



SMART MONEY

Minister roosts for special monetary policy targeting agriculture sector

Balancing domestic income mobilisation crucial amidst diminished donor support

OUTLOOK ANALYSIS
The West needs to reinvest in the global



30,000 livestock gone as 1,042 households leave Ngorongoro

By Francis Kajubi

PRESSURE on the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) had diminished somewhat after 1,042 households with 6,461 family members with 29,919 head of livestock relocated from the zone to various villages.

Richard Kiza, CEO for the Ngorongoro Conservation Areas Authority (NCAA) said while presenting a three-year report from 2021 to the start of 2024 at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday on relocation trends in the zone.

The families relocated to Msomera village in Handeni district and Saunyi village in Kilindi district both in Tanga region as well as Kitwa B village in Simanjiro district in Manyara region.

Relocating families were each compensated with a 2.5 acre of land and 10m/- inducement cash for those moving to Tanga

TURN TO Page 2

TRC starts SGR trials with cautious speeds

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) yesterday started trial journeys on the standard gauge railway (SGR) electric train from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro.

TRC director general Masanja Kadogosa told journalists after arrival that the train spent more than three hours contrary to the projected time of two hours when operations actually start.

The train left Dar es Salaam at around 9:40am and arrived in Morogoro at 12:45pm, with the South Korean-made train cruising between 50 and 130 kilometres per hour.

The first trial trip avoided reaching speeds of up to 160 kilometres per hour, with the TRC CEO explaining that it was vital to take precautions during trials, as proper operations haven't yet been permitted by the responsible authorities.

At a future moment the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) will conduct an assessment to allow that trains cruise at 160 kilometres per hour, he specified.

The trials started in a series to ensure all the systems such as electrical circuits, signalling and breaks function properly, ready for

TURN TO Page 2



HISTORY IN THE MAKING: An electric train operated by the state-run Tanzania Railways Corporation pictured along the Pugu (Ilala District) stretch of the Standard Gauge Railway in Dar es Salaam Region yesterday. It was during a test run between the country's commercial capital, Dar es Salaam, and Morogoro Region, pending the envisaged official start of regular services this July. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Cruise ships now docking at Kilwa Island

TAWA has on the other hand restored classical ruins in Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Kilwa

KILWA Island is slowly but surely emerging as a starlet in global destinations of large luxury cruise ships.

In the past four weeks the historical archipelago has received over 850 high-end tourists sailing into Kilwa Kisiwani aboard luxury liners. Numerous cruise ships are expected to drop their anchors there in the coming

months, public authorities affirm.

Christopher Ndubiagai, the district commissioner, said here yesterday that the precinct with its glass-clear sea waters and soft beach sand is enabling visitors to skip crowded destinations for the pristine cocoon.

Since the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) took control of the Kilwa Kisiwani

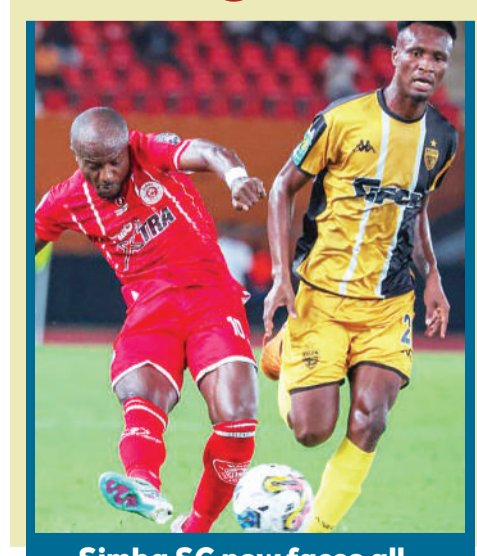
TURN TO Page 2



An inflatable boat (foreground) ferries tourists back to their cruise liner after a tour of Kilwa Kisiwani, an island in Lindi Region, at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

SPORTS

Page 20



Chinese firms contracted for long-delayed fuel tanks farm

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

TWO major Chinese firms, the China Railway Major Bridge Engineering Group Co. Ltd and Wuhuan Engineering Co. Ltd, yesterday signed a 678.6bn/- contract with the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to build 15 fuel tanks and partial improvement of the port of Dar es Salaam.

Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa said at the signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam that the project was gestating for over ten years. It will take two years to completion it will have total holding capacity for 420,000 tonnes.

Six tanks with capacity for 30,000 tonnes

TURN TO Page 2

Cruise ships now start docking at Kilwa Island

FROM PAGE 1

there have been major improvements, he said, noting that the walkways are well paved, with a concrete pier for easy access by passengers from docked vessels to land.

There are also comfortable hotel facilities in case one wants to take a rest," he further stated, while TAWA board chairman Maj. Gen. (rtd) Khamis Semfukwe earlier said that upwards of 15 cruise ships are expected to anchor at Kilwa in the course of this year.

Six cruise ships are expected to arrive during March, while for the rest of the year a luxury liner or two will be sailing into the island each month, he said.

TAWA has on the other hand restored classical ruins in Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara.

With coral and lime mortar, the ancient structures include the great mosque, the main palace and little palace, several other mosques, public squares and the prison, all featuring in explaining Kilwa as among the seven World Heritage Sites for Tanzania listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

As more tourists flock to Kilwa the latest luxury liner, Le Bougainville, a floating luxury hotel run by French cruise ship operator Ponant, docked at Kisiwani with 140 tourists among them French, Chinese and German travellers. Ponant le Bougainville had previously called port at Zanzibar and from Kilwa it will be heading to the Seychelles. A second Ponant luxury cruise ship is already on the way to Kilwa with more than 150 visitors aboard, the TAWA executive added.



Six cruise ships are expected to arrive during March, while for the rest of the year a luxury liner or two will be sailing into the island each month



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi tours Malindi fish market in Unguja Urban District yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

TRC starts SGR trials tied to cautious speeds

FROM PAGE 1

TRC to start SGR operations when the testing is over and it is commissioned, he said.

Starting the trials is tied to an implicit schedule directed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to ensure that operations commence by June, he said, explaining that the locomotives test

was successful.

TRC has now started testing four passengers' coaches, while testing the remaining wagons follows until it is ascertained that all the systems function properly, he said.

Testing of coaches from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma will

continue in the second week of March, he said, noting that TRC has sufficiently trained local technicians to operate the trains. The first batch of 167 technicians dispatched to five countries had returned, thus having 20 locomotive drivers and over 200 electrical circuits,

signals and telecommunication technicians, he said.

TRC is set to despatch 80 engineering cadets of different cadres for training, the first set in electric multiple unit (wagons) cadets coming back next month, he said.

TRC started testing its first

electric locomotive on January 10 after it was delivered from South Korea, following a contract award in July 2021.

TRC awarded the South Korean manufacturer a 335.4bn won contract to supply 17 four-axle 25 kV 50 Hz electric locomotives and 10 EMUs, he added.



Traders in Morogoro converge at a wholesaler's shop in the municipality yesterday to buy sugar, a commodity for months now in short supply across Tanzania.. Photo: Correspondent Christina Haule

30,000 livestock gone as 1,042 households leave Ngorongoro

FROM PAGE 1

and Manyara regions, while those moving to places of their choice are paid 15m/- to offset some costs, he said, elaborating that nearly 150 households were registering for relocation each week.

A total of 551 households with 3,010 family members plus 15,521 livestock were relocated to Msomera village as of January 2023 when the first phase of relocation was accomplished, he said.

July 2023 saw the second relocation after 2,500 residential units were built in Msomera village, 1,000 units in Saunyi village and 1,500 units in Kitwa B village.

During 2020/2021 NCAA attracted 191,614 tourists, reaching 752,332 tour-

ists during 2022/23, while conservation authorities there project that tourist arrivals will rise to one million for 2023/24.

By late December NCAA had received 534,065 tourists, ten percent higher than visitors for the first half of 2022/23, he said, pointing at record revenues, reaching 171bn/- in 2022/23 from 31bn/- in 2020/21.

NCAA projected 200bn/- revenues for this financial year and at the end of the first half it had collected 123bn/-, he stated, affirming that this is an increase of 12 percent from fiscal 2022/23 first half.

In restoring the tourism sector after the Covid-19 stoppage the government had extended 6.6bn/- to the NCAA to

fund various projects, with 69bn/- disbursed for gardening construction covering 29.5kilometers from the NCAA main entrance to Seneto, he specified.

NCAA plans to build 83 kms connecting Lodoare gate, the NCAA main entrance and Golini in the Serengeti National Park, he asserted, highlighting that Treasury has disbursed 25bn/- arising from the visit to China by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The cash from November 2022 has been allocated to improving the Ngorongoro Lengai UNESCO Geopark and a museum block to be constructed at Lodoare.

NCAA has during the past three years managed to control elephant poaching,

reducing incidents from 25 in one year to one such incident last year while arresting 175 poaching suspects, he explained.

Land use survey and planning is being conducted for 36 villages covering 2,500 square kms bordering the Pololeti game reserve area, he said.

Established under the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) Act Cap 413 in 1959 by splitting the Serengeti National Park, it covers an area of 8,292 sq. kms, where at that time it had a population of nearly 8,000 people.

From 261,000 livestock at the time, up to the 2022 census the area harboured over 100,000 people holding 850,000 head of livestock, thus the relocation plans, he added.

Chinese firms contracted for long-delayed fuel tanks farm

FROM PAGE 1

each are meant for holding diesel, five similar tanks will hold petrol, three such other tanks are reserved for jet fuel and one tank stayed for interface processes, he stated.

The project was drawn up in 2015 and adopted in 2017 but its implementation was delayed due to various reasons, even as it promises substantial benefits to the government and oil traders, he said.

"We have struggled for more than ten years to start this project. Today, we are going to write a new history in our nation because this project was announced many years ago but its implementation never took place. It is a project of great benefit to our country in the oil transportation sector," the minister declared.

Completion of the project will help prevent losses from demurrage charges for delays in fuel unloading, as upwards of \$25,000 was being paid daily for a loaded ship, adding to \$0.25m monthly.

He urged the TPA management to build a well-equipped dock at Kigamboni area to keep up with the pace and size of the port. The current dock at Kurasini is insufficient and does not meet port standards and operations, he specified.

The Kurasini dock is small considering the scale of fuel operations, hence the need for a fuel unloading dock, he said, noting that ships stay for a long time, resulting in inefficiency and lack of productivity in fuel import operations.

TPA needs to ensure the implementation of the project by overseeing it on the basis of the contractual timetable, thus investment value for money, sparing the government additional costs in the case of contractors requesting extension for project implementation, he emphasised.

TPA director general Plasduce Mbossa said that the project will also reduce demurrage charges in cutting unloading time to be aligned to the Tanzania Zambia Oil Pipeline (TAZAMA), taking 48 hours to unload oil at the single point mooring (SPM).

"In other words, there will be an average saving of eight days, which is equivalent to \$ 0.2m as this cost affects pump prices, hence reducing fuel prices, diminishing the fuel crisis and cutting complaints among fuel companies" he elaborated.

The project will also strengthen fuel storage by ensuring sufficient fuel reserves, sorting out the 15 days oil storage limit at present, enhancing confidence among oil exporters as they can store their fuel in the port tanks, he said.

Deus Sangu (Kwela), the Public Investments Committee (PIC) chairman in the National Assembly, urged TPA to put up an emergency dock for ships, suggesting that the port can be a shipping and storage hub for neighbouring countries.

Majaliwa describes Samia as exemplary leader over execution of CCM's 2020-2025 election manifesto

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister and CCM's Central Committee member Kassim Majaliwa has described President Samia Suluhu Hassan as a leader who implements all strategic projects as stipulated in the ruling CCM election manifesto 2020-2025.

Majaliwa made the remarks on Sunday when speaking at the party meeting at Kavuu area in Mpimbwe Council in Mlele District, Katavi Region.

"It is an undeniable fact that President Samia, who is also the party national chair, has been an example of the great success achieved by our country at the moment," he said.

Majaliwa stated: "Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan has continued to oversee the implementation of the CCM Manifesto, by implementing various health including access to health services, starting at the district, regional, zonal and referral levels."

He said that President Samia has strengthened economic diplomacy with various countries in parallel with promoting tourism, the Kiswahili language and marketing Tanzanian products abroad.

The premier also urged Tanzanians to continue to believe in CCM as it has always been a pillar to unite Tanzanians in building an independent nation economically, politically and culturally, and a nation with unity, peace, stability and solidarity.

"This nation, under CCM, we've a great ability to be independent and bring great economic and social development. This has become evident through the great success achieved in building our nation and improving the lives of Tanzanians in various fields."

According to him, CCM has become a pillar of peace, unity and solidarity among Tanzanians and thus a catalyst for development in the country.

"The importance of our party has continued to be seen in the way it has been serving Tanzanians while our country maintains unity and peace among the people."

Kavuu MP, Geoffrey Pinda said Kavuu State and Mpimbwe Council in general have made great strides in the health, education, infrastructure and community development sectors.

Pinda said 1.2bn/- has been given to pay for free education and 238m/- has been used to renovate old schools.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, currently on an official tour of Mara Region, in jovial mood when launching a water project in Sazira ward, Bunda District, yesterday. Photo: PMO

Investors advised to utilise EPZA digital portal

By Guardian Reporter

THE Economic Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) has encouraged investors in the country to utilise the authority's new digital system to update their information as an important opportunity for them to expand their businesses.

Dubbed: "EPZA Business Facilitation Portal", the system was launched last year in order to reach investors with timely, smooth and efficient services.

William Msoffe, EPZA acting head of the procurement department made the call at the weekend during the visit to various factories in Lindi, Mtwara and Ruvuma regions.

"This system is a very huge opportunity for investors as they will be able to access important business information from EPZA, update their information and thus improve their plans," he said.

He added it was important for the investors to update their information using the new digital system because granting of licenses to investors who want to invest under EPZA has been simplified.

The official said that during the visit, a total of seven factories in Lindi region, 10 factories in Mtwara

region and a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for the production of goods for export in Ruvuma region were assessed.

Msoffe said that the major purpose of the visit was to witness progress of the investors, update information of the investors and to hear challenges facing the investors who are more than 200 in the country.

The tour also aimed to provide education on Export processing zones and SEZ programmes to various stakeholders.

He added that the assessment will enable the authority to be able to work on various recorded challenges of investors and thus achieve its goal to transform the country's industrial sector.

"Promoting establishment of more factories helps create jobs, increase the competitiveness of domestic raw materials and increase the nation's foreign exchange," he added.

Msoffe said: "The government's emphasis for industries in this country is to promote processing and value addition of various produce and raw materials; with this, many youth will get employment but also stimulate growth of technology in the country."

He said that, currently, the Authority through EPZ SEZ programmes is producing products that meet international standards thus benefiting from

the market opportunities in the American, Asian, European and other markets within the African continent.

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PUBLIC AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

VICTORIA FINANCE PLC WISHES TO ANNOUNCE TO THE PUBLIC THAT WITH THE AUTHORISATION IT GIVES TO THE APPOINTED AUCTIONEER TO SELL THROUGH THE PUBLIC AUCTION THE SECURITIES OF LOAN DEFAULTERS AS DESCRIBED BELOW:

SNO.	CREDITORS NAME	SECURITY	DESCRIPTIONS OF THE SECURITY	AUCTIONEER	DATE
1	UPENDO GODWIN LEMA	MOTOR VEHICLE	T683 DCS- NISSAN DUALIS	JODAC PROFESSIONAL CO. LTD	05/03/2024
2	ANDULILE GREEN JAMES	MOTOR VEHICLE	T328 DOU- DAF TRUCKS	JODAC PROFESSIONAL CO. LTD	05/03/2024
3	RINGSON VICENT MBERESERO	MOTOR VEHICLE	T971 DPL - SUZUKI ESCUDO	JODAC PROFESSIONAL CO. LTD	05/03/2024

All auctions shall be held at the appropriate location on the time and day on which they shall be broadcast through brochures and advertising vehicles subject to permission from the relevant agencies of the Government.

AUCTION TERMS:

- 25% of the price will be paid on the day of the auction and the remaining 75% will be paid within a fourteen days.
- Failing to complete the payment will result in the auction being repeated and the money paid will not be returned.
- The costs of changing ownership will be borne by the buyer.
- The guarantee will be sold as it is.

Mwinyi scraps VAT on sugar ahead of Ramadhan

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has scrapped value added tax (VAT) on sugar products, ahead of the holy month of Ramadan, which is likely to start next month and end in April.

Dr Mwinyi unveiled the move yesterday here when speaking with traders at Jumbi main market and Malindi fish market in Urban West Region in a special visit he made to listen to traders challenges in the two areas.

He made the decision to help the people to reduce the cost of buying the product at high price, urging traders not to increase the price of food arbitrarily without any basic reasons to help the poor islanders.

He said that during the month of Ramadan, traders have developed a habit of raising the prices of products, saying it was good to know that the month is not for increasing prices but for reducing them in order to allow people fast peacefully.

He said the government will do everything possible to reduce the cost of doing business so that traders also reduce the prices of the products they offer to end users.

Dr Mwinyi said that all traders who will be found to be selling the product at a higher

price than the indicative price set after the tax has been removed should not blame the government

He also asked the Zanzibar People's Economic Empowerment Institute (ZEEA) to empower Malindi fish market traders by providing them with capital to develop their businesses, noting that cassava grains, Bananas and fruits are tax-free, beginning yesterday saying traders should not hide through high taxes in raising prices arbitrarily

Speaking about the issue of transport challenges in Malindi fish market due to lack of good management, President

Mwinyi said that the ministry has already formed a committee including vendors, fishermen who will bring solutions to ease doing business.

Zanzibar Minister for Trade and Industrial Development, Omar Said Shaaban, said that they will ensure that they implement the instructions given so that relief is available for products, especially to low-income citizens.

Some members of the public said that inflation was currently high and saying it was a good move for the government to look into this matter so that businesses and citizens can benefit.

TENDER NOTICE

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) intends to enter into Purchase Agreements (PAs) for the period of 12 months for various goods and services. Therefore, Danish refugee Council is inviting vendors for their expression of interest to provide various goods and services to DRC. The expression of interest will base on below categories;

- Supply & Delivery of Medical Equipment
- Supply & Delivery of ICT Equipment
- Supply & Delivery of Core Relief Items
- Provision of Vehicle Hire Services
- Provision of Taxi Services in Dar es salaam
- Provision of Vehicle Repair Services
- Provision of Catering services
- Provision of Travel-Flight Service

Tendering for the above purchase agreement, and all interested bidders must abide to the following instructions before applying;

- Do not use correction fluid when you do an error. Use a new sheet.
- Do not convert the EOI documents to Word or Excel
- Pay attention to where you must sign, stamp, and put the date.
- Do not forget to attach the required documents such as Annex A.1, Annex A.2, Tender and contract award acknowledgement certificate, Supplier profile and registration form, DRC general condition of contract, Company profile, DRC supplier code of conduct after completing all sections in full, sign, stamp, put the date.

The Purchase agreements may result into one DRC purchase Order during the period of twelve months of the Purchase agreement.

Therefore, Danish Refugee Council in Kibondo requests the suppliers to submit their expression of interest for the above services.

The Expression of Interest Documents can be collected at the Danish Refugee Council Office in Kibondo from 27th February 2024 during the working days and hours: 8:00 Am to 16:30 PM at the following address: Old IRC Road Area, Kibondo. You can call on: **+255 653 468 638** or by email **joram.nshatsi@drc.ngo** to receive the soft copy by email.

The closing date for the submission of the bids is 11th March 2024 at 16:00Hrs

You should return your EOI form through **rfq.tza@drc.ngo** OR direct to the DRC office otherwise is void

LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

ENDLINE EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN (2019 - 2024)

Terms of Reference

Endline evaluation of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) strategic plan

INTRODUCTION

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) is Tanzania's human rights advocacy organization established in 1995 as a non-governmental, voluntary, non-partisan and not-for-profit sharing organization, with the purpose of working to empower and conscientize the people of Tanzania on legal and human rights.

