



### National Pg 3

Samia to grace Merck Foundation Africa, Asia Luminary



### National Pg 4

Mwinyi tells contractors to complete projects on time



### National Pg 6

Jafo wants value for money in key projects



INSIDE

## RCs, DCs tasked to bring disabled children to school by early next year

To accommodate the growing number of these students, the government has also built two model special schools, including Patandi Special School

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government has instructed regional and district commissioners, along with local government levels, to supervise an exercise to enumerate children with special needs.

Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office (PO-RALG) issued these instructions at the opening ceremony for the 30th anniversary of inclusive education initiatives hosted by the Patandi Inclusive Education School in Arumeru District.

Leaders at different levels need to devise strategies for protecting individuals with albinism from targeted violence, he said, appealing to residents and local officials to utilize the inclusive education

centers and specialists available within local councils.

This can help guide the enrollment of the often marginalised children in appropriate schools or institutions for suitable interventions.

"The process of identifying children with special needs should be completed before the registration period," he said, implicitly relating to starting a new school year, pointing at guidelines provided by PO-RALG in 2022, with auxiliary instructions from the Education, Science and Technology ministry last year.

"Regional and district commissioners, as well as local leaders, must ensure that children with disabilities are taken from their homes and sent to school. Those hiding these children must be identified,

TURN TO PAGE 2



President Samia Suluhu Hassan speaks with the Duchess of Edinburgh, Princess Sophie at the State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

## Samia clean cooking energy campaign gets new 'sponsor'

By Henry Mwangonde

AZAM business group is spearheading a new initiative to support the clean cooking agenda, with a campaign to reach 10,000 women food vendors across the country.

Hussein Sufian, the group corporate affairs director for the Said Salim Bakhresa (SSB) group of companies, said at a press conference yesterday that his initiative is intended to augment efforts to combat climate change.

The Azam clean cooking campaign is being conducted in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and a gas distributor tied to the group.

It seeks to distribute ethanol stoves to food vendors nationwide, complementing the government's efforts to mitigate climate change effects, thus the campaign kick-off will see the group donate 500 ethanol stoves in Dar es Salaam, with plans to expand up-country.

"About 80 percent of households rely on charcoal and firewood for cooking, which amounts to upwards of 8m households. This reliance has resulted in the loss of over 25 percent of forest cover," he stated.

Ethanol is one of the most affordable alternative energy sources and is widely available in the market, he stated, complementing the campaign starting May this year when

TURN TO PAGE 2

## SPORTS

Page 20



Simba prepare for CAF Confederation Cup showdown with full fan support

## Page 19



New Champions League format makes its debut with same old winners: Madrid, Liverpool, Bayern, Juve

## UNESCO setting key criteria for media councils network

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN media practitioners have a vital role to play in shaping public opinion, fostering democratic dialogue and advancing human rights for the region to achieve rapid development, a global civil servant has stated.

Michel Toto, the local representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UN-

ESCO) made this assertion at a strategic meeting of the Network of Independent Media Councils in Africa (NIMCA) in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The gathering brought on board technical team and board members to establish an operational framework for the network, to draw up basic terms of association, and set the ground for the highly anticipated 2025 NIMCA conference in the city.

Affirming the strategic significance of the gathering, he said that the media plays an essential role in reflecting the diversity of the societies it serves, urging the technical team to prioritize gender and disability inclusion within media institutions across Africa.

As a catalyst for social transformation, the media must ensure that women, persons with disabilities and other marginal-

TURN TO PAGE 2



Eye surgery specialists use a 'phacoemulsifier' to perform cataract surgery through a small incision. Vision Care, in collaboration with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), has donated two of the machines to the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), costing 68.2m/-. Photo: MNH

## KRTO goes for the knockout blow in 'responsible trekking'

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

THE Kilimanjaro Responsible Trekking Organization (KRTO) has strongly affirmed its commitment to improving conditions for porters, even as it faces accusations of unfair trade practices and undermining local trekking businesses.

KRTO CEO Kelvin Salla said here yesterday that the entity is a non-profit agency focused on ethical trekking and environmental stewardship on the mountain, ocean as its activities are being contested by local stakeholders.

In an exclusive interview, he objected to accusations from local tour operators that KRTO was undermining their business in the mountain tourism ecosystem. Local operators contend that KRTO's initiatives unfairly restrict their access to the lucrative \$50m trekking market.

He said that the Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project (KPAP) set up in 2003 was designed to improve porters' conditions, thus seeing KPAP as essential to KRTO's responsible trekking efforts.

It was meant to tackle exploitation facing many porters relying on trekking for a living, as it ensures porters receive fair wages, suitable gear, three meals a day, proper sleeping arrangements and limits their load to 20kg, he stated.

Veteran porter Innocent Swai was pleased with KPAP's efforts, pointing out that this has raised earnings to \$10 a day after years of struggle, while the CEO said that KPAP staff closely monitor compliance.

It requires partner companies to maintain at least 85 percent adherence to the standards it has set out, monitoring over 60 local companies for responsible tourism practices, all at no cost to the companies, he said.

Pristine Trails, a KPAP partner, confirmed that participation is voluntary and free of charge, where a company commits to improving work-

TURN TO PAGE 2



# RCs, DCs tasked to bring disabled children to school by early next year

FROM PAGE 1

and anyone who abuses children with albinism must face immediate consequences," he said.

Parents and guardians need to ensure that children with special needs are enrolled in schools recommended by experts, while adhering to the 2022 guidelines for establishing and managing centers for the identification and assessment of special learning needs at the council level.

He insisted that regional administrators move to strengthen educational screening and assessment centers (ESRAC) for students with special needs in each region and local councils to provide appropriate services.

At independence, there were only a few students with special needs in schools, but by 2020, that number had grown to 28,482 within a normal trajectory, but owing to supportive policies and strategies the number had risen to 78,429 students mid this year, he stated.

The government has designated 6,088 schools to provide interventions for special needs students, including 309 schools with boarding facilities, he said, noting that for 2022/23 and 2023/24, the government allocated over 8.3bn/- for

specialized equipment and assistive devices for students with special needs.

To accommodate the growing number of these students, the government has also built two model special schools, including Patandi Special School, he said, pointing out that from 2021 to 2024 the government built 172 dormitories, along with 44 classrooms and 132 toilet facilities.

The work was carried out through the 2023 booster programme for primary school pupils with special needs, stressing the need to motivate teachers who educate these pupils and to promptly address challenges faced to ensure effective teaching.

Dr Magreth Matonya, the ministerial director for special education said that the goal of marking the day is to promote the development of ethics, skills, creativity, and technology to empower the children for future income generating activities.

Local officials need to make them aware of public opportunities, including scholarships and achievement-based consideration for the children, as well as assessing progress to formulate strategies for advancing special education generally, she added.

# KRTO goes for the knockout blow in 'responsible trekking'

FROM PAGE 1

ing conditions.

KPAP similarly offers award-winning life skills programmes that empower porters and their communities, promoting financial literacy, household sanitation and educational opportunities.

To address climate change, KPAP organizes "leave no trace" initiatives, linking environmental sustainability with poverty reduction, with observers saying that support for KRTO and KPAP largely comes from climbers who wish to contribute positively to the mountain.

Through the International Mountain Explorers Connection (IMEC), KRTO channels donations into preserving Mount Kilimanjaro, illustrating that ethical trekking fosters significant ecological and social advancements.

"KRTO has been a leader in community and environmental initiatives in Tanzania, enhancing the well-being of local mountain crews and communities" the organiser noted.

The organization has also conducted numerous workshops on environmental awareness, training over 172 mountain crew members and cleaners from the Kilimanjaro National Park Authority (KINAPA).

Collaborating with KINAPA, KRTO has played a vital role in preparing for trekking seasons and participated in KINAPA's 52nd anniversary environmental campaign, engaging over 825 mountain crew members.

KRTO certified 16 porters and guides as 'leave no trace' trainers, while in community empower-

ment, KRTO has assisted over 4,000 local residents in organic farming and entrepreneurship workshops.

It has facilitated the creation of five village savings and loans groups, while health and safety needs are covered with KRTO trained first aid instructors to bolster community preparedness.

Since 2003, KPAP and KRTO have provided over 37,000 pieces of gear to mountain crews at no cost, he said, elaborating that the programme advocates for the fair treatment of mountain crew members and oversees responsible trekking practices with nine additional companies.

In 2023, the programme supported over 8,000 mountain crew members, generating more than 67,000 job opportunities from monitored climbs, while hosting 41 management meetings with partner companies attracting nearly 2,900 attendees in 2023 alone.

"These efforts have garnered international recognition, including the World Responsible Tourism Award 2022 for supporting employees and communities during the pandemic, and a silver award in the Meaningful Tourism Award 2022 for the employees' category.

The KPAP monitoring programme has also been recognized by Travelife for its commitment to ethical operations and community welfare.

A Travelife statement said that the stakeholder magazine has noticed the dedication to fostering responsible tourism. "KPAP stands out for its transparency and commitment to fair treatment of local communities," the statement intoned.

# Samia clean cooking energy campaign gets new 'sponsor'

FROM PAGE 1

President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched a 10-year national clean cooking energy strategy.

It was pegged to \$1.8bn (4.0trn/-) expenditure estimates in the campaign, with a number of public institutions tasked with organising shifting to cleaner energy when serving in-house communities of over 100 people, including prisons, military camps, educational and health establishments, etc.

In remarks at the launch, President Samia expressed concern on the dangers posed by unsafe cook-

ing methods, pointing at firewood and charcoal, urging that the strategy be integrated into the Vision 2050 expression of views.

There was also a need to establish a specialized fund to mobilize resources for clean cooking energy access, while energy firms came up with donations of gas cylinders in the aftermath.

Victor Hakim, the UNIDO resident representative, appealed to organisers of the new initiative to take its outreach efforts to wider areas, ensuring that the majority of the population can access its supplies.



Henry Chundu (L), an expert with OGM Consultants architects' firm, shows various areas of Mwanza central market to Finance minister Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba yesterday, who was inspecting implementation of the project, reportedly reaching 96 per cent completion, with over 23.3bn/- in costs so far. Photo: Vitus Audax

# UNESCO sets key criteria for media councils network

FROM PAGE 1

ized groups are not only represented but actively involved in shaping 'narratives' that uphold equality, dignity, and respect.

The UNESCO official pointed at the practical manual and masterclass video series on disability equality in the media as valuable resources for the NIMCA network, noting that UNESCO is committed to transforming media institutions to embrace inclusivity and repre-

sentation.

"By embedding gender and disability inclusion, we can foster a more equitable society where all voices are heard and all stories are told," he stated.

NIMCA announced plans for virtual and in-person meetings, where the technical team will review and improve documents to be presented to board members.

Ernest Sungura, the NIMCA chairperson, said that the December

meeting, taking place in South Africa, will finalize operational frameworks and strategically position NIMCA for the kickoff

NIMCA's inaugural meeting of media councils from across Africa in June 2025 will be a significant milestone bringing together media councils to find ways of strengthening media freedom, ethics and public accountability, he explained.

"NIMCA invites independent media regulators from other African

countries to join the organization, he said, hinting that the December meeting will focus on the importance of independent media councils as a core criterion for membership in NIMCA.

Its ethos and operations will be guided by the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, issued by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights back in 2019, he added.



Former president Jakaya Kikwete speaks at a training session for health and education ministers from a number of developing countries through the Harvard ministerial leadership programme run by Harvard University held in the United States. He was among former national leaders involved in delivering the training. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

E-MOBILITY experts have met in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss ways to accelerate the adoption of e-mobility in Africa.

The five-day Africa E-Mobility Week 2024 brought together more than 200 delegates, including representatives from United Nations agencies, senior government officials, and innovators from across Africa, to foster collaboration and advance the sustainable mobility movement on the continent.

Alexander Koerner, manager of the Sustainable Mobility Unit at the UN Environment Program (UNEP), said Africa should embrace the use of e-mobility as one of the important climate actions in the transport

# Experts meet in Nairobi to boost e-mobility in Africa

and energy sector.

"Africa can leverage on its abundant renewable energy sources, such as solar and geothermal power, to roll out electrification of its public transportation systems," he said.

He noted that the UNEP is currently providing technical expertise to various African governments to reform their legislations and regulations so that they can provide incentives to promote the flow of investments into the e-mobility sector.

Stephen Nzioka, director of renewable energy in the Kenyan Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, said inadequate charging infrastructure is one of the key challenges to the widespread adoption of e-vehicles.

Nzioka said Kenya has rolled out several government-led initiatives, including financing the development of public charging infrastructure through budgetary allocation.

He noted that due to tax incentives, the number of electric vehicles has risen to about 5,000 in the

country.

Warren Ondanje, managing director of the Africa E-mobility Alliance, called for the development of harmonized e-mobility standards across the continent to promote green modes of transport.

Hilina Legesse, president of the Addis Ababa E-mobility Association, also urged Africa to switch to electric vehicles because they have lower operating costs as compared to fossil fuel-based modes of transport.



Dastan Kamanzi, the Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF) executive director, briefs The Guardian Ltd (TGL) newsroom staff on productivity journalism, at TGL offices in the Mikocheni light industrial area in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

## Samia to grace meeting of 6,000 health workers

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is set to grace the 11th edition of Merck Foundation Africa Asia Luminary which will bring together over 6,000 healthcare providers, policymakers and media professionals from over 70 countries by late October.

The two-day conference to be held on October 29 and 30 in Dar es Salaam will focus on advancing healthcare and addressing a wide range of sensitive issues.

The event will be officially inaugurated alongside Prof. Dr Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp, Chairman of Merck Foundation Board of Trustees and Dr Rasha Kelej, CEO of the Merck Foundation.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Minister for Social Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Dorothy Gwajima said the conference will discuss issues related to improving maternal and child health, cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure, among others.

She said first ladies of over 15 African nations, including Burundi, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic and Ghana, will be present as keynote speakers.

She said attendees will participate in both physical and virtual sessions, with 500 participants attending in person.

Dr Kelej explained: "We are thrilled to hold the 11th edition of our annual conference in partnership with the Tanzanian government. We are also honoured to welcome the first ladies of Africa who are ambassadors of our 'More Than a Mother' campaign."

Prof. Haverkamp said: "Merck Foundation's mission is to improve health and wellbeing by strengthening healthcare capacity and providing equitable access to medical care across Africa, Asia and beyond. This annual conference reaffirms our

commitment to this goal."

The event will celebrate the Merck Foundation's achievements, marking the 7th anniversary of the foundation and 12 years of its impactful programmes. Since 2012, the foundation has provided over 2,000 scholarships to young doctors from 52 countries in critical specialties such as oncology, diabetes and fertility care, transforming the healthcare landscape in underserved regions.

He said the first day of the conference will feature a plenary session with a high-level panel of African first ladies, followed by discussions on the impact of the foundation's programmes.

The second day will offer five parallel medical and scientific sessions covering areas such as oncology, reproductive care, diabetes and capacity building in specialized fields like respiratory and neonatal care.

A Merck Foundation health media training session will also be conducted, emphasizing the crucial role of media in driving cultural change and raising awareness on issues such as infertility stigma, girls' education and gender-based violence.

Countries to be represented at the 11th edition include but not limited to Angola, Bangladesh, Burundi, Egypt, Ghana, India, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



**...We are also honoured to welcome the first ladies of Africa who are ambassadors of our 'More Than a Mother' campaign**

By Guardian Reporter

## UN commends Tanzania for women's economic justice

THE United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women) has praised Tanzania for its robust leadership in fulfilling Generation Equality Forum (GEF) commitments, particularly in advancing women's economic justice and rights.

Generation Equality is a global initiative aimed at accelerating investments and actions for gender equality, bringing together organisations from various sectors to drive progress and advocate for transformative change.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a private sector leaders' high-level meeting, Dr Mitra Sadananda, officer-in-charge at UN Women Tanzania, highlighted the country's role as a beacon of progress in the international arena, especially in promoting economic justice and rights for women.

The meeting, organised by UN Women Tanzania in collaboration with the government and Generation Equality National Advisory Committee, convened key stakeholders, including representatives

of private sector organisations, to discuss the crucial role of businesses in achieving gender equality.

Dr Sadananda said that Tanzania's leadership has done a lot to help improve lives of women and girls, setting an example for the world.

He outlined key objectives of the high-level meeting as to increase investments in gender-responsive care services, promote decent work for women in both formal and informal sectors and enhance women's access to productive resources.

However, he stressed that the goals require active involvement of the private sector.

"This collaboration aligns with UN Women's strategy for engaging the private sector. Our aim is to cultivate a responsible, diverse and inclusive private sector that supports full realisation of gender equality and women's empowerment," he said.

Dr Sadananda further noted that economic empowerment of women

is vital for sustainable growth and should be integrated into core business operations. In partnership with the UN Global Compact, UN Women has developed a framework for the private sector, offering practical strategies to promote gender equality across workplaces, marketplaces and communities.

Angellah Kairuki, chairperson of GEF National Advisory Committee, highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships in driving sustainable change.

"The corporations here today are actively engaged in gender-focused initiatives. We leverage the diverse memberships and capabilities of these entities to reach more players in the private sector," she said.

She said Tanzania has been a proud partner of Generation Equality since its inception, with President Samia Suluhu Hassan serving as a GEF global champion.

"Under her leadership, Tanzania

co-leads the economic justice and rights action coalition and has made four commitments to this global agenda which include increasing investment in gender-responsive public and private care service, expanding decent work opportunities for women in both formal and informal economies and enhancing women's access to, control over, and ownership of productive resources," she said.

She said that Tanzania Generation Equality Multi-Sectoral Programme (TGEP) 2021-2026, coordinated by ministries responsible for gender affairs in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar, underscores the country's dedication to gender equality.



Dr Toba Nguvula (L), the Dar es Salaam regional administrative secretary, greets Seka Urjo (R) the NMB Bank city zone manager, after formally opening the Kariakoo Festival at Mnazi Mmoja Grounds that the bank is sponsoring. Looking on is Martin Mbwana, chairman of the Kariakoo Traders Association. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Biteko to officiate construction of a 49.5-megawatt dam today

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Energy Dr Doto Biteko is today scheduled to officiate ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of a 49.5-megawatt Malagarasi hydropower dam.

According to a statement released yesterday by energy ministry, the project includes a 132 KV electricity transmission line running for 54 kilometres from Igamba to Kidahwe, as well as a 400/220/132/33 KV substation in Kidahwe, Kigoma Region.

It said that implementation of the Malagarasi project will cost \$144.1

million (388bn/-), with the government contributing \$4.14 million, while African Development Bank (AfDB) will provide \$140 million as a concessional loan.

According to the statement, the project consists of three main components. The first involves construction of dam, waterway channels, a powerhouse capable of generating 49.5 megawatts and a 132 KV switchyard.

"The second component relates to the construction of a 54 km 132 KV transmission line that will connect the power generation station to the national grid via Kidahwe

substation," reads the advisory.

The third component involves establishing an electricity distribution network in seven villages: Mazungwe, Kidahwe, Mwamila, Kalenge, Kazuramimba, Mlela and Igamba.

The Malagarasi project is expected to generate an average of 181 gigawatt-hours of electricity per year. This electricity will meet domestic needs of the Kigoma Region and surrounding areas, facilitate regional electricity trading (Southern and Eastern Africa Power Pools) and enhance social services, including education, health, water supply and industrial activities.

# FOR SALE

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# Conservationists advised to involve villagers in forest protection drives

By Beatrice Philemon, Morogoro

CONSERVATIONISTS have been urged to educate and involve villagers in community-based forest management for them to reduce deforestation in the country.

Dunstan Kitandula, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism made the call yesterday when speaking at the opening of the 24th workshop of Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA).

He called on MJUMITA to also be creative in writing good proposals because funding for forest conservation is available both in Tanzania and abroad.

He called on MJUMITA's community network members from different regions across the country to continue educating villagers on Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) and assist them to follow laws and regulations for forest conservation.

He said that education on forest management and conservation should be introduced in primary schools to help pupils understand forest conservation from a young age and increase the number of stakeholders who are aware of conservation issues in Tanzania.

The deputy minister called on MJUMITA to visit primary schools and educate pupils on forest conservation and management instead of relying on villagers.

"It is very important for pupils to understand forest conservation and management because it helps them understand how deforestation affects the environment," he said.

He said equipping pupils with knowledge about the vital functions of forests is essential for conserving natural resources for future generations.

"By nurturing awareness and a sustainability attitude in today's children, we pave the way for responsible environmental conservation among the adults of tomorrow."

"Forests provides us with water, habitats for animals, clean our air,

maintain a healthy environment, oxygen, shelter, keep our rivers, streams and lakes healthy, it is very important to protect forests in areas where we are for conservation of the environment and for future generations," he said.

MJUMITA executive director Rahima Njaidi called on donors and institutions dealing with forest conservation to support them in terms of funds because in areas where they work, deforestation is RAMPANT and land use plans are not in place.

"We need at least 3bn/- per year for forest management and land use plan activities to prevent deforestation, protect forests and support villages to promote sustainable land use and natural resources management in their localities," she said.



**Forests provides us with water, habitats for animals, clean our air, maintain a healthy environment, oxygen, shelter, keep our rivers, streams and lakes healthy. it is very important to protect forests in areas where we are for conservation of the environment and for future generations**

## Experts meet to discuss Africa's emerging integration problems

By Special Correspondent, Lusaka

THE 11th Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Annual Research Forum opened on Tuesday, with a focus on emerging issues in regional integration.

The forum, held virtually under the theme "Fostering Economic Integration and Inclusivity in COMESA through Value Addition, Green Investments, and Tourism," has brought together about 100 participants comprising policymakers, academics, think tanks, and the private sector from member countries and beyond.

The three-day forum is expected to discuss issues of green investment, climate financing, value chain development, tourism, and the inclusion of women and youth in regional economic integration.

COMESA Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe said the use of scientific research and evidence has become crucial for sound policy formulation and significantly reduced the rate of policy failure.

"This forum helps us stay connected with current policy challenges while drawing upon new knowledge and insights from scholars, researchers, academics, and policymakers," she said at the start of the meeting.

According to her, Africa is experiencing the most devastating effects of climate change, with some countries in the region suffering long spells of drought, hence the need to refocus priorities.

It is imperative for countries in the

regional bloc to prioritize greening investment as they try to scale up industrialization, said Kapwepwe, adding that research efforts should lead to innovative green investment options.

Dorothy Tembo, deputy executive director of the International Trade Centre, emphasized the need for accurate and timely data for exporters, policymakers, and small businesses.

According to her, the biggest hurdle standing in the way of greater integration through value addition, green investment and tourism is the lack of timely, comprehensive data on trade and market trend analysis and export requirements.



**This forum helps us stay connected with current policy challenges while drawing upon new knowledge and insights from scholars, researchers, academics, and policy-makers**



Pendo Lema (C), the Accelerate Africa (T) country coordinator, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the forthcoming Accelerate Africa Summit 2024, on its awards and gala Dinner set for November in Arusha. Others are Isaac Fivawa (L) and Jabeen Shiraz, the NGO's youth development coordinator and executive secretary, respectively. Photo: Correspondent

## Mwinyi tells contractors to complete all ongoing strategic projects on time

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has said that strategic projects being implemented in the isles must adhere to timelines to ensure they benefit the residents.

President Mwinyi made the remarks at State House in Zanzibar during a meeting with members of a delegation from Oman Energy Centre who were in Zanzibar to discuss progress of projects they oversee, including water, energy

and renovation of Stone Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

He assured the delegation that the government of Zanzibar would offer full cooperation to ensure success of the important projects which he described as vital for the economy, development and wellbeing of its people.

