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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 9182 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA TUESDAY 4 JUNE, 2024



Transparency crucial in Nest tendering processes Page 3



50 young women in Dar get laptops Page 4



Establish free medical camps once a month, hospitals urged Page 6

Page 13

Early spraying of quelea saves vast cereal harvests

The Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA) eased the spraying exercise by conducting surveys on the invasive pests and birds prior to starting actual spraying

By Correspondent Idda Mushi, Morogoro

SPRAYING operations by the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA), where Tanzania is a key member, have rescued 1.2m tonnes of crops including rice, endangered by a quelea quelea migratory wave.

Didas Moshi, the DLCO-EA manager, said here yesterday during an exercise to eradicate the birds using a spraying aircraft purchased for the purpose.

"As the law forbids spraying chemicals in farms, we wait for the birds to sleep and then we follow them in those areas," he said, noting that the destructive birds are massively hatched during heavy rain seasons.

This year's El Nino situation paved the way for plenty of breeding, he said, alerting farmers to avoid picking birds that are found to have died massively in one area.

Birds dying of poison pose a serious health risk, he said of the queleas, small weaver birds native to sub-Saharan Africa and as major seasonal threat for grain crops such as rice, sorghum, millet and wheat.

Expected harvests were rescued in ten regions countrywide when the two conducted a special operation to scare and destroy the birds using special aircrafts, he said, valuing the prospective harvest as worth up to two million dollars, meanwhile as the exercise is still being pursued.

Spraying was conducted in Dodoma, Singida, Mbeya, Manyara, Morogoro, Shinyanga, Tabora, Kigoma, Mwanza and Mara regions, with this seasonal work being the principal occupation of DLCO-EA since being formed 62 years ago. Tanzania is a member country and works with the organisation to protect crops from the invasive pests, he stated, elaborating that the organisation does not only fight quelea quelea but also many other invasive pests such as armyworms and tsetse fly.

During the recent rainy season the agency witnessed a large wave of quelea quelea, pushing up efforts to fight the birds, by purchasing one aircraft. The agency was soon compelled to add another aircraft to reach more regions, he

TURN TO PAGE 2

Aerospace faculty delivers Samia fifth 'honoris causa'



President Samia Suluhu Hassan delivers an address at the Korea Aerospace University shortly after being conferred the university's Honorary Doctorate in the aviation sector in South Korea's capital, Seoul, yesterday. Photo: State House

By Salome Kitomari, Seoul

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan's major investments in and contributions to the aviation sector in the country along with her firm leadership in several other areas have made the Korean Aerospace University (KAU) confer her an honorary doctorate degree.

The award explained as due to noble causes 'honoris causa,' the fifth such award after receiving others from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) of India and Ankara University of Turkey.

KAU also awarded President Samia due to her firm efforts to push the country's development through her 4Rs self-crafted philosophy of reconciliation, resilience, reform and rebuild that promotes socio-economic prosperity and multiparty democracy.

In the award ceremony, KAU president Hee Young Hurr lauded President Samia's exceptional dedication and influence, particularly in the aviation sector, including airport infrastructure development.

He said the visiting leader was the only female president in Africa and the first in Tanzania, and who has brought a number of socio-economic changes in a short period.

Through the 4Rs, President Samia has brought the nation together promoting social welfare while being a firm leader in climate change and clean cooking energy in Africa, he stated.

He referred to engaging in an international film, 'The Royal Tour,' a documentary which has greatly helped improve the tourism sector.

TURN TO PAGE 2

Envoys make group visit, applauding SGR progress

By Guardian Reporter

A NUMBER of high ranking diplomats have hailed the standard gauge railway (SGR) project citing it as an outstanding project in elevating the country's transportation sector.

This observation was made during a successful SGR locomotive trial for key stakeholders, involving ambassadors, bankers, subcontractors, other diplomats, government officials and other partners engaged in various stages of the project.

Yapi Merkezi, the principal contractor for the project, hosted Ugandan high

commissioner Dr Aziz Ponary Mlima, Qatari ambassador Fahad Rashid Al Muraikhi and Omani ambassador Hilal bin Saud Al Shaidhani, alongside the contracting firm's national envoy and leader of the group, Turkish ambassador Dr Mehmet Güllüo lu.

Contractors implementing the project also expressed confidence that the project will deliver extraordinary benefits to Tanzania, boosting connectivity, stimulating economic growth and enhancing the quality of life for millions.

Team leader and ambassador of Turkey said the major project is a historic moment in Tanzania's history, taking

note of its procurement sourcing as enhancing ties with emerging market economies.

The mainly Middle East countries with close links to Tanzania believe that such projects can be duplicated in future, where the capital and technology is sourced from relatively near middle income economies.

The envoys expressed satisfaction with the quality of the train and the services, underlining that it signals a new era in the country's transportation sector.

The Turkish envoy praised collaborative efforts between the two countries on the project, and remarkable progress so far, paving the way for enhanced connectiv-

TURN TO PAGE 2

Wildlife intrusions down by 80pc with electric fence, tree planting

The 13-kilometer elephant corridor cuts through Kanyeja, Sole and Mang'ula A villages

By Guardian Reporter

RESTORATION of the Nyerere Selous-Udzungwa wildlife corridor has reached an important stage following construction of an electric fence and planting of 40,000 species of indigenous trees.

Goodluck Mallya, the Kilombero District wildlife officer told members of the Journalists Environmental Association

of Tanzania (JET) when the team visited the corridor to witness the progress registered in the restoration process.

Successful restoration of the wildlife corridor is expected to reduce human wildlife conflicts (HWC) by 80 percent, he said, highlighting that the Nyerere Selous-Udzungwa wildlife corridor is a vital aspect of the southern tourism circuit.

It connects protected landscapes, namely the Nyerere Selous ecosystem and Udzungwa Mountains National Park, where the government in its five years strategy - 2022 to 2026 - plans to restore 20 corridors in the zone.

Seven corridors are being restored including the Nyerere Selous-Udzungwa strategic pathway, as data with the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry indicates that up to last August upwards of eight out of 20 corridors had been partly restored.

"Our target is to plant 100,000 trees to create a friendly environment for wildlife.

TURN TO PAGE 2

SPORTS



GAMONDI HAILS YANGA AS THE BEST TEAM IN TANZANIA AFTER FINAL TRIUMPH

Page 20



EUROPEAN CLUB FINALS HEROES ADJUST SIGHTS TO WORLD CUP IN AFRICA

Page 19



9 770856 542009 >

Early spraying of quelea saves vast grain harvests

FROM PAGE 1

further noted.

The exercise wasn't easy as the birds sleep in different places making it hard to cover the area needing to be sprayed, while Peter Lempatu, a pilot with the organisation, commended government efforts to increase collaboration with the agency and other stakeholders to heighten control of invasive pests or migratory birds.

The Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA) eased

the spraying exercise by conducting surveys on the invasive pests and birds prior to starting actual spraying, he said.

Farmers were relieved that huge losses had been averted, pointing out that for many years such efforts came fairly late, so they ended up losing their harvests. Bashir Salumu, a rice farmer at Mbigiri area in Mvomero, Morogoro Region, said that farmers were this year not counting losses as was the case earlier.

Envoys make group visit, applauding SGR progress

FROM PAGE 1

ity in the region, enabling optimum economic growth.

Mehmet Firat, the firm's chief project manager, said that the project is one of its kind, referring to progress in two key phases, from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza and the other portion, from Tabora to Kigoma, with the western portion linked with neighbouring countries.

"This trial is the culmination of years of dedicated effort by our team and partners. We are confident that the SGR will deliver extraordinary benefits to Tanzania," the manager asserted.

With the official inauguration of SGR services set for early next month, Yapi Merkezi invited stakeholders to experience the modern train on the SGR segment from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro, showing how installations on the railway system are working.

The government pacted with Yapi Merkezi Insaat ve Sanayi Anonim Sirketi in the task of designing and constructing the SGR line, stretching from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro (205 km), Morogoro to Makutupora (336 km), and Makutupora to Tabora (294 km), running parallel to the existing railway, before other segments follow, he added.

South Africa elections: Ramaphosa now urges parties to 'find common ground'

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa urged parties on Sunday to "find common ground" following the final election results confirming that the African National Congress (ANC) had lost its majority.

South Africa announced its final election results Sunday that confirmed no party won a majority, and unprecedented coalition talks were starting to find a way forward for Africa's most advanced economy.

President Cyril Ramaphosa immediately called in a speech for parties to overcome their differences and find "common ground" to form the first national coalition government in the country's young democracy.

Ramaphosa's ANC party had already lost its 30-year majority after more than 99 percent of votes were counted by Saturday and showed it couldn't surpass 50 percent.

The ANC received around 40 percent of the votes in last week's election in the final count, the largest share. But without a majority it will need to agree a coalition with another party or parties for the first time to co-govern and re-elect Ramaphosa for a second term.

South Africa's national elections decide how many seats each party

gets in Parliament and lawmakers elect the president later.

Amid many coalition options, the ANC could also join with MK and the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters, although they have been cast as partners that would make investors uneasy. Both have pledged to nationalize parts of South Africa's economy, including its gold and platinum mines, among the world's biggest producers.

The DA has long said it will not work with the EFF and MK, calling them a "doomsday coalition" for South Africa. Steenhuisen, the party's leader, repeated that stance Sunday in a speech on national television but said his party was starting talks with others and would approach them "with cool heads and open minds."

Political analyst van Heerden said an ANC-DA coalition would "possibly give stability" but there were some within the ANC who would oppose it. Other smaller parties could be involved to dilute it and make it more palatable for the ANC, some commentators said.

"The DA has approached the ANC as the enemy over many, many years," van Heerden said. "The next few days is going to be a very difficult period. People will have to be mature behind closed doors."

Nigeria faces power outages and airport closures as unions demand higher wages

ABUJA

MILLIONS of Nigerians are without electricity after the national grid was shut down as part of a general strike over the rising cost of living.

The country was plunged into darkness shortly after 02:00 local time (01:00 GMT) when union members prevented operators at the country's power control rooms from working and shut down electricity substations.

Many flights have also been cancelled in the country's busiest airport in Lagos, and in the capital, Abuja, with passengers left stranded.

Unions are demanding a huge increase in the minimum wage, saying workers cannot survive on the current rate of 30,000 naira (£18; \$22) a month.

The government is offering to double this but security guard Malam Magaji Garba tells the BBC that this would not even be enough to buy a 50kg bag of rice, which he needs to feed his family each month.

The bag of rice costs 75,000 naira

(\$56; £44) - more than the government's proposal, even before taking other expenses into account.

"I am calling on the government to consider us and increase the minimum wage so that we can live and eat decently," says Magaji, who works for the education ministry in the northern city of Kano.

"It's not fair that we have top government officials earning millions monthly and the smallest workers earn so little and finding it difficult to feed."

The 59-year-old said he sometimes has to walk to work as he cannot afford to pay for transport.

Nigeria's unions under the umbrella of the Nigeria Labour Congress and the Trade Union Congress are demanding the minimum wage be increased to 494,000 naira (£290; \$369) which they say reflects the current economic realities.

The government says accepting these demands would cripple the economy and lead to job losses because many businesses would not be able to pay their workers and so have to close.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a word with fishmonger Paskazia Gervas (L) shortly before laying the foundation stone for Chato Beach fish market in Geita Region yesterday. Photo: PMO

Aerospace faculty delivers Samia fifth 'honoris causa'

FROM PAGE 1

tor, alongside investing in improving infrastructure in various airports, plus building the new international airport at Msalato in the capital.

Another area is construction of modern systems and uplifting the aviation sector workforce to attract more arrivals and cargo freight, thus attaining 14 passenger aircrafts and one cargo plane, facilitating a surge in local and international air travel.

Tanzania has also succeeded in increasing the number of pilots, engineers and workers in the aviation sector, something which has stimulated development of other sectors

such as transportation, hotel and service, he pointed out.

President Samia, in her acceptance remarks, highlighted the promising future and vast potential of Tanzania's aviation industry, characterising the award as going beyond her personal efforts to the foundations laid by the late President John Magufuli who worked hard to revive the sector, to promote development.

She appealed for KAU links with local air transport agencies at a technical and administrative level for exchange programmes, to train more competent technical cadres in the sector.

Tanzania now links with 38 air-

ports globally, a huge change on the way to connecting with more destinations, despite that some challenges thwart the progress.

Some of the challenges include shortage of competent, certified pilots and engineers to work in the sector, she said, affirming that Tanzania's aviation sector between 2021 and 2023 saw passengers increase by 28 percent and number of international flights rising from 26 to 33.

Air Tanzania's domestic market share reached 53 percent in the past year, from 24 percent earlier, while passenger volumes rose by 42 percent, from 4.8m in 2015 to 6.8m last year.

"The sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has improved from 0.9 percent in 2018 to 2.55 percent in 2023," she stated, asserting that the revival of Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) enabled its revenues to reach 280.4bn/- during fiscal 2022/23 from 23bn/- for fiscal 2016/17.

The president will attend the first Korea-Africa Summit that will seek to address pressing global issues such as climate change, food security and supply chain stability.

Two-day event gathered delegates from 48 African countries including 25 Heads of State, also setting the final engagement in the six day visit, officials said.



Anthony Sanga (2nd-R), Permanent Secretary in the Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development ministry, attends to Dodoma city residents at an ongoing land 'clinic' yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

FROM PAGE 1

The electric fence will scare away elephants and other fierce animals that have been invading farms and houses," the official noted.

Before building the fence they were receiving two to three reports of elephant invasions each week, he said, pointing out that the tree planting exercise is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and US-based environmental activist groups.

The five-year (2021 - 2026) nationwide project aims to conserve the country's biodiversity, enhance habitat connectivity and support community livelihoods.

Wildlife intrusions down by 80pc with electric fence, tree planting

Lasima Nzaio, programme manager with Reforest Africa, said that with support from USAID they have provided villagers with environmental conservation education, the importance of planting trees and cultivation of mixed crops to combat climate change.

So far Sole, Mang'ula 'A' and Kanyenja villages have been reached, while a tree nursery was set up where villagers near the corridor obtain seedlings for planting. The

NGO takes care of the planted trees, monitoring its growing progress, he said.

Felister Mwalongo, programme coordinator for 'Association Mazingira,' (environmental association), said that USAID facilitates environmental conservation education in villages surrounding the Udzungwa Mountains zone and the corridor.

Environmental education was directed to primary school pupils, with 300 pupils and 45 teachers

reached so far, while 60,000 tree seedlings were distributed to the community across four months.

Theodora Aloyce, chief conservator at the mountain park, said that the restoration of the corridor would further boost tourism, as the place holds exciting species like elephants, kudus, buffalo, hippos and leopards.

The 13 kilometers long elephant corridor cuts through Kanyeja, Sole and Mang'ula A villages, she added.



EATV Ltd managing director Regina Mengi (R) and Tanzania Education Authority director general Dr Erasmus Kipesa pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after signing a cooperation agreement at the launch of a new 'season' of 'Namthamini'. EATV Ltd launched the campaign in 2017 as a project to raise sanitary pads for needy students. The main goal was to keep the girls in school without fail even if they could not afford the items, the target being reaching 10,000 girls in various regions of Tanzania by last year. The EATV-TEA partnership is meant to further sensitise the public into contributing to the purchase of pads, the construction of latrines and the supply of water services in schools to enable students to study in a friendly environment. Donations are welcome through Airtel Money number 0787-633313 (East Africa Television) and M-Pesa Lipa number 5999900 (East Africa Television). Contributions can also be taken to the EATV offices in Dar es Salaam's Mikocheni Light Industrial Area. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Transparency crucial in NesT tendering processes'

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

BIDDERS have emphasised on transparency in the National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NesT) tendering process as it is a fundamental principle that ensures fairness, accountability and integrity in government procurement.

They made the remarks Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking during a working session to receive views from bidders about the public procurement appeal rules for the year 2024. The session was organised by Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA).

One of the Dar es Salaam bidders, Bakari Yusuph said that when bidders, businessmen, and institutions apply for tenders through NesT, the need for transparency cannot be overstated as it serves as a cornerstone for building trust between the public sector and private entities.

He said the move also prevents corruption as well as fostering a competitive business environment.

noting that government procurement involves significant expenditure of public funds, and citizens have a vested interest in ensuring that these funds are used efficiently and ethically and thus transparency in tendering processes is crucial for building and maintaining public trust.

"When the processes are open and accessible, the public can scrutinize the decisions made by government officials," he said.

According to him, openness helps dispel any suspicions of favoritism, nepotism, or corruption, reinforcing the credibility of public institutions. In the absence of transparency, even unfounded rumors of malpractice can erode public confidence in government operations, he said.

"We ask for transparency because it ensures that all potential bidders have equal access to information about the tendering process," Yusuph detailed.

Another bidder, Eva Charles, the Managing Director of Bisech Company said that corruption in

procurement processes can have severe financial and social consequences as lack of transparency often leads to situations where decisions are made behind closed doors, enabling corrupt practices to flourish.

She further noted transparency in tendering processes enhances accountability among all parties involved as government officials are held accountable for their decisions, knowing that their actions are subject to public scrutiny and this pressure can lead to more diligent and responsible behavior.

Additionally, transparency allows for better tracking of procurement processes, making it easier to identify and rectify inefficiencies. For instance, if a project is delayed or over budget, having transparent records helps in diagnosing the root causes and implementing corrective measures, she said.

She said that transparent tendering processes provide comprehensive and accurate information, which is essential for informed decision-making.

Advocate James Kasusula said that governments are often bound by stringent legal frameworks that dictate how public procurement should be conducted.

"Adhering to transparent processes minimizes the risk of legal challenges and disputes, which can delay projects and increase costs. Ethical standards in procurement are also upheld through transparency, promoting a culture of integrity and honesty in public administration," he said.

He further noted that transparent tendering processes can have a broader economic impact and by creating a fair and competitive business environment, transparency encourages more businesses to participate in government projects.

James Sando, Public Procurement Appeals Authority (PPAA) executive secretary said: "We are collecting bidders' opinions about the public procurement appeal rules for the year 2024, so that we can be able to better the system as soon as possible before it officially kick-off on July 1st."

Govt clarifies claims made by Tanzanian living in US

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has clarified on the "brutal" claims of a Tanzanian living in the US, Andrew Hango, that it has worked hard with the US government to ensure that the matter is resolved.

Hango claims that he has gone through a difficult situation for over 20 years due to several beatings and torture from customs officials who thought that he was an illegal immigrant.

Speaking with this paper in Dar es Salaam recently, Director of Government Communication Unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ambassador Mindi Kasiga said that the government is aware of the matter and that they have sometimes written to the US Embassy in Tanzania asking for the issue to be resolved.

"In 2022, we wrote to the US Embassy here on the issue and they reacted by writing the Hango to ensure that he seeks justice from the court, we also did the same in December last year to see progress on the issue," Kasiga said.

According to her, five ministers who have passed in the ministry are aware of the matter and they worked on it and there came a time when the US government gave Hango an offer to complete the case outside court which also involved providing him a green card and cash.

Justin Kisoka, Director Department of Diaspora in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation said that the ministry has been following up on the matter very closely and it recently wrote to the Tanzanian ambassador in Washington DC to ensure that they also follow up on the matter.

"What we can advise Hango for the time being is for him to calm down and find a good way to seek justice by getting good lawyers and going to court or if it is not possible, he can come back home and the government will supervise to ensure that he arrives home safely," he said.

Earlier, in his complaints, Hango

said that in 2004 customs officials in one of the US airports arrested and severely tortured him leaving him disabled and unsupported.

"I have lived a very difficult life in these 20 years because despite beating me hard, leaving my body full of injuries they didn't send me to hospital, instead they forced me to get on a plane and return to Tanzania claiming that I did not have a permit to leave there," he said in the telephone interview with this paper.

"However, the plane operator refused to take me on board due to my condition as I was badly injured because they feared I could die."

After the customer officials found that they had wrongly punished him they sent him to a far island, where no one could find him but some Human rights defenders got wind of the situation and started to claim this release, he said.

"I later went to court to claim compensation but even the lawyers who were defending me were threatened but fortunately I won the case," he said.

He said after the case the customs personnel asked him to stay mum and promised to give him \$4,000 and nationality which Hango said was a small amount to cover his treatment expenses.

"When I was passing through all these, I had the permit to live in the US and I had already lived there for many years and married an American wife. I don't know why they took me through this difficult life. I thank the human rights defenders who helped me to get out of the island" he said.

Hango wants to see the matter being resolved and be compensated for the loss so he can continue to live peacefully. He asked both governments to work together and ensure that justice is found.

In a response a statement of the US State Department issued early April, this year stated: "We are aware of the Hango's case. After going through it, we have channelled him to the court here which heard his complaints to get relief."

Do country-wide survey to find gender inequalities, CSOs urged

By Beatrice Philemon

CIVIL Society Organizations (CSOs) have been advised to conduct a country-wide survey to identify gender inequalities faced by women, men, people with disabilities, the elderly, and children.

Mary Rusimbi, Co-Founder of Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT) made the call over the weekend at the just-ended one-day training when speaking to feminists and CSOs members from Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar who attended a feminist awareness training on climate justice. The event was organized by Women Action Towards Entrepreneurship Development (WATED) with funding from Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT)

Rusimbi said the survey will provide a proper picture of gender inequalities and enable policymakers to understand gender inequalities affecting all people and later on come up with new policies, programmes, or measures to address them.