LHRC is seeking competent individuals or firms to independently evaluate its 2019-2024 Strategic Plan, with the results informing the development of the new 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION

The Endline Evaluation (EE) aims to independently assess the progress of the current Strategic Plan (2019-2024), providing insights, lessons learned, and actionable recommendations. It evaluates the strategy's relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency within the country context.

Specific Objectives of the assignment

- To assess whether the targets of the Strategic Plan from the results framework have been achieved and provide an account of the qualitative and quantitative factors underpinning success, and lessons learnt.
- To review LHRC's strategic decisions and learning path based on changes in context and priorities of the Strategic Plan. To see also how these changes have helped LHRC make progress.
- To provide actionable recommendations on how to improve the performance of the organization.
- To make recommendations on the way forward for the LHRC next Strategic Plan 2025/2030.

The evaluation will use OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) international evaluation criteria of Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. Specific emphasis will have to be paid on the assessment of gender equality and empowerment of women.

METHODOLOGY

The consultant should propose the methodology to be used to carry out the review. The proposed methodology should address sufficiently the main objectives and questions outlined within the ToR (Terms of Reference), specifying the sub-questions, appropriate techniques of data collection and analysis that will be undertaken.

REQUIRED SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

The Endline Evaluation is expected to be performed by a team including three multi-disciplinary team members, one of them being the designated team leader. At least one team member must be female. The team will have the following competencies and/or experience: specifically, the Lead consultant should have the following competencies.

- Bachelor's degree in law, Program Management, and a master's degree in any relevant field.
- Minimum of seven years of professional work experience in areas pertaining to Human Rights advocacy, Good Governance, Gender, access to justice and legal aid provision.
- Expert knowledge on efforts to enhance access to justice and human rights.
- Excellent research and analytical skills, in both qualitative and quantitative methodologies.
- Previous experience of similar scope of work, anywhere, is an added advantage.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested firms and individuals are encouraged to visit the LHRC website for additional details regarding the proposal submission process at <https://humanrights.or.tz/>.

The deadline for submission of proposals is **March 15, 2024**.



Dr Pascal Mdoe (R), medical director with Haydom Hospital in Mbulu District, pictured on Saturday briefing Norway's Ambassador to Tanzania, Tone Tinned (2nd-L), and Mbulu district commissioner Kheri James (L) on a building construction project at the hospital. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Programme bolsters food security, eases starvation in northern regions

By Correspondent Aisia Rweyemamu, Babati

A Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) programme to eradicate hunger, has significantly contributed to improve food security and reduce malnutrition in three regions of Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara.

A Nansen project is a grant program funded by NORAD collaboration with the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) with the aim of enhancing food security and alleviating hunger in the regions.

Speaking during the official visit by NCA to the project areas, Project Officer, Rev Andrew Munis from Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCT) Northern Diocese said that the efforts focused on bolstering local climate resilient food production.

"We are also focusing on fostering an increase in local value creation and boosting incomes for food producers," he explained.

Rev Munis added that through the grant which officially started June last year, they have been able to reach and support a total of 1,963 farmers from various villages.

He added that, through the project, 80percent of farmers have been economically empowered and helped to reduce Gender

Based Violence (GBV) cases, and 115 youth are employed.

Jamila Juma, one of the beneficiaries of the Nansen project from Endasaki village in Babati Rural District said that the project has helped them to get a drip irrigation system, good seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agronomist support from NCA.

She explained that in the first phase of farming they managed to harvest 860 kg of maize, 330 kg of beans in a quarter acre area, where 660 kg of maize were sold at 660,000/- and 240 kg of beans were sold at 600,000/-, making the total 1.26m/-.

"We got many other benefits including buying one dairy cow and two goats, also each group member got a ration of 90kg of corn and beans, thus helping us to have food security in our families," Jamila explained.

She said they also planned to dig a water well to increase the access to sufficient water all the time and also to increase the production area in order to produce more.

NCA Advisor Karianne Jensen stated that the aim of the grants is to limit some of the negative consequences of the Ukraine war, increasing food security, nutrition and improving the livelihood of people.

Samia to grace key child welfare meet next month

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to grace the international conference on parenting and child development which is expected to take place next month.

The four-day meeting is set to bring on board 1,100 participants from within and outside Tanzania.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, Minister for Social Development, Women, Gender and Special Groups,

made the remarks when speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

She said the meeting will be held in Dar es Salaam from March 11 to 14 and will involve participants from all walks of life globally.

She said that Tanzania had the opportunity to organize the meeting due to several efforts and successes achieved in preparing and implementing the Integrated National Program for Child Care, Development and

Early Childhood Development.

Dr Gwajima said the achievements include being able to strengthen the management and coordination by bringing together all the stakeholders in the child care and development sector to work together child care and development.

"Science tells us that the human brain grows every time, so it is very important to strengthen the management and coordination of these integrated services in the right balance to develop the child

and achieve full growth," she said.

Dr Gwajima said the theme of the International Conference on Child Care, Development and Early Development for the year 2024 is Investing in Early Childhood, Building Human Capital Along the Life Course.

The minister said the slogan encourages all stakeholders including decision makers, policy makers, social leaders and parents to invest in the upbringing, development and initial development of the child.

"This conference is a great opportunity for our country where local experts will be able to exchange professional experience on investment and provision of care services, development and early development of a child," she said.

She said the meeting will help find new methods that will help improve the coordination and implementation of MMMAM interventions by bringing all sectors together targeting children.

"Economically, the conference

will bring foreign currency to the country and for our entrepreneurs they will earn income through the services they will provide to visitors, including tourism services, hotels, transportation and financial services," she said.

The Minister said the conference has attracted major stakeholders in child care and development issues in the world who have confirmed their participation and have professional sessions to discuss investments in child care and development for Tanzania.

Bashe mulls creating agro-finance policy for farmers access soft loans

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

MINISTER for Agriculture Hussein Bashe has underscored the need to come up with a special agro-finance policy in order to enable farmers to access soft loans and improve their projects.

Bashe made the suggestion at the weekend here during the launch of Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB) branch, which will serve three regions of Tabora, Kigoma and Katavi.

According to him, it is important to have a special policy to promote financing of agricultural projects instead of the current situation where farmers have to seek for the loans in commercial banks which also have high interest rates.

"This will greatly improve productivity in the farming sector pulling farmers out of poverty," he said.

He added: "In our country, there are loans of over 20trn/- which are issued but only 10 percent go to the farming sector, I have already discussed this with the Finance Minister and the Central Bank governor, and I'm also seeking time to write to the Minister for Planning," he said.

Bashe said that it is not possible to see the farming sector grow to achieve intended goals, without having robust strategies to fi-

nance the sector.

He said that the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan works hard to lift up the sector and improve the lives of farmers which include construction of modern irrigation infrastructure and expanding TADB services in order to bring agricultural transformation.

"After all these improvements, farmers will need funds to procure inputs. So it is important to have this policy in place to ensure that farming, livestock and fishery projects capitals," he said.

TADB Managing Director, Frank Nyabundege noted that until February, this year, TADB has enabled farmers and livestock keepers by providing loans worth 19,599bn/- in the region of Kigoma (7,209bn/-), Katavi (2,394bn/-) and Tabora (9,996bn/-).

"These loans have been granted for projects of rice, palm, bean, corn, cattle fattening, ginger, chicken, pig and sheep. The bank continues to put in place solid lending strategies for tobacco, cotton and honey crops, as these crops contribute to developing the economy of the regions," Nyabundege said.

Hussein Buchunguka, vice chairman of the Kigoma Cooperatives Forum thanked the bank for its great contribution to empowering farmers to purchase machinery for palm oil processing.



Community Development, Gender and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima (C) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on a major conference on children's rights expected to be held in the city from March 11 to 14 this year. From-L: UNICEF (Tanzania Office) communications officer Usia Ledama, the Community Development ministry's Director of Child Development, Sebastian Kitiku, Tanzania Early Childhood Development Network director Mwajuma Rwebangila and Children's Crossfire communications manager Chiku Lweno. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Merchants near conservancies want more education on natural resources protection

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TRADERS doing business near national park corridors have asked the government to provide them with natural resources conservation education in order to prevent human-wildlife conflicts (HWCs).

The traders urged environmental and natural resource conservation experts to equip with the essential education which will also bar illegal wildlife trade.

Speaking at a stakeholders

meeting during the weekend here, Evaluna Kivunajabei, a beekeeper at Mafyeko ward in Chunya District said that human-wildlife conflicts and illegal trade do not only affect surrounding residents but goes further the country's economic development.

The meeting which brought both public and private sector stakeholders meant to discuss sustainable investment and controlling the illegal wildlife trade.

"It is important for experts from the national parks to train

entrepreneurs and residents living near the working in the areas on how to conserve and protect natural resources," Evaluna said.

She said that in the area where she comes from, there are many beekeepers and entrepreneurs of bee products who are doing their activities in protected areas but they do not have enough knowledge about the conservation of natural resources.

Upendo Christian said that as she conducts her beekeeping and honey production in vari-

ous forests in Songwe District, it was important for her to get more education on forest conservation.

"We have been conducting various activities to generate income and that some entrepreneurs do not have enough understanding about the conservation of natural resources, a situation that makes them do things that affect the resources," she explained.

Dr Elikana Kalumanga, Private Sector Engagement Manager with USAID's Tuhifadhi Maliasili project said they have

continued to equip stakeholders to facilitate sustainable management of natural resources.

According to him, the major goal is to rescue corridors which have been invaded by humans thus affecting conservation efforts.

"We work closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism as well as the President's Office, (Regional Administrations and Local Governments) to heighten protection of the corridors including seven in the Mbeya region," he said.

Tanzania Private Sector

Foundation (TPSF) representative, Deogratius Massawe said many corridors are in a devastating situation due to activities conducted in the areas which are not sustainable.

He also said that many entrepreneurs who conduct their activities in the areas do not have enough knowledge about conservation which leads to destruction of the existing natural resources.

"We will continue to provide education to these entrepreneurs to ensure that there is sustainable investment and for

the Mbeya region, it is the first time to have this training but we have seen that the direction is very good," Massawe said.

District Commissioner Beno Malisa wanted stakeholders to heighten efforts and work hard to support the government in conservation of natural resources.

He said the natural resources found in various national parks and forest reserves are important for strengthening tourism activities as well as increasing income.

Use correct weighing scales, onion traders in Singida told

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

ONION traders at the Misuna Market in Singida municipality have been instructed to ensure that they use correct weighing scales and stop out filing sacks to steal from farmers.

Yagi Kiaratu, Singida Municipal Mayor made the instructions yesterday here when speaking to traders at the market during the launch of the new selling season of the crop.

He said that every trader in the market has the responsibility to ensure that the volume of the crop in sacks complies with the Weight and Measures Act in order to address complaints from farmers.

He said the correct measurement is 100kg for each sack but

many traders have been exceeding the filling to 120kg.

Kiaratu said that the council will continue to work closely with traders to address various challenges at the market.

"The government will also continue to put robust strategies to improve the market which include constructing new infrastructure in order to create a conducive environment for the traders," he said.

Acting manager of the Weight and Measure Agency (WMA) in Singida Region, Willey Amos said out-filing sacks of onions is against the law and that the agency will take stern measures to those who will be found doing so.

He said that those who will be found stealing from farmers by

filling sacks more than the indicative measure of 100kg, will face a fine of 5m/- something which will greatly affect the trader's capital.

Some of the traders at the market called on the government to address various challenges at the market which include multiple levies.



Kiaratu said that the council will continue to work closely with traders to address various challenges at the market



REQUEST FOR TENDER RISING MAIN PROJECT

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following goods:

Supply and Installation of the Structural Concrete and Steelwork for the Rising Main Project

Tender Ref: NM006/2024

Qualification Criteria

No	Reference no	Description of work	Qualification Criteria
1	NM006/2024	<p>Supply and installation of structural concrete and steelwork for the GOKONA Rising Main Project.</p> <p>Drawings and Specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. General Notes and Drawings for Civils CC0296-000-CIV-DWG-0001 Sheet 01-05. ii. General Notes and Drawings for Civils CC0296-000-STR-DWG-0001 Sheet 01-05. iii. Specification: CC0296-000-STR-SPC-0001 and Paint Spec CC0296-000-STR-SPC-0002 <p>Description: Supply and installation of structural concrete and steelwork summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 2No Vertical Dam plugs, anchored, wire mess and shotcreted onto rock face. ii. Plug slab and support columns for the vertical dams. iii. Miscellaneous rock excavations. iv. 10No Pump Plinths. v. MCC and Transformer Plinths. vi. Steel Piping Supports as well as hangers. vii. Crawls beam and associated structure. viii. Levelling Screed for the Pump area. ix. Installation of Thrust Piping Thrust Blocks. x. Water proofing and Sealing where required. <p>Works Excluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> xi. Drilling and Blasting for the main cubbies and 2No vertical dams (Works completed by Barrick) xii. Supply of Pumps, Piping, Valves, MCC, Transformers, Cables, Instruments, Degritters and Agitators. xiii. Electrical and Instrumentation installation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Provide project profiles for similar works performed in an underground environment or sized project in Tanzania completed in the last three years and client reference letters for review. ii. Company Profile and capability statement. These should include details of plant and machinery owned that is relevant to the scope of works. iii. List of Personnel and organogram proposed for the project. Include names, not only roles, and CVs. iv. Completed Bill of Quantities (BOQ) with reference CC0296-000-CIV-BOQ-0001. v. Confirmation in writing on company letterhead that the Bidder will comply to the technical specifications or requirements detailed in documents with references: CC0296-000-CIV-DWG-0001 Sheet 01-05; CC0296-000-STR-DWG-0001 Sheet 01-05; CC0296-000-STR-SPC-0001 and Paint Spec CC0296-000-STR-SPC-0002 or clearly highlight non compliances for review. vi. Class two, weekly works execution schedule in Excel or MS Project format confirming the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Assume three weeks for mobilisation after receiving the PO. ii. Timeframe or period for each line item in the BOQ referenced above. iii. Handover Documentation. vii. Provide Quality Control Plans and procedures governing the quality during the construction process for review and adjudication. viii. Confirmation in writing to comply with Barrick Terms and Conditions. ix. Local Content Compliance

Submission of Proposals

If your company meets the qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the RFP package (BOQ, Technical Specs, etc.), send your request along with your company profile to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective package reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

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

Qualification of any company submitting a "proposal" shall be at the sole discretion of **NMGM**.

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

Key Dates

Last Date to Submit RFP Package request

4 March 2024

North Mara Gold Mine Limited



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL FOOD RESERVE AGENCY
Kizota Industrial Area | P.O.BOX 1050 Dodoma, Tanzania | Phone: +255(0)26 2963953
Fax: +255(0)26 2963950 | E-mail: info@nfra.go.tz | Web: www.nfra.go.tz



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

SALES OF WHITE MAIZE (NON-GMO)

National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) is a Government Agency established under the Ministry of Agriculture of Tanzania by the Executive Agency Act No. 30 of 1997 for the purpose of guaranteeing national food security. One of its responsibilities is to sales/recycle reserved stock.

NFRA expresses its intention to sell **234,750 Metric Tons** of white maize (grade one) reserved in the following zonal warehouses; Arusha (Arusha na Babati-Manyara), Dodoma (Dodoma na Manyoni-Singida), Kipawa (Dar es Salaam), Makambako, Songwe, Shinyanga, Songea na Sumbawanga (Sumbawanga na Mpanda).

SALES CONDITIONS:

- i. Maize will be sold for the foreign market. Eligible applicants include traders, individual buyers, companies, and domestic/foreign institutions with an intention to export maize. Foreign companies/institutions wishing to buy maize from NFRA are invited to submit their applications directly and must comply with the conditions for exporting grain abroad.
- ii. Maize will be sold using Ex - Warehouse/FCA incoterms subject to agreement with NFRA, packed in 50kg/90kg bags. Buyer will be responsible for all costs associated with uplifting and transportation of purchased maize;
- iii. Application letter of interested buyers should indicate; buyer's name and address, contact telephone number, email address, quantity and proposed uplifting warehouses. The application letters **MUST** be attached with legal documents and business licence(s). NFRA has right to relocated proposed uplifting warehouses subject to stock availability;
- iv. The price at which grains are sold fluctuates according to the zone and the designated uplifting warehouse. Hence, the final price will be established upon receiving the buyer's application along with the chosen uplifting warehouse.
- v. NFRA will decide on the final selling prices with respect to market prices, costs related to procurement, storage of grain and other costs found necessary to be included in prices;
- vi. Approved buyers are supposed to effect payment within 7 days after receiving the approval for payments. Uplifting schedule will be subjected to purchased quantity.

All applications for this preliminary stage should reach NFRA Head Office before **7th March, 2024**. For more Information, **please call +255 (0)26 2963953**.

All applications should be addressed to:

Chief Executive Officer,
National Food Reserve Agency,
Kizota, Industrial Area,
P. O. Box 1050,
41114 DODOMA, TANZANIA.
Email: info@nfra.go.tz

Issued by:

Chief Executive Officer,
National Food Reserve Agency.
21st February, 2024



Tanzania Revenue Authority tax supervisor Jamal Ngarawa (R) pictured at the weekend taking an Arusha city trader through the basic business principles and the need for tax compliance. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PS urges BMH to plant more trees to protect environment

By Guardian Reporter

PERMANENT Secretary in the Vice President's Office, Mary Maganga has called upon leadership of the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH) in Dodoma to continue to cooperate in environmental conservation initiatives which includes planting more trees.

Maganga made the call in Dodoma at the weekend when management from the President's office met with the hospital's leadership to discuss various issues meant to promote environmental conservation and cleanliness.

She insisted on the importance of increasing initiatives meant to protect the environment and making the hospital clean through best waste management practices.

She hailed the hospital's efforts to provide quality health services

to people which contribute to reduction of disease burden.

The PS further urged the hospital's leadership to prepare special training for servants at the Vice President's on health and the importance of donating blood.

BMH executive director, Dr Alphonse Chandika thanked the President's Office for providing them cooperation in the hospital's environmental conservation initiatives.

Dr Chandika also asked the office to provide them with an expert who will be able to cooperate with the hospital in all its efforts which include providing education to the public on the importance of protecting the environment.

He added that the hospital was ready to use its time to educate servants and citizens in the area on environmental conservation.

Govt to come up with local content policy to empower local contractors

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is soon expected to launch a local content policy for local contractors that will aim at empowering and supporting locals in the country.

Minister for Works, Innocent Bashungwa unveiled this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the 21st anniversary of the Structured Engineers Apprenticeship Programme (SEAP).

The minister tasked the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) to come up with favourable tender conditions for local contractors that will allow

the participation of more local contractors to compete in tender projects.

"I want to see TANROADS doing away with conditions like setting up huge securities, or turnover on tenders that bar local contractors from competing tenders," he said.

According to him, many projects also were not favourable for local contractors because roads projects being tendered for had long kilometres that hinder local contractors' capacity to compete.

"I want to see these roads cut into smaller portions of 10km or 20 km to allow local contractors

participation. I have already had talks with the African Development Bank on this and they have assured me for a closer collaboration on the matter," he said.

He tasked the Engineers Registration Board (ERB) and Contractors Registration Board (CRB) to team up so as to remove several challenges faced in many projects in the country.

Bashungwa said through collaborative work, the two entities will ensure smooth implementation of projects while at the same time ensuring more qualified professional engineers who are behind the implementation of

various projects.

The 21st anniversary of the SEAP programme will also see the funding of the third phase of the apprenticeship programme from 2024 up to 2034.

Bashungwa acknowledged the support of the Norwegian government, the World Bank and African Development Bank (AFDB) for supporting the SEAP programme to groom more professional engineers.

He said it was not right to see that over sixty years after independence, Tanzania should still have resident engineers and consultant engineers.

Registrar of the Engineers Registrations Board (ERB) Benard Kavisho said SEAP programme has helped to increase the number of female engineers from 3-percent in 2003 to 14-percent this year.

He said this programme is designed to equip female engineering graduates with practical knowledge and experience to become professional engineers.

ERB Board chairman Menye Manga hailed the support of the Norwegian government for its continued support as the SEAP programme enters its third phase.

The ERB Board chairman said at its inception in 2003, they had registered 3 percent of women engineers but the number has now increased to at least 14 percent, this year.