Dr Mwinyi urged the delegation to communicate any obstacles or challenges that may arise during project implementation so that the government can take prompt action

to address them. Highlighting the importance of clean and safe water project, President Mwinyi advised the delegation to prioritize ensuring a reliable water supply in all areas involved in their initiatives.

Additionally, he expressed satisfaction with the ongoing projects managed by Oman Energy Centre in Zanzibar, which he said continues to strengthen the long-standing cooperation between Oman and Zanzibar.

Abdallah Humaid Al Ma'amary,

CEO of Oman Energy Centre, noted that one planned improvement for Stone Town is to transform it into a smart city while preserving its authenticity and adhering to UNESCO standards, given its status as a world heritage site and a symbol of Zanzibar's history.

He further explained that feasibility studies for the proposed projects have been completed and praised the cooperation received from Zanzibar government senior officials involved in the initiatives.



Dr Batilda Buriani, the Tanga regional commissioner, speaks with journalists well ahead of the November 27th voting in the local government elections in the region. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

## UN team warns of uneven progress in digital transformation worldwide

UNITED NATIONS

UN officials have warned that as the digital world continues to transform, developing regions are at risk of being left behind.

Although he hailed the progress made in digital government advances, the UN Assistant

Secretary General for Economic Development, Navid Hanif, said there are still disparities between regions.

"The development of digital government has seen a significant upward trend. That's good news, and it's worldwide, with all regions leveraging technology to enhance

government services and improve people's engagement", Hanif said.

But, he added, "still, 1.37 billion people remain on the wrong side of the digital divide, with no access."

UN officials also showed data on the world's top digital performers, with Denmark topping the list. Vincenzo Aquaro, Chief of the

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Digital Government Branch, said that also among the 18 leading countries are Germany, Spain and Saudi Arabia.

The UN is calling for more support to developing nations, especially in Africa, to reduce digital inequalities.

# Sugar scarcity: Message of hope as new factory starts production

By Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa, Morogoro

PARLIAMENTARY Committee on Social Welfare and Community Development has hailed Mkulazi Sugar Factory project in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region, as a significant step towards addressing sugar shortage in the country.

Fatma Taufiq, the committee chairperson, made the remarks during a working visit to the strategic project co-owned by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and Tanzania Prisons Service.

She said that the factory which has been operational for two

months is already distributing sugar to the public thereby helping to alleviate the ongoing shortages.

"On behalf of the committee, I commend the government for successfully facilitating this major investment. It will play a crucial role in addressing the sugar shortages in our country," she said. During the visit, the committee observed the factory's machinery in operation, ensuring a steady supply of sugar.

Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), said that the purpose of the visit was to assess the factory's production capacity.

Katambi noted that the project

offers additional benefits, including electricity generation by the factory, with surplus power contributing to the national grid, job creation for young people and a reliable market for local sugarcane farmers.

He added that the factory, built with advanced technology, has the capacity to process 500,000 tonnes of sugarcane, resulting in an annual production of 50,000 tonnes of sugar.

Dr Hildelitha Msita, chairperson of Mkulazi Holding Co. Ltd board, mentioned plans to expand the range of products derived from sugarcane, including ethanol, which can serve as raw material for various applications, including pharmaceuticals.



Kisesa MP Luhaga Mpina (L), speaks with advocate Rugemeleza Nshala, after attending a court session at the High Court chambers in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He says he is seeking to understand the status of tax exemptions granted on sugar imports into the country. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathamiel

# IMF urges Kenya to expand reforms amid growing economic challenges

NAIROBI

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has urged Kenya to intensify efforts to tackle budgetary and economic challenges, following reforms that sparked mass protests in June.

Haimanot Teferra, IMF team leader who concluded a six-day visit to Kenya, said discussions centred on policies and reforms to tackle the country's growing fiscal issues.

"We remain fully committed to supporting the authorities on their efforts to identify a set of policies

that could support the completion of the reviews under the ongoing program as soon as feasible," Teferra said in a statement Tuesday evening.

She said that the IMF and Kenyan officials had talks on policies and reforms to address the economic and fiscal challenges. Kenyan authorities reaffirmed their commitment to advancing economic and governance reforms essential for fostering sustainable and inclusive growth for all Kenyans.

"We will continue our discussions with the authorities," she added.

The IMF's visit comes a few months after Kenyan President William Ruto withdrew the Finance Bill 2024 from the parliament following nationwide protests. The bill sought to raise an additional 346.7 billion shillings (\$2.7 billion) through new taxes on essential goods and services, such as bread and mobile money transfers, to meet government revenue targets.

Some protesters accused the IMF of contributing to the crisis, arguing that the institution's loans come with stringent conditions that disproportionately impact the poor.

# Nigeria to unveil standards to uphold food fortification

LAGOS

NIGERIAN authorities are this week launching a code of standards for adding four micronutrients - iron, zinc, folic acid and vitamin B12 - to stock cubes at levels advised by experts to achieve large-scale food fortification.

By adding essential vitamins and minerals to this universally consumed seasoning, the aim is to reduce malnutrition and improve public health.

"Fortification is important because it is the most cost-effective way of adding micronutrients that are missing in the diet for the consumer to be able to have them delivered to them through the fortified food products," Dr Augustine Okoruwa, Regional Director, Food Fortification, Hellen Keller International said.

"It's really very important because, as of today, we have micronutrient deficiencies in Nigeria, what we call 'hidden hunger'. So one way, one strategically approach to

addressing this is through adding these micronutrients to the food that they eat."

The WHO says that micronutrients enable the body to produce enzymes, hormones and other substances that are essential for proper growth and development.

After shopping at her local market, Idowu leans over a gas cooker in her cramped, dimly lit kitchen, stirring a pot of eba, the thick, starchy West African staple made from cassava.

On the menu today: eba, and melon soup with ponmo - a less expensive condiment that is made by boiling burnt cowhide.

The 56-year-old eagerly awaits the cube to hit the market.

"The fortified bouillon cube that they have promised to release to the market, it will be a huge advantage for the poor like us who cannot afford basic proteins. We will appreciate the fortified bouillon cubes and they should try and release it to the market on time and we have been informed that it contains Folic Acid, and vitamins."

She was forced to retire from public service due to weakening health, has had to cope with less preferred foods and limiting portion size, a common pattern among many Nigerian households.

"Those protein-rich meals, like fish, meat, are very expensive in the market and hard to find and when we eventually find them, they are too pricey for one to afford because of the cost of transporting it to the market."

Doctors says consumption of more nutrient-rich items can improve Bello's health.

Malnutrition refers to deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and/or nutrients.

Food fortification is not new in Nigeria.

Items such as wheat flour, edible oil, and sugar are fortified with vitamin A by law.

Fortification of bouillon with four vitamins and minerals is the most comprehensive fortification regulation to date, according to some.



THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN)  
TANZANIA MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH INVESTMENT PROGRAM  
PROJECT NO. P170435

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**TENDER NO. TZ-MOHZ-381248-CS-INDV**

**SINDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO ASSIST ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARD MATTERS FOR THE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO IMPROVING HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE BY CONSTRUCTING AND/OR REFURBISHING SELECTED PHC FACILITIES, NEONATAL UNITS AND STAFF HOUSES, WASH INFRASTRUCTURE IN PHC FACILITIES IN ZANZIBAR.**

This request for Expression of Interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) online on 12th September 2023.

The Government of Tanzania has received financing from World Bank towards the cost of the Tanzania Maternal and Child Health Investment Program and intends to apply part of the proceeds for Individual Consultant to assist Environmental and Social Safeguard matters for the Activities related to improving health infrastructure by constructing and/or refurbishing selected PHC facilities, Neonatal units and staff houses, wash infrastructure in PHC facilities in Zanzibar, Tender No. TZ-MOHZ-381248-CS-INDV.

**The consulting services ("the Services") include:**

- i. Under this assignment, the consultants shall arrange and deliver capacity building program on Environmental and social related issues, institutional strengthening, integration of Environmental and social issues analysis, monitoring and reporting, training beneficiaries will include PCU and other project stakeholders.
- ii. The consultant(s) is required to collaborate with Environmental and Social Safeguards focal point including other PCU staff, in preparation of safeguards instruments and attend to any other issue pertaining to safeguards.
- iii. Promote transparency by facilitating stakeholder participation and ensuring public information disclosure throughout the project phases. He/she will have to provide evidence on how this is accomplished.
- iv. Prepare Environmental and social implementation plan, with specific and measurable key performance indicators.
- v. Lead projects implementation process of Environmental and social related to project, ; facilitate the preparation of action plans, monitoring and evaluation and learning. Ensure all process complies with the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards and Government of Zanzibar E&S regulations, particularly those on Involuntary Resettlement and social inclusion.
- vi. Advising the Project Implementation staff on major or sensitive matters relating to Environmental and social impacts and risks during implementation as well as propose implementable mitigation measures.

The timeframe for the execution of this assignment is 12 months. The contract may be renewed based on need and satisfactory performance.

The detailed Terms of reference (TOR) for the assignment are available on the following website:- [www.mohz.go.tz](http://www.mohz.go.tz)

The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Health Zanzibar (MoHZ) now invites eligible individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. Such information may include an updated detailed CV duly signed and copies of academic, testimonial, and professional certificates. The interested Consultants should have the following qualifications and experience:

**Academic qualifications and training**

Education level of Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering, Environmental management, Environmental science, Environmental Planning and Management, Natural Resources Management, Sociology or related field.

She/he must be registered with a relevant professional body."

**Professional Experience:**

The applicant should have experience of five (5) years of practical working experience in implementing environmental and social related issues preferably on the area of improving quality of essential primary health care services with a focus on Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health-Nutrition (RMNCAH-N) services project and on projects of a similar nature.

**Language and Regional Experience:**

he/she must be familiar with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ) Environmental, Social and Health and Safety laws and regulations, and the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and its applicable Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs).

He/she must have excellent communication skills, fluent in written and spoken English and Swahili is mandatory.

The attention of interested Individual Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" Fourth Edition November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant Selection Method set out in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" Fourth Edition November 2020, ("Procurement Regulations").

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 08:00 - 15:30 hours local time, Mondays to Fridays inclusive, except on Public Holidays.

**The Secretary,  
Tender Board,  
Ministry of Health,  
P.O Box 236  
ZANZIBAR.  
Telephone: +255 773 313 118 or +255 776673304**

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) on or before 10:00 hours local time on 01st October, 2024, clearly marked **"TO ASSIST ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARD MATTERS FOR THE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO IMPROVING HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE BY CONSTRUCTING AND/OR REFURBISHING SELECTED PHC FACILITIES, NEONATAL UNITS AND STAFF HOUSES, AND SUPPORTING WASH INFRASTRUCTURE IN PHC FACILITIES IN ZANZIBAR".**  
**Tender No. TZ-MOHZ-381248-CS-INDV.**

**Principal Secretary  
Ministry of Health  
P.O.BOX 236  
First Floor, Mnazi Mmoja  
Zanzibar - Tanzania  
Email: [pmu@mohz.go.tz](mailto:pmu@mohz.go.tz)**

**The Principal Secretary,  
Ministry of Health,  
Zanzibar.**

## African business leaders to gather in Arusha for empowerment meet

By Correspondent James Kandoya

OVER 200 business leaders from across Africa are set to convene in Tanzania next week for the Accelerate Africa Summit 2024 which aims to empower Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Pendo Lema, Coordinator of Accelerate Africa Tanzania, said that the summit will take place in Arusha from September 28th to 29th.

She said that the summit aims to showcase diverse expertise across business, technology and development.

Lema said participants are expected from Botswana, Cameroon, Malawi, Ghana, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe and the host Tanzania.

She noted that the summit themed 'Empowering SMEs for Sustainable Growth and Innovation in Africa' will feature business leaders, policymakers and innovators from across the continent and beyond.

"During the summit, participants will collaborate and share insights to foster entrepreneurship, drive innovation and empower local businesses to succeed in the global market," she said.

She explained why Tanzania was chosen to host the summit, citing its strategic location in East Africa, rapidly growing economy and strong commitment to supporting SMEs and innovation.

She said that Arusha in particular offers an ideal setting for fostering meaningful discussions and facilitating networking among participants.

Lema said that Tanzania is set to gain further benefits as the business leaders are expected to visit key

tourist attractions, including the Ngorongoro crater, Serengeti National Park and Zanzibar.

Raphael Maganga, chief executive officer at the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation expressed strong support for the summit, highlighting its role in empowering SMEs and driving economic transformation across the continent.

"We are excited to support the Accelerate Africa Summit 2024 in Tanzania, recognizing the crucial role SMEs play in innovation, job creation and economic growth. Our support aims to provide SMEs with the tools and connections needed to thrive across the continent," he said.

He mentioned that topics to be covered by various speakers and panelists include leadership, innovation and empowering SMEs for sustainable growth.

Other topics will address market expansion, access to finance and investments, women and youth empowerment and digital transformation in Africa.

He further noted that the summit aims to foster collaboration and networking among SMEs across Africa, offer valuable insights on market expansion, leadership and innovation and facilitate exchange of knowledge on sustainable business practices.

It will also encourage partnerships that drive growth and development, highlight investment opportunities and provide practical guidance for SMEs looking to scale.

Accelerate Africa's mission is to act as a catalyst for economic transformation by providing strategic resources, mentorship, networking opportunities and access to funding for emerging entrepreneurs.

## Two new eye operation machines billed to improve services at MNH

By Correspondent Christina

Mwakangale

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has received two modern machines worth 68.2m/- for performing minimally invasive eye surgeries on patients with cataract.

The equipment, which includes surgical consumables, medicine and a phacoemulsifier donated by Vision Care through Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

Dr Joachim Kilemile, an ophthalmologist at MNH said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when receiving the donation, noting that the equipment will improve services, save time and enable faster recovery for patients.

"It's not the first time we are performing this type of surgery but this machine will help suction the cloudiness in the lens. Cataracts occur when the lens of the eye becomes cloudy," he said.

"These machines will improve the quality of surgery because in the past, patients with cataract had

to wait until the condition matures before undergoing surgery. Now, surgery can be done as soon as the condition is diagnosed."

Dr Dong Hae Kim, founder and chairman of Vision Care, said the institution has partnered with MNH to provide training for specialists and supply of equipment.

He said that the training will include how to use the machines for optimal treatment results, adding that it is a positive step as some of the machines have already been used by leading ophthalmologists.

Dr Ibrahim Nkoma, MNH acting director of surgical services, said that 60 to 70 percent of surgeries will be performed using the minimally invasive method.

"I thank Vision Care and KOICA for strengthening specialized services at MNH. The goal is to bring services closer to Tanzanians rather than having to seek the same abroad at high cost," he said.

He added that MNH will utilize its trained experts to provide training to their counterparts in regional, referral and district hospitals.

## ECOWAS readies regional action plan to address plastic pollution

ACCRA

THE Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a political and economic union of 15 countries, is considering adoption of a regional action plan to combat plastic pollution, an official said on Monday.

Bernard Yao Koffi, ECOWAS director for environment and natural resources, made the remarks during an interview at a two-day World Bank Group-supported workshop aimed at helping the sub-region tackle plastic pollution.

"Many of our member states have introduced national action plans to address plastic pollution, with some even aiming to ban single-use plastics. However, these efforts have faced implementation challenges," he said.

ECOWAS now seeks to adopt a collective approach to the menace because the situation is serious with a heavy toll on the environment, the sea, aquaculture and marine life, he said.

The plastic menace also poses health risks to humans because many marine lives that humans consume were found to contain heavy amounts of plastic in their digestive systems and other internal organs, he said.

"This is a shared problem we must address together. We need to identify the obstacles and find collective solutions to tackle this menace," he added.

The proposed regional action plan would focus on public education, promoting alternatives to plastic for packaging and bags, and encouraging recycling and reuse efforts, among other measures.



Fatma Taufiq, (R), the chairperson of the Social Welfare and Development standing committee of the National Assembly, speaks with Patrobas Katambi, the Labour, Youth, Employment and the Disabled state deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office, when committee members were on a familiarization tour at Mkulazi sugar factory in Kilosa, Morogoro Region. Photo: Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa

## Minister demands value for money in key projects undertaken in Kilwa

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

MINISTER for Industry and Trade Dr Selemani Jafo has urged contractors implementing government projects in Kilwa District, Lindi Region to ensure they deliver value for money.

He made the remarks yesterday during the visit to the district to inspect various development projects where he engaged with the local community.

Speaking while touring the site of construction of teachers' houses in Somanga Ward, Dr Jafo instructed

Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) to connect the houses to electricity immediately after the completion of the project.

He also directed the Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to finalise construction of roads within two months to facilitate smooth transportation.

He emphasized that completion of the houses will provide teachers with a better living environment, thereby enhancing their efficiency.

Dr Jafo instructed Kilwa Masoko Water and Sanitation Authority (KIMUWASA) which is responsible for construction of a water project in Mavuji, Nangurukuru, Singino,

Kivinje, Mpara and Masoko villages to ensure timely completion of the project.

He requested a detailed plan outlining the implementation timeline be submitted to Lindi Regional Commissioner's office within two weeks to ensure the project delivers the expected benefits to the community.

Additionally, he noted that construction of the fishing port project, designed to enhance access to fish and promote business and economic growth, was progressing well and within budget. He said the ongoing construction of a health centre at Njinjo was on track.

During a meeting with residents of Kipimindi, Dr Jafo praised the community for effectively utilizing the warehouse receipt system which has enabled them to successfully sell their crops both locally and abroad at competitive prices, thereby boosting local business.

Lindi Regional Commissioner Zainab Telack expressed gratitude to the government for its commitment to various development projects in the region. She encouraged residents to take advantage of the opportunities to promote economic growth and development.



A Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (TANESCO) technician changes wires without protective gear near the Karume Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala to seek second term

GENEVA

NGOZI Okonjo-Iweala, the seventh Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) has announced her candidacy for a new term.

The former Nigerian finance minister said that she hopes to complete "unfinished business" from her first mandate.

Her term of office will expire

on Aug. 31, 2025. Some analysts believe her early bid is meant to secure her second term ahead of the U.S. presidential elections in November.

At 70, Okonjo-Iweala made history by becoming the first female and African chief of the international body three years ago.

By tradition, the WTO chooses its director general by consensus, with all 165 members having to

approve a candidate.

However, some members wield considerable influence over the final decision. In 2021 for example, the US administration, under Donald Trump, temporarily blocked the nomination of Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

When Joe Biden was elected, she secure the position.

Last July, African nations at the WTO proposed her name for

second term.

The WTO operates the global system of trade rules.

WTO is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland that regulates and facilitates international trade. Governments use the organization to establish, revise, and enforce the rules that govern international trade in cooperation with the United Nations System.



Saum Rashid, spokesperson of women leaders of opposition parties, speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday in raising voices concerning the spate of unabated killings countrywide. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

## WB counsels Rwanda to encourage skills development to retain growth

KIGALI

THE World Bank report released in the Kigali yesterday has stressed the critical need for Rwanda to address skill development challenges in order to maintain its economic growth.

The 23rd edition of the Rwanda Economic Update report, titled "Accelerating Skill Development to Drive Private Sector Growth," underscores the importance of equipping the workforce with the necessary skills to meet market demands and drive continued progress.

According to the report, Rwanda's gross domestic product is expected to average 7.6 percent growth between 2024 and 2026. Yet, this economic strength could be undermined by significant skills shortages in the labour market, with over 62 percent of firms reporting that they lack formal training programs for employees.

"The Rwandan government is committed to transforming the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system, training teachers, and focusing on professional skills development," said Claudette Irere, Rwandan minister of state for education, at the launch of the report.

She emphasized the ongoing efforts to modernize education and strengthen partnerships with the private sector.

The report said that the skills gap is linked to deficiencies in basic education, low enrolment rates, and high dropout levels. Many children are leaving school without acquiring foundational skills, posing a significant challenge to Rwanda's long-term economic competitiveness.

The mismatch between educational outcomes and labor market needs is stifling productivity in key sectors like agriculture, manufacturing and services, said the report.

Sahr Kpundeh, World Bank

country manager for Rwanda, reaffirmed the institution's support, saying "the World Bank is ready to work with Rwanda to implement the report's recommendations."

The World Bank's report offers a range of recommendations to tackle the skills deficit, including targeted support for vocational training, enhanced digital skills education, and expanding work-based learning opportunities.

With these reforms, Rwanda can enhance workforce capabilities and better position itself to achieve its Vision 2050 goals, transitioning toward a knowledge-based economy and ensuring sustainable, inclusive growth.

Despite a global economic slowdown, Rwanda's economy has remained resilient, supported by robust consumer spending and growth in key sectors such as services, mining and construction, according to the report.

**The Rwandan government is committed to transforming the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system, training teachers, and focusing on professional skills development**

KHARTOUM

## Over three million children at high risk of epidemic diseases in Sudan, says UNICEF

AN estimated 3.4 million children under five are at high risk of deadly epidemic diseases in Sudan, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said in a statement on Tuesday.

With heavy rains and flooding in the country, diseases such as cholera, malaria, dengue fever, measles and rubella "can spread more rapidly and severely worsen the outlook for the children in the affected states and beyond," UNICEF Representative to Sudan Sheldon Yett was quoted as saying in the statement.

The crises stem from significant declines in vaccination rates and

the destruction of health, water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure due to the ongoing internal conflict, he said, adding that the deteriorating nutritional status of many children in Sudan puts them at even greater risk.

UNICEF delivered 404,000 doses of oral cholera vaccine to Sudan on Sept. 9, said the statement.

According to UNICEF, the vaccination coverage in Sudan has plummeted to some 50 percent from 85 percent before the internal

conflict.

More than 70 percent of hospitals in conflict-affected areas are non-operational, and frontline healthcare workers have not been paid in months, it said.

Since the outbreak of fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces in April 2023, epidemic diseases such as cholera, malaria, measles, and dengue fever have spread, leading to hundreds of deaths. The conflict has resulted in at least 16,650 deaths and

displaced millions of people.

Sudan's Health Minister Haitham Mohamed Ibrahim officially declared a cholera outbreak in the country on Aug. 17. The ministry attributed the spread of cholera to deteriorating environmental conditions caused by the conflict and the use of unclean water.

Sudan's Health Ministry said Tuesday that 10,022 cases of cholera, including 328 deaths, had been recorded in the country between July 15 and this Monday.

### THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA MINISTRY OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS



## VACANCY RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government of Tanzania through Act No. 8 of 2003 (The Fair Competition Act) established the Fair Competition Tribunal (FCT). The Tribunal is a specialized quasi-judicial body with cross-disciplinary expertise in industry, commerce, economics, law and public administration whose core function is to hear and determine appeals from orders and decisions of the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) and Regulatory Authorities namely the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA), the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) and the Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA). In addition, the Tribunal also hears and determines appeals from orders and decisions of the Chief Inspector of the Merchandise Marks in respect of counterfeit products.

The Tribunal consists of a Chairman and six other Members who work on part-time basis. The Chairman and six Members are all appointed by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. The President appoints the Chairman from amongst the Judges of the High Court after consultation with the Chief Justice. He also appoints six other Members after consultation with the Attorney General from candidates nominated by the Nomination Committee.