She said that the move will ensure that the needs of all people are effectively addressed, and allow women's voices to be heard at all levels as it will be easy for CSOs members to speak with them about what has occurred in their localities as a result of climate change and other issues, the effects it has for them, what they need and what should be done to address these inequalities.

She also tasked CSOs to make sure the information they get from people indicates what has occurred in the communities, and ensure the different needs of all people are identified to enable the government, policy and decision-makers address them at all levels.

She stated that contribution of their work, distribution of resources; opportunities, constraints, and power they have in their localities are clearly identified as well as consideration of women's roles and responsibilities and their level of access to resources and decision-making to promote climate justice for all people.

ple.

According to her, climate justice ensures that all people, especially marginalized communities, have a voice in public policy decisions, mitigation, adaptation, and reparation. Climate justice ensures that mitigation, adaptation, and reparation measures create co-benefits and do not worsen existing inequities.

Rusimbi further said women are required in climate justice because are the protectors and stakeholders in environmental conservation, they lack gender justice and are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change and are at higher risk.

The activist said that women play an important role in the management of natural resources, including forests, and water sources, and are key players to building climate resilience in the community.

"As result, we want to help women demand gender justice that will provide women participation in decision making especially in environmental conservation issues, allow them to participate in decision making because are the ones who are affected by climate change and tend to experience inequitable environmental burden, have fewer decisions, less income although they do a lot of work.

Maria Matui, Women Action towards Entrepreneurship Development (WATED)'s coordinator said that the event was organised by WATED with funding from Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT), it brought feminists from Dodoma, Zanzibar, Tarime, Iringa, Tanga, Ukerewe to discuss various issues relating to climate change, environmental justice, principles of feminists, carbon credit and climate justice.

Others include gender equality, effective advocacy techniques, policy engagement, and resource mobilization, the role of CSOs in advancing climate justice agenda at the domestic and national level and deepening the concept of climate justice, and learning about global and regional experience and opportunities.



Dr Adolf Rutayuga, Executive Secretary of the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET), speaks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening a China-Africa TVET Collaboration Academic Exchange & Occupation Standards Promotion and Application Agenda meeting. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole



It's fruits aplenty just outside Dar es Salaam's much-frequented Buguruni mixed-goods market, as found by correspondent Jumanne Juma. Why it was only this presumed passer-by who was near the spot was not immediately established.

Tanzania digital inclusion project wins global award

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Digital Inclusion Project (TADIP) has been recognised and awarded due to its efforts aimed at closing the digital divide in Tanzania by connecting the unconnected and underserved citizens in rural and urban centres.

Implemented by the Internet Society Tanzania Chapter (ISOC-TZ) in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam, the project recorded victory in the category of Access to Information and Knowledge during World Summit on Information Society (WSIS 2024 PRIZES) held last week in Geneva, Switzerland.

The award was received by ISOC-TZ President Nazar Kirama, who was accompanied by Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye.

Nnauye thanked Tanzanians for their cooperation and vowed that no Tanzanians would be left behind in digital inclusion.

Kirama also expressed happiness for winning the award, stating that it was a positive gesture towards the digital inclusion journey.

"I am thankful to receive this award alongside the responsible minister. It is my hope that Tanzania will continue to improve in digital inclusion," Kirama stated.

Explaining about the competition, Kirama mentioned that their project was among 1,049 projects from different countries that entered the competition in the first round.

After screening, 369 projects proceeded to the second and final round, in which the Tanzanian project was among them.

According to Kirama, during the summit's climax on Tuesday this week, their project was declared the winner in the 'Access to Information and Knowledge' category.

The TADIP, initiated in 2020, is a 10-year project aimed at closing the digital divide in Tanzania by connecting the unconnected and underserved citizens in rural and urban centres. The project will connect 32.44 million people and train 6 million youths and

women on digital literacy.

It is envisioned that 1,500 Wi-Fi School InfoHubs, 262,260 Wi-Fi Community InfoHubs, and 12,437 Wi-Fi Super InfoHubs will be established throughout Tanzania to connect the unconnected millions.

The Wi-Fi Super InfoHubs will also include a Climate Monitoring Focal Point (CCM-FP), involving students and youths in measuring things like carbon emission levels and air quality.

Recently, Minister Nnauye made significant announcements shedding light on Tanzania's vision for digital transformation and its role in shaping a sustainable and inclusive future.

He emphasised the transformative power of digital technology and the commitment to leveraging it for the benefit of all citizens.

The Minister stressed the importance of integrating digital solutions into key sectors such as education, healthcare, agriculture and governance to enhance efficiency, transparency and accessibility.

One of the key announcements made by the Minister was the government's ambitious Vision 2025, aiming to position the country as a digital leader on the global stage.

This comprehensive vision includes strategic initiatives to improve digital infrastructure, promote innovation and entrepreneurship, enhance digital literacy, and ensure the availability of affordable and reliable internet connectivity nationwide.

Nape emphasised the need to bridge the digital divide, recognising that access to digital tools and connectivity is essential for individuals and communities to fully participate in the digital economy.

The project is aimed at higher-connecting citizens to a meaningful internet, creating community network innovation hubs, providing digital skills, digital adult education, e-learning skills for teachers and training for girls to reduce digital gender gap.

50 young women in Dar get laptops

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

DR Dorothy Gwajima, Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups yesterday handed over laptops to 50 young women aged 18 to 25, after being succeeded in participating in a UN Women coding camp.

The coding camp was organized in collaboration with Tanzania Data Lab and was part of UN Women's four-year programme, the African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI), known in Tanzania as 'Binti Dijitali', funded by the Belgium government.

Dr Gwajima handed over the gadgets in Dar es Salaam as part of the government's commitment to ensure that women and girls acquire the digital skills needed to remain competitive in the modern market.

She emphasized that both science and gender equality are vital for achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. "We need to add more girls and women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to build gender equality in STEM and we'll continue to build schools in science combinations, to have more girls in this area," the minister said.

Dr Gwajima added: "Digital life

means to have people, especially women, in daily use of technological tools, like smartphones, because it is also a business platform. But how to make this platform potentially, we need education in STEM to our people."

Peterson Magoola, UN Women Tanzania Acting Representative underscored the need for investment in science and technology education for women and girls. "If African girls and women are to thrive in future job markets, they need ICT skills," he said, emphasizing that to address the technological divide, negative attitudes towards these fields must be transformed, and laws and policies must leverage technology for gender equality.

The AGCCI 'Binti Dijitali' project has empowered 110 young women with digital literacy and coding skills over the past year, placing them on track to pursue studies and careers in information, communication, and technology (ICT).

Fanny Heylen, head of the Belgium embassy, said the programme aims to raise the number of girls and women in digital platforms, and include them into STEM employment.

In addition to advancing women's economic empowerment, UN Women has trained over 1,000

women to use digital platforms to manage their business supply chains and access financial services and markets.

Through the initiative, an additional 50 laptops will be awarded to young women in Zanzibar this week, in partnership with the Zanzibar Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children.

A new phase of the AGCCI project will be launched in Nairobi this month, with additional coding camps planned in Tanzania through 2026.

AGCCI programme aims to bridge the technological divide by increasing women and girls' access to modern technology and supporting their empowerment through education and employment.

Globally, women and girls are 25 percent less likely than men to have sufficient knowledge and digital skills to use technology, as in Tanzania, only one in ten women reported having some level of digital skills, according to a 2020 International Telecommunication Union (ITU) study.

A 2019 Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), report further shows that only 18 percent of employed professionals in science and engineering fields are women.

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School in Babati DC gets 20 laptops to boost pupils' performance in academics

By Correspondent Daniel Sabuni, Babati

KWARAA Secondary School in Babati District, Manyara Region has been given 20 modern laptops worth 5m/- to facilitate smooth learning and hence boost pupils' academic performance.

Speaking during the event to hand over the computers during the weekend here executive director of Wilderness Technology Alliance (WTA) Lou August said the support will not end only at the school, but many others in the county will receive the computers.

He said that the donation is part of the organisation's project which is implemented to reach pupils in various schools with the tools to facilitate digital learning.

"In order to ensure that the goal is reached, a total of 15 teachers teaching Information and Communication Technology (ICT) subjects have been trained for five days to facilitate easy teaching through the computers," he explained.

WTA Country Coordinator Heke Gewe said the computers can be used as books libraries due to various programmes installed to facilitate easy access of various materials and books.

"Instead of leaving pupils with

heavy bags full of books, now pupils will be able to access the materials online only by entering in the laptops library," he added.

In his remarks, Halfa Matipula, Babati District Administrative Secretary wanted the school to protect the tools for them to benefit more pupils.

"Teachers who have received training on better use of these computers should also ensure that they instil the pupils with right skills but also get prepared to serve others outside the district," he said.

Tabu Mbaruku, Babati District Education Officer (Academic) said Kwaraa Secondary School has ICT subjects, but pupils are not doing well in exams due to out-dated learning tools.

Deogratius Michael, Kwaraa Secondary School Headteacher said the computers have arrived at the right time and will greatly help pupils to excel in studies.

Gladness Mbise, a Form One pupil at the school thanked the organisation for the support which will now address shortage of learning materials which has been facing them.

"If pupils fail to understand something in the class, they can go to the library to learn more about the topic through the modern laptops," she said.



Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Public Relations at the University of Dodoma in a buoyant mood late last week after their dream of publishing a laboratory newspaper came true - printed by The Guardian Ltd. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

DPM urges Tanzanians to participate more in forest conservation initiatives

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Energy Dr Doto Biteko has asked Tanzanians to fully participate in the campaign to save the country's forests by using clean energy.

Dr Biteko was speaking here over the weekend at the ongoing Environment Week celebrations. The exhibition, which encourages the care of the environment

and the use of clean energy, involves various environmental stakeholders including 42 institutions.

The climax of the exhibition will be tomorrow and will be wrapped up by Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango.

Dr Biteko said that it's high time for everyone to take responsibility for conserving the environment and the only way to do so is to use clean energy for cooking.

He said that the idea behind this is to ensure that everyone

uses energy that is friendly to the environment.

During the exhibition, several entities dealt with measures to reduce the use of fuel wood and charcoal which are detrimental to the country's forests.

Several liquefied petroleum gas firms have been grappling to reduce the use of firewood and charcoal by dishing out gas cylinders to villagers across the country.

"The idea is to complement the government's efforts of scaling

up the use of clean energy for cooking," said Angellah Bhoke, an official of one of the Dar es Salaam gas companies.

"That is why as a company, we've carried the issue of the environment very seriously to support the government in its efforts to save our country from deforestation," she said.

To make the campaign successful, she said: "We have been issuing thousands of gas cylinders to Tanzanians who need to use clean gas."

China-Africa trade ties foster inclusive, sustainable growth in Africa: UN official

ADDIS ABABA

CHINA-Africa trade cooperation is playing a pivotal role in fostering inclusive and sustainable development across Africa, a senior official with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has said.

Diane Sayinzoga, UNCTAD's chief of the Regional Office for Africa, said the China-Africa trade partnership has facilitated the implementation of major infrastructure projects that are crucial for the economic integration and growth of the African continent.

"The China-Africa cooperation is aligned with UNCTAD's goals of promoting sustainable development by enhancing Africa's manufacturing capacities, increasing trade opportunities, fostering economic diversification, and integrating the African countries into the global value chain," said Sayinzoga.

She said Chinese investments in agriculture, manufacturing, renewable energy development and various other sectors in Africa not only create jobs and boost local economies, but also serve as a platform for technology transfer and increase export and tax revenues.

"China is a key trading partner of Africa. Wherever you go in Africa, you will find 'made in China' products. Chinese investors are everywhere in Africa, and the partnership is really being reflected in different sectors, especially in the development of infrastructure and economic zones," she said.

Sayinzoga expressed her

confidence that China will remain an important trading partner as African countries seek China's huge investment to tap their natural resources in win-win cooperation.

According to the UN official, the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) provides a structured avenue for dialogue, policy coordination and capacity building, thus helping deepen economic ties between China and the rest of the world, including Africa.

"Within the BRI context, China has been promoting win-win cooperation with African countries and the rest of the world, while UNCTAD has been implementing various capacity-building projects in Africa to promote South-South cooperation and sustainable development by drawing on China's development experience and its existing institutional capabilities," she said.

Sayinzoga also said the vast Chinese market is another big opportunity for exports from Africa, helping countries in the continent succeed in economic diversification and meet their development goals.

She said the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has significantly enhanced Africa-China relations by providing a structured forum for African and Chinese leaders to discuss and implement strategic initiatives aimed at promoting mutual development.

"FOCAC has led to numerous agreements on investment, trade and development projects between China and African countries to achieve shared development goals, which are perfectly in line with UNCTAD's mission," she said.



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko (L) has a word with Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Mchemba (R) and Energy Deputy minister Judith Kapinga in the National Assembly debating chamber in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

Buy certified goods, TBS tells Tanzanians

TANZANIANS have been asked to purchase and use products which have been approved and certified by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) which also include ensuring that the products are not expired.

James James, TBS Quality Control Officer made the call over the weekend here during the 'Fahari ya Geita' exhibition.

He said that to protect health from counterfeit or substandard products need not only the government, but also individuals' efforts by inspecting the products before purchasing them.

Speaking at the TBS's pavilion, James said the bureau has been reminding the public the

importance of reading information in products before purchasing them.

"We also use the 'Fahari ya Geita' exhibition as a platform to educate traders to certify their goods which is a fundamental step in expanding and penetrating wide markets," he said.

He also told producers of various products to ensure that they certify their products because the process is free of charge.

He said most of the traders fail to meet the criteria needed to certify their goods as they are unaware of some procedures urging them to go to the Small Industries

Development Organisation (SIDO) for an introduction letter before going to TBS.

He mentioned some of the TBS obligations including to prepare and manage the national standards, provide technical advice to industrial producers to make high quality goods, measuring and

approving industrial measurements as well as provide training to workers in industries.

The official further said that some small-scale producers lack proper places that meet the required standards for carrying production activities.

He said TBS will continue to educate and supervise to ensure that the country is supplied with goods that meet required quality and safety standards.

Varsities urged to align courses with current technological developments

By Getrude Mbago

HIGHER Learning Institutions (HLIs) have been encouraged to continue to review curriculums and improve courses to align with the current technological development.

This comes at a time when technological developments are cited to affect teaching and learning systems in the HLIs which are the ones expected to produce the national workforce.

Speaking during the opening of the 7th Forum of the Tanzania Universities Quality Assurance Forum (TUQAF) in Dar es Salaam recently, Prof. Elifas Bisanda, the Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) urged quality assurance officers, education coordinators and executives to continue working on areas which are seen to have gaps in education curriculums in order to address them.

He stated that the universities have to invest heavily in curriculum review, technology integration, soft skills development, experiential learning, entrepreneurship and innovation to equip graduates with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the dynamic work environment both now and in the future.

"Digital learning is the preferred mode of learning for today's tech-savvy generation. Therefore, higher education institutions are considering the role of technology in delivering curriculum and incorporating digital technology to produce a competent workforce who will be able to implement initiatives that solve challenges in their societies," he said.

TUQAF President Prof. Justin Urassa said the forum meant to provide a unique opportunity to share best practices and experiences on key issues related to quality assurance in digital education and research and to strengthen synergies to achieve intended goals.

He said it was important for the

forum to discuss and come up with recommendations to further ensure provision of quality education for sustainable development.

He hailed varsities which have already established quality assurance divisions in their areas, something which is important in supervising quality education for a competent workforce.

"Quality assurance units in universities are so important because these will ensure that curriculums and services in the institutions are good and align with the current development," he noted.

Prof Urassa underscored the importance for varsities to be in the forefront of nurturing market-ready graduates who thrive and are not only job seekers but also job creators.

Dr Jeniffer Sesabo, co-founder of TUQAF maintained that restructuring the curriculum and expanding courses to accommodate 21st century relevant subjects would be an added advantage and opportunity to contribute to national economic growth by producing graduates who can drive innovations, entrepreneurship, and employment generation.

She said by integrating technology in the classroom, students learn to navigate digital platforms, use productivity tools, collaborate online, and effectively communicate using digital mediums.



Quality assurance units in universities are so important because these will ensure that curriculums and services in the institutions are good and align with the current development



Kasulu District residents pictured at the weekend registering for medical attention at a five-day camp that has attracted specialist doctors from Kigoma Maweni Regional Referral Hospital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Kasulu

PUBLIC and private hospitals have been urged to establish a regular schedule for free-medical camps at least once a month.

A cross-section of residents in Kasulu District in Kigoma Region made the plea here during a recent free medical check-up at Kasulu District Hospital.

The free medical check-ups were conducted by doctors from Maweni Regional Referral Hospital in Kigoma with the support from Majey Foundation, Lalji Foundation, Game Frontiers, and Hiltop. The five-day specialist camp provided free consultations and treatments to hundreds of residents in the district.

Residents stressed the

Establish free medical camps once a month, hospitals urged

importance of accessible healthcare in reducing both travel costs and the burden of seeking medical attention.

They said that bringing specialist services closer to the community has been highly beneficial.

Juma Bujuibili, a resident of Kasulu town highlighted the financial strain on rural dwellers, stating: "Many of us rely on agriculture to sustain our livelihoods, making it difficult to afford the costs of seeking specialized medical care in referral hospitals."

Echoing these sentiments, Yona

Kazamaso noted that while many suffer from various diseases, the fear of excessive medical expenses often deters them from seeking specialist care.

Imtiaz Lalji, Chairman of the Lalji Foundation, emphasized their commitment to improving healthcare access in Kigoma, citing their familial ties to the region as a driving force behind their sponsorship of such camps.

Mohammed Taki, Director of Game Frontiers, indicated plans for future camps in response to the significant need observed

in Kigoma, despite their past engagements in various regions across the country.

Dr Frank Sudai, a specialist in surgery, pointed out common health issues observed among patients, notably hypertension resulting from poor dietary habits and lifestyles.

Semistatus Mashimba, Kasulu District Council executive director said that a turnout of over 1,800 individuals per day over the five-day camp, underscoring the continuous demand for specialized healthcare services among the public.

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Dar, Beijing agree to boost vocational skills in Tanzania

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

FORTY vocational education colleges from China have signed a cooperation agreement to develop vocational skills in Tanzania.

The agreement was signed yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the representatives of the colleges in the presence of the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Prof. James Mdoe.

They signed the agreement at a conference named China-Africa Collaboration Academic Exchange Seminar and Occupation Standards Promotion organized by the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET).

Speaking shortly after signing of the agreement, Prof. Mdoe said the agreement between China vocational colleges and Tanzania is a continuation of cooperation in vocational education.

He said that through the collaboration they have been holding various conferences that bring together Chinese and Tanzanian technical colleges and that this is the fourth conference to be held.

"The main goal is to develop technical education because our colleagues in China are very far away in the technical education and that is why we get so many products from China and other products are made in very small factories," said Prof Mdoe.

He said the government sought cooperation to find a way to gain experience from China in developing vocational skills so that the experience can be used in the production of various products by its youth.

He said that the cooperation has already shown many fruits as there are NACTVET employees who have already gone to China to learn technical skills and sometimes China brings its experts in Tanzania to teach in some technical colleges.

"Today we have witnessed an agreement in which China and Tanzania technical colleges will

exchange teachers, students will go there to learn for a short time and even exchange technology and various researches so it is a very beneficial cooperation," he said.

He said that in the cooperation, Tanzania has been the biggest beneficiary because its technology is still low compared to China, which has made great strides.

He said Tanzania has many resources that have not yet been used so when technical education experts come from China they teach their Tanzanian colleagues how to use them to get products.

Prof Mdoe said that Tanzania has been using the opportunity of the cooperation to train technical college instructors so that they can get advanced technology to develop its vocational colleges here in the country.

Dr Adolf Rutayuga, NACTVET executive secretary said that through the collaboration, the council connects Tanzanian technical colleges with Chinese colleges so that they can benefit from the various opportunities available.

He said that Chinese colleges have been coming to the country regularly to choose colleges to partner with and that every year they have been getting new colleges from China that come to the country to look for partners.

"There is an exchange of Chinese teachers who came to teach at our colleges, an exchange of students for Tanzanian students to go China and Chinese students to come to Tanzania and this cooperation gives us great benefits because our colleagues have gone very far in technology," said Dr Rutayuga.

He said that the collaboration will enable Tanzanian technical colleges to have an international image whereby it will be able to send its local experts to work in different countries to sharpen their knowledge.

"Our colleges will benefit a lot from this cooperation because we have a plan to build a resource center. We want to have a centre where great innovative things will be happening there," he said.



Small traders selling used shoes in business on the sides of the Kabwe (Mbeya Region) section of the Tanzania-Zambia highway yesterday only days after being cleared from the Kabwe Stand, where shop owners based there accused them of blocking them. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi,

Arusha

HUNDREDS of students from 11 secondary schools in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions have participated in one-day national exhibitions to show ideas, entrepreneurship, and creativity and enable them to get a quality education regardless of their social-economic background.

The exhibition aims to find a winner who will go to represent Tanzania at the African regional exhibition to be held in Mauritius in December this year. Every school brought 30 pupils to showcase their talents.

Speaking at the exhibition opening here yesterday, Arumeru District Commissioner, Emmanuela Kaganda said that the exhibition is evidence of the work of young Tanzanians who have great potential to contribute to the national economy.

The exhibition provides youth with various opportunities for self-employment as they practice their skills and knowledge from others.

