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DPM: Power deficit down to 193MW

The dam is supposed to be used for power generation when filled to 689 meters above sea level

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE power deficit in the national grid has been cut down to 193 megawatt as of yesterday from 400 megawatt back in September, in the wake of adding 400MW to the national grid from the Julius Nyerere hydropower plant.

Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy premier and Energy minister, made this affirmation in Parliament yesterday, stating that there is still a big gap due to dwindling water levels at Mtera Dam, compelling the shutting down of one power generation facility.

The dam is supposed to be used for power generation when filled to 689 meters above sea level, which was no longer the case as it had dried up. With the latest generation of 400MW and a similar input expected within the next month or two, power rationing will be phased out, he said.

The senior minister was responding to concerns by MPs when contributing to debate on a report by the Energy and Minerals standing committee for the past calendar year.

He pointed out that power cuts are not only caused by power generation deficit but also vandalising power distribution infrastructure.



Members of the Fire and Rescue Force in Shinyanga Region pictured yesterday searching for the body of Standard Four pupil Salum Matheo (11) of Shinyanga municipality's Bugoyi 'B' Primary School, who is reported to have drowned in Mhumbu River on the evening of Sunday (Feb 4). It is said that tragedy struck while he was fishing and swimming with several colleagues of his. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

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Govt mum over vehicle conversion to using gas

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko yesterday fell short of providing a clear timeline or concrete intention on government commitment concerning the conversion of its vehicles to gas use.

The issue came up when MPs demanded that the government take the lead in converting its vehicles into using compressed natural gas (CNG) to slow down reliance on diesel and petrol.

Kilumbe Ng'enda (Kigoma Urban) argued that the dollar shortage in commercial banks is tied up with the country's reliance on imported petroleum products, urging the government to speed up the delayed initiative of using compressed natural gas.

Illustrating, he said that a car installed with a CNG system consumes gas priced at 16,000/- to ply 200 kilometers while the same car, if using diesel or petrol, would have to be filled with 60,000/- worth of fuel.

The cost of transport will be brought down by gas conversion, he said, echoing concerns raised by David Mathayo, chairman of the Energy and Minerals standing committee of the National Assembly.

He said in presenting a committee report that reliance on petrol and diesel has seen the government struggling in meeting its import needs due to the relative scarcity of the United States dollar.

He pleaded to the government to make a shift of its vehicle energy sources yesterday while presenting a report on activities by the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Minerals for the period covering between February 2023 and January 2024.

Reliance on petrol and diesel is making life harder for low-income-earners who are supposed to benefit from imported and locally produced CNG, he said.

Committee members had in November toured Indian institutions and learned that gas consumption in motor vehicles has already overtaken the use of petrol and diesel, with 65 percent of motor vehicles using CNG, he explained.

"The committee has learnt that apart from petroleum induced inflation and the Ukraine-Russia war the dollar shortage has raised the cost of petroleum products," he said. From September to December last year the ports handled 2,083,795 metric tons of petroleum of which 46.3 percent was transit cargo, he said, underlining that CNG consumption for vehicles is much cheaper compared to diesel and petrol.

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Miguel Gamondi highlights Yanga's progress after reclaiming top spot

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Simba SC and Young Africans SC ought to construct stadiums

The day after his arrival, President Duda and his delegation will hold talks with President Samia at the State House in Dar es Salaam, followed by a joint press conference on the range of what was covered in the talks

Polish leader Duda flying in tomorrow

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan will tomorrow host the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, who will be jetting into the country for a two-day state visit.

President Duda's visit is part of a week-long trip to African countries, also covering Kenya and Rwanda, with intent to reinforce diplomatic relations.

The Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry said in a statement issued yesterday

that the Polish leader will be accompanied by a delegation from the Polish business community.

Foreign minister January Makamba and other senior government officials will receive the visiting leader as his plane touches down at the Julius Nyerere International Airport, it said.

The visit will be the first for a sitting Polish leader, with expected outcomes in strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries

An online entry says that in

April 2018, the then Polish foreign minister Jacek Czaputowicz paid a visit to Tanzania and officially opened the Embassy of the Republic of Poland.

Back in 1987, then foreign minister Benjamin Mkapa paid an official visit to Poland, another entry noted, while recalling that the Polish embassy was closed in 2008, to be reopened ten years later.

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'Mainstream gender in diplomacy recruitment'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

DIPLOMACY stakeholders involved in the dialogue on foreign policy in Zanzibar have expressed the need for gender mainstreaming, elevating the participation of women in diplomatic activities.

Hamad Rashid Muhammed, a senior opposition leader in Zanzibar and Alliance for Democratic Change (ADC) chairman, said that gender was still an issue, and the participation of women in diplo-

matic activity is as yet minimal.

Emphasizing on gender uplift in diplomacy and technology use intensification to promote trade abroad.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is yet to take into account the need for greater participation of women in representing the country abroad, he said, noting that it is important to have a special segment in the ministry to facilitate elevating women diplomats to at least 30-percent in appointing envoys.

Another hiccup in diplomacy was

an apparent lack of recognition for the Zanzibar president when travelling abroad, he said, hinting that most of the time he is not treated as such. The ADC leader affirmed that the protection of businessmen going abroad for business abroad is lacking, as they do not obtain support from our missions or the government when they need it.

The new foreign policy orientation should clearly include the use of diplomatic facilities to protect businessmen on mission or on

transit, he demanded, asserting that the global financing system has changed while Tanzania still remains stationary. "We are still operating with the old system and there is need to change," he said.

Ussi Khamis Debe, the secretary general for People with Disabilities in Zanzibar, said the new policy should include the participation of people with disabilities.

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'Mainstream gender in diplomacy recruitment'

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"This is the best time to see PWDs benefiting from opportunities available in the diplomacy sector," he said, while Radhia Khatib Haroub, administrative secretary for South Unguja Region, hailed the emphasis on protecting customs and culture in the draft foreign policy.

She aired the need for a strategic plan for defense and security at the regional level to control cross-border crime, suggesting that the

policy should also include boosting internet use as it contributes to cross-border trade.

Rahma Ali Khamis, a participant, said that the government needs to be careful in signing up to various international agreements by sparse scanning of its contents.

The meeting, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, was themed around the conduct of foreign policy and the blue economy, officials noted.

Polish leader Duda flying in tomorrow

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The statement said that for about 62 years Tanzania and Poland have been cooperating in development projects, citing agriculture, finance, industry and trade, tourism, education, transport, veterinary medicine, health and water.

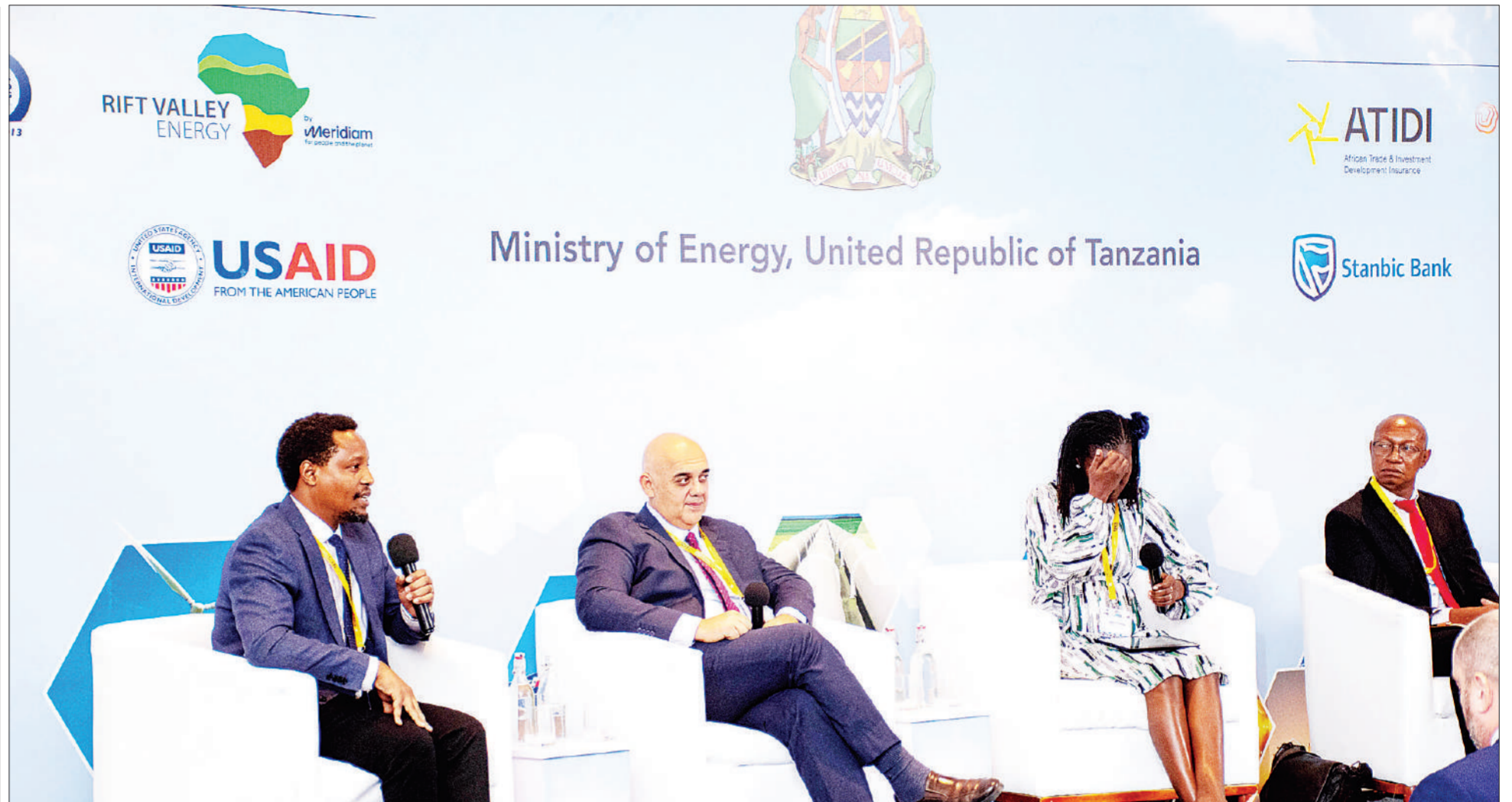
The visit will be used to highlight new areas of cooperation where defence and security, energy, mining, network security, culture and the blue economy are envisaged, it elaborated.

The day after his arrival, President Duda and his delegation will hold talks with President Samia at the State House in Dar es Salaam, followed by a joint press conference on the range of what was covered in the talks.

President Duda is scheduled to visit an emergency services project at the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam, named 'Improving Emergency Care in Tanzania' (IMECT). The project is funded by the Polish government at the tune of over \$1m, the statement indicated. This project is geared to provide support for training for medical sector staff, it said.

The visiting president is expected to participate in economic forums with the Polish business delegation in each of the countries visited, with bilateral agreements expected to be signed, it said.

President Duda's last visit to Africa occurred two years ago when he visited Senegal, Ivory Coast and Nigeria, it added.



PanAfrican Energy Tanzania (PAET) deputy managing director Bizimana Ntuyabaliwe (L) speaks during a panel discussion on "Tanzania's Gas to Power Projects" held in Arusha city at the weekend as part of the Tanzania Energy Cooperation Summit 2024. The thrust was on opportunities and attractions for investment in gas projects in the country. PAET has been extracting and processing natural gas from the Songo Songo gas fields for 20 years now, piping it to Dar es Salaam mainly for use in power generation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

DPM: Power deficit down to 193MW

FROM PAGE 1

while negligence within the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (Tanesco) was noticeable.

He declared that this attitude will not be tolerated and that action is being taken against those sabotaging the system, warning those vandalising power outlays that their days are numbered.

The JNHPP is a long-term solu-

tion to power shortage, he said, affirming that there is considerable need to explore other sources in order to make power supply more reliable.

The deficit has been reduced following ongoing rains, extensive maintenance of power infrastructure and increasing gas compression efforts, he said, while MPs appealed for timely completion of JNHPP.

They also demanded that the government speeds up chiller

installation at the Kinyerezi I, extension within this year, where its generation yield will be increased from 160 MW to 185 MW.

The Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) needs to increase natural gas production at Songo Songo and Mnazi Bay wells to boost power production, they said.

Other steps recommended by the committee include regular maintenance of power generating plants to avoid excessive wear and

tear that could affect the capacity of the machines.

The committee report said that power distribution and availability is unsatisfactory due to drought, gas shortages, dilapidated infrastructure and shortage of power boosting substations.

"This situation has affected production of goods and services as well as economic growth, touching off goods scarcity and inflation," the committee chairman maintained.

As of December last year, the installed capacity for power generation plants from various sources connected to the national grid had reached 1,889.84 MW, an increase of 195.29 MW in a period of one year, from 1,694.555 MW late 2022, the report indicated.

Available capacity in power generation was at an average of 1,200 MW against the demand level standing at 1,482.80 MW, begging 283 MW on average at peak hours, he added.



Deputy Prime Minister Doto Biteko, who doubles as Energy minister, pictured in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday contributing to debate on report by the Parliamentary Energy and Minerals Standing Committee on its activities in calendar year 2023. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Govt mum over vehicle conversion to using gas

FROM PAGE 1

The committee had further learnt that challenges related to gas consumption include shortage of CNG filling stations as there are only five at present, he said, airing the view that this demands solid investments by the government.

The committee thus advises the government to create supportive incentives to cut down costs for converting a vehicle from using petrol and diesel to CNG as it fetches 2m/- at present.

This challenge apart, there is also a shortage of specialized gas conversion specialists where the committee is aware of only ten of them, he said, highlighting that all the same that as of end of December a total of 3,000 vehicles were using CNG, up from 1,139 late 2021.

Contributing, a number of MPs asked that the government allocate serious investments in converting cars to using CNG.

He challenged the government to prioritize importation of necessary facilities for vehicle

system conversion by providing tax incentives for individuals to convert their vehicles.

"The government owns many vehicles and it is my expectation that it will take the lead in this transformation during fiscal 2024/25," he said, noting that this needs to start by importing CNG-based vehicles and converting the rest.

Samwel Hayuma (Hanang) wondered on the status of the LNG project presumably being implemented at present as negotiations with investors were finalised last May, while it is unclear if anything was going on.

Regina Ndege (Special Seat) urged the government to speed up installation of CNG stations in various regions to ease access.

The government owns many vehicles and it is my expectation that it will take the lead

Ethiopia's leader plays down fears of conflict with Somalia over planned naval port

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIAN Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has played down fears of a war with Somalia over his quest for sea access for his landlocked country, saying Tuesday that Ethiopia is only interested in peace with its neighbour.

Ethiopia signed a memorandum of understanding with the breakaway region of Somaliland on Jan 1. The document has not been made public. Still, Somaliland says Ethiopia agreed to recognize its independence in return for a naval port.

The deal has rattled Somalia, which asserts

that Somaliland is part of Somalia. Somalia's president has suggested he is ready to go to war with Ethiopia to prevent it from building a port there.

Addressing lawmakers yesterday, Abiy (pictured) said he had "no intention" of going to war with Somalia.

"To ensure the peace of Somalia, thousands of Ethiopians have died in Somalia," he said, a reference to Ethiopia's troop contributions to the African Union peacekeeping mission fighting the extremist group al-Shabab in Somalia.

"We are dying in Somalia because the peace of Somalia is the peace of Ethiopia. The devel-



opment of Somalia is the development of our country. We believe we are brothers," Abiy said. "We don't want to fight. We want to see a strong and prosperous Somalia that is a market for Ethiopian goods."

Abiy also sought to allay Egyptian fears over the huge hydroelectric dam Ethiopia

is building on the Blue Nile. "We will share our resources, even in the future, but my hope is I expect them to accommodate our requests as well," Abiy said.

Ethiopia says the mega dam is essential for its development and claims it will have no negative effect on downstream Sudan and Egypt, who fear it will impact their water supply. Practically all of Egypt's 109 million people rely on Nile waters.

There have been several rounds of talks over the dam, but the sides have failed to reach an agreement to regulate its use. The latest negotiations were in December.



Former Zanzibar Tourism and Heritage minister Simai Mohamed Said arrives at the Tunguu constituency venue where he was directed to report for talks with the CCM ethics committee on his resignation from the Zanzibar cabinet late last month citing "unfavourable and disruptive working conditions". He is the incumbent member of the Zanzibar House of Representatives for the Tunguu constituency on the CCM ticket. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Elect qualified candidate acceptable to all voters, CCM cadres challenged

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, Zubeir Ali Maulid, has called upon CCM members to choose aspirants who are qualified and acceptable to voters to run for various leadership positions in order to emerge victorious in both local government and general elections.

Speaker Maulid made the call at the end of the week when speaking to members of CCM on the party's 47th anniversary which was held in Singida.

Additionally, he laid the foundation stone at the CCM Magwanjukim office in Singida Municipality and toured the party's buildings being built at Liti football field, Dr Samia Primary School, and Mtipa health center before speaking to the public.

"We will hold local government elections to support President Samia Suluhu Hassan, national chairperson for CCM, by ensuring that we win every ward and village, which is possible in Singida. In order for you to serve as an inspiration in Tanzania, we want you to do that," he said.

He added that in order for the party to succeed, the current leaders have to set aside their differences and determine how to locate qualified candidates.

Maulid, who is also the guardian for CCM in the Singida Region, said the party must ensure candidates at all levels of leadership win this year's scheduled local government elections.

He said CCM would easily win the 2025 presidential, legislative, and local government elections if they do well in the local government elections.

Moreover, he urged the party and regional administrations to make sure they keep up with managing all the projects that are carried out under CCM manifesto and are completed on schedule in order to meet voters' demands.

"Even if we are celebrating the birth of CCM, Tanzanians ought to keep up the peace that our leaders have built, as it is clear some people despise the organization for its fortitude and resolve in fostering unity, love, and peace throughout the nation," he said.

Additionally, Martha Mlata, CCM Chairman for Singida region, said the party and the government work together to ensure the manifesto is completely executed and the public has access to quality services.

Member of the Central Committee of CCM (NEC) Singida Region, Yohana Msita, said that in the next local government elections, the region is set to win all levels of leadership, from suburb to villages.

CCM team grills Simai 'for going against party ethics'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

FORMER Zanzibar Tourism and Heritage minister Simai Mohammed Said yesterday summoned and questioned by the ruling CCM's ethics committee for going against party ethics during his resignation.

He was summoned by the party's ethics committee for Tunguu constituency yesterday at around 10: am and was questioned by its chairperson Mtumwa Ali Mgeni.

According to information from members of the committee, reasons for the questioning the former minister was the criterion used to

resign but also responding to his appointment authority.

"I did not expect to see journalists here, this is a normal meeting and I am not the spokesperson ask the chairman who will speak more of what transpired," said the former minister after meeting journalists outside Tunguu CCM offices.

In a statement to the public, Simai, who is also a representative of the Tunguu constituency for the CCM, said he had submitted his resignation letter to President Dr. Mwinyi due to the difficult conditions he faced in carrying out his duties.

The move came after Zanzibar was facing alcohol shortage which was caused by denial of alcohol importation license to three experienced companies by the Zanzibar Liquor board and hand to non-experienced companies.

It is reported that Simai received information to appear before the party ethics committee around 9: am.

The questioning of Simai has raised concerns among CCM members especially his Tunguu voters as most of them do not know his fate.

Several CCM members have been ques-

tioned in the past and were later stripped off their party membership including former minister for water Abdallah Diwani, Mansour Yussuf Himid, Ambassador Ali Karume and politician Baraka Shamte.

Others are the late Maalim SeifSharif Hamad who later formed the Civic United Front (CUF), politician Ali Haji Pandu, the late Shabaan Mlool and Hamad Rashid to mention but a few.

Simai's resignation, followed a year marked by significant success for Zanzibar's tourism sector, which inevitably led to speculation about the reasons behind his decision.



I did not expect to see journalists here, this is a normal meeting and I am not the spokesperson ask the chairman who will speak more of what transpired

MPs want answers over missing 100 billion/- injected into Tanoil

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday questioned the whereabouts of over 100bn/- that was allocated to Tanoil, a Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) subsidiary company for investments in the oil and petroleum products businesses.

Debating yesterday in the National Assembly on the report on activities by the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Minerals for the period covering between February 2023 and January 2024, legislators demanded answers for the fund's investment that were disbursed three years ago.

Hamisi Tabasamu, Sengerema MP, said that Tanoil that undertakes oil trading business had three years ago allocated an estimated 110bn as an investment capital but nothing is going on.

Tabasamu argued that he is aware that of the allocated money Tanoil has remained with an estimated 19bn/- with accruing debits that have topped 46bn/-.

Midstream comprises processing and transmission projects that in-

clude oil refining and petrochemical projects that aim to add value to petroleum products.

"Those who borrowed the money are well known. Officials who were granted custody of the funds are known. What has happened? Tanzanians need to know where the money has gone," said Tabasamu.

According to him, Tanoil has administered procurement of ghost filling stations at lavish costs countrywide. He demanded for a special parliamentary committee to be formed by the National Assembly speaker to probe into the matter.

"Those who grabbed the money are just roving in the streets. This is an act of playing with taxpayers' money and it is unacceptable. We want this matter to be handled seriously," said Tabasamu.

Geita Rural MP Joseph Kasheku said that Tanoil has been deceiving taxpayers by securing plots and fence them as if construction projects for filling stations were ongoing while it isn't the case.

"Tanoil have gone around the country fencing plots and indicating them with ongoing project constructions knowing that they have already squandered the money.

Musukuma questioned Tanoil legitimacy of declaring a 25bn/- loss while there are no records

that shows it has started the business it was given the money for.