The Nomination Committee invited suitably qualified Tanzanian to fill the above six vacant posts on 6th September, 2024. Following a low turnover of applications from qualified persons the Nomination Committee hereby reannounces and invite suitably qualified Tanzanian to apply for the post. Applicants must have knowledge and experience of not less than ten (10) years in industry, commerce, economics, law and public administration. In addition, applicants must have Masters Degree in the relevant field. Knowledge of or experience in competition law and competition economics will be an added advantage.

Applicants who applied before should not apply again.

#### Mode of Application:

Application letter with Curriculum Vitae (CV) including e-mail address (if any) and mobile phone number, together with certified copies of academic certificates and names and contacts of two referees should be addressed to the undersigned sealed and sent by registered mail to reach him on or before 26th September, 2024 at 03:30 pm.

**Chairman  
Nomination Committee  
Fair Competition Tribunal  
1st Floor, Roads Fund Building  
Njedengwa Investment Area  
P.O. Box 1699  
DODOMA.**



### THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA INSURANCE REGULATORY AUTHORITY



## PUBLIC NOTICE

To: All Container Guarantee Solutions Providers

Subject: Registration and Compliance Requirements with the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA)

This notice is issued pursuant to Section 6(2)(b), (e), and (g) and; Section 11(a) and (b) of the Insurance Act Cap 394.

This is to notify all Container Guarantee Solutions Providers that offer solutions to Clearing and Forwarding agents on their need for guarantees on container demurrage and container damage charges that you are required to be registered with the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA).

The following are mandatory requirements for registration:

- Application form together with non-refundable application fee of Tshs. 25,000/=;
- Payment of Registration and Annual fees of Tshs. 10,000,000/= and 2,500,000/= respectively;
- Copy of Certificate of Incorporation of the Company in Tanzania/Certificate of registration;
- Proof of Minimum paid-up share capital as per schedule of shares subscription (In case of foreign investors, evidence of actual remittance of funds in Tanzania must be provided). **Meanwhile, the amount of paid-up capital will be indicated as shown here below:**

Period	Non-Marine insurer (Amount in Tshs.)
2022	1.124 billion
2023	1.216 billion
For each year thereafter	1.5 billion times 1.1 or Current CPI Last CPI

- Copies of Memorandum and Articles of Association;
- Particulars of the Chief Executive Officer;
  - Curriculum Vitae;
  - Copy of Passport (For Non-Citizens) or National Identification Number (NIN);
  - Copy of Academic Certificates verified by TCU/NACTVET (Being Bachelor Degree or its equivalent in Insurance, Risk Management, Actuarial Science, Finance, Economic or any related field from a recognized institution); and
  - Attested declaration on solvency and non-conviction in criminal offenses.
- Particulars of Board Members of the Company. The Board must have at least five members;
  - Curriculum Vitae;
  - Copy of Passport (For Non-Citizens) or National Identification Number (NIN); and
  - Attested declaration on solvency and non-conviction in criminal offenses.
- Particulars of Senior Management Staff;
  - Curriculum Vitae;
  - Copy of Passport (For Non-Citizens) or National Identification Number (NIN); and
  - Attested declaration on solvency and non-conviction in criminal offenses.
- The Company's Physical address in Tanzania;
- A copy of share Certificates issued to your shareholders;
- Copy of passport for all company directors; and
- At the renewal of License in addition to the above, the following information is required:
  - Compliance with statutory returns.
  - Complaints, if any.
  - Compliance with Conditions Imposed at last Registration.

For more information, kindly contact the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA).

This notice serves as a formal reminder of the statutory obligations for all parties involved in providing container guarantee solutions.

**Dr. Baghayo A. Saqware  
TANZANIA COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE**

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## There is indeed a difference between personal sentiment and state concerns

**P**RESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan was at hand to reiterate a basic norm in the conduct of inter-state relations when closing an important police force anniversary at the Police Training School in Moshi. Apart from social media messaging, the president was as yet to directly take up an outcry on abduction and killing of an opposition cadre, though not an overly active politician. The president didn't object to raising views or sentiments, but demanded taking note of station, prerogatives.

In clear, the appeal was to foreign diplomats accredited here to respect the 1961 Vienna Convention on the conduct of diplomatic relations among sovereign states.

As most students of international relations would agree, the landmark convention shows limits of diplomatic conduct when one represents a country in a foreign land. It was an update of a principle of diplomatic conduct that was expressed nearly five centuries ago when nations were being formed in Europe, alliance systems, etc.

To cut a long story short, what the president said in sum was that there is a difference between the personal sentiments of an ambassador and the proper position of the country such envoy represents. The case of a person being abducted and killed is such a case, where a diplomat may have utmost concern on that incident, but it is not of a level here the country he or she represents also wishes to be involved in a direct manner. Expressing such sentiments in the usual diplomatic channels is one thing, and issuing public statements individually or collectively is a different matter, definitely.

The idea was that these expressions of outrage on the part

of diplomatic missions were those of the persons heading those embassies, while underlining that any responses if necessary would be directed to the heads of state or government of the countries taking positions on the matter. In that case the matter ought to have been raised by diplomatic channels as they can't be addressed with those countries in the manner they were raised. Those moving to use the local media acted as NGOs, as among the lobbies that are commonly understood as stakeholders in political issues...

It may easily be agreed that the standards of investigation say in the United States where a presidential candidate has survived two assassination attempts and where this opposition cadre was abducted and killed are not exactly the same. This may explain some of the wish to make the sentiments public, to prejudice the matter and make it clear on which side of the debate envoys are to be counted. Yet this is not consonant with the principles of working with sovereign states, as those who are immune to any proceedings have a limitation on sentiments they can publicly express.

If one were to be candid on the issues, it is evident that local political actors often take the diplomatic street as an extension of their own activities, with a faulty omnibus comprehension of democracy as saying whatever one wants, demonstrating, etc. Warnings that some elements are ready to wreck the peace to create conditions for a plebiscite on the ruling party go unheeded by diplomats, as nothing ought to infringe free expression. This is what partially riles the president, as it is contrary to what the state authorities can do with in order to maintain harmony and stability. It isn't easy.

## Local market prospects key to value of investment openings in Zanzibar

**Z**ANZIBAR leaders are more at the forefront in seeking out investors than their counterpart Union authorities, though it is unclear whether has a higher level of foreign investment per capita compared to the Mainland. Budget comparisons in terms of GDP proportions among East African states showed Zanzibar to be ranking at slightly lower than Union relevant figures, which implies less capacity for taxation in the main. The idea that there are many opportunities that remain untapped and insufficiently promoted is likely to be factually correct, but it doesn't rely on itself.

For once, it is as yet unclear what sort of model Zanzibar wishes to follow or is indeed assiduously taking up in its pursuit of a blue economy format as at present. As most economies tied to planning and a substantial role for the private sector are likely to experience, there is no necessary cohesion even at upper levels of leadership what needs to be done and what isn't expected to be done. At times what state authorities wish to see being done is conditioned by other stakeholder demands tied up there.

Like in some Gulf Zone states that often appear to be role models for Zanzibar, there is an extent to which Zanzibar has adapted to conflicting by stakeholders on the one hand, and communities on the other hand. Yet the very need for compromise implies that there are those who will be satisfied with a balanced view of those demands,

while others may opt to try areas where all their prerogatives are amply available. One can take the case of top Zanzibar leaders talking to investors from Asia, and if they were talking to MidEast or Western investors, as each group has a favourite scenario.

It is for instance likely that someone seeking to opportunities in tourism openings like conferencing, sports events healthcare or festivals wish that such events attract views from Dar es Salaam, as the Isles population is too small for large events unless people can travel easily from one part of the Union to the other. On the contrary, someone wishing to invest in Dar es Salaam need not think of an auxiliary presence of travelers or sightseers from the other side of the channel. Investment blueprints aren't similar; investors are far from identical in what they want in a country, in seeking to invest.

There is no doubt that many investors could act swiftly on their plans, especially as the government is doing what it can to support their endeavours, but what they will decide to do relates to the business volume they can expect. When it comes to export crops, there are those with large home markets, not come to struggle with limited local markets and narrow export markets. We have seen with peas, avocado and even sugar, that export markets aren't guaranteed just because of statistical demand as those with whom that country has 'most favoured nation' status work to fill the gaps,



## Climate change is turbo-charging Somalia's problems - but there's still hope

By Justin Rowlett

**S**OMALIA may be one of the poorest countries in the world and beset by violence, but it is "fixable", according to its top climate official.

The country has been torn apart by more than 30 years of overlapping conflicts - including an Islamist insurgency, a civil war, and a series of regional and clan confrontations. Yet Abdihakim Ainte, the Somali prime minister's climate advisor, still regards his country as "a story of potential - of promise".

What makes his optimism all the more surprising is the fact climate change is amplifying virtually all the challenges his country faces.

One commentator described climate change as a "chaos multiplier", because it exacerbates existing tensions and entrenches conflict in fragile states like this.

But Somalia, the easternmost country in continental Africa, can't be held responsible for our changing climate. The figures are staggering. Somalia has emitted roughly as much carbon dioxide from fossil fuels since the 1950s as the US economy does in an average three days.

The most obvious effects of climate change here have been in agriculture. Somalia is still overwhelmingly an agricultural economy, with about two thirds of the population depending on farming and animal herding for most of their income.

In 2022 the country experienced its worst drought for 40 years - an event scientists estimate was made 100 times more likely by human-caused climate change.

The extent of the challenge Somalia faces became clear as the convoy of International Red Cross (ICRC) Land Cruisers were travelling in rumbled into the dry scrub that covers most of the country. We were accompanied by three guards clutching AK47s - Somalia is the only country in the world where Red Cross staff travel with armed security as standard.

The camel herders and small-scale farmers we met are on the front line of climate change here. For thousands of years Somalis have been eking out a living moving their herds of camels and goats from one pasture to the next across this dry land.

But climate change is disrupting the patterns of rain that made this way of life possible.

Sheik Don Ismail told us he lost all his camels during the drought, when grazing grounds dried up and the fodder he grew on his small farm wasn't enough to sustain them.

"The well became dry and there was no pasture, so the animals



began to die," he said, shaking his head. "The life we lead now is really bad - really bad."

That drought left farmers and herders fighting for access to water and pasture. Sheik Don said he was sometimes forced to defend his land at gunpoint.

"There is no respect if you don't have a gun," he said. "The herders who lead their animals into the farm stay back when they see my weapon. They get scared."

In a country divided into rival clan groups and already scarred by violence, these localised disputes can easily spiral into full-blown battles, said Cyril Jaurena, who runs the ICRC operation in Somalia.

"Access to boreholes and pastureland gets more and more difficult to find, and so the population in the area might end up fighting - competing for those resources, and sometimes it goes to people shooting at each other," he warned.

And drought isn't the only problem here. Last year Somalia experienced terrible floods as a result of rains scientists say were made twice as intense by human-caused global warming. The floodwater washed away precious soils killing hundreds of people and displacing one million others.

The effects of Somalia's climate change "double whammy" are all too evident in the hunger clinic the Red Cross runs in a hospital in the port city of Kismayo on the south coast.

Every day a steady stream of mothers bring their malnourished babies here. Many have had to cross from territory controlled by al-Qaeda's lethal affiliate, Islamist militants al-Shabab, to get here.

The UN estimates more than 1.5m children under the age of five are acutely malnourished in Somalia.

Around four million Somalis have been driven into vast makeshift

refugee camps - about a fifth of the total population.

Displaced people make their homes out of anything they can get hold of - pieces of old fabric, plastic sheets and rusty corrugated iron - all draped over a web of dry sticks. Some people even unroll tin cans into strips to form parts of their walls.

There is little international support, if any. At the refugee camp I visited, just outside the city of Garowe in the north of Somalia, families have to pay for their food and water, as well as pay rent for the scraps of land where they build their shacks.

After more than three decades of war, Somalia has fallen way down the list of international priorities. Its problems have been eclipsed by what seem like more urgent conflicts, in places like Ukraine and Gaza. The UN calculates Somalia needs at least \$1.6bn (about £1.2bn) to meet the basic humanitarian needs of the people this year, but so far just \$600 million has been pledged by donor governments.

The entwined impacts of climate and conflict have created a huge reservoir of potential recruits for the country's many conflicts.

Those in the camps are desperate for money, and the easiest work to come by - according to the people I spoke to - is as a paid fighter with one of the many rival armies.

One woman told me of her fears for her husband and four of her five sons after they became fighters with a local militia.

"They are rural people with no skills, so the only work they could get was in the army," Halima Ibrahim Ali Mohamad said as we sat on carpets laid over the dirt floor of her hut.

"They were desperate, and when you are without food long enough, and your children are looking at you, you will do anything."

As we went from shack to shack, mothers told us similar stories of husbands and sons who had left to become fighters, some of whom had been killed.

But many Somali people are taking action. The local power station in Garowe has been investing in wind and solar power, for example.

The decision wasn't prompted by some international initiative, says the company CEO. Abdirazak Mohamed said he hasn't received any grants or aid from abroad. The National Energy Corporation of Somalia (NECSOM), who he works for, is making the investments because renewables - energy derived from natural sources like the sun and the wind - are much better value than the diesel generators the power station used to rely on.

I met Somali entrepreneurs setting up businesses, including a woman who had arrived in the Garowe refugee camp with nothing, but who set up a thriving business.

Amina Osman Mohamed explained how she had borrowed food from a local stall, cooked it, and used the small profit she made to do the whole thing again the following day.

The small but busy café she created generates the extra cash she so desperately needs to care for her sick husband and 11 children - including those of her widowed daughter.

As I left Amina's bustling café, I began to understand why the Somali prime minister's climate advisor is optimistic about his country's future.

There is hope. But with climate change turbo-charging the conflict here, this country will need continued international help to make peace and build resilience against our changing climate.



# The importance of regular teacher-learner communication

In any society, most matters can be addressed through open discussion, which helps reach consensus and promotes individual and collective well-being. Human thoughts and approaches vary, leading to potential misunderstandings or confusion.

Regular conversations enable people to determine whether things are progressing smoothly. As humans are imperfect, we are prone to mistakes, either knowingly or unknowingly. Positive correction and constructive criticism are crucial for fostering social well-being. Healthy relationships are built through effective communication, and one key method of communication is conversation.

Effective teaching, which is the goal of both educators and society, is impossible without a strong relationship between teachers and learners. Engaging in regular discussions allows teachers to understand the feelings and perspectives of learners, which enhances the teaching and learning process.

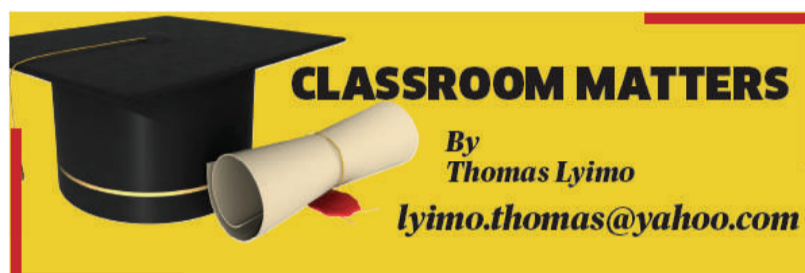
This understanding helps build strong relationships, ultimately improving academic performance. Teachers should encourage students to socialize effectively, as these increases their chances of succeeding in life.

By regularly interacting with learners, teachers model social skills, which foster a positive learning environment. Furthermore, when students grasp the material being taught, teachers derive satisfaction from their work. Conversations between teachers and learners can reveal the reasons behind any areas of unsatisfactory performance, enabling teachers to find ways to improve.

Learners should actively participate in the teaching and learning process. For participatory teaching to be effective there must be clear and consistent communication between teachers and learners. Regular interaction fosters a collaborative atmosphere in the classroom, allowing students to express their ideas freely. This openness is essential for achieving the goals of



A health worker takes part in the Universal Health Coverage programme which served as a model for the development of the National Improved Community Health Fund (N-ICHF), an initiative that reached 26 regions in Tanzania. Photo courtesy of PharmAccess



participatory teaching.

The teaching and learning process should be rooted in a foundation of friendship and mutual respect. Learning cannot be forced; rather, it requires motivation and persuasion. A learner's willingness to absorb the material provided by the teacher is crucial. Recognizing that learners play a significant role in their own educational outcomes, it is essential for teachers to engage students actively in the process.

Humans are inherently social, relational, and psychological beings, and their well-being is influenced by their interactions with others. Education involves developing new behaviors in learners, which is facilitated by mean-

ingful interactions. A teacher cannot fully understand a learner's needs without communicating with them.

Teaching everything without considering individual needs can result in redundancy and wasted effort. When teachers engage in regular conversations with learners, they discover students' interests and preferences. They also identify which topics learners can explore independently and which require more guidance.

Information is powerful. When teachers gather sufficient information about their learners, they can better plan their lessons and tailor their teaching methods. This knowledge boosts teachers' confidence, as they are

able to deliver relevant material based on their interactions with students. In this way, communication fosters peace and harmony between teachers and learners.

There are several key benefits to regular communication between teachers and learners:

**Building Confidence:** Success in education begins with confidence. One of the greatest achievements for a teacher is helping learners build confidence, as fear stifles creativity. Teachers must focus on boosting learners' confidence to ensure academic success. A student may possess talent, but fear can prevent them from showcasing their abilities, potentially leading to a decline in their performance. Regular conversations allow learners to ask questions, and when these concerns are addressed, confidence grows.

**Identifying weak thinking:** regular discussions help teachers identify weak or misguided thoughts among learners. When left unchallenged, such ideas can hinder learners' potential.

Learners often value certain ideas highly without exposure to alternative viewpoints. By engaging in conversations, teachers can assess students' thinking abilities and provide guidance, helping them reach their full potential. The goal of education is to replace weak thoughts with stronger, more productive ones, which can contribute to societal development.

Understanding strengths and weaknesses; learners have varying levels of understanding across subjects or topics. If a teacher is unaware of a learner's strengths and weaknesses, they cannot provide effective support. Regular conversations allow teachers to assess learners' needs and plan accordingly, ensuring that all students can achieve academic success. Understanding individual strengths and weaknesses helps teachers avoid blame and adopt strategies to meet the desired learning goals.

Addressing learners' challenges; a school is a community, and like any community, it faces challenges. These may include interpersonal issues among students or difficulties in organizing study routines. By talking to learners, teachers can gain insight into these challenges and work to resolve them, creating an environment that supports learning. Teachers should strive to ensure that learners are comfortable and supported in all aspects of their lives.

The teaching and learning process hinges on effective communication. Teachers are dedicated to helping learners succeed, and for this to happen, teachers need feedback from students.

This feedback helps teachers identify areas for improvement in their teaching methods. A strong relationship between teachers and learners is essential for success, and such relationships can only be built through regular communication. Ultimately, teaching is about engaging in meaningful conversations with learners to promote growth and success.

By Adonis Byemelwa

TANZANIA stands at the brink of a pivotal moment in its history, as the sun sets on the ambitious National Development Vision 2025. With the clock ticking down, the nation now embarks on a bold new journey—a 25-year roadmap that promises to steer the country towards unprecedented growth and prosperity.

The government's call for public input in shaping Vision 2025 ignites a wave of excitement and anticipation, setting the stage for a collective vision that will define the country's path for the next quarter-century.

The preceding vision, covering the years 2000 to 2025, laid down ambitious targets centered around high-quality livelihood, good governance, and the rule of law, as well as a strong and competitive economy. These goals were designed to propel Tanzania into the ranks of middle-income countries, aiming to improve the quality of life for all citizens.

With the conclusion of Vision 2025, the new national development vision is expected to act as a guiding compass for policy actions in the coming decades. The focus will likely shift to areas that require urgent attention, such as the rapid urbanization taking place across the country. Urbanization presents both challenges and opportunities, especially in transforming cities into centers of innovation, productivity, and well-being.

A recent study by the Research on Poverty Alleviation (Repoa) and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) sheds light on Tanzania's urbanization trajectory. According to the study, Tanzania's urban population is growing at an annual rate of 5.2%, indicating that the country's urban centers are poised for exponential expansion.

This rapid growth presents a unique opportunity for economic advancement and job creation. However, realizing this potential requires proactive planning and management, grounded in the principles of a just city—dignity, diversity, equity, and democracy.

On April 25th, 2024 FES convened a stakeholders' workshop in Dar es Salaam to put forward proposals for Tanzania's urban future. The workshop brought together over 15 experts from diverse fields to evaluate the implementation of Tanzania Development Vision 2025, particularly focusing on housing

## Shaping Tanzania's future: Vision 2050 ambitious goals and emerging challenges



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy Minister Dr. Doto Biteko (seated center) emphasizes that inclusivity is key to aligning Vision 2050 with the diverse aspirations and challenges of all regions.

and urban development. The discussion emphasized the importance of creating a future where Tanzania's urban areas are inclusive, sustainable, and resilient.

Prof. Delphin Rwegasira of the University of Dar es Salaam stressed the significance of addressing housing as a fundamental human right. "Improving livelihoods starts with access to decent and climate-resilient shelter for everyone," he said.

The workshop's analysis highlighted the need to review and implement policies such as the National Housing Policy and the Human Settlements Development Policy to ensure that affordable housing is accessible to all income groups.

Dr. Donald Mmari of Repoa added that economic growth in Tanzania should not only be seen in terms of incremental progress but should also focus on creating synergies and unlocking hidden potential. "While steady progress is essential, Tanzania needs creative ways to accelerate growth by leveraging resources and managing its urban centers efficiently," he noted.

This perspective underlines the importance of transforming cities into clean, safe, and livable areas through ef-

fective waste management and sustainable development practices.

The workshop's outcomes represent a collective vision for Tanzania's urban future. The recommendations submitted to the National Development Vision (NDV) Commission are expected to guide the development of policies that promote social justice, economic growth, and environmental sustainability.

Prof. Humphrey Mushi of the University of Dar es Salaam emphasized the need for resilient cities that are livable and secure. "Urban planning and development should be environmentally friendly, climate-sensitive, and preventive. Decentralized decision-making is key to efficient disaster response and overall urban resilience," he remarked.

As the country looks ahead to Vision 2050, these insights will be crucial in shaping a roadmap that addresses the rapid global changes in technology, economy, and environment. The new vision aims to ensure that Tanzania not only adapts but thrives in the future.

The Vice President, Dr. Philip Mpango, acknowledged the persistent challenges that have hindered the complete realization of Vision 2025, particularly in areas such as poverty reduction and

malnutrition.

"Despite progress, 26.4% of the population still lives below the poverty line, and certain regions continue to struggle with higher poverty rates," Dr. Mpango stated recently during the inauguration of the Vision 2050 preparations in Dodoma.

The Vice President also highlighted the importance of building on the economic foundation laid by Vision 2025 while capitalizing on strategic growth opportunities. He pointed out Tanzania's potential to become a major food supplier for Africa and the Middle East, focusing on key crops such as maize, wheat, barley, and cashew nuts. This potential, however, can only be realized through careful planning and investment in infrastructure and human capital.

Reflecting on Vision 2025, experts like Prof. Samwel Wangwe have emphasized the need for a broad-based economy capable of withstanding global shocks. "Diversifying the economy and improving infrastructure is critical to ensuring that Tanzania remains competitive on the global stage," Prof. Wangwe noted.

Although some progress has been made in these areas, gaps remain, particularly in aligning the education system with market needs and creating sufficient job opportunities for the youth.

Dr. Mpango also addressed the ongoing challenges of corruption and the dependence on foreign aid, which continue to impede the country's development. He noted that while economic growth has been achieved, it has not yet translated into robust competitiveness. "The national budget remains dependent on foreign aid by 13%, and our resilience to climate change impacts remains weak," he observed.

