Development and Extension of Cashew Nut & Coffee, which will cost 158.54 crore taka (\$13.5 million) from 2021-25.

Project data show that coffee cultivation currently occupies around 2,000 hectares (4,940 acres) of land. Of these, around 1,800 hectares (4,450 acres) are in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. All these plantations were in the last three years.

Shahidul Islam, director of the cashew nut and coffee project, told Mongabay, "We are expecting to increase cultivation to 10,000 hectares (24,700 acres) by 2025, with the target of 4,000-5,000 tons of production annually."

Usually, coffee plants start production within two or three years of planting. That means that by 2026-27, initial production might be 1,000 tons annually. But in the next few years, production will reach the target, he added.

Farmers involved in the cultivation say they are happy, and they increase the cultivation areas as they get a good return on investment.

Nature of coffee farming in Bangladesh

A study shows that coffee plants usually grow in a shady environment along with other plants. However, another popular process involves covering vast land areas with coffee plants, typically considered a monoculture.

Bangladesh's hill forests cover about 9.33% of the country's land in the Chittagong, Khagrachhari, Bandarban, Rangamati, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet and Moulvibazar districts.

Of the 2.5 million hectares (623 million acres) of government-owned forest in Bangladesh, the districts of Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban cover 1.09 million hectares (2.7 million acres).

Regarding ecological diversity, the region is considered one of the significant ecological hubs, with a diversity of floral species including chapalish (Artocarpus chaplasha), gurjan (Dipterocarpus spp.), Syzgium, jarul (Lagerstroemia speciosa), gamhar (Gmelina arborea), koroi (Albizia spp), civit (Swintonia floribunda), toon (Cedrela toona), bandorhola (Duabanga grandiflora), telsur (Hopea odorata), uriam (Mangifera sylvatica) and dhakijam (Syzgium grande).

A large part of that is degraded for many reasons, including excessive use of forest resources by the local communities who depend on and sell bamboo and trees.

In recent years, the government has been trying to restore 0.75 million hectares (1.85 million acres) of forest coverage with afforestation, horticulture and agroforestry. However, the move can be termed monoculture, ultimately damaging ecosystems.

Though coffee cultivation, along with different types of orchards, helps ensure the people's livelihoods and makes them financially solvent, in the long run, the practice will destroy the region's natural ecosystems, said Farid Uddin Ahmed, senior adviser of the Arannayk Foundation.

At the same time, people are becoming more interested in cash crops such as coffee and orchards of different species like mango and pineapple rather than focusing on planting the forest's primary species, which ultimately reduces the natural forest coverage.

Many Indigenous communities have long lived in Khagrachhari, Bandarban and Rangamati. The Bawm community, for example, is used to growing coffee around their homes and drinking it regularly.

Fonkal Bawm is a farmer from Bandarban hill district.



Coffee beans on a plant.

Since 2016, he has been cultivating coffee commercially in his 5-acre orchard, which also produces papaya and pineapple.

Like him, many Indigenous farmers produce coffee, and the current production in the country is around 25 tons.

According to a study published in Nature, though coffee is one of the most important agricultural products globally, monoculture often leads to poor growth, low yield and serious soil-borne disease in coffee plants. This eventually causes socioeconomic losses and halts the industry's sustainable development.

The farmers have already used various chemical fertilizers and pesticides to grow the plants and ensure good yields. For instance, Fonkal said he often used pesticides to save plants and

yields from different pests.

Shahidul, the project director, also said, "In addition to ensuring the farmer's earnings, one of our objectives is to increase the green coverage."

He added that the government emphasizes on the ability of these plantations to reduce landslides, as their roots retain soil, preventing erosion.

However, a blog mentioned that monoculture enhances the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and decreases soil fertility, eventually increasing soil erosion.

Regarding this, the conservationist, Farid Uddin, said the government should emphasize planting local trees that can ac-

commodate the conditions and enrich local biodiversity rather than importing foreign and alien species.

Farid Uddin also said that instead of seeking short-term solutions, people need to focus on planting native forest species like chapalish, gurjan and civit, which are the primary forest species and capable of retaining soil and protecting the hills from landslides.



Project data show that coffee cultivation currently occupies around 2,000 hectares (4,940 acres) of land in Bangladesh.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Universities boost safe food security research in East Africa

By Alberto Leny

TWO universities are actively contributing to research aimed at consolidating agricultural productivity and resilience through sustainable, climate-smart agriculture for food and nutrition security in East Africa.

Kenya's Egerton University and Uganda's Makerere University are key players in a project that seeks to enhance sustainable production practices to help build smallholder farmers' resilience as the climate crisis intensifies food insecurity across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Makerere and Egerton are conforming to initiatives across the world to establish institutes or centres of food security and the environment to help governments identify challenges and review food security problems.

"Such centres, which are part of our faculties, directorates and institutes, are expected to propose solutions to food systems problems and the challenge of feeding the exponentially growing population," Egerton University Vice-Chancellor Professor Isaac Ongubo Kibwaga said.

Centre of excellence to be set up
The two universities are active participants in learning events and field research activities for the Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Rice Initiative for Climate Smart Agriculture (R4iCSA) research project seeking to promote sustainable, science-based, market-led agricultural development in the Eastern African region.

Kilimo Trust, a not-for-profit organisation engaged in sustainable market-led agricultural development research in the region for the past 18 years, initiated the R4iCSA project with a pilot phase in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Kilimo Trust is collaborating with several universities and is setting up a Centre of Excellence in Regenerative Agriculture at Egerton University's main campus," Kilimo Trust Kenya team leader Anthony Mugambi announced on 8 May 2024 at the Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health Summit organised by the African Union in Nairobi.

The second phase of the five-year, US\$5 million R4iCSA project launched in October 2022 and funded by the IKEA Foundation, followed a two-year pilot that ended in July 2023, benefiting 5,000

smallholder farmers in Kenya and Uganda. It targets 10,000 households in the two countries.

Egerton University's Agro Sciences Park Seed Unit hosts the Kampala-headquartered Kilimo Trust's Kenya office. It was established in 2011 as a Kenya government Vision 2030 project to employ science, technology, and innovation to move technology out of the lab into the marketplace.

Flow of knowledge, technology and communication

Vision 2030 is the government's national development programme aiming at raising the average standard of living in Kenya to middle-income by 2030. Egerton University is supporting the programme by contributing to the knowledge-based economic development of the country through research projects such as R4iCSA II.

The unit's strategic activities include providing infrastructure to incubate agro-innovation for private- and public-sector partners and non-profit organisations such as Kilimo Trust, its main partner in the R4iCSA II project.

It also encourages and facilitates strategic partnerships in agro-value chain development, facilitating incubation and start-ups through stimulating and managing the flow of knowledge and technology between universities and communication between the private sector, entrepreneurs and technicians.

The unit owns 50 acres (20ha) of land at the University for Demonstration Purposes. This is a meeting point for academia, farmers, businesses, agro-processors and manufacturers in a one-stop shop to share information and innovative ideas, commercialisation, and wealth creation.

Successful trials point to high-yielding varieties

Professor Paul Kimurto, the unit's director, is a dryland research and drought stress physiology breeding specialist experienced in dryland development and the validation of breeding and variety development techniques.

"My academic work includes the application of molecular breeding techniques, irrigation, fertility and water use, and management and seed systems in arid and semi-arid lands. Egerton University's association with the R4iCSA II project has seen the introduction in Kenya and Uganda of high-yielding upland rice varieties following suc-



cessful field trials," Kimurto said.

This is the first time that upland rice has been grown in semi-arid higher grounds, leaving researchers in the project and agriculture authorities upbeat about its potential to significantly contribute to food and nutrition security in the region.

The groundbreaking initiative is a joint effort of Kilimo Trust and the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) as a segment of the second phase of the R4iCSA II project.

After a successful harvest from field trials in July 2023, farmers are now awaiting the harvest from the second season planted in December.

Multi-partner collaboration a must

East African Community (EAC) member states recognise the important role faculties of agriculture and agriculture-focused universities such as Egerton can play in helping governments address food and nutrition security challenges.

The EAC is committed to supporting research and development in building resil-

ience and agricultural productivity by prioritising policies that best protect the poor amid financing and capacity constraints.

The R4iCSA project partnership involves EAC governments, Egerton and Makerere universities, the private sector, and research institutions such as KALRO, the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), and the National Crops Resources Research Institute (NACRRI) in Uganda.

Makerere University has been contracted by the Buginyanya Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (BugizARDI), a semi-autonomous public agricultural research institute which is a key partner in the R4iCSA II project under the guidance of NARO.

Production increase essential

BugizARDI is mandated to experiment on three out of four R4iCSA II protocols developed - biochar (soil amender) on rice, vermicast (the end-product of the breakdown of organic matter by earthworms) on rice, and rice-legume integration.

NACRRI focuses on intermittent water-

ing and rice ratooning (using a sprout or shoot from the root of a plant for a second harvest). The sixth protocol on the use of rice by-products in livestock production has been put on hold. BugizARDI backed by Makerere conducts soil sampling, analysis and reporting. Its team of researchers includes Dr Frank Kagoda of Mayuge Centre, Bulambuli Centre director Dr Lawrence Owere, scientist Joseph Etyang, seed breeders-scientists Dr Moses Kaiira and NACRRI's Dr Arthur Wasukira.

The EAC Secretariat is working with Kilimo Trust to drive the region's agenda for agriculture and food security amid the growing challenges of climate change and water scarcity. A rising demand for rice, changing consumer patterns and high import costs have compelled researchers in the EAC to intensify efforts to increase production in a sustainable, safe and nutritious way.

Evidence for regenerative agriculture generated

Billed as the evidence-based phase of the project, R4iCSA II aims at building robust evidence of the economic benefits of innovations that utilise rice products tested in phase one of the project's implementation. "The objective of the project is to generate and verify evidence for the promotion of innovative technologies for regenerative and sustainable rice farming systems that lead to better livelihoods and environment," Mugambi said.

The evidence generated will inform stakeholder engagement in the pursuit of creating an enabling environment to promote regenerative agriculture in the rice sub-sector.

R4iCSA II is expected to lead to the increased adoption of sustainable rice production practices, and increased awareness of wetlands conservation and protection using evidence obtained from the studies. Another expected outcome is the increased adoption of rice-legume integration (green grams, soya beans, chickpeas) among rice farmers.

The project also aims at increased access to inputs and output markets for rice products, by-products and legumes and the increased adoption and utilisation of products and by-products from rice and other complementary farm enterprises.

R4iCSA II will provide evidence-based knowledge products on circular and regenerative practices, documented and shared to influence policy shifts.

New strategy to tackle production

Climate events, which destroy crops and disrupt food transport, are disproportionately high on the African continent. The toll of extreme weather events such as drought and floods on crops underscores the region's challenges and need for research and policies to save lives and livelihoods.

Food prices are especially vulnerable to climate change because of a lack of resilience to climatic events and food-import dependence. Targeted government involvement such as supporting research and development in building resilience and agricultural productivity helps alleviate the situation. EAC partner states have recently developed a new strategy to address low and poor production of rice in the region. The new strategy is intended to mitigate the challenge of growing import dependence and to facilitate intra-regional trade.

Supported by the Coalition for African Rice Development, the EAC Rice Development Strategy (ERDS) endeavours to improve the consolidation of the EAC partner states' rice sub-sector development efforts. The ERDS was adopted by the EAC Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security in May 2023.

Crisis-hit university students ordered to leave UK

By Joanna Morris, North East and Cumbria

NIGERIAN students have been thrown off university courses and ordered to leave the UK after a currency crisis left them struggling to pay tuition fees on time.

Teesside University students were blocked from their studies and reported to the Home Office after the value of Nigeria's naira plummeted, wiping out their savings.

Some students said they felt suicidal as they accused the University of taking a "heartless" approach to those who fell into arrears as a consequence.

A university spokesman said failure to pay was a breach of visa sponsorship requirements, and that it had "no choice" but to alert the Home Office. The Home Office said visa sponsorship decisions rested with the institution.

Nigeria is currently experiencing its worst economic crisis in a generation, which is having a significant impact on Nigerian students at some UK universities.

Average inflation is almost 34 percent, and the situation deteriorated when the country's president attempted to replace old currency with new. The currency subsequently depreciated by over 100 percent against the dollar in a year.

Students holding pink protest sign

Some students accused the University of being "heartless." Before beginning their studies at Teesside, affected students were told they had to show proof of having enough funds to pay tuition fees and living expenses.

However, those funds were significantly depleted as a result of the crisis in their home country.

This exacerbated financial problems already being experienced by students as a result of the university changing tuition fee payment plans from seven instalments to three.

A group of students, 60 of whom shared their names with the BBC, began pressing the university for support after a number of people who defaulted on payments were frozen out of university accounts and involuntarily withdrawn from their courses.

Some were reportedly also contacted by debt collection agencies contracted by the university.

Adenike Ibrahim was close to handing in her dissertation at the end of two years of study when she missed one payment and was then kicked off her course and reported to the Home Office.