"I would like to congratulate the students who have participated in this exhibition, for their great creative skills, and the way you have

Students 'display' ideas and creativity in Arusha

organized themselves, I have seen young people with great confidence in how they express themselves and the winner will represent us well in Mauritius, so that we can show young Tanzanians of their great potential and are ready to win in the field internationally," she said.

DC Kaganda asked all the 11 schools that participated in the exhibition to develop projects within the school to continue on building young talents and prepare them well to deal with various problems in today's world, especially unemployment.

"I urge young people to be helped to register their ideas so that they cannot be stolen and benefit other people while leaving them with nothing," she said.

Noah Kayanda, Director of The Foundation for Tomorrow said that the exhibition aims to empower the current and future generations to face various challenges in their lives, by giving them smart skills in financial literacy, entrepreneurship,

project management, as well as readiness to work for themselves.

He explained that the essence of the programme is to promote creativity and innovation among students, by solving various problems.

They are given the task of creating a company that will bring innovative solutions, with entrepreneurial strategies that focus on taking care of the environment with the concept of the green economy.

"In this programme, we have been able to reach 500 students guided by the responsibility of Green Innovation which focuses on taking care of the environment and is aimed at students aged 12 to 22 by nurturing the talents, aspirations, and dreams of our young people, adding that today we have witnessed changes from our students who now have courage, knowledge, and competence and are ready to face challenges positively by being responsible for their communities to solve challenges," Kayanda said.

"Students have shown great skills in project management and innovation and their work includes a variety of programmes that address local challenges and focus on the concept of sustainable development, as these skills are important in today's changing world and are good life skills that will help them in their daily lives," he explained.

Baraka Kileo is one of three pupils at Arusha Science School, whose ideas will be showcased in Mauritius in December this year. Kileo showcased his 'Boom Take' which enables the farmer to scan and find out the problem of the plants, and how to get pesticides.

Kileo said: "We will make sure that we organize ourselves better, to bring victory to Mauritius and this competition helps us because it has opened our minds that we should not only rely on getting jobs but look at the problems in society and come up with solutions to help our society."

TCRA to take legal action against firms not arresting hikes in prices of vouchers

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa,

Mbeya

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) in the Southern Highlands has threatened to take legal action against mobile companies that will fail to control traders who sell recharge vouchers at high prices compared to the actual value of the vouchers.

Boniface Shoo, TCRA manager in the southern highlands sounded the warning here yesterday when speaking to the reporter about the problem of rising recharge vouchers' prices in some areas of the region.

He said his office has already received complaints from some people in Mbeya and Songwe regions who claim that they buy a recharge vouchers worth 500/- for between 600/- and 700/- while the one worth 1,000/- is sold at 1,200/-.

He said that after receiving those complaints, TCRA called the service providers and questioned them if they had made any price changes and they confirmed that they had not done so, but some businessmen had decided on their own.

He said he instructed them to monitor and control the traders before legal action was taken against them while asking the public to continue to provide information about all those who

continue to sell the recharge vouchers at high prices.

"These service providers are responsible for controlling the businessmen, if they fail we will deal with them, but we also ask the government agencies to help us control these young people who violate the law," said Shoo.

He asked the companies, once they have taken action against those who violate those prices, to inform the authority in advance about those actions in order to keep records properly.

Some of the customers in Mbeya City said that the act of businessmen to increase the recharge vouchers' price secretly hurts them severely because it increases the difficulty of their lives.

One of the residents and businessman in the city, Zawadi Mwankina said that the move has started to ruin his businesses, asking the government to control traders who hike the recharge vouchers' price because of their greedy.

Another resident, Thobias Ole Kujja said that they have never heard any kind of announcement about the change in voucher prices and so the act of surprising them angered them.

He said that if it were announced that the prices would increase, they would prepare how to deal with the changes, including finding an alternative method to buy airtime.



Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima (L) speaks at yesterday's presentation in Dar es Salaam of laptops to 50 girls who had just completed digital training organised by UN Women through the African Girls Can Code Initiative, popularly known as Binti Dijitali. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

TUESDAY 4 JUNE 2024

Taking A New Look At The News ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Innovation, skills development call for greater demand, easier access to credit

A WAVE of radical economic thinking, as opposed to critical economic thinking, is riding high in planning echelons at the moment - though one could say it has often been so. This is the tendency of seeing either skills or provision of capital (described as empowerment) as sufficient to uplift people from either poverty or unemployment. For most observers, it would possibly be sufficient to say that the government is set to set up innovation and skills development units in all districts to support budding talents as a way of spurring economic growth. This is how it is perceived, generally, but it is in reality it could prove more complicated than that. This initiative, which corresponds with the building of technical secondary schools and vocational training centres collected, was recently given in some detail by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa. He did so while gracing the climax of this year's National Week of Education, Skills and Innovation. At recent exhibitions, the talk was intensely directed at patenting and marketing youth technologies and innovations which, as a matter of fact, stood to face teething problems while seeking to break into the market. Usually and virtually in any economic situation, there is no gap of needs waiting to be filled by this or that innovation which soon comes into the market, but a sufficiently catered-for environment. Still, a new product or innovation can make its way into the market, gradually at least, with the right quality and pricing aspects. There are auxiliary bits like how one launches a product, where it is marketed and how far it will be

accessible. However, these issues aren't crucial to the potential of a product to succeed as they can be rectified if need be. That districts and municipalities will be overseeing skills and innovation desks (SNDs) to promote creativity among young people wasn't quite reassuring, as it is hard to see how people who aren't in schools or colleges offering much in that regard. It is an issue of what happens when the youths graduate with some ideas and are not employed, in which case a specialised agency could well do the job, as councils have hardly ever been good at nursing and upbringing. To be fair to them, they could surely offer facilities for licensing or permits for setting up productive units like biogas systems, solar initiatives and the like, but hardly more. Already much innovation has been shown recently, including at the Arusha Technical Institute, with some young people having put up drones that can carry some loads for use in irrigation. When one thinks of a market for such things, what first comes to mind is the issue of demand - if farmers who can't land bank loans because they have customary law land occupancy titles will be able to buy drones. There is clamour in a number of regions that fertiliser ought to be made accessible at rock-bottom prices, and here are people talking of drones! Even if we believe in the 'we must run while others walk' maxim, it is still evident that there is little chance of running with drones while the market isn't in a walking or working mode as yet. But reform can definitely clear the way, enabling innovation grow and sell.

Understandable expectations from President Samia's landmark visit to Republic of Korea

TANZANIA and the Republic of Korea are close to sealing an economic partnership agreement (EPA). It must be big news for all those ardently wishing for greater steps in taking up globalisation and deepening economic reforms. There was a more routine memorandum on a framework agreement for a concessional loan, valued at US\$2.5 billion across five years, from RoK's main development finance agency. It was a total success in the sense of expectations of the ongoing state visit by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in the eastern Asian country. There is a new thread in Tanzanian economic diplomacy that was fully visible in the Seoul talks, complete with the signing of memoranda of understanding on the bolstering of cooperation in critical minerals. For a section of the delegation and parts of our country the new element is the blue economy which, for issues of strategic comparison, can be aligned with BBT (building a better tomorrow) initiative, rather than being an alter ego of the strategic positioning of critical minerals. EPA could be altogether a different matter for Tanzania as it entails the creation of links with a foreign country that is enshrined in law, nearly like the East African Community or AfCFTA - the African Continental Free Trade Area. The broad outline shows this particular EPA relating to spheres of direct investment if with a priority regard to South Korea as a strategic partner. The framework understanding says the strategic relationship stands to boost partnership in trade, investment, transport and industry. It would appear that all that is envisaged is to start projects in any or all of these areas, not being sought out for a franchise in any specific sphere run by a state agency. The Korean government's decision to double the EDCF (Economic Development Cooperation Fund) facility's resources to Tanzania alongside the development of natural gas and the blue economy will likely be excitedly received by executives in various spheres of the government. It has a game-changing potential at least with respect to how far current development plans stand to be realised. Much the same thing could be said of cooperation in the creative industry, particularly film and arts, and to an extent the likes of the idea of job permit visas. While there is definitely no point counting the chickens before the eggs are hatched, on the whole President Samia's visit raises Tanzania's profile in globalisation, as it widens the sphere or circle of our country's strategic partners. There may be room for a number of other initiatives but strategic issues show that exceptional links between countries in a sort of vertical asymmetry are possible depending on their specific needs and endowments. There is nothing exceptional about critical minerals being a new linkage sphere with current days of globalisation, just as in the days when liberation gave us strategic partners.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON 0757154767 General line: 0745700710 E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

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By Joan Westenberg

The death of critical thinking will kill us long before AI

WE have witnessed a multi-generational decline in reading comprehension. We read less, retain less of what we read, and struggle to engage in critical analysis. And if this trend continues, we risk undermining the very foundations of our society. In the bite-sized content and viral media age, too many of us have lost - or are losing - the focus and patience for lengthy, complex texts. We skim and scan instead of closely reading. Our attention spans have shrunk to mere seconds. While technology has enabled the wide dissemination of information, it has also fragmented our thinking. We are overwhelmed by noise and sensationalism. Clickbait headlines and social media posts appeal to our emotions rather than intellect, making us susceptible to misinformation. We share articles without reading them, simply reacting to provocative titles and abstracts. The context, nuance and accuracy no longer matter. Objective truth has become secondary to subjective feelings and base impulses. Without reading comprehension, we cannot thoughtfully process information and make reasoned decisions. We lose the ability to thoroughly analyse issues, think critically, understand different perspectives, spot logical fallacies and weigh evidence. Our opinions get shaped by alarmist rhetoric and confirmation bias rather than facts. We consume information, but we do not truly digest it. This erodes the very foundations of a healthy democracy - an educated populace. It may be overly simplistic to say that people have lost reading comprehension skills entirely. More accurately - we have forgotten how to apply close reading to modern media. We still retain the basic cognitive abilities but we don't leverage them. We react to politically charged YouTube videos instead of watching, scrutinising and questioning them. We scan online posts to find viewpoints confirming our biases instead of considering different perspectives. We allow our thinking to be influenced by loud voices on social media rather than reasoned discourse. Reading is more than a utilitarian skill. It exposes us to new ideas, cultures and experiences. Books allow us to imagine other lives, expanding our worldviews. Deep, thoughtful reading exercises our mental capacities. It develops focus, analytical skills and abstract thinking. Reading builds empathy and compassion. Through stories, we gain emotional insights into the human condition. An erosion of critical reading hinders cognitive growth and emotional intelligence. In the wake of ChatGPT, some argue that AI poses the greatest existential threat of our time. Advanced algorithms can automate jobs, enable manipulation through deepfakes, and weaponise

disinformation. But AI systems are still designed by humans. Their capabilities are limited by what programmers develop. While potentially dangerous, current AI lacks sentience - the ability to think and feel. In contrast, the death of critical reading harms the conscious minds of billions. Minds that design, build, regulate and use technology for good or ill. Minds that make ethical judgments with global consequences. Losing the ability to comprehend the world around us and make sense of complex ideas is an existential crisis. No algorithm can replace human wisdom and analysis. But no algorithm will need to if we have abandoned - wholesale - a millennium of critical reading and thinking skills. Each of us can make an effort to read diversely, reflect deeply, and verify claims before spreading them. We can also consciously apply critical reading skills to modern media instead of reacting reflexively. But individual choices and actions are not enough. We cannot ignore that digital platforms now dominate modern media landscapes. While these technologies enable the rapid spread of information, they favour bite-sized content optimised to grab attention. Social networks provide fertile ground for misinformation, especially emotionally charged falsehoods. It becomes difficult for complex, truthful concepts to cut through the noise. The modern digital media environment trains our brains in ways antithetical to immersive, contemplative reading. The endless stream of stimuli fragments our concentration into tiny shattered shards. We multitask across apps and sites, exposing ourselves to diverse ideas but grasping little. Our attention darts briefly from one post to another without diving deeper into any topic. The design of apps and sites deliberately exploits our psychological vulnerabilities: Pull-to-refresh and auto-play trick our brains with endless novelty. Notifications interrupt our thoughts with external prompts. We endure boring, repetitive videos just to see how they turn out. We cannot look away from beautiful people peddling absurd advice. Pages stuffed with advertisements and trackers crush our will to concentrate. Our attention gets monetised to enrich those who mastered distraction. Meanwhile, lengthy texts full of substantive information struggle to compete. Their interfaces are not designed for addiction but for illuminating discourse. They respect readers' agency instead of algorithmically ensnaring them. Their creators are more concerned with truth than clicks. But these oases of deep reading feel increasingly foreign to modern minds accustomed to constant sensory stimulation. Their depth requires patience and analytical effort that feels unnatural after years of skimming and scrolling. Digital media also offer many

positives, like exposing people to diverse perspectives they may never otherwise encounter. But the collateral damage to attention spans is real. Studies confirm that heavy multitaskers struggle to filter out distractions and focus on cognitively demanding tasks. People who consume lots of online media graze broadly but possess less knowledge depth. Digital natives think and read in fragmented ways - much unlike literate scholars of the past. While causal links need further research, the correlations are concerning enough to warrant intervention. The very structure of modern media threatens these capacities, but a shift in policies, education reforms and individual habits can help revive deep reading. But it would be unfair to blame technology alone. The economics of the news industry have evolved to prioritise profits over public service. As traditional revenue models collapsed, many outlets pursued clicks and shares over quality journalism. They flooded feeds with distracting diversity instead of substantive writing. The 24-hour news cycle promotes speed over accuracy. These institutional pressures make it harder for nuanced, investigated stories to thrive. Schools face immense pressure to teach to standardised tests. Educators drill math and science facts over critical thinking skills. Expository writing is emphasised less than formulaic essays. Students often get rewarded for rote memorisation more than original analysis. This system discourages the intellectual curiosity and patience needed for deep reading. Beyond that, poverty and inequality play major roles. Reading proficiency strongly correlates with socio-economic status. Those struggling to meet basic needs have less time and energy for books. Poor areas suffer underfunded schools with overcrowded classrooms and limited resources. These environmental disadvantages become roadblocks to literacy. Cultural stereotypes also have an effect. Many wrongly dismiss reading as an uncool, intellectual pursuit, especially for men. Even avid readers get labelled as overly enthusiastic. Social stigma creates psychological friction against reading. Especially among youths hyper-concerned about their image. This issue intertwines many complex societal threads - technology, media, economics, education, demographics, and culture. There are no singular causes or solutions. The decline in reading comprehension carries worrying implications for society at large. The tools needed to make sense of an increasingly complex world are at stake. Without the ability and inclination to read deeply, we lose foundational capacities to understand issues, weigh facts, debate respectfully, empathise with different views, separate truth from falsehood, and engage intellectually with the media.

The consequences permeate several facets of public life. In politics, discourse gets diluted to thoughtless slogans, sensationalism and tribalism. Without nuanced analysis, parties propagate misinformation to confirm their biases. Voters make uninformed choices. Media coverage devolves into horse-race coverage and outrage porn instead of rational issues analysis. Partisan divides widen as we lose shared sources of information and ways to communicate across differences - society fragments without a common baseline understanding of truth. Civic engagement suffers as citizens lack the desire to read policy analyses and long-form journalism. Misinformed by activists and political advertisements, people grow apathetic, disengaged and cynical. Complex social challenges get oversimplified into stereotyped wedge issues. Protest slogans replace thoughtful debate and educated activism. Movements make well-intentioned but misguided demands owing to shallow understanding. Without a citizenry capable of comprehending nuance, democracies cannot function healthily. Business decisions are made reflexively based on executives' gut reactions instead of studying data, analysis and viewpoints. Policies are formed to benefit short-term goals rather than long-term societal impacts. Ethical considerations fall by the wayside if leaders lack philosophical frameworks. Uninformed investors make choices biased by rumours, hype, and heuristics rather than economic fundamentals. Financial engineering trumps tangible innovations that require scientific literacy. In medicine, avoidance of health literature enables quackery and pseudoscience to spread. Patients cannot weigh statistics, risks and expert guidance. People refuse beneficial vaccines, pop unnecessary supplements, undergo unneeded procedures, and make ill-informed lifestyle choices. Public health suffers without comprehension of epidemiology. Across fields, we lose shared bases to communicate ideas precisely. Without reading complex literature, vocabularies shrink, discourse gets emotion-driven, and analogies replace facts. We lose touch with history, arts and culture. Anti-intellectualism rises as reading gets dismissed as elitist and irrelevant instead of empowering. A society that cannot patiently read long-form texts struggles to make sense of the world in ways that enable wise judgment, empathy across differences, effective policies, technological progress, economic justice, scientific reason, and fact-based truth to prevail over misguided beliefs. Reviving reading comprehension may be among the most urgent priorities for the future of civilisation. • Joan Westenberg is a solopreneur and technology writer.

By Correspondent Constantine Akitanda

Consumption of organic food helps to reduce risks of NCDs

RECKLESS eating has become rampant across Africa, with many consumers failing to consider where their food comes from or how it is produced.

This lack of awareness is contributing to a surge in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) on the continent, including diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease.

Ironically, while Europeans are increasingly seeking out organic produce, often sourced from Africa, the wealthy in Africa are turning to unhealthy, processed foods.

Non-communicable diseases have been rising in Africa, with diet-related factors playing a significant role.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that NCDs account for 37 percent of deaths in Africa, and this figure is expected to rise.

The adoption of Western dietary habits, characterized by high consumption of processed foods, sugars, and unhealthy fats, is a primary contributor to this alarming trend.

In urban areas, fast food outlets and supermarkets filled with processed foods are becoming increasingly popular among Africa's affluent.

This shift in eating habits is a stark departure from traditional diets, which were rich in whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and lean proteins.

The consequence is a growing prevalence of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases among Africa's wealthier population.

While Africa grapples with the consequences of reckless eating, Europe is witnessing a burgeoning demand for organic produce.

Consumers are becoming more health-conscious, seeking out foods that are free from synthetic pesticides, fertilizers, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). This trend is not only a response to health concerns but also an environmental and ethical stance.

Interestingly, much of the organic produce sought by Europeans is sourced from Africa, including countries like Tanzania.

African farmers, with their relatively low use of synthetic chemicals, are well-positioned to supply this growing market.

The irony is that while Europeans value and import Africa's organic produce, many Africans, particularly the wealthy, are opting for less nutritious, processed alternatives.

There is an urgent need to educate Africa's affluent about the dangers of reckless eating and the benefits of organic, whole foods.

The current trend sees rich Africans consuming junk foods from supermarkets, often becoming victims of NCDs.

This pattern mirrors the unhealthy eating habits of poor Europeans, who might not have access to high-quality, nutritious foods.

Promoting organic produce and traditional diets



could serve as a powerful tool in combating NCDs, hence, organic foods is not only free from harmful chemicals but are also more nutritious.

They support better health outcomes and contribute to a more sustainable environment. Moreover, by choosing organic, affluent Africans can help support local farmers and economies.

The path forward for Africa involves a return to traditional, wholesome diets and an embrace of organic farming.

Governments, health organizations, and community leaders must collaborate to raise awareness about the benefits of organic foods and the dangers of processed, unhealthy diets.

Educational campaigns, cooking workshops, and partnerships with local organic farmers can help shift perceptions and habits.

Highlighting the success stories from Europe, where organic produce is highly valued, can serve as an inspiration.

Through informed food choices, Africans can take charge

of their health, reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases, and create a sustainable future.

The continent's rich can learn valuable lessons from European consumers who prioritize organic and healthy foods.

Studies have shown that organic produce contains higher levels of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, which are crucial for maintaining good health and preventing diseases.

Apart from being environmentally sustainable, organic farming also promotes soil health, reduces pollution, and enhances biodiversity.

From an economic perspective, the demand for organic produce represents a significant opportunity for African farmers to meet the growing global demand for organic products. African farmers can access lucrative markets, increase their income, and improve their livelihoods.

Despite the clear benefits, the transition to organic farming and consumption faces several challenges.

One major hurdle is the lack of awareness and educa-

tion about the benefits of organic foods. Many consumers remain unaware of the health risks associated with processed foods and the advantages of organic alternatives.

To address this, comprehensive education and awareness campaigns are needed; governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector should collaborate to promote the benefits of organic foods through various channels, including social media, community events, and school programs.

While organic products can be more expensive, the long-term health benefits and reduced healthcare costs can outweigh the initial price difference.

Subsidies and incentives for organic farmers can also help lower the cost of organic produce, making it more accessible to a broader population.

According to the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), globally, only \$290 million has been invested in organic research to date, which is equivalent to 0.6 percent of the world funding for agricultural research and Africa has invested only \$5 million.

Funding studies on organic farming methods and their benefits is paramount in supporting this transition.

Moreover, integrating organic farming principles into agricultural education programs can equip future farmers with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in organic agriculture.

The rising prevalence of non-communicable diseases in Africa is a clear indication that dietary habits need to change.


Africa's affluent population can learn from the organic revolution in Europe, where consumers are now prioritizing health and sustainability, and leading the way in adopting healthier eating habits.

This shift not only benefits individuals but also contributes to the overall development and prosperity of the continent.

The move towards organic and traditional diets is not just a health imperative but a socio-economic and environmental one. The time to act is now, for the sake of current and future generations in Africa.

Through making informed food choices and supporting organic agriculture, we can pave the way for a healthier, more sustainable, and prosperous future.

The author is the Editor-in-Chief of the African Organic Agriculture Magazine.



