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# NHIF introduces packages private hospitals rejected

*...making the new rollout fall into the same situation as when NHIF suspended the rollout of the revised indicative prices*

By Henry Mwangonde

THE National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) has announced that it will roll out new packages for services offered by health facilities starting tomorrow; with rate charges deemed unacceptable by private health-care providers.

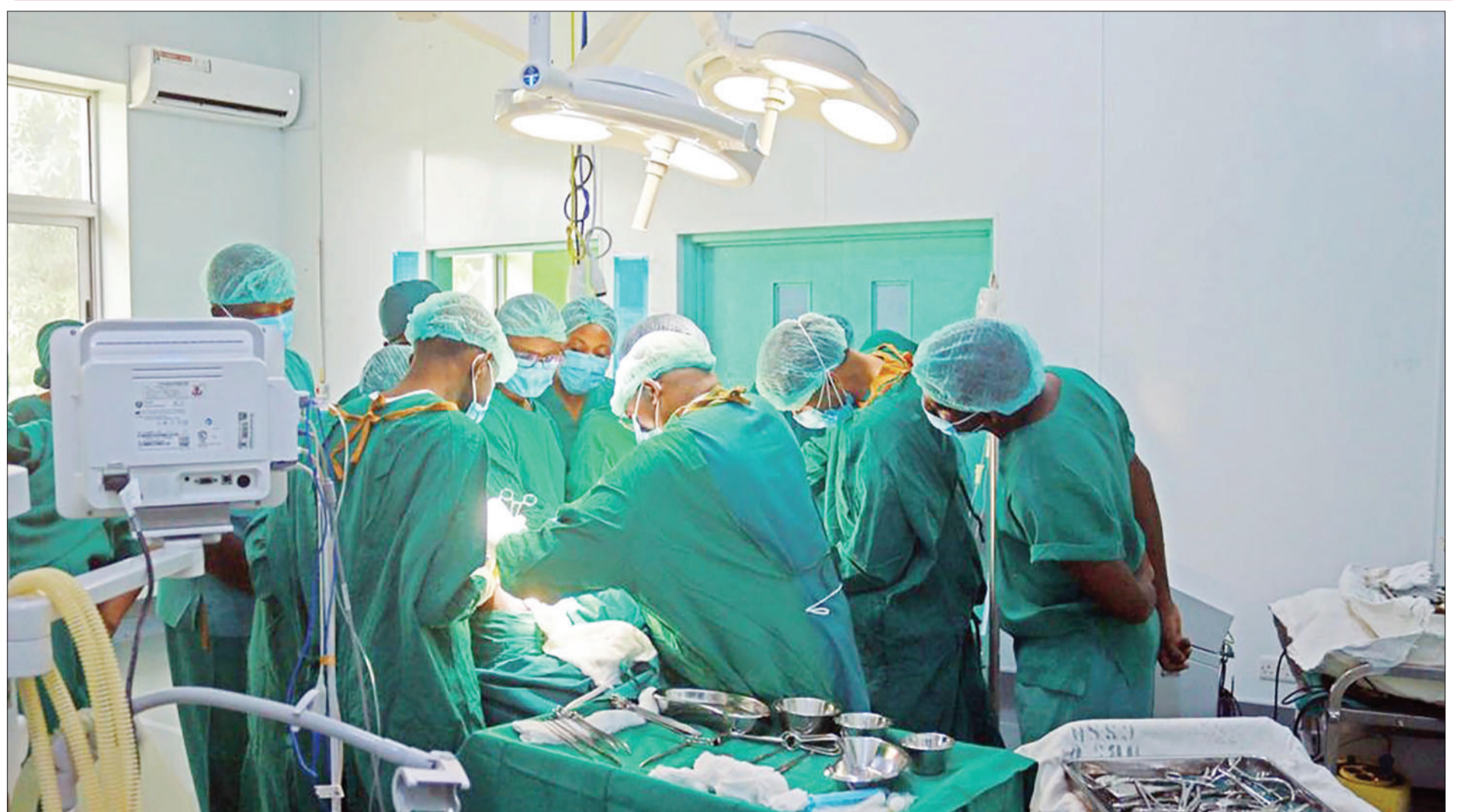
Bernard Konga, the director general, told a press conference to announce the new packages in Dar es Salaam yesterday that NHIF said the fund has made improvements to the benefits package for various purposes.

These include the need to widen services to the public and strengthening control measures to prevent fraud, while the move is also intended to enhance the provision of health services to NHIF members.

The roll out seeks to ensure NHIF sustainability and increase access to affordable healthcare for more people, he said, noting that the purpose of the improvement is to align the benefits package with the national essential medicines list and the standard treatment guidelines, he said.

He explained that the new package for sur-

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Muhimbili National Hospital surgeons pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday performing an operation on a patient, with a view to "harvesting" a piece of rib so that it becomes a joint of the skull - and eventually ensure that the patient has a new jaw and is fitted with artificial teeth. Photo courtesy of MNH

## MNH repairs jaws, harvests rib bones

*... the patient is expected to restart eating and chewing as usual since artificial teeth are fitted on the jaw bone that was created*

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

SPECIALISTS at Dar es Salaam's Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) have conducted iliac bone grafting, a medical procedure to harvest rib bones to repair jawbones after a severe fracture.

Dr Arnold Augustino, a Tanzanian specialist and MNH maxillofacial surgeon, said shortly after the surgery that "the tumour excision and mandibular reconstruction with costochondral and iliac bone grafting" was conducted yesterday for seven hours, a breakthrough for MNH in the surgical procedure.

"This procedure is applied to patients with ankylosis, trauma and advanced osteoarthritis and is reliable, efficient, causing less morbidity than the technique of using composite free flaps," he stated.

The bone involved in the surgery was taken

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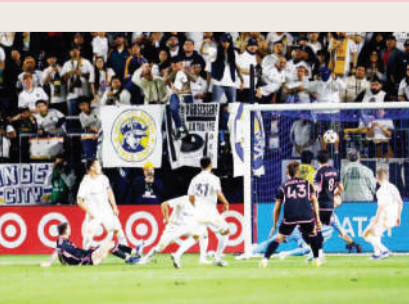
## SPORTS

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**Simba SC rallies fans ahead of do-or-die CAF CL match vs Jwaneng**

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**MLS quickly realising: You can't stop Lionel Messi, you can only hope to contain him**

# Minister sets up school dropouts research team

By Carlos Banda

THE government has formed a team of researchers to find out why the number of school dropouts across the country is rising and come up with recommendations on how to deal with the challenge.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, the Education,

Science and Technology announced the move at a two-day conference on the issue in Dar es Salaam yesterday, bringing on board education stakeholders and researchers from within and outside Tanzania.

Three themes will be discussed at the conference, namely climate, envi-

ronment and education, tied to implementing the new curriculum set up and requisite technology to strengthen the education system.

The team of researchers will start the job tomorrow, visiting several areas of their choice to understand the root

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# '58m people starving in Greater Horn of Africa'

By Guardian Reporter

UPWARDS of 58.1 million people are facing acute food shortages in the Greater Horn of Africa region, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has declared.

In a joint assessment with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) whose report was released

on Tuesday, the UN agency said that out of the number, 30.5m starving people live in six IGAD member states namely Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

The other 27.6m cases of near starvation are scattered in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Tanzania, three of which are members of the East

African Community (EAC).

"High levels of acute food insecurity persisted in various parts of the region following El Nino-induced heavy rains and flooding during the 2023 October-December rainfall season, particularly in the Horn of Africa," it said.

The flooding was compounded by ongoing conflicts, widespread displace-

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## MNH repairs jaws, harvests rib bones

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from the rib and implanted in the jaw joint, he said, elaborating that other bones have been taken from the hip on both sides, to be combined with the bone removed from the rib to enable the jaw to be made exactly like it originally was.