He said the Board is considering commencing the School of Professional Engineers (SOPE) in order to feel the gap of professional resident engineers in various undergoing big projects in the country.

The meeting also witnessed over 300 engineers taking oath as registered engineers having completed three years of their apprenticeship programme.

Jambojet: We're launching direct Z'bar-Mombasa flights in July

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

JAMBOJET airline has announced plans to launch direct flights between Zanzibar and Mombasa on July 1 as it aspires to invest further in the East African aviation sector.

The introduction of direct Zanzibar-Mombasa flights aims at bolstering tourism and trade between the two destinations.

The endeavour is anticipated to strengthen tourism as well as increase inflow and outflow of investments that shall sustain the cultural, religious, historical heritage, and blue economy resources that are a common wealth between the two islands.

Zanzibar becomes the first island in Africa where Jambojet airline operates direct flights from Kenya, according Karanja Ndegwa, CEO of Jambojet.

"The cultural heritage, warmth and richness of Zanzibar has for years attracted travelers from Kenya, elsewhere in Africa and the rest of the world, many of whom are tourists who prefer the scenic island, its pristine beaches and the heritage of Stone Town," added Karanja.

Jambojet continues to work to reach new areas, improve customer experience and open East Africa to the world, he added.

Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed, Minister of Infrastructure, Communications, and Transport, Zanzibar, welcomed Jambojet's initiative, stating that the airline will increase the number of international travelers to Zanzibar, many of whom are tourists and business travelers.

"Considering Zanzibar's 2050 Vision of enhancing the blue economy and increasing the number of visitors to our island, the expansion of infrastructure is essential to help achieve our goal and is a current national priority," said Minister Dr Mohamed.

"The cultural heritage, warmth and richness of Zanzibar has for years attracted travelers from Kenya, elsewhere in Africa and the rest of the world, many of whom are tourists who prefer the scenic island, its pristine beaches and the heritage of Stone Town," added Karanja.



Members of the Fire and Rescue Force in Mbeya Region take primary school pupils in Mbeya city through fire-fighting drills at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

BRAC supports Hanang floods survivors with cement donation

By Guardian Correspondent, Hanang

BRAC Tanzania Finance Limited (BTFL) has donated 1,413 bags of cement worth 25m/- to survivors of mudflow in Hanang District, Manyara Region.

The mudflow happened in December last year in Katesh town leaving many families displaced and facing significant challenges in rebuilding their homes

and communities.

Through this donation, BTFL aims to contribute to the reconstruction efforts and help alleviate some of the burdens faced by the flood survivors.

"In times of crisis, it is imperative for organizations and communities to come together to provide assistance and support to those in need," said Emma Mbagha, BTFL communications manager.

She said the organization was deeply saddened by the devastation caused by the floods and mudflow in Katesh Town, which has affected many people.

"It is our duty to support the affected communities in their time of need. We hope that this donation of cement will aid in the reconstruction efforts and help the flood survivors rebuild their lives," she said.

The donation was received by Hanang District Commissioner Janeth Mayanga.

In the flooding incident over BTFL 500 clients were affected in one way or another and the organization has taken various measures to support them so that they can recover and restart their lives through loan repayment holidays and restructuring of their loans.

BRAC Tanzania Finance Limited's mission is to provide financial services responsibly to people at the bottom of the pyramid with a focus on women entrepreneurs living in rural and hard to reach areas. BTFL currently operates in 27 regions in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar with over 350,000 clients of which 98-percent are women.

Summit in Nairobi addressing biodiversity loss and pollution as environmental crises

NAIROBI

THE world's most powerful UN environmental decision-making body started its sixth session here yesterday.

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) comes at a time when the world faces a "triple planetary crisis" of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

Leila Benali, the president of UNEA-6, acknowledged the challenging circumstances, said: "We are living in a time of turmoil." She said the current turbulent times marked by escalating conflicts and geopolitical tensions call for the urgent need to restore trust in multilateralism and humanity.

"Our response here in UNEA-6 must demonstrate that multilateral diplomacy can deliver," she added, urging the participants to "restore trust in multilateralism, and humanity."

Inger Andersen, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), echoed this sentiment in her opening remarks.

"The world is watching and we need that unity to safeguard planet Earth," she said.

Andersen urged delegates to focus on measures that promote climate justice, enhance air and water quality, and strengthen ocean governance.

This year's assembly boasts a record number of attendees, including heads of state, ministers, and over 5,000 representatives from governments, civil society, and the private sector.

The summit this year will also feature the voices of the younger generation, who issued a strong declaration at the Youth Environment Assembly just a week ago.

The week-long (5-day) assembly will tackle a range of pressing environmental issues through 19 draft resolutions and two draft decisions currently on the table.

These resolutions aim to address various environmental problems such as transitioning to net-zero emissions, improving air and water quality, protecting oceans and marine environments, and building resilience to droughts and other climate-related disasters.



Prisons officers escort to jail Security Group of Africa (SGA) workers who have been facing economic sabotage and theft charges involving more than 780m/- and who were yesterday sentenced by Dar es Salaam's Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court to two years' imprisonment. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

ECOWAS lifts coup sanctions on Niger in new push for dialogue

ABUJA

WEST Africa's regional bloc ECOWAS has lifted travel, commercial and economic sanctions imposed on Niger that were aimed at reversing the coup staged in the country last year, a senior official announced at the weekend.

The sanctions will be lifted with immediate effect, the president of ECOWAS Commission, Omar Aliou Touray said after the bloc's meeting in Nigeria's capital, Abuja that aimed to address existential threats facing the region as well as implore three junta-led nations that have quit the bloc to rescind their decision.

The lifting of the sanctions on Niger is "on purely humanitarian grounds" to ease the suffering caused as a result, Touray told reporters. "There are targeted (individual) sanctions as well as political sanctions that remain in force," he added.

The summit of the 15-nation regional economic bloc in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, came at a critical time when the 49-year-old bloc's

future is threatened as it struggles with possible disintegration and a recent surge in coups fueled by discontent over the performance of elected governments whose citizens barely benefit from mineral resources.

Decisions to be made at the summit "must be guided by our commitment to safeguarding the constitutional order, upholding democratic principles, and promoting the social and economic wellbeing of the citizens," Nigerian President Bola Tinubu, current chairman of ECOWAS, said at the start of the summit.

Top of the agenda is the recent decision by Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger to leave ECOWAS, or the Economic Community of West African States, over "inhumane sanctions." That move is unprecedented since the bloc was established in 1975 and grew to become the region's top political and economic authority.

"We must re-examine our current approach to the quest for constitutional order in our member states," Tinubu said. "I there-

fore urge them to reconsider the decision ... and not to perceive our organization as the enemy."

The summit is also expected to review the harsh sanctions imposed on Niger. This week, one of the bloc's founding leaders and Nigeria's former military ruler, Yakubu Gowon, urged regional leaders to lift the sanctions, noting that the bloc is "more than a coalition of states (but) is a community established for the good of our people."

In the past year, however, the bloc has struggled to resolve the region's most pressing challenge: The Sahel, the vast, arid expanse south of the Sahara Desert that stretches across several West African countries, faces growing violence from Islamic extremists and rebels, which in turn has caused soldiers to depose elected governments.

The nine coups in West and Central Africa since 2020 followed a similar pattern, with coup leaders accusing governments of failing to provide security and good governance. Most of the coup-hit countries are also among the poorest and least developed in the world.

The sanctions against Niger and the threat of military intervention to reverse the coup were "the likely triggers to an inevitable outcome" of the three countries' withdrawal from the bloc, said Karim Manuel, an analyst for the Middle East and Africa with the Economist Intelligence Unit.

With their withdrawal, "the West African region will be increasingly fragmented and divided (while) the new alliance between Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger fragments the West African bloc and reflects an axis of opposition to the traditional structures that have underpinned the region for decades," Manuel added.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

WAPCOS Limited intends to hire a local agency in Zanzibar having experience in 132kV & above Transmission, Substation Projects for providing services of National Experts in assisting WAPCOS for its ongoing Project in Zanzibar.

The qualification criteria and scope of services etc. are included in the Tender Document which can be downloaded by interested firms from the website:

<https://www.wapcos.co.in/current-tender-list.aspx>



INVITATION NOTICE PRE-QUALIFICATIONS OF SUPPLIERS FOR GOODS AND PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE YEAR 2024 - 2026

Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) is a voluntary, private, non-governmental, nonpartisan, and non-profit-making civil society children's rights organization.

Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) invites applications from eligible, competent, and qualified suppliers and service providers (including current suppliers / service providers) to apply for pre-qualification for the supply of goods and provision of Services to the organization for its offices in Dar es Salaam, Tarime, and Mpwapwa for the period April 2024 - March 2026 under the following categories:

LOT NO.	GOODS CATEGORIES	SERVICES CATEGORIES
1	Supply of Office Furniture and Fittings	Provision of Legal Services
2	Supply of Office Equipment (Laptops, Printers and Photocopiers, Projectors, and Cameras etc.)	Provision of Audit Services
3	Supply of Office Stationery and printer Cartridges	Provision of Insurance Brokerage Services
4	Supply of First Aid Kits	Provision of Office security Services
5	Supply and hire of Tents, chairs, tables etc.	Provision of Office Internet Services
6	Supply of Motor vehicles	Provision of Hotel & Conference Facilities
7	Supply of Motor Fuel, oils, and Lubricants	Provision of Publishing and Printing services. (Branded Banners, fliers, Booklets, Brochures, Calendars, Mugs, T-shirts etc.)
8	Vehicle Fitting and Parts Supplies	Provision of Office Cleaning Services
9	Supply of Multipurpose Detergents, Tissue Paper etc.	Provision of Repair and Maintenance of Office Equipment.
10	Supply of Assorted Food items (Milk, Sugar, Groceries etc.)	Provision of Event Management and Decorations services
11	Supply of cutlery, Crockery and Related Kitchen Equipment	Provision of Catering and function hire services
12	Supply of smart equipment (GPS Devices, CCTV etc.)	Photography and Video coverage Services
13	Supply of Hardware Supplies	Media Houses and Advertising Services
14	Supply of Generators	Travel Agents Services (Air, Tour & Car hire)
15	Supply of Fire protection Equipment/Accessories.	Repair & Maintenance/Service of Motor Vehicles
16	Supply of software Solutions and Licenses	Repair & Maintenance/Service of AC systems
17	Supply of AC units.	Other Consultancy Service i.e. (Research, Data collection, Trainers & facilitators, Policymakers, Translation services, Manual development, etc.)

Interested parties are requested to submit their Complete Pre-qualification documents/proposal detailing the services, goods, and work they can provide, along with a comprehensive business profile and all legal supporting documents. All submissions should be sent to procurement@cdf.or.tz marked "Invitation for pre-qualification and the category applied for." No later than **7th March 2024 at 12:00**. This is not a specific call for tender and does not constitute a commitment to procure or engage in any form of contractual commitment. Only short-listed or selected parties will be notified by email within two (2) weeks from the date of closure of applications for any future tenders and procurement activities. In case you don't hear from us four (4) weeks after the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful; NO separate or individual communication shall be made by CDF. Thank you for your interest in collaborating with us.

Submissions should be addressed to:

Executive Director
Children's Dignity Forum (CDF)
Ally Sykes Road,
House No. 33 Ndafu Street, Mbezi beach,
P.O Box 34241,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Mobile: +255 743 902 858



Vendors pick fresh maize from a wholesaler at Dar es Salaam's Mawasiliano mixed-goods market yesterday, the going price standing at an average of 300/- per piece. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Importance of taking initiative for restoring nature and biodiversity

By Telesphor Magobe

ENVIRONMENTAL destruction and biodiversity loss is accelerating at an alarming pace to the extent of threatening the existence of terrestrial species, according to the Living Planet Index (LPI) 2022.

The LPI 2022 tracks trends in mammals, fish, reptiles, birds and amphibians around the world since 1970-2018 and is published after every two years. 'Based on 6,617 monitored populations, representing 1,398 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish, these populations have declined by an average of 83 per cent.'

It says the biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems and their services, stem from increasing demand for energy, food and other materials because of rapid economic growth, an increase in human population, international trade, and technology choices.

The LPI 2022 defines biodiversity as "the variety of life and the interactions between living things at all levels on land, in water and in the sea and air - genes, populations, species and ecosystems."

To address these crises, the LPI 2022 suggests building a nature-positive society in which people live in harmony with nature. This involves taking initiative at community level to restore nature.

"We know that the health of our planet is declining, and we know why. We also know that we have the knowledge and means to address climate change and biodiversity loss. First, we explore how values, rights and norms can take centre stage in decision and policy-making to drive the transformative change we need. In



“ They are about 19 group members, who have started a farm on which to grow mangrove propagules. They collect them from mangrove trees and go to plant them in bare areas. ”

addition, we consider models and scenarios which help us to imagine the future and understand what role economics, technology, consumption and production should also play."

The LPI 2022 says action to secure a nature-positive world can be taken by everyone, and can also be adopted nationally and internationally, to live in harmony with nature. Yet, we bear the brunt of heat-waves, floods, rain and windstorms and catastrophes, but what initiative do we take to mitigate climate change?

The LPI 2022 says the earth has warmed by 1.2°C since pre-industrial times, and current human activity and political pledges will fail to prevent it

from warming more than 2°C. Furthermore, it says global warming beyond 1.5°C will cause disasters to people and nature as the risk of tipping points escalates beyond this level. Thus, we must do something about it for present and future generations.

In Tanzania, while many people may not be doing much to mitigate climate change and biodiversity loss, there are initiatives taken at community level to restore nature that can inspire us to engage in positive change. Somanga Village in Kilwa District, Lindi Region, is a good example.

The village is situated along the shores of the Indian Ocean and along Dar es Salaam-Lindi

Road, about 250 kilometres from Dar es Salaam. Some members from the fishing community in 2020 formed a group of 20 members (13 women and 7 men) to conserve the environment through the restoration of coral reefs on a coral reef site called "Mwamba Fisi" (about five kilometres off Somanga North Bay) in the Indian Ocean.

Mwamba Fisi is a 1km² area used as a pilot project. It is implemented with support from Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE). North Somanga Coral Reef Conservation Group engages in coral reef restoration.

Group activities include holding climate change awareness and action plan meetings,

making small bricks on which to artificially fix the pieces of coral reef (three pieces of coral reef on each brick) harvested from a colony of coral reefs in the Indian Ocean and diving into the ocean to relocate the pieces of coral reef that have been attached to small bricks to the bottom of the ocean.

With time the relocated coral reefs grow to full maturity as natural coral reefs. The coral reef conservation group has started with a small coral reef site where coral reef damage has occurred and after coral reef restoration is completed the group will move to other sites with damaged coral reefs.

There is also a Mangrove conservation group, which

also comprises of women and men. They are about 19 group members, who have started a farm on which to grow mangrove propagules. They collect them from mangrove trees and go to plant them in bare areas. The group is also engaged in beekeeping as a means to deter people from unauthorised mangrove felling.

Somanga coral reefs were damaged when dynamite fishing in the Indian Ocean was rampant and before the introduction of beach management units (BMUs), but after coral reef restoration, according to group members, some rare fish species, which had disappeared, have started re-appearing.

This is evidence that coral reef restoration initiative is not in vain. Some members of the coral reef restoration group were illegal fishers, but after realising the damage they had caused to the ocean ecosystem they reformed and turned into staunch supporters of coral reef restoration.

The group engaged in mangrove restoration was prompted by rampant mangrove loss caused by human activities such as cutting down some mangrove trees for building houses. Mangroves protect coastal areas against inundation and strong winds, and together with coral reefs, are habitats and breeding-grounds for aquatic life, including fish. When fish habitats and breed-grounds are threatened aquatic life is also threatened as well as the fishing community.

Somanga village serves as an example where ecological restoration is taking place as a community initiative and where the fishing community is aware of environmental destruction and has taken initiative to conserve and protect the environment.

This shows that through the initiatives we take to restore nature (to be in harmony with nature) we contribute to make this world a better place for us to live in.

Teachers' shortage crisis: Government initiates online teaching trials

By Adonis Byemelwa

IN a bold move to address the pressing issue of shortage of qualified teachers in the country, the government has initiated trials for an innovative online teaching system.

The groundbreaking system, currently undergoing tests in selected schools in the Coast and Dodoma regions, allows a single teacher to instruct students across multiple regions simultaneously.

While the potential benefits, including simplified teaching processes and mitigation of the shortage, are evident, students at Dodoma Secondary School express optimism about the system enhancing their understanding and performance in national examinations.

However, amidst these efforts, a new challenge emerges - a rapidly growing shortage of qualified teachers versus the escalating numbers of students at both primary and secondary school levels.

A study sourced from the National Bureau of Statistics reveals a concerning drop in the total number of teachers between 2017 and 2021, coupled with a significant increase in student enrollment. This widening gap raises questions about the government's ability to provide quality education to a growing number of Tanzanian students.

While the government is exploring innovative solutions, such as the online teaching system, the effectiveness of such methods comes into question.

An international study on online charter schools in the US, a similar initiative, reveals

'significantly weaker academic performance' in mathematics and reading compared to conventional schools. This raises concerns about the potential success of online teaching in a Tanzanian context.

Amidst these challenges, education experts, including HakiElimu policy analyst Makumba Mwemezi, emphasize the need for comprehensive budgetary considerations.

The budget should reflect the urgency of addressing teacher shortages and improving working conditions, as inadequate allocations may perpetuate existing challenges.

As Tanzania grapples with the complex task of balancing innovation with the need for qualified educators, the push for online teaching as a solution is met with skepticism.

Critics argue that the move might inadvertently contribute to rising unemployment, while practical issues such as unreliable power supply, lack of internet connections, and the difficulty of teaching science subjects online remain prominent concerns.

Tanzania's education system is at a crossroads, grappling with a severe shortage of qualified teachers and the introduction of unconventional methods, such as online teaching trials, to bridge this alarming gap.

While these trials hold promise in theory, it is essential to approach them with careful consideration and strategic implementation to ensure they effectively address the profound challenges facing the nation's education landscape.

The shortage of qualified educators has emerged as a criti-



Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Prof Adolf Mkenda

cal concern, exacerbated by a decline in teacher numbers from 2017 to 2021. This issue is further intensified by a surge in student enrollment, attributed to the introduction of the free education program.

The resulting imbalance between the available teaching workforce and the escalating student population poses a grave threat to the overall quality of education in Tanzania.

In Shinyanga Region, some unemployed teachers, forced to take up alternative occupations like motorcycle driving and trading, express concerns over the potential implementation of an online teaching system as a cost-cutting measure.

They draw parallels between this scenario and the possibility of the Parliament conducting online deliberations to avoid hefty daily sitting allowances, which they view as excessive. This sentiment is fueled by the belief that such funds could be more equitably distributed among the nation's citizens.

As the government explores innovative solutions, such as the online teaching system, it is crucial to acknowledge the potential ramifications, including the risk of exacerbating unemployment issues.

Education experts and stakeholders emphasize that a holistic approach is urgently

needed to tackle the teacher shortage crisis. Rather than relying on short-lived measures that may not comprehensively address the impending challenges, there is a dire need to invest in sustainable solutions.

Censors argue that the government should prioritize increasing the education budget to at least 20 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), aligning with UNESCO's recommendations.

This strategic allocation of resources could facilitate the recruitment and training of more teachers, improving working conditions and ensuring a conducive environment for both educators and students.

Addressing teacher shortage should be a priority, considering the far-reaching impact on the quality of education and the nation's future. Rather than introducing measures that might inadvertently contribute to unemployment, a well-thought-out strategy focused on long-term solutions is essential.

The commitment to reflecting these concerns in the budget is a crucial step, signaling a commitment to navigating the complexities of Tanzania's evolving education landscape.

In charting the way forward for Tanzania's education system, a delicate equilibrium must be struck between innovation and a resolute commitment to tackling the fundamental issues contributing to the shortage of teachers. A thriving and well-funded education sector stands not merely as a present-day investment but as a foundational pillar for constructing a sustainable and prosperous future for the nation.