The Vision 2050 process will be inclusive, calling for input from all Tanzanians across the country. This inclusivity is crucial for ensuring that the vision reflects the aspirations of the entire population and addresses the diverse challenges faced by different regions. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Energy, Dr. Doto Biteko, echoed this sentiment during the first regional conference on Vision 2050 preparations in Mwanza in July 2024. He urged stakeholders to actively participate in shaping the country's development agenda.

The Mwanza conference was part of a broader effort to gather opinions from across the nation. Similar consultations will be held in other regions, including Arusha, Mbeya, Kigoma, Dodoma, Morogoro, Mtwara, Ungaui, and Pemba. These consultations are expected to provide a comprehensive understanding of the needs and aspirations of Tanzanians, both within the country and abroad.

In his remarks, the Minister of State in the President's Office for Planning and Investment, Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, stressed the importance of broad stakeholder engagement. "The Vision 2050 framework must reflect the aspirations of all Tanzanians, ensuring that no one is left behind," he said.

Meanwhile, Mwanza Regional Commissioner Said Mtanda expressed gratitude for the government's initiative to hold the conference in Mwanza. He emphasized the importance of gathering diverse perspectives for the Vision 2050 framework.

As Tanzania prepares for the future, the lessons learned from Vision 2025 will be crucial in shaping a more resilient and prosperous nation by 2050. The new vision will build on the successes and shortcomings of the past, aiming to create a Tanzania that is not only economically strong but also socially just and environmentally sustainable. This vision will guide the country's development for the next 25 years, ensuring that Tanzania remains on the path to progress and prosperity.

In essence, the launch of the Vision 2050 process marks a pivotal moment in Tanzania's development journey. The insights and recommendations from experts like Prof. Rwegasira, Dr. Mmari, Prof. Mushi, and Prof. Wangwe will be instrumental in shaping a vision that addresses the challenges of today while preparing the nation for the opportunities of tomorrow. The involvement of all Tanzanians in this process will ensure that the vision reflects the collective aspirations of the nation, paving the way for a future that is inclusive, sustainable, and resilient.

By Syriacus Buguzi

# Quiet Revolution? Unsung heroes in Tanzania's esteemed UHC evolution



A health worker takes part in the Universal Health Coverage programme which served as a model for the development of the National Improved Community Health Fund (N-ICHF), an initiative that reached 26 regions in Tanzania. Photo courtesy of PharmAccess

In recent years, talk of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) has dominated headlines in Tanzania, often triggered by public concerns over health insurance—and at times, milestones of hope such as the enactment of the landmark Universal Health Insurance (UHI). However, there was a time when UHC seemed like a distant dream for the country, yet at that time, a quiet revolution was brewing – one spearheaded by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), working in tandem with government authorities right from the grassroots.

Over a decade and a half ago, Dr Heri Marwa, by then fresh from graduating with a Master's in Health Policy, Finance and Management at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), witnessed firsthand the milestones of the UHC agenda; the humble beginnings, the tough decisions and what it took for the country to come up with the national version of the Improved Community Health Insurance (ICHF)—a scheme that had sparked his curiosity at university.

Dr Marwa's zeal was particularly timely as Tanzania was just four years away from drafting its Healthcare Financing Strategy (2015-2026), although the document has remained unsigned over the years.

Today, as Dr Marwa recounts the untold story of UHC in Tanzania, he has already transitioned to Country Director of PharmAccess Tanzania, a Dutch non-profit organization which he joined as manager right after graduating. By the time he joined the organization, PharmAccess—at international level—was laying the groundwork for a long-held mission to address health system challenges in Africa through improved health insurance access and quality healthcare.

"When I joined PharmAccess that's when we went to launch KNCU Health Plan," he said in an interview recently, recalling a story that dates as far back as 13 years ago, when the Kilimanjaro Natives Cooperative Union (KNCU) Health Plan was beginning to sprout.

The KNCU Health Plan had been designed to provide affordable and quality healthcare services to coffee farmers and their families who are affiliated with KNCU. It was established in response to the challenges faced by coffee farmers in accessing adequate healthcare. Many of the farmers in rural areas (just like other farmers in the country) had limited access to healthcare facilities and often could not afford the costs of medical treatment. As of 2013, the plan had enrolled over 15,000 members.

"But before I even joined the organization, a lot of effort on UHC had been ongoing. UHC has been in the DNA of PharmAccess," he said, taking us back to the early days when his organization came into being, and what this came to mean for the UHC efforts in Tanzania today.

While PharmAccess is now prominently associated with UHC efforts, its roots lie in addressing HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa. Founded in 2001 by Dr Joep Lange, a physician and researcher working at the University Hospital in Amsterdam, the organization emerged from a stark realization. He was one of the world's top HIV/AIDS researchers and prominent pioneer of antiretroviral therapy who died aged 59 in the crash of the Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine in 2014.

During his work, he had witnessed the readily available Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for HIV patients in Amsterdam, and was deeply troubled by the lack of access of the same in Africa.

In one of his visits to Uganda in 1992, he saw children born with HIV and their families struggling with helplessness. Unlike the well-resourced and informed gay communities accessing ART in Amsterdam, much of Africa faced a different reality. Driven by this disparity, Dr Lange returned to Amsterdam and advocated with the government for support to Africa. He then went on to convince large multinational companies.

Dr Marwa recall: "Lange made a compelling argument. He highlighted the financial implications of losing trained employees to HIV-related illnesses. It was a strategic move that demonstrated the potential of private-public partnerships in healthcare."

At the time, there was a prevailing belief that complex healthcare interventions like HIV treatment were not feasible in Africa. Critics argued that African populations lacked the necessary knowledge and infrastructure. Dr Lange defied these assumptions.

That's how the first HIV clinic in Delta State, Nigeria, was opened then followed by another in Namibia. These successful pilot programmes provided crucial evidence that effective HIV treatment was indeed possible in Africa, challenging the prevailing skepticism. This also paved the way for major initiatives like the Global Fund and the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

However, access to HIV treatment was just one piece of the puzzle. With more Western support, access to HIV treatment improved significantly. Yet, one big question arose: What if patients with HIV succumbed to malaria due to a lack of affordable treatment for other illnesses? This led PharmAccess to tackle the broader chal-

lenges of healthcare financing and quality of care. This would ensure that patients who pre-paid for care actually received the services they needed, fostering trust in the system.

In 2006, PharmAccess received significant funding from the Dutch government. This enabled them to open offices in four African countries, including Tanzania, with the goal of innovating better access to quality healthcare. In Tanzania, the first health insurance project kicked off in 2009, focusing on women microfinance recipients.

Faced with a choice between medical care for their children and repaying loans, the women were particularly vulnerable. PharmAccess successfully partnered with PRIDE, a microfinance provider and Strategis Insurance, to offer health insurance bundled with loans, ensuring their wellbeing and financial stability. The KNCU Health plan came after these initiatives.

"When we started, there were already Community Health Fund (CHF) schemes in every district in the country," he said, adding: "That was the original CHF." But as CHF gained momentum, challenges arose.

How iCHF was born  
People began to opt for the KNCU Health Plan which had started earlier, even if they weren't members of the KNCU and the premium was twice that of CHF, leading to concerns among regional authorities.

"Despite facing resistance, we persisted, recognizing the need to improve the existing community health insurance model," he said.

"Our focus was on ensuring that everyone had access to health insurance. The KNCU Health Plan resistance by the region authority came with the opportunity to collaborate

with the existing CHF. We knew that by improving the CHF, we would have a sustainable scheme, which could reach a wider population."

Through a collaborative process, PharmAccess worked with district authorities to identify and address weaknesses in CHF such as lack of clear reimbursement model, lack of proper pooling policy where in some districts it was done at facility level and other facilities at district level, both resulting into limited risk sharing among enrollees. The administration of the scheme also required a lot of improvements.

The reforms led to the establishment of the Improved CHF or (iCHF).

"So, with iCHF we decided to add a social insurance feature in the community scheme. For example, we said we should have someone who manages it at regional level, not at district level. NHIF was the best option," he said.

PharmAccess advocated for a regional approach to allow for a larger risk pool and increase management efficiency. A clear benefits package was established to ensure transparency and avoid confusion among beneficiaries. A system of capitation payments was introduced to provide service providers with predictable income based on the number of patients enrolled. This incentivized quality care and reduced uncertainty. But also a referral system was implemented to ensure patients could access higher levels of care when needed, including faith-based health facilities.

Although the changes came with an increase of contributions from 10,000 to 30,000, people welcomed it because they were assured of receiving the services they paid for when enrolling into the scheme.

## Partnering with NHIF

A key aspect of iCHF's success was its collaboration with the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) which played a key role in regional pooling mechanisms to ensure a more equitable distribution of funds across different areas. But also NHIF acted as the regional administrator, handling administrative tasks and ensuring smooth operations. NHIF also played a role in enrolling members into the iCHF programme, expanding its reach and payment of providers.

There was a noticeable improvement in healthcare services. PharmAccess's success in Kilimanjaro and Manyara attracted attention from other regions, paving the way for the national rollout of iCHF.

"We started very successfully. We went on to 14 percent enrolment by the first year. And then people were like, 'you know you are succeeding because Kilimanjaro is relatively richer than other regions', so we decided also to expand to Manyara," he said, explaining however, that PharmAccess was not alone in the efforts.

Other NGOs and international organizations were also experimenting with different models and approaches. In Dodoma Region, the Swiss Programme HPSS developed its own model, while GIZ implemented a different model in Lindi and Mtwara regions.

While these organizations had varying approaches, they shared a common goal of strengthening CHF and improving healthcare access. "Their collective efforts contributed to a rich landscape of innovation and experimentation and this helped the government to scale up the UHC efforts," he said.

The success of iCHF in Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions demonstrated its scalability and adaptability. PharmAccess expanded the programme to Manyara in 2016, achieving even greater success.

In 2019, the government called upon all partners supporting CHF to discuss improvement of the community health funds. PharmAccess's regional based model iCHF stood out due to its innovative approach and demonstrated success. The government recognized the value of the model and adopted it as the foundation for the national UHC initiative. The other models also had their contribution in shaping the national model.

"We were the only ones with a regional model, and realistic and yet reasonable premium," Dr Marwa said. Despite its successes, iCHF faced challenges during the national rollout.

One key issue was the decision to remove the defined benefits package. This made it difficult for facilities owned by faith-based organizations to participate, limiting the reach of iCHF. Additionally, changes to the payment model and referral system had unintended consequences, affecting enrolment and service quality.

As the country moves towards UHI, Dr Marwa emphasized the importance of innovation and adaptation in achieving UHC. Tanzania's unique context, with a large informal sector, requires tailored solutions. By challenging traditional approaches and embracing new ideas, NGOs and government agencies can overcome obstacles and find effective ways to deliver healthcare to all.

Can Tanzania attain UHC by 2030?

While Tanzania has made significant strides, challenges remain.

Dr Marwa believes that it is possible to achieve UHC by 2030. He pointed to the support from the President Samia Suluhu Hassan who has shown political will and the existence of necessary laws and regulations. Despite the good signs, he also acknowledged that implementation has been slow.

"We have to put beneficiaries at the centre of our initiatives," he said. Despite the challenges, Dr Marwa remains optimistic. He cited examples of other countries like Cambodia that have achieved UHC in a relatively short period.

"It is possible but we need to work on innovations to address the existing challenges," he said.

The author is a science journalist who focuses on public health, medicine and research communication. He can be reached via at six.buguzi@gmail.com

# CAPITAL RADIO RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

By Dimmy Kanyankole

# Private shared mobility plays a critical role in filling gaps left by public transport in Tanzania

**T**ANZANIA, like many other developing nations, faces a growing demand for efficient, reliable, and affordable transportation.

With an expanding population and increasing urbanisation, cities such as Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Arusha, and Mwanza are experiencing unprecedented pressure on their public transport systems. While the government has made strides in improving bus and rail networks, significant gaps remain, particularly in terms of access, convenience, and coverage.

This is where private shared mobility services come into play, stepping in to complement and fill the gaps that public transportation cannot address. Among the most significant players in this space is Bolt, which has transformed the mobility landscape across Tanzania's major cities.

The bus rapid transit (BRT) system in Dar es Salaam is a commendable effort in improving mass transit, offering an affordable and relatively efficient service. However, even with its success, it covers only a fraction of the city's geography, leaving vast urban and suburban areas underserved. Long queues, overcrowded buses, and frequent delays remain commonplace. Additionally, public buses and trains operate on fixed schedules and routes, which may not always align with the real-time needs of passengers.

For many Tanzanians, particularly those living on the outskirts of cities or in areas where public transport infrastructure is limited, the flexibility and convenience of ride-hailing services offer a necessary alternative. The emergence of ride-hailing services has been transformative. Bolt in Tanzania has enabled people to access quick, affordable, and reliable transportation at the tap of a button. Whether it's during the evening hours when public transport options are scarce, or in remote areas where public buses don't reach, private



shared mobility has become a vital lifeline.

One of the key advantages is the adaptability of the service. Unlike buses that follow rigid routes, ride-hailing platforms allow passengers to move between any two points, offering seamless transportation. This has not only made commuting more efficient for individuals but has also eased the pressure whilst also complementing the limited public transport infrastructure.

For the thousands of Tanzanians who rely on ride-hailing to get to work, school, or appointments, the flexibility provided by these services is more than just convenience, it is often the difference between being mobile or stranded.

The benefits of private shared mobility go beyond just convenience. The rise of ride-hailing has also had significant economic impacts in Tanzania. Bolt has created employment opportunities for thousands of drivers, offering them an additional source of income and a chance to be part of a structured gig economy. In cities where formal employment opportunities are limited, ride-hailing presents an accessible, entrepreneurial path for many. Recently, Bolt expanded to Morogoro in response to the launch of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) operations from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro, which has significantly enhanced connec-

tivity and accessibility between the two major cities, fostering economic growth and mobility.

Additionally, the platform's business model helps reduce congestion and pollution by promoting ride-sharing. This sustainability effort aligns with broader goals of reducing the carbon footprint in urban areas, where emissions from personal vehicles remain a growing concern.

Tanzania's transport challenges are too complex for one-size-fits-all solutions. Public transport alone cannot shoulder the entire burden, and private shared mobility services like Bolt's are essential to filling the gaps and ensuring mobility for all. The ongoing evolution of the ride-hailing industry, supported by both private and government partnerships, driver empowerment initiatives, and technological innovation, have proven that the future of mobility in Tanzania is one that must be collaborative.

By building on this synergy, we can envision a future where every Tanzanian, regardless of location, has access to reliable and affordable transportation options. The leading ride-hailing company's continued growth and its partnerships are showing the way forward for what a truly connected, mobile Tanzania can look like.

**Dimmy Kanyankole is the Rides, Bolt Tanzania general manager**

# Wildlife Trafficking: Criminals now devise new tricks as Tanzania records more arrests

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

**C**RIMINALS behind wildlife trafficking rackets are devising new methods of eluding law enforcers, including processing some of their illegally acquired items to change texture and appearance.

"Illegal wildlife trade is not a new thing but the techniques employed by the actors keep being refreshed on frequent basis," pointed out Allen Chad Mgaza, the Natural Resources Management Policy Lead of the Tuhifadhi Maliasili, undertaken by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

It is important for law enforcement agencies to stay on alert and keep themselves up to date in anticipating changes and new tactics from traffickers and dealers who regularly change styles, routes and approach.

"They now process or camouflage the hides, tusks and horns changing their appearance to look like something different," said Mgaza, adding that even the routes of passage keep changing occasionally.

But with recent arrests of some of Kingpins behind wildlife trafficking rackets, Tanzania has made major strides in containing the global racket within the country's shores.

Salim Msemu is the Acting Assistant Director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Section at the Directorate of Public Prosecutions in Dodoma.

Msemu explains that wildlife trafficking incidents are not isolated to one geographical area but forms a syndicated network which transverses the entire globe. "Which explains why it is usually difficult to crack these types of crime without forming an equally large network of multinational anti-crime units," added Msemu.

The Acting Assistant Director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes was speaking to scribe members of the Journalists Environmental Association in Tanzania (JET) who recently visited the DPP office in Dodoma under the auspices of USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili

project.

He listed some of the wildlife species or products that are mostly smuggled by traffickers as rhino horns, elephant tusks, lion and leopard skins as well as live animals such as turtles and tortoises.

Recently again the Lusaka Agreement Task Force on Reducing Maritime Trafficking of Wildlife between Africa and Asia recently reported during their meeting in Arusha, Tanzania that Pangolins are currently the most sought after wildlife species by traffickers.

Pangolins are said to be illegally being captured from Africa, and trafficked to Asia and the Far East.

The Director of Lusaka Agreement task force, Edward Phiri stated during one of the meetings held in Arusha, which Pangolins are already extinct in Asia and now wildlife traffickers have started smuggling the creatures from Africa taking them to Asia where they are being killed, mostly for their scales, believed to be of medicinal value. Some of the pangolins get shipped to the Far East, especially China where they happen to be popular delicacies in hotels and restaurants.

Experts say illegal wildlife trade is among the five most lucrative businesses, estimated to generate over USD 23 billion annually.

Presenting a paper on wildlife trafficking during the special Training Program on Biodiversity Conservation the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) Joint Port Control Unit- Container Control Program Reuben Magandi explained that traffickers exploit legitimate transport, logistics services and commercial trade routes to move Flora and Fauna or their products illegally from source to consumer countries.

During the training organized by the Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) with support from USAID, journalists were told that about 95 Percent of Tanzania's international trade is handled by the Port of Dar es Salaam.

The U.S Department of State recently designated the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cambodia, Cameroon, Laos



Madagascar and Nigeria in the 'Countries of Concern' listing, as far as wildlife trafficking is concerned.

According to the U.S Department of State's Climate, Environment, and Conservation, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania remain under the 'Focus Countries' list among 22 other precincts.

To identify Countries of Concern among the 24 Focus precincts, the Department of State, in consultation with the Departments of the Interior and Commerce, as well as with the Department of Justice and USAID, reviewed publicly available information as well as classified material to identify governments actively engaged in or knowingly profiting from trafficking of endangered or threatened species.

The Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Report of 2024, more than one of these countries are taking affirmative steps to strengthen enforcement, reduce demand, and improve international cooperation to combat wildlife trafficking.

"Countries demonstrating serious and sustained efforts to prevent and prosecute wildlife trafficking may be removed from the Countries of Concern list in the next report, barring other factors," reads part of the report from the United States Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific

Affairs.

The Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking co-chaired by the U.S Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Attorney General, brings together 17 federal departments and agencies to implement the National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking.

The U.S government's three-pronged approach to combating wildlife trafficking - strengthening law enforcement, reducing demand, and building international cooperation - reportedly deprives criminals of a key source of financing, reducing the criminal threat posed to U.S. citizens.

For 2024, the Task Force agencies spent considerable time reviewing the criteria that had led to the earlier designations.

The U.S Department of State, in consultation with the Departments of the Interior and Commerce as required by the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Act, as well as the Department of Justice and USAID, has listed the other three East African countries of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania among the 22 Focus Countries in wildlife trafficking.

The List of Focus Countries in 2024 also includes Brazil, Cameroon, Cambodia, Colombia, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, and the People's Republic of China, Philippines, South

Africa, Thailand, Vietnam and Zimbabwe and Republic of the Congo.

Each of those 22 countries continue as a 'major source of wildlife trafficking products or their derivatives, a major transit point of wildlife trafficking products or their derivatives, or a major consumer of wildlife trafficking products,' according to the 2024 report.

Twenty-one of 24 posts reported data on arrests, prosecutions, and convictions of wildlife traffickers. Eighteen posts reported existing laws treating wildlife trafficking as a serious crime.

The Task Force also obtained data on demand reduction indicators for 11 of the 24 Focus Countries, reaching an estimated 197 million people.

Over the past five years, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) spent over USD 50 million to combat wildlife trafficking in Tanzania and support the improved management of the country's natural resources.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cambodia, Cameroon, Laos Madagascar and Nigeria, according to the Department of State, have been listed in the 'Country of Concern' designation because there are indications of serious concerns of either high-level or systemic government involvement.

# Nigeria is the world's 2nd biggest plastic polluter: Expert insights into the crisis



Nigeria is one of the largest producers of plastic pollution in the world

**P**LASTIC pollution is a major problem in Nigeria. Recent research identified the country as a plastic pollution hotspot, second to India. India emits 9.3 million tonnes of plastic into the environment each year - one fifth of the global total. Nigeria emits 3.5 million tonnes annually.

Just how big is the issue and what can be done about it? The Conversation Africa has published various articles by academics on the country's plastic pollution problem and how it should be tackled.

Plastic pollution in Nigeria Temitope Sogbamu warns that plastic pollution is a serious problem in Nigeria and can be found wherever there is any human activity.

The pollution comes in a range of sizes from macroplastic (pieces larger than 25 millimetres in diameter) to nanoplastic (less than 1,000 nanometers).

It takes various forms, such as polyethylene terephthalate (used for food packaging, beverages, and personal care products), polyvinyl chloride (used in plumbing pipes, flooring, and clothing) and polystyrene (used for food packaging, laboratory materials, toys and computer housing).

These plastics are making their ways into various environments, including Nigeria's waterways.

A study led by Gideon Idowu found

alarmingly high levels of microplastics in the Osun River. This major river in southern Nigeria is an important source of water for the communities that live around it, whether for irrigation or for personal use.

The study found as many as 22,079 pieces of microplastic in just one litre of water. These levels exceeded those reported in 267 global studies of microplastics in river water conducted since 1994.

Even recreation areas, like Nigeria's beaches, are not spared.

Ifenna Ilechukwu studied the surface sediments from four beaches in Lagos. Plastic fragments and microplastics were found in all the sediment samples collected from the beaches.

He explains that a high

number of fragments suggests the breakdown of larger plastic items from littering and poor waste management.

When microplastics enter ecosystems, it affects everything that lives in them. Emmanuel Akindele's research into microplastic pollution in the Osun River system discovered that the tiny pieces of plastics were even present in snails.

The study - the first chemical identification of polymer types in African freshwater invertebrates - found various types of plastic were present, including polyethylene, nylon and polypropylene, commonly used as shopping bags and bottle caps.

Another study by Akindele, which covered two important rivers and

Gulf of Guinea tributaries, found the presence of microplastics in aquatic insects.

The insects are a key part of the food chain and so the microplastic pollution is expected to affect other animals.

Steps to address it What can be done about this problem?

Early in 2024, the Federal Ministry of Environment and the Lagos State government both announced bans on single-use plastics. Temitope Sogbamu, however, warns that the success of the ban will depend on provisions made for enforcement. Nigeria has had a law in the pipeline banning single-use plastics since 2013. It has still not been promulgated at the national level.

Kehinde Allen-Taylor wants others to be involved in solving the problem too. The researcher explored how companies can reduce plastic waste in Nigeria if they accept all the elements of corporate social responsibility. Sustainable practices benefit business too.

By Phakama Ntshongwana

# Socioeconomic transformation in South Africa must begin with children and be based on social justice

**I**N its Ten-Year review of the National Development Plan, the National Planning Commission found that socioeconomic transformation is well below the expected target, with inequality still the highest in the world.

This, inevitably, affects the lives of children. The commission has, therefore, placed children at the centre of its planning.