"It is much better if the said filling stations to be constructed by Tanoil be handed over to the private sector for further serious investments," said Msukuma.

Geita Urban MP Constantine Kanyasu said that Tanoil claims in its latest report on the failure to run filling stations business to be caused by unfair market competition with the private sector.

Kanyasu said the report indicates that Tanoil has failed due to violation of regulations by key players on the market from the private sector.

"I would like to encourage the government to allow Tanoil to venture with players from the private sector on special arrange-

ments that will enable it to compete fairly," said Kanyasu.

Apart from oil and fuel business Tanoil's other operations are midstream and downstream projects.

Responding to the legislator's contributions, Energy minister, Dr Doto Biteko hesitated to declare the government's position and commitment on the matter.

TANGAZO

MIMI NDUGU DANFORD

GAMBALIKO

NAMTAFUTA NDUGU

EDMUND EDWARD URIO

ALIYENIUZIA KIWANJA

PLOT NO. 827 BLOCK G

TEGETA MASAITI.

UPATAPO TANGAZO HILI

NITAFUTE KWA NAMBA

HII 0738261460



TIST PROGRAM TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING

Clean Air Action Corporation (CAAC) and Ukuzaji Maendeleo Endelevu Tanzania Limited (UMET) announce their intent to validate its project "TIST Program in Tanzania VCS-011" (ID 4881) under Verra's Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) standards. It is a 60 year project running from 01-January-2000 to 31-December-2059. To receive the validation, CAAC must demonstrate, among other things, that TIST is beneficial to climate, community and biodiversity. CAAC has submitted a Project Document (PD) to Verra (the entity that manages VCS and CCB) and to AENOR INTERNACIONAL S.A.U., a CCBA certified auditor and to Tanzania National Carbon Monitoring Center (NCCM) a vehicle for reporting on carbon stocks and as well as coordinating the national MRV-processes for the Government of Tanzania.

The project is seeking gold level certification in all three categories; Climate, Community and Biodiversity. A public stakeholders meeting will be held between **10:30 AM and 12:30 PM on 12 February, 2024** at the meeting hall St. Phillips Theological College, Kongwa district, Dodoma, Tanzania where comments will be taken. See the following link for the project report and to submit comments: <https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/4881>

The verra comment period ends **22 February 2024**.



Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe (L) and his Information, Communications and Information Technology counterpart, Nape Nnauye, consult in the National Assembly debating chamber in Dodoma city yesterday. The Union legislative body is currently in three-month ordinary session in the national capital. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Pinda hands over two ambulances to improve health service delivery

By Guardian Correspondent, Mpimbwe

KAVUU MP, Geoffrey Pinda has handed over two ambulances to Mpimbwe Council in Mele District, Katavi Region to improve health service delivery in the area.

The ceremony to hand over the ambulances was held over the weekend at Iseyva Health Centre in Mpimbwe Council in the district.

Pinda expressed his gratitude to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for improving health service delivery in the district, including the construction of health centres and dispensaries.

Pinda, who is also the Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing, and Human Settlements Development urged the Iseyva Health Centre and Mpimbwe Council to make sure the ambulances he handed over are kept in good condition and are utilized to serve the Mpimbwe community.

The MP said there were two health centres in his constituency in 2020, but now three more

Centres—Majimoto, Kibaoni and Kasansa Dispensary have been constructed and are set to start delivering service soon.

He assured citizens that he would fight for the constituency in order to bring changes and development for lasting legacy. He further stated that he will continue to make various efforts to strengthen the Kavuu health services sector because health is important.

Mpimbwe District Executive Director, Shamim Mwariko said, it is the council's duty to make sure ambulances given to them are used to enhance Mpimbwe residents' access to healthcare.

"We will protect them and make sure they always perform their intended activities to help and improve services for the people," said Shamimu.

"I would like to express my gratitude to our President for elevating health services in the country, including Mpimbwe. For this fiscal year, our council is going to complete our three health centres in Majimoto, Kasansa, and Kibaoni," she said.

JKT in final touches to complete building houses at Msomera village

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE National Service (JKT) is determined to complete construction of the 5000 houses for residents relocating from Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) to Handeni, Kilindi and Simanjiro districts, soon.

The department has completed construction of 1000 houses in the second phase of the project that was allocated 2559 houses at Msomera village in Handeni District, Tanga Region.

Speaking during a visit to

Msomera village, JKT's Head of Administration, Brigadier General Hassan Mabena who is also the projects Taskforce Commander said some 1559 houses are at different stages of construction.

He noted that some 1000 houses in Sauni village in Kilindi District, Tanga Region and other 1500 houses in Kitwaibi village in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region.

Brigadier General said despite the difficulties caused by the continuous rain in various locations all sectorial institutions and ministries have con-

tinued to make sure that the construction is completed on schedule.

"The work is proceeding smoothly, and we planned to complete the project within six months" he said, expressing hope that there will be no delays.

Suma JKT agreed to start the construction of 5,000 houses for those willing to relocate to Msomera village in Handeni District.

On Thursday a group of 67 households with about 800 people who voluntarily relocated from NCA arrived at the village, joining oth-

ers who have settled there.

"We have divided the construction at Msomera Village into A to D blocks. At Block B, we have completed construction of 1,000 houses and have begun working on block F, which has 768 plots prepared for excavation, after these blocks are finished, that work will begin shortly, he added.

According to the project's Taskforce Commander, JKT is implementing the project under 'special operations' programme in effort to reduce the cost of construction and timely completion.

The Operations Commander, Col Sadik Mihayo on his part noted that the project that started in October, 2023 is progressing well. He said JKT mobilised its construction sites across the country to Msomera and is using its staff, engineers, officers and youth undergoing trainings in the project.

Handeni District Commissioner, Albert Msando, commended the government through JKT for implementing the project and closely monitoring it, noting that this is a step that will accelerate its progress.

He also pledged to closely oversee the project, which has been carried out in an effort to improve Tanzanians' quality of life, with every citizen having access to social services, vital structures and advanced techniques.

Msomera village chairperson, Martin Oleikayo, commended the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan for coming up with the project, saying it came at the right time because it has made it easier for residents to access critical services like roads, secondary schools, health centres and communication.

Work on nutrition contract to curb stunting, regional committee urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

MANYARA regional nutrition committee has been directed to take action against councils that do not implement the nutrition agreement which aims to control stunting for the under-five children.

Dominick Mbvette, Manyara regional acting administrative secretary (RAS) made the directives over the weekend when speaking during regional nutritional committee meeting, which was aimed at strategising best ways to address malnutrition in the region.

"I call upon all officers to wake up and supervise the councils that do not implement the nutrition agreement and send information to the Regional Commissioner so that he can take action," said Mbvette.

He said nutrition was an important matter to people in the area saying members of the committee must ensure that the region was safe.

Mbvette said that if the region does not manage the issue of nutrition, they will cause nutrition stunting challenges in children within the region.

Regional Finance Officer, Augustino Bahihuta, said there is a need to force the councils to allocate funds for nutrition for children under five years.

Earlier, the Nutrition Officer of the region, Januari Dalushi, said that the nutrition agreement looks at 14 indicators whereas for the last quarter, Mbulu Town Council was lagging behind in five indicators, but Babati and Simanjiro Town Councils were doing well by using nutrition funds properly.

The Planning and Coordination Officer for Manyara Region, Lusungu Mwalongo, said that nutrition funds are not reflected in other uses and according to instructions, each child should be allocated 1000/- per month.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan addressing the public at the Kwaraa Tanzanite stadium in Babati on October 14 last year at the peak of the freedom torch race, said the nutritional situation is still not satisfactory where stunting in children under five years old at national level was 30 percent and Manyara Region is 32 percent.



Pina Vyasi (L), Director General of India's ES Healthcare Ltd, briefs journalists at the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday on how the firm plans to invest in Mwanza city's Tanzanite Hospital. Next to her is the hospital's Vice Chairman, Jared Awando, followed by TIC's Director of Investment Promotion, John Mnali. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Lake Nyasa fishermen want better fishing tools

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

FISHERMEN in Lake Nyasa in Kyela District, Mbeya Region have expressed fear over the use of poor fishing tools including canoes, which puts their lives at risk when the lake gets stormy.

The fishermen raised the outcry before Kyela District Commissioner Josephine Manase when she visited the Ikombe village to inspect development

activities.

The fishermen told the DC that their lives were in danger due to the poor tools they use to carry out their fishing activities.

Jonathan Mwamgunda who is a fisherman in Lake Nyasa said the natural canoes used by the majority of the fishermen cannot withstand the big waves caused by strong storms when the lake is disturbed.

"Many fishermen use natural canoes to go fishing in the

middle of the lake, now when strong winds blow and cause big waves, we are at great risk of drowning in the lake due to our boats not being able to withstand the waves," said Mwamgunda.

He asked the government to help them with better fishing tools including canoes and modern nets so that they can do their activities productively and in a safe environment.

"Our fishing is very old-fashion-

ed, we ask the government to first help us teach us modern methods of fishing and also empower us by providing us with the best tools so that we can do our fishing activities productively," said Mwamgunda.

On his part, Nelson Mwakilambo who is also a fisherman in the lake said that the fishing they do in Lake Nyasa was aimed at enabling them to make a living and not to bring them development.

"The methods we use to catch fish allow us to get fish to sup-

port our lives, but we cannot get rid of poverty because we do not get many catches due to poor technology and the tools we use are very poor," said Mwakilambo.

Matema Ward Councillor, Antony Mwamgunda said it is important for the government to empower the fishermen because they have the same rights as other Tanzanians.

Responding to the fishermen's arguments, the DC said the government has started

making efforts to empower fishermen in various areas of the country and asked the fishermen of the lake to be patient claiming that the government will reach them.

He said that the government recently provided a boat that was contested by fishermen and one of them was lucky to get it and now he is doing his activities using the modern boat. He said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has also started distributing modern boats to

fishermen in various parts of the country and claimed that the fishermen of Lake Nyasa are also on the President's schedule saying they should wait.

"I think you have witnessed recently that the President has started distributing modern boats to fishermen and the other day we saw her doing that in Mwanza, the fishermen of our lake and they are on the schedule to be given those boats when the time comes they will be given them," she said.

Medical researchers in Dar to share skills on kidney transplant service

By Correspondent James Kandoya

KOREAN and Tanzanian medical researchers yesterday met in Dar es Salaam and shared knowledge, skills and charted ways to improve kidney transplanting services.

Dr Faraja Chiwanga, Acting Deputy Executive Director of Muhimbili National Hospital(MNH)-Mloganzila unveiled this when speaking at the official launch of 4th Researchers Dissemination Symposium in Dar es Salaam, that involved 100 participants from different cadres—neurology and physicians.

She said that this year's symposium has been organized in collaboration between Muhimbili National Hospital-Mloganzila, the Association of Physicians Tanzania, Africa Future Foundation and Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH).

Dr Kiwanga said that the symposium was a platform for researchers to present and discuss issues on how to improve issues related to health sectors in areas of specializations and super specialization. She also said that the symposium will contribute to the improvement of provision of healthcare in the country.

"Sharing of research findings from Korea republic may help to build the capacity of our local practitioners to do better when offering healthcare," she said.

According to her, the symposium will also improve research capacity among staff to provide best results that can be used by the hospital and the public in general.

Dr Goodlove Mfupa, deputy director of Surgical services at MNH-Mloganzila, said that during the symposium, a total of seven (7) topics will be presented where four are from Tanzania and the rest three are from Korea.

"Research is a very important tool for any health institute since it gives a way to deal with some issues related to health. Therefore, we need to do more research," he said.

He said research was a centre part of the institute's success adding that in the health sector research is very important without it nothing can be done.

Soon-Cheol Hong, President of Africa Future Foundation, Korea University said that the University builds the capacity of MHN-Mloganzila to offer specialization health services.

He said through sharing of research findings, experts at MNH-Mloganzila learn new technology to deal with diseases.

"This year's symposium is a very important and necessary platform to share research findings and enrich insights to human health and points out.

According to him, research findings are very important because they inform which health technology can be used to solve a particular disease.

MNH-Mloganzila is a 608-bed hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. It is the National referral hospital.

Its mission is to provide effective, efficient and high quality tertiary specialist and highly specialized medical services for referred patients from all over Tanzania, as well as providing a conducive environment for training and research.



C-Sema director Michael Marwa (R), whose not-for-profit organisation is meant to promote and protect children's rights in Tanzania, outlines to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday recommendations by the Tanzania Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Network to the government on ways to eradicate FGM. He is with Getrude Dyabene, a senior officer with the Gender, Women, Children and Disabilities 'wing' of the Legal and Human Rights Centre. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Network calls for policy and legal measures to arrest FGM

By Carlos Banda

THE Tanzania Network to End Female Genital Mutilation (TNFGM) yesterday called responsible authorities to come up with legal and policy measures to eliminate female genital mutilation (FGM) in Tanzania.

Michael Marwa, TNFGM member made the call in Dar es Salaam when speaking at a press conference.

He asked the government and different stakeholders including human rights activists to formulate and pass a law to protect women and girls against the vice.

"We advise the government to revise the marriage act of 1971 especially in the article stipulating the age for marriage for female child because early marriage is one among the reasons leading to young female children becoming victims of FGM. Legal reforms to improve the law should include criminalizing parents and traditional elders involved with FGM," he said.

He said despite the necessity of making legal changes to bolster efforts to alleviate FGM and protect women and girls' rights, it is also important for high level leaders to openly show their support to eradicate the barbaric acts.

Marwa also called upon the government through its ministries to allocate a budget for the implementation of a national action plan for eradicating FGM for 2021 to 2024 as well as implement the regional cross border declaration action plan to accelerate efforts towards addressing FGM.

Neema Kasabuliro, program officer at Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA), who is also a member of TNFGM said, the statistics for the period between 2015/16 indicated that 8 percent of women between the ages of 15-49 were victims of female genital mutilation (FGM) marking a 10 percent decline within the same period according to the Health Demographic Report 2022.

"FGM in urban areas has decreased to 4 percent from 5 percent

as recorded in the 2015/16 statistics leaving the rural areas standing at a decline from 13 percent to 11 percent. This new report indicates that 34 percent of FGM victims were 5 years old whereas 28 percent were ages between 10 and 14. Despite the countless efforts implemented to address this problem, the data shows that individuals have been inventing new ways to inflict FGM against younger children. This is a vile act that contributes to violate and denies girls' rights when they are still at a young age," she said.

Kasabuliro said the report went further to show that 55 percent of women were mutilated by traditional midwives whereas 26 percent were mutilated by FGM practitioners, adding that among the many reasons behind the continued practice of FGM in the society is due to intense secrecy in the society.

"With some societies believing FGM as part and parcel of their tradition and customs, they have continued to preserve and hide those involved with the activity to protect them from the hand of the law. This highly contributes to female children and women to continue facing harassment," she said.

TNFGM emphasized that the network is committed to ensure it continues its efforts to fight against and alleviate FGM completely by 2030 as well as address all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children.

Getrude Dyabene, the Senior Officer dealing with gender, women, children and person with disabilities at the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) said, the network has been working with the victims of FGM to enable to have access to legal authorities including the police force and the judiciary so that legal actions against this kind of oppressive tradition, citing that the government has continued to improve various laws and policies to widen the scope of punishment against those practicing FGM.



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLICATION OF NEW ELECTRONIC TAX STAMPS PRICES

Dar es Salaam, 5th February, 2024:

In accordance with Regulation 6 (2) of the Electronic Tax Stamps Regulation, 2018 the Commissioner General of Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) wishes to announce new prices (fees) for tax stamps following the successful completion of negotiations involving Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) and the vendor SICPA SA. The manufacturers, producers and importers of excisable goods listed in the First Schedule of the Electronic Tax Stamps Regulation, 2018 shall purchase stamps from the vendor (M/s SICPA Tanzania Limited) at the prices attached herewith in Appendix 1.

The prescribed prices came into effect from **24th January, 2024**. For more information and enquiries, please visit the nearest TRA Office or website www.tra.go.tz or use TRA Call Centre toll free numbers **0800-780078** or **0800-750075** or **0800-110016**, WhatsApp **0744-233 333** or e-mail services@tra.go.tz.

S/N	Category of Rexcisable Goods	Description	Old Price per '1000'	New prices '1000'
1	Spirits, Liquers	All	42,214.37	33,392.00
		Wines of fresh grapes, Vermouth etc	42,214.37	33,392.00
2	Wines produced locally grown fruits such as banana, tomatoes etc	Domestic cont 75%	17,435.37	11,482.00
		Cigars, Cheroots and Cigarettes of tobacco or tobacco substitutes	All	42,214.37
3	other manufasctured tobacco and manufactured substitute	All	42,214.37	29,854.00
		Beer made from malt, unmaltd etc	locally produced	18,312.91
4	Beer made from malt, unmaltd etc	Imported	23,093.20	17,795.00
		Fruit juice including grapes must and vegetable juices2, unfermented not containing spirit	locally produced	8,082.62
5	Fruit juice including grapes must and vegetable juices2, unfermented not containing spirit	Imported	15,264.51	10,068.00
		Waters including natural or artificial mineral waters and aerated water not containing added sugar	All	8,082.62
6	Sweetened or flavoured waters and other non alcoholic beverages not including fruit juice	Sweetened/Flavoured water under tariff no. 2202.10.00	8,082.62	6,889.00
		Sweetened or flavoured waters and other non alcoholic beverages not including fruit juice.	Non-alcoholic beverages under tariff 2202.91.00 and 2202.99.00	15,264.81
7	Recorded video and audio tapes, DVD,VCD,CD	All	16,165.24	16,165.24
8				

Issued by;

A.J.Kidata

Kamishna Mkuu



Bagamoyo District Medical Officer Kandi Lussingu speaks at yesterday's launch in Bagamoyo town of a seminar on ways to enhance access to justice and other social services through legal aid services as well as the boosting of providers' engagement with drug addicts. The event is coordinated by Life & Hope Rehabilitation Organisation. She is with LHRO managing director Al-Karim Bhanji (L) and Hapsa Juma, a representative of Bagamoyo's Mwambao Primary Court. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TEMESA challenged to operate commercially

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

WORKS Minister Innocent Bashungwa has challenged Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) to undertake its activities commercially.

Bashungwa made the challenges on Monday shortly after receiving the agency's presentation that explained strategies to promote itself to the public and address various challenges.

"I'm pleased with this strategy you prepared. I hope TEMESA will now change and make big improvements in your service delivery," he said, urging the agency to focus more on providing services to Tanzanians. He tasked the agency to sit down with Toyota Tanzania and agreed on better ways of buying spare parts, exchange of expertise and training for TEMESA experts.

According to him, there were a lot of complaints from customers who are not satisfied with the agency's services, including fake spare parts as well as delay of services to customers.

Bashungwa also directed the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Works Aisha Amour to ensure that training is given to TEMESA technicians make genuine spare parts are available all the time.

"Make sure that the software that is owned by the government is available. Have a guide of passenger buildings maps in all stations as well as one map at all garages in the country," he told the PS.

Lazaro Kilahala, TEMESA chief executive officer said that the goal of preparing the strategy is to continue to improve the agency through services it provides to customers.

Kilahala said the recommendations contained in the strategy include the improvement of passenger parking areas, having strong machinery and having a place for customers to rest in its garages while waiting for service.



I'm pleased with this strategy you prepared. I hope TEMESA will now change and make big improvements in your service delivery

IITA launches bio-inputs to empower smallholder farmers in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) has unveiled its bio-inputs innovation that would empower smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The project, which is titled: 'Making Effective Bio-inputs Work for Smallholder Farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa (BioSSA)' is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The ground-breaking strategic collaboration is a first in Africa and is poised to accelerate progress, ensuring the successful development and deployment of bio-input innovations

that will positively impact smallholder farmers across Africa.

According to Bernard Vanlauwe, IITA Deputy Director General, Research for Development, "BioSSA represents a critical step towards empowering African smallholder farmers with innovative tools to enhance their productivity and resilience in the face of climate change.

He said that by harnessing the power of bio-inputs, Africa could unlock the potential of African agriculture, empower millions of farmers, boost food production, and build a more resilient future for the continent.

He pointed out that the project's

initial phase would focus on collecting evidence to assess the effectiveness of candidate microbial strains, maintaining that over the subsequent stages, the project would strategically shift its focus towards identifying deployment pathways, culminating in the development of innovative bio-input products.

The project strategically targets two pivotal crop categories: grain legumes comprising soybean, cowpea, and Phaseolus bean; and the cluster of roots, tubers, and bananas, including cassava, yam, and banana.

These crops underpin food security and serve as critical sources of income

generation for millions of smallholder farmers across the African continent.

Vanlauwe said that IITA would be leveraging the extensive expertise and established breeding programmes at IITA for these crops, pointing out that BioSSA is poised on a solid foundation and setting the stage for substantial success in agricultural transformation.

He lamented that African smallholder farmers face many challenges, including degraded land, unpredictable weather patterns, and resource constraints, saying that these factors contribute to low-input agriculture, characterised by limited fertilizer use

and poor yields.

"Nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) deficiencies are widespread across the region, further hampering agricultural productivity and food security. "The goal is to unleash the potential of bio-inputs—microbial-based products that improve soil health, increase nutrient availability, enhance crop yields, boost farmer incomes, and improve the efficiency, productivity, and profitability of African smallholder farming systems in the face of a changing climate."

In response to concerns about the cost and environmental impact of traditional fertilizers, BioSSA focuses on

microbial inoculants as a promising alternative.

The project adopts a stage-gated approach, with initial testing and validation of microbial strains in Sub-Saharan African conditions. The subsequent focus will shift to product development and exploring effective deployment pathways to benefit the fields where innovation is most needed.