"Then it was connected with a special metal implant to repair the part of the jaw damaged by diseases," he said, affirming that the patient is expected to restart eating and chewing as usual since artificial teeth are fitted on the jaw bone that was created.

The patient has undergone three surgeries within the same procedure, first to remove a piece of bone from the rib, second to remove bones from both hips and third to

remove the tumour, he said.

The seven hour surgery involved collaborating with a specialist team from other departmental units within MNH, namely jaw, face, anaesthesia, surgical nurses and others, he said.

MNH has in recent years enhanced its capacity to provide major surgical services, starting with cochlear implant, radiology intervention, kidney and then bone marrow transplants.

The hospital first launched kidney transplant services in 2017 and later in the year sent its experts for training on conducting liver transplants. The kidney transplant was the second achievement in a row by the hospital after a successful cochlear implant surgery in June 2017 the specialist indicated.

## '58m people starving in Greater Horn of Africa'

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ment and long-standing macroeconomic challenges, the report noted, listing the bulk of the food insecure as totalling 23.4m in DR Congo, followed by Sudan at 17.7m and South Sudan at 4m.

"The food crisis in Sudan worsened as armed conflict spilled over to new areas, including the south-east states, interrupting agricultural activities, including the harvesting season and winter wheat growing," it stated.

Besides the food crisis, the Greater Horn of Africa region is grappling with multiple disease outbreaks, including cholera, malaria, dengue and measles, such that the European Union on Tuesday moved to provide an initial \$185.6m to address humanitarian needs in the region.

## NHIF introduces packages private hospitals rejected

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gical services takes into account input costs and actual market prices, expanding the scope of 'super-specialist' surgical services, underlining that the current package has not been updated since 2016.

Changes that the NHIF sees as improvements relate to its enabling act, Article No. 39 of the NHIF Act, implying that reduced charges that private hospitals are demanded to accept are intended to ensure a positive outlook of the fund's lifespan and sustainability.

Key services revised in the new packages include medical doctors' consultation fees, drug access services, surgical services and routine clinical and super specialized clinical services, he said, elaborating that rolled out 'improvements' were set out at different stages where at various points stakeholders were being consulted.

At the start of the year when the move was being put into motion and private health care providers rejected the packages, Health minister Ummu Mwalimu sought to address the concerns and prevent service disruptions, holding a consultative meeting with auxiliary stakeholders, namely civil society bodies of community health care providers.

Those asked to attend the meeting were representatives from the Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC), the Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT) and the BAKWATA Medical Association affiliated with the nationwide Muslim Supreme Council, as well as the Association of Private Health Facilities in Tanzania (APHFTA) being in attendance.

Health sector officials say the meeting's outcome brought about a significant shift as the minister promised to prioritise transparency and collaboration, holding back the start of application of the new packages.

She instructed a thorough review pending further discussions with

stakeholders, which observers say is being made difficult by the need to start applying the law on universal health coverage already signed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan with NHIF as the principal channel of implementation

Officials said that an independent committee was formed to objectively assess the revised benefits, but APHFTA reacted in a statement yesterday saying the new packages will push private hospitals to severe losses, making them close their businesses.

Most private hospitals will die a natural death as the new packages will increase operational costs while service charges are sharply decreased to be aligned with public health centres and hospitals.

A number of well-known private health care have reportedly expressed their reluctance to receive NHIF clients on the basis of the new charges, including Kairuki, TMJ, CCBRT, Masana, Regency, Rabinisia, Aga Khan and Bochi, all located within the city of Dar es Salaam.

Dr Egina Makwabe, the APHFTA chairperson, said that despite the formation of a committee by the minister responsible for health, there are no changes made to the packages as expected.

"The revision of the changes were made in 2016 and since then they have not made any changes despite the rise in the cost of living," she said, making the new rollout fall into the same situation as when NHIF suspended the rollout of the revised indicative prices.

They were originally slated for January 1, 2024 but received tremendous stakeholder criticism when an outline was made or circulated to stakeholders with potential boycott of NHIF clients at private hospitals.

The same situation is back in place as the packages are in tune with the precepts of the universal health coverage legislation, where apparently private hospitals are asked to obtain on similar cost levels as public hospitals.



Njombe regional commissioner Anthony Mtaka (L) presents a Nutrition Report to Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation CEO Vanessa Anyoti shortly after a meeting held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, with former president Jakaya Kikwete among the participants. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Minister sets up school dropouts research team

FROM PAGE 1

cause of the school dropout tendency, he said, underlining that the trend was alarming.

"But, we don't know the reasons as to why the situation is like this despite the free education policy," he stated, highlighting the fact that the number of pupils who sat for the Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) last year was lower than the number of children who were enrolled seven years ago.

"That's why we want to know where all these children have gone," he specified, citing Geita Region as uppermost in having many school dropouts, with some quarters linking the situation with mining activities.

"But is this the only reason? The answer is no, instead we must factor in other aspects such as sports, nutrition, the number of teachers,

infrastructure and to what extent children are not going to school," he stated.

"We must also consider those who finished primary school but did not continue with secondary education. Why haven't they joined form one?" he quizzed at the gathering.

"When many children are dropping out of school, we have the responsibility to find out why and what more needs to be done. Research is essential so we started the Research and Analysis Working Group in Education," he stated.

The group chaired by the minister intends to review various studies on the issue locally along with background studies, to inform the expert team as to what is going in the minds of young people in primary school, he elaborated.

There is an on-going study con-

cerning female pupils allowed to continue with studies after delivery, to stake out their challenges after resuming classes and why other pregnancy dropouts failed to do so, especially in seeking girls' views on the programme, he stated.

In the coming month, the team will be visiting returning female pupils in selected regions to find out what is going on, he stated in relation to key areas of the UNICEF-funded research exercise.

The government is focused on greater use of research findings in decision making, he said, citing research work to identify schools' infrastructural needs, especially in relation to census data and surveys from the more recent schools.

Statistical information is gathered from early child education to high school for institutions using the national curricula, while

the government is making efforts to bring the database to include those using the Cambridge curriculum, for instance, the International School of Tanganyika, and others, he said.

"Moreover, we will gather data from mid-level colleges and universities so that more statistical information can be published in the Basic Education Statistics of Tanzania (BEST) by the end of this year," he asserted.

"We will also collect information from the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU), the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACT-VET), the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) and from the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) to ensure we have all the relevant information," he added.



Dr Godiva Rwanomweza (L), a radiographer with Rorya District Hospital, pictured yesterday briefing Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on operations in her department. The PM is on a working tour of Mara Region. Photo: PMO

## Government mulls turning Nyerere's Butiama residence into tourist hotspot

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has announced plans to turn the private residence of founding President the late Julius Nyerere at Mwitongo in Butiama District, Mara Region into a tourist destination.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa revealed the plans early this week when he visited the residence as part of his Mara Region official visit.

Majaliwa directed authorities in Butiama District to assess the current state of Nyerere's residence to enable the government to take action that will make the place a tourist destination.

He also directed the Ministry of Works to ensure that a road leading to Mwitongo area is constructed to tarmac level to enable tourists to easily access the place.

Nyerere, born on April 13, 1922 and died on Oct. 14, 1999, was

Prime Minister of Tanganyika at independence in 1961 and President of Tanzania from 1964 to 1985.

Last week, the founding father was honoured with a statue outside the African Union headquarters in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.

He was a committed pan-Africanist and hosted independence fighters opposed to white minority rule in southern Africa.

He played a key role in the crea-

tion of the Organisation of African Unity, which later became the African Union.