She subsequently paid the outstanding fees, but said she had not been re-enrolled and was told she must leave the country, along with her young son.

"I did default [on payments], but I'd already paid 90 percent of my tuition fees and I went to all of my classes," she said. "I called them and asked to reach an agreement, but they do not care what happens to their students." She said the experience was "horrendous" and she did not know what was happening with her qualification.

"It has been heartbreaking for my son especially, he has been in so much distress since I told him," Ibrahim added.

No right of appeal

The Home Office told students, including Ms Ibrahim, that their permission to enter the UK had been cancelled because they stopped studying at



the university.

The letters, seen by the BBC, offer a date by which the student must leave the country and say they do not have a "right of appeal or administrative review against the decision."

Since receiving his letter, one master's degree student - who did not want to be named - said he had seriously considered suicide and was not eating or drinking.

The university said it had made "every effort" to support affected students, who had now been offered individual meetings with specialist staff and bespoke payment plans where requested.

Esther Obigwe said she repeatedly tried to speak to the university about her financial struggles but received no response, until she too was blocked from her studies and received notice to leave the country.

"I attended all of my classes and seminars, I'm a

hell of an active student," she said.

"It is disheartening, I am now on antidepressants and being here alone, I have nobody to talk to.

"For over two months, I've barely eaten or slept and I don't understand why this is being meted at us, we didn't do anything wrong."

She added that most of the students had "spent a lot of money to be here".

Jude Salubi, who was studying to be a social worker, was midway through a placement when he was told his access to the university was suspended and he would have to leave the country.

Prior to that, he travelled from Teesside to Liverpool each weekend to work 18 hours in an attempt to pay off the outstanding fees.

"As of now I have paid £14,000 and have a balance of £14,000," he said.

"I am willing to come to an agreement as to how I will make this payment, but I need guarantees that

I will be re-enrolled into school and my visa restored."

If you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this article, you can find advice here.

Some affected students have managed to pay off outstanding fees, but the university is now unable to intervene in the Home Office process, the BBC understands.

A university spokesman said: "Teesside University is proud to be a global institution with a diverse student population but is also very aware of its obligations regarding visa issuance and compliance.

"These strict external regulations ensure that the university fully supports a robust immigration system and is outside of the university's control."

The spokesman added it was "aware of the challenging financial situation faced by some students" and had "actively offered bespoke payment plans where requested."

"This option has been taken up by many of our international students; however, some students have still defaulted on these revised payment plans," he said.

The Home Office said a decision to offer or withdraw visa sponsorship rested with the sponsoring institution.

A spokesman said wherever a visa was shortened or cancelled, individuals should "take steps to regularise their stay or make arrangements to leave the UK."

PEACE AND SECURITY

Unregulated autonomous weapons systems pose serious risk to Africa

By Kingsley Ighobor

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has called on countries to conclude by 2026 negotiations on a legally binding instrument to prohibit Autonomous Weapons Systems (AWS). In response, Sierra Leone in April 2024 hosted a conference of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) member states to discuss challenges associated with AWS. In this interview, Sierra Leone's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, Dr. Lansana Gberie, the chief organizer of the conference, discusses the outcomes and the ramifications of AWS proliferation for Africa. Here are the excerpts:

What exactly are Autonomous Weapons Systems (AWS), and how are they different from conventional weapons?

Autonomous weapons are new, very potent weapons designed to select, target, and engage without any meaningful human intervention. The difference with conventional weapons is simple: the human factor. Remember, the two atomic bombs that devastated Japanese cities during WWII were dropped by human beings who carefully selected the targets. They caused enormous carnage, but accountability could be easily assigned for their use. Autonomous weapons make decisions to kill or destroy targets without a human being participating in the process. Accountability and therefore reckoning, for such a grave decision becomes difficult.

What are your views regarding the urgency expressed by the UN Secretary-General for international action on AWS?

That is a call that we fully support. As you know, Mr. Guterres made the call in a joint statement with Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on October 5, 2023. He referred to lethal AWS as morally



Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio delivers the keynote address at the inaugural African regional conference on Autonomous Weapons Systems.

repugnant and politically unacceptable, calling for their prohibition under international law.

Why should global attention be directed towards the proliferation of AWS?

There are ethical, legal, and practical reasons why the world must focus on this issue now. Machines and algorithms should not make life and death decisions, and

this is what autonomous weapons are designed to do. This is ethically appalling.

There is also a fundamental legal aspect: if machines are to make life and death decisions in warfare, who can be held accountable for potential war crimes, extrajudicial killings, and unlawful use of weaponry?

Autonomous weapons systems present tremendous global secu-

rity risks: they raise the risk of unintended escalation and flash wars, and they lower the threshold for waging war. They are easy to proliferate and could easily be used as weapons of mass destruction for targeted killings, by both state and non-state actors.

What factors contribute to the rising popularity of AWS as military assets?

They are very convenient. Military powers are often risk-averse—they do not want to take large casualties themselves but would like to inflict them on their enemies. This is what AWS will do for them. They leave the actual target decisions to machines. That, too, is convenient.

Accountability for decisions that they set in place becomes difficult in a legal sense. Human beings must remain accountable for the conduct of wars, including targeting decisions. Autonomous weapons systems increase the risk of civilian casualties on a massive scale.

How does the spread of AWS affect Africa?

We are a vulnerable region. Larger military powers are investing in technologies that reduce human control. These dynamics benefit weapons manufacturers and draw important resources away from peacebuilding and sustainable development. The use of AWS could increase the capacity of highly militarized countries to inflict violence with impunity. By calling for a new international legally binding agreement on AWS, ECOWAS member states hope to prevent the escalation of military dominance by the most militarized countries.

How might African countries prevent the spread of these weapons?

Following the UN Secretary-General's call, there is now strong international support from over 115 states for starting negotiations on a treaty. The ECOWAS conference, held in Freetown on 17-18 April 2024 and hosted by President Julius Maada Bio of Sierra Leone, was a response to a UN General Assembly resolution on lethal autonomous weapons systems adopted on December 22, 2023. This resolution supports the Secretary-General's call.

The communiqué issued at the end of the conference affirmed the region's collective support for negotiations of a legally binding instrument to prohibit autonomous weapons without meaningful human control.

How do events like the conference in Freetown contribute to the potential for an AWS treaty?

Significantly, The Freetown ECO-WAS conference followed other regional conferences around the world focused on raising awareness of the problem and forging a common regional approach in support of a legally binding agreement on AWS. Costa Rica held one, and so did the Philippines. There was one in the Caribbean, held in Trinidad and Tobago.

Remember that not every ECO-WAS member state is party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) or has participated in the global discussions around AWS. The Freetown conference brought these countries into that conversation.

Why is Sierra Leone a leader in the advocacy efforts for a treaty on AWS?

As you know, Sierra Leone is a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. We are also a member of the African Union Peace and Security Council.

President Bio said at the opening of the conference in Freetown that Sierra Leone is deeply committed to safeguarding peace and security in our region. We understand the destabilizing effects of military conflicts that can last for generations. We have become a champion on global arms control and disarmament issues.

The President began his career as a military officer and was among the first batch of peacekeepers sent to Liberia amidst that country's civil war in the early 1990s. He understands that if we ignore the issue of autonomous weapons in our backyard, we do so at our own peril.

What are the main challenges and complexities involved in negotiating a legally binding instrument to regulate AWS, considering the diverse perspectives and interests of different countries?

All international treaties, particularly on arms, tend to be complex; and negotiations leading to them can be prolonged and difficult. We often hear that a treaty would be ineffective if the countries using AWS do not sign up to them. But with international law, accountability can be determined, whether states are parties or not. That carries an important moral and practical weight. A majority of countries support a treaty on AWS. Let's not forget that. But there are powerful countries and interests opposed to such negotiations even starting. That should not discourage the majority. We must all strive to avoid an arms race in this respect.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and a list of words to fit into the grid.

Word search puzzle with a grid and a list of words to find.

Radio One advertisement for 'RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI' with a detailed program schedule for Monday through Sunday.

SPECIAL REPORT

AGAINST THE CLOCK: BENJAMIN MKAPA STADIUM IN OVERDRIVE TO MEET FIFA GRADE 'A' STANDARDS

By Sanula Athanas & Dickson Ng'hily

HAVE you considered the implications of the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium not meeting FIFA grade 'A' standards? Tanzania is currently prohibited from hosting international FIFA-approved tournaments due to this shortfall. What are the potential consequences if the stadium isn't upgraded?

According to FIFA, countries must possess stadiums that meet FIFA grade 'A' standards to successfully organize international tournaments. These requirements apply regardless of whether the tournaments feature top-tier professional players or younger age groups.

In 2000, the late President Benjamin Mkapa pledged to construct an ultra-modern FIFA-approved grade 'A' stadium before the end of his term in 2005. He deemed it disgraceful for the nation to lack a state-of-the-art stadium.

Construction began in July 2005 and was completed in June 2007, with the inauguration taking place in September 2007. Initially known as the Tanzania National Stadium, it was renamed in honor of President Mkapa 13 years later, following his passing.

Seventeen years later, people are questioning why the government accepted the stadium despite it not meeting FIFA's grade 'A' standard. Currently, the stadium is classified as FIFA grade 'B'.

Some are curious about who was responsible for the initial design, the oversight of the construction project, and the inspection that led to the government's acceptance of the stadium. They believe these recommendations were crucial in the decision-making process.

The stadium's construction was undertaken by the Chinese-based Beijing Construction Engineering Group (BCEG), which also won the tender to upgrade it. BCEG acknowledges that they constructed a FIFA grade 'B' stadium according to the government's specifications.

In an exclusive interview with The Guardian, Li Liang, BCEG's project manager, revealed that the initial designs were prepared by the China state-owned Beijing Institute of Architectural Design (BIAD), not by BCEG.

"When implementing government-funded projects, the contractor receives the design from the government and executes the work accordingly. We only applied for construction and carried out our tasks as per our contract," he explained.

On June 24, 2006, the Daily News, a government-owned newspaper, reported that Tanzania had invested 25bn/- in the construction of the National Stadium (now Benjamin Mkapa Stadium). The total project budget was US\$56 million (equivalent to 64bn/- at that time).

So, what went wrong? Even the Confederation of African Football (CAF) delegation that inspected the stadium acknowledged it did not meet international standards, urging the government to upgrade it.

Milinde Mahona, the Stadium Manager, acknowledged CAF's delegations, noting that the African football body typically dispatches a team of experts to inspect the stadium to ensure it meets the standards for its tournaments.

According to Mahona, these tournaments include the African Football League (AFL), the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), and the African Nations Championship (CHAN), scheduled for September this year.

The country's FIFA Security Officer, Inspector Hashim Abdallah, and the Director of Information and Marketing of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), Boniface Wambura, who were part of the CAF audit team, have separately explained that their inspection audit report highlights various deficiencies.

These deficiencies include inadequate facilities for journalists, insuffi-

UTILITIES

Construction facts on Benjamin Mkapa Stadium:



An aerial view of Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. File Photo

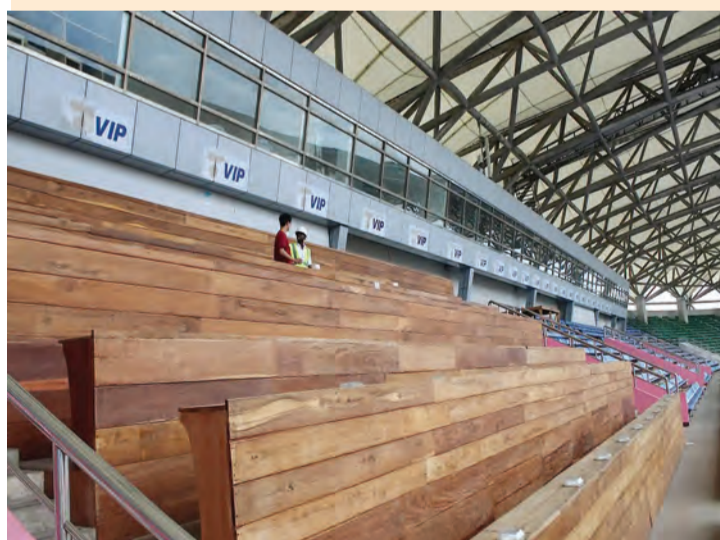


Inside Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. Photo: Dickson Ng'hily

US\$56 million,
 The stadium construction cost, which was equivalent to 64bn/- at that time



US\$20 million
 Funding from China for the stadium construction



Engineers discussing strategies at the revamped media platform inside Benjamin Mkapa stadium. Photo: Dickson Ng'hily

cient signage guiding attendees to their seats, lack of disability-friendly infrastructure, and the absence of metal detectors for weapons screening. Additionally, they noted that it was inappropriate for a public road to pass by the side of the stadium.

All of these issues are among the 89 FIFA criteria required to meet international standards, which should have been addressed when the stadium was officially handed over to the government on July 3, 2013.

Currently, Benjamin Mkapa Stadium is not operational, as the government has halted its use except for special requests for international and national matches, including those involving Azam, Simba, and Youngs.