BioSSA's key outcomes include identifying and validating microbial strains, understanding bio-input science, developing user-friendly and affordable products, and building partnerships and capacity.

Dar to host occupational health and safety event

By Jenifer Gilla

TANZANIA is set to mark Occupational Health and Safety Professionals Day on February 23rd in Dar es Salaam.

Organized by Tanzania Occupational Health and Safety Association (TOHASA), the event goes beyond celebration, serving as a strategic initiative for national and regional growth.

Caroline Baraza, president of TOHASA said yesterday that the event is important for the nation and region as it safety if workers isn't just a duty but an investment in collective future.

She said the event will not only acknowledge their dedication but also showcase Tanzania's commitment to prioritising workers' wellbeing and its link to economic prosperity.

"This event transcends celebration; it's a call to action for a safer, healthier, and more prosperous Tanzania," she said.

She said the moment will underscore the crucial link between a healthy workforce and a robust economy. Robust safety standards become an investment magnet, attracting local and international investors and fostering an environment where businesses thrive.

"Moreover, a safer work environment empowers employees, leading to enhanced productivity across diverse industries" she said. Baraza said regional collaboration further strengthens this commitment with speakers from Uganda and Kenya joining the event to share knowledge and create a united front for advancing safety across Africa.

"This landmark event stands as a powerful symbol of Tanzania's journey towards progress, paving the way for a brighter future where employees' wellbeing and economic success go hand in hand," she said.

She said the event is important as it signifies a shared vision of advancing occupational health and safety across Africa, drawing upon diverse perspectives for collective knowledge advancement.

"As Tanzania charts its course towards becoming an economic powerhouse, investing in its workforce becomes paramount," said Baraza.

She said the Occupational Health and Safety Professionals Day is a symbol of Tanzania's commitment to progress and a beacon of hope for a future where everyone thrives in a safe and healthy work environment.



Small traders prepare cow legs, tongues, tails and offals for sale at Mbuyuni market in Dodoma city's Kizota suburb yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

African Mining Indaba opens amid call for collaboration to deal with challenges

CAPE TOWN

THE African Mining Indaba 2024 began Monday in Cape Town, with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa calling for collaboration to address the challenges faced by the industry.

The 30th Investing in African Mining Indaba, held in the legislative capital of South Africa under the theme "Embracing the power of positive disruption: a bold new future for African mining," is expected to continue until Thursday and attract 10,000

delegates, including hundreds of industry heavyweights. The term "Indaba" comes from the Zulu language, which means a meeting to discuss a serious topic.

Speaking at the opening ceremony Monday, which was also attended by Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema and Prime Minister Sama Lukonde of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as ministers and deputy ministers from across the African continent, Ramaphosa said that mining

has been a pillar of the South African economy for nearly 150 years.

According to him, the mining industry contributes 7.5 percent to South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) and accounts for some 60 percent of the country's exports by value.

"We are all acutely aware that we face strong headwinds, and a number of persistent challenges are impeding mining performance," Ramaphosa warned. "Globally, commodity price volatility, high energy prices, geo-

political tensions and a global cost of living crisis are playing a significant role in dampening the business operating environment."

"Domestically, the energy crisis and port and rail bottlenecks are putting serious pressure on miners' operational costs. Illicit mining, cable theft and infrastructure vandalism place a further strain on mining output and returns," he lamented, pledging that his government was committed to working hard and working together to over-

come these serious challenges.

In the outline of the government objectives, Ramaphosa highlighted the secure supply of electricity, the economic reforms to improve the operating environment, the fight against illegal mining and damage to infrastructure, and the improvement of the regulatory environment. He emphasized the cooperative nature needed to be administered by all the actors, incorporating industry, the administration, and social partners for the accomplishment of

these goals.

"We look forward to deepening our collaboration with industry as we write a new chapter in the history of South African mining. A story of inclusion, growth, transformation and innovation -- and one in which no one is left behind," he concluded.

According to its official website, the Indaba is said to be the world's largest mining investment conference, dedicated to the capitalisation and development of mining in Africa.

Europe pledges to boost African countries' pandemic preparedness

By Kerry Cullinan

THE Europe's Health Emergency Response Agency (HERA) has pledged €6 million to assist Africa Centre for Disease Control (ACDC) to scale up sequence-based disease surveillance and laboratory capacity on the continent.

This was announced by Stella Kyriakides, the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, at the start of a three-day meeting between the African Union and the European Union in Addis Ababa on Monday to address health and humanitarian issues.

Belgium's development agency has also signed a memorandum of understanding with the ACDC aimed at strengthening Africa's pandemic preparedness, said Caroline Gennez, Belgian Minister of Development Cooperation and Major Cities.

Belgium holds the EU presidency and one of its aims to accelerate equal access to health and strengthen the Africa-EU partnership on Global Health.

To this end, Belgium is hosting a high-level event on health with the African Union on 20 March.

Africa CDC Deputy Director General Dr Ahmed Ouma welcomed the agreements, saying that they would improve global health security by

"building [African] countries' capacity to detect and respond to health emergencies."

The agreements focus on three main issues, he added: supporting Africa CDC's role as the continent's health implementer, the growing resistance to antibiotics, and building the continent's One Health capabilities. This is particularly crucial on a continent with a high level of zoonotic diseases.

Kyriakides said: "When it comes to health, there are no continents and borders."

She added that Africa was a "key priority" for the EU.

Gennez said that the pandemic accord negotiations at World Health Organization (WHO) were a recognition that "all big challenges are global."

"Team Europe supports the decentralisation of vaccine and medicine production," added Gennez.

Meanwhile, Minata Samate Cessouma, the African Union's Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, said that the meeting would also discuss cooperation on Africa's humanitarian needs, especially in the Horn of Africa.

"Climate change is now starting to displace more people than conflicts now," Cessouma said.



Capt Rosemary Katani, director of the economic wing of the National Service (Suma-JKT), briefs journalists in Mbeya yesterday shortly after presenting equipment and supplies for use in environmental cleanliness to the city's director, John Nchimbi (R). Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

UN: Humanitarians preparing Sudan aid plan for 15m people

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations is preparing a plan to reach 15 million of the 25 million people in need of aid in war-torn Sudan, a UN spokesman has said.

Both Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Martin

Griffiths and UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi will take part in an announcement of the goals in Geneva on Wednesday, said Stephane Dujarric, chief spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"After nearly 10 months of conflict, more than half of Sudan's pop-

ulation, some 25 million people, needs humanitarian assistance and protection," Dujarric said. "The war has also forced more than 1.5 million people to flee across Sudan's borders to countries already hosting large refugee populations."

He said the UN-coordinated Humanitarian Response Plan for Su-

dan aims to reach nearly 15 million people this year, while the Regional Refugee Response Plan aims to support almost 2.7 million people in five neighbouring countries.

The countries around Sudan holding refugees are the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

The International Organisation for Migrants said the 9 million internally displaced people in Sudan make it the largest internal displacement crisis globally.

The latest Situation Report on the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' Relief Web also said 3.5 million people were

displaced from the capital of Khartoum since the war between two military factions began on April 15, 2023.

Additionally, the report said at least 10,500 cases of Cholera, including 292 associated deaths, were reported from 60 localities of 11 states in Sudan.

'China's infrastructure investments spur growth in Africa'

NAIROBI

CHINA'S massive infrastructure investments in Africa are driving the continent's economic growth, an African Development Bank (AfDB) official has said.

Vincent Nmehielle, AfDB secretary-general told journalists in Nairobi, Kenya, that the Asian nation has financed infrastructure projects through bilateral agreements with African countries as well as via multilateral development financial institutions.

"Overall, I expect the infrastructure projects to be able to open up economies in a way that enables the country to perform; if it is a road or bridge, it makes the movement of goods easier, and this is a driver for growth," he said during a media briefing on progress achieved in preparations for the 59th Annual Meeting of the AfDB that is scheduled to take place in Nairobi on May 27-31.

The meeting is expected to host about 4,000 delegates representing finance ministers from African countries, senior AfDB officials, development partners as well as the private sector.

Nmehielle added that finance from China has complemented funding from other foreign donors as well as domestic resources in reducing Africa's infrastructure development gap, which is estimated at 170 billion U.S. dollars annually.

China and AfDB jointly developed the Africa Growing Together Fund to finance development projects in Africa.



Muheza district administrative secretary Mohamed Mfaki (L) pictured in Muheza town on Monday having a word with heads of schools based in the district. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Burkina Faso includes malaria vaccine in immunisation programme

OUAGADOUGOU

ON February 5th, Burkina Faso became the second country in the African Region to integrate the malaria vaccine into its routine immunisation schedule.

The country officially introduced

the RTS, S malaria vaccine into its expanded vaccination programme across 27 health districts.

The World Health Organisation endorsed the vaccine two years ago, acknowledging that that even though it is imperfect, its use would still dramatically reduce

severe infections and hospitalisations.

So far no malaria vaccine stop transmission, so other tools like bed nets and insecticidal spraying will still be critical.

The malaria parasite mostly spreads to people via infected

mosquitoes and can cause symptoms including fever, headaches and chills.

Burkina Faso is one of worst-hit places in the world. In 2021, almost 12.5 million cases of the disease were recorded across the country, equating to an incidence rate of

569 cases per 1,000 population.

Officially, 4,355 people were reported to have died of the parasitic infection, although World Health Organisation estimates for the actual death toll that year stand as high as 18,976.

Cameroon started the world's

first malaria vaccine program for children on January 22nd.

According to the Gavi vaccine alliance, the initial phase of the vaccine roll-out in Burkina Faso aims to reach nearly 250,000 children aged 5-23 months, across 27 health districts out of the total 70.

WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2024

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

Tanzania's image has improved in global financial crime combat

TOP Tanzanian Judiciary and British High Commission officials were among people engaged in exploratory talks at a judicial symposium early in the week that had the hallmarks of an auxiliary event in the Law Day and Law Week commemoration.

While not in the company of the highest levels of national leadership, the event revolved around the presence of Tanzania's Chief Justice and the British High Commissioner to Tanzania.

This made sure that nothing was taken lightly in those deliberations, and indeed each issue or reflection stood counted. It matters a lot what is the country's position on financial crime.

Foreign chancelleries don't usually engage in open discussions with segments of the public authorities on touchy issues like financial crime or financing of terrorism unless there is already some common ground.

That can't be defined in the mere recognition that financial crime and money laundering are global problems, but in a preliminary commitment seen as marginally sufficient meriting engagement in reasonably fruitful discussions on the subject.

Discussions are obviously pointless if one side is overly unconcerned or leading circles among the public authorities are visibly cynical.

Financial crime is a difficult sphere for one to hope to obtain a minimum of consensus at the national or international level on what it constitutes and how to go about checking it.

The only area where not much debate is often engaged is drug trafficking and 'laundering' the gains thereof into the formal financial sector rather than gangland payments or rewards.

There are various other aspects but it is often difficult to engage national authorities, even in rich countries.

To use an illustration, it is often asserted that in World Bank classification or other multilateral financial agencies, the United States has an offshore environment in relation to financial deposits, in banks, shares, bonds, etc.

Offshore states are usually dependent on a major strategic power like the UK or the US especially in the Caribbean zone, and their rules on such transfers are relatively lax.

Most countries have links of various sorts with them as banks need deposits to keep them afloat and, unless serious legal issues have been raised, no deposit from offshore sources will be rejected.

So when the UK and Tanzania discuss the matter, either side knows that it can't fully fight offshore deposits - but we all abhor things like drug trafficking, as human trafficking isn't easily identifiable with Tanzania.

There is at times a situation of excessive legislation in that regard, which in the last few years led to the closure of most bureaux de change particularly in Dar es Salaam and Arusha, with foreign currency business shifted to regular commercial banks

The government has been wiping off excesses, but returning impounded cash was taking a while during 2021/2022 in particular.

So it is possible to hurt or infringe on individual rights and fair play in the course of a genuine commitment to combating financial crime, by an error of commission, of suspecting entire groups of businesspersons as largely guilty. But one hopes crucial lessons have been learnt.

Compensation for road projects a blot in exercising public trust

MEMBERS of the legislature were told at the start of the week that more than a staggering 5.59trn/- is needed for compensation of communities that had their living premises forfeited to pave the way for the implementation of road projects.

This affirmation was made by the chairman of the Parliamentary Infrastructure Development Standing Committee, when presenting the committee's report on projects implemented in the first part of fiscal 2023/2024. It takes a lot of time to pile up such unpaid debt levels.

What this implies is that communities are paid for giving up land or housing premises in case the project is financed from outside, with a sort of prerogative that people be paid for things to get moving.

There may be other instances where displacing sections of the community looks especially sensitive, with compensation thus sought as a sweetener or facilitator of willingness to move.

In at least one instance the relevant authorities have gone quite far, building three-bedroom houses with a series of extras to motivate them to abandon community space.

This means that there is something that needs to be rectified in how payments are made, as it is clear that the government is embattled to find the money to take up and complete road projects, among other key community needs.

By the time the government has its best in that regard, it will at most be ready to pay contractors, as there are legal implications for delayed payments.

When paying communities has to relate to sensitivity, the government will surely know if payments aren't made at the expected time. Some of the targeted beneficiaries will have their dues met as the government will take note of repercussions from local or foreign stakeholders. In other instances the demand will remain unattended to.

It is those situations where people complain to ward and district offices, it is not always the cases will be covered in

the news media.

Having those sums reach as high as five trillion shillings, where the parliamentary committee vice chairperson said that the agencies responsible had received about one trillion shillings so far, would imply a structural failure.

When organs of the state are that behind in paying for services rendered by the public, it means that they have defaulted on debt repayment as the projects won't stop and the budget pressure will remain intact. Alternative methods of solving the problem will surely be needed.

The question is whether the public authorities will be ready to devise and use effective ways of solving the matter without putting into jeopardy the numerous commitments seen in the various localities, constituencies or districts as strategic.

The commitments will be deemed strategic in terms of how those localities identify with government policy action as a whole, and telling them to forget those projects for one year to finish up with huge compensation funds awaited will of course cut no ice at any level.

That would mean that the government might have to surrender total ownership of those assets, bring in private sector shareholders and use some of the funds paid in compensation.



What this implies is that communities are paid for giving up land or housing premises in case the project is financed from outside, with a sort of prerogative that people be paid for things to get moving

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The run-up to COP29: Highest climate ambitions needed to decarbonise world

By Joyce Chimbi, Nairobi

THE road to COP29 has begun in earnest in the backdrop of a global climate report indicating that not only was 2023 the warmest year in a 174-year climate record but it was the warmest by far.

Record-breaking temperatures, combined with El Niño, pushed vulnerable and poor nations in the Global South to the frontlines of extreme and severe weather events.

It was a climatic carnage in Africa with fatal floods in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya, as Libya's storms and floods wiped out a quarter of a city.

There were also deadly cyclones in countries such as Malawi, severe drought in Kenya and a months-long winter heatwave in a number of southern African countries.

Against this backdrop, the Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change, Simon Stiell, delivered a major speech on February 2, 2024, from Baku, Azerbaijan, the host city of the COP29 UN Climate Conference scheduled for November 2024.

The speech previewed the key issues and actions needed in the crucial periods ahead, building on progress at COP28 in Dubai.

"The time has passed for business-as-usual in all aspects of the world's climate fight. So today, I will take a different approach in this lecture. I want us to start, in 2050, imagining what the world will look like if we do succeed in both limiting global warming to 1.5°C and protecting all people from climate change impacts," he said.

He added: "Of course, it will be no utopia, and there is a potential extinction to contend with, but I will come back to that. In this vision of success, global energy systems are at net-zero emissions. Countries - or at least regions - will largely be energy self-sufficient."

The speech touched on all key issues at the heart of the global journey towards decarbonising the world by 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement.

At the UN's COP21 in Paris in 2015, world leaders came to an historic agreement that offers a solid framework for the achievement of crucial climate goals and the preservation of the environment, people, and all life on planet Earth.

"Countries are indeed making noteworthy progress to reach set goals, such as significantly reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. However, pledges and commitments from governments are not ambitious enough and will not get us to net zero - cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible by 2050," says Amos Kaggwa, a Ugandan-based climate activist.



Simon Stiell, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change executive secretary since August 15, 2022, looks forward toward what the world would be like in 2050 if global warming were limited to 1.5°C. He was addressing a recent meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan. Credit: Twitter

He adds: "As we count down to COP29, we must also track what has been achieved in terms of commitments made during the inaugural 2023 Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya."

On renewable energy, Stiell said: "Renewables have made energy accessible, affordable and predictable for all. That means that we need to avoid the shocks and inequalities that have shaped economic trends and conflicts in the past. The global financial system has prioritised human wellbeing over servicing only the bottom line."

Stiell elaborated: "The trillions previously spent on fossil fuel subsidies are available for better purposes: health care, education and safety nets for those who fall behind. Our resilient societies have moved from an extractive to a regenerative relationship with nature. It is no longer medically hazardous to go outside in major cities owing to air pollution. Millions of lives are saved each year as a consequence."

Kenya has already launched its Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), aimed at steering this East African nation towards a net-zero emissions future by 2050. Only eight other African countries have submitted their LT-LEDS. There are 68 countries in the world that have submitted their LT-LEDS overall, and the majority of them are high- or middle-income nations.

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C will require a 43 per cent decline in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, according to estimates by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The burning of fossil fuels for electricity, transport and heat accounts for the great majority of harmful emissions, at approximately 73.2 per cent.

In this context, decarbonising leaders are those with the greatest investments in renewable energy to transition away from fossil fuels. They include China with a USD 758 billion global investment in renewable energy capacity from 2010 to 2019, the United States with USD 356 billion, Japan's USD 202 billion, Germany with USD 179 billion, and the UK's USD 122 billion.

"The United States, China, Russia, Brazil, Indonesia, Germany, India, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, France, Australia, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa, Italy, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, the European Union and Türkiye standing as the G20 - together responsible for 80 per cent of the world's emissions in 2025 - have seriously re-engineered their targets on this basis," Stiell reported.

He added: "This is because they know that PR (public relations) spinning, re-branding or tinkering around the edges won't cut it to meet their climate responsibilities, and that it would also leave them badly behind the innovation curve, not at the cutting edge. These national climate plans aren't just pieces of paper; they must be backed

by robust policy instruments, costed out, and translatable into shovel-ready investment opportunities."

An estimated 3.8 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions are emitted by Africa, but only two per cent of the proportion of renewable energy investment went to the continent in 2023.

Kaggwa says that Africa has many competing and pressing challenges and powerful developed nations must ensure that the Loss and Damage and other climate finance funds work to lift the continent out of the climate catastrophe.

He is categorical: "Africa is severely affected by climate change, but it receives only three per cent of global climate finance. Africa needs about USD 579.2 billion in adaptation finance from 2020 to 2030. The COP26 commitments included doubling climate adaptation finance by 2025. Current adaptation flows to the African continent are five to ten times below what is needed."

Stiell meanwhile pleaded that time had come to get on with the job of saving the planet, people and all life on Earth, urging citizens around the world to demand bolder climate action now.

He promised that at the next UN Climate Change Conference in Baku there would be no rest in pushing for the highest climate ambitions in accordance with the science - working side by side with all governments, businesses and community leaders.

* Agencies

Election Bills: No transformative changes in women representation

By Ananilea Nkya

THE recently three bills concerning election matters, which were passed by the National Assembly on February 2, 2024, will not produce laws that can bring about meaningful changes in representation of women in the August House, thus move the country's development to another level.

Yet, on September 23, 2021, President Samia Suluhu Hassan told the United Nations General Assembly that "my government is reviewing policy and legal framework to come up with actionable and measurable plans to ensure economic empowerment of women but also other aspects pertaining to gender equality and gender parity"

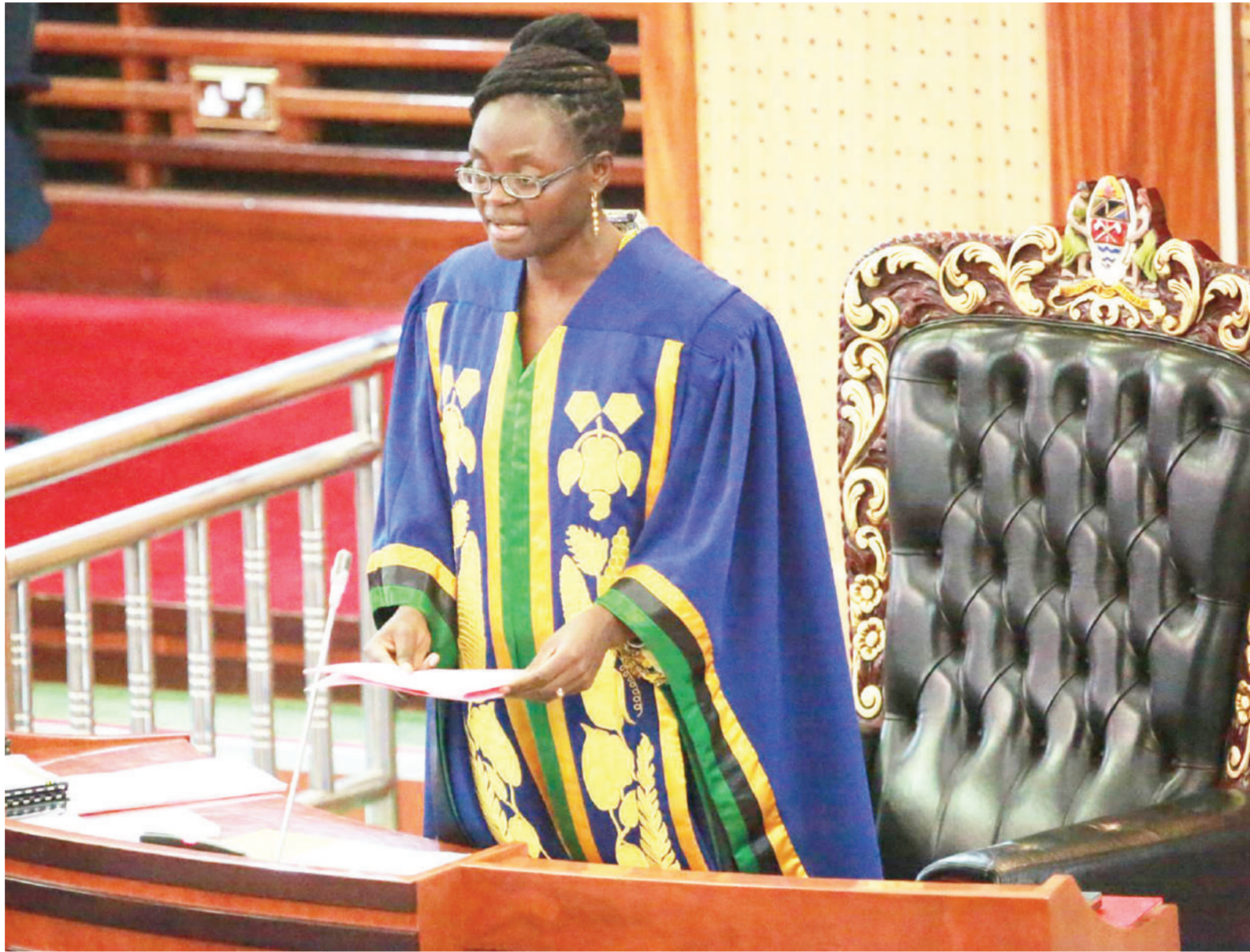
The three bills endorsed by the National Assembly are The President, Members of Parliament, and Councilors' Elections Bill, 2023; the Bill for the Amendment of the Law on Political Parties, 2023 and the Bill for the National Election Commission, 2023.