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Expression of Interest (Eoi)

GIZ is seeking an organization to conduct a Baseline Study of current hydrological, hydrometric, biodiversity, and land use conditions in the Katuma Catchment (Katavi-Rukwa Landscape)

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR KATUMA CATCHMENT BASELINE STUDY

GIZ is a federally owned enterprise operating worldwide, assisting the German Government in achieving its policy objectives in the field of international cooperation. It offers demand-driven, tailor-made and effective services for sustainable development worldwide. In Tanzania and across the region GIZ supports the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the EAC in attaining their development goals.

GIZ is looking for a professional and experienced organization to conduct a baseline study for the Katuma River Catchment (within the Katavi-Rukwa land scale) that encompasses three key areas:

- Hydrological and hydrometric conditions (water balance, surface water, ground water, water uses)
- Biodiversity inventory and indicators (aquatic, forest, terrestrial)
- Land use (topography, geology, etc)

Therefore, GIZ would like to request qualified organizations to send their Expression of Interest (Eoi) as per below details. The organization selected will be responsible with primary and secondary data collection (requiring field research in the Katuma catchment) as well as report drafting, including any relevant maps and the submission of all raw data to GIZ.

- Collection of primary and secondary data on hydrology/hydrometry in Katuma Catchment
- Creation of current biodiversity inventory in Katuma Catchment and Katavi National Park using primary and secondary data
- Development of biodiversity indicators for wetlands health to be measured in Katuma Catchment/Katavi National Park using primary and secondary data
- Evaluation of current land use in Katuma Catchment with projections of future land use change where possible
- Creation of GIS Maps visualizing hydrology/hydrometry, land use/land cover, biodiversity, wetlands, and similar

- Use of own monitoring equipment for primary data collection on hydrology/hydrometry and biodiversity
- Supply of raw data to GIZ
- Drafting of full written report with accompany maps, charts, and visualizations to GIZ

Your documents must show the following information:

1. A clear physical address and Contact address (Telephone number, email address, physical address).
2. Company profile, including Annual turnover and number of staff, together with a brief description of the company's experience in collecting baseline environmental/natural resources data in Tanzania
3. Samples of previous baseline or similar studies (natural resources assessments, biodiversity assessments/studies, hydrological studies/assessments, or similar) that showcase professional experience of minimum of 5 years conducting these sorts of research/reports
4. Must be able to physically travel to Katuma catchment for primary data collection
5. Must have access to own monitoring equipment for primary data collection
6. Proof of previous experience with international organizations/international development actors
7. Describe daily rate for experts
8. Sample CVs of experts, at minimum one expert per category (hydrology/hydrometry, biodiversity, land use)
9. Business registration Certificate in Tanzania if applicable
10. TIN / VAT Registration Certificate if applicable
11. Valid latest tax clearance certificate from Revenue Authority if Applicable

Submission of EOI
Please submit your EOI documents to email address tz_procurement@giz.de (TZunderscore _ Procurement@giz.de) latest by 19th June 2024 with the subject line Katuma Catchment Baseline Study EOI.



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

INSTITUTE OF TAX ADMINISTRATION
Accredited by the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training

CALL FOR 2024/ 2025 ACADEMIC YEAR APPLICATIONS

The Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) invites applications for entry into its various programmes for academic year 2024/2025. Qualified applicants for admission into its competence-based Customs and Tax Management programmes, are invited to apply for the programmes as specified hereunder:-

- 1) Post Graduate Diploma in Taxation (PGDT) - 12 months (Full-Time) or 18 months (Executive). Minimum entrance qualification: A Bachelor's Degree in any business-related field or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution.
- 2) Bachelor Degree in Customs and Tax Management (BCTM) - Three years (full-time)
Minimum entrance qualification: Either Two Principal Passes at "A" Level excluding passes in General Studies, Basic Applied Mathematics and religious subjects with a minimum total of 4.0 grade points or a minimum of 3.0 GPA in Ordinary Diploma in Customs and Tax Management or any other Ordinary Diploma in a business related discipline. All applicants for the BCTM should have FOUR passes at "O" Level (including passes in English and mathematics and excluding passes in religious subjects).
- 3) Ordinary Diploma in Customs and Tax Management (DCTM) - Two years (full-time)
Minimum entrance qualification: Basic Technician Certificate (NTA level 4) in Customs and Tax Management or in any other business-related discipline; OR One Principal Pass and one Subsidiary Pass at "A" Level excluding passes in General Studies, Basic Applied Mathematics and religious subjects. All applicants for the DCTM should have FOUR passes at "O" Level (including passes in English and mathematics)
- 4) Basic Technician Certificate in Customs and Tax Management (CCTM) - One year (Full-Time). Minimum entrance qualification: FOUR passes in business related subjects at "O" Level (including passes in English and mathematics and excluding passes in religious subjects).
- 5) East African Customs Clearing and Freight Forwarding Practising Certificate (CFFPC) – Four months (Full – Time) or Six months (Part-Time). Minimum Entrance Qualifications: Two (2) passes at "O" Level excluding passes in religious subjects

The window for application will be opened on 6th June 2024 for all programmes except BCTM whose window of application will be opened on 15th July 2024.

MODE OF APPLICATION

- a) Applications should be done online through www.ita.ac.tz
- b) BCTM, DCTM and CCTM applications must be accompanied with evidence of payment of a non-refundable application fee of TZS. 10,000/= for East Africans or US\$ 30 for Non-East Africans.
- c) PGDT and CFFPC applicants must pay a non-refundable application fee of TZS. 30,000/= for East Africans or US\$ 30 for Non-East Africans.
- d) The fee may be paid through M-Pesa, Tigo Pesa and Airtel Money.
- e) The application Fee for foreign applicants should be paid through Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Tanzania, ITA fee collection account Number: - 3300481074.

The application deadline for all programmes is 15th September 2024.

For more information, please contact:

RECTOR,
Institute of Tax Administration,
P. O. Box 9321, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Phone : Admissions +255689538314, General +255783 081348 or +255 22 2216800/1
E-mail: ita@tra.go.tz

By Adonis Byemelwa

Appeals for Action: Karega residents demand disaster management in flood-ravaged region



Former CCM Chairman for Karega Region and ex-legislator for Ngara constituency, Pius Ngeze

IN the picturesque yet disaster-prone region of Karega, northwestern Tanzania, the urgency for enhanced disaster preparedness and management is at an all-time high.

The region, with Bukoba as its capital, faces severe challenges from the increasing frequency of natural disasters, notably devastating floods. These floods, exacerbated by climate change and the overflowing tributaries feeding into Lake Victoria, threaten lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure.

Amidst this crisis, the call for proactive disaster management has never been more critical. Enter Pius Ngeze, an 80-year-old former CCM Chairman for Karega and ex-legislator for Ngara, who has been a steadfast resident of Bukoba since 1977.

Renowned for penning 72 agricultural books and steering Tanzania Educational Publishers (TEP), Ngeze's relentless advocacy echoes through Bukoba. With unmatched expertise and community ties, he stands as a pivotal voice for fortified disaster readiness and scientific inquiry, shielding Bukoba's destiny.

On May 17th, 2024, in a heartfelt recount, he revealed the staggering extent of the devastation wrought by the recent floods, which inflicted catastrophic damage to his residence and TEP house.

The torrential waters left a trail of destruction, with losses soaring to over 100 million Tanzanian shillings. The floods, unprecedented in their ferocity, have upended lives and livelihoods, underlining the urgent need for enhanced disaster preparedness and support for affected communities.

"My residence was wrecked by floods, and I in-

curated a huge loss. The TEP house was damaged despite having a three-meter foundation. All offices were affected, and the books were damaged," Ngeze lamented.

He emphasized the increasing frequency and severity of these events, linking them to broader climatic changes. "The lake has some challenges. If you ask people, they will tell you these are climate change effects. What we did not experience before is now seen."

Ngeze's concerns are echoed by local experts and government officials. Dr. Egidius Kamanyi, a researcher and sociology lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam, has called for scientific research to understand the root causes of the floods and find lasting solutions. "Conducting scientific research would enable the government and other partners to find a lasting solution to the problem," Kamanyi explained.

The Karega region, including Bukoba Municipal Council, typically experiences long rains from February to March. However, due to climate change, floods have become more unpredictable and severe. The floods on June 24, 2023, caused significant damage, leaving many homeless and destroying infrastructure.

The former Karega Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Toba Nguvula, directed the Bukoba District Disaster Management Committee to assess the impact of the floods. He has also urged residents to maintain clear drainage systems and avoid throwing garbage into them.

Reflecting on past warnings, Ngeze recounted a conversation with Simon Karatama in 2014. "Karatama told me, 'Do you have a plot to set up a house in Kitendaguru?' I said no.

He warned that the area where I stay was full of water in the past, and the same may happen again," Ngeze recalled. His concerns became a reality when floods in 2016 and subsequent seismic activities further highlighted the vulnerability of the region.

Bukoba has also witnessed other natural calamities, including typhoons and earthquakes. Ngeze pointed out the need for a comprehensive disaster management strategy, citing the examples of Japan and the Netherlands, where advanced technologies and proactive measures have been implemented to mitigate similar risks.

"The government needs a disaster management unit and a commission led by Prof. Abdul Mruma to take decisive action. We must do more to save lives," Ngeze urged.

The tributaries filling up Lake Victoria, including the Kanoni River, play a crucial role in the region's hydrology. However, without thorough scientific studies and proper management, these water bodies contribute to flooding risks. The government is called upon to conduct detailed studies to understand the tributaries' behaviors and implement measures to control their impact on Lake Victoria.

Despite the challenges, steps are being taken towards improved disaster management in Tanzania.

Former Assistant Director of Disaster Research in the Prime Minister's Office, Department of Disaster Management, Mr. Charles Msangi, highlighted the country's progress due to the Disaster Management Act of 2022. This act has strengthened early warning systems, infrastructure, and guidelines for disaster response and recovery.

In the picturesque region of Karega, situated in northwestern Tanzania, the urgency for enhanced disaster preparedness and management has never been more palpable. Karega, with Bukoba as its regional capital, faces a unique set of challenges due to its proximity to Lake Victoria and its complex network of tributaries that feed into the lake.

These waterways, while vital for the local ecosystem and economy, also pose significant risks, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall when they are prone to flooding.

One of the primary concerns for Karega's residents is the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, such as floods and landslides. These events have been exacerbated by climate change, which has led to more erratic weather patterns.

The flooding of tributaries, in particular, has become a recurring issue, often resulting in the overflow of Lake Victoria. This not only threatens agricultural lands and infrastructure but also endangers lives and livelihoods.

In the face of these challenges, disaster preparedness and management in Karega must be prioritized. A multi-faceted approach is essential, integrating both traditional knowledge and modern scientific research.

Ngeze, echoing the sentiments of many concerned citizens, emphasizes the importance of proactive measures. These include the construction of robust infrastructure, such as flood barriers and drainage systems, as well as the implementation of early warning systems to alert communities of impending disasters.

Scientific research plays a fundamental role in understanding and mitigating the impacts of natural disasters in the region. Hydrologists and climatologists, for example, are crucial in studying the patterns of tributary flows and predicting potential flooding events.

By leveraging data and predictive models, these experts can provide invaluable insights into the most vulnerable areas and the most effective mitigation strategies. Additionally, environmental scientists can offer guidance on sustainable land use practices that reduce the risk of landslides and soil erosion, further protecting communities.

Disaster management in Karega must also involve comprehensive community education and training programs. These programs should aim to raise awareness about the risks associated with natural disasters and equip residents with the knowledge and skills needed to respond effectively. Community drills, workshops, and the dissemination of informational materials can empower individuals to take preventive actions and reduce their vulnerability.

The role of experts extends beyond research and infrastructure. Their involvement in policy-making and the implementation of disaster management plans is critical. Collaboration between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities can ensure a coordinated and effective response to disasters. Experts can also advocate for policies that prioritize disaster risk reduction and allocate necessary resources for preparedness and recovery efforts.

In addition to local efforts, international cooperation is essential. Climate change is a global issue, and its impacts on regions like Karega require support from the international community. Funding for research, infrastructure projects, and capacity-building initiatives can greatly enhance the region's resilience to natural disasters.

Ultimately, the safety and well-being of Karega's residents hinge on the collective efforts of all stakeholders. Proactive disaster management not only saves lives but also preserves the socio-economic fabric of the region. It is a call to action that cannot be ignored, as the stakes are too high for complacency.

The resilience of Bukoba and its surrounding areas will depend on the commitment to robust disaster preparedness and the integration of scientific expertise into all aspects of planning and response. The time to act is now, and the need for comprehensive, forward-thinking strategies has never been more critical.



CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND ALLIED SCIENCES BUGANDO



INVITATION FOR TENDER AND REQUEST FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

- The Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS-BUGANDO) has set aside funds for its operations during the Financial Year 2024/2025. It is intended that part of the funds will be used to cover eligible Payment under the contracts for which this advertisement is issued.
- The Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences' Tender Committee now invites sealed Bids under National Competitive bidding and Request for Pre-Qualification under Open Framework Agreement as follows:

I: INVITATION FOR TENDER:

- > Lot 1: Supply of Stationery
 - i. Stationery
 - ii. Cartridges and Tonner
 - iii. Printing Services
- > Lot 2: Supply of Special Faculty requirements/Medical training equipment
- > Lot 3: Supply of Clinical Coats, Uniforms and Scrubs
- > Lot 4: Provision of Cleaning Services
- > Lot 5: Repair, Maintenance and Services for:
 - i. Vehicles
 - ii. Air Conditions
 - iii. Elevator
 - iv. Generators
 - v. Printers and Photocopy machines

II: INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION:

- > Lot 6: Supply of Laboratory and Medical Supplies
- > Lot 7: Supply of Computer & IT Equipment (Electronics & Computing)
- > Lot 8: Supply Supplies for Renovation of University Buildings
 - i. Building Materials
 - ii. Plumbing supplies
 - iii. Electrical supplies

- Bids & Pre-Qualification documents must be well attached, enclosed in envelopes, sealed and clearly marked "Tender/Pre-Qualification for Lot"
- Tender documents should be obtained from the Tender Committee's Secretary Office No. C309 - 3rd Floor Administration Block; from 08:30 - 16:00 hrs. working days for a NON-REFUNDABLE One Hundred Thousand Shillings (100,000/-) only
- Invitation for Pre-Qualification documents should be obtained from the Tender Committee's Secretary Office No. C309 - 3rd Floor Administration Block from 08:30 - 16:00 hrs. working days for a NON-REFUNDABLE Fifty Thousand Shillings (50,000/-) only
- Payment should be made through CRDB bank account number 01J1054045501, CUHAS - BUGANDO and receipt shall be issued by Accounts Office upon payment.
- The bank slips should be marked "Payment for Tender/ Pre-Qualification Lot No."
- Resident Bidders will be given more consideration
- All tenders & Pre-Qualification documents must be addressed to the Vice Chancellor - CUHAS P.O.BOX 1464, Mwanza, not later than 18th June, 2024 at 13:00hrs.
- Tenders and & Pre-Qualification documents will be opened on 18th June, 2024 at 13:00hrs. in the presence of bidders or their representatives at CUHAS Boardroom.
- Tenders/ Pre-Qualification documents not received, not opened and not read out in Public at the Tender Opening Ceremony shall not be considered for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances. Telegraphic, telex, e-mail and/or portion of any tender shall not be accepted.



Vice Chancellor,
Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS),
P.O Box 1464, Mwanza, Block Z,
Plot NO. 229, Bugando Hill Mwanza.
Tel: +255 28 298 3384 Fax: +255 28 298 3386
Email: vc@bugando.ac.tz
Website: www.bugando.ac.tz

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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 UMUJAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Biodiversity meetings in Nairobi end, all eyes are now set on COP16

By Stella Paul, Nairobi

REGIONS struggling to revise and update their National Biodiversity Plans aligning them with the Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at COP15, will now be given the technical and scientific support to develop and submit their plans on time.

This was one of the key decisions of the 4th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI)—the crucial pre-COP meetings of the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD)—to review the status and challenges of implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which started on May 22 and ended in Nairobi late in the evening of May 29, 2024.

More than 1000 participants from 143 countries gathered for the nine-day meeting, which UNCBD referred to as one of the “largest SBI meetings ever,” to discuss a variety of issues pertaining to the timely implementation of the GBF. As the meeting ended, the participants came up with a list of recommendations that will be presented for nations to consider at the next Biodiversity COP (COP16), scheduled to be held in October in Cali, Colombia.

In December 2022, at the COP15, parties agreed to revise and update their national biodiversity plans (NBSAP), aligning the targets with the global biodiversity framework that was adopted at the COP. These updated plans are to be submitted to UNCBD by or before the next COP, scheduled to be held in October.

The top agenda item of the SBI has been reviewing these reasons and recommending steps that can help countries close this gap and complete the task of submitting their plans on time.

Capacity Building

After the nine-day discussions, delegates at the SBI decided that it would be necessary to provide all countries with specific technical and scientific support that can help them develop their NBSAPs and submit them on time. To provide this support, SBI decided that a network of

technical and scientific support centres would be set up at regional and sub-regional level.

According to Chirra Achalender Reddy, Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, India, and the chair of the SBI-4 meeting, the recommendation to set up these support centres was one of the key decisions made at the meeting.

“I thank the parties for their commitment to implementation of the Convention, as demonstrated by their engagement during the negotiations this week. While we have many issues to resolve at COP16, the foundation is laid for our discussions in Cali, Colombia, later this year,” said Reddy.

Elaborating further on the decision, David Cooper, Acting Executive Director of the UNCBD, said that 18 regional organizations have been selected worldwide as the support centres. “They will foster and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation as countries harness science, technology and innovation to help halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.”

Cooper also expressed hope that, in the future, these 18 organizations could create more such support centres, expanding the network from regional and sub-regional to national level.

“These sub regional support centres will also promote technology transfer among countries, including through joint research programs and joint technology development ventures, acting as “one-stop service centres” offering wide-ranging resources to help meet Biodiversity Plan targets. The centres are expected to help expand, scale up, and accelerate efforts such as the existing Bio-Bridge initiative,” Cooper added.

In the Global Biodiversity Framework, the financial ambitions set out include investing USD 200 billion a year from both public and private sources until 2030. In addition, the goal also includes saving another USD 500 billion by ending subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity yet are still practiced by countries. This will bring the total available



David Cooper, acting Executive Director of UN Biodiversity and Chirra Achalender Reddy, chair of SBI-4, address the press conference.

finance for biodiversity conservation to USD 700 billion per year until 2030, the deadline to achieve all GBF targets.

At the SBI, there was an intense discussion on resource mobilization. Several countries complained that, despite being signatories to the GBF, they had not been able to access any resources meant for biodiversity conservation, especially the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), which was launched last year and is managed by the Global Environment Facility.

Delegates from Syria, who spearheaded this discussion, revealed that their country had not been able to receive any money and suggested that the final document prepared by the CBD Secretariat reflect this. Syria's voice was amplified by Russia, which said that Syria's inability to access resources should be interpreted as a denial of resources.

Almost all the governments also discussed their own parameters for national biodiversity finance plans, the role of multilateral development banks, existing UN initiatives, and private finance.

An important discussion that took place was about setting up a new Global Biodiversity Fund, separate from the current Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF).

Gender and Indigenous Peoples One of the most interesting developments that took place on the sidelines of the SBI meeting was the launch of a training module by

Women4Biodiversity, a group that advocates for gender mainstreaming across all 23 targets of the GBF and participates in the meetings as an observer.

Titled “Training Module on Advancing Women's Rights and Gender Equality in the Implementation of the Kunming Montreal-Global Biodiversity Framework,” the document was prepared in collaboration with World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Speaking to the press about the training module, Alejandra Duarte, Policy Associate at Women4Biodiversity, said the main objective of the publication was to serve as a source of information for decision-makers, negotiators, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society, businesses, and the whole of society who are engaged in the planning, monitoring, and implementation of the Biodiversity Plan.

Mrinalini Rai, Director of Women4Biodiversity, also explained that the module was created to be understood by all and customized as per the context, community, or country.

Supporting Rai's comments, Cristina Egheerter, senior global governance policy expert at WWF, said, “I hope that the module will help understand the gaps and what needs to be done for women to be a part of the Biodiversity Plan.”

Rodah Rotino, an indigenous community leader and President of the Pastoral Communities Empowerment Programme (PACPEP), a

Kenya-based women-led NGO, highlighted the contribution of indigenous women to biodiversity conservation across the world, including Africa.

“In my community, we have started a seed bank that preserves indigenous tree seeds. We plant indigenous plants that help preserve and conserve the local biodiversity and help community members benefit from their many uses, as they have done for centuries,” Rotino said, citing the example of her own community in West Pokot County, where women have started several initiatives.

“We even promote the use of our traditional food systems, including the use of traditional indigenous crops, fruits, and vegetables, and we are seeing that after using these, our people, especially women and children, have many health improvements and quick recovery from some ailments.

In short, we are going ahead with using our indigenous knowledge without even waiting for the formal implementation of the GBF.”

What's Next

In Cali, Colombia, the CBD secretariat will present the decisions of the SBI-4 and the SBSTTA to the nations for their consideration and adoption.

However, just before the COP begins, yet another SBI meeting (SBI-5) will be held in Cali. The sole focus of that meeting will be to review the latest status of the national biodiversity plans and the plans that will be submitted between now and the COP.

“Right now, countries are in various stages of developing their NBSAPs and by October, we expect most of them to complete and make the submissions. The SBI-5 will review the plans and the status then,” Cooper explained.