Examining the experiences of developed countries provides valuable insights into achieving this delicate balance. For instance, countries like Finland have successfully integrated innovative approaches, including online teaching, without compromising the stability and employment opportunities within the teaching profession.

This underlines the importance of adopting strategies that harmonize technological advancements with measures to safeguard the livelihoods of educators, ultimately fostering a robust and dynamic education ecosystem.

Western states scramble to explain themselves as UN calls for arms transfers to Israel to cease



By Magnus Lovold

There are moments when international treaties, long forgotten by the general public, suddenly spring back to life. Moments when a glimpse of reality shine through the thick-laden bureaucracies of the United Nations and catches the attention of the world outside.

The debate that unfolded in 'sub-working group on current and emerging implementation issues' of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on Wednesday 21st February was such a moment.

The State of Palestine and Control Arms – a civil society coalition – had, in January, requested a debate about the impact of weapons transfers to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Never before, since the ATT's entry into force in 2014, had there been a formal discussion about non-compliance under the treaty.

The debate would, in more ways than one, become a clash of two worlds. On the one hand, the uncompromising and bloody reality on the ground in Gaza, where nearly 30,000 civilians – including more than 10,000 children – have been killed by Israeli bombs over the past four months.

On the other, the hushed and self-possessed world of multilateral diplomacy, where drama rarely elevates beyond the occasional request for points of order.

The stakes surrounding the debate had broken through the roof when the International



We would be grateful to receive details of all extant arms export, transit, and brokering licenses of the supply of military and dual use items to Israel.

Court of Justice (ICJ) concluded, on 26 January, that there is a plausible risk that Israel's actions in Gaza are violating the Genocide Convention, placing the countries that are supplying Israel with weapons – most of which are parties to the ATT, with the exception of the United States – under significant pressure.

The foreign ministers of Italy and Spain had already announced that they will no longer export weapons to Israel. Citing the ATT and the EU common position on the export of military technology and equipment, a Dutch court had ordered, on 12 February, the government of the Netherlands to stop the export of F-35 fighter jet components to Israel.

While the Dutch government announced that they would appeal the order, the ruling had, in the following weeks, taken on a life of its own, leading parliamentarians and civil society groups in the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada and Denmark to urge their governments to stop arms transfers to Israel.

The big question, when the parties to the ATT met in Geneva last week, was how these countries would respond to allegations that they, by supplying Israel with weapons, risk complicity in genocide and other international crimes.

The ATT seeks to prevent and reduce human suffering by establishing common

international standards for the transfer of conventional weapons. Specifically, the treaty prohibits countries from transferring weapons if they know, at the time of transfer, that the weapons could be used to commit international crimes.

According to Hurrini Alwishewa, a legal expert at the Graduate Institute, countries involved in supplying Israel with weapons can no longer claim ignorance: "With the ICJ finding that there is a plausible claim of genocide, the knowledge requirement is clearly fulfilled, and therefore exports of arms to Israel must not be authorised", she said at Wednesday's meeting.

In the run-up to the meeting, there had been rumours that the arms exporting countries would simply refuse to engage on the matter. There was even speculation that some countries would seek to dodge the debate altogether by filibustering the preceding agenda items.

But ultimately, the exporting countries realised that they had no other choice than to at least try to explain themselves. A few minutes before the debate was about to start, the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands could be observed wheeling their ambassadors in to the brutalist conference room at the CICC in Geneva.

Speaking from the podium, Nada Tarbush, a counsellor of Palestine's mission to the UN who rose to prominence after

a widely published speech delivered in November, was determined not to let the ambassadors' off the hook

"We are once again reaching out to exporting states to urge and urge them to explain their respective policies on arms exports to Israel. Particularly the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, the Netherlands, France, Canada, Australia, Japan, the Czech Republic, Norway, and other states that may be involved as transit states including Greece, Cyprus and Belgium", Tarbush said, when laying out her case.

"We would be grateful to receive details of all extant arms export, transit, and brokering licenses of the supply of military and dual use items to Israel".

The arms exporters were, however, not prepared to engage in specifics. Instead, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands both downplayed its role in supplying Israel with weapons.

"UK defence exports to Israel represent a small portion of UK arms exports", Aiden Liddle, the ambassador of the United Kingdom, said. While he made it clear that the ICJ's January ruling "is binding on Israel" and suggested that the United Kingdom's export licences to Israel may be revoked "if circumstances change and we reach a different view", Liddle did not explain how his country had initially concluded that weapons exports to Israel was in

The exporting countries' attempts to justify their involvement in Israel's military operations in Gaza were, ultimately, found wanting. Tarbush made no secret of her disappointment, accusing the exporting countries for putting "themselves in a situation of criminal liability, of immorality in a situation where double standards risk irreversibly eroding the credibility of international law and the international system built since the Second World War".

But however incomplete, the mere fact that a debate about arms transfers to Israel could take place in the ATT is a positive step for the treaty. Too often, international treaties get caught up in their own institutional bureaucracies, resulting in a detachment from the realities that the treaties are set up to address. Since its entry into force ten years ago, the ATT has, sadly, been no exception.

Instead of criticising the State of Palestine and Control Arms for attempts to "politicise" the process, Germany and other countries supplying Israel with weapons, should see the debate as an opportunity to set a new, more reality-oriented, standard for ATT implementation.

Despite its imperfections, international law can play a key role in exposing double-standards. By offering specifics now, western states will come in a much stronger position to demand transparency from others in the future.

More importantly, history shows that countries supplying other countries with weapons have significant power to shape the conduct – and even outcomes – of military operations; to ensure that civilians are protected or, to put it bluntly, left for slaughter. Indeed, that realisation was one of the factors driving the development of the ATT in the first place.

As Israel is preparing its ground invasion of Rafah, arms exporting countries are bound to be placed under increasing pressure. On Friday 23 February, a group of 41 UN experts, citing the ATT, called for any transfer of weapons to Israel to "cease immediately". If arms exporting countries are serious about their commitments to international law and a rules-based order, they should heed this call.

Otherwise, the Munich Security Conference's recent assessment of world politics as a steady trajectory towards a zero-sum game could well be reality.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Norwegian Dawn: Mauritius says cruise ship can safely dock after cholera alarm

Port Louis

MAURITIUS has given a Norwegian cruise ship the all clear to dock at the capital Port Louis after finding no evidence of cholera on-board.

At least 15 people on the Norwegian Dawn were in isolation with a stomach illness and authorities feared it was cholera.

The director of Mauritius Ministry of Health confirmed the passengers had gastroenteritis, not cholera.

Dr Bhooshun Ori said the passengers have now "fully recovered".

Mauritian authorities had initially blocked the ship "to avoid any health risks".

The passengers developed mild symptoms of

a stomach illness during a trip to South Africa, a representative of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings said.

Mary Francovilla Dees, a 69 years-old passenger on the Norwegian Dawn, told the BBC that despite the delay the atmosphere on the ship had been "fairly calm."

"The passengers on this ship have appeared to take this in their stride," she said.

Ms Francovilla says passengers have entertained themselves by sitting by the pool, attending shows and going to the bar.

The passengers will be subject to screening by health authorities upon disembarking from the liner.

The Ministry of Health will provide



Some of the passengers fell sick during a voyage to South Africa

medical assistance for all at the disembarkation point.

A Dutch passenger on board told BN DeStem

that they were told by the captain that there could be a cholera outbreak on board.

Since January 2023,

at least 188,000 people have been infected with cholera across seven countries in southern Africa, according to the

UN. More than 3,000 people have died, with Zambia being hardest hit.

South Africa has re-

ported 1,076 cholera cases and at least 47 deaths over the past two years, according to Africa Centres for Dis-

eases Control and Prevention.

"The health and safety of passengers as well as that of the country as a whole are of the utmost importance to the authorities," the Mauritius Ports Authority said.

The ship arrived in Mauritius on Saturday evening after arriving a day early because it did not stop in Réunion Island.

There are 2,184 passengers and 1,026 crew members on the ship. About 2,000 planned to disembark in Port Louis, with another 2,000 expected to board at the same time.

Those who were disembarking or joining the cruise will now do so on 27 February, the Norwegian Cruise Line spokesperson said.

Miner's determination to nurture talent, curb skills shortages in mining sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has reaffirmed its commitment to continue to foster collaboration between industry and educational institutions as the key to bridging the skills gap in the mining sector.

GGML, a prominent player in Tanzania's mining industry for over two decades, has been at the forefront of addressing the critical issue of skills shortages and talent development within the sector.

Charles Masubi, GGML's Senior Manager of Human Resources said since its inception in 2000, GGML has not only focused on operational excellence but also on investing in the future workforce of Tanzania.

He said in Febru-

ary 2024, the company launched the African Business Unit (ABU) graduate programme to enable unemployed graduates to have the opportunity to gain work experience that will complement their studies and help them compete in the job market.

The programme selected ten members of the 2023/24 GGML Internship cohort, who demonstrated an aptitude for hard work and eagerness to learn throughout their internship.

Masubi underlined the transformative impact of the ABU Graduate Programme in shaping future leaders within the mining industry.

"The ABU programme offers graduates from diverse backgrounds an immersive learning experience that goes be-

yond traditional internships," he said.

He said participants undergo rigorous training focused on enhancing their skills, knowledge, and leadership capabilities under the mentorship of seasoned professionals.

Masubi emphasises that graduates who excel in the programme are not only connected with similar initiatives in other African mines under AngloGold Ashanti but are also provided with advanced skills training tailored to their respective fields.

"This holistic approach aims to equip participants with the expertise and acumen necessary to thrive in a competitive industry while fostering a culture of continuous learning and growth," he added.

The ABU Graduate Programme stands as

a testament to GGML's commitment to nurturing talent and empowering individuals to ascend to leadership roles within the company and beyond.

By creating a pipeline of skilled professionals poised for success, GGML is not only investing in its workforce but also contributing to the development of Tanzania's mining sector as a whole.

Recognising the importance of preparing future employees and cultivating talent, GGML, in collaboration with other stakeholders, made a significant contribution of over \$2 million in 2009 towards developing curricula for the Integrated Mining Technical Training (IMTT) Programme for the Tanzanian youth and Training Authority (VETA), Moshi.



Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) head of learning and development, Albert Rukeisa (L) and Geita Gold Mine Limited (GGML)'s Senior Manager Human Resources, Charles Masubi, attend the launch of GGML's 2024/2025 Internship Programme recently in Geita town, which aims to provide on-the-job training to 40 unemployed graduates from various universities for one year. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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Heavy-duty trucks a major contributor to escalation of carbon emissions levels



By Special Correspondent

HEAVY-DUTY vehicles (HDVs) participate substantially to environmental pollution, accounting for over 40 percent of on-road nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions, over 60 percent of on-road particulate matter (PM 2.5), and more than 20 percent of black carbon emissions, as revealed in the latest report by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

The report Used Heavy Duty Vehicles and the Environment - A Global Overview of Used Heavy-Duty Vehicles: Flow, Scale and Regulation report, jointly

An increased number of heavy-duty vehicle (HDV) are crisscrossing the continent but get frequently stranded for long days at international borders.

launched by the UNEP and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), provides a first global overview by the UN of the scale and regulation of used HDVs and their contribution to global air pollution, road accidents, fuel consumption and climate emissions.

The report recommends ways to reduce the harmful aspects of used HDVs on people's health and the climate.

According to the study, HDVs are projected to considerably continue to grow with increasing economic activities and the need to move people and goods. This is based on past trends where global sales of trucks and buses

doubled in 15 years (2000-2015).

Many developing countries rely on used heavy duty vehicles (HDVs) imports to grow their fleet. While this promotes more affordable means to increasing mobility needs in these countries, the report finds that regulation and enforcement on the quality of used HDVs imported are either low or non-existent. Further amplifying their impacts, especially in the case of old, polluting, and unsafe used HDVs.

To date no country has minimum requirements for exporting used HDVs. The report finds regulations in over half of used HDV importing countries to be 'weak' or 'very weak' and enforcement

to be inadequate.

African countries

For example, while 25 African countries have adopted standards on used HDVs towards air pollution control, climate mitigation and improved road safety, only four have fully implemented these.

Worldwide, only two countries have included used vehicles in their national climate action plans (NDCs).

Rob de Jong, head of UNEP's Sustainable Mobility Unit, said: "Trucks and buses contribute to economic growth just about anywhere in the world, but ambitious regulations are needed



The report recommends ways to reduce the harmful aspects of used HDVs on people's health and the climate.

to curb their emissions causing major environment and health impacts. Introduction of cleaner bus technologies can be a major driver for the global revolution to low and, ultimately, zero emissions transport."

The report emphasizes that it is a shared responsibility of importing and exporting countries to ensure cleaner and safer used vehicles are on the roads of developing countries.

It shows the need for regional cooperation for introducing and enforcing minimum standards, such as emission standards and age limits, raising public awareness, and more research, for both environment and road safety benefits.

For example, by adopting Euro VI equivalent vehicle emission standards and cleaner fuels, as much as 700 thousand premature deaths can be avoided by 2030.

New trucks

Currently 97 per cent of all newly registered trucks and 73 per cent of buses in the EU run on diesel. Better regulations on used HDVs can also lead to a leapfrog and greater uptake of advanced technologies in developing countries, including electric buses and trucks.

The report represents a first effort of quantifying and qualifying used heavy-duty vehicle flows, based on export data from Japan, the European Union, and Republic of Korea - altogether representing about 60 per cent of the total new and used HDV export market - to 146 predominantly low- and middle- income countries.

The report has limitations, most notably discrepancies in statistics, as well as lacking publicly available data from the USA, which does not separate exports of new and used vehicles, and China, an emerging exporter.

Cholera: An overlooked outcome of climate change

By Robert Kampala

GLOBAL warming is exacerbating the spread of a disease that should have been consigned to the dust bin of history a long time ago. We need to take action now.

In the 21st century, every case of and every death from cholera is preventable. Yet to this day, children around the world are still suffering and dying unnecessarily from the disease - and climate change is making the situation worse.

Climate change-related extreme weather and the destruction it causes are making headlines on a regular basis across the world. Yet the profound health implications of the climate emergency are often left untold.

Cholera is a diarrhoeal illness that spreads in places where access to clean water is limited and people end up consuming contaminated food and water. Poor sanitation and hygiene practices also accelerate its spread.

Cholera is completely preventable but also extremely dangerous, causing severe dehydration, diarrhoea and vomiting - symptoms that can kill within hours without treatment.

Combined with climate change, this bacterial illness poses an imminent threat to vulnerable communities across the world. In recent years, as the climate crisis has become more severe, there has also been a major surge in the number of cholera outbreaks across the world. We have seen repeatedly in different countries and communities climate-related intense tropical storms, heavy rains and flooding which damage or destroy water and sanitation infrastructure and cause untreated sewage to spill into clean water sources, and triggering cholera outbreaks.



Cholera is completely preventable but also extremely dangerous, causing severe dehydration, diarrhoea and vomiting - symptoms that can kill within hours without treatment. Photo: Courtesy of WaterAid.

According to UNICEF, 30 countries faced cholera outbreaks in 2022 - an alarming 145 percent increase from the previous five-year average..

Zambia, for example, is currently experiencing its worst cholera outbreak to date with more than 18,000 confirmed infections. The disease has already killed more than 600 people, a third of them children, and led to aid agencies warning of an "uncontrollable health crisis" in the country.

The continued suffering caused by cholera in countries classified as least developed by the United

Nations, like Zambia, exposes the deep inequalities within global society and the inadequacy of sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene access among poorer communities.

More than quarter (28 percent) of households in Zambia do not have access to clean water. In rural areas, this figure rises to 42 percent. So it is not surprising that the country is currently experiencing a deadly cholera outbreak.

And the outbreak in Zambia is already spreading to neighbouring countries, where millions of people are already struggling with ac-

cess to clean water and sanitation and dealing with the aftermath of extreme weather, threatening a catastrophic regional health crisis.

Zambia's neighbour to the east, Malawi, for example, is one of the least developed countries in the world and is still in the process of recovering from a major cholera outbreak that devastated it in 2023. Last year's outbreak was the worst in Malawi's history and the worst Africa has seen in the past decade.

It hit the country in the aftermath of three devastating storms - Cyclone Freddy, Tropical Cyclone

Gombe and Tropical Storm Ana - and severely hindered its recovery. About 59,000 cases and 1,750 deaths were recorded in the outbreak, but with many cases going unreported, these are certainly underestimates.

Yet this suffering is needless. Transmission of cholera can be stopped in its tracks - and sustainably prevented - through adequate access and investment in safe water, sanitation and hygiene. And this crisis is not limited to Southern Africa, we're seeing surges in cholera cases in Ethiopia too

Countries in Europe and North

America - once crippled by this disease - have long eliminated the threat of cholera through the provision of safe water and sanitation services for their entire populations. These successes should be replicated in countries fighting cholera today. The catastrophic, preventable cholera outbreaks in Southern Africa must be a wake-up call for all governments and development partners to increase funding for water, hygiene and sanitation, especially at this time of crisis when climate change is fuelling a surge in waterborne diseases.

It is in the economic interest of governments to invest in water, sanitation and hygiene services and infrastructure because the cost of managing a cholera outbreak far exceeds the expense of preventing one.

The sixth UN Sustainable Development Goal of achieving "clean water and sanitation for all" by 2030 is seriously off track. For this goal to be achieved, the pace of progress needs to surge sixfold globally and twentyfold in least developed countries. There is need for immediate action, sustainable investment in clean water and a cholera-free future for all.

This is why WaterAid is calling on world leaders, governments, the private sector and donors to prioritise making safe water, decent toilets and good hygiene a reality for everyone, everywhere, especially the poorest and most vulnerable groups in climate-vulnerable regions.

In the face of the ever-growing threat of climate change, only by taking decisive action can we finally consign cholera to the history books and put an end to more unnecessary and avoidable deaths in Southern Africa and across the world.

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect Al Jazeera's editorial stance.



CURRENT NEWS
Absa CEO explains what new vision means to Tanzanians
Page 14



CURRENT NEWS
TFS all out to 'inject' 23bn/- into GDP in 2023/2024
Page 14



OUTLOOK & ANALYSIS
The West needs to reinvest in the global order
Page 15

Minister roosts for special monetary policy targeting agriculture sector

By Correspondent Maulid

Mmbaga

AGRICULTURE minister, Hussein Bashe (pictured), has emphasized the critical need for a dedicated financial policy in the agricultural sector. He underscored its vital role in granting farmers access to loans at low interest rates, contrasting the prevailing situation where they resort to commercial banks for borrowing.

According to him, such a policy would streamline loan accessibility for farmers, eliminating the various obstacles currently impeding their access to finance due to the absence of sector-specific financial guidelines.

During a weekend address in Tabora, where he inaugurated a new branch of the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) serving Tabora, Kigoma, and Katavi regions, Bashe highlighted how the bank's presence would bolster agricultural productivity in the region.

"In all the economies of our country, incoming loans are more than 20% and the amount that goes to this sector is less than 10 percent. And yet if you go to production in agriculture, the money given as a loan is very low. I have now spoken to the Finance minister, the Governor of the Bank of Tanzania and the Minister overseeing the Planning portfolio.

"We need a financial policy for agriculture because it is impossible for agriculture to be loaned using commercial bank policies, using that policy we will still not be able to lift people out of poverty," said Bashe.

Added that President Samia Suluhu Hassan is making efforts to raise the sector and improve the lives of farmers, including the construction of irrigation infrastructure and expanding the services of the agri-

cultural bank with the aim of bringing an agricultural revolution with sustainable plans that meet the needs of farmers through different services financially.

"Once the government has finished improving the infrastructure, the farmer needs money to buy fertilizers and inputs. Therefore, it is important and we must have a clear policy to get capital in production sectors such as agriculture, livestock and fishing, and as the minister I will push all those involved to get this policy and I believe it will be successful," said Bashe.

The Executive Director of TADB Bank, Frank Nyabundege, noted that until February, this year, TADB has enabled farmers and breeders by providing loans worth 19,599bn/- in the Kigoma regions 7,209/-, Katavi 2,394bn/- and Tabora 9,996bn/-.