Likewise, women's rights movement in Tanzania, during the public hearing of the three bills in Dodoma in January 2024 had suggested the abolition of special seats. They proposed that each constituent be represented by two people, man and woman to enable realization of equal representation of the two genders in the August House through constituent votes, but Members of Parliament (MPs) did not consider the activists demands.

Activists from the Women and Constitution, Election and Leadership coalition bringing together 200 networks and civil society, and Women's and Girls' Rights organizations argue that special seats perpetuated discrimination against women because legislators through special seats are treated as second-class MPs.

Currently, the National Assembly (2020-2025) has a total of 393 Members of Parliament of which 264 are elected from constituencies of whom only 26 are women (approximately ten percent) and 113 women MPs are from special seats. Thus, in total the Parliament has 142 women who make 36 percent of all the MPs.

For instance, the 113 special seat MPs are not allowed to take up the role of chairperson of Parliamentary Standing Committees, chairperson of Council or hold the position of Prime Minister.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson

Similarly, they are not entitled to receive constituency development funds to enable them implement citizen-centered development projects.

Although all legislators are paid salary, sitting allowances and gratuity using taxpayers' money, those under special seats are not allocated responsibilities in constituencies to better the lives of citizens to make them accountable to voters.

"All this done to women who become MPs through special seats is gender discrimination and it is against the country's Constitution", says Prof Ruth Meena, former women coalition Chairperson who for many years has been fighting for the rights of women to participate in the decision-making bodies.

Prof Meena says that Article 12 (1) of the country's Constitution, 1977 states that 'All human beings are born free, and all are equal. Article 13 (1-5) prohibits all forms of discrimination including gender discrimination.

Importantly, the fact that special seats parliamentar-

ians are paid using public coffers, but are not accountable to voters, means 'misuse of taxpayers' money', argues Gemma Akilimali, the women coalition member who championed a campaign that enabled the government to mainstream gender budgeting.

For instance, the currently 16m/- paid to an MP as a monthly salary, means that within five years (2020-2025), the salaries of 113 special seats MPs, the government will lose more than 108bn/- taxpayers money and it will continue to be so after the 2025 general election.

Considering that MPs are also paid sitting allowances as well as the end of five years gratuity, public funds lost in five years by incurring the costs of keeping in the National Assembly, a total of 113 special seats MPs who have no constituencies is more than 200bn/-.

Additionally the activists proposed model of representation would also decrease 94 MPs from the current 393, thus not only ensuring equal-

ity of men and women in representation but also saving billions of shillings of taxpayer's money.

Achieving 50/50 Women and Men through Constituencies

The women's right coalition argues that having two people, a man and woman representing a constituency, is possible if, for example, administrative districts are turned into electoral constituencies.

The United Republic of Tanzania presently has 138 districts of which 128 are in the Tanzania Mainland (Tanganyika) and 10 in Zanzibar.

If these 138 districts are turned into constituencies, it means the Parliament will have 276 Parliamentarians, half men and half women, elected by voters from these constituencies.

To ensure inclusive representation in Parliament, electoral laws enacted as a result of the three bills could also set provisions allowing people with special needs (disabilities) to have representation in Parliament based on

gender equality too.

For example, people with visual, hearing and physical disability, each group could be allocated at least four (4) seats in Parliament all together making 12 MPs, six women and six men representing people with disability.

Undoubtedly, some people may claim that people with special needs having representation in Parliament is expensive, because they will also need guides.

However this argument does not hold water because the country's Constitution embraces equality.

"What is more costly between buying a luxury car for a Minister worth millions of shillings using taxpayers money and providing a visually impaired MP with assistance?", argues Maria Challe, an activist who has albinism.

Challe argues that "persons with albinism can be constituency MPs and do a better job than many people who do not have any disability".

Further analysis shows even if electoral laws that will be enacted from the

What is more costly between buying a luxury car for a Minister worth millions of shillings using taxpayers money and providing a visually impaired MP with assistance?

three bills passed by the Parliament would consider Attorney General as an MP and 10 MPs appointed by the President based on gender equality, still the Parliament under the activists proposed system of two people, men and women representing one constituency and administrative Districts converted into constituencies, the Parliament would have total 299 MPs which is far less than as it is now, 393 MPs.

Importantly, to ensure the elected men and women MPs are able to conduct their law making job effectively, the passed election bills, should have also stipulate the minimum education requirement for MPs.

"Level of education of MPs is crucial, it is not enough for a legislature to know just how to read considering that laws enacted by the Parliament, have far reaching consequences to the nation", noted Hilda Abiud advocate and a member of the women activist coalition.

Since in the contemporary time secondary education has become more or less compulsory "Form Four with a good pass grades should be the minimum level of education requirement for an MP" suggests Dr Helen Kijo-Bisimba, a renowned human rights activist.

However, the activists' transformative proposal to be realistic "minor changes are required in the constitution", noted Mary Ndaro, Deputy Chairperson of the women Activists coalition.

Advantages of the activists' proposed representation model

Firstly, the costs of serving MPs would have decreased as the National Assembly will accommodate 299 legislators, which is 94 MPs less compared to the current number of law makers.

Secondly, gender equality will be realized in the House by doing away with special seats, an out dated model of affirmative action and replacing it with constituent votes whereby a constituency is represented by two people, man and woman.

Thirdly, the quality of parliamentarians will improve thus improving the value of laws produced by the House.

Frothy, elected MPs men and women will become a useful development resource as each will work hard and creatively to better the lives of their constituent voters because all will be accountable to voters.

Lastly, Tanzania enacting election related laws that can promote gender equality in representation without any form of discrimination will prove that President Samia Suluhu Hassan is committed to walk the talk of the promise she made to the UN General Assembly in 2021.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Table with 7 columns: MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY. Each column lists a detailed schedule of radio programs and their start times from 05:00 AM to 01:00 AM.

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

Farmers' protest against EU's pesticide scrap proposals has relevance in Africa



By Wandile Sihlobo

A farmer pulls waste to block a highway near Vesoul, eastern France. Photo: Sebastien Bozon/AFP

ACCORDING to various media reports, the European Union (EU) farmers' protests mainly centre on the EU's declining agricultural subsidies, the environmental policy to reduce chemicals and fertiliser use, and the need for protection against imports.

Whether the farmers are correct in raising their dissatisfaction about the EU's policies in these areas is a point of much discussion. But it is worth emphasising that these events and the policy outcome in response to them will matter for Africa's agriculture in two ways.

First, South Africa's agricultural sector is strongly linked with the EU through trade. The region is the second most important market for South Africa's agricultural products, accounting for 27 percent of the country's total agricultural exports, according to data from Trade Map.

Climate change policies

The EU and the rest of the world

seek to implement urgent policy measures to combat the effects of climate change. In its 2030 climate target plan, the EU aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55 percent from 1990 levels. To that end, the EU has crafted the "Farm to Fork Strategy", a new approach that ensures that agriculture, fisheries, and the entire food system effectively contribute to achieving this target.

The strategy seeks to ensure that farmers produce sustainably by setting targets that reduce the use of fertilisers and pesticides and revising legislation regarding feed additives and animal welfare.

But these production changes will not only apply to EU farmers, but trading partners such as South Africa as well. Hence, monitoring whether the farmers' protests make a dent in persuading EU lawmakers to adjust these regulations is vital for South African agricultural exporters.

From a South African per-

spective, sustainable agricultural practice is a cause worthy of our collective support and various farmers domestically are pursuing better production methods to ensure soil and environmental health.

Reasonable transition

To that end, attaining a balance between agro-chemical use and productivity in pursuit of environmental sustainability is critical. In that sense, a drastic reduction of agrochemicals use and fertilisers is not ideal as that would negatively affect the harvest quality and output. Hence, a reasonable transition under the framework of a moderate approach with feasible timelines, which EU farmers are advocating for, is worth supporting.

Such a reasonable outcome would imply that the EU's trading partners do not have to significantly reduce agrochemicals and fertiliser use to lower productivity levels. This would also ensure that trade between

South Africa and the EU continues on the current terms.

Protectionism

Second, there seems to be a growing protectionist sentiment among the various protesting farmers, arguing that EU lawmakers should consider protecting the farmers against unfair world competition. South Africa worries about this particular line of argument as an export-oriented sector with strong links with the EU.

The South African agricultural sector has faced various protectionist tendencies in the EU market, particularly in citrus. For example, the EU recently used non-tariff barriers by alleging a "False codling moth", a citrus pest, in South Africa and requiring that citrus products be kept at certain temperatures before accessing the EU market.

This happens while South Africa has already treated the products to eliminate the chances of such pest occur-

rence. This was a subtle form of protecting Spanish farmers, who are also major citrus producers within the EU market.

With an outright view from farmer groupings in the EU that they face unfair competition in the global agricultural market, we worry that using various non-tariff barriers may be common.

The aspect of subsidies that the EU farmers also argued for is perhaps not top of mind for a South African farmer. Over nearly three decades, the South African agricultural sector has had to grow and be globally competitive with minimal government producer support relative to the EU and the US. The key aspects currently relevant for South Africa are matters pertaining to trade, which are environmental policies and the talk of unfair trade policies.

Overall, the outcomes of the EU farm protests will be consequential to South Africa, mainly the fruit, wine and beef indus-

tries with a specific interest in deepening trade with the EU region.

Diversifying markets

More importantly, the environmental laws in the EU, because of the importance and influence of the area in the world, are likely to be applied in other regions over time. Such development would have notable implications for the exporting nations, again illustrating the importance and relevance of the ongoing developments in the EU.

Beyond the EU challenges, what we observe today - rising tension within regions and countries and among regions and countries - implies that each country must always seek to diversify its markets.

South Africa's primary reliance on the EU region is one such risk, so exploring markets such as China, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Taiwan, India, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, the Philippines and Bangladesh is always essential. Notably, such market expansion should coincide with maintaining EU market access - it remains vital and strategic to South Africa's agriculture. **DM**

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Innovative funding systems are key to fighting inequities in African science

By Susan Gichoga

WITH African investment in research and development (R&D) still well below the global average, African higher-education and research institutions rely on grants from outside the continent. This is not ideal, but it will be inevitable until African countries follow through on their promises to spend more on research.

Most research grants are merit-based – intended to support the best ideas with the greatest potential for success – but this risks funneling most of the funds to a few researchers in rich countries and at institutions that have built prestige and reputations. Poorer countries and newly established institutions are struggling to compete. A more innovative and equitable funding system is needed to ensure that they don't get left behind.

Grant makers – foundations, corporations and government agencies that fund research grants – are exploring new funding models to meet the needs of African researchers. A promising example is the hub-and-spoke model, which aims to distribute resources and knowledge in ways that balance merit with equity. The system features a centralised hub that receives funding and allocates it to each of its spokes, which are sprawled out around the wheel.

In practice, the central hub is usually an African research centre or university that receives funding from grant makers and manages all of the procedures surrounding the award. Auxiliary institutions receive sub-grants from the hub to conduct defined research projects on behalf



Environmental technicians gather data at the Kasigau wildlife corridor in Kenya.

of the group. These spokes can be anywhere in the world, but the Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training, and Science in Africa (DELTAS Africa) initiative, which uses the hub-and-spoke model, has guidelines recommending that at least 60 percent of the spokes are African institutions.

Hubs will generally select spokes with which their ideas align, as well as those that have good potential to deliver quality research. Spokes are judged on aspects such as their methodologies, training programmes or facilities and track record of grant management. Hubs are expected to assess the performance of their spokes, while maintaining communications and conflict-resolution protocols to ensure effective collaboration.

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Achieving wider reach

Along with a focus on merit, diversity guidelines are integral to the successful running of a

hub-and-spoke model.

These guidelines aim to open up opportunities to more individuals and institutions than before, to ensure that there is a varied application pool to begin with.

As a result, the model also encourages the forging of mutually beneficial collaborations

between rich countries in the global north and less well-off ones in the global south as well as south-south collaborations.

The total budget that can be allocated to spokes in countries outside Africa is capped to ensure that African institutions receive the lion's share of funding. This is to prioritize Africa's research opportunities and priorities and ensure a balance of power between global-north and global-south participants.

No funding model is without shortcomings or challenges. The scope and complexity of the various programmes, and the potential for cultural differences, for example, mean that set strategies are needed to ensure that groups are managed effectively.

Yet, the hub-and-spoke model offers distinct advantages for grant makers by increasing the quality of proposals during the application stage and ensuring richer intellectual capital during the implementation stage. Funders can be assured that their R&D resources are having a wide reach, and are furthering the equity, impact and research output of the programmes.

As outlined by the African Union's Science Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa – a framework established in 2015 to accelerate the transition to an innovation-led, knowledge-based economy – investing in R&D is crucial to address the continent's unique public-health challenges and the looming effects of climate change. As funders accelerate R&D investments, they must ensure that diversity, equity and historical structural realities are factored into their grant-making approaches.

Rwanda's biodiversity conservation gains momentum with bird sounds recording

By Aimable Twahirwa

CLAVER Ntoyinkima wakes up early in the morning, at least three times a week, and goes into the Nyungwe rainforest to record bird vocalizations.

Ntoyinkima is one of several community members in a remote village in rural southwestern Rwanda who volunteer with a group of scientists to help boost wildlife conservation.

Relying on a voice application installed on his mobile phone, which is connected to a parabolic reflector with a dedicated cable, the 50-year-old tour guide and his team walk long distances every week to collect sounds from various birding hotspots in this area.

"Love for birds is critical when it comes to engaging many young people in this career," Ntoyinkima said, while referring to his second profession of bird sound recording.

To better protect the birds, the veteran tour guide has been able to launch the Nyungwe Birding Club, bringing together about 86 members of local communities living in Gisakura, a remote village located on the outskirts of the Nyungwe rainforest in southwestern Rwanda. Thanks to this mobilization, members of the club, which also consists of 26 young students from primary and secondary schools, were equipped with skills on how to record bird sounds.

The initiative is part of joint efforts by the Planet Birdsong Foundation, an international UK-based charity organization, and the Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management at University of Rwanda seeking to connect people with nature through bird sound listening, recording, and audio processing.

Conservation experts believe that birds are important indicators for the biodiversity and health of a habitat where they are sometimes visible but more widely audible. Researchers are now convinced that audio recognition skills are vital for

effective monitoring and guiding, especially in forests and wetlands.

"We are engaging youth from rural communities through local bird clubs, site guides, schools, and colleges," said Hilary MacBean, trustee of the Foundation.

It is a major task to collect mass data covering the sounds of various species across various birding hotspots in this East African country.

Nyungwe natural reserve is known to be home to 278 species of birds—26 of those are found only in the few forests of the Albertine Rift. The latest scientific estimates show that there are seven other important birding areas in Rwanda, including three wetland areas at Akanyaru (south), Nyabarongo river system (south), and Rugezi swamp (north), where there are efforts to recover the biodiversity from human activities that led to the degradation of these hotspots. The urban wetland in Kigali city has also received massive investment and is radically improving.

"This task requires much practice for people so that they are able to decode all those different bird songs and calls," Ntoyinkima said.

At present, the first ever Rwandan citizen science initiative, which has been running since 2021, focuses on equipping young students, many from rural communities, with the skills to observe, audio record, and scientifically label birds by their sounds, songs, and calls.

By using affordable sound recording equipment aimed at entry-level citizen scientists, participants are trained in audio-data collection, verification, preparation, and storage for both higher-level scientists and other citizen scientists. Currently, different existing teams deployed across birding hotspots in Rwanda are divided into categories, including recordists and verifiers.

Experts also point out that using the available dataset with multiple records of the songs and calls of the bird population has been crucial to



Young Rwandan citizen scientists record bird sounds in the forests in a project that plays a pivotal role in the country's bird protection.

ensuring the protection of species that are forest-dependent.

Through the "Bioacoustics Recording" initiative, which the foundation and other stakeholders jointly run, MacBean has been involved in mentoring and training young bird guides from Rwanda for international tourism while also educating local guides and students about bird sounds.

"Key focus has been on equipping communities with skills on how to work with bioacoustics data collected in the field as a

means to identify bird species in the recordings with confidence," she said.

During the implementation phase, data collection is done by using a smart phone with downloadable free apps and a ParaChirp, an acoustic parabolic reflector designed for educational use to promote learning about birds and product design. The technology focuses mainly on individual bird songs and calls collected in their natural or semi-natural habitat.

The latest official estimates

by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) show that Rwanda boasts more than 703 bird species, making it one of the countries with the highest concentration of bird populations in Africa.

However, Protais Niyigaba, the Nyungwe Forest National Park's manager said that much effort has been put into providing migratory birds with safe habitats and breeding sites.

"These solutions with available recording data are currently helping to understand the routes of these migratory birds and make sure visitors are able to locate them easily by sound," Niyigaba said.

The project had uploaded 226 recordings as of the time of the Foundation's 2023 audit report, with 37 of those being in national parks. The number of recordings is constantly growing, with multiple records of the songs and calls of about 120 bird species across Rwanda.

By December 2024, the Foundation has set a goal of generating 275 recordings, including 75 bird sounds, from existing national parks across Rwanda. The target set for 2025 is 300 species, according to official projections.

"We create music from bird sound and, in the Rwandan context, focus on the community benefits of citizen science, bird sound collection for scientific monitoring, and building the identification skills of tourist guides," MacBean said.

With this integration of bird sound recordings to protect and preserve these species and their habitats, stakeholders focus on labelling the collected data so that their identification, locational and time data, behavioural data, and habitat data are all recorded. The sounds are then validated by assigned verifiers, processed, and stored for use in science.

Recordings generated by Planet Birdsong's citizen scientists are stored globally with e-bird, and researchers are collaborating with the Macaulay Library at Cornell University to ensure

access to locally recorded bird sounds for both citizen scientists and specialists.

For the specific case of Rwanda, data collected in Rwanda is also supplied to the Rwanda Biodiversity Information System developed by the Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management at University of Rwanda for use in local natural science. Yet these innovations are playing pivotal roles in Rwanda's bird protection, and some researchers believe that maintaining data availability is essential for effective bird biodiversity conservation.

Prof Beth Kaplin, a prominent conservation scientist based in Rwanda said that getting local researchers, students, and youth involved in data collection and management is important to developing a sense of ownership and stewardship of the data recording for bird sounds.

Despite current efforts, conservation experts point out that limited funding to support people and pay their fieldwork expenses is another major challenge affecting project implementation since the majority of local residents work mainly on a volunteer basis. Some individuals engaged in the project also have problems with equipment such as phones and PCs, plus the cost of the internet.

Dr Marie Laure Rurangwa, a Rwandan female conservation scientist said that one of the challenges facing people engaged in this activity is much about processing time with much editing [of recordings] and the skillsets needed in terms of sound recognition for different bird species.

Rurangwa is a co-author of the latest peer review study showing how land use change (modification from primary forest to other land use types) has affected bird communities within Nyungwe forest in Rwanda. "Access to some of these remote birding hotspots has been another challenge for recordists because of limited resources and a lack of appropriate equipment to reach these remote areas," Rurangwa points out.



Dar es Salaam bus rapid transit system face challenges amid expansion plans

By Adonis Byemelwa

IN a twist of fate, Dar es Salaam's once-celebrated Bus Rapid Transit (DART) system grapples with challenges, casting shadows over its initial promise of punctuality, affordability, and safety.

The unfolding narrative portrays a system entangled in issues that could redefine its status in public transportation.

As we delve into the complexities of DART, a closer look becomes imperative to fathom the root causes and explore potential solutions to rekindle its original promise and regain its status as a beacon of efficient urban transit.