To ensure the stadium resumes its primary function, the government decided to act on CAF's recommendations. Consequently, BCEG was awarded a Sh31bn/- tender for the refurbishment of the stadium.

According to BCEG's Liang, a grade 'B' status by FIFA standards meets the country's domestic needs. He adds, "Upon completion of the renovation, the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium will be upgraded to FIFA grade 'A' standards."

During the contract signing for the stadium improvements on July 27, 2023, then-Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports, Dr. Pindi Chana, emphasized that the upgrades aim to meet FIFA's standards.

"My call to BCEG is to ensure that this work adheres to the set standards and aligns with CAF and FIFA quality requirements, and is completed on time," Chana instructed.

Former Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports, Said Yakubu, explained that the upgrade would include improvements to players' changing rooms, the press conference room, the VIP area, all spectators' seats, the results display board,

BIAD

The architect behind the stadium is a Chinese government-owned firm

164 Workers on-board, comprising 150 Tanzanians and 14 Chinese



57,558 The current seating capacity of the stadium



260 Outdated stadium lights which are to be replaced with 352 new lights



installation of a new IT system, the pitch, and two sets of goals.

Other areas to be refurbished include the seats for the technical bench and reserve players, electrical systems, lighting, the sewage system, running tracks for athletes, restaurants, and an additional room for the video assistant referee (VAR).

Wambura reports that a CAF inspection uncovered several defects in the stadium, notably the absence of a designated area for journalists and a lack of signs directing visitors to the platforms.

Wambura further identified several other deficiencies, including the lack of disability-friendly facilities, inadequate metal detection systems for stadium access, the ill-advised location of the stadium near a public road, and the unsafe practice of fans using vehicle gates as pedestrian entrances.

Reflecting on the construction timeline

that began in 2004, Wambura recalls that in 2006, as President of the Association of Sports Journalists (TASWA), he had alerted authorities about the inadequate provisions for journalists. Despite assurances from Ministry of Sports officials that these concerns would be addressed, the problem persisted.

Wambura, who served as Chief Executive Officer of the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) from June 2015 to October 2019, observes that upon completion, the project still lacked a dedicated space for journalists. Instead, journalists were relegated to a cramped corner at the bottom left of the main stage, mingling with spectators.

This arrangement is particularly problematic due to the absence of tables for journalists to work on and store their equipment. Wambura highlights that these shortcomings violate FIFA's guidelines, which require an internationally recognized stadium to include a designated area for journalists, positioned either above or below the VVIP platform, ensuring optimal visibility for observing on-field events.

The deficiencies noted by journalists in 2006 have resurfaced during the recent CAF inspection. CAF's position is clear: the designated area fails to meet journalists' needs, lacking appropriate workspace and sufficient room. Journalists cannot work effectively alongside fans, and the inadequate provision of tables and limited space further restrict their functionality.

The TFF official, a sports journalist by profession, points out that ongoing stadium upgrades have addressed CAF's concerns. The press platform has been relocated to the top right of the VVIP section, although not centrally as mandated by FIFA, and is now equipped with all necessary amenities.

On April 12th, our reporters visited the site to assess the field's progress. They found that the media platform, now fully equipped, had been completed. A clearly marked pathway leads to the conference room, allowing journalists to access the area without mingling with others in the field.

The improvements to the press platform at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium were implemented last October following CAF's directives, overseen by FIFA Security Officer Inspector Abdallah. These enhancements were crucial for the stadium to meet the standards required for hosting games in the new African Football League (AFL) competition.

Inspector Abdallah acknowledges that while the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium still falls short of international standards, it remains an essential venue for international matches due to the lack of alternative stadiums in the country.

Elizabeth John, Sports Correspondent for UHURU newspaper, shares her firsthand experience of the chaotic condition's journalists face during games. She recounts incidents of broken phones, laptops, and cameras caused by enthusiastic fans during moments of peak excitement.

"As a writer, while capturing the action, sudden outbursts of celebration by fans can result in phones crashing to the ground and shattering. The same frenzy can lead to laptops and cameras being accidentally struck and damaged by zealous supporters. The environment, engulfed in noise and excitement, complicates the situation further," Elizabeth explains.

This is why Li Liang emphasizes that, as part of the stadium renovation contract with the government, they are dedicated to upgrading the new press platform to meet the standards set by CAF and FIFA.

On the other hand, Wambura underscores additional issues at the stadium, attributing them to administrative lapses. He explains, "We frequently encounter situations where someone with a roundabout ticket mistakenly heads toward the VIP entry gate. As a result, they are redirected and told, 'Your ticket is for the roundabout; you must enter through the designated gate.'"

To be continued.....

HALF OF MINING INDUSTRY STILL RESISTING AI INTEGRATION

By Darren Parker

At least half of heavy machinery users within the global mining industry still rely primarily on manual supply chain management tools, with 40 percent still using manual tools for operational planning, Wits Mining Institute's Professor Glen Nwaila has said.

"So even if the automation is partially achieved, you will find that the plant is heavily automated but, in the mine, only a portion of it is actually automated," he said, speaking at the Mind Shift conference hosted by Mine Equipment Manufacturers of South Africa, in Sandton, on May 15.

He further noted that only 10 percent of industry players saw their industrial data as useful.

However, for those mining companies that have embraced AI and automation technologies, Nwaila said research showed a 75 percent decrease in unplanned downtime, 50% faster analysis of data leading to more reliable decisions and a more than 20 percent reduction in emissions.



However, while these reductions could lead to cost reductions, he said the development and adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies was not without its challenges, leading to a continued reluctance by many industry players to fully embrace it.

"We are often forced to produce technology faster than we

used to do before. But this comes with its own challenges because it means you also have less time to test the reliability of your technology. Sometimes this can work against you," Nwaila noted.

He further noted, particularly in South Africa, there was a disconnect between developers and vendors of new technologies and

end-users within the mining industry, where he said that most conferences and discussions around new mining technologies tended to be 90% steered by vendors with few end-users participating. This resulted in a state of continuous isolation of end-users who did not feel as though their needs were being met.

"Moreover, a certain number of companies tend to buy technology based on how much it costs. Who can sell it for cheaper. You will find that maybe they'll consult up to five different suppliers and the one that they choose is not because they are very efficient, but they were a couple of rands slightly lower," Nwaila said.

Another significant challenge standing in the way of greater Industry 4.0 technology adoption in the mining industry was the increased demand for the development of bespoke solutions, which used up the capacity of developers to develop generic solutions.

"Nowadays, each and every mine wants a bespoke solution because they will tell you they were facing a unique set of problems. And for that particular reason, it becomes difficult for original-equipment manufacturers to build engineering solutions that can be generalised to the entire industry," Nwaila said.

He added that the demand for greater efficiencies was leading to a trend of increasingly large machines to process larger volumes at a time. However, he warned that scale increases could not be implemented indefinitely.

"Everyone wants larger machines, something that is going to be faster and deliver something far much quicker. We tend to speak a lot of volume, but we tend not to think a lot about the maintenance that is required. The bigger you go, the more challenges you have," Nwaila said

By Mnaku Mbani

Tanzania has been ranked third with the highest number of Private Participation in Infrastructure (PPI) projects in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the World Bank recent report has shown.

The report titled "Private Participation in Infrastructure Annual Report 2023" shows that Tanzania recorded 5 projects, behind leading South Africa with 11 projects and Senegal, with a similar number of projects as Tanzania.

"In 2023, SSA saw investments in 66 projects totaling \$3.5 billion. This marked a 24 percent decrease from the investment levels of the previous year and a 46 percent decrease from the past five-year average," said the report.

South Africa projects amounted to over \$1.0 billion in investment commitments and nearly a third of the SSA's total regional investment commitments.

Other leading countries in SSA sub-region include Democratic Republic of Congo (4 projects), Mozambique (4), Nigeria (3), Rwanda (3) and Uganda (3).

The WB report notes that numerous infrastructure projects may raise living conditions, promote regional integration, and drastically alter African economies.

"Infrastructure projects are essential for facilitating trade and commerce, which lead to increased economic activity, higher productivity, and ultimately, sustained economic growth," it says.

Additionally, the report says, these projects create jobs while being executed and once completed often lead to more employment via the utilization or maintenance.

In 2023 there was a slight decline in the infrastructure investment funds allocated to Africa, save North Africa, according to a report by the World Bank. This fall is specific to private investors' handling of private infrastructure investments.

Africa Eastern and Southern (AFE) reported investment commitments of \$2.3 billion across 45 projects.

While investment levels remained stable from the previous year, the number of projects reaching financial closure

Tanzania 3rd top in number of private infrastructure projects



Data Centre. ICT investments increased almost fourfold in 2023

more than doubled to 45 in 2023.

The region also witnessed several cross-border ICT investment closures this year, showcasing its growth and development.

Globally, PPI in 2023 amounted to \$86.0 billion, a decrease from the \$91.3 billion levels in 2022, although there was a significant increase in the number of projects to 322 from 260 projects recorded in 2022, the report says.

Similar to the increase in the number of projects, the number of countries with PPI investment commitments in 2023 also increased to 68 from the 54

countries reported in 2022 and the previous five-year average of 50 (2018-2022).

Notably, Guinea Bissau, Libya, Papua New Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Suriname recorded their first PPI investment transactions in more than a decade.

The five countries with the highest levels of investment in 2023 as a percentage of national GDP were: Cabo Verde, with 7.4 percent of its GDP committed to PPI investments; Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), with 6.2 percent and Bosnia and Herzegovina with 2.0 percent.

In absolute terms, China, Brazil, Philippines, India, and Peru received the largest PPI investments in 2023. These five countries together attracted \$66 billion, capturing almost 77 percent of global PPI investment.

Of all the projects recorded in 2023, 52 percent were primarily sponsored by foreign entities, marking an increase from the 44 percent recorded in 2022.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) (78 percent) and energy (53 percent) are the sectors with the highest number of PPI projects being sponsored by foreign entities, said the WB report.

On the other hand, the mu-

nicipal solid waste sector (18 percent) and water sector (26 percent) predominantly have local sponsors.

Energy saw a threefold increase in investment levels from 2022, with most of this increase occurring in the EAP region.

Meanwhile, investment levels in the transport sector dropped substantially owing to a sharp decline in road investments in China and India, although ports subsector investments doubled.

ICT investments increased almost fourfold reaching \$7.8 billion across 52 projects in 35 countries; while water and municipal solid waste sectors reported a decline.

UNFPA and bank to fund projects to empower the youth

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzanians youths aged between 18 and 24 years are expected to benefit from the 800m/-empowerment programme, to be implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in partnership with CRDB Bank Foundation.

Mark Screiner, resident representative said yesterday during the signing of the agreement that UNFPA has been implementing various projects aimed at empowering Tanzanians, specifically economically underserved communities to promote inclusive economy, benefiting specifically women, youths and adolescence girls and asylum seekers from conflicting neighbouring countries.

"When you look into challenges facing youths including lack of capital, lack of employment and entrepreneurship education, UNFPA has a reason to partner with strategic stakeholders to empowering youths in the country to enable them to participate in building the economy of their country," he said.

He said UNFPA is currently implementing its ninth programme which involves safer reproductive health and pregnancy management as well as empowering youths to accomplish their dreams.

"Our aim is to ensure that there shall be no one left behind, so we are targeting partners who have the same attitude," said Schreiner

According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, half of the Tanzania's population is youths below the age of 24 years.

The census findings also show that 44 percent of all Tanzanians are children below the age of 15 years and 19 percent of people in the country are youths aged between 15 and 24 years old.

"This is the huge number of total population which will be covered by our partnership with CRDB Foundation," the resident representative noted.

"Since its establishment in 2023, our foundation has directed efforts in establishing programmes to empowering youths and women, by connecting them into formal financial system, provide them with training and seed capital throughout iMbeju programme. This partnership with UNFPA is expected to strengthen our efforts to reach more youths," said Tully Mwambapa, the foundation's managing director.

She said the partnership is targeting youths currently in schools and dropouts due to various reasons including disabilities and girls who were impregnated while in school.

Mwambapa said through its implementation, the partnership is expected to reduce challenges facing youths such as unemployment, lack of reproductive education, reduce gender violence, HIV/Aids spread in three regions of Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Kigoma.

"Our partnership with UNFPA is focusing on two basic areas including education and skills for those who are in school and those who are out of schools as well as financial literacy and entrepreneurship to enable them to accomplish their dreams," she said

Millionaires ready to splurge \$4.4bn on Dubai's luxury homes

DUBAI

HIGH-NET-WORTH individuals (HNWIs) worldwide are ready to spend \$4.4 billion on residential real estate in Dubai, according to global property consultancy Knight Frank.

The emirate's luxury beachfront real estate has been a huge draw for millionaires.

According to a survey by Knight Frank, 20 percent of the global HNWIs were willing to put upwards of \$60 million to purchase a home in Dubai (8 percent of whom

were prepared to spend over \$80 million). Meanwhile, 35 percent of the HNWIs were looking to purchase a home in the emirate for personal use. The average budget for this group stood at \$46.8 million.