But when he became prime minister of what was then Tanganyika in 1961, his first task was to unite the new country, made up of more than 120 different ethnic groups, including Arabs, Asians and European minorities.

He managed to do this by promoting the use of Kiswahili as a lingua franca and through his vision of African Socialism or Ujamaa in Kiswahili.

In 1964, Tanganyika united with the Republic of Zanzibar to form the United Republic of Tanzania.



# Deputy minister and Russian envoy talk of strengthening ties

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Russia have agreed to continue strengthening bilateral ties which dates back to 1961 for mutual interests.

The commitment was made yesterday during discussions between the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Mbarouk Nasser Mbarouk and the Russian ambassador to Tanzania Andrey Avetisyan at the ministry's Dar es Salaam office.

The talks dwelt on economic matters, trade, investment and human capital development as discussed during the Africa-Russia Summit which was held in Russia last year.

The two officials also discussed the new system where Russia is set to establish a summit for foreign affairs ministers from Africa and Russia which will be held in Russia in October this year.

He said the meeting will increase the opportunity for African countries to discuss implementation of various issues agreed by their governments at different levels, in parallel with adding new areas of cooperation in strategic sectors.

Classifying the strategic areas, Mbarouk said that Tanzania has the desire to strengthen the tourism sector, adding that this was the right time to look at the best way to revive various ways of increasing the number of tourists and other services.

In his remarks, Avetisyan said that Russia has plans to develop cooperation in the tourism sector by providing training to tourist companies and hotel service providers that will go hand in hand with the promotion of Tanzania: The Royal Tour documentary film.

Ambassador Avetisyan explained that Russia supports efforts to promote tourism, adding that his country was making arrangements to enable the Russian Broadcasting Agency 'Russia Today' to come to Tanzania and prepare television programmes to be aired in Russia with the aim of continuing to promote tourism and culture on both sides.

The two officials also discussed the importance of cooperation in the education sector as well as continuing to provide scholarships and funding for long and short term studies provided by the Russian government to Tanzanians.



Mkinga district commissioner Col Maulid Sumburu (R) exchanges greetings with Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister Jerry Silaa at Tanga Airport yesterday. The minister is also chairman of a committee of eight ministers charged with the resolution of a total of 975 land-related disputes reported in different parts of the country. The minister, Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Dunstan Kitandula (in blue shirt) and the Deputy Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), Khamis Hamza Khamis (3rd-R), were at the start of a one-day visit to Mkinga District for the purpose. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

## Zanzibar to partner with TBI in making ports efficient

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE government of Zanzibar has expressed commitment to prioritising implementation of the blue economy policy which includes bolstering port infrastructure to boost transportation.

Minister for Infrastructure, Communication and Transport in Zanzibar Dr Khalid Salum Mohammed made the commitment during the launch of a joint working partnership between Tony Blair Institute (TBI) and Zanzibar Port Corporation (ZPC).

He said the government has chosen to give the blue economy top priority to expand businesses, investments, tourism and transportation as means

of advancing the isles' economy.

He said absence of management systems for port operations is the main cause of high operating costs for port infrastructure in Unguja and Pemba which includes ports of Mangapwani, Fumba, Malindi, Mkoani, Chakechake, and Shumba. "What we agreed with the TBI is the need for a tool to help ports function better, run more smoothly and contribute to productivity and economic growth," he said.

He said the government of Zanzibar was still working with private sector stakeholders to improve the port's infrastructure in order to boost the expansion of the country's economy.

He added that many issues have

been addressed through ports expansion and that they will be able to boost efficiency through such collaborations by reducing costs and putting in place a dependable operating system.

Zanzibar Ports Corporation Director General Akif Ali Khamis said that they intend to eradicate complaints by offering services in line with international standards, including addressing clients' grievances regarding lengthy cargo delivery times.

Frank Matsuert, TBI director, said that as Zanzibar has a long history of being a significant global economic hub, bolstering the ports will enable it to raise the standards of services offered.

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**Tanzania has the desire to strengthen the tourism sector, adding that this was the right time to look at the best way to revive various ways of increasing the number of tourists and other services**



### USAID TUHIFADHI MALIASILI ("PRESERVE NATURAL RESOURCES") PROJECT INVITATION FOR YOUTH MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili ("Preserve Natural Resources") project which addresses dynamics that threaten habitat connectivity and the long-term persistence of biodiversity in Tanzania invites in and out of the college youth to apply for the first round of internship program. The project targets the marginalized and often socially excluded groups including the youth and women. Engagement and empowerment of youth in the project as co-creators of solutions can significantly support efforts to secure, protect, and sustain wildlife movement corridors and promote the longevity and sustainability of the interventions. USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili project has developed a Youth Mentorship Program that aim to connect, support, and inspire the next generation of conservators interested in biodiversity conservation and natural resources management careers. This year, the project will roll out the youth mentorship program in Kwakuchinja Wildlife Corridor, Amani-Nilo Forest corridor, and Nyerere Selous Udzungwa Elephant Corridor. The program involves pairing mentees (youth with academic training and a keen interest in conservation and natural resources management) with mentors who are seasoned experts in the field.

#### Why should you apply?

The mentoring process will aid mentees in developing their career, skills, and expertise by drawing upon the experiences of the mentors. Mentors will provide exposure to real-world conservation and natural resource management activities implemented in their projects and by their organizations. It is anticipated that, by the end of the program, mentees will acquire conservation leadership skills, knowledge, and understanding, thereby enhancing their prospects of securing employment within the field of biodiversity conservation and natural resource management.

#### Selection criteria

- Individuals must be between the age of 18 - 30 years.
- Possess a Certificate, Diploma, or Degree in fields such as natural resource management, community-based conservation, climate change, wildlife management, forestry, tourism management, beekeeping, community development, livestock, agriculture, and other fields related to biodiversity conservation.
- Less than 1 year of on-the-job experience for youth with the aforementioned academic qualifications.
- At least 2 years of practical experience for youth who have not undergone formal training in the specified fields.
- Reside or work in the following districts: Monduli, Babati, Muheza, and Kilombero.
- Participating in community projects and especially those contributing to biodiversity conservation and/or management of natural resources.
- Applicants with the aforementioned academic qualifications who possess a keen interest in learning and receiving mentorship on natural resources management policy are encouraged to include it in their applications. Priority will be given to applicants with relevant academic qualifications and a demonstrated passion for the subject.

#### Mentorship plan

Mentees will receive mentorship for one year. Throughout this period, mentorship goals will be collaboratively developed by mentors and mentees, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of each party. The program will also entail placements at organizations where mentors work, exposure to field visits, and one-on-one mentoring sessions.

#### Stipend

USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Project will provide a stipend of TZS 300,000/- per month to the mentees to cover their meals and transport allowance. It is expected that mentees will be residents of villages and/or districts within the project area.

#### How to apply

Interested individuals may submit a letter of interest, and CV online: <https://careers.rti.org/jobs/11621>. **The deadline for submitting application is March 15, 2024.** Women/Girls are encouraged to apply. **Only selected candidates will be contacted.**



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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - RFP

### Terms of Reference

## CONSULTANCY FOR WILDLIFE SPECIES CONSERVATION ACTIONS (ELEPHANTS) IN RUVUMA LANDSCAPE

#### 1. Background

WWF Tanzania (TCO) strives to conserve Africa's rare and endangered wildlife species, in partnership with the government and other actors. Work has focused in addressing species conservation challenges such as human-wildlife conflict and effects of climate change which inevitably led to exacerbated exploitation and population decline. Among TCO's focal areas is the Ruvuma Landscape (RLS) comprised of wildlife populations in the Nyerere NP, Selous GR, Mikumi NP and surrounding GCAs and Community WMAs. The network of Protected Areas hosts globally important populations of Elephants, but at occurrence of far below the ecological carrying capacity. Climate change factors such as erratic, poor rains, prolonged droughts, extensive bushfires are key environmental challenges. Concurrently, anthropogenic factors such as IWT (in the form of ivory poaching and illegal bushmeat harvesting), livestock encroachment, human-wildlife conflict and the spread of zoonotic diseases are key issues facing the wellbeing of elephants in the RLS. WWF believes the challenges can best be addressed through the availability of adequate ecological information, and technology to effectively inform/guide management decisions on conservation.