New Schengen-style Southern Africa visa to boost tourism in SADC region

By Special Correspondent

In a landmark decision, five Southern African nations have expanded a regional visa to enhance tourism and streamline cross-border travel, similar to the Schengen Visa.

The new Schengen-style visa for Southern Africa will boost tourism by simplifying travel across Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

This unified visa, mirroring the European Schengen Visa, allows seamless cross-border travel, attracting more visitors and enhancing the region's appeal as a top travel destination. This initiative is expected to drive economic growth and strengthen regional cooperation in tourism.

In a groundbreaking move to boost tourism, five Southern African nations have agreed to extend a regional visa scheme that simplifies cross-border travel, akin to the Schengen Visa in Europe. Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, all members of the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area, will now participate in the expanded “univisa.”

This visa, which initially covered Zambia and Zimbabwe and allowed short visits to Botswana via Kazungula, aims to increase tourist numbers and streamline travel within the region.

During a recent summit in Livingstone, Zambia, KAZA leaders agreed to extend the univisa's coverage to additional countries within both the conservation area and the larger Southern African economic community. Botswana's Vice President, Slumber Tsogwane, confirmed his country's commitment to fully adopt the univisa, enhancing its role as a Schengen-like visa for Southern Africa.

Additionally, the KAZA member states are advocating for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to lift its ban on elephant and ivory trading. CITES, established to regulate and restrict wildlife trade to prevent overexploitation, imposed a ban on the commercial trade of African elephant ivory in 1989 due to significant declines in elephant populations.

The KAZA countries argue that lifting these restrictions would allow them to sell accumulated ivory, valued at approximately \$1 billion, with pro-



ceeds dedicated to conservation efforts.

Other Similar Visas

The Schengen visa application process was launched globally by the end of November 2015.

The Schengen Area, Luxembourgish is an area encompassing 29 European

countries that have officially abolished border controls at their mutual borders. Being an element within the wider area of freedom, security and justice policy of the European Union (EU), it mostly functions as a single jurisdiction under a common visa policy for international travel purposes.

The area is named after the 1985

Schengen Agreement and the 1990 Schengen Convention, both signed in Schengen, Luxembourg.

Similarly, the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) unified tourist visa is expected to be launched between 2024 and 2025. The visa aims to simplify travel across the six GCC countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the

United Arab Emirates. It will allow tourists to visit multiple countries with a single visa, similar to the Schengen visa.

The unified GCC tourist visa is designed to increase tourism in the region, attract long-haul travelers from Asia, Europe, and the United States, and extend the maximum stay to 15 days within Council member states.

Financing farmers will help advance Africa's agriculture industry

By Special Correspondent

THE need to create innovative financing mechanisms for Africa's farmers and reevaluate existing ones is becoming increasingly critical as the continent faces compounded challenges, including climate change, low productivity, and conflict.

This was highlighted during a session at the recent 10th African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), where the industry called on policymakers to assess the needs of farmers and enhance access to funding if they expect Africa to meet the Malabo Commitment to end hunger by 2025, or the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Collaborative efforts, private sector engagement and strategic partnerships were identified as key to making an impact and advancing these goals.

The agricultural sector is the economic backbone of Africa, where an estimated 33 million smallholder farms and the farmers who live on them contribute to 70% of the continent's food supply. Africa produces all the principal grains and other diverse crops, including rubber and cocoa in the tropical regions; soya and sorghum on the plateaus; tea, coffee, and flowers in the high-altitude areas; as well as Mediterranean crops. However, climate phenomena such as El Niño and increasing extreme weather events, due to climate change, such as tropical cyclones, floods and droughts, are decimating crops, and the resilience of the land and its ability to adapt are being pushed to their limits. Meanwhile, the demands on this vital resource are reaching critical thresholds.

Climate change also modifies the properties of soil, both chemically and physically leading to land degradation. Soils become less fertile, lowering crop yields and this impacts on agricultural production. Land degradation is already a major issue in Africa, due to poor soil health, and this is threatening the foundation of its citizens' livelihoods - because they cannot afford to mitigate it.

The president of the African agricultural transformation institution, AGRA, Dr Agnes Kalibata, estimates that land degradation costs farmers up to \$1,400 per year. Ac-



According to the global research partnership CGIAR, 65% (494 million hectares) of Africa's soil is currently degraded. Eighty-three percent of sub-Saharan Africans rely on this land for their livelihood. As a result, yield gaps on the continent are wide, ranging from as little as 2% to over 50%.

Substantial investment in Africa's agricultural sector is needed, however, the visible impacts of climate change have caused investors to be wary. Other funding impediments include default risks and political risks. Giving

farmers access to the right financial resources to address land degradation and climate change challenges would result in more progress being made towards achieving the objectives of the African Union Agenda 2063, which include the transformation of African agriculture and food security.

Closing the gaps

With the Russia-Ukraine war having increased global food insecurity by impacting production and crop exports out of the former agricultural powerhouse of Ukraine, a significant opportunity exists for Africa. By improving yields and insuring them against climate risks, African farmers could help close the gap, unlocking immense economic growth and development potential. Tapping into finance would also help farmers expand into the 60% of arable land that is still uncultivated on the continent.

As part of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), an initiative that forms part of the African Union Agenda 2063, African governments have committed to allocating at least 10% of their national budgets to agriculture and rural development. But this might still not be enough.

Another way in which governments could assist farmers is through subsidising climate insurance. Farmers with their limited resources are reluctant to take out premiums due to the cost, making derisking the industry not only the answer but also a huge economic opportunity. The reduction of risk would encourage investment. Private sector involvement is critical to driving investment, innovation and addressing the challenges in the industry.

Making an impact

The work of parametric insurer and financial affiliate of the ARC Group, African Risk Capacity Limited (ARC Ltd.), exemplifies the impact that is possible through addressing farmers' specific needs and forging strategic partnerships. "There is no story that can be told about African development without taking into account agriculture and the need to protect investments in the sector," says ARC Ltd. CEO Lesley Ndlovu.

The company provides insurance to small- to medium-scale farmers in Africa through micro or meso products. With micro insurance, farmers' assets are insured, and their income is protected, and with meso insurance, banks are insured against a portfolio of loans. "A severe drought in a region will result in a spike in defaults. These defaults can be protected by insurance to avoid the accumulation of risk," says Ndlovu. As a result, banks can free up more lending than they would usually be comfortable with, helping enhance access to finance so that farmers can invest in improving productivity and income.

ARC Ltd. has also been involved in several projects across Africa targeting farmers. In Côte d'Ivoire, the company, together with the Côte d'Ivoire Environment and Sustainable Development Ministry (MINEDD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), initiated a climate insurance pilot for agricultural value chains, run in collaboration with the FUSCOP RIZ CI "COOP-CA", a federation of rice producers and their board of directors. Fol-

lowing the successful pilot, and with more partners on board, such as the World Food Programme, the project was expanded to include cocoa production with the aim of replicating it further across other agriculture value chains, such as cotton and maize. The project issued its first payout earlier this year of 16 million CFA francs to 3 594 rice and cocoa producers.

In the Horn of Africa, ARC Ltd. is helping fight the impact of the dual hazards of drought and excess precipitation on farmers in Djibouti. The first-ever multi-year, multi-peril agreement on the continent was signed in 2023 between the government and the ARC Group. It has given the country access to five years of disaster risk management capacity building and disaster risk insurance coverage for drought and excess precipitation.

ARC Ltd. has also partnered with the US Government (USG) on a \$11.7 million project over three years to protect vulnerable smallholder farmers and African governments against climate risks. "Our priority with this grant is to provide coverage to 19 states," explains Project Head and ARC Ltd. Chief Operating Officer Angie Chitave. "With the support of the USG, we will be refining and developing innovative products to meet the evolving needs of these countries."

The project has two goals. The first is to work closely with governments so that they can better manage natural disasters by using parametric insurance. In a collaborative approach, ARC Ltd. customises risk models for countries and helps governments integrate parametric insurance into their policy frameworks.

The project also aims to increase the uptake of parametric insurance by working with the African Union and regional economic communities. The significant advantage of parametric insurance is that it enables a rapid payment of claims, typically within 10 business days of a disaster, to fund emergency relief efforts and rebuilding.

ARC Ltd.'s plans for the continent's agricultural sector include developing demand-driven micro and meso insurance and diversifying beneficiaries - including pastoralists locally and humanitarian organisations globally.

With escalating climate risks, innovative financing solutions like parametric insurance have significant potential to safeguard farmers' livelihoods and drive development across the continent. Increased awareness and understanding are essential to encourage uptake. More investment in this space and policy reforms are also imperative to scale up climate risk management strategies and to empower Africa's farmers.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT-IT-1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11	Capital of Norway																
12	rub out																
14	fictitious stories																
15	form of worship consisting of special prayers																
17	a person who arrives																
18	stop sleeping																
Down:																	
1	a mystery																
2	conforming to a standard																
3	monetary unit of Europe																
4	the central point																
6	tell someone something positively in order to dispel potential doubts																
8	an apparatus for aerating water or other fluids																
9	a member of an ancient Jewish ascetic sect of the 2nd century BC-2nd century AD in Palestine																
13	"Painting in the sky"																
16	a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear																

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------|
| KNEES-UP | INANE | RANEE |
| SKIRTING | DELE | MESS |
| CEASEFIRE | TREATED | EERIE |
| KENYA | SECTIONS | SPY |
| INN | IRE, OIL | AS |

Yesterday's solution

D	O	D	O	M	A	A	B	A	R	S	P	A
R	E	I	A	M	B	A	M	D	E	S		
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RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS HOJA YA LEO 20.30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS MALUMBRANO YA HOJA 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM HIZI NAZO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05HRS KIPIMA JOTO 23.00 HRS WEEKEND SHOW 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MTAWA MAGOMA 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18:00 HRS BONGO TEN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS CHEMBA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS MBAYU ZANGU 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS RAFIKI I 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00-05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One



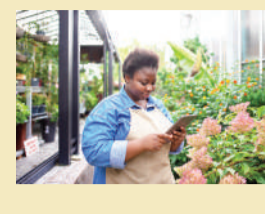
AI: Navigating the future of marketing landscape – Part 4

Page14



Zanzibar seeks to transform SUZA into centre for innovations

Page14



Mobile financial services upsurge

Page15

Govt seeks to embrace tech progress, innovation

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

THE government has committed towards embracing technological progress and fostering innovation as crucial input for economic growth, job creation, and overall development, as stipulated in the third Five Year Development Plan (FYDP).

Speaking over the weekend in Dar es Salaam during a recently breakfast debate, held during Tanzania Innovation Week 2024, the Executive Secretary of the Planning Commission, Lawrence Mafuru, said that the government in collaboration with stakeholders has been undertaken various initiatives to support innovation in the country.

According to Mafuru the initiatives include investing in digital infrastructure, such as the national ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB), which has been connected to all regional Headquarters and all major urban centers in the country and has extended to seven neighboring countries.

He said the government has also

established the Tanzania Innovation Initiative, a dynamic platform that allows innovators and entrepreneurs to showcase their ideas and receive support from different stakeholders and innovation hubs and incubators throughout the country to create a supportive environment for start-ups, providing them with the necessary resources and support to thrive.

Notable examples include the Dar Teknohama Business Incubator (DTBi), located in Dar es Salaam, that offers co-working spaces, mentorship, business training, networking opportunities and access to funding specifically tailored for technology start-ups.

The incubator is also encouraging ICT innovative solutions especially in public service delivery by developing e-Government systems, whereby key services are provided through digital platforms.

At structural and policy level, Mafuru explained that the government has established research and innovation sections under the directorate of policy and planning aiming at inducing application innovation solutions into development interventions.

This initiative paves a way towards utilization of options and solutions provided by researchers and innovation hubs.

He further noted that the government



Executive Secretary of the Planning Commission, Lawrence Mafuru

continues to emphasize on collaboration with stakeholders including Development Partners, NGOs and CSOs on implementation of National Policy for Science, Technology, and Innovation; and provision of innovation funding and support.

The policy is focusing on business environment for start-ups the government in collaboration with stakeholders is working towards developing the National Start-up Policy.

The intervention is informed by a Comparative Baseline Survey on Establishment of the Start-up Policy in Tanzania undertaken by Economic and Social

Research Foundation [ESRF] taken in 2022.

The Survey involved consultation with stakeholders including Tanzania Startup Association (TSA) to identify a number of challenges from which solutions will be provided by the Policy through establishing national position, legal and regulatory framework and improved institutional structure on startup the country.

Despite notable achievement and initiatives to improve innovation spectrum in the country, still there are challenges facing this area.

These include inadequate funding of innovation interventions; limited utilization of innovative solutions into development plans and implementation; brain drain and talent retention and limited awareness, understanding and knowledge on innovation matters.

Respective to National Development Frameworks including the ending Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) 2025 and its operational instrument, the Third Five Year Development Plan (FYDP III), intend to define and ultimately table possible solutions on fostering collaboration between Government, Development Partners

and the Private Sector to create an enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship.

For his part, Director, Business Environment Unit, President's Office - Planning, Investment Baraka Aligaesha, said that the government has taken several measures to support innovators.

They include the SMEs' exemption from the three-year product registration set by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the rise of the presumptive income tax threshold (annual turnover) from 20m/- million to 100m/-.

According to Aligaesha, in 2021, the government removed the mandatory requirement for preparation of audited financial statements, while in 2022, the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) introduced the stop centre facilitation as well as the qualification criteria.

Meanwhile, Charles Misheto, a bankers said supported the partnership idea, suggesting the need for simplicity and a competitive mindset.

"We should move away from the short and myopic strategies because the business models we have in the banking sector will be irrelevant in the next 10 years; therefore, we need to change our mindset," he said.

Four reasons financial wellness is important in the workplace

By Shaban Njia, KAHAMA.

MINISTERS Juma Aweso and Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba, responsible for water and finance respectively, graced the occasion to witness the signing of a groundbreaking contract involving the supply water from Lake Victoria to Ushetu Council in Shinyanga.

This transformative initiative valued at 44.2bn/- and excitement fills the air as Sihotech Eng.Comp Ltd from Dar es Salaam and Mponela Construction Company Ltd from Iringa gear up to execute this project over 22 months under the vigilant eye of RUWASA.

Leading the charge, the Director General of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitations Agency (RUWASA), Eng Clement Kivegalo, passionately expressed that job opportunities tailored for unskilled youth in Ushetu will take pole position.

"These opportunities aim to empower the youth by providing avenues to earn valuable income. A blend of innovation, community empowerment, and strategic plan-



Contract signed for water supply from Lake Victoria to Ushetu council in Shinyanga, ready for execution. Photo: Shaban Njia

ning propels this project towards a brighter, more sustainable future," he explained.

Embarking on an ambitious venture, the construction of a 76 KM long pipeline from Kahama Municipality to Ushetu Ulowa and the establishment of 35 water extraction stations are set to revolutionize the lives of over 189,836 citizens, as per the population and housing census data.

Addressing a crucial need, Aweso emphasized the transformative impact this project will have on the residents of Ushetu.

He highlighted the challenges faced by the community due to inadequate

access to clean and safe water, hampering progress and productivity, often forcing residents to resort to compromised water sources shared with animals.

In a resounding statement, Dr. Nchemba metaphorically described the government's timely intervention as strategically placing a bucket on the mother's head.

"This commitment ensures that all regions grappling with water scarcity receive swift and efficient services, aligning with the government's overarching vision of universal access. Implementation proceeds seamlessly as the government allocates resources, demonstrating unwavering dedication to improving citizens' lives nationwide," he said.

Fish production surges as Rwanda restores two lakes

KIGALI

FISH production in Cyohoha Lake in the Mayange, Mareba, and Ngeruka sectors of Bugesera district, as well as Kibare Lake in Kayonza District, has significantly increased following extensive restoration efforts.

These lakes had previously dried up due to climate change.

In 1999 and 2000, Cyohoha Lake dried up completely, causing a massive fish die-off, Damien Habukize, a fish farmer from Mareba sector says.

"I used to harvest Tilapia, Mamba fish, catfish, and more, but they all vanished due to encroachment and the lake drying up," he said.

Before the restoration, residents faced severe water shortages. "We had to dig into the lakebed to access groundwater," Habukize added.

Today, fish production has improved, and the lake now supports solar-powered irrigation.

"We now harvest 10 kilograms of catfish, 40 kilograms of Mamba fish, and six kilograms of Tilapia per day," Habukize said. "The lake is open for fishing four days a week and closed for two months to allow for fish reproduction."

Residents have also formed a fishing cooperative with 350 members to ensure sustainable production. Phocas Ntiyamira, president of the Komezha Imihigo Cooperative, highlighted the benefits of restoration, including water for irrigation and soil erosion control. Bamboos were planted in buffer zones, and solar-powered irrigation is now in place.

Joseline Yamfashije, another farmer, noted that agroforestry trees have been planted to control soil erosion around the lake and wetland. "We are working to prevent pollution to boost fish production," she said.

Sylvie Uwacu, a forestry official in Bugesera District, emphasised that deforestation and human activities had led to the drying up of lakes and rivers. "We planted native tree species in buffer zones to restore these water bodies," she said.

Servand Niyitegeka, a rehabilitation expert from the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), noted that water levels have risen in both the lake and wetland post-rehabilitation.

"Rehabilitation covered 52 hectares of the wetland and 645 hectares of Cyohoha Lake. The fishing cooperative members have even bought a vehicle and built a commercial house due to increased fish production," he added.

Fish production has risen from 900 kg to 3,450 kg per month. Additionally, 115 hectares of aquatic weeds have been cleared from the lake. Murago Swamp has also been proposed as a Ramsar site, designated for international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

Saving Kibare Lake

The government has also restored Kibare Lake in Kayonza District. Covering 336 hectares, Lake Kibare is home to Nile Tilapia, African Catfish, and Haplochromis species. Before 2018, unsustainable agriculture severely degraded much of its riparian zone.

Through a project to build resilience in degraded wetlands, forests, and savannas, REMA restored the land and banned activities in the riparian zone.

"The lake was drying up due to market activities and waste dumping," Niyitegeka explained. "Now, a proper market and waste management system have been established."

Bamboo and agroforestry plantations now cover 80 hectares of the restored lakeshores. The construction of Kibare Market and storage cost Rwf 103 million.

A recent REMA investigation found that construction, agriculture, and waste discharge continue to pollute major lakes in Rwanda. However, ongoing restoration efforts aim to mitigate these impacts and ensure the sustainability of these vital ecosystems.

Envoy praises 40 years of cooperation between Tanzania, Belgium

By Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa, Morogoro

BELGIUM'S Ambassador to Tanzania, Peter Van Acker, expressed pride in the strong 40-year partnership between Belgium and Tanzania. The collaboration has been instrumental in achieving success in various sectors such as economy, health, water, and education.

He emphasized the importance of maintaining diplomatic relations and supporting Tanzania's efforts in promoting gender balance, democracy, and good governance.

Ambassador Van Acker (pictured) credited the success to the collaborations between universities in Belgium and Mzumbe University (MU) in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region.

This partnership, which has spanned a decade, involved jointly implementing academic programs, conducting research, addressing community challenges, and providing entrepreneurship education and clean water services.

The Belgium envoy made these remarks during the closing ceremony of a 10-year program at Mzumbe University (MU). The event had participants from different government departments, including their leaders, and the MU administration.

He highlighted that Belgium's collaboration through various research initiatives has been instrumental in supporting the Tanzanian government's efforts in sectors like economy,



health, water, and education. These projects were sponsored by Belgium to aid in Tanzania's development plans.

The Ambassador emphasized that the completion of the program does not mark the end of the partnership. Instead, Belgium remains committed to supporting academic collaboration between the University of Mzumbe and Belgium by providing funding for ongoing research projects aimed at community development.

Mvomero district commissioner, Judith Nguli, representing Morogoro regional commissioner Adam Malima, commended Belgium for their support in conducting research on academic and social matters. She expressed a desire for this collaboration to extend to other districts within the Morogoro region.

Nguli urged Mzumbe University's leadership to offer educational initiatives on democ-

racy and good governance. These programs are aimed at empowering both current and future local government leaders in preparation for the upcoming elections scheduled for this year.

She praised MU for its significant contributions, expressing the government's high expectations regarding the university's role in imparting knowledge and leadership skills to the populace.

Professor William Mwegoha, the Vice-Chancellor of MU, highlighted the substantial advantages of the collaborative project with Belgium universities, and the country at large.

Professor Mwegoha underlined notable achievements, such as the academic advancement of 12 faculty members who obtained doctoral degrees. This success aligns with the university's strategic objectives, particularly in enhancing IT infrastructure, curriculum development, and teaching methodologies.

He stressed additional outcomes, emphasizing the significance of professionals with creative teaching skills contributing to increased productivity for both the college and the broader society.

Beyond academics, he underscored the project's impact on the residents of Mvomero, citing benefits such as enhanced understanding of entrepreneurship and advancements in water technology and quality across 15 villages within the district.

AI: Navigating the future of marketing landscape – Part 5

Continued...

We will eventually stop talking about AI and move to a phase on what we can and cannot automate within the workflow process, which will help to release the creative component within the organization.

When it comes down to consciousness, the difference between us human beings and every other species on earth is in our ability to organize. The best organizations on earth are the ones that have sustained while also being profitable. Therefore, building an organization is a leadership function and now they have to lead machines and people together.

We are not talking about industrial machines we are talking about intelligent automated platforms that will adopt to changes and information. Moreover, if anything the higher hierarchy will still dominate as a leadership function and an opportunity that one can jump on.