In the context of the country's ageing population, and as sustainable development and transformation are still under way, inclusion and redress must begin with children. Early childhood development is a critical period in human development that starts from conception until the age of six.

The first 1,000 days are particularly important as environmental factors can either promote sound brain development or impede optimal neurological function. These social protection features, which include adequate nutrition, access to essential healthcare and a safe physical and emotional home environment, are imperative not only for the child but also for primary caregivers if the nature and nurture balance is to be struck during early childhood development. These are detailed in the National Development Plan and provided for in the Constitution.

**Biggest weakness** In light of the high levels of poverty in the country, many households rely on the Child Support Grant to improve outcomes for children. Although the grant reaches millions of children and provides some nutritional support, its biggest weakness is its value - R530 per month in 2024 - which is too little to protect the poorest



children from hunger, malnutrition and stunting. A CI study found that black African children are caught in a race and gender poverty nexus - poverty remains racially distorted and female caregivers have higher poverty rates than men.

Of the 20 million children in South Africa, more than seven million remain below the food poverty line, which is R760 per person per month in 2024. Twenty-seven percent of these children under five are stunted, according to the CI. Children who are stunted are likely to struggle to learn in school, and this affects their employment prospects later in life. Stunting is a serious concern not only for individual children, their caregivers, and house-

holds, but also for society in general, especially the public health system.

Taking these high rates of child poverty, malnutrition and stunting into account, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child have all recommended that the Child Support Grant amount be increased.

Compounded by poverty Optimal early childhood development is especially challenging for children in institutions and foster care, which is further compounded by poverty. According to the Children's Institute's 2024 Child Gauge, the poorest households carry the

greatest burden of care for orphans with nearly 40% of all orphans living in the poorest 20% of households in South Africa.

The National Planning Commission's Advisory on National Development Priorities for the 2024-2029 Medium-Term Development Plan recommends a comprehensive review of all social welfare services to improve the availability and accessibility of social services in all districts, schools, and community offices. This includes improved provision of infrastructure and financial resources for social workers, and childcare workers, and a 2.5% increase per annum in the social development budget to strengthen

human resources and general infrastructure.

While the government of national unity ought to place quality early childhood development as one of the cornerstones of South Africa's renewed nation-building efforts, and while the state is ultimately responsible for protecting vulnerable families, the government on its own is unable to provide a decent standard of living in the context of high rates of poverty and unemployment. The National Planning Commission calls on all social actors and partners to make a concerted effort to support early childhood development services in the country.

Concerted social effort This concerted social effort was displayed when the National Planning Commission launched its early childhood development advisory note and call to action in July 2024 when a member of a civil society organisation noted: "When I see a child in front of me I ask myself, what is this child going through, what does s/he need and what can I do to help?" It was clear that the early childhood development practitioner recog-

nised children's humanity and dignity.

This resonates with Unicef's assertion that childhood is not just the space between being a child and "acquiring adulthood", but that the quality of those years matters. Protection of these early years ought to be the case no matter their socioeconomic status. I use the phrase "acquire adulthood" because, for many children, both early childhood and the latter years can be mentally and physically exacting.

Section 38 of the Children's Act (2005) specifies programmes that provide families with information so that they have access to services that promote the wellbeing of children and the realisation of their full potential. The act also promotes the participation of families, caregivers, and parents in childcare literacy programmes. Although the Department of Basic Education is responsible for early childhood development, coordination of implementation with other key state stakeholders such as the Department of Social Development and the local sphere of government is imperative. The government's medium-term plans must ensure appropriate, integrated mechanisms across all three spheres to effectively address early childhood development policy implementation.

Based on social justice

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Thursday 19 September, 2024

# Banks raise deposits rates in 12 months

By Guardian Reporter

Depositors in banking industries are continuing to enjoy increased yields from their deposited funds, following the increase of both savings and negotiated deposit interest rates.

The banks and Bank of Tanzania (BoT) calculations data show the increase of savings and negotiated deposit rates over the last 12 months, as part of lenders incentives to mobilise funds to finance increased economic activities as well as promoting saving culture among Tanzanians.

Banks' foreign currency deposits also maintained an upward trend since January 2024, driven by high returns favouring holding and transacting in foreign currency.

However, BoT says this trend is expected to reverse following the ongoing policy interventions, including measures taken to reduce domestic dollar transactions in the economy and increase foreign currency liquidity highlighted in the 2024/25 government budget.

Data show the local currency savings deposit rate increased to 3.02 percent in August this year from 1.68 percent in August last year, while overall time deposit rate went up to 8.15 percent from 6.85 percent respectively.

Twelve months deposit rate jumped to 8.91 percent in August this year, from 8.08

percent in August last year and negotiated deposit rate slightly increased to 10.12 percent from 9.29 percent respectively.

The BoT report shows 24-months deposit rate jumped to 9.87 percent in August this year from 8.74 percent respectively.

In a meantime, savings deposit rate for foreign currency reached 1.28 percent in August this year from 0.04 percent in August last year, while overall time deposit rate slightly declined to 3.73 percent from 3.75 percent.

The report shows the foreign currency's deposit rates for 2-month and 6-month also increased, while those of one month, three months and one year slightly declined.

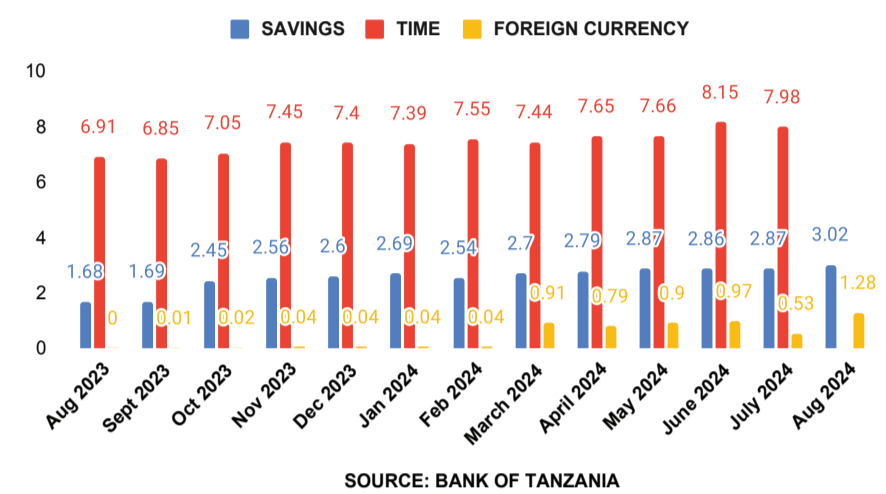
BoT says improved performance of economic activities, banks' deposit mobilization measures and enhanced use of agent banking as well as digital banking platforms continued to account for the growth in customer deposits.

Bankers say the increased deposit rates resulted from banks initiatives to mobilise funds to cater for increased demands for credits from different sectors of the economy.

"As customer deposits account for the largest share of source of funds and assets in banking industry, depositors need to be given incentives in a time when there is a growing demand for loans," said a banker based in Dar es Salaam.

Reports show that private sector credits have continued to register robust growth,

Banking deposit interest rates August 2023-August 2024



SOURCE: BANK OF TANZANIA

at 17.6 percent in July, a slight increase from 17.2 recorded in June 2024, but below the 20.8 percent growth rate recorded in the same period of 2023.

The recorded growth aligns with the private sector's demand for financing to support economic and investment activities.

Credit to agricultural activities continued to exhibit the highest growth rate, at 44.6 percent, driven by supportive government policies.

Personal loans, predominantly directed towards small and medium enterprises (SMEs), 5 represented the largest portion

of private sector credit at 36.7 percent.

Other activities that accounted for a relatively large share of credit included trade, at 13 percent and agriculture at 11.8 percent.

The BoT's Monetary Policy Report for July said growth in shilling denominated loans remained stable at an average of 22 percent, relatively similar to the previous quarter.

"Liquidity in banks was adequate and enough for loan provision, with the ratio of liquid assets to demand liabilities, as well as to total assets hovering above the regula-

tory requirements," the report said.

In contrast, foreign currency-denominated loans slowed to 1.7 percent from 2.8 percent during the quarter ending March 2024, reflecting the decline in post import loans denominated in the foreign currency relative to the corresponding quarter of 2023.

"Credit to the private sector is expected to remain strong, attributable to the recovery of economic activities coupled with an improving business environment and supportive policies," the report noted.

The continued demand for loans reflects a broader economic expansion, with businesses and personal borrowers alike seeking credit to fund operations and investments.

BoT says the banking sector remained well-capitalized and liquid, which encouraged further lending.

Interest rates on loans have decreased, while deposit rates have slightly increased, leading to a narrower interest rate spread, a sign of improved market efficiency.

As of September 2024, lending interest rates in Tanzania show a slight easing trend. The overall lending rate stands at approximately 15.42 percent, having decreased marginally from earlier months.

Short-term lending rates (for loans up to one year) are around 15.93 percent, while negotiated lending rates, where borrowers can discuss terms directly with lenders, hover near 13.95 percent.

## Banking CRM software market grows by 17.3pc

LONDON

The banking customer relationship management (CRM) software market has experienced robust growth in recent years, expanding from \$13.13 billion in 2023 to \$15.40 billion in 2024 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17.3 percent.

Banking customer relationship management (CRM) software is specifically designed to help banks and financial institutions manage their customer interactions more effectively.

The growth in the historic period can be attributed to increasing demand for self-service banking, increasing demand for automated customer insights software, increasing demand for cloud solutions, increasing demand by funding research and development initiatives, and rising desire for improved customer service.

The banking customer relationship management (CRM) software market is projected to continue its strong growth, reaching \$29.39 billion in 2028 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17.5 percent.

The growth in the forecast period can be attributed to rising product demand from small and medium-sized businesses, growing competitors in the customer relationship management (CRM) software industry, increasing use of internet banking, increasing digitalization of the banking sector, and rising popularity of mobile banking.

The growing online banking services are expected to propel the growth of the banking customer relationship management (CRM) software market going forward.

Online banking is a convenient and efficient way for customers to manage their finances and perform various banking transactions electronically through their bank's secure online platform.

The prominence of online banking is rising due to convenience, security, and easy access to a wide range of financial services.

The banking CRM software manages and analyzes customer interactions and data across digital channels, providing enhanced customer service, personalized experiences, and improved operational efficiency.

Major companies operating in the banking customer relationship management (CRM) software market are integrating artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance the efficiency of transaction dispute management for banks.

Integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into transaction dispute management can significantly boost efficiency for banks by automating the detection and resolution of disputes.

AI algorithms analyze transaction data to identify patterns and anomalies, enabling quicker and more accurate identification of fraudulent activities or errors. North America was the largest region in the banking customer relationship management (CRM) software market in 2023.

The regions covered in the banking customer relationship management (CRM) software market report are Asia-Pacific, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, North America, South America, Middle East, Africa.

According to the World Bank In 2024, the global banking sector is expected to face a complex environment with moderate growth but significant risks.

Credit growth will continue, but at

a slower pace than in recent years, as high inflation and elevated interest rates temper lending in most regions.

Emerging markets will feel the pinch more acutely, where "ghost deleveraging" – nominal credit growth below long-term trends – remains a persistent issue, impacting investment and household spending.

Non-performing loans (NPLs) are likely to rise due to economic slowdown and higher borrowing costs, particularly in sectors like real estate and corporate debt. This is expected to affect banks' asset quality, especially in regions like Europe and Asia.

Meanwhile, sovereign debt risks will remain elevated in many emerging markets, as local banks increase their lending to governments under financial pressure, potentially exacerbating bank-sovereign linkages and vulnerability to defaults.

On the regulatory side, banks will face tighter supervision on capital preservation and asset quality, particularly in the US and Europe, where regulators are expected to impose stricter capital requirements.

## Dar RAS suggests for one-stop centre for MSMEs businesses

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Dr. Toba Nguvula has suggested the need for ensuring that micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) get one-stop center for all business-related services.

Nguvula made the suggestion yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking during the launch of the Kariakoo Festival which brought together 100 exhibitors from both the public and private sector.

The festival was masterminded by the Kariakoo business community which is committed to seeing businesses thrive. Over 100 exhibitors both local and foreign are taking part in the ongoing Kariakoo Festival taking place at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam.

"Kariakoo market is arguably East and Central Africa's most vibrant commercial hub. This is an international market and in a bid to move in line with this status, it has begun providing services 24hrs now. We are proud of the Kariakoo Festival and we believe it will showcase various goods available to the world," he said.

He however expressed frustration with the lack of participation of key government agencies including the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA), the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), the National Insurance Corporation (NIC), and the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) among others in the festival.

Martin Mbwana, Kariakoo Business Community Chairperson various

themes will be showcased during the weeklong event.

"We will showcase different themes each day to offer a unique festival experience. There will also be lots of entertainment to ensure that people who will turn up get a memorable experience," he added.

Alex Mgeni, head of business banking, NMB expressed commitments towards supporting the country's MSMEs to drive increased growth and development, stressing that the lender will continue to play a leading role in the economic transformation and growth of MSMEs.

Mgeni said the Kariakoo business hub remains a pivotal and strategic business hotspot for the bank adding that the festival provides a platform for the bank to engage directly with its clients and aligns with the bank's quest to businesses to the next level.

"We did not have second thoughts when contacted to be sponsors for the Kariakoo Festival. We believe MSMEs are the primary drivers of economic development. We have implemented a comprehensive suite of initiatives including seamless digital payment propositions tailored to meet the varied needs of entrepreneurs," he stressed.

Mgeni said apart from providing funding for MSMEs, the bank also enhanced their capacities by providing financial literacy and creating networking opportunities for them.

"We are confident that our continued support for MSMEs will lead to an improvement in their performance and contribution to the economy as a whole," he noted.

## UAE firm plans to invest \$500m in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent

A United Arab Emirate (UAE)-based company- GSG Energies is poised to invest \$500 million in Tanzania, focusing on transport, mining, manufacturing, and petroleum product distribution.

This substantial investment is projected to generate over 3,000 jobs over the next five years.

Ismail Elagib, CEO of GSG Energies Tanzania, announced that the company's Board of Directors will soon visit Tanzania following President Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit to Dubai last year.

"We advocate for a strategic partnership with Tanzanian government leaders to ensure the successful implementation of these projects, which will boost employment and contribute to the economic growth of this beautiful country," said Elagib.

He further highlighted that this collaboration is expected to bring significant economic benefits and enhance Tanzania's appeal as a destination for future investments.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan's business trip to Dubai last November, where she also participated in the United Na-



Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) Investment Officer and the Head of the Middle East Desk Juma Nzima (L), explains a point to the A United Arab Emirate (UAE)-based GSG Energies CEO Ismael Elazhari (R), while welcoming guests from AI-Sobat Group at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Second left is the AI-Sobat Group Chairman Hisham Hassan. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

tions Climate Change Conference (COP28) from November 30 to December 12, has sparked increased interest from international companies in exploring and investing in Tanzanian sectors.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been increasingly involved in various sectors of Tanzania's economy, with signifi-

cant investments in infrastructure, energy, tourism, agriculture, and more.

Many companies have been involved in major construction projects in Tanzania, including building airports, ports, and roads. Dubai-based companies have also invested in real estate projects in cities like Dar es Salaam.

On energy sector, the UAE has shown interest in Tanzania's energy sector, particularly in renewable energy projects.

Masdar, a renewable energy company from Abu Dhabi, has explored potential investments in solar and wind power projects in Tanzania.

The UAE is one of Tanzania's key trading partners in the Middle East, with trade exchanges spanning agricultural products, gold, and petroleum products.

The UAE has also worked with Tanzania to establish special economic zones to boost manufacturing and exports.

In recent years, both governments have emphasized strengthening bilateral ties, with Tanzania seeking more foreign direct investment (FDI) from the UAE to support its industrialization and economic diversification goals.

Also, efforts are being made to increase Tanzanian exports to the UAE, including enhancing the production of agricultural goods, value-added products, and minerals.

Tanzania is also looking to benefit from the UAE's logistical and transport hub status to access broader markets in the Middle East and Asia," she added.

# Blockchain adoption is gathering steam

LONDON

It is tempting to think of blockchain as a new technology. But with the Bitcoin whitepaper turning 16 on 31 October 2024, the journey from a core technology emerging to its full-scale adoption in institutional business processes has proven long and complex.

This year, OMFIF's Digital assets report reveals two novel sources of data indicating a slow but steady gathering of momentum behind the adoption of blockchain. The report presents the first league tables detailing the main players in the world of blockchain bond issuance, including the top issuers, platform providers, legal advisers, exchanges and bookrunners since 2022.

The league tables reveal that the market is gathering impressive pace. Since the beginning of August 2024, some 14 bonds had been issued on blockchain. With many more expected, the market should easily outstrip 2023, when some 16

blockchain bonds were issued and 2022, when the figure was only nine - meaning we expect the blockchain bond market to more than double in size between 2022 and 2024, with the pace still accelerating.

However, it did not take long for those in traditional finance to catch on to the possibility that distributed ledger technology might be the key to simpler and more efficient financial market infrastructure. Early signs of progress surfaced in 2017 with the bond-i - the World Bank's blockchain-operated new debt instrument. From then, the blockchain takeover seemed imminent and inevitable, causing market participants to swiftly begin looking beyond bond markets at other asset classes.

Tokenisation, representing the ownership of an asset with a token on a blockchain, seemed like the next evolution of market infrastructure - a means of simply migrating any given asset class into a blockchain environment, from cash to equity or real estate.



Complicated capital markets

The peer-to-peer ethos of blockchain conflicts with the way finance has historically been run - relying on trusted, regulated intermediaries to oversee activity and provide security. While disintermediation is a trickier

proposition, policy-makers are open to the possibility that it will make markets more efficient and are launching pilot regimes and sandboxes to test that proposition.

Both promises of blockchain - immediacy of settlement and disintermediation - conflict with the present

organisation of markets. But that does not mean they are not desirable. Policy-makers have long discussed making a move to shorter settlement windows, and the US adopted T+1 settlement windows as of May 2024.

Desirability for regulators is as much of a consideration as

for market participants on the ground. In this spirit, OMFIF conducted a survey of issuers, banks and investors. The 26 respondents (a majority of whom are public sector bond issuers) provide a valuable insight into the opinions of capital market participants on the introduction of new technologies.

The share of the community that is looking to adopt DLT for debt issuance is growing, as is the share of respondents that believes DLT will form the future infrastructure of capital markets. However, there is still a distinct coolness towards the notion of shorter settlement times and the operational challenges this would bring, and a sense that current infrastructure, such as traditional central securities depositories, will not be abruptly replaced.

OMFIF's Digital assets report seeks to uncover who the key players in this long-awaited revolution are and also features a survey of market participants that gives insight into the changing attitudes of the market. Some

38 percent of respondents said they are looking at adopting distributed ledger technology or blockchain in debt issuance. The survey also reveals some fascinating insights into the concerns and expectations market participants have of the coming updates to financial market infrastructure. While almost all expect a substantial degree of tokenisation within three to 10 years, it is interesting to note that many market participants are cool on the possibility of moving to T+1 or even more rapid settlement because of the operational challenges it might entail.

The report features thought leadership from OMFIF's experts, as well as contributions from BNP Paribas, Slovenia's Ministry of Finance, KfW, Banque de France, Hong Kong Monetary Authority and Swiss National Bank, covering topics including cash settlement for wholesale markets, tokenisation and the changes to market structure that introducing DLT will imply.

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## 1.25m coal jobs could be lost globally by 2035, report says

By Darren Parker

Research firm McKinsey's inaugural 'Global Materials Perspective' report shows that, while the green energy transition could generate 340 000 global jobs to scale critical minerals and metals supply by 2035, 1.25-million jobs may be at risk, driven by the associated decrease in thermal coal demand.

The report, which was published on September 17, focuses on the new phase of the energy transition where costs, complexity, challenges and trade-offs are beginning to play out, showing the intertwined dynamic between the energy transition and materials, highlighting how it is creating adaptive challenges for the industry.

This is demonstrated by the growing share of global market production increasingly shifting toward energy transition materials, such as copper, lithium and nickel.

The report shows that the highest level of global market production growth is expected from copper at 30 percent and lithium at 475 percent by 2035.

The 'Global Materials Perspective' analysis highlights that, overall, the mining and metals sectors are currently in a strong financial position, having achieved strong growth in profitability in recent years.

However, it notes that maintaining a strong financial position will be required to scale up the metals and mining industry to support the energy transition, with analysis based on insights from McKinsey's Metal and Mine Spans, estimating that as much as \$5.4-trillion in global capital expenditure and 270 GW of power will be needed, with another 1 100 GW required to decarbonise, to meet demand by 2035.

The 'Global Materials Perspective' report provides a companion viewpoint to McKinsey's simultaneously published 2024 Global Energy Perspective, which reveals that the supply of critical

metals, including lithium and nickel, is scaling up more quickly than expected.

McKinsey says demand patterns are shifting towards alternative technologies and materials in anticipation of potential supply gaps, which is closing the expected supply-demand gaps.

However, the analysis shows that there are still expected shortages for several critical materials used in the large-scale deployment of low-carbon technologies. This includes an expected 30 percent to 40 percent shortage of lithium and rare earth elements, and a 10 percent to 20 percent shortage of iridium and copper.

"The size and shape of the metals and mining value pool are continuously changing as the energy transition progresses. Closing the supply-demand gap for critical commodities will be essential to the economic deployment of low-carbon technologies and accelerating the transition," McKinsey associate partner Michel Foucart said.

The 'Global Materials Perspective' shows that the pace of decarbonisation in the industry is unfolding slower than required to support the goals of the Paris Agreement and that the cost of deep decarbonisation remains high, with an increase of more than 30 percent in operational costs for some materials, especially for brown-to-green transitions.

This is particularly challenging as underscored by the analysis of McKinsey's recent survey of leading industry players across steel, aluminium and copper, which demonstrated that only 15 percent of customers surveyed indicated a willingness to pay for premiums of about 10 percent for green materials by 2030.

"According to our analysis, there is currently sufficient financing capacity in the industry to scale up production, with \$5.9-trillion in financing capacity available. However, the business case is not always attractive enough to incentivise investment."

"Based on the current pipeline, for example, our research indicates that

copper prices would have to increase [by 20 percent] to about \$12 000/t, lithium [by 30 percent] to \$19 000/t and nickel [by 5 percent] to \$21 000/t to incentivise more supply to come online," McKinsey senior partner Michel van Hoey said.

The report also discusses the challenges ahead for the materials industry in balancing continued supply-demand dynamics and its own decarbonisation pressures.

However, despite those challenges, McKinsey says the industry has an opportunity to bridge the gap and is well-positioned to play a pivotal role in supporting the energy transition.

According to International Energy Agency (IEA), in 2023, production by the three largest coal producers, accounting for 70 percent of global output, grew considerably: China (3.4 percent), India (12 percent) and Indonesia (13 percent). As a result, global coal production reached an all-time high of 8.9 billion tonnes.

China expanded coal production to guarantee energy security and reduce price volatility. In India, energy security is also a high priority, as frequent shortages in the past have turned attention toward reducing imports.

Indonesia's production, despite the increasing domestic need, is export oriented. As such, its production grew in 2023 to meet demand in international markets.

In the United States, the fourth largest producer, coal output declined by 2.8 percent, much less than demand, due to higher exports and stock building.

In the Russian Federation (hereafter, 'Russia') data show only a slight decline in production, despite exports being subject to sanctions.

"Our analysis for the first half of 2024 shows a slight decline in global coal production of 0.7% year-on-year, driven mostly by China, which recorded a decline of 1.7 percent," says IEA.