Through the WWF network, TCO has secured funding in support of species conservation in the Ruvuma Landscape in southeastern Tanzania through the species programme for FY 2023/24. WWF Tanzania is seeking for qualified consultants (individuals, firms and institutions) to conduct assignments on elephant population assessments, development of management tools, and training on technological applications for conservation practices in the Selous Niassa Ecosystem (SNE), southern Tanzania. The objectives of the consultancies are to support wildlife management authorities with relevant and timely information, and strengthen community Natural Resource Management for Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR) through policy/framework development for management livestock-wildlife interactions along WMAs, implement conservation actions geared towards elephant and develop plans for long-term management in multiuse areas in the SNE.

#### ASSIGNMENTS:

##### 1. Elephant Conservation in the SNE

**Location:** Elephant population assessments will be conducted in the SNWC and Nyerere NP/Selous GR in southern Tanzania. Training on HEC technologies will be done at TAWA Southern zone offices in Masasi District, Tanzania.

**Assignment Title:** Population assessment and application of technologies for HEC mitigation on the elephant in Nyerere NP/Selous GR and the SNWC, Tanzania. Since 2018, elephant population assessments on abundance and demographics have been done, setting a baseline in which population recovery from recent decline can be analyzed over time. WWF in collaboration with scientists endeavors to complement the previous studies, and advance the population assessments further on the elephants in the Nyerere NP/Selous GR and the SNWC. Furthermore, WWF endeavors to assist TAWA and Local Government Authorities to acquire and adopt technologies and innovations for the management of conflict elephant groups in community areas.

##### The assignment has three main components:

- I. From records of the SNE elephant population size, extrapolations to derive from the data the abundance of elephant subset in the SNWC will be made
- II. Carry out of demographic survey of the Nyerere/Selous elephant population and make comparative analysis from 2018 records for trends.
- III. Following the equipping of TAWA with HEC technologies, to offer training and adoption of the tools in Human-elephant conflict mitigation.

##### 2. Wildlife Habitat Conservation in Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor

**Location:** Habitat conservation to secure species will be done in the SNWC in southern Tanzania.

**Assignment Title:** Assessment on the livestock pastoralism practices in the SNWC for the securement of ecological functionality of WMA/VLFR network for elephants and other species.

Over the course of the past 15 years, livestock introduction into the SNWC has taken place, involving hundreds of thousands of cattle, sheep and goats under the practice of traditional pastoralism husbandry regimes. The abundance of livestock and herbivory requires careful management for maintenance of the ecological integrity of the environment, especially as the SNWC is not a region historically associated with heavy presence of livestock. Heavy stocking rates, unrestricted sedentarism in and around WMAs/VLFRs and conflict with farmers characterize the introduction of livestock under a traditional pastoralism regime in the SNWC. WWF Tanzania seeks to inform the integration process through support for evidence-based research that will guide the process in order to safeguard critical habitats for species connectivity in the Selous-Niassa TFCA.

##### The assignment has three main components:

- Determine and document as quantitatively as possible livestock abundance, stocking rates, and spatial patterns of pastoralist occupancy in the SNWC.
- Model livestock herbivory (grazing) for determinations on carrying capacity, livestock-wildlife interactions and implications on the long-term ecological integrity of natural rangelands in the SNWC.
- Evaluation of perceived and realized community socio-economic benefits derived from dairy and other livestock products through enhanced pastoralist-farmer harmonious co-existence via strategic livestock management planning/practice that explore ideas for how to make livestock pay and benefit economically.

Detailed ToR and more other information including the scope of the assignment, expected outputs, expected deliverables & timelines can be accessed through our website at: [https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/jobs/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/)

##### 2. Proposal Submission

Please, submit your full proposal (softcopy only) to procurement email at [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org)

Please, send your application to:

Secretary, Procurement Committee: WWF Tanzania; Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikocheni P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077 Fax: +255 22 277 5535; Website: [www.wwf.or.tz](http://www.wwf.or.tz)

##### 3. Deadline for submission:

Applications must be concise and include a combined technical & financial proposal, fully signed, highlighting company profile, concrete evidences of experiences on similar works, the proposed approach and methodologies, work schedule and timings of the process. Team CVs should also be attached. Also apart from one pager application letter, financial proposal should clearly specify time and other expenses both direct and reimbursable, these include unit costs on professional fees and the eligible taxes; kindly submit your applications as instructed **15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 5:30 pm EAT.**

Evaluation of the consultancy applications will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines and that WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal/bid. WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance for fraud and corruption, if you encounter such an incident, report it by sending an email to [fcii@wwftz.org](mailto:fcii@wwftz.org)

Only successful applicant will be contacted.



## Sugar dealers bitter following arrest for cap price violations

By Guardian Correspondent,

Shinyanga

SUGAR dealers in Shinyanga Region have expressed dissatisfaction with the government's new indicative prices for the commodity, saying that it is unfavourable to the development of their businesses.

Six sugar dealers were arrested for selling sugar at a higher price in the region during a special operation that authorities launched.

The traders issued their complaints yesterday during a meeting with Shinyanga regional commissioner Christina Mndeme who called for a meeting to address the matter after it was realized that sugar was being sold at a higher price than indicated.

Lenard Kasoni, one of sugar dealers, said they purchase a 50 kg bag of imported sugar at 130,000/- and have it transported for 10,000/- per bag.

"To make a profit, we need to sell the bag for more than the government indicative price which is 140,000/-, as the cost increases to 145,000 upon reaching Shinyanga.

According to Selemán Edward, another sugar dealer, a local miller charges 151,000/- for a 50-kg bag and 75,500/- for a 25 kg bag while, the government mandates a kilogram of sugar to be sold between 2,800/- and 3,000/-, which is 70,000/- per bag.

"You will just keep detaining us because the indicative price set by the government for sugar is not in line with the actual situation in the market and we cannot sell at a loss," he said.

Another businessman Gilitu Makula alleged that individuals who

received permission to distribute sugar in other regions sold it to people with huge capital in Dar es Salaam who raised the prices above the government's indicative price in an attempt to make profits.

"The issue of rising sugar prices is not for sugar dealers; it starts in factories where we could get it at wholesale price but the wholesale indicative price is 2,600/- but factories sell it for 3,800/-.

"The planning of these indicative prices for selling sugar should involve those who use it more, especially low-income citizens," Makula said.

Kagera Sugar Depot Manager in Kahama Hassani Buruhani said the price of sugar has increased due to flooding of sugarcane fields which has affected production.

According to him, the waterlogging of the sugarcane fields has resulted in a rise in operating costs because tractors are unable to access farms, forcing them to recruit over 70,000 youth to carry sugarcane on their shoulders.

After receiving complaints from the sugar dealers, Mndeme said sugar dealers' concerns were genuine, adding that the government was going to work on them to ensure sugar is accessible at reasonable price to the general public.

She said the government has issued directives to every zone, and the Lake zone which includes Shinyanga region that the cost of sugar at wholesale should be between 2,600/- and 2,800/- while at retail, it should be between 2,800 and 3,000/-.

However, sugar consumers have been buying the commodity at between 3,200/-, 4,000/- and 5,000/- per kilo.