"These loans have been granted for Rice, Bean, Cow fattening, Ginger, Chicken, Pig and Sheep and breeding projects. The bank continues to put in place solid lending strategies for tobacco, cotton and honey crops, as these crops contribute to developing the economy of Tabora Region," said Nyabundege.

Vice Chairman of the Kigoma Cooperatives Forum, Hussein Buchunguka, who is a palm farmer, thanked the bank for its great contribution to empowering farmers and in the purchase of machinery for processing the crop.

"Today, the palm tree is recognized, before it was a temporary product, but now it is a product of the economy until we talk about the size you will see the oil produced from the palm tree, the journey to get rid of the shortage of oil has begun, thanks to TADB for supporting us and building our respect in agriculture," said Buchunguka.



Balancing domestic income mobilisation crucial amidst diminished donor support



Finance minister Mwigulu Nchemba. File Photo

By Correspondent Daniel

Semberya

TAX has remained a primary source of revenue for both central and local governments in Tanzania and revenue mobilization has been a long-standing concern in Tanzania.

According to a recently Tanzania Scoping Study on Tax Equity that was done by the International Budget Partnership (IBP), the local government authorities continue to be heavily reliant on intergovernmental transfers [IGT] (80-90% dependent on IGT), struggling to effectively raise own source revenues.

Senior Programme Officer Tax Equity Ghana, Dr Alex Ampaberg said that in the pursuit of fairness and transparency in tax policies, IBP embarked on a mission to address the widespread injustice of inequitable taxation systems prevalent in many countries where it operates.

He said "The Tax Equity Initiative was born from this commitment, aiming to empower civil society to forge connections with a diverse array of stakeholders and influence domestic tax reforms."

Presenting these findings during Validation of Scoping Report that was organized by Policy Forum in collaboration with IBP over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, Senior Programme Officer Tax Equity, IBP-Tanzania/Zambia, Mtwaro Msoni said that in light of the country's large development needs, successive governments have placed revenue mobilization at the centre of economic policies.

Saying the objective of doing so is to support investment in education, health, and critical infrastructure while safeguarding fiscal sustainability.

Reliance on domestic revenue mobilization has also emerged as a top pri-

ority because of the significant decline in donor support.

Tax to GDP decreased by 0.8 percent from 12.2 percent in 2019/20 to 11.4 percent in 2020/21. Overall tax revenue to GDP ratio for the period under review was averaged 11.6 percent with the highest ratio of 12.4 percent in year 2015/16 and 2016/17 while the least ratio was 10.7 percent observed in 2009/10.

Between 2000 and 2020, Tanzania's tax-to-GDP ratio was below the level of structural comparators such as Pakistan and Nepal, as well as aspirational peers such as Vietnam, and the SSA average.

Tax effort has steadily increased since 2000, with the tax gap narrowing from an average of about 8 percent of GDP from 2000 to a low of 5.6 percent in 2017.

Between 2000 and 2023, the growth of personal income tax (PIT) and corporate income tax (CIT) drove the increase in total tax revenue, while the contributions from VAT and excise taxes declined.

Tax Revenue buoyancy ratio, as observed overtime indicated that Tanzania had an average greater than one indicating sustainability of fiscal policy for Mainland Tanzania.

As a result, Tanzania has increased its total tax revenue while shifting to a greater reliance on direct taxes over indirect taxes.

The World Bank refers to Tanzania's tax system is progressive, but the tax net is very limited.

The PIT, which is based on a graduated rate structure, is very progressive, and revenue is collected exclusively from formal workers, who tend to be better off than their informal counterparts.

Tanzania's VAT is also progressive, unlike the VATs of many comparable countries. This is due in part to its narrow base, as many low-turnover businesses need not register for

VAT.

The VAT turnover threshold was approximately 47 times GDP per capita in 2020, far higher than the thresholds in other large middle-income countries with significant informal sectors.

Tanzania currently lacks a dedicated tax incidence analysis, a critical tool for gauging the burden of taxation on its citizens. Such analysis is instrumental in revealing the impact of taxation on equity outcomes, providing crucial insights into how different taxes affect individual incomes and households.

While this detailed analysis is absent, the Tanzania Tax Statistics Report offers valuable insights into the compliance burden, shedding light on which group of tax payers pay particular taxes which is a good basis to further analyze incidence.

To improve tax performance the government has been undertaking several initiatives to strengthen its domestic revenues and improve management of its expenditures with a view to accelerating implementation of its priorities.

These measures among others include: Broadening the mandate of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG), voluntary tax compliance, cashless economy.

On cashless economy, the government is emphasizing the utilization of economic fiscal mechanisms to curtail cashless transactions and to increase the inclusion of transactions within the purview of tax obligations.

Other government initiatives scoped out include the restricting tax exemptions to less than 1 percent of the GDP by assessing the legal framework governing tax incentives.

Others are taxing the digital economy, and revaluation of property taxation. A study done by Sikika in 2022 on the drivers of tax compliance in Tanza-

nia revealed that there are both primary and secondary drivers of compliance that need to be both addressed through improved tax administration and service delivery.

The study revealed that while taxpayer education, good customer care and assurance that tax administration pushes evaders are essential to drive tax compliance.

Tax payers are motivated by other factors like an improved service delivery or an integrated revenue policy that equitably distributes the overall tax burden.

Equally important to taxpayers is the question on how their taxes are spent. The argument is that mismanagement of financial resources as evidenced in the reports by the CAG surely demoralises taxpayer and lowers their level of voluntary compliance.

The scoping revealed that many Tanzanians believe they are overtaxed, considering the multitude of both direct and indirect taxes they must adhere to.

Although not fully disaggregated existing data provides insights into where the compliance burden lies. The Tax Statistics Report, last issued in June 2022 covering the years 2020 and 2021, stands out as a valuable resource in this regard.

However, there's a growing argument for assessing the impact of taxation on household income and wealth, which would serve as a more effective indicator for informing tax policy decisions. Rightfully so, such an analysis forms a Tax incidence assessment which is an accurate indicator of Tax Equity.

The recommendation is to enhance the publication of regular tax statistics by conducting household-level incidence analyses, including disaggregation of data by gender.

The scoping also observed that tax changes and the introduction of

new taxes are often justified by promoting equity, yet it is unclear how this equity is advanced beyond mere compliance, particularly in terms of its implications for household income and wealth.

Overtaxing is compromising the nation's ability collect revenue. The scoping noted concerns on the tax incentives regime and the reporting of tax expenditures and benefits accruing from the regime.

Consistent with the Tax Justice Working Group Pre Budget-Statement of 2023 that expressed concern on the limited transparency and accountability in the extractive industry on non-disclosure of tax exemptions and contracts/agreements that limit tax collections.

As noted in the 2023/2024 budget the government of Tanzania set the target for limiting tax exemptions to under 1 percent of GDP. Data compiled by the Global Tax Expenditures Database ranks 4th from the bottom with over 104 countries assessed.

While the scope estimates that Tanzania losses 0.99 of GDP through tax expenditures, it notes that the country ranks low in tax expenditure transparency and more critically low on the governance of the expenditures.

Currently tax expenditures are reported in the CAG report, but the data is not comprehensive.

These measures to a certain extent have helped the government increase its revenue collections as well as strengthen its tax collection systems to operate in a more transparent manner.

However, the tax-to-GDP ratio remains low despite gradual growth in the last ten years (8.9 percent in 2007 to 12.3 percent in 2018).

Civil Society interacted with during the scoping expressed that the current political landscape in Tanzania appears conducive to openness and accountability but more needs to be done.

To fully correct the problem of lack of timely and transparent publication of government information, along with limited public participation, several changes need to be implemented including but not limited to repealing regressive policies enacted during the previous regime that promoted secrecy and limited civic engagement.

Furthermore, it should strengthen governmental institutions responsible for disseminating information and facilitating public participation, and putting in place mechanisms to ensure the timely and transparent publication of government information.

TFS gets set to direct 23bn/- into GDP in FY 2023/2024

By Correspondent

Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

AFTER contributing to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) a total of 20.5bn/- during the past financial year of 2022/23, the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) is now working on strategies to expand contributions to the state coffers in this fiscal year, targeting to dish out a total of 23.9bn/-

As of December last year, the government executive agency with responsibility of developing and managing forest and bee resources had already injected at least 13.3bn/- signaling its determination to accomplish the set mission.

The TFS Conservation Commissioner, Professor Dos Santos Silayo, said the agency is currently implementing an array of initiatives to scale up its working facilities and human resources with an eye to improve its service delivery.

Among others, he said, the ongoing interventions focuses to attain full management and utilization of all necessary forest and bee resources that the country has been endowed with, for the benefit of Tanzania's economic gain, unveiled that the far target is to contribute to the GDP at least 25.1bn/- by 2025.

And, Commissioner Silayo detailed, during the 2022/23 financial year, TFS managed to accumulate a total of 143.5bn/- (equivalent to 96percent of it set projections), added that, "As per

our revenues collections estimations, during the past two years TFS managed to raise a total of 298.89bn/-, the amount which was equal to 102 percent of our accumulation projections," he unveiled during an exclusive interview with The Guardian.

He said during the currently fiscal year, 2023/24, the esteemed agency is envisioning to collect a total of 161.8bn/-, saying as of 15th of February, this year, they had already managed to fetched about 89.6bn/-, the encouraging figure which reads at 56percent of the projected collections.

To ensure the accomplish its set visions, the Don expressed that during 2022/23 fiscal year, TFS has procured 31 modern vehicles as well as 44 motorcycles, at a total of 6bn/- in efforts to heighten and fast-tracking its daily roles.

To improve the agency's working equipment, the Don added that TFS has also purchased two modern tailor-made trucks for doing patrols in the complicated forest areas, made KAMAZ, worth at least 773.7m/- from the Equator SumajKT Ltd Company.

As part to further cementing its roles on effective monitoring and improvement of bee and forest resources, Prof Silayo said TFS has also procured other 39 motorbikes at a cost of 452,985,000m/-, two Land cruiser (made hardtop) vehicles which were bought by the Tanzania Forest Fund (TaFF) at around 337,353,600m/-.

"And in the current financial year we're looking

forward to purchasing the other 21 vehicles, two major tractors, one lorry, 56 motorcycles and two modern drones, the purchase which is expected to gobble up to 6.3bn/-," he informed.

He noted, the agency, TFS, is now working more seriously and keen to ensure the country is fully benefiting from its endowed resources in the sector of forest and beekeeping, added that several plans are afoot to be implemented inline to uplift the general performance of the vital economic sectors.

He communicated that TFS will also patriotically continuing to accomplish its dully role of paying reasonable contributions towards the Tanzania Forest Fund (TaFF), noting that during 2022/23 fiscal year it injected the crucial fund with 5.53bn/- added that in 2023/24 a total of 8.1bn/- will be dispatched to TaFF.

In regard to other developments, the TFS' chief boss, Prof Silayo said they are currently undertaking three major projects for scaling up preservation and improvement of the forest sector in the country.

The 62.7bn/- worth projects, being funds accrued from the development partners, include 'Integrated Landscape Management in the Dry Miombo Woodlands of Tanzania (DSL-IP)', 'Building the resilience of forest biodiversity to the threats of climate change in Tanzania's nature forest reserves' and 'Integrated Approach to Sustainable Cooking solution'.

"Implementation of these projects has surfaced due to existing mutual understand-

ing and good cooperation between Tanzania and other countries," he said.

Briefing over the projects, he unveiled that the 'Integrated Landscape Management in the Dry Miombo Woodlands of Tanzania (DSL-IP)' was spending a total of USD 6.9million.

"The key objective of this project is to help curtail and reverse the negative trend of land degradation and loss of biodiversity in the degraded areas of the Miombo forests in western Tanzania by using an integrated landscape management approach," he informed.

The other project, the 'Integrated Approach to Sustainable Cooking Solution', according to Prof. Silayo involves more than 34.3bn/- (Euro 12,500million).

"This project aims to promote sustainable forest management and wood-fuel production in rural areas with an overall aim of enhancing environmental sustainability, in particular the sustainability of the wood-fuel value chain," he explained.

Together with that, he communicated that the package includes implementation of the third project, dubbed "Building the resilience of forest biodiversity to the threats of climate change in Tanzania's nature forest reserves". He said the robust initiative is worth around USD4.8 million.

"The project is for carrying out activities to build the capacity of forests of nature reserves to withstand the negative effects of climate change by building forest protection infrastructure,

strengthening activities to increase income through eco-tourism, together with other activities meant to heighten incomes to the communities surrounding forests," he unveiled.

Moreover, informing over the others TFS's achievement in developing the forest sector during the 2022/23 fiscal year, the Don stated that TFS had managed to establish one major tree farm in Makere area of Kasulu-Kigoma, occupying at least 65,000 hectare.

During the past fiscal year, he added that TFS had successfully produced 25.9 tons of tree seeds and planted a total of 32,735,653 seedlings of numerous tree varieties at different areas of the 24 public tree farms available across the country.

He said so far, TFS has managed to plant a total of 6,909 new trees as well as replace trees at a total of 2,434 at different state-owned tree farms in the country.

Dwelling over the other success obtained during the past financial year, Prof. Silayo said TFS managed to conduct a special forest inventory at a total of 42 forests (1,031,293 hectares) across the country, and later on developed the relevant management plans.

In the same vein, he informed that, during the period, TFS had also to upgrade 15 forests to the level of national forest parks, and other five national natural reserves forests, occupying a total of 58,216 hectares.

Similarly, he said during last year, TFS received a total of 4bn/- from the monies that was disbursed



Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) Conservation Commissioner, Professor Dos Santos Silayo.

by President Samia Suluhu Hassan for supporting improvement of forests preservation and tourism in the country.

"With the amount, we managed to construct at least five modern entry gates at five national parks, but also, the money assisted us to construct a 97km road, as well as a 190.5km-long tourists walking trails at 11 parks," he expressed.

He also added that through TFS's internal work plan, they have managed

also to improve the country's ecological and cultural tourism attractions by reha-

bilitating at least 231.7km of tourist's trails, and 643.54 roads within forests.

Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) is a semi-autonomous government Executive Agency whose establishment is supported by the Executive Agency Act (Cap. 245 Revised Edition 2009), the National Forest and Beekeeping Act (No. 15 of 2002) which provides legal framework for the management of forests and bee resources.



Obedi Laiser, Managing Director, Absa Bank Tanzania (L), addresses a media conference during the launch of a brand in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is Aron Luhanga, the bank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Carlos Banda

THE new vision approach launched by Absa Group over the weekend, will position the Tanzanian subsidiary not only as a financial services provider in the country, but also a partner of each customer.

Speaking during the official local announcement yesterday, Obedi Laiser, the Absa Tanzania Managing Director, said "Today we are taking the next step on our business and brand journey, revealing our newfound vision as a purpose led and values driven business, and communicating our new brand positioning".

"Our brand is for everyone and all our customers are diverse. We deal with government, SMEs, Corporates, and local individuals wishing to open their bank accounts with us. Your story matters to us we have a lot of customers that do not only keep their money with us but they do investment," he said.

"If they want to invest the savings they have, we have experts

Absa CEO explains what new vision means to Tanzanians

who can advise them to invest their money and generate maximum returns. We deal with different corporates in a vast array of sectors from mining, energy, telco, agriculture, all sectors. So whenever we operate in Africa, this brand promise is for all sectors.

Laiser said since the launch of the Absa brand in Tanzania four years ago, the bank has grown significantly and it has evolved to better reflect where it is now.

"We are concentrating on what we do and why we do it: our purpose and aspiration - to be a leading African bank, empowering Africa's tomorrow, together ... one story at a time," he said.

He explained that the new brand promise which the

Group has announced is encapsulated in a short and easy to remember phrase "Your Story Matters".

"Our customers, communities, colleagues, and the public at large should brace themselves for seeing a much more human-centred bank that takes interest in the unique journeys of all its stakeholders and excited to being part of their unique stories," he noted.

"We are committed to offer solutions to the challenges of our customers, communities, and colleagues face in their life journeys in such a way that builds a lifetime legacy of true friendship and partnership, because their stories matter to us."

When asked about what this new phrase means and what

are the promises to its stakeholders, Aron Luhanga, the Bank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, said; "Your Story Matters" is more than a phrase to us - it is a promise and a commitment. It reveals our customer-centric approach in which we listen to and care about the unique journey of each person and entity we serve".

He said the approach speaks about how the bank, as an organization value individual customers and want to be part of their personal and financial narratives.

"It defines us as a bank of the future; one that is more than just a financial services institution but also a partner on each customer's life journey," he explained.

Investors urged to update data on web portal

By Guardian

Correspondent, Lindi

INVESTORS have been urged to update their information using the Business Facilitation Portal necessary in tapping new investment opportunities, the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) senior officer has said.

This was said by the EPZA Acting Head of Procurement Management Unit William Msoffe during their visits to EPZA licenced industries in Lindi, Mtwara and Ruvuma regions in an ongoing evaluation exercise of industries in the country. Msoffe noted that EPZA launched the Business Facilitation Portal last year in order to provide investors with access to information and investment procedures at their fingertips.

"The Portal is an important platform for investors to access crucial investment information and also link them to new investment opportunities for grabbing," he said.

The system is linking EPZA with investors as well as institutions like the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA), Tanzania Immigration Department and Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

The system which is web based allow an investor to lodge various documents including license applica-

tion and permits anywhere without visiting the EPZA offices.

He said they visited seven industries in Lindi Region, 10 industries in Mtwara Region and one Special Economic Zone in Ruvuma Region.

He said the products produced by EPZA programmes of Special Economic Zones and Economic Processing Zones have met the required market standards of USA, Asia, Europe and other global markets.

He said products that met the required international standards came from various sectors namely agriculture, mining, energy, forestry, garment and steel.

He said the government has been emphasizing on the need to add value to products from locally raw materials due to its multiplier effects in the country's economic development.

"Value addition on domestic products is of paramount importance in job creation for the youth, technology growth, skills development and boost foreign exchange reserve," he said.

He said the evaluation of industries licensed by EPZA will help address various challenges that investors face and help to increase efficiency in industrialization agenda.

He said this move will ultimately help the country attain its target of building robust industrial economy with industries making use of local raw materials.

'Importance of career counselling for junior professionals' - Part I

IT is very common to hear people looking for someone to review their resume before applying for jobs.

Once they are shortlisted for a test or interview, they will ask the same or another person for job interview tips. Due to the high rate of unemployment, employers and recruiters come with very competitive screening criteria for candidates to be called for written tests and oral interviews for the advertised job.

Many jobseekers are reluctant to seek guidance regarding selection of programs for studying, career and profession choices, and instead rely on their own views based on experiences and perception of various professions in build their career.

However, having an outstanding cover letter and resume itself is not the only factors for securing employment. In addition to the application documents, mastering general interview tips will not guarantee passing the interview and

getting the job. Employers are often after individual motivation, ambitions, and inspiration towards applying for the job opportunity and the values one will add to their business.

It is essential for the job aspirants to reflect on the following prior to proceeding with job applications: Do you understand the industry and the sector where the potential employers operate? Do you understand the organization history, vision, and mission, where they are heading to and what they want to achieve? Are you updated with the trending information about the challenges and changes businesses are experiencing and how you will be of assistance in offering relevant solutions for their business development, growth, and prosperity?

On the other hand, what are your long-term career goals and aspirations? And are they in line with those of the organisation inspiring to work with? Are you trainable? Career development is about continu-

ous improvement through learning, changing, flexibility, and adaptation. It is therefore critical to get ready to learn from others, and be willing to be corrected from what you already know, which may not necessarily be correct or right.

As for the teens; the secondary schools' students, and undergraduates. How do they choose or select what subjects' combinations and courses to study at high schools or colleges? Where do they get relevant career and business development information? Who are their mentors, coaches, and counsellors to guide their decision-making process on how to select, develop and grow their career or business goals? Mike Sun in his book "Career Development for New College Students" explains how students can find the right career information, career path and get the job that suits their happy life.