Knight Frank surveyed 317 HNWIs worldwide, of which 100 were from the GCC. The combined net worth of 217 HNWIs was \$3.6 billion, with those from the GCC accounting for \$660 million.

"Global HNWIs with a net worth of over \$20 million are primed to spend an average

of \$58.5 million on a home in Dubai. The average budget for a residential purchase in Dubai by global HNWI is \$36.5 million. At the other end of the spectrum, 26 percent of global HNWIs who are solely focussed on acquiring a residential investment in Dubai are planning to spend less than \$5 million," the report noted.

"Global HNWIs have been focused on Dubai's most luxurious homes, and in particular, stand-alone, beachfront properties. This insatiable demand has propelled Dubai's

emergence as the busiest \$10 million+ homes market in the world," Faisal Durrani, Partner - Head of Research, MENA at Knight Frank said.

Dubai has been positioned as the world's busiest \$10 million+ home sales market with 431 units sold in 2023, at a total value of \$7.6 billion, overtaking London and New York, at \$4.3 billion (240 units) and \$3.6 billion (211), respectively, according to the report, Destination Dubai.

"We expect the shortage of waterfront homes and rapidly diminishing number of ready-

to-activate waterfront plots to continue sustaining upward pressure on waterfront home values, albeit price growth is likely to moderate in line with the rest of the city as we enter the fifth year of Dubai's freehold residential market cycle," Durrani said.

Despite average house prices in Dubai having risen by 39 percent since January 2020, the emirate still took the first spot as the most preferred city in which to purchase a property, followed by Abu Dhabi.

CONSTRUCTION

MIXED REACTIONS AS NHC PURCHASES URAFIKI TEXTILE FOR 3BN/-

By Dickson Ng'hily

THE recent acquisition of the Urafiki area by the National Housing Corporation (NHC) has sparked a flurry of mixed reactions from various stakeholders, the area, previously under the management of the Tanzania - China Friendship Textile Co. Ltd, was purchased for 3bn/-, raising eyebrows and triggering debates on the valuation and future implications of this substantial investment.

The Public Relations Manager of the NHC, Muungano Saguya, announced the purchase during a visit to inspect the newly acquired area. Saguya elaborated that the purchase of Urafiki, encompasses houses, warehouses, open fields, factories, and other assets.

He expressed his optimism about the acquisition, emphasizing that it is expected to improve infrastructure, boost the local economy, and enhance the city's landscape.

"We have purchased the area, which spans over 50 acres, for more than three billion shillings through an open auction," Saguya stated. "With this new ownership, the National Housing Corporation is committed to improving these areas in line with our goals of providing modern and high-quality housing for the citizens. We have started by surveying the entire area and identifying all its boundaries."

Urafiki stands as a pivotal industrial and residential hub, playing a crucial role in Tanzania's economy. NHC's ambitious efforts to rejuvenate the locale through improved infrastructure, contemporary housing, and commercial zones have sparked a blend of excitement and doubt.

While optimism abounds among various stakeholders re-



An administrative building of Tanzania-China Friendship Textile Co. Ltd, now owned by NHC. File Photo

garding the project's potential advantages, concerns linger. The prospect of sophisticated infrastructure and housing is viewed positively as a stride towards urban enhancement. However, there are apprehensions that NHC's initiatives might predominantly cater to the middle and upper-class segments.

"This new project will greatly benefit the nation as a whole, bringing positive changes to the housing sector and economic development in the country," Saguya noted. In the NHC's development plan, special attention will be given to ensuring the Urafiki area becomes a prime example of modern and sustainable development.

Muungano emphasized, "This marks a significant milestone for NHC and our nation. We urge citizens and diverse stakeholders to rally behind our initiatives aimed at enhancing and nurturing these regions for the well-being of present and future generations."

However, dissenting perspectives reverberate in the ongoing discussion. Critics argue that the substantial 3 billion/- price tag might not truly reflect the value of the area and its assets.

They question whether NHC

could have secured the area at a more cost-effective rate, particularly given the existing economic challenges and the crucial need for transparent transactions.

Additionally, concerns linger regarding the possibility of displacing current businesses during the revitalization process.

"I am concerned about the valuation of the property and whether the expenditure is justified given our economic situation," remarked one Athuman Juma, a local economist. "There needs to be clear accountability and transparency in how public funds are utilized in such large-scale projects."

Moreover, some residents fear that the redevelopment could lead to gentrification, pushing out lower-income who have used the area for businesses. "We hope the NHC will take into consideration the needs of the existing community and not just focus on attracting new investors and residents," said a Hadija Mohame, a Dar es Salaam resident.

"NHC need to reassured the public that the redevelopment will be inclusive and beneficial for all. They should emphasize that the project is aimed at creating a balanced and sustainable



Current state of Urafiki Textile's warehouse facilities. File Photo

environment that will serve the needs of both current residents and future generations," said Samuel John a local real estate agent.

Adding that: "I think the involvement of the main stakeholders, including the Treasury Registrar and the Tanzania - China Friendship Textile Co. Ltd, is expected to bring additional oversight and collaboration to ensure the project's success.

Certainly, here are some professional arguments regarding the NHC's purchase of Urafiki textile for 3 billion:

Market value assessment

The purchase price of 3 billion may appear high at first glance, but it's essential to consider the property's market value. An independent assessment should be conducted to determine if the purchase price aligns with the current market value of similar properties in the area.

Long-term investment

The acquisition of Urafiki Textile may be part of a strategic long-term investment plan by NHC. While the initial purchase price might seem high, the property could hold significant value and potential for future devel-

opment or resale, leading to a favorable return on investment over time.

Asset evaluation

Beyond the surface-level assessment of the purchase price, a comprehensive evaluation of the property's assets, such as land, buildings, infrastructure, and potential for redevelopment, should be conducted. This evaluation can provide a more accurate depiction of the property's true worth and justify the purchase price.

Economic development impact

The acquisition of Urafiki Textile by NHC could have broader economic development implications, such as job creation, revitalization of the area, and contribution to local infrastructure projects. These factors should be taken into account when evaluating the purchase price in relation to its overall impact on the community and economy.

Strategic importance

Consideration should be given to the strategic importance of acquiring Urafiki Textile to NHC's mission and objectives. If the property aligns with NHC's goals for urban development, afford-

able housing initiatives, or industrial revitalization, the purchase price may be justified based on its strategic significance.

Negotiation factors

It's also essential to understand the negotiation factors that influenced the purchase price. Factors such as market demand, competition from other buyers, property condition, and potential liabilities may have influenced the final price negotiated by NHC.

Due diligence

Before finalizing the purchase, thorough due diligence should be conducted to assess any potential risks, liabilities, or hidden costs associated with the property. This process can help mitigate any uncertainties and ensure that the purchase price accurately reflects the property's true value.

As the NHC moves forward with its plans, it will be crucial to maintain transparency and open communication with all stakeholders to address their concerns and gain their support. The success of the Urafiki redevelopment project will depend on how well the NHC can balance the interests of various parties while achieving its goals of urban improvement and economic development.

Tour operators vow to boost tourists' safety

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Local Tour Operators (TLTO) has vowed to complement government efforts in promoting the safety of tourists to ensure the sector contributes to economic growth.

The motorcycles were handed over to the Arusha Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda yesterday in the northern safari capital of Arusha.

Speaking during a handover ceremony of 20 motorcycles worth 65m/- by one of the country's financial lenders that will help in beefing up security in the region, TLTO Chairperson, Samuel Diah said the donation will also boost the growth of the tourism sector in the region.

"Indeed, this donation has come timely as ensuring the safety of both local and foreign tourists is a top priority right now," Diah said.

He said the support will ensure the safety of the Arusha region at all times and complement the sixth Phase government drive to boost the development of the tourism sector.

He added, "Safety is the biggest attraction for all tourists. Together with Arusha region having vast tourist attractions, we cannot lure more tourists if the region is not safe."

The donation that targets the police force in the region aligns with the bank's tourism sector development strategy that seeks to boost sustainable tourism ecosystems.

Arusha Regional Commissioner, Paul Makonda also said that the government has been at the forefront of marketing Tanzania's unique attractions and urged citizens to protect the tourist attractions.

"This is a historic event and it is indeed a gesture of giving back to the communities. Citizens need to support responsible companies," he said.

He during the event called upon all Arusha residents to work closely with the police force by identifying all the criminals in the region.

Filbert Mponzi, NMB chief retail banking, reiterated the bank's commitment to continue working closely with all the stakeholders including the government to support tour-

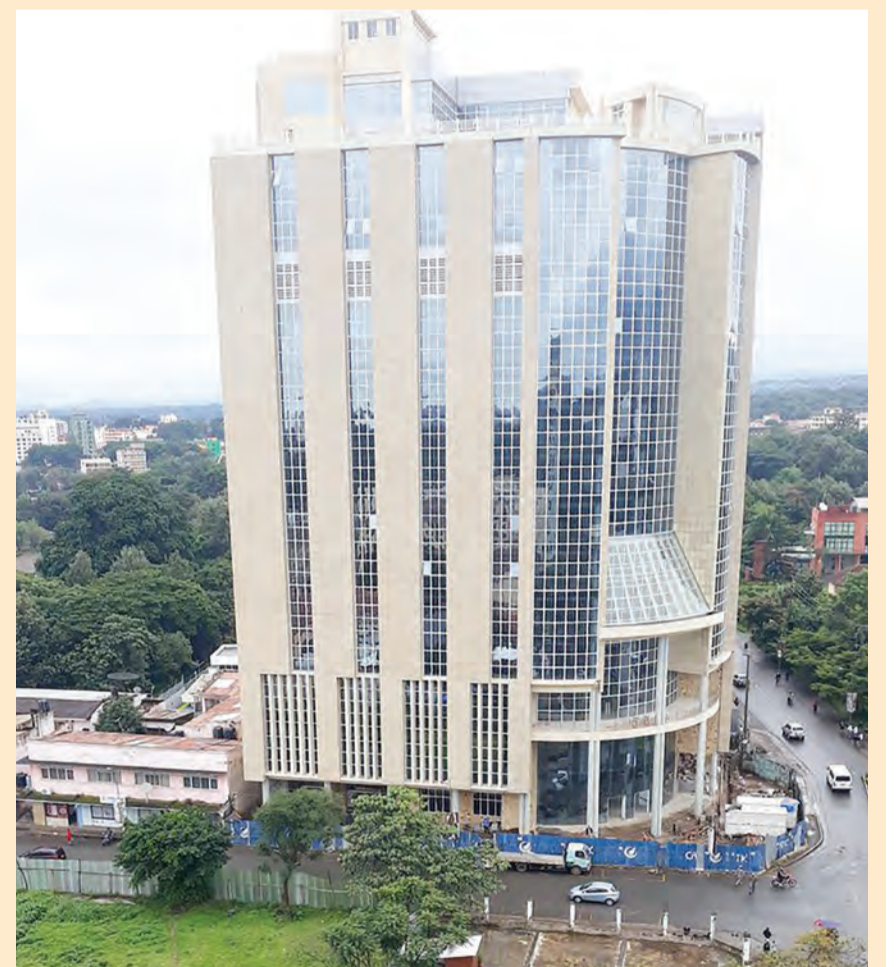
ism sector development.

"To us Arusha region is a strategic area since it's a tourist hub. We are happy to donate 20 motorcycles today to intensify security. As a bank, we believe that when security is beefed up, the tourism sector will tremendously prosper," he said.

Mponzi was optimistic that the bank's efforts in Arusha region would have a big multiplier effect in the tourism sector value chain across the country.

"Our efforts will have a trickle-down effect on the tourism sector. When the tourists finally have an unforgettable experience in terms of hospitality in the Arusha region, they will be willing to explore other available options such as Zanzibar," Mponzi stressed.

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



Have you ever pondered the grandeur of the Ngorongoro Tourism Center Building nestled within the serene Goliondoi Neighborhood of Sekei Ward in Arusha City? Standing proudly as the tallest architectural marvel in the city, this structure captivates on-lookers with its imposing allure and modern design. As the year unfolds into 2021, this skyscraper stands as a testament to innovation and urban sophistication in the heart of Arusha.

Perched majestically amidst the bustling streets of Goliondoi Neighborhood, the Ngorongoro Tourism Center Building in Sekei Ward is not just a high-rise structure but a beacon of progress and architectural excellence. With each passing day, it continues to

reshape the city's skyline, symbolizing growth and prosperity. As the sun sets over Arusha, the building emerges as a striking silhouette, casting a shadow of ambition and promise across the vibrant cityscape.

In the dynamic cityscape of Arusha, the Ngorongoro Tourism Center Building reigns supreme, casting its imposing shadow as the tallest architectural wonder of 2021. Its presence not only signifies the city's evolution but also serves as a landmark of modernity and ambition. As urban life pulsates around it, this building stands as a living testament to Arusha's progressive spirit and unwavering dedication to architectural ingenuity.