Responsible for half of global coal output, China has intensified safety checks in Shanxi province, the country's largest producing region, which accounted for 1.3 billion tonnes of coal output in 2023. Pressure to increase domestic production has declined due to slowing demand growth, healthy stocks across the supply chain, and higher imports. India continues to encourage production to avoid coal shortages and reduce imports.

Meanwhile, Indonesia aims to produce 720 Mt in 2024, but has mining approvals for more than 900 Mt. Indonesia's coal production will ultimately depend on international demand, in particular, that of China.



## US Fed seeking to make first rate cut since 2020

WASHINGTON

The US Federal Reserve is all but certain to cut interest rates on Wednesday for the first time in more than four years, a significant move likely to ripple through global financial markets.

Senior officials at the US central bank including Fed chair Jerome Powell have in recent weeks indicated that a rate cut is coming this month, as inflation eases toward the bank's long-term target of two percent, and the labor market continues to cool.

The decision will affect the rates at which commercial banks lend to consumers and businesses, affecting the cost of borrowing on everything from mortgages to credit cards.

Traders and analysts remain uncertain about how sharply the Fed will lower its benchmark lending rate from the current 23-year high of between 5.25 and 5.50 percent.

Some are banking on a smaller cut of a quarter of a percentage point, and others are backing a bigger half-point reduction.

A smaller cut would be a more predictable move, while a bigger move would do more to boost demand - while also running the risk of reigniting inflation.

"It's around points of inflection that we get the most mixed signals," Erica Groshen,

a senior economics advisor at the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, told AFP.

"The Fed is trying to make sense out of them. And the markets are trying to make sense out of them, and trying to make sense out of how the Fed will interpret them," added Groshen, a former vice president at the New York Fed.

- Lower borrowing costs - Futures traders saw a 63 percent chance on Tuesday that the Fed would announce a bigger, half percentage-point move on Wednesday, and a 37 percent chance it would go with a more conventional 25 basis point cut, according to CME Group data.

When the Fed cuts interest rates, commercial banks in the United States generally follow, reducing borrowing costs and stimulating demand in the world's largest economy.

For the Fed, a rate cut of any size would signal that consumer inflation, which hit a four-decade high in 2022, was returning to target.

While there is a "compelling risk management case to support a larger move," recent Fed communications and data did not "argue clearly" for a larger cut, economists at Deutsche Bank wrote in a recent investor note, predicting a 25 basis point cut.

"We remain of the view that the Fed will opt for a 25bps (basis point) rate cut to start its easing cycle," EY chief econo-

mist Gregory Daco wrote in a note to clients.

- US election stakes - Analysts overwhelmingly expect the Fed to announce it is cutting rates on Wednesday, though there is less clarity about what comes next.

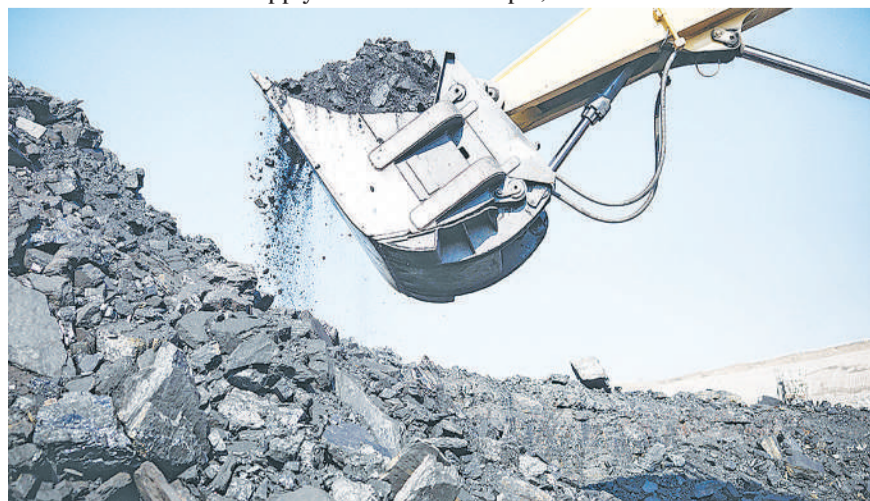
In June, rate-setting committee members sharply reduced the number of cuts they had penciled in for this year from a median of three down to just one, amid a small uptick in inflation.

But as inflation has fallen in the months since, and the labor market has cooled, analysts at top US banks have raised the number of cuts they expect the Fed to pencil in this year.

The Fed has a dual mandate from Congress to act independently to set monetary policy to ensure both stable prices and maximum sustainable employment.

But if it announces a cut on Wednesday, the Biden-Harris White House is likely to claim it as proof that their economic agenda is working and that the long-running battle against inflation is being won.

That could raise the spirits of US consumers, who have consistently named the cost of living and inflation as top concerns ahead of November's election in which former Republican president Donald Trump is running against Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris.



# The impact of de-risking by correspondent banks on international trade

By Lea Borchert & Ralph De Haas

Global banking has changed substantially in the wake of the global financial crisis, as new regulation, stricter supervision, and stronger risk management prompted international banks to scale back foreign activities (Fratzscher and Bremus 2015, Claessens 2017, De Haas and Van Horen 2013, 2017).

A prime example of this retrenchment is the sharp decline in correspondent banking. Driven by stricter anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing rules, many global banks have curtailed their correspondent banking services, especially in low-income countries.

Correspondent banks hold deposits from other banks (respondents) and provide them with cross-border payment services, enabling the local banks of exporters and importers to make trade-related payments without direct bilateral account relationships.

Correspondent banks also offer trade finance services, such as letters of credit (Schmidt-Eisenlohr and Niepmann 2016), which mitigate non-payment or non-shipment risks. Through these activities, these banks enable trade transactions that might otherwise not occur due to financial constraints or a lack of trust between counterparties.

Correspondent banking's cross-border nature makes it vulnerable to abuse by criminals who exploit national differences in legislation, bank secrecy laws, and enforcement to disguise illicit funds. The fight against financial crime has suffered from the weak enforcement of legal frameworks designed to counteract it (CGD 2015). However, after the global financial crisis, the prosecution of such offenses intensified. In 2014, the US Department of Justice signalled that any global transaction threatening the integrity of the US financial system could be tried in a US court. This was widely regarded as a turning point, heralding stricter regulatory enforcement in anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing. In response to this shift, banks reassessed the cost of regulatory compliance in correspondent banking. They subsequently undertook severe pruning of their correspondent networks, terminating relationships deemed no longer cost-effective or too risky (Financial Stability Board 2017, Rice et al. 2020).

This retrenchment has led to a significant reduction in the number of correspondent



banking relationships worldwide. Figure 1 visualises this de-risking, showing the Gini coefficient of active correspondent banks per country-pair between 2012 and 2022. Until 2014, the coefficient is stable, after which it increases steadily, reflecting growing concentration as more banks withdrew. In a recent paper (Borchert et al. 2024), we investigate the firm-level consequences of this correspondent bank retrenchment.

To identify the impact of the withdrawal of correspondent banks on firm activity, we join three datasets. Information on the loss of correspondent bank relationships comes from two proprietary surveys among respondent banks in emerging Europe: the third Banking Environment and Performance Survey (BEPS III) and a survey we conducted together with EBRD's Trade Facilitation Programme. We link these bank-level data to information about firms' main bank as reported by Bureau van Dijk's Orbis database. We then match this information with additional firm-level data from Orbis. We focus on four emerging European countries - Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, and Turkey - which have traditionally relied heavily on correspondent banking services.

Using a staggered difference-in-differences approach, we then systematically compare the export performance of firms with a main bank that loses a correspondent banking

relationship (treated firms) to similar firms with a main bank that has not lost any correspondent relationship up to the event year (control firms). We match treated with observationally similar control firms in terms of their pre-event export turnover, total assets, and total factor productivity, and keep all firms on the common support.

We find that a decline in the supply of correspondent banking services negatively affects both the extensive and the intensive export margins. Figure 2 shows that once a firm's main bank loses a correspondent bank relationship ( $t=0$ ), it is more likely to stop exporting or to export less. At the extensive margin, the likelihood that a firm continues to export declines by 5.2 percentage points in the short term and by 19.8 percentage points in the medium term (four years after the shock). At the intensive margin, four years after the event, the export revenues of affected firms are 57% lower than those of similar control firms.

Looking at other real outcomes, we find that when correspondent banking relationships are terminated, some affected firms can compensate for the resulting export decline by boosting domestic sales. However, many other firms experience a decrease in total revenues, lay off employees, or go out of business entirely.

We also assess the relevance of these disruptions at the level of affected villages, towns, and cities ('localities') to provide evidence on the local equilibrium effects

of terminated correspondent relationships. We find that the negative impacts of terminated correspondent relationships on firm-level trade reverberate through the local economy. When comparing localities where many bank branches lost a correspondent bank to localities without such disruptions, local exporters on average exhibit significant export declines on both the extensive and intensive margins.

The negative outcomes of the decline in the supply of correspondent banking services on firms' export activities are most pronounced among smaller and younger firms. These firms find it especially difficult to switch to other banks when their main bank can no longer offer the necessary services to facilitate international trade transactions. Additionally, firms whose bank had relatively few correspondent relationships to begin with suffer more, as the withdrawal of even a single correspondent bank can leave their main bank with insufficient cross-border payment and trade finance options. This underscores the importance of a diversified network of correspondent banking relationships in mitigating the adverse effects of correspondent bank withdrawals on firms.

We expand our analysis to 17 emerging European markets using bilateral sectoral trade data to support the external validity of our firm-level results and to examine

whether firm-level export declines aggregate to the industry level.

Moreover, at the industry level, we also have data on imports available. We exploit the tightening of the US regulator's enforcement of financial crime legislation in June 2014 as a structural break that negatively shocked the supply of correspondent services.

The sector-level results confirm our firm-level evidence: the export growth rate is, on average, 8 percentage points lower in countries with a high withdrawal in correspondent banking than in countries where no or only few correspondent banks left. Similarly, import growth for high-withdrawal countries decrease an additional 24 percentage points relative to low-withdrawal countries.

This column has provided novel evidence on how the recent sharp decline in correspondent banking relationships, triggered by growing regulatory compliance costs, is hindering firms' ability to engage in international trade. Our findings demonstrate how abrupt increases in regulatory scrutiny can unintentionally disrupt vital correspondent banking networks, resulting in significant and lasting negative impacts on firms' export opportunities and local economic dynamism.

The impact of broken correspondent relationships may be long-lasting, as rebuilding local knowledge and international trade links takes time. In the meantime, government-backed trade finance schemes can help mitigate the fallout (Kabir et al. 2024).

In the longer term, efforts could focus on two key areas: first, improving respondent banks' compliance with international financial-crime regulations and risk-management procedures; and second, exploring new digital technologies to facilitate safe and efficient cross-border payments (Panetta 2023).

Relatedly, efforts can be intensified to develop centralized databases that allow correspondent banks to verify the legitimacy of their respondent banks' customers. The wider adoption of standardised legal entity identifiers (LEIs) can also help to improve transparency and facilitate due diligence.

By addressing these issues, the international banking community can work towards rebuilding trust within the correspondent banking network, ultimately supporting global trade and economic growth.



## Dollar catches footing ahead of Fed

SINGAPORE

The dollar steadied on Wednesday as stronger-than-expected US retail sales had traders slightly trimming bets that the US easing cycle will begin with an outsized interest rate cut.

The Federal Reserve is expected to make its first interest rate cut in more than four years at 1800 GMT,

which will be followed by a news conference half an hour later.

The dollar has fallen along with US yields since July and at \$1.1119 per euro is not far from the year's low at \$1.1201 as traders anticipate easing at a clip, with more than 100 basis points of rate cuts priced in by Christmas.

It briefly fell below 140 yen in a holiday-thinned Asia session on

Monday but changed hands at 142.02 yen early on Wednesday as a big week for the currency pair culminates with central bank meetings in the US and, on Friday, in Japan.

August retail sales rose 0.1 percent in the US, data showed overnight, against expectations for a 0.2 percent contraction.

The Atlanta Fed's closely-followed GDPNow estimate was raised to 3

percent from 2.5 percent after the data. A rate cut is fully priced, with interest rate futures implying a 63 percent chance of a 50 basis point cut, after flirting with 70 percent a day earlier.

Traders say the Fed's tone as well as the size of the rate cut will drive the next moves in the foreign exchange market.

"A dovish Fed on a substantial

easing path should generally lead to a weaker dollar," said Nathan Swami, head of currency trading at Citi in Singapore.

But an extremely dovish Fed, Swami said, could end up spooking markets if it seems the Fed anticipates a more ominous downturn in the economy than is expected, and in that case risk-sensitive and emerging market currencies may face headwinds.

China's stock, bond and currency markets resume trade on Wednesday after the mid-autumn festival break, though it is a holiday on Wednesday in Hong Kong. Ahead of the onshore open, the yuan traded at 7.1083 per dollar offshore.

The Australian dollar traded firmly at \$0.6759 early on Wednesday while the New Zealand dollar ticked 0.1 percent higher, with help from higher milk prices, to \$0.6194.

Sterling, the best performing G10 currency of the year, held at \$1.3161 with its rally being driven by signs of a steady economy and sticky inflation. British inflation data is due later in the day, while on Thursday the Bank of England is seen leaving rates on hold at 5 percent, with a 35 percent chance of a cut.

Final European inflation figures are also due, however they are unexpected to deviate much from preliminary August figures and so all eyes will be on the Fed.

"With markets wagering on 41bp of cuts, which is a long way from either realistic contender (25bp or 50bp), volatility seems almost assured," analysts at ANZ Bank said in a note to clients.

In 2024, the US dollar is expected to face downward pressure due to several factors. After years of strong performance, signs point toward a potential decline.

This shift is driven by expectations of lower interest rates, with the Federal Reserve projected to make rate cuts throughout the year, which would weaken the dollar's strength in international markets.

Additionally, geopolitical factors such as increasing global competition from BRICS nations and tensions with China may also reduce the dollar's dominance in global trade.

As a result, other currencies, particularly in emerging markets, may gain strength against the dollar, influencing global financial flows.

"Investors are advised to monitor these trends, as this shift could create opportunities in commodities and international markets," says a report by Morgan Stanley.

## WORLD

## China urges Israel to end unlawful presence in Palestinian territory

UNITED NATIONS

CHINA'S permanent representative to the United Nations on Tuesday urged Israel to heed the strong call of the international community by immediately ending its unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory.

In remarks at the UN General Assembly emergency special session on the Palestinian question, Fu Cong said decades of occupation and oppression have inflicted untold sufferings on the Palestinian people, and made the long-cherished dream of independent statehood ever more elusive.

"Ending the occupation is not an option, but a legal obligation for Israel," he said.

In its advisory opinion issued on July 19, the International Court of Justice unequivocally concluded that Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is a violation of international law, and that Israel is under an obligation to immediately bring to an end its unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territories, the ambassador said, adding that

the ICJ's advisory opinion affirms the longstanding consensus of the international community and pinpoints the crux of the Palestinian question.

"We urge Israel to heed the strong call of the international community by immediately ending its unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory," said Fu.

Ending the occupation is to redress historical injustice and, more importantly, lay the foundation for peace, he said.

Underscoring that independent statehood is the inalienable right of the Palestinian people as a nation, the ambassador said the prolonged illegal occupation has hindered the realization of self-determination of the Palestinian people and given Israel an exclusive veto over Palestine. "This is unacceptable."

Only a complete end to the occupation and the establishment of the Independent State of Palestine will truly make it possible for Palestine and Israel to live side by side in peace, for the two peoples to live together in peace and tranquility, and for lasting peace to be achieved in the Middle



Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, speaks during the UN General Assembly emergency special session on the Palestinian question, at the UN headquarters in New York, on Monday. XINHUA

East, he said.

Fu emphasized that the implementation of the two-state solution is the only viable way to resolve the question of Palestine, and is the broad consensus of the international community.

He called on the international community to make greater efforts and demand that Israel implement the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, cease its military operations in Gaza, and stop its illegal settlement activities in the West Bank.

"China advocates the convening of a more broad-based and effective international peace conference to revitalize the political

prospects of the two-state solution and to work out a timetable and a roadmap for its implementation," he said.

"Today is a historic moment," Fu said, noting that the State of Palestine has taken a seat among UN member states and introduced a draft resolution to the General Assembly that focuses on the implementation of the advisory opinion of the ICJ.

He said China will vote in favor of the draft resolution, and hopes the resolution will give new impetus to ending the occupation, implementing the two-state solution, and advancing the Middle East peace process.

Agencies

## Russia strongly condemns unprecedented attack on Lebanon, its citizens – MFA

MOSCOW

MOSCOW strongly condemns the unprecedented attack on Lebanon and its citizens, condoles with the families of the victims and wishes fast recovery to the injured, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in connection with a massive cyberattack in Lebanon, which resulted in a series of pager explosions.

"We strongly condemn the unprecedented attack on friendly Lebanon and its citizens, which constitutes a gross violation of its sovereignty and a serious challenge to international law with the use of unconventional weapons. We offer our sincere condolences to the families of the victims and wish prompt recovery to the

injured," Zakharova (pictured) said. She pointed out that Russia considered the spate of pager explosions "as another act of hybrid warfare against Lebanon, which has affected thousands of innocent people."

"In all likelihood the organizers of this high-tech attack purposefully sought to foment a large-scale armed confrontation with the aim to provoke a major war in the Middle East," Zakharova said.

She pointed out that against the background of soaring tensions on the Lebanese-Israeli border "such irresponsible actions are fraught with extremely dangerous consequences, as they provoke a new round of escalation."

"It is necessary to conduct a comprehensive investiga-



tion into this crime and bring all those responsible to justice to ensure that this act of terrorism should not be swept under the carpet, which the Western countries have been trying to do in relation to the investigation of the Nord Stream gas pipeline explosions.

We urge all parties involved for restraint and for refraining from steps that may further destabilize the military and political situation in the Middle East," Zakharova concluded.

**Attack on Lebanon**  
On September 17, many pag-

ers exploded almost simultaneously in different parts of Lebanon. According to the country's Health Ministry, there have been fatalities and a large number of injured as a result of the emergency.

The Shiite movement Hezbollah blamed the explosions on Israel and promised a "just response." According to one version, the incident was a result of a cyberattack. The pagers were reportedly brought to Lebanon for Hezbollah supporters in the spring of this year with explosive devices already embedded in them.

CNN earlier also indicated that the explosions in Lebanon were a result of a "joint operation by Israeli intelligence and the Israeli military." The Israeli authorities did not comment on the incident.

Agencies

## Global leaders urged to spend more on children's malnutrition, disease

NEW YORK

THE Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation urged world leaders on Tuesday to increase global health spending where it is needed most to boost children's health and nutrition, especially in the face of the global climate crisis.

In its eighth annual Goalkeepers report, "A Race to Nourish a Warming World," the foundation projected that without immediate global action, climate change will condemn an additional 40 million children to stunting and 28 million more to wasting between 2024 and 2050.

Scaling up solutions now can avoid this outcome while building resilience to climate change and spurring much-needed economic growth.

In 2023, the World Health Organization estimated that 148 million children experienced stunting, a condition where children don't grow to their full potential mentally or physically, and 45 million children experienced wasting, a condition where children become weak and emaciated, leaving them at much greater risk of developmental delays and death.

These are the most severe and irreversible forms of chronic and acute malnutrition.

At the same time, the total share of foreign aid going to Africa has decreased sharply, from 40 percent in 2010 to just 25 percent, the lowest percentage in 20 years.

This trend leaves hundreds of millions of children at serious risk of dying

or suffering from preventable diseases and threatens the unprecedented progress the world made in global health across Africa between 2000 and 2020.

"Today, the world is contending with more challenges than at any point in my adult life: inflation, debt, new wars. Unfortunately, aid isn't keeping pace with these needs, particularly in the places that need it the most," said report author Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"I think we can give global health a second act -- even in a world where competing challenges require governments to stretch their budgets."

The report calls for maintaining global health funding, immediately addressing the growing threat of child malnutrition by supporting the Child

Nutrition Fund, a new platform that coordinates donor financing for nutrition, and governments fully funding the established institutions that have proven effective at protecting millions of lives each year.

The report highlights proven tools that are helping solve malnutrition, building people's resilience to the worst impacts of climate change, and further driving down childhood deaths. The report also highlights the catastrophic economic costs of malnutrition and solutions that can help mitigate them.

According to the World Bank, undernutrition costs 3 trillion U.S. dollars in productivity loss every year because malnutrition stunts physical and cognitive abilities. In low-income countries, that loss ranges from 3 percent

## Engaging conversation, says EAM Jaishankar

NEW DELHI

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar engaged in an insightful conversation with young diplomats attending the 2nd Global South Young Diplomats Forum in New Delhi today. This forum provides a platform for emerging diplomats to share perspectives and address pressing global issue.

Jaishankar said that he highlighted the importance of robust partnerships within the Global South to face economic, developmental and geopolitical challenges of our times.

In a post on X, he said, "An engaging conversation with participants of 2nd Global South Young Diplomats Forum today. Highlighted the importance of robust partnerships within the Global South to face economic, developmental and geopolitical challenges of our times. Spoke about India's efforts at fostering collective initiatives and sharing development experiences in Digital, Health and Energy transitions with the Global South."

The first Global South Young Diplomats Forum was held on November 21 where Jaishankar interacted with participants of the first Global South Young Diplomats Forum, stressing the need for the Global South to make its voice heard and shape outcomes on key issues of the day.

In a post on X, he said, "Delighted to interact with participants of the first Global South Young Diplomats Forum today. Discussed why it is imperative for the Global South to make its voice heard. And shape outcomes on the key issues of the day. Shared recent experiences relating to our G20 Presidency and from our development partnerships. Happy to note Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service delivering on the commitment made by PM Narendra Modi during Voice of Global South Summit."

At the Concluding Leaders' Session of the Voice of Global South Summit in January, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the Global-South Young Diplomats Forum.

"For synergising our diplomatic voice, I propose a 'Global-South Young Diplomats Forum', to connect youthful officers of our foreign ministries," PM Modi had said.

"India will also institute 'Global-South Scholarships' for students from developing countries to pursue higher education in India," he added.

ANI



External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar addresses the gathering during the inauguration of the Hansa Mehta Hall, in Geneva on Friday. ANI

## Top Russian, N. Korean diplomats discuss developing ties, strategic partnership

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his North Korean counterpart Choe Son Hui discussed the development of bilateral relations within the framework of the comprehensive strategic partnership at a meeting in Moscow, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"The top diplomats of Russia and North Korea used the opportunity to exchange views on the ways of developing bilateral relations in accordance with the achieved level of the comprehensive strategic partnership between our countries," the ministry said in a statement.

The Russian diplomats also said that Lavrov warmly congratulated his counterpart on the traditional Chuseok harvest festival celebrated in the country today and wished her a fruitful and busy trip to St. Petersburg.

## Kenya's pristine forest draws tourists to geothermal

NAIROBI

AMOS Omondi, a resident of Nairobi, Kenya's capital, enjoys relaxing in urban saunas, surrounded by sleek, well-equipped spa facilities. R

Recently, however, Omondi has traded city luxuries for a more natural experience, venturing into the scenic depths of Eburru Forest, located in the resort town of Naivasha, about 100 kilometers northwest of Nairobi.