The starting point of the career counselling module is to do thorough and honest self-assessment,



By Damas Ndalechi

getting to know your hobbies and interests, your personality and passions, your strengths and areas of improvement, your aspirations, and ambitions. What people says about you? Who is your role model and who do you wish to become one in the future? Who is your role model(s) and how their lives inspire you? Identifying your unique skill sets will give you a distinct advantage over other job seekers and make you far more attractive to a potential employer. Make a list of

your technical and transferable skills, combining your interests and skills will increase your motivation and make you a stronger candidate - always important, but especially critical in a tough job market.

The second step is exploration of career and business development options relevant to your self-assessment report. You can also talk to your parents, spouse, siblings, fellow students, and work mates on how they see you, on repeated talents, habits, and characters you have exhibited under their watch. This is a very important stage for parents to cultivate the belief, courage, and confidence in their teenagers, that they can become what they want to be in life. I can recall the interviews I have been watching about the career life of Indra Nooyi, the former CEO and Chairperson of PEPSCO. She narrated a story that her mother used to ask her and her sister at the age of 9 to 12 years old, to make a speech of what they will do

as Prime Minister of India, signing the documents as Prime Minister of India. As a result, she ended becoming Vice President and Director of Corporate Strategy and Planning for Motorola (1986 - 1990), Chairperson and CEO of PEPSCO (2006 - 2018) from the guidance and career counselling she received from her mother.

Career goals setting is the third step under career counselling module, on how teens can make their long-term and short-term SMART career and business goals. I tend to split business from career to show that one can develop and grow professionally as an employee or as an upcoming employer (the entrepreneur) or both at once. The most important tool under this stage is having an action plan i.e. the framework of list of goals, tasks and activities, resources needed, timeliness and mechanisms to track your progress and measure progress both on career and business milestones. You can refer to the Brian Tracy (1) and Hays Re-

cruitment (2) goals setting models. As a high school student or fresh university graduate, how can you become a Leader or distinguished professional in institutions such as Vodacom or Safaricom or NMB Bank Plc or Tanzania Breweries Ltd (TBL) in the next 10 to 20 years? How can you become an investor by sharing of the East African Cables Ltd or KCB Bank Ltd or Country Representative of an international organization in East Africa by the year 2040? Alternatively, what does it take to establish and own a successful business?

Damas Ndalechi (MHRM, BCOM) is a Tanzanian human capital advisor working with UNDP Timor Leste (East Timor) as Career Counselling Specialist for the Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Skills (YEES) Project. This article represents his personal views and opinions, NOT that of his employer. He can be reached through dr.ndalechi@gmail.com

Urgent call: Western reinvestment key to global order revival

By Mark Sobel

THE world order seems to be fraying before our eyes. Russia's war against Ukraine, US-China tensions, America's shameful failure to provide Ukraine with more weaponry, Donald Trump's threats of an isolationist US pullback from the globe, Israel and tensions in the Middle East. It's time to reinvest in the bricks and mortar of the global order, but the prospects are dim, especially in America.

At the end of the second world war, the US created a strong military and security framework to contain the Soviet bloc at a time when European allies were far too weak to protect themselves. But assembling the bricks of the foundation was not enough. The US needed mortar to cement them. It did so via its remarkable post-war recovery: the Marshall Plan, trade liberalisation, the G7 and the creation of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the World Trade Organization.

Decades of growth and prosperity followed in the 'West' (which I use to refer to the Transatlantic relationship, but also Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand). Of course, there were flaws. The US fell prey at times to an overly black and white Manichean world view and cowboy behaviour. Europe became a free-rider on American security. Many parts of the world - the global South - were long left out of rising global prosperity.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union and China's remarkable economic rise, the global landscape fundamentally changed. The US remains the world's largest and dominant economy, but it feels insecure, especially as it looks at China's growing might, and fails to grapple with inequality and polarisation at home.

Europe is prosperous, but growth has levelled off and the continent feels vulnerable standing next to a bellicose Russia, watching America step back from globalism. Many emerging markets have established sound fundamentals and prospered. The global South wishes to maintain its neutrality between US and China tensions, while on the whole welcoming Chinese economic assistance.

Against this background, the

West needs to reinvest in bricks and mortar. Don't hold your breath.

Bricks and mortar

On bricks, Europe must quickly build up its defence capabilities. Its nations must far more uniformly treat the Nato defence spending goal of 2% of gross domestic product as a minimum. The Zeitenwende was a remarkable step forward, but mistakenly doubling down on the Schuldenbremse debt brake may vitiate its vision. Energy security must become an even greater priority, recognising the huge gains in turning off the Russian energy supply. The US 'pause' of liquid natural gas exports is a wrongheaded way to treat allies. Europe and the US must stay united to promulgate sensible multilateral sanctions against Russia. The US must stomp up resources for Ukraine.

On mortar, the West - especially the US - must better support the global South. Led by the US, the creation of the G20 at the leaders' level showed vision in recognising the need to go beyond the confines of a G7-dominated system, which no longer had the clout to manage the global economy. The G20 was effective at the outset, but it has fallen into disrepair amid Russia's barbarism and US-China tensions. It is increasingly unable to tackle global challenges such as climate change.

President Joe Biden's administration and China's leadership have pragmatically stabilised the bilateral relationship over the last year. More open engagement is needed, devoid of hawkish cold war rhetoric. That could help to renew G20 efficacy.

While the US is increasingly veering towards protectionist sentiments - both Democrats and Republicans - many countries, particularly in Asia, view trade as essential for their economic security and a means to engage with America in the face of Chinese regional dominance.

The Trump administration's withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership was a colossal blunder. The US needs to reinvest in trade, though the prospects are dim. It could promote closer ties with Asia by at least backing off from its recent Indo-Pacific Economic Framework moves and paring back tariffs where practicable.



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM



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WEDNESDAY 28 FEB	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha	9:00 Kishindo	9:30 Soap: Laws of love	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:30 Shamba lulu	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 Ripoti maalum	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Jarida la wanawake	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT	13:30 Kipindi maalum: BOT	14:00 Habari za saa	14:30 Kipindi maalum: BOT	15:00 Habari za saa	15:30 Kipindi maalum: BOT	16:00 Habari za saa	16:30 Kipindi maalum: BOT	17:00 Habari za saa	17:30 Kipindi maalum: BOT	18:00 Habari za saa	18:30 Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00 Habari za saa	19:30 Kipindi maalum: BOT	20:00 Habari za saa	20:30 Kipindi maalum: BOT	21:00 Habari za saa	21:30 Kipindi maalum: BOT	22:00 Habari za saa	22:30 Kipindi maalum: BOT	23:00 Habari za saa	23:30 Kipindi maalum: BOT	00:00 Habari za saa																																	
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SUNDAY 3 MARCH	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love	11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt:	12:45 Mjue zaidi	13:30 Usafiri wako	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	15:30 Mwangaza	16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe	21:15 Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:20 Igizo: Mizengwe	21:25 Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:30 Igizo: Mizengwe	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:40 Igizo: Mizengwe	21:45 Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:50 Igizo: Mizengwe	21:55 Kipindi maalum: Biko	22:00 Igizo: Mizengwe	22:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko	22:10 Igizo: Mizengwe	22:15 Kipindi maalum: Biko	22:20 Igizo: Mizengwe	22:25 Kipindi maalum: Biko	22:30 Igizo: Mizengwe	22:35 Kipindi maalum: Biko	22:40 Igizo: Mizengwe	22:45 Kipindi maalum: Biko	22:50 Igizo: Mizengwe	22:55 Kipindi maalum: Biko	23:00 Igizo: Mizengwe	23:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko	23:10 Igizo: Mizengwe	23:15 Kipindi maalum: Biko	23:20 Igizo: Mizengwe	23:25 Kipindi maalum: Biko	23:30 Igizo: Mizengwe	23:35 Kipindi maalum: Biko	23:40 Igizo: Mizengwe	23:45 Kipindi maalum: Biko	23:50 Igizo: Mizengwe	23:55 Kipindi maalum: Biko	00:00 Igizo: Mizengwe																				
WED 28 FEB	06:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 Kumekucha Michezo rpt	10:00 Meza Huru Rpt	11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt	12:00 Dwe News Africa rpt	12:30 Our Earth	13:00 Telenovela: I Plead Guilty rpt	14:00 Capchat	15:00 Out& About rpt	15:30 Eco@Africa	16:00 Business Edition Rpt	16:30 Culinary delight rpt	17:00 Innovation rpt	17:30 Meza Huru	19:00 Sports Gazette	19:30 Chetu ni chetu	20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt	20:45 Telenovela: I Plead Guilty rpt	21:30 Capital Prime News	22:00 Dakika 45:	22:45 The Décor	23:15 Al Jazeera																																																					



The Chinese national flag is raised at Tian'anmen Square in celebration of the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, in Beijing, China, Oct 1, 2023. XINHUA

China refutes US report denying its contributions to global trade

BEIJING

CHINA yesterday strongly opposed a US report that denies China's contribution to the multilateral trading system and global economy after it acceded to the World Trade Organization over two decades ago.

The Ministry of Commerce said in a statement that China as the largest developing WTO member has always firmly supported the multilateral trading system, genuinely practiced multilateralism, and earnestly fulfilled its WTO commitments.

The country has continuously improved its market economy institutions and legal systems based on its national conditions, expanded high-level institutional opening-up, fully and deeply participated in the reform of the WTO, and actively helped other developing members, in particular the least developed countries, integrate into the multilateral trading system, the ministry said.

The Office of the United States Trade Representative recently released its 2023 Report to Congress on China's WTO Compliance.

The US side disregarded China's achievements in fulfilling its WTO commitments, distorted its progress in building a market economy and advancing reform and opening up, and made groundless and arbitrary accusations on its economic and trade policies, the

ministry said.

The ministry stressed that the US side smeared China's legitimate trade measures as economic coercion, labeled China's response to the US blockade and repression as decoupling, and falsely accused China of causing overcapacity, which fully reflects the unilateralism and bullying acts of the United States.

Exactly opposite to the US statements, China's positive and constructive role in promoting the multilateral trading system has been acknowledged and appreciated globally, the ministry said.

China was the first major developing country to accept the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, played a key role in successfully concluding negotiations on the Investment Facilitation for Development, and promoted the conclusion of negotiations on a number of global digital trade rules, the ministry said.

With "America first" as its starting point, the United States violated WTO rules, carried out unilateral trade bullying, and formulated discriminatory industrial policies, which has disrupted the global industrial and supply chains, seriously affected the international trade order, and undermined the common interests of WTO members, the ministry said.

The ministry called on the US side to correct its wrong deeds in a timely manner, earnestly abide by WTO rules and its commitments, work with China and other members to jointly uphold the rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core, and earnestly play its due role in addressing global issues and challenges.

Xinhua

Senior officials report work to CPC Central Committee, Xi

BEIJING

SENIOR officials of the Communist Party of China (CPC) have recently submitted reports on their work to the CPC Central Committee and Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

The officials are members of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, and members of the leading Party members groups of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the State Council and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, as well as secretaries of the leading Party members groups of the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate.

After reading through their work reports, Xi urged them to focus on advancing Chinese



modernization, well perform their job duties, strengthen their sense of political responsibility, and strive in unity to build China into a strong country and advance the national rejuvenation.

Noting that this year marks the 75th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China and a crucial year for the fulfillment of the goals and tasks set out in the country's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025),

Xi emphasized the need to fully implement the guiding principles of the 20th CPC National Congress and the second plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee.

Xi urged the senior CPC officials to take the lead in consolidating and expanding the outcomes yielded through the Party-wide education campaign, to fully and faithfully implement the new development philosophy on all fronts, and to deepen reforms across the board.

Efforts should be made to maintain and strengthen the rebounding economy and further improve people's well-being, Xi said.

Xi underlined that these officials should preserve the spirit of self-reform while fulfilling their principal responsibilities for full and strict Party self-governance.

Xinhua

Health ministry: Palestinian death toll in Gaza rises to 29,692

GAZA

THE Israeli army killed 86 Palestinians and wounded 131 others in the Gaza Strip during the past 24 hours, raising the total death toll in the enclave to 29,692 and injuries to 69,879 since the Israel-Hamas conflict broke out on Oct 7, 2023, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said in a press statement on Sunday.

It noted that many victims remain under the rubble due to heavy bombardment and a lack of civil defense and ambulance crews.

A Palestinian was killed and four others were injured in an Israeli raid on a house in the Al-Shaaf area, east of Gaza City, Palestinian medical sources told Xinhua.

The sources added that artillery shelling on the western part of Khan Younis city and the Al-Sabra neighborhood of Gaza City killed a number of Palestinians and injured dozens of others.

In the northern town of Beit Lahia, three Palestinians were killed and 10 others injured after the Israeli army attacked a residential house, with some people re-



People find their way through a rubble-covered alley, following overnight Israeli bombardment in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Sunday. AFP

maining under the rubble, according to Palestinian security sources. The security sources said violent clashes between armed Palestinian factions and Israeli forces broke out in the Al-Zaytoun neighborhood in the south of Gaza City, and explosions were heard in the area.

The Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), and the Al-Quds Brigades, the military wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement, announced in separate statements that their members "engaged in armed clashes with the Israeli forces east of the neighborhood and targeted their vehicles with shells and caused deaths and injuries among their

ranks".

For its part, the Israeli army announced on Sunday two soldiers were killed in a battle in the southern Gaza Strip.

The army added that an officer and two other soldiers were seriously injured during a battle in the southern Gaza Strip, and they were taken to hospitals for treatment.

Israel has been launching a large-scale offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on Oct 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and more than 240 were taken hostage.

Eurasian Economic Summit highlights China's growing role in building better world for all

ISTANBUL

THE 27th Eurasian Economic Summit, which ended on Thursday in Türkiye's cultural and financial hub of Istanbul, highlighted China's growing role in building a better world for all.

"It is impossible to talk about international relations in the 21st century without paying tribute to China's special role in building a new, much more functional and much more secure international relations," Zahari Zahariyev, chairman of the Bulgaria National Association for the Belt and Road, told Xinhua after his speech at the summit.

Zahariyev said that over the past decade, China has been contributing to laying the foundations for a world civilization through inclusive initiatives based on the principle of win-win.

"We are living in a very transitional pe-

riod. There are many risks confronting the future of mankind," Zahariyev said, noting China has been struggling to create a better world for all. Speakers and participants at the summit's panels praised the BRI, which is marking its 11th anniversary.

Vladimir Norov, former foreign minister of Uzbekistan and former secretary general of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), especially praised China's transportation projects, which connect Asia with Europe.

Such projects have been creating significant economic growth and sustainable development for many countries, he said. Speaking at a panel titled "Longing for Peace: Belt and Road Is 11 Years Old," Norov also noted that China's initiatives will help to solve global problems like climate change, food security and poverty.

Liu Gang, president of the Xinhua Insti-

tute, a Chinese think tank, said over the past 10-plus years, the BRI, spanning diverse civilizations, cultures, social systems and development stages, has forged new paths for interactions among countries.

"It has constructed a new framework for international cooperation, seeking the widest possible converging interests for the shared development of humanity," Liu said.

Two research reports presented by the Xinhua Institute, namely "The Belt and Road Development Studies -- A Synergy Approach to Global Development" and "For a Better World -- Looking at the Past Decade of Jointly Pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative from a Human Rights Perspective," were well received by experts and scholars at the summit.

Organized by the Istanbul-based Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation, the two-day summit attracted more

than 300 political figures, diplomats, academics and business people from around 40 countries.

Themed "From Crisis to Stability, Building an Inclusive World," the summit aimed to address global issues such as peace, climate change, water supply and artificial intelligence.



Xinhua

It has constructed a new framework for international cooperation, seeking the widest possible converging interests for the shared development of humanity

Russian forces repel seven counterattacks in Avdeyevka area, moving to better positions

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN forces repelled seven enemy counterattacks in the Avdeyevka area in the past day, moving to more advantageous positions, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"In the Avdeyevka area, units of Battlegroup Center moved to more advantageous positions, hitting troops and equipment of the Third Assault Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces and the 107th Territorial Defense Brigade near Tonen-

koye in the Donetsk People's Republic. In addition, seven enemy counterattacks were repelled near Novgorodskoye, Leninskoye, Lastochkino and Novobakhmutovka in the Donetsk People's Republic," the statement reads.

According to the Defense Ministry, the enemy lost up to 100 troops, four armored combat vehicles, eight motor vehicles, a Grad multiple rocket launcher, a D-30 howitzer and a Bukovel-AD electronic warfare system.

Moreover, Russian aircraft, artillery units and missile forces hit Ukrainian troops and equipment in 127 areas in the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"Russian tactical aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, missile forces and artillery units hit enemy troops and equipment in 127 areas," the statement reads.

South Donetsk area

Russian forces defeated three Ukrainian brigades in the south Donetsk area in the past

day, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"In the south Donetsk area, units of Battlegroup East inflicted a fire defeat on troops of the 72nd Mechanized Brigade and the 58th Motorized Infantry Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces and the 121st Territorial Defense Brigade near Novodonetskoye, Ugledar and Staromayorskoye in the Donetsk People's Republic. A counterattack by a Ukrainian assault team was repelled near Novodonetskoye in the

Donetsk People's Republic," the statement reads.

According to the ministry, the enemy lost up to 140 troops, two tanks, three armored combat vehicles, three motor vehicles and a Grad multiple rocket launcher. "In addition, a Bukovel-AD electronic warfare system and a Ukrainian ammunition depot were also hit," the ministry added.

Zaporozhye Region

Russian forces repelled two

attacks by Ukrainian assault teams in the Zaporozhye Region in the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"Two counterattacks by the assault teams of the 15th National Guard Brigade were repelled near Rabotino in the Zaporozhye Region. In the Kherson area, units of Battlegroup Dnepr inflicted a fire defeat on troops and equipment of the 28th and 65th mechanized brigades of the Ukrainian armed forces near

Rabotino and Shcherbaki in the Zaporozhye Region," the statement reads.

According to the ministry, Ukraine lost up to 30 troops, three motor vehicles and a US-made M777 howitzer.

Kupyansk area

Russian forces repelled four Ukrainian attacks near the Senkovka railway station in the Kupyansk area in the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

Agencies



We will transform India into a Global Export Hub - Modi

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi affirmed to transform India into a Global Export Hub as he inaugurated the global textile event, Bharat Tex 2024 at Delhi's Bharat Mandapam yesterday.

"We have a firm belief that we will transform India into a 'Global Export Hub'. In the last decade, we have added another new dimension to Vocal for Local. Today, public movements of Vocal for Local and Local to Global are going on in the entire country," PM Modi said while addressing the textile event.

"We have resolved to transform Bharat into a 'Viksit Rashtra' in the next 25 years. Four important pillars of Viksit Bharat are poor, youth, farmers and women. And notably, the textile sector of Bharat is connected with all these pillars," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister said that the government's consistent efforts are giving rise to increased foreign investments in India's textile sector.

"Today, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the textile sector has doubled from what it was before 2014," he said.

He highlighted the efforts of the government in building the textile sector, adding that it is focused on quality control.

"The positive impacts resulting from the efforts of a stable and visionary government on the textile sector can well be seen. In 2014, the valuation of the textile market of India was less than Rs 7 lakh crores, today, it has crossed Rs 12 lakh crores," the Prime Minister outlined.

"During the last 10 years, there has been a 25 per cent rise in the production of yarn, fabric, and apparel. The government is very much focused on quality control in the textile sector," he added.

PM Modi further emphasised how Khadi played a role in strengthening the women workforce in the industry.

"Out of every 10 garment makers, 7 are women and in handloom, it is even more. Apart from textile, Khadi has also given new strength to the women of our country," he said.

"I can say that whatever efforts we have made in the last 10 years have made Khadi a means of both development and employment," the Prime Minister added.

Today in India, along with scale, we are also laying great emphasis on skill in this sector, he said.

"The network of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has reached 19 institutes in the country. Nearby weavers and artisans are also being connected to these institutions," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister further emphasised 'Kasturi Cotton' launched by the government, which is anticipated to create an identity for India.

"Today, India is one of the largest producers of cotton, jute, and silk in the world. Lakhs of farmers are engaged in this work," he said.

ANI

South Africa's ANC pitches for votes as majority threatened

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's governing African National Congress (ANC) has launched its manifesto for the May elections, in which some polls suggest its share of the vote could fall below 50% for the first time.