## Cholera vaccine stocks run out as Africa battles new outbreaks

By Special Correspondent

THE vaccine shortage comes as southern Africa battles a cholera outbreak which has killed 700 people in Zambia alone.

Medical charity Doctors Without Borders said yesterday that the shortage has affected its teams trying to respond to outbreaks in more than 16 countries.

Public health experts have urged manufacturers to speed up the production of the oral vaccine. All drugs currently in production have already been booked.

In January, Zambia rolled out a UNICEF-backed campaign to vaccinate 1.5 million people against cholera. The outbreak which started in 2023 has now spread to

all regions of the country, forcing authorities to convert a stadium into a treatment centre and to delay the reopening of schools.

According to Save the Children, cholera cases increased fourfold in Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique from 2022 to 2023.

The number of infections rose from 26,250 to over 95,300, with more than 1,600 deaths in the three nations, making it one of the worst cholera epidemics in decades.

Experts have it that cholera is a bacterial disease usually spread through contaminated water or food. Cholera causes severe diarrhoea and dehydration. Left untreated, cholera can be fatal within hours, even in previously healthy people.

## African energy ministers meet to promote regional electricity trade

NAIROBI

MINISTERS in charge of electricity from Eastern African countries started a three-day meeting in Nairobi on Tuesday to promote regional trade in electricity.

The 18th Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) Council of Ministers meeting brought together senior government officials from 13 African countries in order to advance regional cooperation in the energy sector.

In his opening remarks, Davis Chirchir, Kenyan cabinet secretary for energy and petroleum, said that governments in the region are committed to approving policies, plans and budgets which will help to scale up the interconnectivity of the eastern African national electricity grid going forward.

Chirchir added that Kenya has already reaped the rewards of regional integration through bilateral frameworks including the importation of 200 MW of renewable energy from Ethiopia and engaging in energy exchange with Uganda.

"These initiatives have ensured a

reliable energy supply and reduced electricity outage risks," he said.

James Wahogo, the secretary-general of EAPP, noted that significant progress has been achieved in the implementation of cross-border transmission projects aimed at strengthening regional connectivity and ensuring energy solutions and power trade across Africa.

"Countries in EAPP are currently trading over 3,400 GWh annually, which represents a big achievement compared to the 504 GWh in 2005," Wahogo said.

He revealed that there are plans to complete, commission and operationalize the Egypt-Libya, Egypt-Sudan, Ethiopia-Djibouti electricity transmission line.

Sidonius Okaasi Opolot, Ugandan minister of state for energy, said that regional trade is designed to move electricity from countries of surplus production to countries with deficit production.

Opolot said that the Eastern Africa region is now experiencing a new frontier of industrialization which has created the need for reliable and green electricity supply.



Dr Selemani Jafo (C, foreground), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), attends the Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Ruto, Abiy agree to uphold African sovereignty

NAIROBI

KENYA's President William Ruto and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed have agreed to respect individual sovereignties and territorial boundaries of peers in the region, a revealing decision for the Horn of African region.

Meeting at state house Nairobi, the two leaders vowed to maintain peace, security and stability within the continent "as a necessary condition for economic growth and development," a dispatch said.

"Accordingly, they affirmed their commitment to recognise, respect and uphold sovereignty and territorial integrity of state, and to reject unconstitutional

changes of government as well as interference in domestic political processes of African countries by external interests."

The declaration may be both face-saving and self-shielding, especially for the Ethiopian side. It could be a political coup for Nairobi which has been trying to push back channels to resolve the Ethiopia-Somalia tiff. The joint communique did not refer to the Somalia issue specifically.

But since January, Ethiopia and Somalia have bickered over a memorandum of understanding (MoU) Addis Ababa signed with Somaliland, a breakaway region Somalia considers its territory.

Somalia has demanded the MoU is withdrawn, terming it as a

violation of its territorial integrity by Ethiopia, which had agreed on a sea access deal with Somaliland.

On his first state visit to Nairobi since 2018, Abiy's trip coincided with a visit by Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud for the UN Environmental Assembly. While both leaders were expected to hold bilateral talks with host President Ruto, it was still unclear if Dr Abiy and Dr Mohamud would meet face to face.

Yet, that declaration too was self-shielding for Ethiopia. Facing constant internal rebellions from militias, Ethiopia has been forceful in cracking them down, earning itself criticism from mostly Western countries on human rights violations especially

the detention of journalists.

The visit was significant to iron out forgotten issues between the two sides. They said they will enhance bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, tourism, health, fisheries and transport

Dr Abiy had arrived in Nairobi on Tuesday evening to start his state visit to Nairobi, his first since June 2018 and which was expected to turn-around in relations between the two sides

Dr Abiy was received in person by his host President William Ruto at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. They exchanged a camaraderie hug in the rain before moving to other routine rituals for arriving leaders at the airport.



Farmers in Matamba Division, Makete District, pictured yesterday preparing their potatoes ready to serve wholesalers. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Sofia Ferreira Santos

THIRTY one people have died after a bus flipped over and plunged off a bridge in Mali on Tuesday.

The bus had been en route to neighbouring Burkina Faso from the Malian town of Kenieba when it veered off a bridge crossing the Bagoe River.

At least 10 others were injured -

## Dozens die after bus falls off bridge in Mali

some suffering serious injuries.

Local officials said the likely cause was "the driver's failure to control the vehicle".

The accident happened at around 17:00 local time (17:00 GMT).

"A bus that was leaving Kenieba commune for Burkina Faso tipped

off a bridge. The likely cause is the driver losing control of the vehicle," the transport ministry said in a statement. It added that the victims included Malians and citizens of other West African countries.

Road accidents are common in Mali because of the poor condition

of many roads and vehicles, as well as overloaded and poorly regulated public transportation.

Earlier this month, 15 people were killed and 46 injured after a bus heading towards the capital Bamako collided with a truck, according to reports.



# Experts from 16 SADC nations in Dar for capital markets benchmarking

By Correspondent James Kandoya

REPRESENTATIVES of 16 Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states are in Tanzania for benchmarking, thanks to successes recorded in management of capital markets.

Finance Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba yesterday presided over the opening of Tanzanian Capital Markets and Roundtable SADC Workshop on Development of Sustainable Capital Markets in Dar es Salaam, saying achievements recorded in the area informed why Tanzania hosted the workshop.

Dr Nchemba said that the workshop was organized by the Financial Sector Deepening Africa (FSDA); Committee of SADC Stock Exchanges (COSSE) and Tanzania's Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA).

He said some of the notable strides are issuance of the first green bonds with the biggest ticket size in Sub-Saharan Africa dubbed 'Kijani Bond' raising 171,83bn/- to finance environmental-friendly projects and businesses.

The minister said ANOTHER IS

issuance of the first gender bond in Sub-Saharan Africa dubbed 'Jasiri Bond' raising 74.2bn/- to finance small and medium-sized enterprises owned and operated by women and men.

In addition, he said the Tanzanian capital markets celebrated issuance of a multicurrency Social Bond dubbed 'Jamii Bond' raising 212.94bn/- to finance sustainable projects and businesses.

"I reiterate the government's commitment to promoting development of sustainable finance and investment for the prosperity of our region, Africa and the planet," he said.

He said Tanzanian capital markets last week launched the initial public offering of Tanga Urban Water Supply And Sanitation Authority (UWASA) water infrastructure green revenue bond to raise 53bn/- for financing water infrastructure improvement and environment conservation in Tanga city.

According to him, the green bond was a pathfinder transaction, expected to show other subnational institutions and municipalities in

Tanzania and SADC region how to finance revenue generating projects through capital markets

Dr Nchemba said that CMSA has implemented initiatives for development of innovative and sustainable capital market products that resulted into 31.2 percent increase in total value of investment in the capital markets to reach 37.3trn/-, as of January 31st this year from 28.4trn/- of January 31st 2021.