The strain on the existing fleet of 140 buses, intended for 50,000 passengers, has resulted in frequent breakdowns, compromising the system's reliability. Commuters endure long waits, chaotic scenes at bus stops, and physical struggles during peak hours.

Overcrowding not only raises safety concerns but also provides opportunities for criminal activities. Despite promises of improvement, ongoing efforts to enhance the service have left commuters disillusioned.

DART's claim of awaiting approval for 70 additional buses faces uncertainty, leaving passengers unsure of when much-needed relief will arrive.

As of the latest data in 2024, Dar es Salaam's metro area population has surged to 8,161,000, marking a 4.95 percent increase from 2023, according to the World Population Review.

These statistics underscore the urgent need for an enhanced public transportation system to cope with the city's ever-growing demands.

Tanzanians are now calling upon President Samia Suluhu Hassan to intervene and address the apparent shortcomings in the DART system.

Safety concerns arise as doors fail to close properly, forcing passengers to squeeze even more. Special seats reserved for vulnerable groups reportedly remain underutilized as passengers prioritize finding any available space.

In a recent development, Dr Athuman Kihamia assumed the role of Chief Executive of the DART agency, succeeding Dr Edwin Mhede. Known for previous roles in public administration, Dr Kihamia is expected to address the challenges facing the transit system.

Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila, acknowledges



As the city grapples with the daily challenges of a burgeoning population, the success of the DART system becomes paramount for ensuring smooth mobility, reducing commute times, and addressing the safety concerns of its residents.



the existing challenges, emphasizing that the government is committed to improve public transport.

To address concerns, DART announced new fare prices approved by the Surface and Marine Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA), effective immediately, aiming for a fair pricing structure.

Dr Kihamia, the new CEO, pledges to address commuters' concerns and restore the system's efficiency and reliability.

Challenges faced by DART come amidst massive infrastructure investments transforming Africa, including Tanzania.

The DART project, part of these investments, is a high-quality, high-capacity bus rapid transit system aiming to revolutionize public transport in Dar es Salaam. However, current issues cast a shadow on its initial success.

In a recent interview with Business Excellence, Dr Edwin Mhede, former Chief Executive of the DART agency, illuminated the agency's inception and its mission to deliver top-notch and efficient public transportation services.

The first phase of the BRT road network, initiated in 2016 with support from the World Bank, currently serves 180,000 passengers per day using a fleet of 210 buses.

Dr Mhede outlined the technologi-

cal advancements of the DART system, including an automated fare collection system, a mobile application providing real-time information to commuters, and plans for additional systems like intelligent transportation and network monitoring.

According to him, the system aims to reduce commute times and improve overall transport services in Dar es Salaam.

Despite these ambitious plans, the current challenges facing the DART system highlights the urgent need for intervention to maintain its promise as a transformative public transport solution for Dar es Salaam.

Amid Dar es Salaam's exponential population growth, the importance of a reliable and efficient transport system cannot be overstated. The DART system once hailed as a symbol of progress in public transportation now stands at a critical juncture.

As the city grapples with the daily challenges of a burgeoning population, the success of the DART system becomes paramount for ensuring smooth mobility, reducing commute times, and addressing the safety concerns of its residents.

However, the challenges facing DART extends beyond operational issues. Terminals like that of Mbagala initially envisioned as key transport hubs have unfortunately transformed into hotspots for illicit

activities.

The irony lies in the fact that these terminals were set up with the expectation of serving the public efficiently, only to be rendered ineffective due to the lack of buses operating in these areas.

The frequent change in leadership, marked by the recent appointment of Dr Kihamia as CEO, prompts reflection on the efficacy of such transitions.

It becomes evident that changing faces at the top may not be sufficient to overcome systemic challenges. The success of the DART system hinges not only on capable leadership but also on well-defined and efficiently executed government plans.

In light of the pressing issues, a transformative suggestion emerges - the full privatization of the BRT system.

Handing over operational control to experienced business tycoons, free from political entanglements, could potentially inject the efficiency needed to address the current shortcomings.

This move would usher in a profit-driven approach, aligning success with market demands and customer satisfaction, while minimizing bureaucratic obstacles.

In essence, the DART system in Dar es Salaam is not merely a transit service; it stands as a crucial force shaping

the city's destiny.

With the population booming, a robust public transportation network emerges as the lifeblood of urban progress.

Overcoming current hurdles requires more than leadership shifts; it demands a bold strategic overhaul, potentially through privatization.

This transformation is essential to ensure the DART system lives up to its commitment as a catalyst for the city's growth, becoming a truly transformative power propelling Dar es Salaam into a brighter, more efficient future.

As the city evolves, the DART system becomes more than just buses on the move - it becomes the thread weaving the fabric of Dar es Salaam's future.

Facing the challenges head-on, embracing innovation, and possibly privatizing operations pave the way for the DART system to not just be a transit solution but a truly transformative power propelling the city forward.

The slender lanes at Keko stand as a poignant reminder: meticulous infrastructure planning is the key. A city in motion requires careful consideration to avert potential disruptions and guarantee the safety and convenience of its commuters.

In the vibrant narrative of Dar es Salaam's progress, the DART system emerges as a colorful chapter, poised to paint a brighter, more efficient future for all who call the city home.

South Africa's mining industry now 39 per cent black-owned

CAPE TOWN

In 2004, the year South Africa's far-reaching Mining Charter was first introduced; black ownership in South Africa's globally recognised mining industry stood at a negligible 2 percent.

This has now leapt nearly 20 times higher to approximately 39 percent, South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa highlighted in his well-attended, full-house opening address on day-one of the four-day Investing in African Mining Indaba in Cape Town which is being attended by close to 10 000 people.

"It's fitting that the 30th Mining Indaba is taking place in the year that South Africa celebrates the 30th year of its democracy," said Ramaphosa in outlining the significant transformation that South Africa's mining industry has undergone in the last three decades, after being a pillar of South African's economic strength for one and a half centuries.

Mining continues to account for about 60 percent of South African exports by value.

Working with industry and labour, the President outlined how democratic government had been able to transform the sector, which was notorious for labour exploitation, human rights violations, and poor health and safety standards during the apartheid era.

Today, the rights of 476 000 people employed by the mining industry are protected and a legal regime confers responsibility on mining companies to provide quality services and promote development in communities where they operate.

There are also a number of employee share ownership schemes through which mineworker participation in mining companies is being promoted.

"We are all acutely aware that we face strong headwinds, and a number of persistent challenges are impeding mining performance.

"Globally, commodity price volatility, high energy prices, geopolitical tensions and a global cost of living crisis are playing a significant role in dampening the business operating environment," said Ramaphosa.

"Domestically, the energy crisis and port and rail bottlenecks are putting serious pressure on miners' operational costs. Illicit mining, cable theft and infrastructure vandalism place a further strain on mining output and returns.

"We're committed to work hard and to work together to overcome these serious challenges," the President added at the event.

Last year, the South African government outlined four objectives to develop the sector, improve its global competitiveness and harness the global drive towards sustainable development.

The first was to achieve a secure supply of electricity and several measures to improve the performance of the existing generation fleet and to add new electricity capacity have been taken through the Electricity Action Plan.

The second objective of accelerating economic reforms has resulted in the removal of the licensing threshold for embedded generation, with a third of this capacity supplying the mining load.

The third objective of tackling illegal mining and damage to infrastructure by establishing a specialised police unit, working with the defence force, has resulted in a number of arrests, prosecutions and convictions of the perpetrators of this crime.

The State-owned mining technology agency Mintek has sealed 251 derelict mines and shafts, and closure of a further 352 shafts is targeted over the next three years.

Criminal activity, such as copper cable theft, has resulted in South Africa's freight logistics system undergoing a process of rapid and fundamental change to improve its efficiency and position it for the future.



South Africa President, Cyril Ramaphosa

Local investors absorb yet more shares at DSE with foreigners exiting

By Guardian Reporter

LOCAL investors have continued to maintain the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) market stability in a time of foreigners' exits, after sponging shares valued 2bn/- sold by foreign investors in two days, which was equivalent to more than 95 percent of total value of shares sold.

The Monday's daily market report shows foreign investors sold 1.3 million CRDB Bank's shares on pre-arranged market board, all bought by local investors, which was part of 1.6 million shares traded on the largest bank's counter.

CRDB Bank counter maintained its position as top mover in the market, after recording a turnover of 741.9mn/- during the day, at a share price ranging between 460/- to 485/- in 126 deals.

On Tuesday, the report shows foreign investors sold shares valued 1.3bn/- which was equivalent to 95.64 percent of total value of shares sold.

According to the market report, since the start of the first quarter of this year, local investors have retained shares valued more



During the current quarter, local investors have retained shares valued more than 10bn/- sold by foreign investors

than 10bn/- sold by foreign investors, which involved blue chip counters mainly CRDB Bank, NMB Bank, which was nearly three times of the value of shares retained during the first quarter of last year.

The two largest banks in the country recently published their unaudited financial statements for 2023, which showed increased profitability, of which stock brokers saying that they are likely to offer handsome dividends of above 20 percent for 2023, based on the banks payout ratio history.

During the last year, according to the audited financial statements, both CRDB Bank and NMB Bank collectively

recorded profit growth of 23 percent, close to Itrn/-, driven by substantial credit growth derived from the growing economy due to improved business environment, as the amount was nearly 75 percent of total profit recorded by the entire banking sector.

According to the DSE reports, the two banks collectively contributed to 31 percent of total market turnover throughout the entire 2023.

Highlighting the performance for 2023 recently, Emmanuel Nyalali, the DSE's business development manager explained that the market has maintained its resilience due to in-

creased involvement of local investors, which has maintained shares prices stability.

However, he noted that despite of their slowing inflows, foreign investors contribute greatly to the performance of the DSE.

He said DSE is currently among of six resilient stock markets in Africa, due to conducive business environment, in a time when foreign investors shift of investments to developed economies markets, which have affected many markets in the continent through the stock prices depreciations.

Through "Hisa Kiganjani" initiative introduced by DSE in collaboration with mo-

repreneurial networks, which enables Tanzanians to buy and sell shares through mobile phones, the involvement of locals in equity market has increased, he said.

Looking forward, Nyalali said DSE will also looking into collaborating with commercial banks, to link up their mobile apps with DSE platform, which will also stimulate the direct participation of locals to participate in equities market, to enable them to buy shares even without passing through stock brokers.

According to the Monday's market report, NICO, the Tanzania's first collective investment scheme, emerged top gainer, after its share price increased by 9.62 percent to 570/- compared to 520/- recorded during the end of last week.

On Tuesday, the report shows CRDB Bank was top gained, after its share price appreciated by 4.3 percent to 485/- compared to 465/- recorded on Monday's close.

The second top gainer was Tanzania Portland Cement Company Limited (TPCC), which its share price appreciated by 0.47 percent to 4,320/-.

China stocks rebound as Beijing intensifies efforts to stem rout

BEIJING

Chinese equities rallied as Beijing stepped up its efforts to stem a rout with a string of policy announcements including a state fund's vow to boost stock purchases.

The onshore benchmark CSI 300 Index climbed as much as 2.8 percent on Tuesday, offering a reprieve to investors who have had to grapple with wild market swings over the past two sessions. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index of major Chinese companies listed in Hong Kong jumped more than 4 percent.

Hopes are also build-

ing for more concerted efforts to boost shares as regulators plan to brief President Xi Jinping on market as soon as Tuesday. Stocks started the day higher as Central Huijin Investment Ltd., the unit that holds Chinese government stakes in big financial institutions, said it will continue to increase holdings of exchange-traded funds. That was soon followed by the securities regulator pledging to make greater efforts in guiding long-term funds to enter the market.

"Huijin's announcement will guide and encourage more funds to buy and also confirms the market speculation

on more state buying recently," said Zhou Nan, investment director at Long Hui Fund Management. "There's very limited room for further slide but the market may continue to fluctuate before the bottom can be solidified."

The upswing comes after Chinese shares suffered devastating losses, with the CSI 300 closing at a five-year low on Friday. Traders were grappling to find a bottom for this rout as economic and geopolitical risks kept piling up, while authorities have so far failed to confirm a much-anticipated stock rescue fund.

Policymakers have

been more vocal in expressing market support lately, but concrete measures have been lacking. The securities watchdog vowed this week to punish those behind "malicious" short selling and to stop illegal behavior that hinders stable stock market operations. Authorities are also seeking to address risks stemming from margin calls and share pledges.

A more proactive stance from regulators is drawing comparisons with the steps taken during the 2015 rout, when they curbed speculative trading, targeted market manipulation and guided some investors to avoid stock sales. Yet

equities back then took months to eventually bottom out, and peaked at a much lower level than the 2015 high – foreboding a tough battle ahead for Beijing this time around.

"We have been there before in 2015-early 2016, facing similar challenges such as economic slowdown and deleveraging which froze market sentiment," said Linda Lam, head of equity advisory for North Asia at Union Bancaire Privée. "Looking back, it wasn't a V-shape market recovery that was materialised within days. It will take time, in terms of months, for investors to gain back confidence."

Canadian firm cleared to buy Nyanzaga gold project shares stake

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

Canadian precious metals company Silvercorp Metals has announced that has secured clearance from the Tanzanian authorities for its previously announced acquisition of Western Australia-based mining exploration firm OreCorp.

Silvercorp Metals said that the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) approval represents the only Tanzanian regulatory requirement needed to close the deal.

OreCorp owns an 84 percent interest in the Nyanzaga gold project located in the Mwanza region, in partnership with the Tanzanian government, which owns 16 percent stake.

Responding to The Guardian yesterday, minister of minerals Anthony Mavunde said; "all preliminary processes they have passed through, have been checked by all of our relevant institutions and bless the deal."

Both companies have been in acquisition discussions since August 2023.

Initially, both parties signed a binding scheme implementation deed in August 2023, under which OreCorp's shareholders were to receive Australian dollar 0.15 (\$0.099) in cash per share and 0.0967 of a Silvercorp common share valued at AU\$0.45 (\$0.3).

The offer was then amended in November 2023 to increase the con-

sideration to AU\$0.19 (\$0.13) per share in cash.

It was reported by foreign media that under the sweetened deal, Silvercorp Metals will buy all shares of OreCorp that were previously not owned by it or its affiliates for the increased price and 0.0967 of a new Silvercorp Metals' common share.

Currently, the Canadian precious metals company owns 72.3 million issued and outstanding common shares of OreCorp which represents 15.4 percent.

Silvercorp Metals stated: "The Company would like to thank the FCC for providing support throughout the expedited approval process.

The gold project has secured all key per-

mits and is expected to achieve its first gold in the second half of 2025.

According to the definitive feasibility study released in August 2022, the Nyanzaga gold project will produce 2.5 million ounces of gold over a 10.7-year life.

Silvercorp Metals is expected to provide OreCorp with approximately \$28 million in funding through an equity placement to advance development of the Nyanzaga project, including progressing resettlement activities and early project works.

The Nyanzaga Gold Project (Nyanzaga or Project) is an advanced development project in the Archaean Greenstones of the Lake Victoria Goldfields of north-west Tanzania.



Nyanzaga gold project

ACI financial market association (T) new president to serve for two years



Newly elected President of the ACI FMA - Tanzania Charter, Naomi Mafwiri (front), addresses members of the association at the leadership changing ceremony held in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent

NAOMI Mafwiri, the Absa Bank Tanzania Markets Sales CIB and E-Channels senior official, has been elected as the new President of ACI - Financial Markets Association Tanzania Charter, as position that she will serve for the next two years.

ACI Financial Markets Association (ACI FMA) is a leading global trade association representing the interests of the professional wholesale financial markets community.

The Paris based global trade association is a non-profit making association founded in the interests of the financial markets dealing profession has over 13,000

members in 60 countries.

Formed in 2002, ACI Tanzania Charter abides by the Tanzanian laws and regulations, as well as the FX Global Code of conduct recognized by the global umbrella.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam at an occasion of the Tanzania chapter's exchanging of leadership, the new ACI President said the decision to contest for the position as ACI President was not taken lightly.

"I had to consult some other members and after deep thought I realized the crucial role the financial markets community plays in shaping values and ethics among key players in the country, and the fact compelled me to step forward to work on the key ACI Tanzania's objective to

influence industry behavior and uphold best market practitioners', Mafwiri said.

She said, the current ACI Tanzania chapter, includes four candidates from Absa Bank Tanzania, making a significant milestone and this showcasing the trust and confidence placed in the bank by the financial markets community in Tanzania.

"Engaging with ACI aligns with efforts to promote best financial markets practices and we are excited about the journey ahead and the opportunities this collaboration will bring," Mafwiri said.

"I want to take this opportunity to commend the previous committee for launching the ACI UDSM branch, however, we will aim at introduc-

ing more initiatives such as facilitating certification of our back office, middle office, risk and front office members citing that up to date, its only 50 percent of financial markets participants are certified."

"We will also working on ACI identity where we will enhance our visibility through office location and registration which is crucial. Publicity is equally important and our challenge is to ensure that our banking community recognizes and understands the fundamental role we play," she noted.

She mentioned other key factor as stakeholder engagements, saying that acknowledgement the transformation in markets, initiatives such a move from being money-

based Monetary Policy approach to Interest-based Monetary Policy Framework, issuance of circulars and guidelines to promote stability in the financial sector together ongoing sessions among key players enhances confidence and transparency in our market.

"I promise to continue with these engagements so as to create harmony and encourage an environment where business thrive and economy excels", she added.

ACI Tanzania Charter is made of among stakeholders from the banking sector, Ministry of Finance, Bank of Tanzania (BoT), Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) and Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA).

BP shares soar as new boss woos investors with buybacks

LONDON

BP Plc surged to a two-month high after accelerating share buybacks, as the company's new boss sought to woo investors that have been skeptical of its clean-energy strategy.

After fourth-quarter profit exceeded estimates, the London-based oil and gas major said it will repurchase \$1.75 billion of shares each quarter in the first half of the year, compared with \$1.5 billion in the prior three months.

The company went even further to reassure shareholders, some of whom have criticized its low-carbon plans, saying it intends to maintain at least this pace of buybacks until the end of next year.

"We've got real confidence," Chief Executive Officer Murray Auchincloss, who was appointed last month, said in an interview with Bloomberg on Tuesday. "And that confidence in the growth has allowed us to issue new guidance on how we're thinking about buybacks."

Shares of the company rose 6 percent to 481.15 pence as of 9:09 a.m. in London.

BP follows a strong set of results for Big Oil in the fourth quarter, with Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp. and Shell Plc all surpassing expectations. Its earnings announcement caps a tumultuous few months that saw the abrupt resignation of former CEO Bernard Looney, a swell of rumors that it was a potential takeover target, and most recently calls from activist investor Bluebell Capital Partners to divert spending from renewables into oil and gas.

BP's adjusted net income for the three months ended Dec. 31 was \$2.99 billion, compared with \$4.81 billion a year earlier and \$3.29 billion in the third quarter. That exceeded the average estimate of \$2.76 billion.

The increase in the buyback is a reflection of the company's falling net debt, which at \$20.9 billion is the lowest in a decade, according to Auchincloss. While BP still wants to bring that figure down a little further, the reduction has allowed it to commit to return 80 percent of surplus cash to shareholders, up from its previous pledge of 60 percent.

This change addresses "a bit of feedback we received that sometimes people are a bit uncertain as to what the buyback is going to be," Auchincloss added.

BP's earnings beat was "relatively low quality" but the increase in the buyback should be taken very positively, Redburn analysts said in a note.

As Auchincloss pledged to return more cash to shareholders, he kept a tight rein on capital expenditure. BP will target spending of \$16 billion both this year and next, compared with a previous range of \$14 billion to \$18 billion.

The tighter spending will mostly come down to there being "less room" for acquisitions following a slew of purchases such as Archaea Energy and TravelCenters of America, Auchincloss said.



Insurers slash NSE investments to record lows

NAIROBI

INSURANCE and re-insurance firms have slashed their investment in stocks listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) to below two percent of their portfolio, amid continued investor flight from the bourse.

Data by the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) shows the sector's investment in quoted equities dropped to Sh19.38 billion at the end of September 2023, marking a 27 percent decline from Sh26.53 billion in the preceding similar period.

The decline took the industry's exposure to capital market investment to a record low of 1.9 percent of the Sh1.03 trillion assets compared with 2.9 percent in 2022 and 4.3 percent in 2021.

The continued sell-down from equities has come on the back of the underperformance of shares of many companies that are listed on the NSE at a time when returns from government securities have been trending upwards.



Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) trading floor. Photo: NMG

The underwriters have in the process increased their investment in government securities - Treasury bonds and treasury bills.

Long-term insurers' stake in government securities grew 10.3 percent to Sh503.6 billion or 76.8 percent of business investments as that of general insurers increased by 8.2 percent to Sh96.15 billion or 59.2 percent of their total invest-

ments.

Government securities were in 2014 accounting for 45 percent of the insurance industry's investments while quoted equities took up 20 percent but this has been falling over the years.

The value of the equities investments over three years to the end of September has fallen by over 45.5 percent, with the underwriters redirecting

their investment portfolio towards government securities, investment property and term deposits, which have offered more stable returns.

Central Bank of Kenya data showed insurance companies accounted for 7.36 percent or Sh371.4 billion of Kenya's Sh5.045 trillion domestic debts by the end of January 26.

The NSE has since mid-

2019 been hit by successive shocks including the Covid-19 pandemic, ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, dollar shortages, and rising interest rates in developed markets leading to the erosion of billions of shillings of investor wealth.

The Nairobi bourse last year recorded a 27.5 percent fall in paper wealth amounting to Sh547 billion as the multi-year bear run continued to ravage investors' equities portfolio.