President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed thousands of supporters at a rally in KwaZulu-Natal province.

The area will be a key battleground. Dissatisfaction with the state of the economy, public services and corruption has eaten away at ANC support.

The party of Nelson Mandela, who led the struggle against the racist apartheid system and oversaw the transition to democracy in 1994, has been the dominant force for the last 30 years.

But stubbornly high unemployment, which now stands at more than 32%, frequent power cuts and high crime levels, among other issues, have led some to turn away from the ANC.

There are challenges coming from the right, in the form of the main opposition Democratic Alliance (DA), and the more radical left with the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF).

KwaZulu-Natal is also the home of former President Jacob Zuma, disenchanted with the party and now suspended from the ANC. He has thrown his weight behind a new formation - uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) - which has already made some small inroads at by-elections in the province.

Speaking at a stadium in the city of Durban, with the crowd decked out in the ANC's black, green and gold, President Ramaphosa promised that "we will do better".

It was an acknowledgement that there are problems, but he also emphasised the transformation that the country has made in the last three decades.

"South Africans are more educated, empowered and healthier than they were under apartheid," he said, urging people not to threaten that progress.

Looking forward, his party promises to create 2.5 million "work opportuni-



President Cyril Ramaphosa said that South Africa had made a lot of progress in the 30 years of democracy

ties". It also pledges to boost investment and support the private sector as well as "eradicate corruption".

In his introduction to the manifesto, the president also wrote that "there are forces that seek to use this election to undo the progress of democracy. It is crucial that together we defend our hard-won freedom."

He did not name those "forces" but the ANC knows it faces its toughest electoral environment yet.

Since 1994, it has polled consistently above 50% in national elections, enabling it to run the country without challenge. But with some opinion polls showing that that support has dipped below an absolute majority, South Africa is facing the possibility of a coalition government after the 29 May general election.

In its party manifesto launched last week, the DA, under the leadership of John Steenhuisen, had a simple message: "Our country

is in crisis."

It has promised to create two million new jobs, end the power cuts and halve violent crime. The DA wants a more liberal economic approach, including introducing privatisation, especially in the energy sector.

On the opposite end of the political spectrum, the EFF's diagnosis is that the ANC has failed to dismantle the economic system that existed under apartheid.

Instead, the governing party has "reproduced and worsened apartheid economic inequalities", the EFF's high-profile leader Julius Malema wrote in his introduction to its manifesto.

The EFF's answer is to expropriate land without compensation and nationalise the "mines, banks and other strategic sectors of the economy, without compensation".

That wealth would then be used to benefit the majority of the population.

The MK has not yet released its manifesto, but at the party's launch last December Mr Zuma said the ANC had moved away from its roots and it was now his mission to "rescue" the "once-great movement".

There are more than 300 parties registered with the electoral commission, and though not all will necessarily take part in the May vote the stage is set for three months of hard campaigning. **Agencies**



Julius Malema's EFF has said it wants to transform the economy and put more wealth into the hands of ordinary South Africans

Russia vows retaliation against Western actions on its assets

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Finance Minister Anton Siluanov warned yesterday that Russia would retaliate in kind to any actions taken by Western countries against its assets abroad.

"This is not a question for us.



We are watching the decisions of the Western countries," Siluanov (pictured) said during an interview with Russia's RIA Novosti news agency, adding, "Any actions with our assets will receive a symmetrical response." Western countries have imposed sanctions on Russia since February 2022, freezing both sovereign and private assets.

The country's currency reserves were frozen to the amount of roughly \$300 billion.

Various reasons have been cited for seizing the Russian assets. In October 2022, the EU leaders asked the European Commission to draft proposals for using the frozen assets to finance the reconstruction of Ukraine, according to the RIA report.

Russia has responded strongly against the Western sanctions. The Kremlin said they "would be another step towards violating all the rules and norms of international law". The Russian Foreign Ministry denounced freezing Russian assets in Europe as theft. **Agencies**

India-US to engage in homeland security talks

New Delhi

INDIA and the United States are likely to conduct a significant dialogue on homeland security, focusing on topics such as counterterrorism, concerns related to Sikh radicals, cybersecurity, and aviation security, among other matters.

Sources familiar with the matter indicate that discussions will be led by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla and his counterparts from the United States in the national capital.

The anticipated topics for discussion are cooperation in counterterrorism, cybersecurity, combating illegal migration, extradition, aviation security, safeguarding global supply chains, and maritime security, among other areas. The last homeland security dialogue took place in January 2022.

Senior officials from both sides are expected to attend the full-day gathering.

According to sources, issues linked to Khalistani separatist Gurbhagat Singh Pannun and several fugitives residing in the US are expected to be raised during the dialogue.

India is expected to emphasise on issues such as the exploitation of the digital sphere by terrorist organizations for disseminating radical ideologies, recruitment, and financing terrorism.

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officials are

expected to seek collaboration with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

India will also emphasise on issues of cyberattacks on its essential infrastructure, including banks, railways, power and energy facilities, and hospitals.

Previously, non-state actors from China, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Myanmar have targeted critical infrastructure.

In 2022, data from the government-operated All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) was breached. A senior official mentioned concerns regarding data sovereignty due to the misuse of Indian data by numerous Chinese lending apps and online investment fraud.

The meeting is significant as this would provide another platform for India to raise these issues with the US.

Last year, National Investigation Agency Director General Dinkar Gupta met with his counterpart Christopher Wray from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. During the meeting, Gupta discussed ongoing investigations in the US regarding the attack on the Indian consulate in San Francisco by Pro-Khalistan elements. He emphasised the growing nexus between terrorist organisations and members of organized criminal syndicates, which is extending its reach to the US. **ANI**

Litang in SW China's Sichuan province finds secrets to tourism

LITANG county is located in the southwestern part of the Garze Tibetan autonomous prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan province. Situated on a plateau with an average elevation of over 4,000 meters, it is known as the "City in the Sky." With snow-capped mountains and picturesque grasslands, the scenery there is breathtaking.

Thanks to the internet and the growing popularity of cultural tourism, Litang has become a popular destination in recent years, attracting more and more visitors.

In 2023, the county received over 3.19 million visits and generated a total tourism revenue of 3.92 billion yuan (\$545 million), representing a year-on-year growth of 66.7 percent.

The Genyen scenic area, which features a 6,204-meter snow-covered peak that always shines brightly under

the sunlight, is to the southwest of Litang county across a grassland.

"There are hot springs here," said a tourist surnamed Chen, seeing the gentle flow of a stream in Rangrikar village at the foot of the Genyen Mountain. He took off his shoes and stepped into the water.

Chen had driven all the way from Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province, and had already stayed in Litang for half a month. There were quite a few tourists living in the village, and Chen said that leaving behind the hustle and bustle of the city and immersing himself in the nature allowed his soul to rest.

Letong ancient town, a folk culture scenic area, was established in Litang in 2018, with a total investment of nearly 80 million yuan. Tourists can explore ancient landmarks, enjoy traditional opera perfor-

mances, and wander through mini museums in the town, where around 4,000 local households live.

Horse racing has a long history in Litang, where a grand horse racing festival is held annually in the sixth month of the Tibetan calendar. This event has been hosted for over 400 years and gradually evolved into the Litang Horse Racing Festival that falls on Aug. 1 each year.

During the festival, people dress up in their finest attire, prepare delicious food and drinks, and gather on the grassland to enjoy equestrian performances.

However, as the times have changed, the younger generation has been embraced by more and more modern cultural activities, resulting in a decline in the number of horse racing enthusiasts and inheritors of equestrian performances.

In response to this, the Litang Horse Racing Festival encourages tourists to engage in horse riding activities, stages song and dance performances, and holds food exhibitions. In addition, it has collaborated with small-scale horse racing events in towns and villages to build unique tourism routes, further promoting the development of the horse breeding and racing industry.

After setting up his phone, Dawa, who was born in the 2000s, started livestreaming and introduced the essentials of horse riding.

Dawa returned to his hometown and became a live-streamer after graduating from university in 2023. Now he has around 40,000 followers on short video platforms. In Litang, almost every village has such young individuals.

To preserve culture and

make it bloom, remote small towns have to actively innovate amidst the collision of diverse cultures. Young people in Litang have brought traditional skills such as equestrianism, traditional opera, and textile craftsmanship to online spaces.

From natural landscapes to folk customs, Litang maintains a high level of popularity on short video platforms throughout the year.

The popularity of short videos has been on the rise, which has opened a new cultural window for Litang, nurturing over 30 online streamers each with more than 10,000 followers.

After a video featuring Tenzing Tsondu, a young man from Litang, went viral on the internet in November 2020, a short video showcasing charm of Litang received over 700 million views within 72 hours of its release, and

the online search volume for "Litang" surged by 620 percent.

The online popularity translated into a boost for tourism. During China's National Day holiday in 2021, tourism revenue of Litang increased by 72.4 percent year on year. Throughout the year, the county received more than 1.6 million visits, generating tourism revenue of 3.98 billion yuan.

According to Gerong, director of the Litang culture and tourism bureau, the comprehensive tourism revenue of Litang accounted for 26 percent of the county's GDP in 2022.

"To achieve long-lasting success, we need to take solid steps," said Gerong. The cultural and tourism industry has a wide range of implications, and the county has organized various departments to discuss the development

Ramadan 'explosion' looms for Israel and Hamas

TEL AVIV

THE statistics speak volumes. Over the years, the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in Judea, Samaria and eastern Jerusalem has morphed into a breeding ground for Palestinian violence with terror attacks.

This year, Ramadan is expected to begin at sundown on March 10 and Israel is at war with Hamas. Israeli leaders have hinted that they will send ground forces into Rafah, Hamas's last stronghold if no agreement on a hostage release is made by then. On Sunday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the CBS News show, Face the Nation that the Israeli Cabinet was due to approve that same day a plan to evacuate Rafah as a precursor to entering the city.

"If we have a deal, it will be delayed somewhat, but it will happen. If we don't have a deal, we'll do it anyway," Netanyahu said.

Hamas is believed to have four battalions in Rafah.

The terror group also threatened an "explosion" of rage if Israel moves to restrict Muslim worshippers from visiting the Temple Mount during Ramadan.

Ramadan is two weeks away and the clock is ticking. Will this Ramadan be remembered for a ceasefire, or the Battle of Rafah?

For the last three years, terror spiked during Ramadan anyway, so what difference does war make for Israelis? During Ramadan of 2021, Hamas orchestrated a barrage of rocket attacks from Gaza, triggering a full-blown 11-day war. The violence spilled over into Arab-Israeli communities, where simmering tensions erupted into widespread riots and unrest.

During Ramadan of 2022, Palestinians killed 15 Israelis in terror attacks ranging from shooting, stabbing and car-ramming attacks. The surge of violence continued after Ramadan - four more Israelis were killed during the spring - and the Israel Defense Forces cracked down, launching Operation Wave Breaker.

By the end of 2022, counterterror operations thwarted more than 500 attacks, but 31 Israelis were killed. **ANI**

Former Brazil PM denies coup plot as thousands rally in his support

SAO PAULO

JAIR Bolsonaro, the former President of Brazil, led a massive rally in Sao Paulo on Sunday, vehemently denying accusations of involvement in a coup plot to cling to power, CNN reported.

Thousands of Bolsonaro's supporters, adorned in the green and gold of Brazil's national flag, gathered on Paulista Avenue, a key thoroughfare in the nation's largest city, to express solidarity amid growing legal challenges.

Last week, the far-right populist used social media platform X to call for the protest rally, framing it as a "defence of the democratic rule of law." Bolsonaro is currently under investigation by the Brazilian Federal Police regarding an alleged coup attempt aimed at retaining power after losing the 2022 presidential election, as confirmed by his lawyer in early February. Former ministers from Bolsonaro's government are also under scrutiny, and some aides have been arrested, according to CNN.

Despite the mounting legal pressure, Bolsonaro, speaking on Sunday, maintained that he is a target of persecution, refraining from directly mentioning the investigating institutions. In 2022, Brazil's highest electoral court barred Bolsonaro from seeking political office until 2030, citing abuses of power and misuse of public media during the election campaign. **ANI**

path in depth.

Services have become more professional. The number of hotels in the county continues to increase and has exceeded 450.

Local training programs have been implemented to enhance the skills of employees, and a cultural and tourism "think tank" has been established. The number of B&B hotels in the county has exceeded 100.

Supporting facilities have been improved. Approximately 300 million yuan has been invested in tourism infrastructure construction, aiming to transform Litang into a provincial-level comprehensive tourism demonstration zone.

In 2022, a cultural and tourism big data center was established to digitize and consolidate tourism resources, making the county smarter. **People's Daily**

Tigo Kili Half Marathon winner revels in success

By Guardian Correspondent

THE 2024 Tigo Kili Half Marathon winner Faraja Damas has stated that dedication and fighting for his dream have turned out to be his secrets for the success.

Damas emerged as the winner of the half marathon held in Moshi last weekend after clocking 01:03:33 and beating Kenyan Peter Mwangi by 11 seconds - given the latter clocked 01:03:44.

The Tanzanian runner, a Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) officer, said that the victory is a great joy for him because his commitment and refusal to give up have paid off.

He said that since he started running in 2004, he has been participating in various races until he managed to win the half marathon sponsored by the Tigo company.

Damas disclosed: "I remember in 2004 when I was Standard Four pupil at Ligwa Primary School located in Ikungi District, Singida, I participated in a five kilometer race held in Babati, Manyara barefoot and I came out on top."

"Since that year, I had a dream of becoming a great athlete in Tanzania and I thank Tigo company for enabling me to start achieving my dream," the athlete pointed out.

Damas moreover thanked God for the talent He gave him and was adamant he will make sure he does better soon.



Tanzanian athlete Faraja Damas wins the Tigo Kili International Half Marathon on Sunday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

The runner noted: "I am very grateful to God for the talent He has given me because I have the pace and Tigo 4G is speedy."

"I believe that I will represent Tanzania well in the Paris Olympics' qualifiers to be held this year in Vienna in April," Damas added.

The 2024 Tigo Kili Half Marathon for women also saw Tanzania's athletes shine, given Failuna

Matanga emerged as the champion having clocked 1:16:54.

She was followed by compatriot Neema Kisuda who ended second place having clocked 1:16:57.

Tigo's Chief Financial Officer, Innocent Rwetabura, explained that his company has been participating in sponsoring the Tigo International Kili Half Marathon, now in its ninth year.

It is one of the Kilimanjaro

International Marathon races that have reached 22 successful years.

"I would like to congratulate the organizers of this race for valuing great professionalism and seeing to it that the showdown meets international standards," Rwetabura noted.

"Since 2015, Tigo has been the sponsor of the 21-kilometer race - known as the Tigo Kili International Half Marathon - to

promote sports tourism, develop and develop athletic talents and boost the tourism sector of the Northern region, including promoting our mountain heritage. Kilimanjaro," Rwetabura added.

Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro congratulated the athletes for the victory, saying it has reflected their good preparation for the event.



Some of NMB Bank employees who participated in the Kilimanjaro International Marathon, posing together with their medals after the race concluded in Moshi municipality in the Kilimanjaro region. A total of 150 participants from NMB Bank were among the 10,000 participants who took part in the race last weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NMB hits two milestones at Kili Marathon 2024

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

NMB Bank has boasted significant success at the International Kilimanjaro Marathon 2024, held on Sunday, February 25th, starting and ending at the Cooperative University Grounds in Moshi.

With over 10,000 participants from various countries worldwide, the Kili Marathon 2024 saw runners take part in the 42-kilometer full marathon, the 21-kilometer half marathon, and the 5-kilometer fun run, with the event graced by the presence of the Minister of Culture, Arts, and Sports, Dr. Damas Ndumbaro.

Through their running club, the 'NMB Jogging Club', the bank made a significant impact with over 150 participants, including NMB employees from various regions of the country.

A highlight was the special group of NMB youth ambassadors called 'Chugga Dance' from Arusha.

Following the conclusion of the race, the assistant manager of the NMB Jogging Club, Stella Motto, expressed the bank's great success in their participation, achieving "two birds with one stone" and thanking the management for their support.

"We are grateful for finishing the race safely, and we are grateful to our em-

ployer NMB for giving us the opportunity to participate in the Kili Marathon for over five years now. This year, we achieved great success in the two goals we set out with.

"We came here not only to build good relationships between our bank, partner institutions, and organizers but also to achieve two main goals: to improve and maintain the health of our employees and to promote one of our products in the market.

"Through our participants, the bank chose to leverage the Kili Marathon 2024 to promote our new product, the NMB Pesa Account, which is the most affordable and easiest ac-

count to open in the country, requiring only TSh 1,000, with no monthly fees like other accounts.

"We have succeeded in all these areas because our participation was engaging and raised significant awareness about NMB Pesa among other participants and spectators who witnessed the race on the streets of Moshi," she said.

She added that sports and exercise promote health and believes their participation will boost workplace morale.

The presence of participants from various institutions and regions, as well as individual participants, will help bring NMB Pesa

to every Tanzanian, as is the goal of the product.

In his remarks, NMB Jogging Club manager, Shadrack Mijjinga, expressed pride in their bank's participation in the Kili Marathon, commending their institution's preparations and the overall success and appeal of the race to various participants.

"It was another season of great success for us in these races. We had excellent preparations that allowed many of us to run and finish well at different distances, with many participating in the 21-kilometer and 5-kilometer races, as well as the 42-kilometer race.

Simba SC now faces all-important, make-or-break duel in CAF CL group stage

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

AFTER making a disastrous start to the CAF Champions League group stage in their respective pools, Simba SC and Yanga have now revived their once-diminished hopes of advancing to the quarterfinals of this immensely esteemed football championship.

Indeed, last weekend was decidedly crunch time for both Simba SC and Yanga as they confronted opponents in the penultimate round of matches of the CAF Champions League group stage.

In what was a gripping contest, Simba SC locked horns with ASEC Mimosas in Ivory Coast last Friday in a Group B showdown where there was little to choose between the two sides for long stretches of the encounter.

In the final analysis, the clash finished in a goalless sharing of the spoils, which left the Msimbazi Street outfit with six points and still in second place in Group B behind table-toppers ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast.

With ASEC Mimosas having already sealed their place in the quarterfinals, Simba SC now faces a do-or-die, must-win final Group B duel against Jwaneng Galaxy of Botswana this weekend at the magnificent Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

With failure not being an option, one hopes that Simba SC will be able to come out on top in the outfit's high-stakes tussle with Jwaneng Galaxy of Botswana, in what should be an epic contest.

Meanwhile, whereas Simba SC was unsuccessfully trying to break the deadlock in the side's match against Ivorian giants ASEC Mimosas, Yanga was blissfully busy demolishing CR Belouizdad of Algeria 4-0 in what was a ruthless rout of the Algerian counterparts.

Indeed, what was so striking about Yanga's wholly praiseworthy victory was the fact that heading into the match last Saturday, the

club had been in third place in Group D behind CR Belouizdad, which had been occupying second place by having a better goal difference than their Tanzanian foes even though both teams had the same number of points.

Right from the off, though, Yanga stamped its authority on the match and went into the half-time breather with a 1-0 lead.

The floodgates would well and truly open in the second half as Yanga put CR Belouizdad to the sword by netting three more goals to end the match as deserved 4-0 victors.

Consequently, Yanga's triumphant exertions in the club's last match mean that it now excitingly has all but made it to the quarterfinals.

Nevertheless, Yanga must still try its damndest to secure a favourable result against the mighty Egyptian heavyweight, Al Ahly, in the final Group D clash slated for this weekend.

Needless to say, we wish Yanga all the best as the outfit readies itself for a blockbuster encounter that should be deeply absorbing to behold.

Let us maintain the football theme and consider El-ephants' head coach Emerse Fae, who must unquestionably be a completely happy camper at the moment.

After steering Ivory Coast to claim the 2023 AFCON trophy earlier this year following the unceremonious dismissal of Jean Louis Gasset during the group stage of the competition, Fae has now been rightly appointed as Ivory Coast's boss on a permanent deal.

It should be noted that Fae took over the reins of the El-ephants on an interim basis following the departure of gallic tactician Jean Louis Gasset.