He said 61.6 percent increase in trading turnover on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange to reach 9.3trn/- during the three year period which ended January 31st 2024 from 5.8 trn/- in the corresponding period was a major achievement.

Nicodemus Mukama, CMSA chief executive officer said that achievements recorded were a result of good policy, regulatory framework and operational support accorded by the government.

Euan Davidson, Head of Economic Section at British High Commission, said the achievements attracted members of the SADC region to come to Tanzania for benchmarking.



Industry and Trade ministry permanent secretary Dr Hashil Abdallah pictured yesterday following proceedings of the 13th World Trade Organisation ministerial conference in progress in Abu Dhabi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Govt for multilateral trading system at WTO meeting

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA as one of the founding members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) has pledged to support a multilateral trading system that provides both protection and opportunities for all members, especially the least developed, small and vulnerable amongst them.

Dr Hashil Abdallah, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade made the government stand yesterday in Abu Dhabi, UAE when delivering a speech during the ongoing 13th WTO ministerial conference.

In his speech which was made available in Dar es Salaam, Dr Abdallah said Tanzania believes that WTO has a significant role to play in ensuring that global

sustainable development is attained.

"At this juncture, we have an opportunity to promote a multilateral trading system with the right trajectory by enhancing WTO efficacy to execute its mandate starting with taking stock of the implementation of previous ministerial decisions," he said.

Dr Abdallah said Tanzania supports WTO reform that ensures balanced interest of members and with particular attention to support developing countries and least developed countries to achieve the broad objective of inclusiveness and promoting sustainable development as enshrined in the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO.

"In this regard, we would like to insist that an acceptable reform outcome should be balanced and take into account the different

needs of members according to their economic and development asymmetries and moreover, the reform should aim to rectify certain trade rules which contributed to the de-industrialization of some members," he said.

On food security, he said diversification of production, and value addition together with agro-related strategic should be done with a view to increasing economic resilience and enhancing the productive capacities needed to create jobs, generate sustainable livelihoods, increase incomes and improve quality of life.

"We need to enhance cooperation and work on building productive capacities aiming at strengthening the domestic and regional food and agricultural value chains of developing member states particularly the least developed countries," he said.

# Ex-corruption buster cautions engineers against vice

By Guardian Reporter

CORRUPTION in the field of engineering not only retards development, but also results in poor work at the expense of taxpayers' money, it has been warned.

This was said by retired official of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) Laurent Ndalichako at an induction seminar under Structured Engineers Apprenticeship Programme (SEAP) organised by the Engineers Registration Board (ERB) in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The seminar brought together 80 female graduate engineers from Tanzania Mainland and 20 female engineers from Zanzibar who have received government sponsorship to undergo a three year SEAP training to become professional

engineers under the sponsorship of the Norwegian government alongside other 160 beneficiaries.

Ndalichako advised engineer trainees to avoid corrupt practices in their fields as this may not only derail projects by employing unqualified professionals, but also lead to project execution below standards.

He said most of the engineers justify corrupt practices even as they know they can be jailed for years and lose the trust by the government and public which may sometimes lead to their deregistration.

"Graduate engineers aspiring to become professional engineers need to be more aware of corrupt practices and what to do when they are exposed to corruption environment," he said.

The engineering expert said

a number of buildings in the country and around the world have been built below standards due to corruption and many end up collapsing.

The retired PCCB official said when engineers refrain from corrupt practices, many buildings, roads and other projects are built to the required standards because they are supervised by qualified professionals after tenders are awarded to qualified contractors.

In her closing remarks, the guest of honour for the event, President of the Institution of Engineers Tanzania (EIT) Dr Gema Modu advised the trainees to take hold of what they learned as they move towards professionalism in their career.

She said the number of engineers in the country was still very low and needed to match the growing



## VACANCIES

### RAP MANAGER-KABANGA SITE

**Position Summary:**

Tembo Nickel is seeking to recruit a **Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) Manager**. This is a senior role reporting to the **Site General Manager** and **Tembo Nickel Chief Operating Officer**. The successful candidate is expected to lead the Coordination and effective implementation of Tembo Nickel Resettlement Action Plan.

**Duty Station** - Kabanga Nickel Project site - Ngara, Kagera

**Rotation:** 6 weeks on site and 3 weeks off site

**Duties and Responsibilities**

- Identification of information and documentation requirements to demonstrate compliance with:
  - o RAP commitments
  - o National legislation
  - o International standards including IFC Performance Standards
- Working closely with various department units (land acquisition, replacement housing, community relations, grievance management, livelihood restoration etc.) and contractors (RAP planning, land acquisition, archiving, cultural heritage, grave relocation, housing construction, livelihood restoration programs), and information technology partners to compile and consolidate necessary Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) documents into Tembo Nickel information systems.
- Work with department units to establish and track clear RAP key performance indicators (KPIs).
- Work together with relevant unit heads to review progress against RAP commitments and jointly establish corrective actions where progress is unsatisfactory.
- Monitor RAP activities with respect to compliance with the IFC Performance Standards and suggest course corrections as required.
- Develop management reporting dashboards to track compliance.
- Act as a focal point for third-party RAP M&E contractor.
- Track and support implementation of corrective actions identified by RAP M&E contractor document reviews and field visits.
- Act as focal point for External reviews of RAP compliance with IFC Performance Standards.
- Support any government-led reviews of activities associated with the RAP / LRP.

**Required Qualifications and Skills:**

- Advanced degree in social sciences or business administration.
- 10 years' experience with RAP in Mining, the Oil and Gas industry, or Mega-Projects.
- Experience in land acquisition and involuntary resettlement and resettlement.
- Experience managing contractors including technical and financial.
- Diverse experience in RAP and LRP implementation in various contexts and in various phases of the project.
- Experience in developing and implementing stakeholder engagement plans and grievance mechanisms.
- Experience in managing cultural heritage resources.
- Excellent understanding of the IFC Performance Standards, especially PS 1, 5 and 8.

### NGO SPECIALIST - DAR ES SALAAM OFFICE

**Position Summary:**

Tembo Nickel is seeking an experienced community development professional to analyse the community service needs and actions, as outlined in the livelihood restoration plan, assess required NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) and service delivery requirements, and develop a plan to enable the implementation of the Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) and build the foundation for on-going social and economic development.

The role will report directly to the Social Performance Advisor and will be responsible for delivering against a set of agreed key performance indicators (KPIs), which will be reviewed regularly with both Tembo Nickel Management, Community and Resettlement Lead.

**Duty Station:** Dar es salaam

**Responsibilities**

The NGO specialist will be responsible for:

- An assessment and maintaining a database of local, national, international, and multilateral organisations operating in Tanzania, and the Ngara District specifically, including their core services and values, where they are located and their capabilities and capacity to expand service delivery or community development opportunities.
- A review of government funding availability and requirements in the assessment, including international donors (i.e., bilateral, and multilateral foundations and large private donors).
- Working closely with the Livelihood Specialist to develop an understanding of the required government and NGO services to enable to the implementation of the LRP.
- Developing NGO/Services development plan to entice NGOs and government service to the region to enable Tembo Nickel's implementation of the LRP and its ongoing community development plan.
- Incorporating a view on how government/private funding could be accessed to complement Tembo Nickel's community development efforts.
- Staying informed on relevant laws and regulations affecting NGOs.
- Engaging across teams to ensure plans requiring NGO and/or government services are integrated and aligned with the NGO/Services development plan.
- Working closely with the Stakeholder Engagement Team to inform/develop an NGO Engagement Strategy as part of the wider Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
- Developing a gap analysis and capacity building matrix (where applicable) for the identified NGOs/Services to support the successful delivery of community development efforts.
- Engaging with Tembo management to ensure visibility of critical risks and opportunities to deliver the NGO/Services development plan.