"This is better than the sauna in the city because you get to enjoy the scenic views of the forest," Omondi told Xinhua. He is among

a growing number of visitors flocking to a hidden gem in Eburru Forest, a natural underground geothermal steam vent.

To reach the site, visitors must descend a steep, rocky path, where steam rises from a crack in a rocky outcrop. "There was a rupture in the rock where geothermal activity occurred, allowing steam to escape at temperatures of up to 90 degrees Celsius," said Douglas Chege, a tour guide with over a decade of experience.

To counter the strong sulfuric smell common in geothermal sites, Chege employs a unique technique: squeezing mint leaves

between the rocks, infusing the air with a refreshing, calming scent. After spending 20 minutes in the sauna, Omondi emerged drenched in sweat.

"I feel very refreshed. I wish I could have stayed longer," he said as he climbed back up the rocks. Eburru Forest, covering roughly 8,000 hectares (80 square kilometers), sits on the rolling foothills of Mount Eburru, an active volcanic mountain. It is part of the larger Mau Forest, Kenya's largest water tower.

Yet, the forest was not always as lush as it is today. In the late 1990s, uncontrolled logging and char-

coal production nearly decimated it. The Kenya Forest Service (KFS), in collaboration with the Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust, a conservation organization, launched restoration measures by installing a 43.4-kilometer electric fence to protect the forest and reduce human-wildlife conflict.

The initiative has been a success, with biodiversity steadily returning, according to Josephat Wagura, a KFS fence attendant.

Wagura said that local communities have become key stakeholders in conservation efforts, benefiting from activities such as honey harvesting and eco-tourism.

"People used to fear farming or building permanent homes because of wildlife attacks," Wagura said.

"Now, they live peacefully with the animals and in better homes." Eburru Forest is also a haven for bird watchers and home to several species, including the critically endangered mountain bongos, as well as leopards, giant forest hogs and buffaloes.

To access the natural sauna, visitors have to pay a small entry fee to KFS. "We have guests from Europe and America who come to enjoy the sauna. They always return because it works wonders," Chege

said. He also advised that visitors should have a guard accompany them to the sauna, as wild animals frequent the forest. Chege further urged sponsors to help set up changing rooms for added guest comfort. Xinhua



**Eburru Forest is also a haven for bird watchers and home to several species, including the critically endangered mountain bongos, as well as leopards, giant forest hogs and buffaloes**



## Barrick continues to unlock value embedded in its asset base

COLORADO SPRINGS

BARRICK is projecting a 30% growth in producing gold-equivalent ounces from its existing assets by the end of this decade. At the same time, it continues to unlock the value embedded in its portfolio, says president and chief executive Mark Bristow.

Speaking at the Gold Forum Americas, Bristow said while Barrick was alert to potentially value-accretive opportunities generated by the industry's consolidation, it had the rare luxury of doing so from an asset base that would support organic growth well into the future.

"Five years ago, we set out to build a sustainably profitable gold and copper business focused on world-class assets. We did not have to buy them at a premium: they were embedded in the merged portfolio of Barrick and Randgold and we just had to unlock their value," he said.

"We have six Tier One2 gold mines with more in the making and our long-term plans are based on quality orebodies with industry-leading grades that drive improving cost profiles. Alongside our peerless gold portfolio, we are also building a substantial copper business, both to feed the rising demand for this strategic metal and because it enhances our growth optionality to include copper-gold porphyries."

Bristow listed three world-class gold opportunities, all in Nevada, which he described as the world's premier mining jurisdiction. The recently commissioned Goldrush is ramping up to a targeted 400,000 ounces per annum by 2028.3 Bordering on Goldrush is the 100% Barrick-owned Fourmile, which is returning grades double those of Goldrush and is another Tier One mine in the making.4 Still in Nevada, the 14-million-ounce Lee-ville project is developing into a major growth driver that could double or triple Carlin's reserves, extending its life be-

yond 2045.5

On the copper side of the business, two transformative projects are on track for the first production in 2028. The Reko Diq copper-gold project in Pakistan is designed to produce 400,000 tonnes of copper and 500,000 ounces of gold per year in the second phase of its development.4 The Lumwana Super Pit project in Zambia will double the mine's production over a +30-year life.4

"Mining is a consumptive industry which requires constant replacement of the ounces it depletes. Barrick leads the industry in orebody expansion and has more than replaced the gold reserves it has mined over the past five years.6 Even more significantly, the ounces that have been added are at the same or better grade than the reserves that were mined," Bristow said.

He noted that since 2019, Barrick had also built an industry-leading balance sheet, reducing net debt by \$3.5 billion, investing \$11.2 billion in +10-year life-of-mine plans for its key mines, and returning more than \$5 billion to shareholders. Its strong operating cash flows would provide the financial flexibility to fund its growth projects.

"Considering all this, it's extraordinary how undervalued Barrick's shares are. Based on analysts' consensus net asset value calculations, the value of just our interest in Nevada Gold Mines and our copper portfolio almost exceeds our current market capitalization.7 This means that the rest of our business is only valued at \$3.3 billion, and that includes our interest in three Tier One gold mines outside Nevada, the world-class Fourmile project, and the development projects in the pipeline.7 It also does not take into account our exploration teams' unparalleled success in discovering new ounces. At our current share price, the case for investing in Barrick should be compelling," he said.

Agencies

## Thousands of Australian workers join protests against govt takeover of construction union

SYDNEY

THOUSANDS of Australian workers on Wednesday walked off job sites and joined protests against the federal government's crackdown on a major construction trade union.

Members and supporters of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) joined rallies in Sydney and Melbourne to protest against the government's decision to force the construction arm of the union into administration.

The government in August placed all branches of the construction arm of the CFMEU into administration in response to allegations of corruption and criminal infiltration.

Workers on Wednesday walked off job sites for the second time to support the CFMEU after similar protests in August. Speaking to protesters in Melbourne, CFMEU National Secretary Zach Smith said that the government's move would lead to worse wages and conditions for Australian workers, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported. "An attack on one union is an attack on all," he said.

"Our victory is assured if we stand together and fight together and today we will be sending a very clear message across those corporate board rooms, across the halls of parliament that we're drawing a line in the sand."

Troy Gray, secretary of the Electrical Trades Union in the Australian state of Victoria, reportedly threatened a three-day strike from next Wednesday if employers don't stop an "attack" on working conditions, according to the Guardian Australia.

Responding to Wednesday's protests, Murray Watt, Australia's minister for employment and workplace relations, said that the government is not targeting CFMEU members, union members or construction workers at all, the Age reported.

"We're doing this to ensure that their union gets back to its job, which is representing the interests of those workers," he told reporters in Canberra. Unions previously said that they would go to court to challenge laws that allowed the government to take control of the construction union for a minimum of three years.

Xinhua

## South Sudan reports progress on oil production resumption in Upper Nile State

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan said on Monday that substantial progress has been made together with joint oil operating companies to resume production of the lucrative Dar blend oil in northern Upper Nile State.

Minister of Finance and Planning Marial Dongrin Ater said that the government is currently engaging bilateral and multilateral partners for concessional loans and grants to address pressing economic challenges.

"Significant progress has been made on the resumption of oil production from the Dar Blend in Upper Nile, and we are optimistic for a breakthrough," Dongrin told journalists in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

In February, the Dar Petroleum Oil Company suspended loadings of the Dar Blend crude following a rupture on the export pipeline in neighboring Sudan, which has been mired in conflict between the Sudan Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Force since April 15, 2023.

South Sudan's economy is currently experiencing record-high inflation following the halting of oil shipments to the international markets.

Dongrin said that some of the measures they are undertaking include the adoption of mobile money and electronic banking solutions to reduce reliance on cash transactions.

He disclosed that the ministry will pay salaries and operating costs for ministerial department agencies through bank accounts.

"This initiative will enhance financial efficiency, reduce risks associated with excessive cash circulation and improve transparency.

The banking sector is expected to simplify procedures for electronic transactions and telecommunications operators to intensify public awareness campaigns on mobile banking services," Dongrin said.

He also said that they are working to improve tax revenue mobilization, enhance crude oil exports, secure funding, digitalize and financial inclusion, and foster food security.

Xinhua

# Booming service trade injects vitality into China's high-quality development

BEIJING

- AMID the rising trend of anti-globalization and trade protectionism, the 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) signals China's firm commitment to high-quality development and opening up.

Covering areas such as telecommunications, computer and information services, financial services, and cultural and travel services, the CIFTIS attracted participants from more than 80 countries and international organizations to Beijing.

China's leading services in e-commerce, digital finance and the sharing economy have brought about remarkable changes in people's lives. Today, the country's emerging new quality productive forces are empowering the service trade.

Take the prevailing video game "Black Myth: Wukong" as an example. Through the combination of technology and culture, the blockbuster is sweeping the world, with sales exceeding 18 million copies so far, enchanting gamers with the unique mythology of China.

Meanwhile, digital-driven, smart and green growth of service trade is accelerating. New technologies as well as new business forms and models such as short videos and online literature provide consumers with an abundant array of choices.

Big data and computing power as well as zero-carbon and low-carbon technologies empower the integrated development of various industries in service trade. Digital cultural tourism, smart education, and smart sports are innovated to stimulate and expand the potential of service consumption.

During the past decade, the average annual growth rate of service trade stood at 6.2 percent in U.S. dollar terms, higher than the global average and that of China's trade in goods over the same period. In 2023, the country's total import and export volume of services reached a record high of 6.6 trillion yuan (about 927 billion U.S. dollars).

As an important field of service trade



Children have fun during the 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) at the Shougang Park in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 16, 2024. The 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services concluded in Beijing on Monday. Xinhua

in China, travel service has seen rapid growth. In the first half of this year, China's travel service exports reached 103.7 billion yuan, up 131.9 percent year on year; travel service imports reached 858.1 billion yuan, up 41.5 percent year on year. Travel service trade accounted for 26.7 percent of China's overall service trade, 6.1 percentage points higher than the same period last year.

Early this month, China unveiled a set of guidelines to promote high-quality de-

velopment of trade in services with high-standard opening up, which will accelerate the process of digital, intelligent and green development of trade in services in the country.

The guidelines called for promoting institutional opening up of trade in services, fully constructing the management system of the negative list for cross-border trade in services and improving the standardization level of service trade. ■

## Empowering pilots with data to enhance safety, fuel efficiency

DUBAI

ON every one of Emirates' 470 flights that depart each day, all pilots actively use GE FlightPulse, an analytics application that provides vital operational data relating to the safety and fuel efficiency performance of each mission.

Since it was introduced, FlightPulse has been one of the key tools supporting Emirates' fuel and emissions reduction initiatives, in addition to improving key safety metrics.

GE's FlightPulse provides pilots with flight summary data from their missions, as well as information on how they operated the aircraft so they can analyse their performance related to key efficiency and safety measures and review and plan for the next flight with data driven insights.

Emirates and GE have developed a customised dashboard with defined KPIs and analysis tailored to the airline's requirements and operational averages and is available to all pilots and management.

FlightPulse also supports Emirates with photo-realistic custom replays of simulations of entire flights, displaying all the operational procedures implemented by pilots in sequential order of the flight path, matching their own flight deck experience.

Emirates initiated the FlightPulse project in 2021, working closely with GE to customise and enhance the tool for its requirements. Today the application has been meticulously enhanced and covers four key areas: fuel efficiency, safety metrics, operational data and analytics. Plus research accompanied with insights and statistics for every route on the Emirates network.

While this tool is used by other airlines, Emirates was the first airline to deploy it to the entirety of its over 4,000-strong pilot community, keeping them connected to a wealth of airline-specific and individual historical data in one place.

Through this highly intuitive tool, pilots are empowered to access their own efficiency metrics, benchmarking themselves



to the averages of their peers following every flight they operate, in addition to the ability to retrieve key operational insights for future flight planning.

Captain Hassan Al Hammadi, Emirates' Divisional Senior Vice President Flight Operations remarked on the successful utilisation of the tool: "FlightPulse has helped put data in the hands of our pilots and flight operations teams, making them more connected than ever to enhance operational, safety and fuel efficiency.

It not only gives them a retrospective view to reflect on how they can improve, but also equips them when making future operational decisions. We've seen remarkable improvements in fuel efficiency and other operational and safety KPIs, and we'll continue to push this technology forward and enhance it further as part of our commitment to continuous development.

This tool has brought about a key shift in flight operations data monitoring, where both management and pilots have transparency and visibility of key operational data related to safety and efficiency. This shift resulted in better collaboration and understanding between management

and the pilot community in managing safety and efficiency."

Captain Esmael Hassan Fard, Type Rating Instructor on the B777 uses the tool extensively when operating flights: "When preparing for a flight, I use FlightPulse to review data from my previous flights, focusing on key elements like safety and fuel efficiency.

Then, I analyse the specific route and conditions for the upcoming flight using the insights and historical data available for the specific city pairing. This helps me make decisions about fuel management, operational procedures, and any adjustments needed for optimal safety and efficiency during the flight.

By benchmarking my performance against fleet-wide standards, I'm motivated to continuously improve when it comes to overall efficiency."

Capt Abdalla Al Hammadi, Fleet Technical Pilot, A380 expands on how FlightPulse has enhanced his flight metrics: "FlightPulse presents us with performance statistics and data on any of our past flights, allowing us to uncover new areas to optimise operations and efficiency.

A new feature was added re-

cently called pre-flight, which allows me to check data for the past 90 days for a particular sector or airport that I will be flying to. Which runway can I expect?

Do I expect any holding? This is valuable information that supports my preparation and provides me with the appropriate visibility to adjust my techniques, and ultimately helps me make better decisions when it comes to safety and efficiency."

Emirates continues to heavily invest in a connected flight deck, and has recently gone paperless, consolidating its operational flight plan and briefing package for each flight through an enhanced version of mBriefing from Lido Systems, a simple application on every pilot's iPad which presents relevant information for each flight that can be downloaded easily.

Pilots can monitor flight progress and join up information through other apps that provide information like enroute weather information, including turbulence forecasts.

Historically, this information was distributed on paper to flight deck teams. The airline estimates that 15 million pieces of paper will be saved through the process. Agencies



## Sean 'Diddy' Combs jailed by judge after sex trafficking indictment

NEW YORK

SEAN "Diddy" Combs headed to jail Tuesday to await trial in a federal sex trafficking case that accuses him of presiding over a sordid empire of sexual crimes protected by blackmail and shocking acts of violence.

The music mogul is charged with racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking. The indictment against him lists allegations that go back to 2008.

He's accused of inducing female victims and male sex workers into drugged-up, sometimes days-long sexual performances dubbed "Freak Offs." The indictment also refers obliquely to an attack on his former girlfriend, the R&B singer Cassie, that was captured on video.

"Not guilty," Combs (pictured) told a court, standing to speak after expressionlessly listening to the allegations with his uncuffed hands folded in his lap.

After U.S. Magistrate Judge Robyn Tarnofsky declined to grant him bail, Combs took a long swig from a water bottle, then was led out of court, turning toward family members in the audience as he went.

"Mr. Combs is a fighter. He's going to fight this to the end. He's innocent," his lawyer, Marc Agnifilo, said after court. He plans to appeal the bail decision.

The Bad Boy Records founder is accused of sexually abusing and using physical force toward women and getting his personal assistants, security and household staff to help him hide it all. Prosecutors say he also tried to bribe and intimidate witnesses and victims to keep them quiet.

"Simply put, he is a serial abuser and a serial obstructor," Assistant U.S. Attorney Emily Johnson told a court.

Agnifilo acknowledged Combs was "not a perfect person," saying he'd used drugs and had been in "toxic relationships" but was getting treatment and therapy.

"The evidence in this case is extremely problematic," the attorney told the court.

He maintained that the case stemmed from one long-term, consensual relationship that faltered amid infidelity. He didn't name the woman, but the details matched those of Combs' decade-long involvement with Cassie, whose legal name is Casandra Ventura.

The "Freak Offs," Agnifilo contended, were an expansion of that relationship, and not coercive.

"Is it sex trafficking? Not if everybody wants to be there," Agnifilo said, arguing that authorities were intruding on his client's private life.

Prosecutors said in court papers that they had interviewed more than 50 victims and witnesses and expect the number to grow. They said they would use financial, travel and billing records, electronic data and communications and videos of the "Freak Offs" to prove their case.

Combs was arrested Monday in Manhattan, roughly six months after federal authorities raided his luxurious homes in Los Angeles and Miami.

A conviction on every charge would require at least 15 years in prison, with the possibility of a life sentence.

The indictment describes Combs as the head of a criminal enterprise that engaged or attempted to engage in sex trafficking, forced labor, interstate transportation for purposes of prostitution, drug offenses, kidnapping, arson, bribery and obstruction of justice.

Combs and his associates wielded his "power and prestige" to intimidate and lure women into his orbit, "often under the pretense of a romantic relationship," according to the indictment.

It says he then would use force, threats and coercion to get the women to engage with male sex workers in the "Freak Offs" – "elaborate and produced sex performances" that Combs arranged and recorded, creating dozens of videos.

With reporters, while heading into court, Sean "Diddy" Combs's attorney Marc Agnifilo says they knew this day was coming.

He ensured their participation by procuring and providing drugs, controlling their careers, leveraging his financial support and using intimidation and violence, according to the indictment. It said his employees facilitated "Freak Offs" by taking care of tasks like travel and hotel arrangements and stocking them with such supplies as drugs and baby oil.

The events could last for days, and Combs and victims would often receive IV fluids to recover from the exertion and drug use, the indictment said.

During the searches of Combs' homes earlier this year, law enforcement seized narcotics, videos of the performances and more than 1,000 bottles of baby oil and lubricant, according to prosecutors. They said agents also seized firearms and ammunition, including three AR-15s with defaced serial numbers in his bedroom closet in Miami.

Combs' lawyer said his client didn't own the guns, noting that he employs a security company.

The indictment says Combs choked, shoved, hit and kicked people, causing injuries that often took days or weeks to heal. His employees and associates sometimes kept victims from leaving or tracked down those who tried, the indictment said.

It alleges that Combs used explicit recordings as "collateral" to ensure the women's continued obedience and silence. He also exerted control over victims by promising career opportunities, providing and threatening to withhold financial support, dictating how they looked, monitoring their health records and controlling where they lived, according to the indictment.

AP

## Lions C cricketers win 2024 TCA Dar 20 Overs Cup - Div C

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

**K**ARIM Kiseto staged a stellar batting showing as Lions C won the 2024 TCA Dar 20 Overs Cup - Division C trophy with an eight-run victory over Dar Indian Titans in the final which took place on Sunday.

The Mubin Hassan-led Lions C elected to bat after winning the toss and amassed 148/9 in the scheduled 20 overs of the duel which took place at the Leaders Club ground.

They enjoyed a promising start to the innings, as openers Dylan Manish (24 runs, three fours and a six) and Ashfaq Imtiaz (12 runs) put solid knocks to show.

The batting side had secured 46 runs with two wickets taken when Manish made his way back after four overs, having been bowled by Dar Indian Titans' Ally Hafidh.

Kiseto - batting at number three - significantly boosted Lions C's score after cracking 41 runs.

It was by far the best batting figure when the squad took the crease. The promising cricketer nailed five boundaries in his 46-ball stint.

Kiseto had Lions C reaching 147 runs with six wickets taken when he was dismissed with four balls left.

Dar Indian Titans' Hafidh sought to frustrate Lions C's quest for a much better total as he claimed Hassan's wicket - dismissing the batsman for duck.

The dismissal nevertheless did not weaken Lions C's resolve as the outfit's middle-order batsmen stepped up their game.

Middle-order performer Augustine Mwamele had Lions C making their intention



Lions C cricketers are pictured with a trophy after the conclusion of the 2024 TCA Dar 20 Overs Cup - Division C final - which had the squad facing Dar Indian Titans on Sunday. Lions C beat Dar Indian Titans by eight runs to clinch the silverware. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

to amass a bigger score known with his 29 runs.

There were also notable contributions by Rehaan Atif (14 runs, one four) and Johnson David (10 runs not out, two fours) for the batting squad.

Lions C's cricketers were further boosted by 17 extras given away by the Dar Indian Titans' bowling unit.

The extras included four byes, two leg byes, and 11 wides. Hafidh ended with a three-wicket haul as Dar Indian Titans fought to thwart an attempt by Lions C to end with a bigger total.

It was by far the best bowling figure when Dar Indian Titans fielded, with Hafidh leaking 23 runs in four overs.

Sanjay Dangi, Ravikant Sharma, and Kishan Chandran took a wicket each for Dar Indian Titans.

Chasing 149 runs to come out victorious, the C. Nehra-led Dar Indian Titans put on a spirited showing, but they lost steam, managing 140/8 in 20 overs.

They sought to recover after a shaky start, which saw skipper

Nehra facing an early dismissal, having been bowled by Lions C's Rehaan.

Fellow opener Chandra sought to repel an early onslaught by Lions C's bowling-scoring 16 runs which included three fours.

Top-order batsman Emmanuel Laurent stepped up Dar Indian Titans' quest for a successful chase with his 70 runs - which included seven fours and a six.

Even though Laurent ended with the most impressive figures, his plan to bail Dar Indian Titans out, in the end, hit snag.

Hafidh (18 runs), Farhan Vohra (13 runs), and Sharma (10 runs) also ended with two digits in the fruitless chase.

Mwamele (3-27 in four overs) and Kiseto (3-13 in four overs) orchestrated Lions C's bowling attack which successfully kept Dar Indian Titans' cricketers in check.

They were ably assisted by Rehaan, who ended his four-over stint with two wickets, leaving 29 runs, to dash Dar Indian Titans' hopes.

The final's Player of the Match

prize went to Kiseto of Lions C, whereas the club's performer, Manish, clinched the tournament's Best Batsman prize.

Dar Indian Titans' Dangi walked away with the Best Bowler prize and MCC's Rohan Ghassan laid his hands on the Player of the Series prize.

The TCA Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar also attended the final and he was pleased to see so many national U-19 cricketers feature in the final.

The visual was a promise that the future of Tanzania cricket is safe.

He congratulated both teams for their efforts to progress to the final and making the Division C final extremely colourful, with the live streaming that was done on the cricket governing body's YouTube channel.

Lions C sailed through to the showdown's final following the outfit's 10-run victory over Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) in the semi-final.

Dar Indian Titans booked a place in the final after garnering a 12-run defeat of Patel Titans in the other semi-final.



## Bluefins swimmers win medals, break records at national open championships

By Guardian Reporter

**O**NE of the most famous swimming clubs in Tanzania, Bluefins of Dar es Salaam, has won 29 medals in the recently concluded Tanzania National Open Championships held at the International School of Tanganyika (IST) Masaki swimming pool.

Apart from winning medals, the swimmers also broke two long-standing records at the event. The swimmers won two gold, 12 silver, and 15 bronze medals. Notably, swimmers Abbas Abdulali and Sahal Harunani broke two long-standing National Open Championship records.

Abdulali set a new record in the 100 meters backstroke event, finishing in 1:07.96, surpassing the previous record of 1:08.53 set last year.

Harunani set a new record in the 400 meters Individual Medley (IM) event, completing it in 5:24.53. The previous record of 5:31.16 was also held by Harunani from 2023.

Other Bluefins swimmers who won medals at the national event include Zainab Moosajee (one gold, three silver, and one bronze), Sahal Harunani (one gold and two silver), Aminaz Kachra (two silver and four bronze), and Kaysan Kachra, who secured two silver and one bronze.