Once it is clear on how to lead through this, we are going to be in a much better place in terms of productivity, simplicity and growth. It is about leading through it as opposed to living through it.

As a marketer you need to ask. How would you educate yourself around this technology in a way that will help you to start applying this technology without complications? We know that not everyone in this field is a "tech geek".

There are many websites that you can go to for resources, like shelly palmers they offer AI resources and a course for brand marketers and general AI for executives. The course is about 1 to 2 hours and you will learn a lot on how everything works, and it is free which is also very nice.

As a marketer, you say you want to officially start learning AI in your field and you had been previously toying and breezing through it before, but you now wish to take it seriously. You can also go to OpenAI and buy

DIGITAL MARKETING

Alley Mtatya



a subscription to ChatGPT for teams, which is their commercial product.

Then leave it open on your personal computer all day long. You can ask it as many questions as possible and also you can ask ChatGPT to teach you how to use it. You can put a proposal into ChatGPT and ask it! What are my clients likely to reject too other than the price?

Take a problem you wish to solve and solve it with the program. Have a conversation with the program as if it were a peer or an intern or an expert.

You will learn more on how this works and what it can and cannot do. There is no other substitute apart from rolling up your sleeves and getting your hands on the keyboard and constantly engaging with it. Do the same thing with the music, do the same thing with the videos. All these programs exist and their mostly free or cost a low fee per month.

This is an investment you would be making for your future. Sometimes you should just go with the wind and do it, you do not have to burden yourself financially, but you owe it to yourself to your career and to your field to just dig in and dig in hard.

You can also learn "prompt crafting", prompt crafting is something you can learn on how to maneuver around these programs. They're many quick videos online specifically on YouTube that you can watch and learn from.

You need to challenge yourself. Do not worry about the program stealing your data. Whether you're using a name brand model or Co-Pilot or ChatGPT or Claude from Anthropic or Gemini from

Google; firstly, you're indemnified and secondly, they're not going to touch your data based on their privacy policies.

GPT is short for Generative Pre-trained Transformer. The programs do not learn from you. You have to take the data input it and then train the program.

The program forgets over time (installed bug) so as to not keep data. If you still worried, then do not use company data use your own to learn.

Not matter what you do the only way to get good at this is to practice everyday at home and at work. The same way you use your social media platforms is the same way one must adopt to learning and gaining knowledge over time.

The more you interact with these tools especially in an area or field that you know and understand well the better you will understand their capability and how they can transform your workflow process and creativity. There are great platforms that are already out and some about to come out, the likes of Suno and Sora.

Suno is great for music creation and composition (I created a song in just 10 seconds, a hit song I might add), this platform gives you so much room to be creative which is also good for product jingles.

There is also Sora video production and creation. These AI platforms will blow your mind if you test them out. There are so many platforms rolling out each and everyday.

CSOs urged to sell climate change business opportunities

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have been advised to create awareness to the communities about the new business opportunities available in climate change mitigations, specifically women and youths.

Humphrey Mrema, Youth Survival Organization (YSO)'s chairperson made the statement last week when speaking to feminists and members of CSOs from Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar who attended the feminist awareness training on climate justice.

The event was organised by Women Action towards Economic Development (WATED) with funding from Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT).

He named business opportunities available in climate change as renewable energy, waste management, energy efficient, climate -smart agriculture, carbon market, monitoring, evaluation and assessment, environmental policy and advocacy as well as environmental management and conservation.

Mrema said the awareness will be an eye-opener to communities to attract them to acquire new skills in different universities/ colleges that will help them to create new business in accordance with people's needs.

"It is the appropriate time for civil societies to shift the paradigm by driving real changes through awareness-raising and advocacy to the community members, underlining the fact that climate change can only be

fairly addressed from the opportunity standpoint rather than crisis and existential threat," he said.

There are millions of green jobs that can be derived from climate action entry point to benefit is to advance climate action by harnessing economic opportunities that will not only sustain the planet, but also incentivizing their populace through economic prosperity.

Elaborating on charcoal and firewood business, he said "As Tanzanian government plan to shift from the use of charcoal and firewood for cooking in 2025 to save the environment from deforestation and promote the use of clean cooking energy sources, there is a need for the government to collaborate with other stakeholders to come up with new alternative projects that will attract charcoal and firewood sellers to stop such businesses through involving other economic activities.

"There is a need to support them because there are a lot of people who are involved in both business and they depend on it for their livelihood in- terms of income and other basic needs," he said.

Mary Rusimbi, Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT)'s Co- Founder said although the climate change provides new business opportunities for women and youth, the government must increase budgetary allocation to increase access to water, which will give women time to participate in other economic activities.

"Women should be supported to get

water in their localities because right now in other regions across the country women continue to suffer a high incidence of rape and sexual violence that is very dangerous for women and girls and even increase teenage pregnancies," she said.

Also women's voices need to be heard at all levels as well as ensure they have participation in public policy decisions, mitigation, adaptation, and reparation because climate change are affecting the livelihoods of women in many areas across the world, including Tanzania and women are victims of climate change, despite of being vectors of development.

According to her, they are active in environmental conservation and other sectors of the economy, despite all these efforts the negative impact of climate change remains difficult for them to overcome.

"As water sources dry up, women and girls are forced to travel long distances to find water that's not even safe for their families, cultivating crop is also challenging because there is no water for farming activities and they cannot carry enough water to irrigate their crops," she said

Also they don't get time to rest, enough time to study because they have to collect drinking water and help their families.

Climate change is causing severe water scarcity with women and girls bearing the brunt of the burden," she said.

Z'bar set to transform SUZA into a centre for innovations

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

THE State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) is implementing a special training program to impart its students with key practical knowledge on innovation and creativity sectors.

Throughout the program which operates under the tutelage of the high-profile trainers, the involving students are innovating varied technologies, signaling a positive future for the crucial economic sector of Zanzibar.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training in Zanzibar, Khamis Said told The Guardian in Tanga recently that the focus is to further capacitating the facility in order to become the country's hub for excellence in innovations and creativity.

"The government in Zanzibar considers technology, innovations and creativity as a key vehicle to help speeding up development pace, and thus we're working to promote the three sectors," he said.

For instance, he unveiled that through the so far well-established centre for innovation and creativity at the fast-growing state-owned varsity, he said the students have managed to innovate the Smart Poultry Farm, the best innovation which targeting to help the poultry farmers to improve their production and productivity.

"The Smart Poultry Farm innovation integrates IoT and AI technologies to automate essential tasks like water and feed management, temperature regulation, and data collection.

"By providing real-time monitoring and control, it optimizes resource utilization, enhances poultry health, and boosts farm profitability," he said.

Explaining on more successes, he said, the students have innovated the IoT-based vessel tracking system.

He said, through the technology, an IoT device; 'a hiking kit' will be installed in all registered fishing vessels, in which will be detecting any movement made by fishing boats within the ocean.

"This is the best clouds-connected technology which has been innovated by the students to maximise and digitalizing the government's systems towards monitoring the fishing sector and thus, fetching needed profits from the blue economy," he further said.

With the technology, once a fishing vessel enters an area where fishing is not allowed, then the IOT device inside the vessel will react and send data directly to the cloud, where data will be transported from the cloud to the API Gateway.

The API Gateway acts as a crucial intermediary between the IoT devices on the fishing vessels and the backend systems, ensuring seamless and secure communication while also providing additional functionalities such as security, routing, and monitoring, through monitoring devices.

"Monitoring devices will display the overall movement done by fishing vessel through alert and notification system, web map, overall vessel information and its recording through histogram and statistical data," the PS added.



The Zanzibar's Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Khamis Said. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

Ruvu's AMCOS takes leap in paddy farming

By Julieth Mkireri, BAGAMOYO

RUVU Irrigation Farmers' Cooperative Association (CHAURU) has achieved a significant milestone by acquiring a cutting-edge rice threshing machine with a capacity to process an impressive 30 tons of rice daily, in addition to four essential irrigation pumps.

The exciting announcement was made over the weekend by Sadala Chacha, former chairman of CHAURU, at a special general meeting held during the party's elections in the Coast Region.

At the meeting, Chacha highlighted that the purchase of the machine was one of the notable achievements during the tenure of the outgoing board. He also mentioned their success in reducing the wear and tear of the irrigation infrastructure by rebuilding the main drains.

He further reported that over three consecutive seasons, production increased from 4.5 to 6.5 tons, and stock levels rose dramatically from 300,000 units when the board assumed power to 86 million units.

Despite these successes, the association faces challenges, including a 60 percent deterioration in irrigation infrastructure compared to the 80 percent deterioration when they were assigned the farm in 2004.

Chacha also pointed out that a lack of funds hinders the implementation of the new rice irrigation scheme, which spans 1,380 hectares. Additionally, some breeders have caused damage to the infrastructure by grazing their livestock on the scheme.

During the meeting, members elected new board members, including the chairperson and the ethics and arbitration committee members.

Mchujuko Mchujuko was elected Chairperson, with Otnel Mburu as Vice Chairman. Other elected board members include Sade Mwakitalu, Renatha Mwaipopo, and Shea Bilali.

Prior to the election, Cooperative Officer Rafael Kajale, who oversaw the process, stated that there were 34 applicants for the position of board member. After the interview process, eight candidates remained, but one was later disqualified due to their controversial leadership in a political party.

CURRENT NEWS



Climate change is poised to have a profoundly impact on jobs globally

By Joseph Feyertag

LABOUR shortages may be fast emerging as a key barrier to achieving the climate goals of the 2015 Paris agreement. Even if countries have sufficient financial capital to invest in climate change adaptation and mitigation investment needs by 2030, they may not be able to construct the infrastructure, renewable energy or manufacturing projects required if skilled workers are unavailable.

Overly tight labour markets not only represent a risk for governments attempting to achieve net zero goals, but for central banks and financial supervisors' core price and financial stability objectives.

New analysis predicts that within the G20, the US, UK, European Union, Saudi Arabia, Japan, South Korea and Australia will experience severe shortages of labour until 2030 (Figure 1). On aggregate, nearly 13m additional workers will be required across the G20 to meet the demand for workers in green growth industries such as renewable energy, electric vehicle manufacturing or the installation and maintenance of electric heat pumps.

If current labour market conditions persist, additional vacancies in green growth sectors will therefore remain unfilled, even when taking into account the reallocation of workers from brown or unsustainable sectors.

Increasing labour demand sits against the backdrop of multiple pressures on the supply of skilled workers to the labour force. Some of these pressures are positive, such as the impact of technological change on increased labour productivity. Such effects could help meet some of the additional demand for labour, for instance in the development of new climate technologies that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions or remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Another critical factor is the impact of climate change itself. Even under a mitigated 1.5°C scenario, the increasing frequency and intensity of heatwaves will wipe out 2% of total hours worked per year, equivalent to 78m full-time jobs. This will be felt mostly in already hot, humid areas of the global South, with India alone suffering productivity losses equivalent to 34m jobs due to extreme combinations of heat and humidity (wet bulb temperature).

However, regions such as North America and Europe are not immune.



Recent heatwaves have led to 8% to 9% productivity losses in southern Europe, and up to 23% less labour supply in the US.

A big unknown is the potential effect that environmental degradation - in part caused by climate change - will have on workers. Up to 1.2bn jobs around the world, especially in primary industries such as agriculture or fisheries, depend on ecosystem goods and services. If these services are stressed or fail altogether, it threatens the livelihoods of people who depend on them. While many of these effects are gradual, a sudden loss of ecosystem services could therefore cause a supply shock to the labour markets by forcing people to look for alternative opportunities to work.

Though increased demand for green jobs can absorb some of these workers, our analysis shows that countries like China, India, Indonesia, Mexico or Turkey are at risk of having too much slack in the labour market due to these effects (Figure 2). This would lead to rising unemployment.

For central banks and supervisors, these imbalances are critical. Where labour markets are too tight, show that economies are more exposed to price shocks because firms cannot absorb increases in demand by hiring more workers. Today's low unemployment rates may in part explain persistent inflation in the services sector in the aftermath of Covid-19.

Having too much slack in the labour market is a danger too. Spikes of unemployment due to the sudden loss of ecosystem services or the mass layoff of workers during unjust and disorderly transitions could lead to the loss of aggregate demand, especially where there are no adequate social safety nets in place. This risks deflationary

cycles as well as representing a credit risk for banks concentrated in certain regions at risk of stranded assets, such as those that are coal dependent.

Central banks can build these labour market risks into their workhorse models and frameworks, for instance by allowing for wage inflation to attract more workers from outside the labour force.

Central banks can also implement more specific policy tools to stimulate labour demand and supply where available. For example, the US Federal Reserve not only has a primary employment mandate but can use the 1977 to require lenders to support affected communities. Many central banks in emerging markets have a mandate to promote financial inclusion, which is a key tool for increasing the resilience of workers to the effects of climate change and nature loss.

At the same time, there is only so much that central banks can do. Ultimately, fiscal policy-makers are required to implement the types of tools, instruments and legislation needed to ensure that workers are protected from disorderly transitions and the mounting impacts of climate change.

In countries most affected but least responsible for the climate crisis, this includes public investments in adaptive capacity funded by international commitments such as the Loss and Damage fund. In tight labour markets, governments can attract marginalised groups to the labour market, for instance by offering more generous childcare provision.

Joseph Feyertag (pictured) is Policy Fellow at the Grantham Research Institute, London School of Economics

MPs urged to reconsider tax on bread, vehicles, fiscal services

NAIROBI

MEMBERS of Parliament have been urged to reconsider a number of proposed tax measures in the Finance Bill 2024, to save the public from higher costs of goods and services.

According to the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), some of the proposals in the bill have "significant ramifications" to the public.

The accountants' body has raised concerns over the country's Policy Framework, pointing out inconsistency between the proposals in the Finance Bill, 2024 and the National Tax Policy and the Medium-Term Revenue Strategy Provisions, that enable predictability and stability in tax laws.

For instance, the tax policy anticipated an environment where tax laws will be introduced to last for five years, yet some of the provisions introduced and passed in the Finance Act, 2023 are already being amended, ICPAK has noted.

"These frequent changes go against the canon of stability and predictability in taxation. Further, the Medium-Term Revenue Strategy provided that a policy direction that anticipated a percentage reduction of the VAT rate," ICPAK chairman Philip Kakai said in a statement on Monday.

ICPAK has also urged MPs to reconsider the proposal to reclassify VAT on Bread.

The Finance Bill 2024 proposes to reclassify the supply of ordinary bread from zero-rated to standard-rated, which accountants now say will increase the price of the product which is a staple food for most Kenyans.

Globally, the demand for baked products has been on the rise and is expected to further grow by 13 per cent by 2025 for a variety of bakes.

In the African market, it is expected to grow by 6.9 per cent, according to ICPAK, and 6.7 per cent in the Kenyan market for the next 20 years. However, this could change with the new tax.

This development comes at a time when prices of wheat have been increasing thus hitting household disposable budgets harder.

"The Institute is of considered

opinion that government should retain bread and other related wheat products as zero-rated to make them affordable to the majority of Kenyans who are still grappling with the high cost of living," Kakai said.

The proposed motor-vehicle tax should also be reconsidered, ICPAK said, in the wake of a drop in the production of motor vehicles and multiple taxes and levies on fuel products.

The draft Finance Bill proposes to introduce a motor vehicle tax of 2.5 per cent of the value of the motor vehicle, to be collected by insurer at the point of issuing motor vehicle insurance.

The proposed tax amount shall be a minimum of Sh5,000 and a maximum of Sh100,000.

The value will be determined based on factors such as make, model, engine capacity (in cubic centimetres), and year of manufacture, subject to the Commissioner's prescribed guidelines on the valuation of the motor vehicle.

This tax should be remitted to KRA within five working days.

The applicable penalty for failure to account for motor vehicle tax due will give rise to a penalty of 50 per cent of the tax due.

This comes against the backdrop of revised insurance premium rates and high fuel prices, inevitably shoring up the cost of operating motor vehicles in Kenya, ICPAK noted.

The move, it said, will hurt the transport and logistics industry and may opt to pass through the additional cost to their customers, thus escalating the cost of living through a multiplier effect not only to insurance companies, spare-part dealers, car-service dealers, local assemblers, importers but also to the common wananchi who use motor vehicles.

"It is also important to note that the motor vehicle tax, unlike advance tax on commercial vehicles, cannot be offset against income tax payable," Kakai noted.

The bill, tabled in Parliament on May 9, also proposes to increase in excise duty from 15 per cent to 20 per cent on telephone and internet data services, fees charged for money transfer services by banks, money transfer agencies and other financial services and fees charged for transfer services by cellular phone.

Mbinga Town Council collects 1.9bn/- revenue in 9 months

By Alex Nelson Malanga, Mbinga

THE Mbinga Town Council (MTC) in Ruvuma region has managed to collect 1.9bn/-, which is equivalent to 77 percent of the entire 2023/2024 revenue collections target.

Amina Seif, the council's director revealed yesterday that during the current financial year, the target is to collect 2.4bn/-.

This suggests that the town council was collecting an average of Sh212 million on the monthly basis against an average of Sh206.3 million that was required to be garnered, if the set annual target was to be hit.

Again, this implies that the town council has no mountain to climb since in the first nine months of the current financial year it had been collecting Sh5.7 million more compared to the monthly average of Sh206.3 million.

With its revenue collections hitting Sh1.908 billion in a space of nine months, the council has a simple task of collecting Sh568

million to hit the roof of this financial year's target, she said.

She said the town council now needs to collect an average of only Sh189.3 million on the monthly basis to garner the remaining Sh568 million in three months (April-June).

"We are almost in line with the target. We are optimistic that we will attain the entire 2023/24 revenue collection target," asserted Amina, with her sentiments being echoed by the town council's chairperson Kelvin Mapunda.

The director, who was speaking during the town council's third quarter (January-March, 2024) Full Council meeting held here at the Oddo Mwisho Conference Hall, banked their hopes on the initiatives that the town council management is taking to strengthen revenue mobilization efforts.

MTC major sources of revenue are maize crop cess, coffee crop cess, business license, rent, service levy, sale of plots, beans crop cess, refuse collection service fee and parking fee.

Mobile financial services upsurge

By Guardian Correspondent

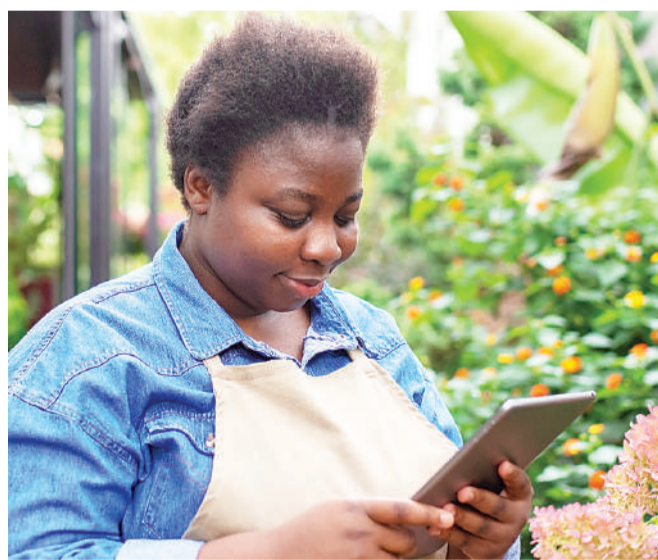
THE government has made significant strides in improving mobile financial services, leading to an increase in the number of transactions and mobile money accounts over the last three years.

Recent statistics show a substantial increase in mobile money accounts over the last three years, from 35,285,767 in 2021 to 52,990,091 in March 2024.

This growth in mobile money accounts is accompanied by an increase in the number of transactions, which rose from 3,752,084,894 in 2021 to 5,273,086,154 in 2023. This increase demonstrates how citizens are increasingly embracing and using mobile financial technology for their daily activities.

Mobile financial services, which originated in East African countries, particularly Tanzania and Kenya, have become a significant source of employment, especially for agents facilitating these services. Many banks have leveraged these agents to bring banking services closer to their customers, improving accessibility and convenience. "These services have enabled many people, especially those in rural areas, to access financial services easily and quickly," commented Lawrence Mwantimwa, a resident of Dar es Salaam.

In addition to efficiency, mobile financial services have significantly reduced operating costs for institutions. The government, through the Government e-Payment Gateway (GePG), has been able to lower these costs and



Staying connected on the go: A young woman manages her finances using mobile money as she navigates the bustling city streets.

increase transparency and accountability in financial activities.

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) is responsible for regulating and licensing mobile service providers, including issuing communication special numbers and short codes to facilitate these transactions.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) on the other hand supervises the financial sector and licenses, online financial service providers, ensuring that this sector is well-regulated and controlled.

"Mobile financial services have significantly broadened the economic horizons for many in Tanzania," says Conwell Naweya, a resident of Lilongwe, Malawi, who frequently travels to Dar es Salaam for shopping excursions at Kariakoo Market. "Each time I visit, I am impressed by the seamless mobile money services available here," he adds.

Naweya expresses a fervent hope that Malawi will soon offer similar high-calibre services, mirroring the standards found in Tanzania and Kenya. In Tanzania, the implementation of biometric SIM card registration has greatly enhanced security and bolstered user trust in electronic transactions.