A drop in the fair value of shares at the NSE hurts investment income, which has increasingly become critical for the sector that has been relying on such returns, given the losses in major insurance classes such as medical and motor.

Many insurers have therefore responded to the bear run at the market by cutting their exposure to equities to protect their profitability.

Britam Holdings, which has traditionally held one of the larger exposures to the stock market through investments in the banking sector, has for instance been taking steps to unwind its position.

Power demand in Kenya likely to overtake generation by 2027

NAIROBI

ELECTRICITY demand in Kenya could exceed the generation capacity by 2027 unless production increases to catch up with usage and avert power shortages that might lead to load shedding and rationing.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) projects that the electricity demand growth rate will accelerate to an average of 5.7 percent

between 2024 and 2026, meaning that Kenyans could consume more than 13,055 gigawatt-hours (GWh) by 2027.

This will outpace the growth rate of electrical energy generation, set to slow down after Kenya changed its policy on buying electricity from independent power producers last year.

This means that demand could exceed the electrical energy generation capacity,

which is currently estimated at 12,652 GWh, based on the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority's (Epra) latest statistics.

"In Kenya, electricity demand is estimated to have increased by around 4.5 percent in 2023, and we expect annual demand growth of 5.7 percent on average from 2024 to 2026," IEA said in its Electricity 2024 report published last week.

Demand for electrical en-

ergy is currently estimated at 10,008 GWh as of 2022, meaning the country's power producers are generating an excess of about 2,000 GWh annually, minus system losses.

This comes at a time when Kenya is slowing down its investment in infrastructure, which could hurt its efforts to step up generation.

Latest government data shows that spending on projects in the energy sector

such as electricity generation plants and power transmission lines dropped to the lowest levels in the first half of the year to December 2023.

The Treasury data shows a modest Sh2.50 billion was wired to development projects in the half-year period, a sharp fall from a record high of Sh17.27 billion in a similar period in the financial year 2017-18.

In the one year to June

2022, Epra says, more than 700,000 more people were connected to the national grid, increasing the power demand. This number is forecast to grow much faster until 2026, piling even more pressure on existing power generation.

The generation capacity might not grow as fast to match the increased demand over the next few years, creating a demand gap.

In a recent report, the IEA

said Kenya's transition from the Feed-in Tariffs policy to the Renewable Energy Auction Policy last year is discouraging new investments in the sector, slowing down the growth of electricity generation.

The latest data by Epra shows that between 2021 and 2022, electricity generation increased by 4.55 percent, with thermal and solar energy recording the most improvement.

Rare earths prices seen rebounding in second half of 2024

BEIJING/HANOI

RARE earth prices have likely bottomed out and are poised to rise later this year on demand from electric vehicles (EVs) and wind power and as dominant producer China is expected to pull back on expanding output quotas, analysts said.

Rare earths are a group of 17 elements used in products from lasers and military equipment to magnets found in EVs and consumer electronics. Prices surged to their highest in a decade in 2022 only to plunge last year on increased production in China and slower-than-expected demand growthcrippled by the country's patchy post-pandemic economic recovery.

The price in China of praseodymium oxide, one of the most widely used rare earth elements, fell 34 percent in 2023, while terbium oxide and neodymium oxide tumbled to their lowest levels since late 2020 last month, Shanghai Metals Market (SMM) data showed.

However, further downside for rare earths is likely to be limited as prices, particularly for neodymium-praseodymium (NdPr) oxide, used in permanent magnets, fell 38 percent last year and are near the production cost level, said SMM analyst Yang Jiawen.

NdPr oxide is likely to see an 800-metric-ton deficit

globally in 2024, flipping from last year's 6 600-ton surplus, Guolian Securities wrote last month.

"We expect extra supply to be more or less cleared by end-2024, as demand catches up with supply through continually increasing electric vehicle sales and wind turbine production," said analyst Willis Thomas at CRU Group.

China quota Last year, China issued a third batch of rare earth output quotas, the first time it issued a third set of quotas in a year since 2006, with the total quota for the year at a record high of 255,000 tons, up 21.4 percent from a year earlier.

However, China's quotas are expected to increase at a slower rate this year, at between 10 percent to 15 percent, analysts at information provider Baiinfo said in a research note.

"We do expect another increase in production quota for both mining and separation ... but not to the extent we have seen last year," said analyst Ross Embleton at Wood Mackenzie.

China, which accounts for 70 percent of rare earths mining and 90 percent of refined output, according to the United States Geological Survey, has controlled its supply of the strategic resource through the quota system since 2006.

US dollar reaches highest level

NEW YORK

THE US dollar extended its rally as the resiliency of the world's largest economy pushed traders to curtail the scale of expected interest-rate cuts.

The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index rose as much as 0.6 percent on Monday to reach the highest level since Nov. 17, before curbing gains by the end of the day. The dollar has strengthened against all its major peers this year, with the Japanese yen weakening the most in a more than 5 percent drop.

Resilient macro data for the US, including a surprisingly strong jobs report last week, is pushing back expectations on the timing of the first rate reduction, while global forces ranging from China's economic struggles to geopolitical uncertainties have boosted the dollar's appeal as a safe haven.



"The dollar has a lot going for it right now, hard to be short," said Brad Bechtel, global head of foreign exchange at Jefferies. "If the economy keeps putting up good numbers, the paradigm could change and we might need to re-evaluate the dollar from an even more bullish perspective."

That economic strength and the prospect of rates staying elevated for longer has driven a rebound in the US currency from its December lows, when the Federal Reserve signaled that the central bank was

preparing to pivot away from increases and weighing a series of cuts.

Fed officials cemented the end of their aggressive campaign to push up interest rates at the January meeting, but sought to reset expectations for how soon and how fast policymakers will cut this year as inflation pressures fade. Chair Jerome Powell said after the decision that a March rate cut was unlikely.

With US rates still high and the Bank of Japan giving little clarity on when it will reverse its negative

interest rate policy, the yen has been the worst performer in the Group of 10. The Japanese currency lost 0.3 percent, touching 148.89 for a dollar Monday.

Like Powell, euro-area policymakers are also pushing back on the near-term cut narrative. But bets that policymakers at the European Central Bank will lower borrowing costs before the Fed, perhaps as soon as April, are weighing on the euro, which fell as much as 0.6% Monday to trade at \$1.0723, the lowest since Nov. 14.

Prospects of a wider

interest-rate differential in favor of the US have been dragging the euro lower, by around 2.7 percent versus the dollar since the start of the year. Bechtel said the common currency could weaken further to \$1.06.

Bearish bets on the euro remain hot following the currency's busiest option day since July on Friday. Turnover on put contracts offering the right to sell the common currency in the future are outpacing call options by about a 3-to-1 ratio Monday.

"US dollar bulls have more reasons to cheer beyond the US exceptionalism and high carry stories," wrote Charu Channana, market strategist at Saxo Markets, in a Monday note. "A blowout nonfarm payrolls jobs report on Friday, together with Fed Chair Powell's pushback to March rate cut expectations, will force the markets to re-assess its Fed expectations."

Zambia to join trade in its own copper

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA plans to directly buy and sell a portion of the copper produced in the southern African nation, competing with trading giants including Mercuria Energy Group and Glencore.

"We obviously want to do it in a way that's fair, that's commercially suitable for the mining companies," Jito Kayumba, President Hakainde Hichilema's senior economic adviser, said in an interview on Monday. "To say that we can come as a commercial player to compete with the other commodity traders, to make financing available for the mines for us to have a fair share of the resource."

Zambia joins neighbors including Botswana and Democratic Republic of Congo in trying to secure greater economic benefits from its mineral wealth through getting access to the commodities to sell directly to buyers. While the government has shareholdings in some mines, it's argued for decades that state revenues from them are too low.

Companies including First Quantum Minerals and Barrick Gold operate mines in Zambia, Africa's second-biggest copper producer.

The government could start with a limited amount of about \$100-million and build its trad-

ing business, Kayumba said at the Investing in African Mining Indaba conference in Cape Town. It could have legislation ready in the next three to six months, he said, adding the government may opt to receive physical metals instead of royalties from some mines.

"We've reached the point where we have to be disruptive. Our benefits from the sector has been quite minimal," Kayumba said. "There's a lot of financial engineering, call it creative accounting - transfer pricing reduces our chances of getting a good dividend."

The government will hire the necessary expertise to start trading its copper, and shouldn't struggle to compete as it has direct access to the resources, according to Kayumba. The move will open a window into the financial world of commodity trading and help the government see how much profit from its copper remains abroad - some of it in countries like Switzerland, where commodity traders including Glencore are based, he said.

"It gives us transparency," Kayumba said. "We'll see 'Ah! That's what happened in Switzerland'."

The European country accounts for about 46 percent of Zambian export earnings, according to official data.



ITV	CAPITAL TV
WEDNESDAY 7 FEB 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Laws of love 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Igizo: Filimbi rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Kipindi maalum: AFCON 2023 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:40 Maphishi rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 Music: The Base 18:00 Hapa na Pale 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe 18:30 Jarida la wanawake 19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT 19:30 Soap: Laws of love 20:00 Habari 21:05 Aibu Yako 21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco 21:25 Kipindi maalum: 22:00 Ripoti maalum: 22:30 Soap: Uzalo 23:00 Jiji letu 23:30 Music: The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera THURSDAY 8 FEB 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha 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WORLD

Houthis claim missile attacks after fresh US-British airstrikes

ADEN, Yemen/BAGHDAD/SANAA

YEMEN'S armed Houthi group yesterday claimed responsibility for launching attacks against US and British vessels in the Red Sea after the two nations launched three airstrikes on Yemen's northern province of Saada before dawn on the same day.

"We carried out two military operations in the Red Sea, the first targeting an American ship (Star Nasia) and the other targeting a British vessel (Morning Tide). Both ships were targeted with appropriate naval missiles, and the hits were accurate and direct," Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said in a statement broadcast by the group's al-Masirah TV.

"We will carry out more attacks against all hostile American and British targets in the Red and Arabian Sea," he said, claiming their attacks came in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

yesterday's three US-British airstrikes occurred following the Houthi group's threat of retaliation on Monday after the two nations conducted more than 300 airstrikes across Yemen in the past month.

The strikes targeted sites in the eastern part of the province's capital city, which bears the same name, the al-Masirah TV said without elaborating.

The fresh airstrikes occurred following a reported missile attack towards

the Red Sea.

The US Central Command confirmed that the US military struck two Houthi explosive uncrewed surface vehicles in Yemen.

The command said in a statement that the strikes were launched at approximately 3:30 pm Sanaa time, and the targets were deemed "an imminent threat to US Navy ships and merchant vessels in the region."

Yemen's Houthi group on Monday accused the US and Britain of "unjustified aggression" and threatened retaliation after the two nations conducted more than 300 airstrikes across the country in the past month.

Houthi officials said the airstrikes hit their camps and positions in several northern provinces, including the capital Sanaa.

The attacks included at least 15 strikes Sunday night targeting Houthi strongholds in Saada province and the strategic Red Sea port city of Hodeidah.

Local media outlets reported that the raids resulted in civilian casualties, with some of the wounded being rushed to nearby hospitals for urgent medical treatment.

This escalation comes after a two-day period during which the US and British forces executed a total of 48 raids on the Houthi-held capital, Sanaa, and other Yemeni provinces.

The airstrikes are part of an ongoing



In this image provided by the UK Ministry of Defence, RAF Typhoon FRG4s are prepared to conduct further strikes against Houthi military targets in Yemen, from RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus, Feb 3, 2024. AP

ing military response by Washington and London since January 12, targeting Houthi-controlled areas of Sanaa and other northern provinces. The international actions are reportedly in retaliation for Houthi attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea.

"The US is attacking Yemen and it will not escape punishment," Hussein al-Ezzi, a Houthi official, said at a press conference aired by the Houthi-run Al-Masirah TV.

"We can never be silent about the aggression against our country, and it will not affect our position toward Gaza and Palestine," he stressed.

Al-Ezzi said targeting American and British ships in the Red Sea was a possible retaliation for the strikes on Yemeni soil.

The US Defense Department said the airstrikes were meant to "further disrupt and degrade the capabilities of the Iranian-backed Houthi militia to conduct their reckless and destabilizing attacks against US and international vessels lawfully transiting the Red Sea."

But the Houthis dismissed this justification. Chief Houthi negotiator Mohammed Abdulsalam said on Al-Masirah TV on Sunday that the airstrikes would not destroy their weapons or limit their military operations and capabilities.

Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea also issued a direct warning, vowing that

Houthis would launch reprisal attacks against the US Navy.

The ongoing airstrikes and promises of retaliation signaled an increasingly volatile situation as the Yemen civil war continued with no end in sight.

For several months, the Houthi group has intensified military operations in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, targeting commercial ships with armed boats, drones and sea missiles. The group claims these ships are either Israeli or heading to Israeli ports, in response to the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

Since the Houthis overthrew the internationally recognized government in 2014, the group has been engaged in a bloody civil war against pro-government forces backed by a Saudi-led coalition.

Separately, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani said Monday that Iraq rejects any unilateral action by any country that does not respect the sovereignty of other countries.

Al-Sudani made the remarks when meeting with visiting Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Akbar Ahmadian, according to a statement issued by al-Sudani's media office.

The prime minister stressed that the Iraqi government is keen to establish good relations with other countries but, at the same

Putin, UAE President reaffirm position in favor of prompt ceasefire in Gaza Strip

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and his UAE counterpart Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan reaffirmed their principal position in favor of a prompt ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the Kremlin press office reported.

"Russia and the UAE reaffirmed their principal position in favor of a prompt ceasefire, and restoration of a political process, aimed at achievement of a long-term and fair solution for the Palestinian issue based on the known international legal foundation," the Kremlin said after the phone call between the two leaders.

The situation in the Middle East sharply escalated following an incursion of Hamas militants from the Gaza Strip into Israel on October 7.

Hamas has cast the attack as a response to Israeli actions against the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Israel has declared a complete siege of the Gaza Strip and started a military operation there.

Israel also strikes parts of Lebanon and Syria in retaliation for bombardments originating from these countries. Clashes are also taking place in the West Bank.



Barrick reports higher Q4 gold production

TORONTO

BARRICK Gold Corporation has reported preliminary full year and fourth quarter 2023 production results.

On the back of higher Q4 production, preliminary gold production for the full year of 4.05 million ounces was consistent with our forecast as guided in our third quarter release.

Preliminary copper production of 420 million pounds for 2023 was within the guidance range of 420 to 470 million pounds.

The preliminary Q4 results show sales of 1.04 million ounces of gold and 117 million pounds of copper, as well as preliminary Q4 production of 1.05 million ounces of gold and 113 million pounds of copper.

The average market price for gold in Q4 was \$1,971 per ounce and the average market price for copper in Q4 was \$3.70 per pound.

Preliminary Q4 gold production was an improvement on Q3 and was the highest quarter for the year with stronger performances from Cortez, Phoenix and Pueblo Viejo.

This was partially offset by lower production at Loulo-Gounkoto, as planned, which still finished the year at the top end of the guidance range. Compared to Q3, Q4 gold cost of sales per ounce 2 is expected to be 6% to 8% higher, total cash costs per ounce 3 are expected to be 7% to 9% higher and all-in sustaining costs per ounce 3 are expected to be 8% to 10% higher than the prior quarter.

Preliminary Q4 copper production was in line with Q3, with consistent production across all three sites. Compared to Q3, Q4 copper cost of sales per pound 2 is expected to be 8% to 10% higher, C1 cash costs per pound 3 are expected to be 5% to 7% higher and all-in sustaining costs per pound 3 is expected to be 2% to 4% lower, principally on the back of lower capitalized waste stripping at Lumwana.

Barrick will provide additional discussion and analysis regarding its full year and Q4 2023 production and sales when the Company reports its quarterly and full year results before North American markets open on February 14, 2024.

Over 11 million people displaced in Sudan - minister

KHARTOUM

SUDAN said on Monday that the number of displaced people in the country has surpassed 11 million due to the ongoing conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Out of the displaced people, there are 4 million women and 3 million children, said Graham Abdel-Qadir, Sudan's acting minister of culture and information, in a statement. He said 90 percent of the displaced were from Khartoum, Gezira, and Darfur states.

Abdel-Qadir stressed the government's commitment to delivering humanitarian aid to those in need through procedures and arrangements guaranteeing the country's sovereignty. Sudan has been witnessing deadly clashes between the SAF and the RSF since April 15, 2023.

Xinhua

Prince William to assume some of cancer-stricken King Charles III's royal duties - media

LONDON

THE heir to the British throne, Prince William of Wales, will take over some of King Charles III's public duties as his father has been diagnosed with cancer, The Times of London reported.

According to the authoritative newspaper, the prince, who intended to take a short "vacation" in order to care for his wife, Princess Kate of Wales, after she underwent abdominal surgery, is now forced to return to performing his public duties earlier than planned, augmented by the added

responsibility of substituting for the monarch at certain events.

Buckingham Palace said earlier that doctors have recommended that the king refrain from public duties during his outpatient treatment, although he will continue to conduct state affairs and handle paperwork. The monarch's official duties include signing laws passed by the Parliament.

Charles III's scheduled visits to British Commonwealth members Australia and Canada, as well as his participation in the meeting of Commonwealth leaders in Samoa, also appeared to be in doubt, the



newspaper said.

According to the heir's schedule, he will be present as a statesman in a Royal Air Force (RAF) uniform at an awards ceremony at Windsor Castle on Wednesday.

English soccer player Ellen White, who helped the England women's national soccer team win the top trophy at the European Championships in 2022, will be among those receiving an award from the prince.

The heir will return to the British capital the same evening to attend an annual fund-

raising gala for the London Air Ambulance and is likely to give a speech. William, a former air ambulance pilot, became a patron of the charity in 2020.

Buckingham Palace added that Queen Camilla has no plans to change her schedule of public engagements while her husband undergoes medical treatment.

The Times estimates that during Charles III's treatment, the burden of responsibility will shift to other members of the royal family, most notably the queen and the heir to the throne. **Agencies**

Donors provide 430m USD for health, agriculture in South Sudan

JUBA

THE World Bank, European Union, and other donors on Monday announced 400 million U.S. dollars to fund South Sudan's health transformation project and an additional 30 million dollars for the resilient agriculture and livelihood project (RALP).

The health project aims to expand access to a basic package of health and nutrition services, improve health sector stewardship,

and strengthen the health system whereas the RALP will build the capacity in good agricultural practices, investment support for improving agricultural production, food production, animal vaccination and reduction of fish and waste losses.

Ousmane Dione, country director for Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, and South Sudan at the World Bank, said the two projects are landmarks that are critical for the development of South Sudan and to the benefit of all South Sudanese people.

"When you have health and when you have food, you have a provision for a long journey and that is important for the South Sudanese people.

It is coming at a time when investing in health in South Sudan is not only investing in future generations but also is investing in the productivity of South Sudan which is currently much needed," Dione told journalists in Juba, South Sudan's capital, during the signing of the memorandum of understanding for the projects.

He said agriculture productivity is important because it helps feed South Sudanese and produces excess to export which is a pride that every single nation should strive for and many countries who have been in tough situations have managed to pass the challenge.

"South Sudan will be able to go be-

yond that challenge to reflect that the country can be a nation, the peaceful nation, a united nation, stable nation which pave the way for future generations to be much more successful than the present generation which have taken a long way, a difficult way of fighting for their independence being today an independent country."

Dione said. Bak Barnaba Chol, South Sudan's minister for finance and planning, said health and agriculture are important for survival.

As a country, they have prioritized health and agriculture to move the country forward to safeguard the people from the deteriorating conditions they continue to live in. He

pledged transparency and accountability in implementing the projects to make sure that the funds are efficiently managed and effectively allocated and approved.

“

When you have health and when you have food, you have a provision for a long journey

Have confidence in coming year, live better life

CHINESE President Xi Jinping visited primary-level officials and residents in Tianjin ahead of the Spring Festival. He said that everyone should have confidence in the coming year and live a better life.

Xi's sincere words and care inspired hundreds of millions of people to embrace a better tomorrow in the new journey with confidence and vigor.

In the past year, there were both sunny and stormy days. Particularly, some regions in China have been hit by natural disasters such as floods, typhoons, earthquakes, landslides, snow and ice storms, which have adversely affected people's life and work.

In the face of difficulties, the army quickly arrived for the people, primary-level Party members and officials stayed at

their posts day and night, volunteers stepped forward against the odds, and disaster-stricken people actively joined self-rescue efforts. Countless people, hand in hand, have weathered the storm together and achieved significant victories in disaster relief.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, noted that a country is prosperous only when its people live in peace, saying that the CPC Central Committee as well as Party committees and governments at all levels are concerned about everyone's safety and well-being at all times. He also expressed the hope for villagers to rebuild their

homes and create a happy life with their own hands.

Party committees and governments at all levels must do an even better job in making meticulous arrangements for people's life and work in the disaster-affected areas, Xi said.

Officials and the general public should be united as one, and thus achieve major triumphs in their fight against the disasters and create a new life.

The more arduous the journey, the more precious the arrival. Over the past year, China has experienced trials and tribulations, but it also witnessed beautiful scenery and achieved significant accomplishments.

China has seen its economy

continuously rebound and improve, as well as a bumper harvest in twenty consecutive years. New breakthroughs in scientific and technological innovation have been achieved, and the formation of new productive forces has accelerated. China's high-level opening up has been continuously expanded, and the growth of residents' income has outpaced its economic growth.

China not only developed itself but also actively embraced the world.

The China-Central Asia Summit and the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation were successfully held, and the Chengdu Universiade and the Hangzhou Asian Games present-

ed spectacular moments.