Reducing construction risks by 70pc with effective daily reporting

By Antoine Diaz

IMAGINE a construction site, bustling with activity, where each day brings new challenges and accomplishments. In the midst of this dynamic environment, there's a subtle yet powerful tool at play - daily reporting. This tool, often overlooked, holds the key to maintaining safety, tracking progress, and providing tangible proof in the face of delays.

The value of daily reporting

Daily reporting in the construction industry serves as the heartbeat of a project. According to a study by the Con-

struction Financial Management Association (CFMA), effective daily reporting practices can reduce project risks by up to 70 percent. This significant statistic underscores the critical role that daily reports play in not only maintaining the rhythm of a project but also in safeguarding its integrity.

Ensuring safety and accountability

For project managers, daily reports are a useful tool for maintaining site safety and managing project delays. These reports offer a real-time snapshot of on-site activities, allowing for quick responses to safety hazards. Fur-

thermore, in the event of project delays, daily reports act as a documented history, providing clear evidence of progress and impediments. This level of documentation is crucial in justifying extensions and avoiding penalties related to delays.

Streamlining reporting with lb sitediary

In this context, LB SiteDiary is an invaluable asset for project managers. It simplifies the reporting process, significantly reducing the administrative workload and burden that often accompanies manual reporting. By providing an easy-to-use platform for capturing

daily activities, the tool ensures that reports are comprehensive, accurate, and timely.

The benefits of LB SiteDiary extend beyond simplification; they also cover compliance and dispute resolution. With accurate daily logs, project managers can track compliance with safety regulations and have a solid foundation for resolving any disputes that arise due to project delays.

The broader impact of daily reporting

Daily reporting ensures safety, facilitates clear communication, and provides a reliable record, daily reports empower project man-

agers to lead with confidence and precision.

Conclusion

Construction industry continues to evolve, but the need for daily reporting remains constant. With tools like LB SiteDiary, project managers are equipped to tackle the challenges of construction projects with greater ease and accuracy. But the question lingers: Are we fully leveraging the power of daily reporting to build a safer, more healthy construction site?

Antoine Alexandre Diaz, an author at Lets-Build, is available for connection through social media.



Democratic Republic of Congo's Minister of Economy Vital Kamerhe, addresses supporters of the Union sacrée (Sacred Union), the new majority governing coalition in the country's National Assembly of gathering at The Martyrs Stadium in Kinshasa on April 29, 2023. AP

DR Congo foiled coup target elected speaker of lower house Kamerhe

KINSHASA

VITAL Kamerhe, deputy prime minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), was on Wednesday elected president of the National Assembly, the country's lower house of parliament.

Kamerhe, who leads the Union for the Congolese Nation, won 371 of the 407 votes cast. Jean-Claude Tshilumbayi, from the ruling party Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), was elected first vice-president, while Christophe Mboso, the outgoing speaker, was elected second vice-president.

According to the Congolese army, Kamerhe was one of the targets of a failed coup attempt in the Central African country on Sunday.

His residence was raided by a group of armed men early Sunday in the coup attempt, which was "nipped in the bud" by defense forces, announced DRC military spokesperson Sylvain Ekenge.

Four attackers were killed, and about 40 others involved in the attack, including several Americans, were arrested, according to the

DRC military. The failed coup attempt has been condemned by multiple leaders of African countries and organizations.

Kamerhe, 65, was appointed as deputy prime minister and minister of national economy last year.

Voting for the speaker of the lower house was originally scheduled for May 18 but was postponed last Friday.

In the general elections held in December 2023, President Felix Tshisekedi was re-elected for a second term, as the Sacred Union, a parliamentary coalition composed of Tshisekedi's Union of Democracy and Social Progress party and its allied parties, won the majority of at least 90 percent of seats at the 500-member National Assembly.

However, the lower house had remained paralyzed due to the absence of a leadership bureau, which includes posts such as president, first vice-president and second vice-president.

In the voting on Wednesday, Kamerhe was the sole candidate for president of the National Assembly.

In early April, Tshisekedi named Judith Tuluka Suminwa as the new prime minister. Tuluka was also a target of the failed coup attempt, but the putschists failed to "identify" her residence.

Xinhua

IGAD warns of heavy rainfall in Horn of Africa through September

JUBA

THE greater part of the Horn of Africa is expected to receive heavy rains between June and September, according to a statement on the region's climate outlook.

The rain pattern between June and September will be above normal in Djibouti, Eritrea, central and northern Ethiopia, western and coastal Kenya, and much of Uganda, South Sudan and Sudan, said a communique issued Tuesday in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, at the end of the 67th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum organized by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East African bloc.

"On the other hand, part of northern Somalia, isolated areas over western Ethiopia and northwestern South Su-

dan are expected to experience drier than normal conditions," the document said.

The two-day conference, which opened on Monday, was attended by representatives from IGAD member countries. It was noted that the weather pattern from June to September resembles the 1998 and 2007 patterns. "An early to normal rainfall onset is expected in several parts of the region, including central and northern Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and South Sudan," the communique said. "However, a delayed onset is likely in Djibouti, part of eastern and western Ethiopia, central and western Sudan, and northern South Sudan." It said temperatures could be warmer than normal across the region, particularly in northern Sudan, central and western Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania. Xinhua

Russia remains most reliable gas supplier despite sanctions – MFA

MOSCOW

RUSSIA remains the most reliable gas supplier despite the sanctions pressure of western countries and blasts at Nord Stream and Nord Stream-2 gas pipelines, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova (pictured) said.

"Despite it (the West's sanctions pressure and gas pipeline blasts - TASS), Russia still remains the most reliable gas supplier and it fully meets its contractual obligations," she said in an interview broadcast on the Solovyov Live TV channel.

Western countries are not conducting a proper investigation into Nord Stream blasts, Zakharova said, adding that it was the West that restricted supplies of hydrocarbons from



Russia, while Moscow is accused of suspension of gas supplies.

On September 27, 2022, Nord Stream AG reported "unprecedented damage" on three strings of the offshore gas pipelines of the Nord Stream system.

Later, Swedish seismologists said they had identified two explosions on the route of the

Nord Stream pipelines on September 26, 2022.

Following the incident, the Russian Prosecutor General's Office initiated a criminal case on charges of international terrorism.

Later, noted American journalist Seymour Hersh published an article, citing anonymous sources inside Washington, claiming that the explosive devices were placed under the gas pipelines in June 2022 by US Navy divers with the assistance of Norwegian specialists.

Subsequently, the New York Times quoted US officials as saying that the sabotage of the gas pipelines could have been carried out by an unidentified "pro-Ukrainian group" that acted without the knowledge of US authorities. Agencies

Rishi Sunak calls UK national election for July 4

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called a national election on Wednesday for July 4, saying Britons would be able to choose their future in a vote his Conservatives are widely expected to lose to the opposition Labour Party after 14 years in power.

Ending months of speculation as to when he would call a new vote, Sunak, 44, stood outside his Downing Street office in pouring rain and called the election several months earlier than expected - a risky strategy with his party far behind Labour in the opinion polls.

Almost shouting to be heard above an anthem of Labour's election victory in 1997 under former prime minister Tony Blair being played by protesters outside Downing Street's gates, Sunak listed what he said were his achievements in government, not only as prime minister but also as a former finance minister.

"Now is the moment for Britain to choose its future and decide whether it wants to build on the progress we have made or risk going back to square one and no certainty," he said.

"Over the next few weeks, I will fight for every vote, I will earn your trust and I will prove to you that only a Conservative government led by me will not put our hard earned economic stability at risk."

He accused Labour leader Keir Starmer, conversely, of always taking the "easy way out" and of having no plan. "As a result, the future can only be uncertain with them," he said.



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak

Starmer, who has pulled Labour to the political centre ground after it had veered leftwards, responded with a statement that focused on one word: "change".

"On July 4 you (voters) have the choice and together we can stop the chaos, we can turn the page, we can start to rebuild Britain and change our country," he said, in front of two Union Jack flags.

Sunak trailing

Sunak heads into the election not only trailing far behind Labour in the opinion polls but also somewhat isolated from some in his party, increasingly dependent on a small team of advisers to steer him through what is set to be an ugly campaign.

But he seems to have decided that, with some economic gains such as falling inflation and an economy growing at its fastest pace in almost three years, now is the time to take a risk and present his agenda for a new term formally to voters.

"Labour want you to think that this election is over before it has even begun," Sunak told a rally, hosted in an east London exhibition center and attended by senior ministers and supporters, hours after the formal election announce-

ment. "The British people are going to show Labour that they don't take too kindly to being taken for granted."

Several in his party said Sunak might also have realized that legal challenges could jeopardize a flagship scheme to send illegal asylum seekers to Rwanda and that the government might not be able to deliver on any more tax cuts as promised.

Challenge

Despite Labour's lead, some party officials are concerned their advantage is not as solid as it appears, fearing many voters remain undecided. They also know the challenge: the party needs a record swing in votes to win a parliamentary majority.

Labour has yet to complete the selection of all its parliamentary candidates, a party veteran said.

Sunak might be hoping the first flights in the scheme to send illegal asylum seekers to Rwanda could boost his party's fortunes. The earliest possible date for those flights is June 24, 10 days before the election.

If they don't take off, one Conservative lawmaker said, Sunak could then blame "leftist lawyers".

Study reveals potential air pollutants present in gyms

BEIJING

PEOPLE frequent gyms to maintain their fitness levels, but what about the quality of the air they breathe in these confined spaces? Chinese researchers have recently delved into this question through a case study.

Led by Sun Yele, a professor from the Institute of Atmospheric Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a research team examined the composition and concentration of pollutants within a basement gym.

Their findings, published in the journal Environmental Science & Technology Letters, shed light on the air quality of indoor fitness environments. "The gym's proximity to our office provided an ideal setting for our investigation.

Over a span of 20 consecutive days, we meticulously analyzed the air using a high-resolution aerosol mass spectrometer," explained Sun.

Their study revealed that the indoor air within the gym exhibited a higher proportion of organic aerosols (OA) compared to the outdoor environment. "Approximately 50 percent of the particulate matter inhaled within the gym comprised OA, a notable increase from the roughly 40 percent observed outdoors," Sun said.

Two distinct types of OA were identified within the gym atmosphere. The first, siloxane organic aerosols (SiOA), stood out due to unexpectedly high concentrations, comprising 7 to 11 percent of the total OA present.

Sun attributed the presence of SiOA to the silicone polymer lubricant used in fitness equipment during exercise.

Additionally, the researchers detected cigarette smoke organic aerosols within the gym, which likely entered the indoor environment from adjacent spaces such as a nearby parking lot.

Furthermore, OA stemming from cooking activities in the nearby canteen were also found to contribute to the indoor air quality within the gym.

"The ventilation system of the gym might inadvertently draw in pollutants from external sources," Sun said. "While our study represents a single case, it underscores the susceptibility of gyms to surrounding emission sources."

The researcher believes that understanding the composition and concentration of pollutants in the gym environment is crucial for evaluating the potential health risks associated with physical exercise. "During exercise, heightened respiratory rates increase the inhalation of these particles, which could potentially impact our health," Sun said.

The study advocates comprehensive assessments of air quality across various gym facilities, considering factors such as equipment diversity, occupancy rates, and ventilation systems.

Such investigations are instrumental in devising effective strategies to safeguard indoor air quality and mitigate health risks associated with gym attendance. "We aim to expand our research by conducting case studies across multiple gyms to validate the universality of the pollution particles identified in this study," Sun said.

SWITZERLAND has announced that it will host over 160 delegations from around the globe to participate in a Ukraine peace conference on June 15 and 16.

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, said in a statement that the invitees, except Russia, include members of the G7, G20, BRICS, EU, various international organizations, and two religious' representatives.

While this could be the fifth public attempt to secure a peaceful deal between Russia and Ukraine, African countries have also attempted but all didn't work out.

The delegation from South Africa, Egypt, Senegal, Congo-Brazzaville, Comoros, Zambia, and Uganda led by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa embarked on "peace mission" to meet leaders of Ukraine and Russia in what was described as "the first time African leaders embarked on a peace mission

Switzerland to host global leaders for Ukraine, Russia peace

beyond" the continent.

Ramaphosa's delegate put forward a 10-point proposal, including a recognition of Russia and Ukraine's sovereignty and continued unhindered grain exports.

It also called for a de-escalation of fighting and for negotiations to commence with urgency, for the release of prisoners of war and for greater humanitarian support, among other requests.

Swiss public radio, RTS, announced last week that at least 50 countries had confirmed their attendance.

The delegates so far, include the president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and the president of the European Council, Charles Michel, Germany's Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, the head of the Italian government, Giorgia Meloni, Canadian Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron.

South Africa is most likely to attend the conference having taken part in the previous missions. The first being the Copenhagen meeting held in June 2023 and aimed at building wide international support for a peace process based on the Ukrainian 10-point proposal.

The second meeting was held during 5-6 August 2023 in Jeddah, including representatives from about 40 countries, some others being China, India, EU member states, India, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia, Mexico, Zambia, Egypt and the United States (US).

A third meeting was organised on the weekend of 28-29 October, 2023 in Malta among national security advisors from 65 states from Europe, South America, the Arab world, Africa and Asia.