This system of unique digital identities has not only fortified security but also bolstered user confidence, enabling Tanzanians to engage with these services more freely and with increased reliability.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan's government has shown great effort in ensuring that its citizens receive quality financial services, which has significantly contributed to the country's economic improvement. These achievements are the result of the government's solid policies and strategies, focused on leveraging technology to enhance citizens' lives and promote sustainable development.

Moreover, this increase in mobile financial service users has come at a time when the government is implementing a plan to raise awareness of technology and its use in various sectors. This is part of the government's efforts to improve social and economic services using modern technology, which shows significant progress under the leadership of President Samia.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



We are almost in line with the target. We are optimistic that we will attain the entire 2023/24 revenue collection target

WORLD



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa delivers a speech during a press conference announcing the election result at the National Results Operations Center in Midrand, South Africa, on June 2, 2024. South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) has secured 159 out of 400 seats in the National Assembly in the country's 2024 general elections, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) officially announced on Sunday evening. Xinhua

South Africa's ANC gains 159 seats in National Assembly: Official results

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) has secured 159 out of 400 seats in the National Assembly in the country's 2024 general elections, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) officially announced on Sunday evening.

The main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance (DA), came second with 87 seats in the National Assembly, followed by the uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) Party with 58 seats and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) with 39 seats, according to the official election results released by the IEC at the Results Operation Center (ROC) in Midrand, Johannesburg.

More than 27 million South Africans took part in the 2024 national and provincial elections on May 29 to elect a new National Assembly and provincial legislatures.

In the end, no party won an outright majority in the National Assembly. The ANC got less than 200 seats it needed to maintain its 30-year-old unchallenged dominance in the lower house of parliament.

While announcing the final re-

sults, IEC Chairperson Mosotho Moepya declared the 2024 general elections as "free and fair."

Calling them "the most difficult and highly contested elections" since the end of apartheid in 1994, Moepya said this year's elections were not without their challenges, as attempts to undermine the credibility of the IEC had been made.

In his speech after the announcement of election results, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said it "represents a victory for our democracy, for our constitutional order and for all the people of South Africa."

"We have held another successful election that has been free, fair and peaceful," said Ramaphosa. "Our people have spoken. As the leaders of political parties, as all those who occupy positions of responsibility in society, we have heard the voices of our people and we must respect their wishes."

"And now, we are all called upon to recognize that the results of the election reflect the will of the people," he added.

Following Sunday's official announcement of the election results, the newly elected National Assembly will have 14 days to hold its first sitting, where members will elect the president of South Africa for the next five years by a simple majority.

Xinhua

Netanyahu aide: Biden's Gaza plan 'not a good deal', but Israel accepts

JERUSALEM

AN aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed on Sunday that Israel had accepted a framework deal for winding down the Gaza war now being advanced by US President Joe Biden, though he described it as flawed and in need of much more work.

In an interview with Britain's Sunday Times, Ophir Falk, chief foreign policy advisor to Netanyahu, said Biden's proposal was "a deal we agreed to – it's not a good deal but we dearly want the hostages released, all of them".

"There are a lot of details to be worked out," he said, adding that Israeli conditions, including "the release of the hostages and the destruction of Hamas as a genocidal terrorist organization" have not changed.

Biden, whose initial lock-step support for Israel's offensive has given way to open censure of the operation's high civilian death toll, on Friday aired what he described as a three-phase plan submitted by the Netanyahu government to end the war.

The first phase entails a truce and the return of some hostages held by Hamas, after which the sides would negotiate on an open-ended cessation of hostilities for a second phase in which remaining live captives would go free, Biden said.

That sequencing appears to imply that Hamas would continue to play a role in incremental arrangements mediated by Egypt and Qatar – a potential clash with Israel's determination to resume the campaign to eliminate the Islamist group.



US President Joe Biden delivers remarks on the verdict in former president Donald Trump's hush money trial and on the Middle East, from the State Dining Room of the White House, May 31, 2024, in Washington. AP

Biden has hailed several ceasefire proposals over the past several months, each with similar frameworks to the one he outlined on Friday, all of which collapsed. In February he said Israel had agreed to halt fighting by Ramadan, the Muslim holy month that began on March 10. No such truce materialized.

The primary sticking point has been Israel's insistence that it would discuss only temporary pauses to fighting until Hamas is destroyed. Hamas, which shows no sign of stepping aside, says it will free hostages only under a path to a permanent end to the war.

In his speech, Biden said his latest proposal "creates a better 'day after' in Gaza without Hamas in power". He did not elaborate on how this would be achieved, and acknowledged that "there are a number of details to negotiate to move from phase one to phase two".

Falk reiterated Netanyahu's position that "there will not be a permanent ceasefire until all our objectives are met".

Netanyahu is under pressure to keep his coalition government intact. Two far-right partners have threatened to bolt in protest at any deal they deem to spare Hamas. A centrist partner, ex-general Benny Gantz, wants the deal considered.

Hamas has provisionally wel-

comed the Biden initiative, though a senior official from the group, Sami Abu Zuhri, said on Sunday that "Hamas is too big to be bypassed or sidelined by Netanyahu or Biden".

A day earlier another Hamas official, Osama Hamdan, told Al Jazeera: "Biden's speech included positive ideas, but we want this to materialize within the framework of a comprehensive agreement that meets our demands".

Hamas wants a guaranteed end to the Gaza offensive, withdrawal of all invading forces, free movement for Palestinians and reconstruction aid.

Israeli officials have rejected that as an effective return to the situation in place before Oct 7, when Hamas, committed to Israel's destruction, ruled Gaza. Its fighters precipitated the war by storming across the border fence into Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

In the ensuing Israeli assault that has laid waste to much of the impoverished and besieged coastal enclave, more than 36,000 Palestinians have been killed, Gaza medical officials say. Israel says 290 of its troops have died in the fighting.

Russia to take all measures to neutralise Western threats, senior diplomat says

MOSCOW

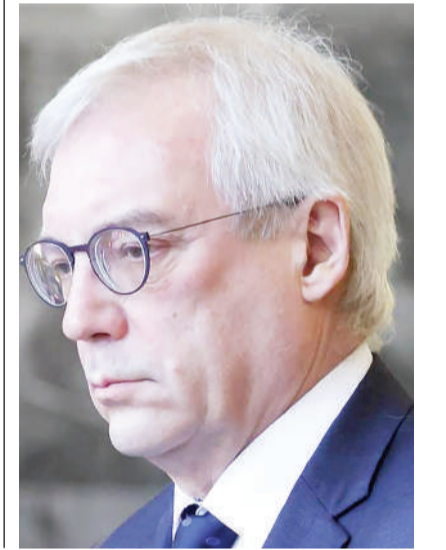
THE West is escalating the situation in Ukraine and Russia will take all necessary measures to neutralize threats, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko told TASS.

"We are aware that Western countries are moving to escalate. Therefore, all measures that are necessary on our part will be taken in order to neutralize threats associated with this escalation," the senior Russian diplomat said, commenting on speculation that Kiev is planning to use the Patriot missile system over Russia.

"No matter what is supplied to [the battlefield], beginning from ground-based weapons, all this is being ground down by our fighters. The same will happen this time again," Grushko said when asked to comment on a recent remark by Major General Christian Freuding, the head of the Situation Centre Ukraine at the German Defense Ministry, who did not rule out using Patriot systems against aerial targets in Russian skies.

Commenting on a statement by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg that a number of countries had never imposed restrictions on the use of Western weapons being supplied to Kiev, Grushko said: "They have been escalating tensions. They have a strategy, and they have been following this path."

Agencies



S. Koreans in 20s need 86.4 years to buy apartment in Seoul with savings

SEOUL

SOUTH Koreans in their 20s needed 86.4 years to buy an apartment in the capital city only with savings, labor institute estimates showed yesterday.

Local households, headed by those aged 20-29, were required to spend 86.4 years on the purchase of an apartment in Seoul with savable income in 2023, a report from the Labor Institute of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions showed.

It more than doubled the 39.5 years needed in 2014, according to the report based on household data from Statistics Korea and real estate data from KB Land.

For the past 10 years through 2023, the annual average income of the households in their 20s gained 21.02 percent from 34.07 million won (24,700 U.S. dollars) to 41.23 million won (29,900 dollars). It was far lower than the growth of 45.17 percent from 45.68 million won (33,120 dollars) to 67.62 million won (49,020 dollars) for the total households in the 10-year period.

After deducting consumption and non-consumption expenditures from annual income, the average savable income for households in their 20s climbed 12.65 percent from 12.33 million won (8,940 dollars) in 2014 to 13.89 million won (10,070 dollars) in 2023.

David Beckham exchanges beekeeping tips with King Charles

LONDON

DAVID Beckham, a renowned soccer icon, recently engaged in a beekeeping discussion with King Charles during their meeting at Highgrove Gardens in the Cotswolds, England. The encounter preceded Beckham's appointment as ambassador for The King's Foundation, CNN reported.

At Highgrove Gardens, Beckham not only interacted with King Charles but also had the opportunity to meet students of The King's Foundation. These students participate in specialised workshops on-site, honing skills such as woodworking and embroidery.

Reflecting on the visit, Beckham expressed admiration for The King's Foundation's work, stating, "It was inspiring to hear from The



King about the work of His Majesty's Foundation during my recent visit to Highgrove Gardens - and compare beekeeping tips."

Beckham's affinity for beekeeping is well-documented, with the 2023 Netflix documentary series "Beckham" showcasing his passion for the activity, including scenes of him harvesting honey into an old jam jar.

As Beckham assumes his role with The King's Foundation, he

aims to raise awareness of the charity's mission and impact.

Originally known as The Prince's Foundation, The King's Foundation emerged from the consolidation of several charitable projects initiated by Charles in 2018. The foundation focuses on providing holistic solutions to contemporary challenges and offers education and training programs spanning traditional arts, architecture, design, science, en-

gineering, horticulture, wellbeing, and hospitality.

Despite its noble objectives, The King's Foundation faced scrutiny due to a cash-for-honours scandal involving allegations against the then-chief executive, Michael Fawcett. However, a spokesperson for Charles asserted that the Prince of Wales had no prior knowledge of the alleged offers of honours or citizenship based on donations to his charities.

A spokesperson for Charles at the time maintained that "the Prince of Wales had no knowledge of the alleged offer of honours or British citizenship on the basis of a donation to his charities."

Last year, London's Metropolitan Police said no further action would be taken in its investigation, CNN reported. **ANI**

AI industry sees prosperous future in China

THE application of rubber seal strips onto a car roof was accompanied by a captivating display of a huge robotic arm picking it up and rotating it mid-air. This interesting scene was unfolded at a 5G-Advanced (5G-A) flexible production line in a factory of China's carmaker Great Wall Motors (GWM) in Baoding, north China's Hebei province.

Thanks to the integration of 5G-A and artificial intelligence (AI), this efficient production line has slashed 60 hours of downtime per year, thus avoiding potential losses of over 800 million yuan (\$110.36 million) that could have been incurred by delayed deliveries.

In recent years, China has made significant strides in AI development, marked by steady growth in industrial scale, robust infrastructure, and a rapid increase of innovative achievements.

"The vast application scenarios, huge market, and massive talent pool have laid a solid foundation for the vigorous development of China's AI industry," said Yu Youcheng, deputy secretary-general of the Chinese Association for Artificial Intelligence (CAAI).

According to Yu, a large number of new breakthroughs, technologies and applications are rapidly emerging across different application scenarios in China.

Gradual improvement in infrastructure -- In 2023, the total size of China's data center racks reached 8.1 million and the scale of computing power reached 230 EFLOPS. In particular, the scale of intelligent computing power has reached 70 EFLOPS, an increase of over 70 percent.

Steady growth in indus-



A researcher shakes hands with a humanoid robot in a laboratory of the Huzhou Institute of Zhejiang University. (People's Daily Online/Huang Yangyang)

trial scale -- The total scale of China's core AI industry has exceeded 500 billion yuan, and the number of related enterprises has exceeded 4,500. According to a report released by CCID Consulting, a market research firm affiliated with

China Center for Information Industry Development (CCID), the market scale of China's AI industry will reach 1.73 trillion yuan by 2035, accounting for 30.6 percent of the world's total.

Continuous expansion of

integrated applications -- So far, large-scale AI models developed by China have shown tremendous potential in areas such as smart mining, drug research and development, meteorology, government services, finance, intelligent manufacturing, and railway management. The integrated application of the industrial internet in China has expanded to 49 major categories of the national economy, and generative AI has been widely applied in chatting robots, intelligent search, and text generation.

At the general cargo terminal of Rizhao Port in east China's Shandong province, a diverse array of general cargo items came together before making their way to different parts of the world, including steel plates made in Handan,

north China's Hebei province, excavators from Zhuzhou, central China's Hunan province, and drainage pipes from Zhengzhou, the capital city of central China's Henan province.

In the past, the complex loading and unloading procedures for these items, which varied greatly in shape and size, resulted in low operational efficiency. Now, with an AI-enabled planning system, the port has boosted its overall operational efficiency by 10 percent and yard throughput by 20 percent.

Apart from assisting intelligent manufacturing, AI technology can also make typhoon forecasts, develop new drugs, identify faults, and formulate production plans. These remarkable breakthroughs are paving the way for an era of

intelligence.

The application of AI technology in the transportation sector has enhanced operational efficiency and raised safety levels.

In Changsha, the capital city of Hunan province, buses have been connected to an intelligent traffic control system managed by the traffic police. When a bus approaches an intersection, the traffic signal will automatically switch to green, allowing the bus to have priority passage.

"Smart public transportation saves commuting time by 30.7 percent on average compared to regular transportation modes," said Liu Gao, a project leader of Hunan Xiangjiang Intelligent Science and Technology Innovation Center Co., Ltd. So far, 75 routes in downtown Changsha have gone through intelligent transformation, Liu added. **People's Daily**

SPORT



Simba SC target AS Vita's striker Elie Mpanzu

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli.

SIMBA SC are in negotiations with Elie Mpanzu, a striker from AS Vita Club, to bolster their squad.

As the Msimbazi Street-based side aims to enhance their lineup, they are particularly focused on strengthening their attack for the upcoming CAF Confederation Cup, having missed out on a spot in the CAF Champions League.

According to sources, the discussions with Mpanzu began some time ago, and if successful, he will be the first new signing for the next season.

Simba's management is keen on addressing the gaps in their offensive lineup, which became evident following the departures of Moses Phiri and Jean Baleke.

"After Phiri and Baleke left, we brought in Pa Omar Jobe and Fred Michael, but they did not meet the expectations," said a source within the club. "The registration team has now entered the market, and Mpanzu is one of the key players we're in talks with."

Ahmed Ally, the head of Simba's information and communication department, has confirmed the club's commitment to upgrading the squad.

"We are indeed planning improvements, but the details of new signings are confidential at this stage. We need to bring in the best players based on the recommendations from our technical team and the requirements for next season's competitions, including the CAF Confederation Cup," Ally stated.

Simba's recent performance in the Premier League has highlighted the need for a more robust attacking force. The club's leadership is determined to address this issue by securing high-caliber players who can help the team achieve its goals in the upcoming season.

The strategic move to engage Mpanzu

underscores Simba's dedication to assembling a competitive team capable of excelling in regional tournaments.

Mpanzu, known for his skills and proficiency on the field, scored 11 goals last season and represents a promising addition to Simba's roster. His potential signing is seen as a significant step toward revitalizing the team's offensive capabilities.

According to the sources, the club's technical bench has identified Mpanzu as a critical player who can contribute to Simba's success in the forthcoming competitions.

The negotiations with Mpanzu are part of a broader strategy by Simba to build a formidable squad. The club's management is meticulously planning to ensure that each new signing aligns with the team's overall objectives and addresses the specific needs identified by the technical team.

Simba's focus on the African Confederation Cup reflects their ambition to make a mark on the continental stage. With the right reinforcements, the club hopes to perform well in the domestic league and advance further in international competitions.

The potential acquisition of Mpanzu is a testament to Simba's proactive approach to team building and their commitment to continuous improvement.

As the transfer window progresses, Simba's fans eagerly await further announcements regarding new signings. The club's strategy to keep registration details under wraps until finalized ensures that they can operate without external pressures, focusing on securing the best possible talents.

By addressing the critical area of attack, the club aims to strengthen their position and achieve greater success in the CAF Confederation Cup and beyond.

The ongoing negotiations with Mpanzu demonstrate Simba's resolve to bring top-tier talent to the team, setting the stage for an exciting and competitive season ahead.

Miami on April 29.

But 4-1 victories over the Heat and Cleveland in the second round, followed by a 4-0 sweep of Indiana in the Eastern Conference finals, have given the Latvian extended recovery time.

Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla has refrained from making predictions on when he expects Porzingis to be available. But he was clear that his team is better with Porzingis in the lineup, despite compiling a 9-1 record without him this postseason.

"When KP is at his best, he's been tremendous for us and we expect that from him and we know he'll give that to us," Mazzulla said.

Porzingis last spoke publicly on May 4, saying of the injury, "It's something, it's not nothing," and adding that it would take "a little bit of time" to recover from.

His official status since then has been day to day as he slowly began rehabbing for a chance to face the Mavericks team he played for from 2019-22.

BOSTON

WHETHER injured Celtics center Kristaps Porzingis will be ready in time for the start of the NBA Finals this week is still to be determined.

But signs are pointing to him being able to return to the court sooner rather than later during Boston's matchup with the Dallas Mavericks.

The 7-footer hasn't appeared in a game since sustaining a strained left calf in Game 4 of Boston's first-round playoff series against

SPORTS

Tembo Warriors sadly come a cropper at the AAFCON Finals

By Lloyd Elipokea

THE 2024 Amputee Africa Cup of Nations (AAFCON) had dual significance this year as it was also serving as a qualifying championship for the amputee football World Cup.

For our part, the national amputee football team, who have affectionately been given the moniker of the Tembo Warriors, went into this year's AAFCON with high hopes of putting their best foot forward at the competition, which is rapidly growing in prominence.

Sadly though, despite making a titanic effort, the Tembo Warriors were disappointingly eliminated from the AAFCON in the early stages of the football tournament.

This unfortunate setback can be put down to the non-existence of a national amputee football league, which incredibly hampered the Tembo Warriors' exertions at this year's AAFCON.

Indeed, it is crystal clear that there needs to be an immense change in how we go about readying ourselves for not just amputee football competitions but mammoth Paralympic sporting championships in general.

Our long-standing modus operandi of preparing for huge Paralympic sporting competitions annoyingly consists of total inactivity for long spells followed by sudden and earnest preparations for such sporting events.

As was recently demonstrated by the Tembo Warriors at this year's AAFCON, this particular manner of preparations has been amply proven to be undeniably flawed and ineffective.

If we are dead serious about producing magnificent displays at prestigious Paralympic sporting events, then we absolutely need to ensure that local Paralympic sporting championships frequently take place throughout every year.

It should be noted here that Paralympic sporting tournaments are infuriatingly few and far between on the local scene, which massively hinders our prospects of doing well



Azam FC midfielder Feisal Salum (L) negotiates his way past Young Africans SC defender Ibrahim Hamad (Bacca) during their Federation Cup final match at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar on Sunday. Photo: Courtesy of Azam FC

at international Paralympic sporting extravaganzas.

Therefore, it is hoped that local Paralympic sports will hastily undergo a sea change which will result in Paralympic sporting competitions taking place with regularity on the home front.

Let us now dive into domestic football where the top tier Premier League came to an excitingly dramatic end mid-last week.

Heading into the final round of matches, Azam FC and Simba SC were locked in an intense battle to finish as runners-up to the recently crowned league champions Young Africans SC.

In the end, it was Azam who edged Simba to finish in second place as the former had a better goal difference than the latter despite both sides dramatically wrapping up their league campaigns with the same number of points.

Consequently, this then means

that Azam will join league champions Young Africans as our country's two flag-bearers in the greatly respected CAF Champions League next season.

Indeed, Azam's participation in the CAF Champions League next season will mark the first time in quite a while that the ice cream makers will be competing on arguably continental football's most distinguished stage.

In addition, many passionate Tanzanian football fans will be fervently hoping that Azam can follow in the footsteps of local heavyweights Simba and Younga, who have both progressed to the quarter-finals of the CAF Champions League in recent seasons.

Thus, despite the fact that Azam will be entering into uncharted territory relatively speaking in the CAF Champions League next season, it is hoped that the ice cream makers will prove to be up to scratch in this revered African football championship.



Boston Celtics guard Payton Pritchard, left, guard Derrick White, center, and center Kristaps Porzingis, right, watch from the bench as the Cleveland Cavaliers lead the Celtics during the second half of Game 2 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series, Thursday, May 9, 2024, in Boston. (AP Photo)

Injured Kristaps Porzingis on track for return as Celtics prepare for NBA Finals against Mavericks

Porzingis took to social media this week to provide his most significant update, posting on the X platform, "I'll be back in the lineup very soon. See you in the finals."

Two days later, when the doors were opened to the media Friday after a practice session, Porzingis was one of only a handful of players still on the court, going through extended 3-point shooting drills with assistant coaches and trainers. He wore a compression sleeve on his

injured left leg.

Then, on Saturday he participated in light 5-on-5 play with his teammates - his most extensive on-court workout since sustaining his injury.

Mazzulla said Porzingis "did everything the team did" during Saturday's practice and was expected to go through a more intense session on Sunday.

Assuming he clears that benchmark, it would mark the most promising sign yet that the Celtics could soon get

back the the scorer and rim protector that Boston traded longtime stalwart Marcus Smart for this past offseason.