Additionally, Hassan Harunani won two silver medals, Aliyana Kachra earned one silver and one bronze, Kabeer Lakhani took home one silver and one bronze, while Shuneal Bharwani and Idris Zavery each won one silver.

The list also includes Taher Zavery, Imaan Kimario, and Muskan Gaikwad, who each won two bronze medals, and Abbas Abdulali, who claimed one bronze.

The club's founder and head coach, Rahim Alidina, commended the swimmers for their outstanding performances at the event, which was organized by the Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA).

"Our swimmers put up an amazing performance and achieved many new Personal Best times (PBs). Out of our 35 swimmers, 33 achieved new PBs, which is a major indication of how much they have improved. We commend the swimmers and our panel of coaches for a job well done, and also thank the parents for their support," said Alidina.

Bluefins Swimming Club is well-known for training and developing swimmers from a very young age, tapping into their potential to prepare them for participation in various local and international swimming events.

## FIFA teams up with UN health agency for campaign to educate world soccer about concussion

GENEVA

FIFA teamed up with the World Health Organization on Wednesday for a campaign to educate the soccer industry about the risks of concussion injuries.

"Concussion is a public health issue of concern at all levels of football, and many other sports, requiring greater levels of awareness and action," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

Ten years after the alarming case in the 2014 World Cup final of Germany player Christoph Kramer, world soccer governing body FIFA is sending a toolkit to each of its 211 national federations to help teach at all levels of soccer that symptoms of a head injury can take up to 72 hours to appear.

Kramer continued to play in the final against Argentina for 14 minutes after being injured despite being in clear distress. Match referee Nicola Rizzoli later said he alerted Germany players after Kramer asked if he was playing in the final.

At the 2022 World Cup, Iran goalkeeper Ali Beiranvand was treated for several minutes on the field after clashing heads with a teammate, then continued to play on against England before finally being replaced.

FIFA favors letting teams make an extra substitution to remove immediately a player with a suspected head injury. That lets team medical staff evaluate injuries at length without the pressure of trying to send players back into the game.

At soccer's rules-making panel, known as IFAB, FIFA has consistently blocked proposals to allow temporary substitutions that would let injured players with a suspected concussion be assessed just for several minutes before potentially returning to the game. FIFA medical advice is that symptoms can take up to 72 hours to develop.

"The symptoms of a concussion can change or evolve within the minutes, hours, days and even weeks after the traumatic event," FIFA said of the new "Suspect and Protect" campaign. "No match is worth the risk."

AP

## VAR audio from Declan Rice red card incident reveals referee 'didn't like' decision

By Jamie Braidwood

REFEREE Chris Kavanagh admitted he did not like the decision to send off Declan Rice for a second yellow card in Arsenal's 1-1 draw with Brighton but was left with "no choice" after the England international delayed the restart of the game by kicking the ball away.

Rice was sent off for the first time in his career as Arsenal dropped points at home, with manager Mikel Arteta saying he was "amazed, amazed" at the decision. Rice nudged the ball away from Joel Veltman as he prepared to take a free kick.

The audio from the VAR discussion has now been released, in which referee Kavanagh tells Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard that Rice put him "in an awful position" by kicking the ball away while already on a yellow card.

"I had no choice, he knocks the ball away. You did kick the ball, you did," Kavanagh is heard telling Rice on the latest episode of the Premier League's Mic'd Up. "He's knocked the ball away. You need to go Dec, you need to go."

"I don't like it, I don't like it. But he's knocked the ball, he's kicked the ball. Dec, you need to go I'm afraid."

Kavanagh's decision was backed at the time by the Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) and the Key Match Incidents panel, and subsequently by the PGMOL's chief operation officer Howard Webb.

Appearing on Mic'd Up, Webb explained: "He's clearly seen Declan Rice commit a foul, then kick the ball away for an opponent that was in the process of taking a free-kick."

"We've messaged very clearly and strongly to the players in pre-season around the importance of not getting involved with the ball once the whistle is gone, not delaying the restart in that way."

"Once he's seen Declan Rice deliberately, clearly kick that ball away from the position of that free-kick, then I don't think he's got any choice."

Following the 1-1 draw, Arteta was angered that Kavanagh had been inconsistent by not showing a yellow card to Brighton player Joao Pedro after he had kicked the ball away during the first half, and Webb accepted that Pedro should have been booked.

"It sits in the same kind of book around delaying the restart. Of course, he should have been cautioned here," Webb said. "The officials on the field gave him too much benefit of doubt."

THE INDEPENDENT

## New Champions League format makes its debut with same old winners: Madrid, Liverpool, Bayern, Juve

ROME

NEW format. Same old winners.

The revamped Champions League made its debut Tuesday with some familiar clubs claiming victories on opening night.

After joining from Paris Saint-Germain, Kylian Mbappé scored for 15-time champion Real Madrid, which needed late goals from Antonio Rudiger and Endrick to beat Stuttgart 3-1.

Six-time champion Liverpool came back from a goal down for a 3-1 win at seven-time champion AC Milan in a rematch of the 2005 and 2007 finals.

Harry Kane scored four in Bayern Munich's 9-2 rout of Dinamo Zagreb as the German club opened its bid for a seventh title – which could be achieved in its home stadium in May.

Two-time champion Juventus dispatched PSV Eindhoven 3-1.

During the new league phase, all 36 teams are ranked from top to bottom in a single standings that finishes in January.

Also, Aston Villa returned to the competition for the first time in 41 years and won 3-0 at Young Boys; and Sporting Lisbon beat 10-man Lille 2-0.

The first round of league matches continues with six more matches on both Wednesday and Thursday.

### \*Madrid tested

After a scoreless first half, Mbappé put Madrid ahead seconds after the break when he redirected a cross from Rodrygo.



Stuttgart pushed Real Madrid but conceded twice late on to lose (Getty Images)

After Deniz Undav equalized for Stuttgart midway through the second half with a header, Rudiger restored Madrid's advantage with a header and Endrick sealed it with a solo counterattack in stoppage time.

"This was a typical Madrid match in the Champions League," Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said. "We always have difficult games. We sometimes complicate things ourselves, but credit to Stuttgart. They pressed high, they were really offensive and they created chances."

At 18 years and 58 days, Endrick became Madrid's youngest scorer in the Champions League. Raul Gonzalez was 18 years and 113 days old when he scored a hat trick in a 6-1 win against Ferencvarosi in 1995 for the previous record.

### \*Liverpool comeback

Christian Pulisic scored early for Milan before Liverpool struck back with headers from both of its center backs:

Ibrahima Konate and Virgil van Dijk. Dominik Szoboszlai added another for Liverpool.

"I'm very proud to be standing here after 50 appearances, a goal and a win at the San Siro after a difficult start. The way we played after that start was outstanding," Liverpool captain Van Dijk said.

### \*Kane's record

Kane converted three penalties and broke Wayne Rooney's record for the most Champions League goals by an English player by boosting his tally to 33 – three ahead of Rooney.

Bayern's best goal might have been its second from Raphael Guerreiro, who crushed in a powerful drive after a chest pass from Jamal Musiala.

Bayern coach Vincent Kompany was not the first choice when he was hired in May but so far his team has won all five of its matches. His team now tops the Champions League standings on goal difference.

### \*Yildiz the youngest

Kenan Yildiz's goal for Juventus after 21 minutes was the first of the revamped competition. And what a goal it was.

The Turkey winger dribbled into the left side of the box and curled in a long shot over the far, top corner of the goal frame.

At 19 years and 136 days, Yildiz broke the Juventus record for youngest scorer in the competition that Alessandro Del Piero established when he scored at 20 years and 308 days against Borussia Dortmund in September 1995.

With a goal reminiscent of the way Del Piero used to score, it seemed fitting that Yildiz was wearing the same No. 10 that Del Piero wore for Juventus.

"He was my idol as a child," Yildiz said. "An incredible evening, goosebumps."

### \*Emery's impact

Under experienced coach Unai Emery, Villa has won three of its four Premier

League matches and was in control virtually throughout at Young Boys in its return to the competition after 41 years.

Youri Tielemans put Villa ahead with a bouncing shot midway through the first half and Jacob Ramsey doubled the lead 11 minutes later by taking advantage of a loose ball. Amadou Onana sealed it four minutes from time.

Emery has won the Europa League four times with two clubs – three with Sevilla and once with Villarreal. He also coached Villarreal to the Champions League semifinals in 2022 and led Villa to the Conference League semifinals last season.

Villa was mourning the death a day earlier of 1982 European Cup winner Gary Shaw.

### \*Gyokeres' goals

Viktor Gyokeres, who had been an Arsenal transfer target, opened the scoring for Sporting with a neat turn and shot into the bottom left corner. It was Gyokeres' ninth goal in six matches this season.

Lille midfielder Angel Gomes was sent off before the break and Zeno Debast added a long-range strike midway through the second half.

### \*Protest banner

Bayern fans didn't appear enthusiastic about the new format, holding aloft a gigantic banner that ran the length of one end of the stands reading "Too much of a good thing – back to the roots – undo new CL-format."

The protest banner was displayed during the playing of the Champions League anthem.

AP

## New-look UEFA Champions League now shows football's biggest problem right from the start

By Miguel Delaney

AFTER such a grand build-up, the new Champions League's opening night didn't exactly suggest new excitement - or much unpredictability at all. Every single one of the pre-match favorites won. At least five of them, and arguably six, did so in a very comfortable manner. Bayern Munich went beyond comfort. They eviscerated Dinamo Zagreb 9-2, a result that should be very damaging for a launch night. It was worse than what came before.

Even if you argue that game at the Allianz was a mismatch that the competition itself is supposed to help in bridging, well, you only have to look at the night's marquee fixture. Liverpool breezed past Milan in a 3-1 that could have been a 6-1. Rather than a grand restaging of previous finals between historic giants, it was merely a showcase of profound modern problems with the game's economic framework.

The Champions League itself, of course, has been a powerful engine in creating this disparity. It's another reason this doesn't bode well.

An obvious response to all of this predictable doom-mongering is that it's early days... but that's part of the problem. Going by numerous statisti-

cal models, all of Tuesday's winners may only need four more points to just reach the play-offs. While that is admittedly the minimum number predicted, the mean in such models is a total of nine points to finish in the top four. It's not exactly much higher, and doesn't suggest high drama late on.

By contrast, it already looks like we might have situations that a lot of people feared. That is a mass of games where there really isn't much on the line. So much for solving the problems of the old group stage.

You can already sense it's going to take some drastic results to change that, and that's after one night.

Except, many would say this is long what the major clubs wanted: just more content, more games, a never-ending football calendar where they are always occupying your mind.

The precise problem with that is that it tends to have the opposite effect. You only had to see the thousands of empty seats at the San Siro, where 20,000 tickets were reported to still be on sale on the morning of the game.

It was such a contrast to the last great Champions League occasion that AC Milan played at this stadium, which was the semi-final derby against Internazionale in 2022-23. The old stands

shook to the sound of fans loudly blasting out the competition anthem, rather than just echoing dancéd-up 1990s hits as they did here.

You might say that's obvious since that was a semi-final against their greatest rivals, but that's actually the point. This new Champions League has actively sought to recreate that feeling, by having it so more of the big names meet. That isn't how football works, though. Supporters, as the stands illustrated, aren't really buying it.

By contrast, imagine the opposite. Imagine this was a straight knock-out, which feels like it is the only model that can truly save the early rounds of the Champions League in this economic framework. There's real jeopardy there.

It's also something remarkable with the modern game. One of the guiding factors over the last few decades has been these masters of the football universe constantly seeking to change it, but that's without seeming to understand how football actually works. Figures like Florentino Perez and Aleksander Cererin seem-

ingly spend so long in it they don't see. They think fans just want to see big clubs playing each other, in any context. The truth is that fans really want to see big clubs play each other when it actually means something; when there's been a build-up so it has substance and risk. It really shouldn't need to be said that what sport actually works on is the sense of jeopardy.

There was almost none on the new Champions League's opening nights. More was much less.

The one potential positive you could say is that it is likely going to mean some fiercely contested matches between clubs like Celtic and Young Boys for those final play-off places. There might also be similar around the crucial eighth automatic place. Even that seems like an element of sleight of hand, though.

The big clubs and European Club Association essentially came to this accommodation because the continent's sizeable middle-class were agitating about their reduced position in 21st-century football. Clubs like Ajax and Porto wanted more big games of their

own, and more money.

This gives them that, but also takes something. The extra money this middle class receive does indeed grow - along with that spread to the thousands of non-competing clubs - but only as part of a much larger pot. So, far from actually closing the gap between the wealthiest and the rest, this new Champions League only extends it.

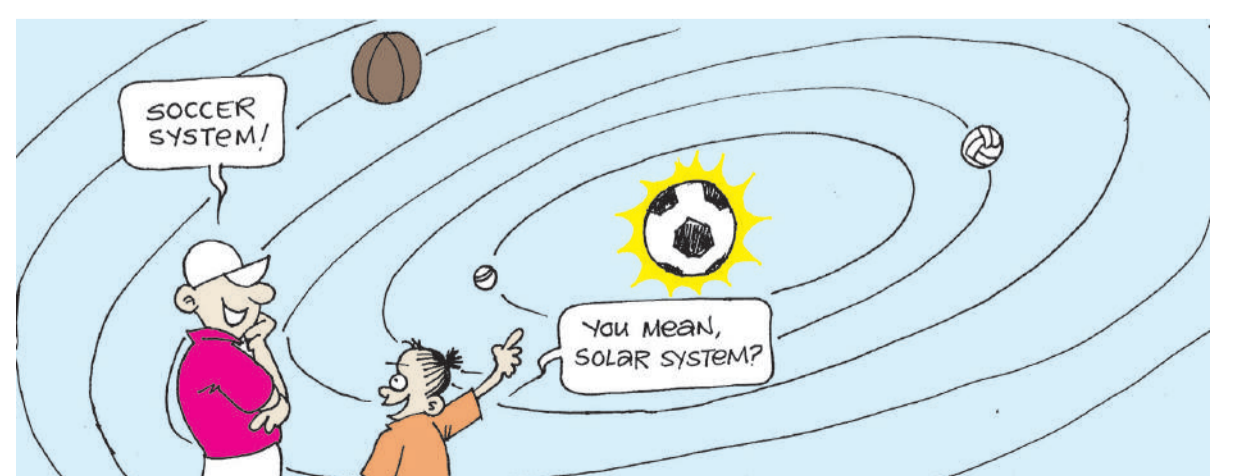
It also reinforces the core problem in the European game.

Anyone with any basic knowledge of football could - and did - tell Uefa and the big clubs this for years. The problem wasn't the format. It was how the Champions League so drove inequality that it killed unpredictability.

It is something that by now needs to be said in flashing lights. This is football's major issue. All of the forces involved willingly ignored that, and there is now a real possibility that people just end up ignoring later fixtures in this group. Sometimes, though, people need to see the reality as it works.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# Simba prepare for CAF Confederation Cup showdown with full fan support

## SPORT

New Champions League format makes its debut with same old winners: Madrid, Liverpool, Bayern, Juve

PAGE 19



players underwent recovery sessions before embarking on their journey back to Tanzania.

"After our match against Al Ahli Tripoli, the team had a light training session to help the players recover. We have returned to Tanzania, and the squad continues with specialized recovery exercises," Ally said.

He also provided a positive update on the team's physical condition, stating that no player suffered any significant injuries during the match, including goalkeeper Aishi Manula, who experienced a minor issue while entering the field.

"Manula had a small challenge as he entered the pitch on match day, but he is doing well now. I would like to reassure our fans that the players are in good shape and fully focused on the return leg," he added.

Ally went on to urge Simba fans to come out in full force to support the team in the upcoming match at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. He emphasized the importance of fan support, encouraging them to fill the stadium and create a vibrant atmosphere that could boost the team's chances of victory.

"We need our fans to come in large numbers on Sunday to cheer on the

team. Their presence will be crucial in helping Simba secure the victory. We need to progress to the group stage," he said.

In anticipation of the high-stakes match, Simba have already announced the ticketing arrangements for the fixture against Al Ahli Tripoli.

Tickets are now available for purchase online, with the club utilizing its N-CARD system for sales. Prices for the tickets vary depending on the seating area, with regular stand priced at 3,000/-, Orange Stand tickets at 5,000/-, VIP C at 15,000/-, VIP B at 20,000/-, and VIP A at 40,000/-.

Simba have made extensive plans to ensure fans can attend the game in large numbers. The club is encouraging supporters to organize themselves into groups for the match day on Sunday as they push for a vital win that would secure their place in the next round of the CAF Confederation Cup.

Simba SC head coach Fadlu Davids has praised his players for their solid performance in Tripoli. The 0-0 draw away from home is seen as a good result, as it leaves Simba with the advantage of playing the decisive second leg on their home turf.

Coach Davids expressed confidence in his team's ability to capitalize on the result and deliver a winning performance in Dar es Salaam.

Simba's preparation for the second leg will intensify in the coming days, with the technical team focusing on fine-tuning tactics and ensuring the players are in optimal condition.

Coach Davids and his technical staff will be working closely with the squad to address any shortcomings from the first leg while building on the positives from their performance in Tripoli.

The team's recovery program,

which began immediately after the match in Libya, will continue in Dar es Salaam, ensuring that the players are fresh and ready for the crucial return leg. The focus will also be on mental preparation, as Simba will need to handle the pressure of playing a must-win game in front of their home crowd.

Despite Simba's favourable position, Al Ahli Tripoli remains a formidable opponent. The Libyan side has shown resilience throughout their campaign and will be eager to snatch an away goal, which could complicate Simba's chances. The Tanzanian club must be cautious and avoid conceding, as even a single goal by Al Ahli could put Simba in a precarious position.

Nevertheless, Simba have a strong record at home, and with the backing of their loyal fans, they are confident of securing the necessary result. The team is determined to make it to the group stage of the CAF Confederation Cup and continue their pursuit of continental success.

As the countdown to the decisive second leg continues, Simba are leaving no stone unturned in their preparations. The match against Al Ahli Tripoli is set to be one of the most important fixtures of their season, and the club is fully aware of what is at stake.

For the fans, the message is clear: come out in large numbers, support the team, and help them achieve their goal of advancing to the CAF Confederation Cup group stage. With a balanced squad, a determined coach, and the backing of their passionate supporters, Simba are ready to take on the challenge and continue their journey in Africa's premier club competition.

## Kagera Sugar's goal drought continues: Coach Nkata highlights key challenges

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KAGERA Sugar's ongoing goal-scoring drought, now stretching over four Premier League matches, has led head coach Paul Nkata to identify several key factors contributing to the team's struggles.

Despite creating opportunities, the team has yet to score a single goal this season, with their most recent match - a goalless draw against JKT Tanzania - earning them their first point.

Prior to the draw, Kagera Sugar endured three consecutive defeats against Singida Black Stars, Young Africans, and Tabora United.

Nkata attributed the team's challenges to his delayed arrival and a lack of finishing ability in front of goal. He emphasized that, despite generating scoring chances, his players have struggled to convert them.

"We are creating chances but not scoring. I believe this issue will be resolved in the upcoming matches, but there is still room for improvement in the midfield and attack," Nkata explained.

The coach also acknowledged that his late arrival to the team and limited familiarity with the players have played a role in their current form. He stressed the importance of understanding the players' strengths and weaknesses to effectively integrate them into a system that yields positive results.

"Frankly, if we don't score goals, it puts us in a tough position. With four games already played, we should be much further along than we are. My late arrival to the club might be a factor," Nkata said.

"I'm still getting to know the players, their playing styles, attitudes, and how they respond to matches. These things take time, but my coaching staff and I are actively working on addressing these issues."

The recent goalless draw between Kagera Sugar and JKT Tanzania marked the first time since the 2018/19 season that neither team scored in their nine encounters.

Kagera Sugar is off to a rocky start in the Premier League, currently sitting in 15th place after four matches, with four goals conceded and none scored.

Kagera's next challenge will be against Ken Gold, who are currently at the bottom of the league table.

Ken Gold recently parted ways with head coach Fikiri Elias. Sources suggest Elias was dissatisfied with the team's direction, particularly in regard to offseason recruitment, which he felt was inadequate.

In the wake of Elias's departure, Jumanne Chale has been appointed as Ken Gold's interim coach. The upcoming match between the two struggling sides will be crucial for both teams as they seek to turn their seasons around.

“

*I'm still getting to know the players, their playing styles, attitudes, and how they respond to matches. These things take time, but my coaching staff and I are actively working on addressing these issues*

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli.

SIMBA Sports Club arrived back in Tanzania yesterday after securing a crucial 0-0 draw against Al Ahli Tripoli in Libya. The match, which took place at Tripoli International Stadium, was the first leg of the second preliminary round of the CAF Confederation Cup.

The goalless result keeps Simba's hopes alive as they aim to advance to the group stage of the prestigious continental competition.

With the second leg set for Sunday, September 22, at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, the Tanzanian giants are now focused on preparing for the decisive clash on home soil.

Simba SC's Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally (pictured), confirmed the team's arrival in Dar es Salaam and revealed that the club's preparations had gone well in Tripoli, where the

## Azam seek redemption against KMC in crucial Premier League clash

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

KMC and Azam FC are set to face off in an intriguing Premier League clash at the KMC Complex this afternoon.

Hosts KMC currently sit seventh in the league standings with four points, while Azam FC are five places below them with only two points.

This match presents a significant opportunity for both sides to improve their standing in the early stages of the season.

Azam FC, under the guidance of Moroccan coach Rachid Taoussi, showed glimpses of potential during their recent encounter with Pamba Jiji. Despite their best efforts, the Chamazi-based side were held to a disappointing draw at home, adding extra pressure on their upcoming trip to KMC.

Taoussi expressed frustration with the result, lamenting the numerous missed opportunities, particularly in the first half.

With just two points from a possible six, Azam's start to the season has been below expectations. The veteran coach is now under pressure to restore belief in his squad, who have gone winless in their last three matches across all competitions.

Azam FC's struggles extend beyond the league. Their campaign started with a goalless draw away to JKT Tanzania and was followed by a 2-0 defeat at the hands of

Rwanda's APR, knocking them out of the CAF Champions League.

That loss prompted Azam's management to dismiss Senegalese coach Youssouph Dabo and his entire technical staff.

Now, just two games into his tenure, Taoussi faces the familiar challenge of finding a winning formula quickly - something his predecessors were rarely afforded time to do.

Despite Azam's heavy offseason investment in attack-minded players, the team has failed to score an open play goal in their last four matches.

On the other hand, KMC head into

this game with renewed confidence, having claimed their first league win of the campaign in their last outing against newly promoted Ken Gold FC.

Abdihamid Moallin's side will be eager to build on that momentum and improve on their decent showing from last season. A strong performance against Azam would further bolster their confidence.

KMC opened their season with a 1-1 draw against JKT Tanzania before suffering a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Singida Black Stars at Liti Stadium.

Despite these mixed results, KMC have shown resilience and will be look-

ing to capitalize on Azam's shaky form.

In their recent head-to-head meetings, KMC have struggled against Azam, losing all three of their last encounters in the Premier League.

This match presents an opportunity for KMC to break that trend and assert themselves as a competitive force this season.

For Taoussi and Azam, the challenge is clear: find a way to score and secure their first win, or risk further pressure mounting on the team.

Both teams will be hungry for a positive result as they look to climb the Premier League table.



Bulls FC player Sabillah Sidique dribbles the ball past Mtoni Sabasaba Sports Centre players during their friendly match held recently at the Gymkhana grounds in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