The most recent one being that which was held in mid-January 2024 in Davos prior to the World Economic Forum.

The meeting had representatives from 83 countries and international organisations participating, including 18 from Asia, without China, and 12 from Africa.

Co-chair of the meeting, Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis, stated that the meeting had "clarified points up for discussion", that neither Ukraine nor Russia accepted territorial concessions, and that a high-level meeting had not been scheduled. Only for the Swiss president Viola Amherd stating Switzerland was planning to organise a "possible peace conference".

Yes Africa, has and is the victim of this conflict. The conflict has led to a shortage of grain and fertilizer in many African countries, which import com-

modities from Ukraine and Russia respectively. This has led to a spike in food prices around the world, especially in Africa.

In Tanzania, for instance, fuel price has continued to clinch at a top notch with the current pump price recording Sh3,314.00 per liter or USD 1.28 per liter, the price being slightly higher than the average price of gasoline in the world at USD 1.26 per liter.

The question is why are African countries not concerned with the peace conference even though they are affected by the global conflict around Ukraine territory?

There are several arguments that can be made for why African countries might consider not participating in a Ukraine peace conference. These points reflect both geopolitical considerations and practical concerns: Firstly, Many African coun-

tries may have limited direct economic or political stakes in the Ukraine conflict compared to other regions. Their primary international focus might be on issues more immediately affecting their own continents, such as regional security, economic development, or public health.

For that, Ukraine recently made attempts to open diplomatic offices in several African countries. Observers have been quick to raise concern, some stating that the plan which includes donation and a push for increased Ukrainian special forces in African countries only seek to counter China and Russia's prospects in the continent and drum up support for its war effort.

Last June, Ukraine inaugurated a string of new embassies in Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Botswana. It had planned

others in Ghana and Rwanda.

Analyst Alain Koné, an expert at the International Centre for Political Studies, says "this is a tournament Ukraine wants to enter," and the chosen countries are not "a random selection"; Ivory Coast has always supported Ukraine in resolutions at the United Nations.

Moreover, during the Russia-Africa summit, the Ivorian president, Alassane Ouattara, was absent, so it is not surprising that Ukraine is deploying efforts to improve its image.

Another consideration is resource allocation. Attending and participating in international conferences requires significant diplomatic resources and time.

For many African nations, these resources might be better spent addressing critical issues within their own borders or regions where they can make a more immediate and tangible impact.

Agencies

Xi welcomes US visitors to see real China

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping has reached out to all visitors from the United States with a welcoming gesture in a message that he sent to the 14th China-US Tourism Leadership Summit, which opened on Wednesday in Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi province.

"We cordially welcome US tourists to travel to China to meet Chinese friends, experience Chinese culture, tour scenic mountains and rivers, and get a firsthand look at the real China," he wrote.

US President Joe Biden also sent a congratulatory message to the event.

Industry observers have voiced great hopes that both nations will further encourage two-way visits, as the most recent numbers on border entries and direct flights continue to increase, compared with those of last year, yet they are still lower than the highs achieved before the COVID-19 outbreak.

In his message, Xi said that "tourism is an important bridge for the people of China and the US to engage in exchanges and get to better know and bond with each other".

He expressed his hope that people from all walks of life in the two countries will take this summit as an opportunity for in-depth exchanges, consensus building and vigorous actions.

The goal is to facilitate people-to-people exchanges through tourism cooperation, to perpetuate China-US friendship through cultural exchanges, and to help translate the San Francisco vision into reality, he added.

The two countries are celebrating



Students from China and the United States perform at the opening ceremony of the 14th China-US Tourism Leadership Summit, which opened in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, on Wednesday. XINHUA

the 45th anniversary this year of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Xi said that the foundation of China-US relations was built by the people, the door of China-US ties was opened by the people, the story of the relations is written by the people, and the future of the ties will certainly be created by the two peoples.

In his message, Biden said that both the US and China "are countries of rich cultural diversity, immense natural beauty and vibrant communities, big and small, all of which support travel and tourism industries that promote prosperity and understanding between our nations".

"Four years ago, a global pandemic closed our borders and halted travel and tourism around the world," Biden said when welcoming Chinese tourists to discover US cities and history and to engage with its people.

Observers noted that the huge potential of the China-US tourism market could be illustrated by the fact that before the COVID-19 outbreak, more than 300 flights operated between China and the US each week, and over 5 million visits were made between the two countries every year.

Christopher Thompson, president and CEO of Brand USA, an organization that promotes the US as a travel destination, said, "Last August, when the 14th US-China Tourism Leadership Summit was announced, we were all very excited to restart this type of connection between our two nations."

Related discussions have since had a real impact on advancing tourism between the two economies, as well as fostering better cultural understanding, he told the summit.

"We're very happy that consumer interest in visiting the US remains quite high,"

Thompson said, adding that the US remains a popular destination among Chinese travelers.

Experts noted that, as a sign of the recovery of international travel between China and the rest of the world, the country saw 1.78 million visits by inbound travelers and 1.9 million outbound visits during the recent five-day May Day holiday, close to the level in the same period in 2019 before the pandemic.

With fresh joint efforts from both nations, the number of direct flights has grown from 20 per week early last year to 100 per week now, according to a recent speech by Chinese Ambassador to the US Xie Feng.

Xie noted that "the flights now are still far from enough, and the tickets are too expensive", and he said the China travel advisory issued by Washington "has deterred many American friends from visiting China".

Dai Bin, president of the China Tourism Academy, told the summit that sustainable China-US tourism exchanges and high-quality tourism development "would not have been possible" without the guidance of the leaders of both countries, high-level visits, political mutual trust and interactions among industry players.

"For the continuous increase in tourist visits between China and the US, it is necessary to pragmatically promote tourism, implement more convenient visa policies, continuously expand direct flight quotas, and deepen cooperation and exchanges between tourism investment institutions and market entities," Dai said.

Furthermore, efforts should be made to promote exchanges between the two countries' tourism industries, education institutions and think tanks, he added.

Xinhua

Ukraine wants to provoke NATO into clash with Russia, says Russian ambassador to US

WASHINGTON

THE Kiev government is taking provocative actions aimed at embroiling the United States and other NATO members into a head-on collision with Russia, Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov said.

Commenting on statements by US politicians and lawmakers, calling for giving the Kiev government an opportunity to use US weapons against military and energy facilities deep inside Russia, Antonov said: "Such provocative statements are extremely dangerous and reckless."

The calls by Russophobes mean only one thing - further US involvement in the conflict in Ukraine on the side of the agonizing Zelensky regime.

"The level of hysterical reaction to our successes at the front is growing in Washington exponentially, not by the day but by the hour. Politicians and lawmakers continue to test our patience."

Every day we hear new proposals to expand military assistance to the junta in Kiev," he said in a statement, posted on the Russian embassy's Telegram channel.

"It is obvious that Kiev wants to do what it can to provoke the United States, as well as other NATO countries, into rash actions and achieve a head-on collision between Russia and the bloc's members."

In his opinion, "this is exactly how ideas about using long-range American systems against Russian civilians, primarily women, children and the elderly, should be viewed."

"Here we must also add the nudge of Western states to shoot down aircraft of the Russian Armed Forces," Antonov said.

"Let me emphasize: the Kiev regime has long since stopped asking permission from the Western masters to wage war against civilian targets on Russian territory. Barbaric raids using deadly products of the NATO military-industrial complex are carried out across our country on an almost regular basis."

Agencies

Israel recalls ambassadors to Norway and Ireland after nations recognise Palestinian state

TELAVIV

IN response to the decision made by the governments of Ireland and Norway to recognize an independent Palestinian State, Israel's Foreign Minister ordered the recall of his country's ambassadors to those countries. Norway announced its recognition of such an independent state Wednesday morning and Ireland, as well as Spain, are expected to soon follow.

In making his announcement, Katz said, "I am sending a clear message today - Israel will not be complacent against those who undermine its sovereignty and endanger its security."

"Ireland and Norway intend to send a message to the Palestinians and the whole world today: Terrorism pays," he added. "After the terrorist organization Hamas carried out the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, after it committed the most horrific sex crimes the world has seen, these countries chose to give a reward to Hamas and Iran and recognize a Palestinian state."

Calling the recognition a "twisted step" and an "injustice to the memory of the 7/10 victims," Katz said it is also an "injury to the efforts to return the 128 abductees and the abductees - this is a back wind for the jihadists of Hamas and Iran, which distances the chance for peace and undermines Israel's right to self-defense."

"The Irish-Norwegian stupidity parade does not deter us," he added, "we are determined to achieve our goals: restoring security to our citizens and the removal of Hamas and the return of the kidnapped. There are no more just goals than these."

ANI

Biden says two-state solution for Palestine should come through direct talks, not 'unilateral recognition'

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden believes the two-state solution should be brought about through direct negotiations and not a 'unilateral recognition', US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on Wednesday after the leaders of Norway, Ireland, and Spain announced plans to recognise the Palestinian state.

Asked whether the US is concerned with other nations recognising a Palestinian state, Sullivan, at a press briefing, said, "Each country is entitled to make its own determinations, but the US position on this is clear President Biden as I just said has been on the record supporting a two-state solution."

"He has been equally emphatic on the record that that

two-state solution should be brought about through direct negotiations through the parties, not through unilateral recognition that's a principled position that we have held on a consistent basis. We will communicate that to our partners around the world and we'll see what unfolds," he added.

Sullivan called Israel's decision to withhold funds from Palestinian authority "wrong", noting that withholding funds destabilises the West Bank and undermines the search for security and prosperity for the people of Palestine.

On the US' reaction to Israel's response to recognising Palestinian statehood with withholding funds from Palestinian authority, he said, "I think it's wrong on a strategic basis because withholding funds destabilises



the West Bank. It undermines the search for security and prosperity for the Palestinian people which is in Israel's interest and it's wrong to withhold funds that provide basic goods and services to innocent people. So, from our perspective those funds should continue to go um with all of the necessary safeguards but they should continue to flow."

As Spain, Norway, and Ireland

announced plans to formally recognise a Palestinian state, Israel reacted to the decision of the three nations in anger and immediately recalled their ambassadors from each country, CNN reported.

Irish foreign minister Micheal Martin said the recognition of the Palestinian state will come into force in all three nations on May 28, with the prime ministers of the nations calling the move as an 'important step' towards "peace" in the region.

The Israeli embassy in Ireland, too, condemned the decision of Spain, Norway and Israel to recognise Palestinian statehood.

"We are disappointed by the Irish government's decision on recognition, which follows worrying initiatives and statements in recent months," Israel's Em-

bassy in Dublin said in a statement on Wednesday, according to a CNN report.

The Israeli embassy said the decision "brings more questions than answers", alleging that recognising Palestinian statehood after the October 7 attacks conducted by Hamas "sends a message" that "terrorism pays."

It warned that such a decision "jeopardises" any possibility of Hamas releasing the hostages still being held in Gaza, CNN reported.

On Tuesday, the Israeli foreign ministry shared a video on its social media channels and warned Ireland that it risked becoming a "pawn" of Hamas and Iran if it went ahead with its plan to recognise the Palestinian state.

ANI

SADC observation mission calls for credible, fair elections in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) launched its electoral observation mission to South Africa in Johannesburg on Wednesday, urging all stakeholders to ensure that the upcoming general elections are conducted in a credible, free and fair manner.

Enock Kavindele (pictured), head of the SADC observation mission, said that his team comprises 81 people from 11 SADC countries. All mission officials have been trained

and are being deployed in all provinces of South Africa. "South Africa is well-known for a culture of peaceful elections at the national level.

Our mission expects this culture to persist during and beyond this electoral cycle. We will observe the conduct of voting, including assistance to voters, counting, tabulation and announcement of results, as well as the transparency of procedures and adequacy of safeguards against inaccuracies," said Kavindele, who is also a former vice president of Zambia.

Kavindele said that they observe elections in SADC member states to ensure that

regional countries adhere to the relevant provisions of the SADC principles and guidelines governing democratic elections.

The mission will observe whether measures are in place to prevent corruption, bribery, favoritism, political violence, intimidation and intolerance. Kavindele welcomed the efforts made by the Independent Elec-



toral Commission of South Africa to tackle misinformation. "We must all be alert to attempts by some people, including those primarily from beyond Africa, to influence our elections in line with their own interests or geopolitical games," he said.

"I urge all political contestants and their supporters to make positive use of information technology for innovative campaign purposes, particularly to reach out to the youth, our future leaders, who, for a variety of reasons, often fail to exercise their right to vote." South Africa will hold national and local government elections on May 29.

Xinhua

Emerging industries thrive in East China's Shandong

IN January this year, a rocket was launched from a ship in the Yellow Sea off the coast of Haiyang, east China's Shandong province.

How could this rocket launch be completed on the deck of a ship?

On one hand, Haiyang sits in a unique and safe location, which makes it suitable for launching satellites into various orbits, including low-inclination and sun-synchronous orbits.

On the other hand, Haiyang has seized the precious opportunity presented by the development of the aerospace industry and vigorously promoted emerging industries.