The hard-won achievements were made against the backdrop of increasing unfavorable factors in the international political and economic environment, as well as the overlapping cyclical and structural problems at home. The Chinese people have created new opportunities, won the strategic initiative, and greatly boosted their confidence and determination in overcoming crises, tackling challenges, and responding to changing situations.

In front of difficulties and challenges, confidence is more precious than gold.

As the Spring Festival approaches, Pan Na, who lives in a mountainous village in Tianjin's

Jizhou district has been kept busy. Her B&B hotel has been fully booked, and she can't rest during the Spring Festival holiday. However, she feels content.

Thanks to low-interest loan policies, improved infrastructure such as nearby scenic spots, ski resorts, and vehicle charging piles, and enhanced transportation due to the coordinated development of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei, villagers like Pan have benefited from rural tourism. They are filled with confidence and anticipation for the coming new year.

In the new era, China boasts vast opportunities and potential. The future belongs to those who strive and take concrete actions. With unwavering confidence and a determined spirit, the country will continue to overcome obsta-

cles and challenges. The efforts made by the country will converge into a mighty force propelling the nation towards a happier and brighter future.

The goal of advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization is inspiring and simple. Ultimately, it is about delivering a better life for the people.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and is a crucial year for achieving the goals and tasks outlined in the 14th Five-Year Plan. With an untiring spirit, unremitting efforts and joint endeavor, the Chinese people will surely be able to cultivate the flowers of happiness and nurture a vibrant China that is full of hope. **People's Daily**

Republicans divided as US Senate set to vote on border bill

WASHINGTON

THE lead Republican negotiator in a bipartisan US Senate bill to toughen border security said his caucus should decide by yesterday whether to open debate on the proposal, while his party's leaders in the House of Representatives urged scrapping the deal.

The Senate legislation, which would also provide aid to US allies including Ukraine and Israel, is due for a procedural vote on Wednesday; 60 votes are needed to move forward with a floor debate.

Republicans are bitterly divided over the issue, with Donald Trump – the frontrunner for his party's presidential nomination – and House Speaker Mike Johnson loudly voicing opposition.

"If it's not supported on both sides of the aisle, then we shouldn't do this," Senator James Lankford told Reuters,

the day after the bill was unveiled following months of negotiations in which he reached agreement with Democratic Senator Chris Murphy and independent Senator Kyrsten Sinema.

The bill includes \$118 billion in new spending, including \$60.06 billion to aid Ukraine as it fights Russia's special military operation, \$14.1 billion for Israel in its conflict against Hamas and about \$20 billion for new enforcement efforts along the US-Mexico border.

The legislation would give the government emergency powers to refuse entry to migrants crossing the border or to quickly expel those who had already entered the US.

The US-Mexico border is a top issue for Republicans, with record numbers of migrants caught illegally crossing into the United States since Biden, a Democrat, took office in 2021.



James Lankford, the lead Republican negotiator on the Senate border and foreign aid package, speaks during a news interview on Capitol Hill in Washington, on Monday. AP

The US Border Patrol arrested about 2 million migrants at the border in fiscal year 2023, similar to record-breaking totals during Biden's first two years in office.

If the bill were passed by the Senate and House, and signed into law by Biden, it would usher

in the most significant changes in US immigration and border policy in decades.

Asked during a visit to Las Vegas what was next for the border bill, Biden said "hopefully passage in the Senate."

But the top four House Re-

publican leaders called for the Senate to nix the agreement on Monday.

"Any consideration of this Senate bill in its current form is a waste of time. It is DEAD on arrival in the House. We encourage the US Senate to reject it," Johnson, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, No. 3 Republican Tom Emmer and House Republican conference chair Elise Stefanik said in a statement.

Lankford said he hopes the deal can attract strong bipartisan support in the Senate.

"It's important for the bill, period. I've said from the beginning, if it's not supported on both sides of the aisle, then we shouldn't do this," the Oklahoma Republican said.

He also called for the legislation to be open to floor amendments.

"Both the Senate and House should work their wills. People should have some ownership. I definitely think there are areas that could improve in the bill ... Let's start the conversation," Lankford said.

The deal also faces opposition from progressive Democrats who are angry the measure does nothing to provide a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented people who have lived in the US for many years, including "Dreamer" immigrants who were brought in as children.

Agencies

French citizens' deaths to stir reflection on Paris' risky Ukraine line – Russian diplomat

MOSCOW



MOSCOW expects that the death of French nationals likely engaged in fighting as mercenaries

in Ukraine will spark the French public to reflect on the dangerous policy that Paris is pursuing vis-a-vis the conflict, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

"We hope that the incident [involving the deaths of several French nationals in Ukraine] will make the French public think carefully about whether its leadership's counterproductive and dangerous policy towards the conflict in Ukraine is appropriate," she noted, commenting on accusations against Russia after two French citizens had been killed and three more suffered wounds in Ukraine.

"While expressing outrage at the death of their fellow countrymen, French leaders are turning a blind eye to the fact that the weapons they provide [to Ukraine] are deliberately used by the Kiev regime to kill civilians in Russian cities," Zakharova stressed. "Moreover, Paris even cited the right to self-defense, trying to justify these atrocities," she added.

"Without going into the details of the incident that we are unaware of, I would say that any loss of life is always a tragedy," Zakharova said. "However, the French authorities have been stubbornly reluctant to recognize the fatal role that Paris, along with other Western capitals, has been playing in breeding the Ukrainian crisis since 2014, and indulging the regime in Kiev, which was killing its own civilians in Donbass for eight years," she pointed out.

The diplomat also emphasized that France continued contributing to keeping the Kiev clique afloat, "particularly by sending lethal weapons and training Ukrainian soldiers." "We have repeatedly said that France's increasing involvement in the Ukrainian conflict is not only prolonging it, adding to tensions, but is also endangering the lives of French nationals who, swayed by anti-Russian propaganda, travel to the

Rubble in British railway town raises red flags for PM Sunak

CREWE

A grand project to help revitalize the railway town of Crewe lies buried under mounds of earth, serving as a bleak warning for Britain's Conservatives and their fight to retain power.

The large building site at the center of the town in northwest England was supposed to be transformed into a glossy retail and entertainment complex that would crown a bus terminal and car park already under construction.

That part of the plan has now been halted, with local officials citing the government's scrapping of the northern leg of the High Speed 2 (HS2) rail project as a factor, alongside high inflation, declining property values and stretched households.

"It feels like Crewe's just kind of a dying town. I think that HS2 was one of the ways we were going to improve that, and now it's not going to happen," said local resident Andy Lewis as he waited patiently for a train at the

historic railway station, a regional hub almost two centuries old.

Voters across northern England were instrumental in driving the Conservatives to a big election win in 2019, inspired by Boris Johnson's pledges to deliver the dividends of Brexit and "level up" Britain's regions, long the poor cousins to London.

More than four years on, the political ground has shifted and opinion polls show the ruling party losing that support, a reversal that could help put it on course for a thumping national defeat by Labor at a general election expected this year.

Johnson was ousted as prime minister by his own lawmakers over COVID lockdown breaches, triggering a bout of chaotic infighting that saw Liz Truss reign for a matter of weeks before she too was forced out and replaced by Rishi Sunak, whose own premiership has been marked by resignations and rebellion.

The leveling-up drive has since been dented by the axing of the northern



leg of the HS2 rail network, a project aimed at better connecting up Britain's cities and economy, in a move decried by the former PM Johnson as "betraying the north of the country and the whole agenda of leveling up".

Many local businesses and residents had hoped the Crewe-to-Manchester spur of HS2 would bring billions of pounds of investment into the town.

"That was our opportunity, really, and I guess now it's gone," said Paul Colman, chief executive of the region's South Cheshire Chambers of

Commerce.

The northern leg was canceled by Sunak in September as estimated costs for the overall HS2 project soared above 100 billion pounds (\$126 billion) and the infrastructure watchdog warned there was a fundamental problem with Britain's ability to manage such large projects.

Sunak described it as a tough decision, but one driven by the spiraling cost, as well as a reduction in passenger numbers following the COVID pandemic. Speaking in the northern town of Accrington in January, he said all money saved by canceling the northern leg would be reinvested across the country.

"Fixing potholes, capping bus fares at two pounds, improving your local roads, dealing with pinch points, electrifying rail lines across the north, east, west. And that for me is all leveling up," the prime minister added.

Nonetheless, Crewe's Conservative member of parliament Kieran Mullan acknowledged that the loss of the HS2

link was a blow.

"I was disappointed," he told Reuters. "It had particular potential to help us when it came to connectivity."

He said the government had committed to extensive work to regenerate Crewe in light of the cancellation, though.

"I think actually people understand that leveling up is not an overnight challenge," he added. "It might be a generational challenge to unpick some of this longstanding inequality."

'Red wall' turns on Sunak

That may be of limited value to the party in the coming months. The parliamentary seat for Crewe and neighboring Nantwich is likely to revert to Labor at the next election, four separate polling models over the past year have predicted.

Crewe is part of the "Red Wall" of constituencies in the north of England that have traditionally voted Labour, but which swung to the Conservatives in 2019.

Agencies

China taps into potential of low-altitude economy

IN the frozen mountains, heavy-duty drones are commissioned to clear the ice off high-voltage lines in the sky.

Across vast stretches of cotton fields, agricultural drones are deployed methodically to gather real-time data on soil and crops, aiding farmers in precision farming.

Amidst the chaos of a fire, firefighting drones spray high-pressure water columns in the air, successfully taming the flames engulfing the upper floors of a building.

On a bustling film set, aerial drones swoop down from above, capturing breathtaking scenes with high-definition cameras.

As drones become increasingly integrated into various industries in China, the concept of the low-altitude economy is gaining traction, empowering countless sectors and giving rise to innovative business forms.

The term "low altitude" generally refers to airspace with a vertical distance of less than 1,000 meters above ground level. Depending on regional characteristics and practical needs, the distance can extend to up to 4,000 meters.

By energizing the market, providing policy support, strengthening technical capabilities, and promoting high-quality development of the industry, China is fully tapping into the potential of the low-altitude economy, enabling the industry to reach new heights.

Taking a "flying taxi" used to seem like a scene from a science fiction movie. It is becoming a reality nowadays that aerial commuting may put an end to traffic



A drone takes off from Dahejia township, Jishishan county, northwest China's Gansu province for emergency mapping of earthquake-stricken areas, Dec. 21, 2023. (Photo by Ding Kai/People's Daily Online)

congestion during rush hours.

This year, the range of services offered by an "air taxis" business in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province, continues to expand. The commuter route, connecting an international convention and exhibition center in Pingshan district and the central business district of Futian district, has reduced travel time from 60 minutes on the ground to just 13 minutes in the sky.

In Hefei, east China's Anhui province, the world's first commercially deployed unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) has achieved regular flights in Luogang Central Park.

Professionals analyze that the future of the low-altitude economy holds immense potential and the industry can be utilized not only for transportation systems but also for industrial systems. The emergence of more application scenarios will also give rise to new industrial chains. Advanced technologies such as digital technology, intelligent technology, and digital twin technology can all play a significant role in the low-altitude industry.

Chinese companies have already taken the lead in the low-altitude economy.

In terms of global market share and productization capabilities, Chinese civil UAV manufacturers, represented by DJI, are already highly competitive. DJI has estab-

lished a significant advantage in areas such as flight control, gimbal systems, image transmission, and self-developed imaging systems, with a current global market share exceeding 70 percent.

In 2023, China's civil UAV industry reported an output of 120 billion yuan (\$16.85 billion), ranking first in the world. It is expected that this number will be even higher by 2025. According to a recent white paper released by the International Digital Economy Academy (IDEA), the comprehensive contribution of the low-altitude economy to China's national economy will reach 3 trillion to 5 trillion yuan by 2025.

The low-altitude economy is becoming a new track for more and more cities.

In recent years, aiming at the strategic goal of building a "capital of aviation sports," Anyang, central China's Henan province, has established a drone industrial park, which can build a complete drone with just a single design drawing.

In Wuhu Aviation Industrial Park in Anhui province, an industry cluster with nearly 140 projects related to complete UAVs, drones, engines, maintenance, and operations has been established.

Hunan province in central China, the first pilot province in the country for all-area, low-altitude flights, has just completed flight

verification for 97 low-altitude air routes across the entire province. This can be regarded as a safety flight manual, based on which drones can fly to wherever they want to go.

At the flight service station in Hunan's Changsha, a large screen displays real-time information about the airspace in the province. The entire low-altitude airspace in Hunan is divided into 179 sections, and the real-time monitoring allows the province to know when and how each section is available. For every approved flight plan, a quick simulation can be conducted to ensure flight safety by determining its flight route.

In recent years, with a focus on developing the low-altitude economy, China has continuously strengthened multiple policy supports such as airspace, economic, and industrial policies. This has promoted synergies between strategic planning and local exploratory initiatives.

On Jan. 1, 2024, an interim regulation on the management of UAVs was implemented, which aims at the development of the low-altitude economy.

He Tianxing, vice president of EHang, the world's leading autonomous aerial vehicle technology platform company based in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, believes the regulation will standardize the flight and related activities of UAVs, and provide standardized safeguards for the commercial operation of UAVs, laying a solid foundation for advancing commercialization and improving the low-altitude economic ecosystem.

People's Daily

Ahead of PM Modi's UAE visit, preparations in full swing for 'Ahlan Modi'

DUBAI

AHEAD of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UAE, preparations for the Indian community event titled 'Ahlan Modi' are in full swing.

During his visit to the UAE, PM Modi will address the Indian diaspora at 'Ahlan Modi' on February 13, a day before the temple inauguration. PM Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the BAPS Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi on February 14.

As per Ahlan Modi 2024's handle on X, the first volunteers teams was briefed by volunteers Management at the venue to set clear roles and responsibilities needed to manage the participants expected at the event.

In a post on X, Ahlan Modi 2024 stated, "1st Volunteers teams Head briefing by Volunteers Management at venue to set clear roles & responsibilities, required to manage huge turnout expected on historic day. Don't forget to join on 13th February at Zayed sports City stadium Abudhabi."

According to the post on X, one batch of volunteers will manage logistics in Abu Dhabi while other batches will take care of the cultural performances. The volunteers are crucial to managing 65,000 people set to attend the event scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi.

In a post on X on Sunday, Ahlan Modi 2024 stated, "While one batch of volunteers manage stadium logistics in Abudhabi, other bunch take care of the cultural performances in Dubai, ensuring a spectacular welcome to PM Narendra Modi on 13th of February. Team #ahlanmodi truly putting in selfless service!"

"The volunteers of #AhlanModi form the



backbone of the event. They are crucial to managing 65k crowd of #indiansinuae & ensuring that the experience at Zayed Sports City stadium on the historic day 13 February in Abudhabi becomes a memory to be cherished lifelong," Ahlan Modi 2024 posted on X.

The event, whose title roughly translates to 'Hello Modi', will be held at the Sheikh Zayed Sports Stadium in Abu Dhabi. According to the release, the organisers expect to fill the stadium to its fullest capacity. Various volunteer committees have been set up for the detailed planning and smooth execution of this historic event.

Meanwhile, Indian Embassy in UAE said that people across the globe await the inauguration of the BAPS Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi by PM Modi, which is scheduled for February 14.

In a post on social media 'X', the Indian Embassy in the UAE, said that the magnificent visuals, with their spellbinding architecture, show the temple in all its grandeur. "The world awaits the inauguration of the @AbuDhabiMandir @AbuDhabiMandir by PM @narendramodi. Visuals resplendent with its spellbinding architecture show the Temple in all its grandeur," the Indian Embassy in UAE posted on X.

Earlier in January, India's Ambassador to UAE, Sunjay Sudhir visited the BAPS Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi to see the progress of its construction. The temple announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 is nearing its completion.

In a post on X, Indian Embassy in UAE stated, "Less than month to go! @BAPS Hindu Temple @AbuDhabiMandir in Abu Dhabi, announced by PM @narendramodi in 2015, is fast nearing completion. Amb @sunjaysudhir visited the temple to see the progress."

Recently, PM Modi accepted the invitation extended by Swami Ishwarachandas and Swami Brahmaviharidas, along with the board of directors for the inauguration of the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi on February 14, BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha said in a press statement.

In December, PM Modi and the BAPS Swami Ishwarachandas met at the Prime Minister's residential office and PM Modi graciously accepted the invitation, expressing his enthusiastic support for the historic and iconic temple.

ANI

The Guardian

SPORT

Simba SC and Young Africans SC ought to construct stadiums

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

WHEN discussing soccer in Tanzania, it is impossible for a soccer supporter to overlook the rich history of traditional powerhouses Simba SC and Young Africans SC (Yanga).

These clubs, deeply rooted in Tanzania and African football, have crafted a remarkable legacy.

Matches bringing together the two sides constitute the fifth-best derby in Africa, rivaling iconic matchups like the Soweto derby featuring Kaizer Chiefs vs Orlando Pirates in South Africa, Al Ahly vs Zamalek, and the Casablanca derby between Wydad Casablanca and Raja Casablanca in Morocco.

While other renowned derbies, such as the Cairo derby (Al Ahly vs Zamalek) in Egypt and the Tunis derby (Espérance vs Club Africain) in Tunisia, capture attention, Simba SC vs Young Africans SC stands out as the most celebrated and widely followed derby in the top five across the continent.

These clubs have not only left an indelible mark domestically but also made significant strides in continental competitions like the CAF Champions League and the CAF Confederation Cup.

In the 2022/23 season, Young Africans SC, also known as Yanga, reached the final of the CAF Confederation Cup and lost to Algeria's USM Alger.

Simba SC's impressive performance in CAF inter-club tournaments has solidified the squad's standing, given the outfit is currently holding the seventh position in terms of quality at the club level in Africa.

Together, Simba SC and Yanga continue to demonstrate their stature both nationally and on the continental stage.

These clubs, steeped in history and adored by passionate fans, have long played their home games at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and occasionally at the Azam Complex Stadium, both located in Dar es Salaam.

However, as the winds of change sweep through Tan-



Simba SC defender Henock Inonga (L) attempts to clear the ball against Yanga's midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki when the two sides locked horns in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League tie that was played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. Yanga won 5-1. AGENCIES

zaniaan football, the time has come for Simba SC and Yanga to carve out their legacies by having dedicated stadiums.

The Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, an iconic venue that has witnessed countless moments of triumph and heartbreak, has been the traditional home for both Simba SC and Yanga.

Yet, the prospect of having their stadiums is more than a matter of convenience, it is a stride towards establishing a distinct identity, fostering community engagement, and nurturing the next generation of football enthusiasts.

The significance of having a home ground transcends the practical aspects of logistics and scheduling.

A dedicated stadium becomes the fortress where a team forges its legacy, where the roar of the crowd becomes an intrinsic part of the game.

Simba SC and Yanga, with

their rich histories and passionate fan bases, deserve a stage that echoes their legacy and becomes a symbol of pride for the supporters.

One of the driving factors behind the clamour for dedicated stadiums is the desire to create a unique atmosphere for fans.

The Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, while historic, is a shared space that hosts various events, diluting the home advantage for both clubs.

A dedicated stadium ensures that every match is a homecoming, where the stands resonate with the distinct chants and cheers of loyal supporters.

This symbiotic relationship between the team and its fans is a catalyst for success, fostering an unbreakable bond that transcends victories and defeats.

Moreover, having stadiums allows Simba SC and Yanga to establish a hub for football

development within their communities.

Youth academies, training facilities, and outreach programs become integral components of these footballing meccas, nurturing talent from a grassroots level.

A dedicated stadium becomes more than just a playing field, it becomes a beacon of inspiration for aspiring footballers, a place where dreams are born and nurtured.

An illustrative case in point is Azam FC and its training facilities at Chamazi on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam. The club has consistently endeavoured to nurture the best young talents, contributing significantly to the nation's growth.

Notably, at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations, Tanzania's Taifa Stars comprised over eight players who had progressed through Azam FC's youth squads.

This underscores the positive impact of Azam FC's long-standing investment in training facilities, fostering the growth and development of youth football.

Financially, owning a stadium grants the clubs greater autonomy and revenue streams. Revenue generated from ticket sales, merchandise, and events held at the stadium can be reinvested into the clubs, further strengthening their infrastructure, scouting networks, and community initiatives.

The long-term sustainability of Simba SC and Yanga hinges on their ability to not only be successful on the pitch but also to be financially self-sufficient off it.

The journey towards having their stadiums is not without its challenges. Securing funding, navigating bureaucratic hurdles, and garnering public support are monumental tasks that require the collaboration of various stakeholders. However, the potential rewards far outweigh the challenges.

The establishment of dedicated stadiums for Simba SC and Yanga signifies a pivotal moment in Tanzanian football, marking the evolution from being mere clubs to becoming enduring institutions.

Simba SC and Yanga have an enduring legacy that transcends the boundaries of the football pitch.

They are woven into the cultural fabric of Tanzania, representing the hopes and aspirations of a nation.

A dedicated stadium is not just a physical structure, it becomes a living testament to the resilience, passion, and spirit of the people it serves.

In conclusion, the call for Simba SC and Yanga to have their stadiums is a rallying cry for a new era in Tanzanian football.

It is a declaration that these clubs, with their storied pasts and fervent fan bases, are ready to carve out a future where their destinies are shaped within the confines of their stadiums.

The journey is arduous, but the rewards are boundless - a legacy that reverberates through generations and stadiums that stand as monuments to the enduring spirit of Simba SC and Yanga.

Fruit seller wins 10m/- in Magift Dabodabo promo

By Guardian Correspondent

A FRUIT Seller and resident of Tanga, Salim Ndaro, yesterday was announced as the winner of the 'Magift Dabodabo' promotion run by the Tigo company and awarded 10 million shillings.