Engaging with Tembo management to ensure visibility of any required investment to enable success.

**Required Qualifications and Skills:**

- Bachelor's degree in social science or related field
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in similar role
- Extensive knowledge of the Tanzanian not-for-profit and development
- Strong stakeholder engagement and communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to assess the needs of remote communities and identify approaches to create sustainable community development opportunities effectively.
- Experience in strategic thinking and development of plans to operationalise strategy.
- Fluency in English and Swahili
- Availability to travel to the site at least 25% of the time.

**How to Apply**

- Applicants are invited to send their resumes indicating the role title in the subject via email [jobs@tembonickel.com](mailto:jobs@tembonickel.com) Application closing date is **8<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

• **Women are strongly encouraged to Apply.**

**Note:** We are committed to provide equal employment opportunities based on merits and we do not charge candidates any fees in the whole recruitment process

For and on behalf of Tembo Nickel, Kabanga Nickel Project



## WHO, partners set to review health sector strategic plan

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

THE World Health Organization (WHO), Ireland and Switzerland have signed an agreement to undertake the midterm review of the Health Sector Strategic Plan-V (HSSP V) to strengthen health systems in Tanzania.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday, WHO Representative to Tanzania Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses said that under the agreement, Ireland and Switzerland will jointly provide \$100,000 for the purpose.

He further noted that WHO will provide both technical and additional financial support to the government of Tanzania in undertaking the midterm review of HSSP-V.

HSSP V is the guiding framework for the detailed planning and implementation of activities by health sector stakeholders at all levels.

Its development was guided by the National Health Policy 2007, Vision 2025 and the sustainable development goals, the third Five Year Development Plan (2021/22 - 2025/26), as well as the ruling party election manifesto.

The midterm review of HSSP V is planned in chapter 8 monitoring and evaluation for the end of year 3 (2023) to inform the continued execution of HSSP V and the prospective shaping of HSSP VI. It will check if the service delivery and reforms objectives are on track.

Dr Sagoe-Moses further underscored the relevance of the review process on the health sector strategic plan as the fifth edition considered the inclusion of emerging health threats such as industrialization, urbanization and human travel leading to new spread of diseases such as the COVID-19.

"The government of Tanzania has in the last two decades made giant strides to bolster the resilience of the health systems through its health strategic plan," he said.

"The midterm review exercise is an opportune time to ensure that all health priorities are strategically prioritized. We are indeed glad about this partnership which will in turn impact the lives of the people of Tanzania."

Embassy of Ireland Chargé d'Affaires, Mary McCarthy commended the government for the notable milestones towards the achievement of SDGs 3 and 5, and reaffirmed Ireland's commitment

to supporting Tanzania in achieving its health priorities.

"Ireland will continue to support the government of Tanzania in delivering its Health Sector Strategy through different mechanisms including the Health Basket Fund and through our UN partners including WHO. The planned health sector strategy midterm review will generate essential data to inform the country on whether we are on the right track to achieve the five-year health sector priorities," she said.

Representative from the Embassy of Switzerland Holger Tausch said: "Let's continue to join forces, align development partners' efforts with national priorities and be guided by evidence generated through reviews, studies, and evaluations."

The HSSP V took into consideration the following: Emerging strategic priorities, Industrialization and urbanization demanding for new types of services for the urban poor, globalization in trade and human travel leading to new spread of diseases and the unfinished business of HSSP IV.

It also consolidates existing health sector reforms, retains key strategic priorities of HSSP IV and maternal, newborn and child health, human resource for health, Non Communicable Diseases and outbreaks of epidemics.

The issues identified in the review report, and associated pieces of work, will inform the elaboration of joint annual health sector technical review and technical committee meeting policy recommendations.



**The midterm review exercise is an opportune time to ensure that all health priorities are strategically prioritized. We are indeed glad about this partnership which will in turn impact the lives of the people of Tanzania**

## Jubilee clinches 2024 annual award in insurance services

By Guardian Reporter

JUBILEE Life Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Limited has won the 2024 Annual Tanzania Service Excellence Award under insurance sector.

Commenting on the matter in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, Helena Mzena, the firm's chief executive officer, said that the company's mission is centred on prioritising the needs and aspirations of its customers.

She noted that the award was a validation to the team's relentless efforts to exceed customer expectations, deliver superior insurance solutions and foster enduring relationships built on trust, empathy and reliability.

"We are honoured to receive the 2024 Annual Tanzania Service Excellence Award in the insurance sector. This achievement reflects our commitment to placing our customers at the heart of everything we do," she said.

"As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, Jubilee Life Insurance reiterates its pledge to uphold the principles of integrity, transparency and excellence in serving the diverse insurance needs of individuals and businesses across Tanzania."

The recognition stands as a testament to Jubilee Life Insurance's unwavering dedication to providing unparalleled service and value to its customers, Mzena said.

"We believe that success is a collective effort, fuelled by the relentless commitment and

pursuit of excellence by all our stakeholders. As we celebrate this milestone, on behalf of our company, I would like to extend our appreciation to our customers, staff and esteemed partners for their trust in us. This win would not have been possible without their continued collaboration, feedback, loyalty and support," she said.

The Annual Tanzania Service Excellence Award is a symbol of excellence, acknowledging organizations that consistently demonstrate exceptional commitment to customer satisfaction, innovation and service delivery.



**As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, Jubilee Life Insurance reiterates its pledge to uphold the principles of integrity, transparency and excellence in serving the diverse insurance needs of individuals and businesses across Tanzania**



Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) CEO Geoffrey Karenga pictured in Dar es Salaam earlier this week addressing agriculture, livestock and fishing stakeholders. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Clove cultivation attracts farmers in Morogoro

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

CLOVE cultivation in Morogoro Region has been described as one of the strategic undertakings with the potential to enable farmers increase their incomes and contribute to socioeconomic development.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday on how farmers in Morogoro have been enthusiastic about the new cash crop, Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) manager for Kilombero Cluster, John Banga said the crop is set to transform lives of

farmers.

"Since the crop was introduced in Morogoro a few years ago, it has attracted many farmers and we are also promoting avocado farming in areas that are suitable for clove growing," he said.

He said the office of Morogoro Regional Commissioner Adam Malima in partnership with SAGCOT have been working very closely to ensure that farmers are trained on how to grow the crop professionally.

"Last year, the regional commissioner office in collaboration with SAGCOT coordinated a study tour for 50 farmers to Zanzibar

where they were given skills on all stages of how clove is grown," Banga said.

According to the manager, the government has been providing necessary information to farmers on markets, extension services, farm inputs and their availability in an endeavour to increase production.

The districts whose lands are suitable for clove growing in Morogoro Region are Gairo, Mvomero and Kilombero. The districts are also have favourable climatic condition for the crop, he said.

He said SAGCOT through its partners, including International

Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), and World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) have also been working closely with farmers to ensure that production of cloves in Morogoro Region increases.

"As of today, we have produced 350,000 clove seedlings for Morogoro District alone which are expected to be distributed to 5,000 smallholder farmers for planting," he said.

Banga further said that in Gairo District alone, there are 500 farmers and among them 40 have already been trained on how to grow the crop.



Filbert Mponzi (2nd-R), NMB Bank Plc's chief of retail banking, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting an air ticket to Makame Zahoro Ali - one of 12 winners of the grand finale of NMB's 'MastaBata - Halipoi!' raffle. The winners will have a five-day all-costs-covered stay in Cape Town. Looking on are NMB Card Centre manager Sophia Mwanjitwa (L) and Card Business head Philbert Casmir. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## New initiative to support needy children in Dar, Dodoma

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

A NEW initiative is out to support vulnerable children in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam regions.