In 2019, China completed its first space launch from a sea-based platform as a Long March-II solid propellant car-

rier rocket blasted off in Haiyang. The local government has taken the successful test launch as an opportunity to develop aerospace industry, establishing the Haiyang Oriental Aerospace Port. It has built a commercial aerospace industry cluster centering on the entire offshore rocket launch industrial chain and kept enhancing relevant services.

In June 2023, a company planned to install launch support equipment in Haiyang. However, the relevant personnel from the company were unable to arrive on time to submit required application materials in person.

After learning the situation, the local administrative exami-

nation and approval bureau initiated an online approval process, allowing the company to first submit critical application materials and then supply the remaining documents after obtaining the project code. This enabled smooth process of the project.

Haiyang follows the requirements of high-quality development in every aspect and the whole process, from approving projects, introducing industries and building industrial bases, to its efforts to set up an aerospace science museum and featured towns.

It is attracting more and more enterprises in upstream and downstream sectors, laying a solid foundation for the

development of emerging industries.

High-quality development is key to cultivating and strengthening emerging industries. During the first quarter of this year, Shandong province channeled quality resources into nurturing and expanding 32 strategic emerging industrial clusters at and above provincial level, whose total output hit 3.2 trillion yuan (\$433.91 billion).

For local economic development, introducing emerging industries is just the beginning, and the road to nurturing and strengthening industrial clusters is still long.

A company producing lithium-ion batteries decided to

settle in Zaozhuang National High-tech Industrial Development Zone in Shandong province. The head of the company said that the development zone has a clear development plan for the lithium-ion battery industry and a persevering spirit. The local government established a dedicated service team to closely follow the production progress of the company, from site selection to factory designing, and from facility construction to equipment debugging. The company also mastered its efforts and advanced steadily, contributing to local economic and social development.

With a top-level design for industrial development, well-

planned guidance for business operations, and a clear roadmap, the growth prospects and momentum for emerging industries have become even greater.

Talents are vital for cultivating emerging industries. To unleash the power of talent, Zaozhuang of Shandong province has introduced policies that outline measures for attracting, rewarding, and supporting talents in the lithium-ion battery industry.

Zhang Jingpeng, the lead researcher of Shandong Goldencell Electronics Technology Co., Ltd., has greatly benefited from these policies - Zhang and her team has received a cumulative reward of 3.9 mil-

lion yuan for independently developing nine lithium iron phosphate battery products.

In addition to tapping into talent resources, emphasis should also be placed on recruitment and university-enterprise cooperation. Since the beginning of this year, Zaozhuang has introduced more than 870 talents of various kinds for lithium-ion battery companies. By providing excellent platforms and ensuring competitive income, the city has built a sound workforce that leads industrial development.

Adapting to local conditions, seizing opportunities, and accelerating the cultivation and growth of emerging industries, regions across China are seeing robust high-quality development.

Dallas Mavericks stand tall against Timberwolves with big effort around the rim



Dallas Mavericks center Daniel Gafford (21) reaches for a rebound against Minnesota Timberwolves guard Nickell Alexander-Walker, left, and center Naz Reid (11) during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals on Wednesday, May 23, 2024, in Minneapolis. AP Photo.

MINNEAPOLIS

FEW teams can match the size of the Minnesota Timberwolves with their trio of towers in NBA Defensive Player of the Year Rudy Gobert, four-time All-Star Karl-Anthony Towns and Sixth Man of the Year Naz Reid.

The revamped Dallas Mavericks showed they might just be able to stand tall against Minnesota.

Dereck Lively II, the 7-foot-1 rookie Dallas acquired on draft night after he was selected 12th overall, and 6-10 Daniel Gafford, who was a trade-deadline pickup in February, had a sizeable impact around the rim Wednesday night in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals, a 108-105 victory for the Mavericks.

"If anything, with our team and our defense, the way that we're built, the length and size that we have, we can't allow points in the paint," Towns said. "Our biggest advantage in the league is the three-big lineup that we have. We can't allow that. So we've got to be tougher in there."

With Lively leading the way off the bench, Dallas' center duo altered the game with its rim protection and rebounding. The Mavericks out-rebounded the Timberwolves 48-40, had eight blocks and held a 62-38 advantage on points in the paint.

"When you have that many points in the paint against the No. 1 team defensively, we'll take it, if that's what you're going to give us," Dallas coach Jason Kidd said.

Lively finished with nine points and 11 rebounds, including four offensive boards, to go with two blocks. Gafford added nine rebounds, with four on the offensive end.

"I've got to do a better job on the rebounds," said Gobert, who had just seven rebounds. "I can't let these guys just get offensive rebounds. I'll be better."

With Lively and Gafford inside, Minnesota didn't try to attack the paint. The Timberwolves took 49 of their 89 shots from 3-point territory. Towns finished 6-of-20 shooting, including 2 of 9 from 3.

Wolves star Anthony Edwards, who bullied his way to the rim at many points during the first two playoff series, also settled to shoot from the outside.

Twelve of Edwards' 16 shots were from 3. He ended up 6 of 16 for the game and 5 of 12 from deep while scoring 19 points. Gafford and Lively sank close to the basket – as opposed to Phoenix's Jusuf Nurkic and Denver's Nikola Jokic staying a bit higher – and that threw off the precocious 21-year-old.

"They're down the floor. The big man, he's not super high up like the last two series," Edwards said. "We didn't really know what to expect. So, came off and was open a bunch of times, took the shots. I'll make them next time and live with it."

So will the Mavericks.

AP

Survival: Premier League relegation permutations

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

WITH two rounds left of the season, we take a look at the fixtures concerning the battle to stay in the NBC Premier League and the permutations for relegation.

Eight teams can still be relegated either directly or through the playoffs - Kagera Sugar, JKT Tanzania, Singida Fountain Gate, Dodoma Jiji, Mashujaa, Tabora United, Geita Gold and Mtibwa Sugar.

However, three more relegation 'six-pointers' are still to come, including two tomorrow -- Mashujaa vs. Mtibwa Sugar and Singida Fountain Gate vs. Geita Gold.

For the four sides below the red line, Mtibwa Sugar and Geita Gold can be relegated this weekend, while Mashujaa and Singida Fountain Gate survival can be confirmed.

***Mashujaa, 13th (Relegation play-off position)**

Fixtures: Mtibwa Sugar (H), Dodoma Jiji (H)

Mashujaa's emphatic 2-1 win against Tanzania Prisons has given Abdallah Mohamed's side a big boost in their hopes of survival.

They are currently sitting in the relegation play-off spot on 29 points, and are currently the most likely side in the red zone to avoid being directly relegated in the two remaining games.

The Kigoma side is just one



Mtibwa Sugar head coach Zuberi Katwila. Agencies

point behind both Singida Fountain Gate and Dodoma Jiji. To add intrigue, Mashujaa host Dodoma Jiji on the final day of the season.

***Tabora United, 14th (Relegation play-off position)**

Fixtures: Young Africans (A),

Namungo (A)

Tabora United are currently sitting in the relegation play-off spot on 27 points, and are currently the most likely side to stay there in the two remaining games.

They, however, face two dif-

ficult away matches against champions Young Africans and Namungo on the final day.

The Bees would have to win at least one of their games and hope Geita Gold lose one or both of their respective games.

***Geita Gold, 15th (Direct relegation position)**

Fixtures: Singida Fountain Gate (A), Azam (H)

The situation is increasingly worrying for Geita Gold, but not mathematically sealed. They currently sit in the final relegation spot on 25 points.

They would have to hope that Mashujaa lose both their games and that they at least win and draw in their fixtures against Singida Fountain Gate and Azam on the final day.

***Mtibwa Sugar, 16th (Direct relegation position)**

Fixtures: Mashujaa (A), Ihefu (A)

Following their goalless home draw with Namungo on Monday, Mtibwa Sugar are staring down the barrel of the prospect of Championship football.

However, they have a slim chance of being able to catch Tabora United in the play-off spot, who sit six points ahead.

They would need Tabora United to lose both their games against Young Africans and Namungo while hoping they win their last two matches against Mashujaa and Ihefu away.

Opta predicts they have a 6% chance of reaching the playoffs in their final two games.



Kiwani Primary School's pupils playing basketball at the Jakaya Kikwete grounds recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Aziz Ki downplays NBC PL Golden Boot race, eyes winning remaining matches

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER returning on the top of the Golden Boot race, Young Africans attacking midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki has downplayed the pressure of the scoring accolade of the NBC Premier League as he insists on team results.

This comes after Yan-

ga won 4-0 away against Dodoma Jiji at Jamhuri Stadium on Wednesday evening with Aziz Ki scoring a brace while the other two goals were scored by Clement Mzize and Maxi Nzungeli, who scored his 10th goal of the league this season.

In the Golden Boot race this season, Aziz Ki has 17 goals with eight as-

ists followed by Azam's

Feisal Salum who has 16 goals and seven assists. Yanga continue to lead the league standings with 74 points, the same tally they acquired last year to become champions for the second time in a row.

The 2023/2024 champions will receive their NBC Premier League trophy tomorrow when they play home against

Tabora United at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Speaking after the match against Dodoma Jiji, Aziz Ki said he is more focused on the team's performance and results because it is important to maintain healthy competition in the race.

"For me, I have always said that what I want is a

win for the team. If I get an opportunity to score, I will be happy to score, but when I don't score I will find ways to contribute to our team's positive results.

"I don't approach games with a mindset that I have to score goals because that will distract the rhythm of the team and I won't be playing according to the team's

tactics and flow.

"I am aware that Feisal is also in the race. I wish him nothing but the best. He is my best friend and he deserves to perform at this level," said Aziz Ki.

The Burkinabe international has now reached last season's Premier League top scorers - Fiston Mayele and Saido Ntibazonka - who

scored 17 goals each.

Aziz Ki, who is approaching the end of his contract, is yet to sign an extended contract with the club, with various teams, including South African giants Orlando Pirates and Mamelodi Sundowns, said to be seeking his signature.

In his third season with the club, Aziz Ki has won three NBC Pre-

mier League titles, and last week he scored the winner in the extra time of the CRDB Bank Federation Cup semi-final match against Ihefu.

The Jangwani-based side won 1-0 in the match and will face Azam in the back-to-back Federation Cup final to be held on June 2 at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar.

Gasperini hails 'incredible' Atalanta history-makers

DUBLIN

GIAN Piero Gasperini lavished praise on his "incredible" Atalanta players after they stunned Bayer Leverkusen to win the Europa League and claim their first ever continental honour.

Atalanta swept aside German champions Leverkusen 3-0 who were unbeaten in 51 games in all competitions before Wednesday night's final in Dublin.

The Italians won their first trophy in over six decades with a sensational display of attacking football capped by Ademola Lookman's hat-trick.

"It's an amazing feeling. The boys were incredible, the performance that they put in this evening was wonderful," said Gasperini to Sky Sport.

"You can't just defend in matches like this. We knew about this type of team that they're really good going forward but not so good if you force them to defend. It went well right from the beginning.

"More than anything else it's also about how we did it. We absolutely deserved to win. We're so happy because to win the Europa league is a huge achievement for us."

Xabi Alonso's Leverkusen were hot favourites to complete a treble by winning in Dublin and in the German Cup final on Saturday after romping to their first ever Bundesliga title without losing.

But Lookman made sure Atalanta would take the trophy back to Bergamo with a fabulous treble, each goal scored by the Nigeria forward improving on the previous strike.

"Very, very happy. Together we made history. It's incredible," said Lookman to Sky.

"The ambition of the club... Last season we had a great season to qualify for the Europa League and this season we won a trophy. It's a fantastic effort from everybody. We're gonna celebrate tonight."

AFP

'Bayern Munich on verge of naming Kompany as coach'

LONDON

BAYERN Munich are close to completing a shock move for Burnley boss Vincent Kompany to replace Thomas Tuchel as coach, German and English media reported on Wednesday.

According to German tabloid Bild and network Sky, along with English newspaper The Guardian, the Belgian has reached an agreement in principle with Bayern.

As a result, the German club is now working on a compensation package for Burnley, where Kompany still has four years on his contract.

Burnley have just been relegated from the Premier League after only one season in the English top flight.

Bayern agreed to part ways with Tuchel in February after falling behind eventual champions Bayer Leverkusen in the title race.

Kompany is the latest candidate in a long list linked to Bayern.

Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso, Germany boss Julian Nagelsmann and Austria manager Ralf Rangnick all reportedly turned down Bayern's interest.

Bayern then attempted to hold onto Tuchel, who led them to a Champions League semi-final loss to Real Madrid. Tuchel, however, said the parties "could not reach an agreement" on him staying in the Bavarian capital.

Kompany has Bundesliga experience, having played at Hamburg before joining Manchester City.

He took the reins of Burnley in 2022, taking them to the Premier League as second-division champions a season later.

Kompany however could not keep Burnley in the top division, with the club relegated in 19th place in the 20-team league.