Speaking in Tanga after receiving the cheque from Tigo, Ndaro said the money he got will help him to repair his house and use the rest to increase his fruit capital.

"I am really grateful to get this money. I am very happy. It is very difficult to get a big amount of money like that," said Ndaro.

Talking about how he won, the winner said that he was making transactions to buy airtime from time to time. Then he got a call from Tigo informing him that he had emerged as the winner of 10 million shillings.

"I didn't believe it until they said they were coming to my house to hand me a cheque. I advise other customers to participate by making many transactions," said Ndaro.

On his part, Tigo's sales manager for Coastal Zone, Abdul Ally, said that there is a grand finale draw left in which the winner will be awarded a new car.

"The winner of the car that will be found in our final draw will have the opportunity to choose one person of their choice who will also be given a new car," said Ally.

The promotion was officially launched in November, last year, and is expected to end this month by giving a prize of a car and 30 million shillings to the winners of the draw.



Salim Ndaro (L), the winner of Tshs 10 million from Magift Dabodabo promotion, speaks to journalists in front of his house in Tanga Region after receiving a cheque from Tigo yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

TOC urges more women to be involved in sports leadership

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) has said for the country to develop and improve in sports there is a need to have more women who are well equipped in sports leadership.

This was said on Monday in Kibaha, Coast Region by TOC president Gulam Rashid during the opening of a one-week 'Women In Sports' seminar.

He said the seminar, which has attracted women from various sports associations, aims to build confidence in the women and encourage them to go for big positions in sports.

Some of the topics which the women will learn, include Olympic movement sports leadership skills, health and fitness, barriers to sports participation for women and girls, sports leadership, striving for gender equity and equality in sports, and women sports sponsorship.

Some skills the women will acquire from the training are strategic planning and sports management.

"This training will give



Tanzanian athlete, Magdalena Shauri, is pictured celebrating after triumphing in the women's category of last year's Tigo Kili Half Marathon held at Moshi University College of Cooperative and Business Studies (MUCCOBS) venue in Moshi. Magdalena is one of the country's athletes set to battle it out in the coming Olympic Games that will be hosted by France. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

the women power not to look down upon themselves and play second fiddle to

their male counterparts. This is also the time that the society should stop undermining

women," he said.

In recent years female athletes have been making signifi-

cant strides in various feeds. While there is still a long way to go in terms of gender equali-

ty in sports, the progress made is still worth to celebrate.

Athletics is a sport where women have done well. Female runners like Magdalena Shauri and Failuna Matanga have represented the country in various international competitions and have made the country proud.

Women's marathon, half marathon and 5,000m races have become increasingly popular, with more and more women taking part in these events. Thanks to the TOC and AT that have been working to create opportunities for women to participate in athletics from the grassroots to the international level.

Football is another sport where women are starting to make their mark. The Tanzania Football League was established in 2016 providing a platform for women to showcase their talents and compete at the national level.

Although the league is still in its infancy, it has already produced some talented players and it's promising for the near future.

The women's national football team has competed at

many international events where it has been doing well.

In recent years, the Government has taken steps to promote women's sports and encourage more women to participate.

The National Sports Council has established programs to develop women's sports, providing funding for training and equipment, and organizing tournaments and competitions.

These efforts have yielded positive results, with more girls showing interest in sports and competing in various competitions.

Despite the efforts, there are still many challenges facing women's sports in Tanzania. Lack of funding, limited access to facilities and equipment and cultural biases against women in sports are just major obstacles.

However, the progress made so far is a testament to the resilience and determination of female athletes in the country, and it is hoped that with continued support and investment, women's sports in Tanzania will continue to grow and flourish.

Nigeria vs South Africa: Revenge on the cards for Bafana Bafana

ABIDJAN

THE TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations, Cote d'Ivoire 2023, has reached fever pitch, with the semifinals line-up officially confirmed after Nigeria, DR Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, and South Africa secured their respective places.

Bafana Bafana face old-time foes, Nigeria, in the first semifinal today, 7th February, in what will be a repeat of the 2000 semifinal that saw the Super Eagles overcome the 1996 champions 2-0 in Lagos.

The rivalry between the two sides will be renewed in Cote d'Ivoire as Nigeria chases their fourth title, while South Africa looks ahead to what has been an elusive second.

Following the 2000 semifinal defeat, the Super Eagles edged Bafana Bafana in the quarterfinals in the 2019 edition in Egypt with a narrow 2-1 win.

The two sides have met 14 times, with the Super Eagles enjoying a lion's share of the results with 7 victories against 2 for South Africa, with the remaining 5 ending in stalemates.

This will be another entry for the rich history books of African football, with Bafana Bafana now under the guidance of two former African champions against a star-studded Super Eagles side.

The Southern African side is led by TotalEnergies AFCON 2017-winning coach Hugo Broos, who guided the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon to victory five years ago. The Belgian tactician is assisted by Helman Mkhalele, a key member of the 1996 golden generation that lifted South Africa's first and only African title.

It will be an uphill battle containing an explosive Super Eagles side led by the dangerous Victor Osimhen and the red-hot Ademola Lookman.

Kick-off at the Stade de la Paix in Bouake today is at 17:00. Meanwhile, South Africa coach Hugo Broos admitted he took great satisfaction from his side's TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations semi-final qualification after years of pessimism surrounding Bafana Bafana.

Broos guided the 1996 champions past Cape Verde on penalties on Saturday to set up a last four clash with Nigeria.

The Belgian believes the achievement can boost South African football after many had written off their chances before the tournament.

"Many people in South Africa didn't believe in this team but we believed, and the players believed in themselves," Broos stated after the quarter-final win.

"Reaching the semi-finals is great for South African football which has struggled in recent years."

Broos reserved special praise for goalkeeper Ronwen Williams whose shootout heroics were key to victory.

"When you have a keeper who saves four penalties it's not luck. He was man of the match today," said Broos.

The coach also acknowledged the difficult task awaiting South Africa against a star-studded Nigeria side boasting the likes of Ademola Lookman.

But he insisted his squad will be ready for Wednesday's showdown after banishing past doubts over their quality.

"The semi-final will be tough against Nigeria's great players but we have nothing to lose now," Broos stated.

"The players will recover and prepare, but staying focused is essential."

After years in the doldrums, South Africa are daring to dream again thanks to Broos' vision and belief.

CAFOnline

Morocco stick with Regragui in spite of AFCON 'failure'

RABAT

WALID Regragui will continue as Morocco coach in spite of their Africa Cup of Nations failure, the national football federation said in a statement on Monday.

Hopes were high for Morocco in the Ivory Coast after Regragui had led them to the semi-finals of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, a first for any African nation. After finishing top of their group with two wins and a draw, however, the Atlas Lions lost 2-0 to South Africa in the round of 16, which "caused disappointment", the federation said in the statement.

"I failed. It's my failure, not the players," said Regragui who had previously said he would step down if Moroccan did not at least reach the quarter-finals.

But the 48-year-old head coach will remain in place with the Moroccan federation saying it wanted to "mobilise all means to ensure full success for the national team" ahead of the 2025 AFCON and 2030 World Cup, which are both set to take place in the North African country.

Regragui's AFCON was also marred when he was suspended by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) after an altercation with Congolese defender Chancel Mbemba at the end of a group match -- a decision that was later overruled after an appeal from the Moroccan federation.

AFP

AFCON semi-final with Nigeria will be tough - South Africa legends



South Africa captain Neil Tovey lifts the Africa Cup of Nations trophy in 1996 as then President Nelson Mandela celebrates. Agencies

DURBAN

NEIL Tovey and Mark Williams, key figures when South Africa won their lone Africa Cup of Nations title, believe defeating 2024 semi-finals opponents Nigeria will be "tough".

Bafana Bafana (The Boys) and the Super Eagles meet in the central Ivory Coast city of Bouake today with a place in the February 11 final on the line.

Nigeria are favourites for several reasons, including a perfect past record against South Africa in the competition with three victories.

The west Africans won a 2000 semi-final in Nigeria 2-0, a 2004 group match in Tunisia 4-0 and a 2019 quarter-final in Egypt 2-1 through a late goal from current captain William Troost-Ekong.

But South Africa, whose starting line-up includes nine locals, one player

based in Egypt and another with a Portuguese second division club, are not without hope, insist Tovey and Williams.

Central defender Tovey captained the 1996 title-winning team and forward Williams came off the bench to score twice within two minutes and sink Tunisia 2-0 in the final in Johannesburg.

Victory for Bafana came one year after the Springboks won the Rugby World Cup and South Africans

basked in the sporting successes two years after the collapse of apartheid.

"It is going to be very tough against Nigeria -- a final before the final," Tovey told AFP in a telephone interview from the South African port city of Durban.

"We have suffered many defeats against them, starting with a four-goal mauling in a 1994 World Cup qualifier. More recently, however, the tide has begun to turn.

- Riddled with upsets -

"What we dare not do in Bouake is retreat into a defensive shell. That would be playing into the hands of the Nigerians.

"South Africa must approach the match in a similar manner to the game against Morocco -- defend in depth when necessary but also apply pressure."

In a tournament riddled with upsets, one of the biggest was South Africa winning 2-0 against 2022 World Cup semi-finalists

Morocco in a last-16 encounter. Tovey says he is impressed with South Africa, who have reached the Cup of Nations semi-finals for the first time since the loss to co-hosts Nigeria 24 years ago.

"They are not trying to be clever -- they are well organised and perform the basics well. Every player understands his role.

"Take the crucial final group match against Tunisia, which could have eliminated Bafana had they lost. It ended 0-0, but I was impressed with our game management."

Johannesburg-based Williams told AFP he was struck by the team spirit of South Africa, who have not conceded in four matches since losing their opener 2-0 to Mali.

"Having eight Mamelodi Sundowns players in the starting lineup helps a lot. You can see the players know each other very well.

"When you have a mix of local and foreign-based players there can be initial misunderstandings. Also, (Egypt-based) Percy Tau is a former Sundowns star.

"Make no mistake, it is not going to be easy against Nigeria. They have always had extremely skilful players and the likes of (Victor) Osimhen and (Ademola) Lookman are continuing the tradition.

Both Tovey and Williams say the Ivory Coast will overcome the Democratic Republic of Congo in the later semi-final today in Abidjan.

AFP

From England youth to AFCON star: Lookman plays leading role for Nigeria

ABIDJAN

ADEMOLA Lookman has stolen the limelight from star man Victor Osimhen on Nigeria's run to the Africa Cup of Nations semi-finals, with the former England youth international scoring all their goals so far in the knockout stage.

While reigning African footballer of the year Osimhen has not found the net at the tournament since the Super Eagles' opening 1-1 draw with Equatorial Guinea, Lookman bagged a brace in the 2-0 defeat of Cameroon in the last 16 and followed that with the only goal in the 1-0 defeat of Angola in the quarter-finals.

Nigeria may need Lookman to extend that run against South Africa today, with Osimhen a major doubt for the game with an abdominal problem.

Most analysis of Nigeria has focused on Osimhen's lack of goals as well as the approach adopted by coach Jose Peseiro, who has successfully put the emphasis on not conceding.

"I have chosen another strategy. The players believe in it -- don't con-

cede goals because we will score at least one," Peseiro said in one press briefing in Abidjan.

His side have kept four straight clean sheets en route to the semi-finals, following a switch to a three-man central defence.

However, the 26-year-old Lookman is the difference-maker just now and has quickly made it impossible for Peseiro to drop him.

That is despite the formidable depth available to Nigeria in attack, with AC Milan's Samuel Chukwueze, Kelechi Iheanacho and the veteran Ahmed Musa kicking their heels on the bench.

Perhaps Lookman never would have started in the first place but for an injury to Victor Boniface which ruled the Bayer Leverkusen forward out just before the AFCON began.

Yet there is a sense that every Nigeria player is pulling in the same direction as they set their sights on winning a fourth Cup of Nations crown for Africa's most populous country.

"We are behind each other. We don't take anything for granted. I think



Ademola Lookman celebrates after scoring in Nigeria's 1-0 win over Angola in the Africa Cup of Nations quarter-finals. Agencies

that shows in our work ethic, how we fight for each other, how we defend, how we attack."

Lookman said after collecting the award for man of the match against Cameroon.

- Settled at Atalanta -

He was not part of the Nigerian team that bowed out of the last AFCON in the last 16 in Cameroon in 2022, but that was the year

big changes happened in Lookman's career.

The Nigeria Football Federation had already been trying for some time to get London-born Lookman to change allegiance despite having represented England as a youth, just like Alex Iwobi and Victor Moses had done previously.

He eventually made his debut in a decisive World Cup qualifying play-off against Ghana in March 2022 and has not looked back.

"Both of my parents are Nigerian and my two older sisters were also born in Nigeria. So I was the only one out of us to be born here," he told British newspaper The Guardian in 2021.

Lookman began his career at Charlton Athletic but was in the Premier League with Everton by the time he played in the England team that won the Under-20 World Cup in 2017 alongside the likes of Dominic Calvert-Lewin, Dominic Solanke and Fikayo Tomori.

He has since played for RB Leipzig, Fulham and Leicester City, but is now flourishing at interna-

tional level at a time when he appears in better form than ever in his club career.

A move to Italy to sign for Atalanta in August 2022 has been key, as he quickly settled and scored 15 goals in his first season there.

Lookman has added seven more so far in this campaign, and playing under Gian Piero Gasperini for one of Serie A's best sides has helped him become established in the Nigeria side.

"I definitely have a defensive role, to help the team within the structure, but that defensive role also allows me to attack," Lookman told The Times in an interview last year of his club manager.

"Italian football is known for structure... They're so drilled on structure here."

From Bergamo to Bouake, where Peseiro's well-drilled team face South Africa as Lookman aims to take a step closer to adding the AFCON title with Nigeria to that Under-20 World Cup winner's medal he picked up in the colours of England.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

From England youth to AFCON star: Lookman plays leading role for Nigeria



PAGE 19

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans beat Dodoma Jiji 1-0 at Chamazi Complex on Monday evening to reclaim the top spot in the NBC Premier League title race. After last weekend's disappointing draw with Kagera Sugar, Young Africans knew victory over Dodoma Jiji would take them back above Azam.

However, Dodoma Jiji were agonisingly close to holding the reigning champions to another draw but second-half substitute Mudathir Yahya netted four minutes to stoppage time to earn a 1-0 victory for Miguel Gamondi's side.

The victory took Young Africans to 34 points, three ahead of Azam's team, before tomorrow's final rescheduled game against Mashujaa.

In his post-match interview, Gamondi did not shy away from criticising Dodoma Jiji approach though he is delighted with the progress his team is making since the resumption of the campaign last week.

"I knew it would be difficult. I told you before that if we do not score in the first half, it will be really tough. Even in the first half, let me say it was not football, they wasted a lot of time, and disrupted the game.

"It is okay. It is in the hands

Miguel Gamondi highlights Yanga's progress after reclaiming top spot



Young Africans striker Joseph Guede fights for the ball with three Dodoma Jiji players during their NBC Premier League match at the Chamazi Complex in Dar es Salaam on Monday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YOUNG AFRICANS SC

of the referee but I can't blame my players. They played well, they controlled the whole game. We created chances and finally, maybe the other team was tired, we scored. I think it is a well-deserved win," he said.

Gamondi knows issues will

arise throughout the long and winding campaign, but that air of positivity reared its head once again.

"We are building a rhythm little bit by bit. We are still missing players but I am very optimistic and positive because today we played much

better than the other day. It is difficult to play against ten players behind the ball but we did very well and hopefully, we continue progressing and do better. What we need to do is to put the ball in the net," he added.

Young Africans do have

a gruesome schedule coming up. Four league games against Mashujaa, Prisons, KMC and JKT Tanzania, plus a Federation Cup game with Polisi Tanzania and crunch CAF Champions League clashes with CR Belouizdad and Al Ahly await.

Yanga launches anniversary week ahead of exciting encounter against Tanzania Prisons

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans have launched a week-long celebration to mark their 89th anniversary, whose climax will be on February 11 in Mbeya.

Briefing reporters on Monday in Dar es Salaam, Young Africans' media and communication officer, Ally Kamwe, says a lot of events have been lined up to spice up the week.

"Today, we are going to sign a partnership with one of the biggest hospitals in the world, and we will re-open our newly refurbished Young Africans Sports Club headquarters at Jangwani Street in Dar es Salaam," says Kamwe.

He added: "On Thursday, we will have a big surprise for our members. Then on Sunday, it will be the climax of our 89th anniversary to be held at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya...and on the same day, we will play against Tanzania Prisons."

He then seized the platform to encourage many Young African fans to flock to Mbeya in big numbers to witness the big day.

Young Africans face a crucial league encounter against Mashujaa in Tanzania, slated for tomorrow, kicking off at 7:00 PM at the Azam Complex.

The match carries significant weight for Young Africans as they aim to maintain their momentum and secure vital points in their campaign.

Following their clash with Mashujaa, Young Africans will embark on a journey to Mbeya for their next fixture against Tanzania Prisons.

Scheduled to take place at the Sokoine Stadium, the game is set for Sunday, commencing at 4:00 pm.

The match also presents another opportunity for Young Africans to showcase their prowess on the field and further solidify their position in the league standings.

With 13 games under their belt, Young Africans currently lead the NBC Premier League standings with an impressive tally of 34 points.

Their performance speaks volumes, having triumphed in 11 matches, one draw, and suffered just a single defeat. This remarkable record underscores their dominance and determination to clinch the championship title.

As Young Africans gear up for these crucial fixtures, their focus remains unwavering on securing victories and extending their lead at the top of the table.

With their stellar form and strategic gameplay, they aim to uphold their position as frontrunners in the Tanzania Mainland Premier League poised for success in the upcoming matches.

'Resurrected' Ivory Coast could go on to win Afcon

By Karl Matchett

SACKED a manager, beat the entire continent. It would make a redemption story improbable enough to make the Mighty Ducks, the Karate Kid or even Rocky blush, but it's what Ivory Coast are facing the prospect of at the Africa Cup of Nations. The hosts of this year's tournament were within a whisker of being knocked out embarrassingly early on home soil, but a brave decision looks to have become an inspired one, with the Elephants now just 90 minutes away from their first Afcon final in almost a decade.

This, after being only injury time away from an ignominious exit. From the group stage, the top two go through - and so do four of the six third-placed teams. In other words, only the worst eight nations from the starting 24 fail to make the knockouts at the Afcon, and Ivory Coast put themselves firmly on course to be in that collection after a win and two defeats.

They were fifth-best of the six third-placed teams, right up until the 90th minute of Ghana's game with Mozambique. At the time, Ghana led 2-0 and were going through; fast forward four minutes of stoppage time and Mozambique had scored twice, Ghana went out instead and - coupled with Zambia losing

to Morocco - Ivory Coast were given a reprieve.

Head coach Jean-Louis Gasset, however was not. His dismissal after Ivory Coast's heaviest-ever defeat on home soil, 4-0 against Equatorial Guinea, left assistant coach Emmerse Fae (pictured) - capped 41 times in a playing career which saw him briefly feature for Reading - in charge for his first-ever job, with his debut match in charge coming against the reigning champions of Africa, Senegal.

If that was trial by fire, he has since shown an ability to unite a group and, just as importantly, judge games well enough to make impactful substitutions and harness the atmosphere within the squad which has been buoyed by the manner of their last two victories: a late equaliser and penalty shootout victory, then an

even later equaliser and last-minute extra time winner.

The sense of destiny is growing, and so is the assurance of the Ivory Coast squad - and their fans.

And no wonder, given the manner of them escaping both the group stage and knock-out elimination so far. A man down to Mali for well over an hour of the quarter-final all told, a penalty saved and two last-minute strikes? Then another red card? The script was already so far-fetched with the mid-tournament dismissal, why not make it even more wild and unbelievable?

But if Ivory Coast have already restored pride and respectability with the distance gone in

the tournament, thoughts must now be colder and more brutal if they want to lift the trophy. Results have been spectacular in their arrival, but the performances in both knockout games have been below what the players are capable of. To an extent that's expected given all the turnaround, but they need to be able to find their structure much faster once the first ball is kicked.

Fae knows this, and has addressed it ahead of the semi-final with DR Congo. "We were

lucky against Senegal and Mali to come back each time," he said.

"We need to try to control the match rather than enduring the pressure and being forced to struggle and having to make the effort to come back.

"I told the players we were dead after the defeat against Equatorial Guinea, and we were resurrected after the Morocco game with Zambia."

If the Elephants have been resurrected, they still face yet more danger in their next challenge to stay alive. DR Congo have the second-highest xG at the tournament, behind only Nigeria. They have also won possession in the final third more frequently than anyone else and are third for touches in the opponents' box - though Ivory Coast themselves top that particular category.

It should make for an intriguing semi-final with DRC coming into it out of the spotlight and perhaps slightly underappreciated for their efforts thus far, given they drew all three group matches and their round of 16 game, knocking out Egypt only on penalties. Their first win at the 2023 Afcon finally arrived in the quarters, Guinea dispatched 3-1. Given DRC hadn't reached a semi-final since 2015 and have just two tournament wins to their name, the most recent being 1974, Ivory Coast are perhaps not the only ones feeling the call of destiny.

DRC are known as the Leopards, notably a big cat, the animal with, supposedly, nine lives. It appears that at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations, we're discovering exactly how many the Elephants have.

THE INDEPENDENT

EATV WEDNESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MJADALA (r)
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Mpera Mpera
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Koli Za Wana
18:30 #HASHAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid week Movie
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 EATV SAA 1

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

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05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