When healthy, Porzingis has provided on both ends of the floor, averaging 20.1 points, 7.2 rebounds and 1.9 blocks during the regular season while appearing in 57 games. Before his injury in the Miami series, he averaged 14.0 points, 5.7 rebounds and 1.5 blocks.

Porzingis missed seven games earlier this season with what the team called left

calf injuries. He also missed time with a smattering of other issues this season, from inflammation and bruises in his right knee, right hamstring problems, a sprained left ankle and a sore back.

Those ailments added up to 25 missed games in which Boston went 21-4.

Celtics guard Derrick White, who was voted to the NBA All-Defensive third team along with teammate Jrue Holiday, said Porzingis' presence on the defensive end is hard to replicate.

New Fenerbahce coach Mourinho gets warm welcome in Istanbul

ISTANBUL

TWO-TIME Champions League winning coach Jose Mourinho arrived in Istanbul on Sunday to be unveiled as the new manager of Fenerbahce and was accorded a welcome fit for a popstar by the 19-times Turkish champions' fans.

The Portuguese coach, who won the Champions League with Porto and Inter Milan, has not worked since his sacking by Italian Serie A side Roma in January.

But like the self-acclaimed 'Special One' Fenerbahce are in need of a boost of their own with 10 years passing since their last domestic title.

He was greeted at the airport by a crowd of Fenerbahce fans and later was presented at club stadium alongside club president Ali Koç and in front of the side's fans, decked out in Fenerbahce yellow and black.

The 61-year-old announced the latest move - his 11th club - in his career in a post on X on Saturday night from Wembley as he was acting as a television pundit for Real Madrid's 2-0 win over Borussia

Dortmund in the Champions League final. He counts Real as one of his former clubs.

"Good evening Fenerbahce fans, see you tomorrow at Kadikoy (the Istanbul suburb where the club is based) and let's start our journey together," Mourinho announced.

Reports suggest Mourinho has signed a two-year contract for Fenerbahce, one of the three big Istanbul sides.

Details are due to be confirmed at a press conference scheduled for Monday.

Mourinho, who enjoyed major success at Chelsea and Inter Milan, less so at Manchester United and Tottenham, was dismissed by Roma after two-and-a-half years in January with the club struggling in ninth at the time. He guided Roma to the inaugural Europa Conference League trophy in 2022 and the final of last season's Europa League.

Fenerbahce are hoping Mourinho still has some of his magic touch left as they take aim on next season's league title.

AFP

'We can win it': Trippier sets sights on England glory at Euros

LONDON

ENGLAND defender Kieran Trippier has backed his country to finally end their 58-year trophy drought by winning Euro 2024.

Gareth Southgate's side will head to Germany as one of the tournament favourites after finishing as Euro 2020 runners-up and reaching the World Cup quarter-finals two years ago.

England have never won the European Championship and last lifted a major prize at the 1966 World Cup.

Newcastle right-back Trippier, who will captain England in Monday's friendly against Bosnia and Herzegovina, is convinced the Three Lions are primed to get their hands on silverware at last.

"I've said it many times, we shouldn't be shy to say that we can win it," the 33-year-old told reporters on Sunday.

"We're not saying that in an arrogant way. We've got a great squad, top manager, top staff. We've been so close recently over so many years it's just about taking that next step now."

"I fully believe with this squad that we've got, we can go all the way. But we need to earn the right."

"The most important thing is the togetherness we've got in the squad. It's unbelievable, probably the best I've been involved in, so we're all looking forward to it."

Trippier is captaining England for the Bosnia match in the absence of regular skipper Harry Kane.

Bayern Munich striker Kane missed the final two games of his club's season with a back injury sustained in the Champions League semi-final second-leg defeat against Real Madrid.

It will be a proud moment for Trippier when he leads England out at Newcastle's St James' Park, with his seven-year-old son Jacob at his side.

"It's going to be very special, obviously, at the stadium where I play week in, week out. I've got to thank Gareth again for giving me that trust," he said.

"But for me if I have the armband or not, if I play or not, I'm always there, I'm always ready for the team and I'm a leader with or without the armband. I've never had it on a permanent basis."

"That's the type of character I am but to lead the lads out, it's very special. My son will be mascot as well, so that's even more special, so a really proud moment for myself."

AFP

Vinicius Jr named Champions League player of the season

LONDON

VINICIUS Junior was yesterday named by UEFA chiefs as Champions League player of the season after spearheading Real Madrid to European glory, with teammate Jude Bellingham picking up the young player award.

Brazilian forward Vinicius (pictured) scored six goals and made five assists in Real's victorious campaign, including the second in the 2-0 win against Borussia Dortmund in the final at Wembley on Saturday.

Victory meant Real were crowned European champions for a record-extending 15th time.

"I'm very happy to be able to win another Champions League with this club, which has given me so much," 23-year-old Vinicius said.

England midfielder Bellingham was named as the Champions League young player of the season after his dazzling first campaign with the Spanish giants.

The 20-year-old scored four goals and provided five assists in the Champions League for Real, who also won the Spanish league title.

"I can't put it into words," he said. "It's the best night of my life. It's got to be up there in terms of the perfect season."

AFP



European club finals heroes adjust sights to World Cup in Africa

LONDON

EUROPEAN club finals match-winners Ademola Lookman and Ayoub el Kaabi turn their attention to 2026 World Cup qualifying in Africa from tomorrow with 52 fixtures scheduled over seven days.

Lookman scored a hat-trick as Atalanta won the Europa League last month, and ended a 51-match unbeaten run by Bayer Leverkusen in domestic and international competitions.

The London-born 26-year-old could lead the Nigeria attack at home to South Africa in Uyo in a repeat of the 2024 Africa Cup of Nations semi-finals won by the Super Eagles on penalties.

A week after Lookman stole the show in Dublin, Moroccan El Kaabi nodded the extra-time winner for Olympiakos against Fiorentina in the Europa Conference League final in Athens.

He will be a contender for a place in the Atlas Lions attack against Zambia in Agadir in another Cup of Nations repeat with Morocco winning 1-0 in the Ivory Coast last January.

Meanwhile, Kenya are among 17 nations who must stage home matches at neutral venues due to sub-standard venues, stadium renovations or security issues.

Here, AFP Sport highlights five matchday three showdowns that include shock 2022 World Cup semi-finalists Morocco and reigning African champions the Ivory Coast.

*Nigeria v South Africa

A powerful Nigerian attack will lack its biggest star - 2023 African Footballer of the Year Victor Osimhen - through injury and Nathan Tella is absent for undisclosed personal reasons.



Nigeria forward Ademola Lookman celebrates scoring for Atalanta against Bayer Leverkusen in the 2024 Europa League final in Dublin. Agencies

But with Lookman, Victor Boniface, Kelechi Iheanacho and Samuel Chukwueze to choose from, coach and former star Finidi George is not short of talent as he prepares for his competitive debut.

South Africa welcome back forward Lyle Foster from demoted Premier League club Burnley, who missed the Cup of Nations due to mental health challenges.

*Egypt v Burkina Faso

Prolific Liverpool scorer Mohamed Salah is set to represent Egypt for the first time since an injury against Ghana in a group match cut short his AFCON campaign.

"Mohamed is one of the best footballers in the world and there is no rift between us," said coach Hossam Hassan, who replaced Portuguese Rui Vitoria after a last-16 exit in the Ivory Coast.

When Salah was injured, Hassan said the star should remain with the national squad in west Africa, but the forward returned to his club for treatment.

*Morocco v Zambia

A Hakim Ziyech goal separated the teams at the latest AFCON, where Morocco suffered a shock last-16 loss to South Africa and Zambia failed to make the knockout stage.

AFP

Champions League kings Madrid deliver on celebration promise

MADRID

REAL Madrid celebrated the Spanish title with thousands of supporters in May, pledging to return in June with the Champions League trophy.

Los Blancos delivered on their promise, defeating Borussia Dortmund 2-0 at Wembley to claim a record 15th European Cup on Saturday.

The triumphant players hit the city's usual celebration hotspots on Sunday and are set to end up at the club's Santiago Bernabeu stadium where the party will finish, for now at least.

Paris Saint-Germain striker Kylian Mbappe's expected signing in the coming days should see the festivities continue.

"Vinicius, Ballon d'Or" chants were heard at intervals from fans throughout the afternoon, after the Brazilian netted Madrid's second goal in the final to clinch victory.

Dani Carvajal had opened the scoring with his first Champions League goal for eight seasons, against the run of play after Dortmund had dominated.

However, as they so often tend to do, Madrid found a way to survive and ultimately thrive.

The team's stars, led by president Florentino Perez, made their first stop at the city's Almudena cathedral.

"I don't know which team Jesus would support, but I know that... he would surely appreciate this cup," said the cardinal archbishop of Madrid, Jose Cobo, who was left with a replica trophy.

The team then returned to the Madrid regional government's headquarters to present another replica to president Isabel Diaz Ayuso, whom they also met after winning La Liga.

"If we are here, it's because there's good news," said Real Madrid captain Nacho. "Once again we are champions of Europe. It seems easy to say - 15 time champions... I hope it's many more times."

Nacho, along with Carvajal, the retiring Toni Kroos and Luka Modric, reached a career sixth



Real Madrid fans crowd Cibeles square to celebrate their team's 15th Champions League trophy, one day after beating Borussia Dortmund. Agencies

Champions League victory, equalling the all-time record set by former Madrid winger Paco Gento well over half a century earlier.

Germany international Kroos was singled out for special praise by chief Perez, having set up Carvajal's winner in his final match for Madrid after a decade at the club.

"We are the kings of Europe," sang Carvajal to thousands of white-shirted fans massed in a central square, Puerta del Sol, before calling on Kroos to take the spotlight.

"Three weeks ago I promised you we'd be back," said Kroos, while fans chanted for him to stay.

"Many thanks for ten unforgettable years, I have no more words," added Kroos.

While the midfielder is depart-

ing, Madrid's success is likely to continue.

"I have already told you that this club is currently working towards the realisation of a new dream - namely the sixteenth European Cup," said Perez.

Madrid will have another 'trophy' to celebrate soon, in the marquee signing of Mbappe, who could help them achieve that dream.

The French forward is finally set for the Santiago Bernabeu after seven years at PSG, many of which Madrid have spent trying to lure him to Spain.

Madrid are expected to announce Mbappe's signing on Monday or Tuesday next week and fans are ready for him to finally fulfil what has long appeared his destiny.

"The relationship between Madrid and the Champions League

Key Moroccan figures in the 2022 World Cup run in Qatar, including goalkeeper Yassine Bounou, defender Achraf Hakimi and forward Youssef en-Nesyri remain.

Coach Walid Regragui also called up Brahim Diaz, an attacking midfielder at European titans Real Madrid for the clash with Zambia, who are on the back foot after a surprise away loss to Niger.

*Senegal v DR Congo

Defending champions and among the favourites to win the 2024 AFCON, Senegal only reached the round of 16 before falling to hosts Ivory Coast after a penalty shootout.

Stalwarts like goalkeeper Edouard Mendy, centre-back Kalidou Koulibaly and forward Sadio Mane - all based in Saudi Arabia - remain as the Teranga Lions seek redemption in World Cup qualifying.

The Congolese exceeded expectations by finishing fourth at the AFCON this year and hope Yoane Wissa can replicate his form with Premier League outfit Brentford.

*Ivory Coast v Gabon

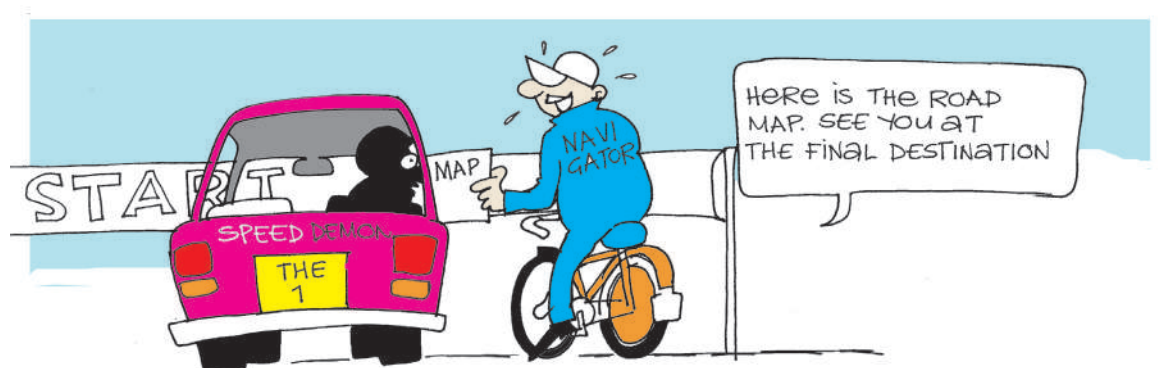
Coach Emere Fae has given maiden call-ups to a France-based trio - defender Christopher Operi and forwards Mohamed Bamba and Evann Guessand - for a Korhogo clash with Gabon.

But there are no places in the Cup of Nations title-holders squad for defenders Serge Aurier and Eric Bailly due to a lack of club game time, and winger Wilfried Zaha remains out of favour.

Star Marseille forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang - voted the outstanding African after the 2023-2024 Ligue 1 season - has been recalled having missed the first two matchdays.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Junior cricketers gear up for Africa qualifier for 2026 ICC U-19 Men's WC

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

SPORT

European club finals heroes adjust sights to World Cup in Africa

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) vice chairman, Ashish Nagewadia.

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA'S U-19 cricket team has stepped up its preparations for the Africa qualifier for the 2026 ICC U-19 Men's World Cup, slated for early August.

Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) vice chairman Ashish Nagewadia disclosed the development in a recent interview with a domestic Television station concerning several exciting updates and plans for Tanzania's cricket.

According to Nagewadia, the junior cricketers' initial camp in Dar es Salaam, which started with 56 players, has seen the cricketers trimmed to 28, with the final squad of 16 performers set to be selected soon.

The TCA official said the young talents will represent Tanzania in the crucial qualifier scheduled for early August.

"Our U-19 team is full of potential, and we are excited to see them perform internationally," Nagewadia revealed.

According to the TCA vice chairman, participation in the prestigious event marks a significant milestone for Tanzania's cricket.

The 2026 ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup will be an international limited-overs cricket tournament organized by the International Cricket Council (ICC) in Zimbabwe and Namibia in early 2026.

It will be the 16th edition of the U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup. Australia are the showpiece's defending champions.

The top 11 teams from the previous tournament have qualified automatically and five winners of regional qualification tournaments will complete the list of the showpiece's competitors.

The qualifying tournament for the 2026 ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup began in Bangkok, Thailand on February 25, 2024.

ICC has yet to determine the country that will host the coming Africa Qualifier for the 2026 ICC U-19 Men's World Cup.

Adding to the excitement, Nagewadia shared the good news about Tanzania's hosting of the ICC Sub Regional Qualifier for the T20 World Cup 2026 in September this year.

The comprehensive interview further highlighted the other key development, namely the senior national men's team coach appointment.

Rivash Gobind was recently appointed as the new head coach of Tanzania's senior national men's cricket team, following the exit of the previous coach, Kenyan Jimmy Kamande.

Nagewadia said the decision to appoint the new head coach came after a rigorous selection process whereby Gobind's credentials as a Level Four coach and his innovative ideas for modern cricket impressed the TCA.

The TCA boss remarked: "Rivash's vision for the game aligns perfectly with our ambitions, and we are confident he will elevate our team to new heights."

Nagewadia, a veteran cricketer who has for many years featured in club showpieces played in Dar es Salaam, further expressed gratitude towards former national cricket team's coach, Kamande, for his contributions.

Under Kamande's tutelage, the national team made significant strides and left a solid foundation for future success.

"Jimmy has played a crucial role in the development of our players and has left the team in a great position to progress," Nagewadia noted.

Youssouph Dabo rues Azam's failure to take their chances

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

COACH Youssouph Dabo felt that Azam showed a good account of themselves in the Federation Cup final, but bemoaned their failure to make the most of their chances against Young Africans.

Making their second successive Federation Cup final, Azam looked very much closer to winning after Young Africans missed the two opening penalties at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar.

But failure to make the most of those chances cost them in the end, as Young Africans rose from the dead to win the penalty shootout.

It was a sobering evening for Azam, who had swept aside Coastal Union 3-0 to reach the final but fell at the final hurdle against a team with incredible experience and know-how.

Reacting after the game, Dabo told reporters that his side failed to make the most of two big situations that were present to them in the final.

"When you have an advantage in this kind of situation and you do not extend your chance to win in one moment, the punishment falls down on you.

"It was a situation where the opponent missed the first two penalties. We did not take advantage of that first situation.

"And the second situation is that we had the last penalty and we also did not take advantage of it. In one moment your chances are down.

"I am sad for my players. They were very strong and unfortunately, we lost via a penalty shootout but that is football. We need to grow and learn from these kinds of situations for the next season," said the gaffer.

Dabo added that having claimed the second spot in the Premier League title for the first time in four years, there's still plenty to look back on with pride from the campaign and he believes will be better next season.

"I think my first season was good. Everybody knows Azam's situation in previous seasons. Every time they finished third and at the start of this season many people said 'we know your position but we succeeded to finish second'.

"It is good for us because we played under pressure. Simba tried to edge us out of the second spot during the last games but we were very strong mentally.

"It is good the team is continuing to grow and I think next season we will be better," he added.

Gamondi hails Yanga as the best team in Tanzania after final triumph



Young Africans SC players celebrate with the trophy after winning the Federation Cup final match against Azam FC at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar on Sunday. Young Africans won after the penalty shootout 6-5. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans have won the 2023/24 Federation Cup with a dramatic win over Azam in the final held at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar on Sunday evening.

In a repeat of last season's final, Young Africans were made to dig deep to seal back-to-back Federation Cup final victories and successfully add to their league title to make it three in a row domestic double.

The final was a tense and keenly contested affair, with goalkeepers Djigui Diara and Mohamed Mustapha making numerous outstanding saves to ensure it remained goalless after 120 minutes of action.

At the end of the showdown,

Young Africans emerged as the winners after the penalty shootout 6-5.

Speaking to the media in the aftermath of the victory, Gamondi was quick to heap praise on his team saying they were the better side.

Gamondi felt though the game ended goalless after 120 minutes, it was Young Africans who created more chances and were the only team who played to win it. "We had an incredible season, winning everything, the Champions League and even today I think it is a well-deserved win because we were the better team.

"In the first half, it was a tough game, very balanced but we created chances and they did not even make one.

"In the second half, we played in their own half always dominating, and even in the 30 minutes of extra time they defended and wasted time through the goalkeeper. I don't want to talk about the officials," he said.

Gamondi attributed his side's lack of a goal in the game to Azam's solid defence. He took pride in his players' show of character to bounce back from missing the first two penalties to ultimately triumph.

The well-travelled Argentine coach labelled Young Africans the "best team in Tanzania".

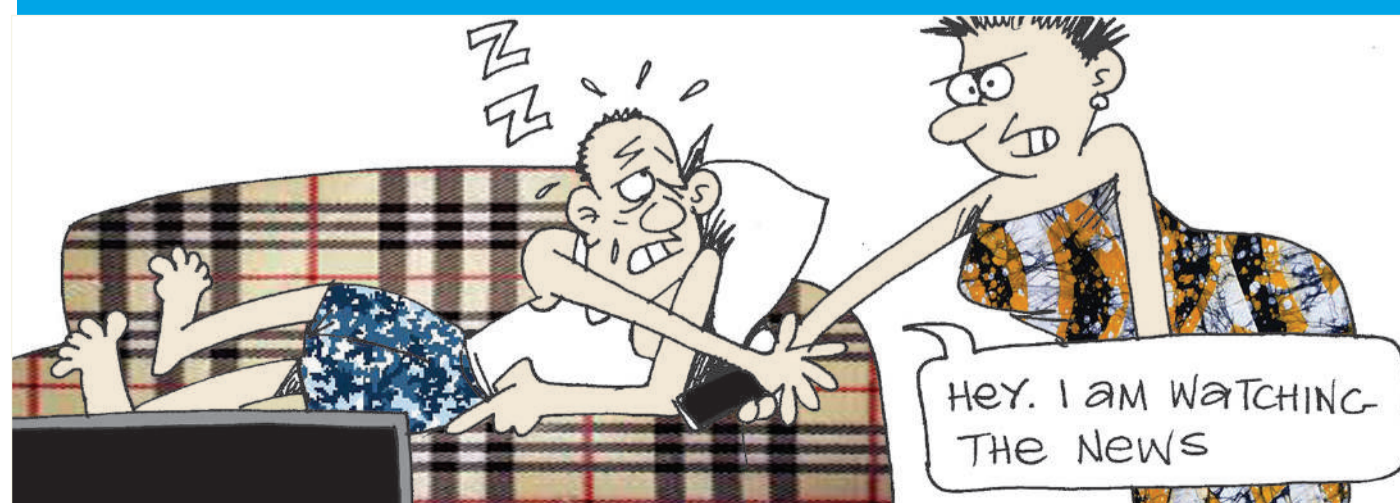
"We did not succeed to score because they defended well but at the end of the day, it was unbelievable how we came back from losing the first two penalties. It is very tough mentally.

"The players showed unbelievable character and for that there is no doubt Yanga is the best team in Tanzania.

"I think it was very good and even when we started by losing two penalties, you must be strong psychologically.

"I was thinking today is a bad day in the office but finally it ended like that and this group deserved it," he added.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV TUESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 SPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

eastafrika RADIO

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
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