AFP

Howe calls Pochettino axing 'harsh' and 'sad'

MELBOURNE

NEWCASTLE manager Eddie Howe has blasted Chelsea's ruthless sacking of Mauricio Pochettino as "harsh" and a "sad" moment for the English Premier League.

The Argentine was axed this week after just a year in charge despite steering Chelsea to a sixth-place finish and Europe next season -- three points clear of Newcastle in seventh.

"Very surprised," Howe said in Melbourne after winning a post-season friendly against Pochettino's former club Tottenham on Wednesday evening.

"I think Mauricio is a very, very good manager, he's done incredibly well regardless of the club he has managed in various countries.

"I think it's sad for the Premier League when a manager loses his job," he added.

"Especially when I think it is harsh as his performances have been very strong."

Some reports in England have said the highly-regarded Howe could be in the running for the Chelsea job.

Although Pochettino led the Blues into Europe after a strong finish to the campaign, it was a difficult year for the former Spurs and Paris Saint-Germain boss. AFP

Lookman hat-trick fires Atalanta to Europa League, ends Leverkusen's unbeaten run

DUBLIN

ADEMOLA Lookman scored a stunning hat-trick as Atalanta ended Bayer Leverkusen's 51-match unbeaten run to win the Europa League final 3-0 on Wednesday and claim their first trophy for 61 years.

Lookman became the first player to score a hat-trick in a European final since 1975 to secure Atalanta's first ever continental trophy.

"One of the best nights of my life. Amazing performance from the team," said Lookman.

"We've got to celebrate, we made history tonight."

The side from Bergamo have long lived in the shadow of nearby giants AC and Inter Milan.

However, they have enjoyed a golden era under Gian Piero Gasperini, reaching the Champions League on four occasions, and now have silverware to show for it.

Leverkusen have made a habit of late fightbacks in their remarkable run to winning a first ever Bundesliga title without tasting defeat.

But this time they failed to dig themselves out of a hole created by a slow start.

"It's a shame that the time it didn't work out for us was in a final," said Leverkusen midfielder Granit Xhaka.



'Wonderful': Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini and his players celebrate winning the Europa League title. Agencies

"It's bitter, definitely, we lost a final today but we go on and we'll make up for it on Saturday (in the German Cup final).

Atalanta's more purposeful play in the opening stages was rewarded after just 12 minutes.

Davide Zappacosta got to the by-line and Lookman caught Exequiel Palacios napping to fire into the top corner at the back post.

The Nigerian has at times endured a nomadic career, bouncing around the lower reaches of the Premier League on loan spells at Fulham and

Leicester after being discarded by RB Leipzig.

But Lookman has found a home in Bergamo, where he will now forever be a hero.

- Drained Leverkusen -

The 26-year-old's second goal was fit to win any final as he nutmegged Xhaka before curling a powerful shot into the far corner.

Leverkusen's flying full-backs have been at the heart of their stunning season and should have got them back in the game either side of half-time.

Alex Grimaldo fired tamely into the arms of Juan Musso before Jeremie Frimpong blazed over with the goal gaping.

Leverkusen were also denied a lifeline when Gianluca Scamacca was lucky to escape with a yellow card for wild challenge on Florian Wirtz.

For the fourth time in seven Europa League knockout matches, Xabi Alonso's men found themselves 2-0 down.

Alonso has enjoyed a rapid rise to become one of Europe's hottest coaching properties.

AFP

Atalanta's hat trick hero Ademola Lookman writes himself into European soccer history

DUBLIN

THERE was an unlikely answer Wednesday to the question of who would score the first hat trick in a men's European club final since 1975.

Ademola Lookman scored all three goals in Atalanta's 3-0 beating of Bayer Leverkusen to win the Europa League title and each had much to admire.

Stealth in the penalty area, balance on the ball, deft footwork, and precise shooting with both feet were factors in a standout performance.

And yet even Atalanta coach, Gian Piero Gasperini, acknowledged he was not buying a pure striker when Lookman arrived at the club two years ago.

"He wasn't overly prolific in England," Gasperini said of a player who was bought from Leipzig, yet had spent the previous two years on loan at Fulham and Leicester in the Premier League.

Lookman also had been a winger at Everton, yet also slipped through the net there after being allowed out on loan to Leipzig and then sold.

Joining Atalanta at almost 25, Lookman had never scored 10 goals in a season. He has now scored 15 times in each of his two seasons in Italy.

The London-born Nigeria international offered a hat trick of ideas after the game for why he has flourished.

Love and support from his family and African home. The trust he felt



Atalanta's Ademola Lookman celebrates with family members holding the trophy after his team won the Europa League final soccer match between Atalanta and Bayer Leverkusen at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin, Ireland, on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. AP Photo.

from Gasperini's managing. The calmness of life in the picturesque city of Bergamo.

"The unwavering support I get and the love back home from people is unbelievable," said Lookman, who won an Under-20 World Cup with England before changing eligibility to play for Nigeria in 2022. "It gives me the motivation to try to inspire myself."

On Gasperini, a 20-year veteran of coaching at Italian clubs, he said: "The first few conversations I had with him made me look at football a lot different. Made things simpler in my mind, play my game in a different light."

For a former resident of London and Liverpool, Lookman said his

new home city "gives me a sense of calmness. It has helped me a lot in terms of my living style."

Lookman's family was on the field with him Wednesday, helping him show off the trophy he

helped secure for Atalanta - the club's first senior title for 61 years.

"I have a lot of love for the people I call family. I owe them a lot," he said. Atalanta captain Berat Djimsiti said he told

Lookman before the game "we need the best version of Ademola."

"I see it for myself in every training it's hard to play against him," Djimsiti said, "and today was incredible."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Lookman hat-trick fires
Atalanta to Europa
League, ends Leverkusen's
unbeaten run

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A female junior cricketer is pictured bowling during a practice session that took place in Geita recently. Geita is of late one of the regions now carrying out the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)-supervised junior development program, which includes hosting leagues bringing together youthful cricketers to gain experience. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Nyankumbu Girls clobber Ukombozi Girls in 2024 TCA Junior League

By Guardian Correspondent

DOMITILA Asafu and Eliza Cosmas put in solid batting showing to guide the Nyankumbu Girls cricket outfit to a comprehensive four-wicket drubbing of Ukombozi Girls in the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Junior League clash that took place in Geita last weekend.

The TCA-organized showdown played in a 20-over format, involves girls' cricket squads from across Geita Town made up of youthful cricketers seeking to step up the promotion of cricket from the grassroots.

The clash witnessed Nyankumbu Girls winning the toss and electing to bowl, limiting Ukombozi Girls to 49 runs for the loss of all wickets in 13.5 overs of the scheduled 20-over tie.

Penina Chacha's 13 runs, which included two fours, turned out to be the only display worth writing home about when the Ukombozi Girls were put in to bat first.

The opener was so far the only performer with a two-digit score in the batting squad, considering the rest of the batters could hardly compliment her spirited showing as they exited the crease in quick succession.

Neema Felix, captain Diana Samson, Pilly Emmanuel, and Rebecca Joseph were the performers who also chipped in during the Ukombozi Girls' turn with the bat.

Neema, who came in at number four, ended five runs short of a two-digit score, fellow batters Diana, Pilly, and Rebecca made their way back to the pavilion with four runs each.

Evalina Sospeter fielded as a top-order batter, and Liana Linus assigned as a low-order batter, also sought to make their presence felt with three runs apiece for the batting side.

Nine extra runs given away by Nyankumbu Girls' bowling unit - which were so far nine wides - slightly bolstered Ukombozi Girls' total.

Alice Yona (3-14 in 3.5 overs), Lispa Alex (3-12 in three overs), and Suzana Amos (2-18 in four overs) led Nyankumbu Girls' bowling attack and kept Ukombozi Girls' batting unit in check.

Needing 50 runs from 20 overs to come out victorious, Nyankumbu Girls successfully reached the target-recording 53 runs for the loss of six wickets in mere 14.2 overs.

The opening batting duo of Domitila and Eliza solidly cracked shots all over the ground and gallantly propelled Nyankumbu Girls to the successful chase.

Domitila was the batter with the most runs when Nyankumbu Girls took the crease to chase their opponents' total, given she ended with 15 runs and cleared the boundary once. The fellow opening batting partner, Eliza, was equally ruthless - having posted 13 runs that included a boundary.

Despite ending five runs short of a two-digit score, the other top-order batter Lispa Alex had a worthy contribution to her outfit's chase. Quick dismissals of top-order batter, Joyce Yusuph, and middle-order batter Suzana Amos, who ended with one run apiece, could hardly frustrate the batting squad's resolve, thanks to the tenacity showcased by the fellow top-order batters.

Low-order batter Halima Adam, also the squad's skipper, ended the innings with bat in hand while chipping in with five runs. She wound up her outfit's innings with Leticia Erick who notched one run not out.

Ten wides conceded by the Ukombozi Girls' bowling unit also played a pivotal role in Nyankumbu Girls' pursuit of victory.

Tabiza Joseph, who ended with 3-13 in four overs, was by far the bowler with a stellar display in Ukombozi Girls' unsuccessful attempt to defend its paltry score.

Miguel Gamondi: 'Quality of Yanga players made the difference' in beating Dodoma Jiji



Young Africans attacking midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki (No 10) celebrates with his teammates after scoring one of his two goals during their NBC Premier League match against Dodoma Jiji at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma on Wednesday. Yanga won 4-0. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MIGUEL Gamondi hailed his side's quality after Young Africans took another step towards completing a record points total in the NBC Premier League after a 4-0 victory against Dodoma Jiji at the Jamhuri Stadium.

Young Africans notched up their 24th victory of the season on Wednesday and have now accumulated 74 points, four behind the record of 78, with two games of the campaign still remaining.

Clement Mzize opened the scoring for the champions before Stephane Aziz Ki earned a brace on either side of the half to take his tally to 17 league strikes for the season. Maxi Nzegeli added a fourth.

Gamondi reflected on the game in the Tanzanian capital city and praised his side's gameplay and the efforts made by his players on a pitch he termed as very difficult to play good football.

"We won because of the quality of the players. We are very professional and very serious. Today we played with a totally different team but the structure is the same. We played on a pitch that is very difficult to play good football but they tried to play and made a huge effort.

"In the first half, Dodoma created chances. We knew they would play a lot of long balls and crosses. We probably did not prepare and made a lot of changes, but the qual-

ity of the players for Yanga made the difference.

"I think in the second half it was a fantastic performance. We dominated the game, created chances, and did not allow Dodoma any scoring opportunity.

"I am very happy, and especially for all these Wa-

nanchi coming to celebrate and watch good football," he added.

Young Africans' title success was confirmed on Monday last week, and they then booked their spot in the CRDB Bank Federation Cup final with an extra time 1-0 semi-final victory over

Ihefu at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha on Sunday.

They will celebrate their NBC Premier League title win in two stages.

First, they'll have a trophy presentation at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on the penultimate match of the

campaign against Tabora United tomorrow and then a title parade.

For winning the league, Young Africans will also be awarded Sh500 million from the TV revenue pool and Sh100 million from the title sponsor.

...Stephane Aziz Ki Yanga's future is still up in the air

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

STEPHANE Aziz Ki's Young Africans future remains in the balance with the Tanzanian champions currently still in negotiations to keep him amidst competition from other clubs.

The Burkinabe international attacking midfielder is in the final six months of his contract at Young Africans and the big question of whether he stays or goes is dominating transfer news.

The 28-year-old has played a crucial role in both creating and scoring goals for Young Africans with 17 goals and eight assists so far in the NBC Premier League.

He has helped Young Africans

win a third successive league title as well as reaching the CAF Champions League quarter-final. Aziz Ki has everything in his hands. He can activate a one-year contract extension at Young Africans by himself, while he also has the rest of Africa's elite clubs waiting to snap him up without a transfer fee.

Egypt's Pyramids and South Africa's Orlando Pirates, among other clubs, have been billed as Aziz Ki's next destination, with the player's Young Africans contract due to expire in June.

Young Africans' media officer Ally Kamwe has come out to explain Aziz's current situation, insisting they are facing competition to keep him and urged club members to pay

their membership fees which will go a long way in securing the services of their players.

"Not only for Aziz Ki, but also all Yanga players that you see and hear reports, their stay in the club depends on us, Young Africans' members, to keep the team's coffers flowing. That's number one.

"Specifically on Aziz Ki, who you guys are more interested to know about, I have told you that I do not engage in politics. I don't want to deceive Yanga members with political talk. I am telling them the reality early on so they know what we have to do as Young Africans.

"Aziz Ki is a Young Africans player and has a contract with Young Africans until the end of this season.

Until now we are in talks but Aziz Ki has not signed a new contract. This is a fact. I don't want to engage in politics.

"We face competition from other clubs. What you hear is just propaganda. Clubs that have officially started communicating with Young Africans are from Qatar and South Africa. Every day we receive offers for Aziz Ki.

"Now about Aziz Ki staying, I taught your colleagues the other day that a contract is an agreement between the club and the player. I want this, I'll give you this, and the contract is done. The club will give you this, if the player does not want it, then there's no contract. That's how contracts work," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