Thus, it is hoped that Fae's monumental and glorious success at the AFCON finals will result in more football federations on the continent hiring indigenous coaches to oversee various national football teams.



Tanzania's Simba SC midfielder, Said Ntibazonkiza (L), is pictured shooting past ASEC Mimosas' player when the two squads met in a Group B clash of this season's CAF Champions League in Ivory Coast last weekend, climaxing in a 0-0 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Jurgen Klopp's kids secure one of his greatest achievements - and true Liverpool legacy

By Jason Burt

THIS was a victory forged in Kirkby. A victory that is up there with Jurgen Klopp's greatest achievements. Maybe, in a one-off match, in a final, his greatest ever.

In terms of courage, in terms of determination, in terms of that belligerent refusal to accept circumstances have conspired against you, in terms of digging in, digging deeper and doubling down, it possibly even rivals that night in Istanbul in 2005 for Liverpool.

Maybe that is over the top given it was the Carabao Cup that was at stake, and not the Champions League and given Liverpool were facing a Chelsea side struck with an insipid lack of a killer instinct, rather than an AC Milan team that raced into a 3-0 half-time lead. But consider this...

Liverpool had 11 first-team players out. They had two, maybe three, from their strongest XI at the end. It was like an under-21 side laced with a few senior pros in Virgil van Dijk, Wataru Endo and Luis Diaz. Except Diaz, like Harvey Elliott, could barely run.

And consider this. Klopp turned to his bench. He turned to three hugely inexperienced teenagers, youngsters schooled so well at Liverpool's academy in Kirkby, and he showed how much he believed in them.

They returned that faith. There was 18-year-old Jayden Danns, and Bobby Clark and James McConnell, both just 19. There



Liverpool players pose with the trophy after the English League Cup final football match between Chelsea and Liverpool at Wembley stadium, in London, on February 25, 2024. Agencies

was 21-year-old Jarell Quansah and, in goal, there was Caoimhin Kelleher, another academy product, albeit at 25, who made two outstanding saves. The first, to deny former Liverpool attacker Raheem Sterling, was world-class.

And so this is Klopp's legacy in what will be, of course, his final season. Not a 10th League Cup, as welcome as that is, not even keeping alive the dream of a quadruple. No, it is what he has done in bringing back the belief, the spirit, the defiance, the identity. This is Liverpool. This is what it means.

It will be some inheritance for Klopp's successor, with the impressive Conor Bradley, at 20, starting and taking the game to Chelsea, and

with Elliott also just 20 but with more than a century of games under his belt and already something of a senior player.

In a sense, given the injuries and the fatigue, Klopp had little choice but to turn to the youngsters. But other managers would have hesitated. They would have persevered with the senior players and tried to keep them out there. But Klopp has the belief and the belief saw them home as he won his eighth trophy as Liverpool manager.

And then there is Van Dijk. Captain, leader, legend as Chelsea fans refer to their own, their former centre-half John Terry. Van Dijk is that for Liverpool. As well as the kids did for them, as hard as they worked, as they

were cajoled and encouraged by Klopp, and as much as they grew into this occasion, Liverpool would have been nowhere without Van Dijk.

They lost his centre-half partner, Ibrahima Konate. They took off Andrew Robertson and World Cup winner Alexis Mac Allister also departed. And yet Van Dijk continued. He was the touchstone, the rallying point, the colossus. He was also the match-winner.

For the fourth time in four and a half years, a final between these two clubs went to extra-time. But unlike in the previous three - European Super Cup in 2019, League Cup final in 2022 and the FA Cup final in the same year - it did not go to a penalty shoot-out. But just

like the previous three, Liverpool won.

The goal, with just two minutes of extra time left, said everything about the gulf between these two sides with Van Dijk running from the penalty spot, across the front of goal to angle his header from a corner into the net.

He just wanted it and was relatively unchallenged with Axel Disasi arriving late, then dropping to the turf and rolling around in frustration. He pointed to substitutes Christopher Nkunku and Mykhailo Mudryk but no one took responsibility.

The difference in the transfer fees for the teams that finished? Chelsea's XI cost £521 million. Liverpool's £163 million with half of that

on Van Dijk. But, then, he is priceless.

As Liverpool celebrated it showed how much it meant and it was there at the final whistle and it was there as they went to collect the trophy - as Klopp lifted it with Van Dijk - and then as Sir Kenny Dalglish waited to offer his congratulations in the tunnel.

And Chelsea? This could have been - this should have been, given the circumstances - lift off in the post-Roman Abramovich era and with Mauricio Pochettino winning his first trophy in England.

Instead, they left themselves open to being the "blue billion-pound bottle-jobs" as pundit Gary Neville delighted in labelling them and, unfortunately for

Chelsea, unfortunately for Pochettino, few could argue with that.

As fine a coach as he is, it is just one win in 14 for him when facing Klopp - including the 2019 Champions League when he was in charge of Tottenham Hotspur. Pochettino bent over the hoardings. He knew this was a missed opportunity.

And how his team missed opportunities. Conor Gallagher was their best performer but he could not finish - flicking one chance against a post and then being denied by Kelleher. He was not alone. Nkunku, Disasi, Cole Palmer. They were all wasteful.

Maybe Chelsea will argue they had the better of it - and yet Liverpool also struck the goal-frame. Twice, in fact, with a Cody Gakpo header hitting the post, as did another from Elliott in extra-time.

Both sides also had 'goals' disallowed after VAR checks - a finish by Sterling and another header by Van Dijk with Liverpool aggrieved as it was ruled out for Endo blocking off. It was an offence but the argument is a lack of consistency as it happens all the time.

Liverpool also felt anger after Moises Caicedo went unpunished for an ugly challenge on Ryan Gravenberch, who left on a stretcher. It added to Liverpool's daunting injury list.

But it was also used as fuel to fire them; to show that defiance and that belief that was summed up by Klopp and the kids.

THE TELEGRAPH

Mbappe will play 'when I want him', says PSG coach Luis Enrique

PARIS

AFTER taking off Kylian Mbappe as Paris Saint-Germain struggled to a home draw with Rennes on Sunday, coach Luis Enrique said the soon-to-leave superstar will play "when I want him".

Luis Enrique took off France captain Mbappe in the 65th minute with PSG losing. His replacement, Goncalo Ramos, won and converted an added-time penalty that gave the home team a 1-1 draw in Ligue 1.

Mbappe has said he plans to leave when his contract expires after this season with Real Madrid expected to be his next destination.

"It's very simple, sooner or later, when it happens, we have to get used to playing without Kylian," Luis Enrique told the post-match press conference. "When I want him to play, I'll play him, and when I don't, same thing."

Between the 64th and 70th minutes, Luis Enrique replaced his entire forward line, also taking off Ousmane Dembele and Bradley Barcola.

"It's a message for everyone," said Luis Enrique immediately after the game. "If you think I'm going to accept a player slacking off on the pitch, I'm not."

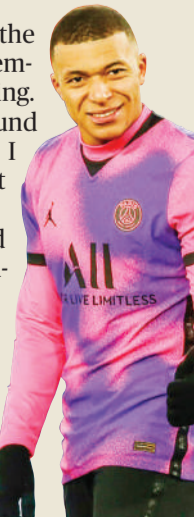
At the press conference he stressed that he was not singling out any players and that the whole team was "less inspired" than usual.

"No, no, you've got it all wrong. It's a message for everyone. I'm delighted with the attitude of my players. But if anyone thinks I'm going to give up on them, I won't."

"I wanted to change the feel of the match. I didn't want to take off Dembele but I thought he was hurting. I'm lucky enough to coach around 20 very high-level players, and I want them to understand that every minute has to be earned."

PSG, who have an 11-point lead over Brest in Ligue 1, face third-placed Monaco on Friday before travelling to San Sebastian to face Real Sociedad in a Champions League round-of-16 second-leg game on March 5, holding a 2-0 lead from the first leg.

AFP



Klopp ranks Liverpool's League Cup glory as his 'most special' trophy

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp hailed Liverpool's League Cup final triumph against Chelsea as the "most special" trophy of his career as the German learned he can win with kids.

Virgil van Dijk clinched Liverpool's 1-0 win with a dramatic header two minutes from the end of extra-time at Wembley on Sunday.

Liverpool's victory was especially sweet for Klopp as it came during an injury-hit period for his club that forced him to field a remarkably inexperienced team.

The Reds boss started with 20-year-olds Conor Bradley and Harvey Elliott in his side and brought on Bobby Clark (19), James McConnell (19), Jayden Danns (18) and Jarell Quansah (21) from the bench.

Injuries had deprived Klopp of Mohamed Salah, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Diogo Jota, Darwin Nunez, Alisson Becker and Joel Matip among others, while Ryan Gravenberch was stretchered off in the first half.

In the circumstances, Klopp ranked the seventh major trophy of his nine-year Liverpool reign as the most memorable of his career.

"In more than 20 years it is easily the most special trophy I



have ever won. It is absolutely exceptional," he said.

"Sometimes people ask me if I'm proud of things and it's really tricky, I wish I could feel pride more often but tonight is an overwhelming feeling."

"I was proud of everyone involved in everything here. I was proud of our academy, I was proud of my coaches, I was proud of so many

things. It was completely overwhelming."

Former Liverpool defender Alan Hansen famously criticised Alex Ferguson's decision to blood a host of Manchester United youngsters, including David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Gary Neville, by saying "you can't win anything with kids".

It was a turn of phrase that came back to bite Hansen as United's kids

dominated the Premier League.

Klopp had never heard Hansen's quote until the aftermath of Sunday's triumph, when it struck a chord with the emotional German.

"I got told there is an English phrase you don't win trophies with kids. I never knew that," he said.

"I loved it. Can you create stories in football

that never happened before? It is so difficult. If you can find any story about a group of academy kids coming on against a top team like Chelsea and winning, it's incredible."

"A memory forever" - Wreathed in a bewildered grin in the moments after Van Dijk's goal and at his fist-pumping best in the post-match celebrations, Klopp revelled in every moment of what might be his last visit to Wembley after his recent announcement that he will leave Liverpool at the end of the season.

"I couldn't care less about my legacy. I'm not here for that. It had nothing to do with maybe my last game at Wembley," he said.

"It was about seeing the faces of the kids. For me it's a really nice memory forever."

Asked when he knew Liverpool's cadre of rookies were ready to step up on the big stage, Klopp said: "Obviously age is not a problem at all. It was clear in training, these were the boys

we would take (to the final). We needed fresh legs."

While Klopp hopes Liverpool's success boosts their bid to stay top of the Premier League and win the FA Cup and Europa League, Chelsea boss Mauricio Pochettino was left to urge his players to embrace the pain of defeat.

Pochettino's side paid for wasting a series of chances to kill off Liverpool towards the end of normal time.

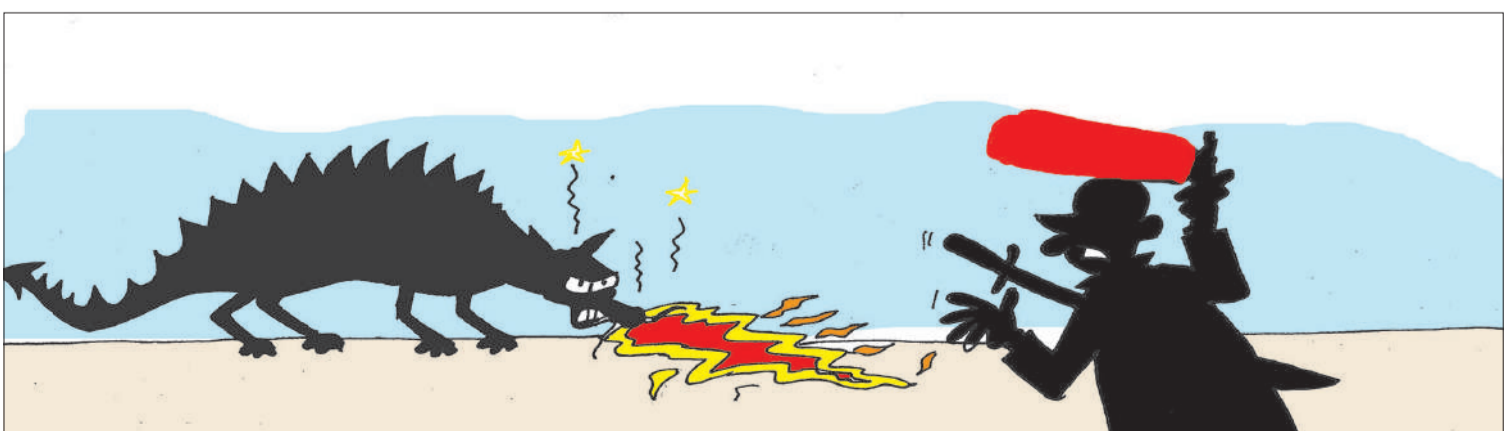
"We didn't get the reward we wanted. They need to fill the pain. We played for a trophy we didn't get. There is nothing you can tell me to feel better," said Pochettino, who remains without a trophy in English football.

"They need to realise we need to work more, do better things, to compete at this level against a team that has been doing big things for many years."

"Liverpool lost the finals in the past, but they kept moving and kept believing. That is an example to us."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Mbappe will play 'when I want him', says PSG coach Luis Enrique



PAGE 19

Dar hockey outfits set for 2024 Mapinduzi tourney

By Guardian Correspondent

EFFORTS to develop hockey in Tanzania have kept on gaining momentum, given the sport's clubs are set to battle it out in this year's Mapinduzi tournament set to get underway in Dar es Salaam this week.

The prestigious hockey tournament is organized by the Tanzania Hockey Association (THA) and sponsored by Reliance Insurance Company and NAS Tyre Services.

Nine outfits, THA Chairman Kaushik Doshi revealed, have confirmed to take part in this year's edition of the tournament, which is as well regarded as the National Hockey Club Championship.

The official pointed out the showpiece is scheduled to get underway on Thursday and conclude on Sunday, with Lugalo hockey ground hosting the matches.

Teams that have confirmed to take part in the showdown are defending champions Moshi Khalsa, TPDF, Arusha Twigas, Black Mambaz Red, Ngome, Black Mambaz Blue, Tanga Stars, JMK Park, and Twende Team.

Last year, the tournament's title went to Moshi Khalsa which downed TPDF in penalty shootout as the final could not be played due to heavy downpour.

According to Doshi, all preparations are taking place and all outfits are looking forward to vying for the national title.

The official also disclosed that the Tanzania Hockey Association appreciates its regular sponsors - Reliance Insurance Company as well as NAS Tyre Services - for their tremendous support to hockey and the 2024 National Hockey Club Championship.

The THA chairman further pointed out that during the tournament there shall be selection for players for the senior national hockey team.

He revealed there shall also be a 7-a-side hockey tournament for women's teams, which will be played alongside the men's showpiece, seeking to boost women's hockey.

Mtibwa Sugar seek hope against Dodoma Jiji

By Guardian Correspondent

TWO sides looking to swiftly move on from troubling results last weekend will clash in the NBC Premier League as rock-bottom Mtibwa Sugar seek to claw their way closer to survival in the afternoon when they host mid-table Dodoma Jiji at Manungu Complex.

After ending 2023 with a rare win, Mtibwa Sugar have started the new year with back-to-back defeats.

With only two wins and eight points, Mtibwa Sugar are now ten points from the safety of 12th position with 14 games left.

Safety remains a mathematical possibility, but a club that has conceded the highest number of goals in the league faces a bleak few months if coach Zuberi Katwila does not turn the tide.

Ahead of their latest assignment, Mtibwa Sugar only have the history books for encouragement, with three wins from their last four previous games against Dodoma Jiji.

In total, they have won four of their seven league games against Dodoma Jiji.

The home form shows Mtibwa Sugar have won four of their previous 10 games at Manungu. Two of those victories have come in their last five games.

There have been wins over Mashujaa and Geita Gold at home in the NBC Premier League plus Stand United in the Federation Cup round of 32 game.

Dodoma Jiji will make the trip to Manungu having lost 1-0 at Coastal Union last week.

Francis Baraza's side are currently tenth in the league table, eleven points ahead of their opponents.

Twiga Stars seek a miracle against South Africa

The Tanzanian ladies make the journey to Mpumalanga's Mbombela Stadium to face South Africa's Banyana Banyana in the second leg of the third round of the CAF zone qualifiers for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games this afternoon.

They have a huge task on their hands if they are to progress to the fourth round as they trail South Africa 3-0 from last week's third round's first leg.

Goals by Banyana striker Jermaine Seoposenwe in the first half and Thembi Kgatana and Hilda Magaia in the second half on Friday gave Desiree Ellis' side a convincing 3-0 victory at the Azam Complex Stadium.

In every sense, the odds are strongly against Bakari Shime's side, who find

themselves in the most unprivileged position of having to topple the African giants without one of their best strikers and in front of a passionate home crowd.

Just like in the first leg, Twiga Stars travelled to South Africa without lead striker Aisha Masaka - whose two goals against Botswana earned Tanzania a place in the third round of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games Qualifiers.

Masaka, who ply her trade in Sweden, is recovering from an injury picked while on

club duties.

Despite admitting they are facing an uphill battle, coach Shime is adamant there is still hope for his team to overcome a three-goal deficit against South Africa in the second leg today.

"After seeing the quality of our opponents as well as their weaknesses, we are going to work on those two areas to see how we can bounce back and we believe we can over-

turn the scoreline.

"We have not given up yet, the players are in high morale. They believe what happened was a football accident. I hope they continue keeping that belief and attitude. I believe we will do well and get good results," he said.

The aggregate winner over two legs will move on to the final round of qualifying where they'll play either Nigeria or Cameroon in the final round of qualification for the 2024 Paris Women's Olympic Football Tournament.

Tanzania is yet to make an appearance in the Women's Olympics.

Only two African teams at the end of the fourth round are guaranteed a place at the 2024 Paris Women's Olympic Football Tournament.



By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA senior women's national football team, Twiga Stars, need to conjure up a slice of magic to prolong their Paris 2024 Olympic Games qualifiers journey.



Azania Bank Limited employees led by director of internal audit, Oswald Matilya (2nd L wearing a cap), in a jovial mood after completing Kili Marathon held in Moshi on Sunday. The annual charity event is aimed at fundraising to support community projects. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Youssouph Dabo laments Azam's blunt strike force

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM coach Youssouph Dabo has challenged his strikers to improve their game, raising concern over his team's recent frustration in front of goal against Tabora United and Prisons in the NBC Premier League campaign.

The 2013/14 champions are currently second on the log standings on 37 points, six points behind leaders Young Africans who have a game in hand and only one point ahead of Simba who have two games in hand.

Last week, Azam lost ground in the title race as they dropped four points on the road. They were first held to a goalless draw by Tabora United on Monday last week to go level on points with third-placed Simba.

On Sunday, they had to come from behind to salvage a draw against a resurgent Tanzania Prisons side at Sokoine Stadium.

Although Azam are still firmly in the title race, Dabo believes they could have been in a much better position

if they had been clinical in front of goal.

He attributed the team's struggle to a blunt strike force and called for improvements.

"I am not satisfied with the result but we need to be smart and not panic. It is football. We have difficulties, especially offensively, because our forwards are not at their best levels. They are not performing at their best.

"I don't need to mention names but if you watch our games you can see. It is our job to help them to find their levels again.

"They have not lost

their qualities but physically, mentally they need to rediscover their performances," he said.

The outspoken Senegalese coach is calling for calm among both players and supporters as the team prepares for their upcoming matches.

"You can have a lot of surprises in football. Anything can happen in football just like in life, you need to be optimistic, believe in yourself and your work. We need to analyse ourselves and find more solutions, but we don't need to panic," he added.

With 39 goals, Azam

are the joint highest scorers in the NBC Premier League this season but they have only found the net four times in their previous four games.

They have lost their two main centre forwards Prince Dube and Allasane Diao who are battling injuries.

During the December-January transfer window, they brought in Colombian striker Franklin Navaro and loaned out Idriss Mbo-mbo.

However, Navaro is also on the sick bay leaving them with no recognized centre forward.



Flexibles by David Chikoko