It is implemented by the Tanzania-based Focus for the Future Generation (2FG) in collaboration with Kenya-based Consolation East Africa (CEA).

The 'Afya Yangu' project is funded by Pangaea Zimbabwe Aids Trust (PZAT) and focuses to scale

up health needs to homeless youth and children.

Elizabeth Kafuku, head of programmes at 2FG said in an interview recently that last year, the initiative conducted a thorough situational analysis which covered at least 583 homeless children living in inhumane conditions.

She said the survey conducted in the cities of Dar es Salaam and Dodoma established that majority of the street children are subjected to different abuses, including sodomy, rape and early

pregnancies as well as human trafficking.

"The situational analysis found that most of the homeless young people face serious health and safety challenges," she said.

"For instance, in Dodoma city, apart from children engaging in the use of narcotic drugs, our survey established some cases, at least six cases, in which some of the street children were kidnapped at night."

Sexual abuse, unsafe abortion, stigma, mental health issues and HIV as well as other sexually

transmitted infections were among the challenges common amongst surveyed children.

To help counter the situation, she said that the Afya Yangu initiative seeks collaboration with the government and other like-minded stakeholders to mobilize more resources and provide health services to the children.

"We want to ensure that vulnerable children are given proper treatment along with vocational education so that they get out of the streets," she said





Dodoma district commissioner Jabir Shekimwari (L) makes remarks yesterday shortly after touring a site on the outskirts of Dodoma city where the construction of a dispensary building is in progress. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## Bank hands over 24 air tickets to draw winners

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank has handed over 24 return air tickets to winners of its 5th edition of three-month MastaBata promotion campaign launched last year under the slogan 'Halipoi'.

The winners are set to enjoy a fully paid five-day fun trip to Cape Town, South Africa as grand prize.

Speaking during the farewell event held at the bank's headquarter in Dar es Salaam yesterday, NMB Bank Chief of Retail Banking Filbert Mponzi said the bank's campaign aligned with its strategy that not only seeks to promote a cashless economy across Tanzania but also reward the bank's customers for their unwavering loyalty, trust and commitment to the bank.

"We have today reached the climax of the 5th edition of MastaBata rewards campaign launched last year. As a grand prize, we are handing over tickets to 12 lucky winners who will be accompanied by their companions of their choice to travel to Cape Town, South Africa and have fun. We will be meeting all the associated costs to ensure that our lucky winners have an unforgettable experience," he said.

Mponzi noted that a total of 1,492 customers emerged winners during the campaign's weekly and

monthly draws where 100 lucky winners pocketed 100,000/- weekly while 30 pocketed 500,000/- each, monthly.

He urged the bank's customers to continue taking part in the bank's other ongoing campaigns so as to stand a chance of winning prizes.

NMB head of card business, Philbert Casmir, urged the public to embrace digital payments as they have proved to be more convenient, quick and secure.

"With a wider variety of payment options for NMB Bank consumers available at their fingertips, I strongly encourage our customers to switch to online payment services," he said.

Casmir noted that the promotion was a way of rewarding the bank's loyal customers for their continued support over the years and aligns with its 'closer to you' philosophy.

Makame Zahoro Ali, a winner from Zanzibar described the fully paid trip to Cape Town as an opportunity of a lifetime since he has not crossed Tanzanian borders before.

"When I received news that I was one of the lucky winners, I actually did not believe it until today when I was handed over my return ticket. I am so excited and I thank NMB Bank for this unique opportunity and I believe it will give me a lot of exposure," he said.

Local media quoted Interior Minister Olubunmi Tunji-Oj as saying that it would be operated on a public-private partnership model between the government, the immigration service and a private firm.

Nigerian economist Abubakar Abdullahi said the levy is good for the country and won't frustrate potential investors as "they'll love to see the country grow as well".

"I believe Nigeria stands to benefit from this levy as more companies will start looking inwards as there are qualified Nigerians in all sectors," he said.

ABUJA

## Nigeria imposes annual levy on expatriate workers

NIGERIA has imposed a mandatory annual levy for organisations employing expatriate workers, requiring them to pay \$15,000 (£12,000) for a director and \$10,000 for other categories.

The move is meant to encourage foreign companies to employ more Nigerian workers. Workers in the diplomatic missions and government officials are exempt.

President Bola Tinubu has warned that the levy should not be used to frustrate potential investors.

He spoke while launching the Expatriate Employment Levy (EEL) handbook on Tuesday, adding that the government was expecting to improve revenue and indigenisation.

He said that its aim was to balance employment opportunities between Nigerians and expatriates.

"The goal is to close wage gaps between expatriates and the Nigerian labour force while increasing employment opportunities for qualified

Nigerians in foreign companies in the country," he said.

There are more than 150,000 expatriates in Nigeria, according to local media citing data from the interior ministry.

They mostly work in the oil and gas, construction, telecommunication and hospitality sectors.

Nigeria is one of Africa's biggest oil producers. Its oil and gas exports account for 90 percent of foreign exchange earnings, according to

the International Monetary Fund.

The move comes as Nigeria is experiencing its worst economic crisis in a generation, which has led to widespread hardship and anger in recent months.

Labour unions and government workers on Tuesday held demonstrations to protest against economic hardships.

Tinubu acknowledged that Nigerians were going through a difficult period.

He said efforts were being made

to improve the country's finances and grow the economy.

The levy applies to employees who work for at least 183 days in a year.

The scheme imposes fines of up to three years and jail terms of up to five years for a person or organisations that do not comply, including failure to provide accurate information.

The Nigerian Immigration Service will be responsible for enforcing the levy.

## Republic of Congo to send first shipment of LNG to Italy

MILAN

REPUBLIC of the Congo became the latest exporter of liquefied natural gas on Tuesday by starting production of the first cargo, a year after Italian energy company ENI launched LNG project there with local partners.

The first cargo ship loaded with LNG will head to the Italian regasification plant in the Tuscan

town of Piombino in the coming days, ENI said in a statement yesterday.

"With the first cargo, the Republic of Congo enters the group of LNG exporting countries, opening opportunities for economic growth while contributing to the global energy balance," ENI said.

ENI and its partners shared labour, knowledge and technology, "ensuring additional revenue for

the country while contributing to Europe's energy security," CEO Claudio Descalzi said in the statement.

The project will have an annual capacity of 4.5 billion cubic meters of natural gas, which is used to heat homes and businesses. It is formed when the gas is cooled to around -162 C to be stored and shipped safely on board specially designed ships.



Zubeda Khamis Shaib, legislator for Zanzibar's Mfenesini constituency, checks a baby's weight during a visit to Bubwisudi health centre yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## Number of rhinos killed in SA nears 500

PRETORIA

THE number of rhinos killed for their horns across South Africa jumped to 499 in 2023 compared to 448 in 2022, the country's Environment Department said yesterday.

Forestry, Fisheries and Environment Minister Barbara Creecy said 406 rhinos were killed on state properties and 93 on privately-owned parks, reserves, and farms, for a total increase of 51 rhinos killed in 2023.

Creecy said the coastal province of KwaZulu-Natal saw the highest number of incidents with 307 rhinos killed at the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park and 78 poached at Kruger National Park.

She commended the work done by law enforcement officers and legal officials in arresting and prosecuting those involved in wildlife trafficking.

"KwaZulu-Natal recorded 49 arrests and 13 firearms seized (and) multi-disciplinary teams continue to work tirelessly in an attempt

to slow this relentless pressure," Creecy said in a statement.

African rhinos are killed daily for their horns in South Africa. Their horns are in high demand in some Asian countries where they are used for traditional medicines and as a status symbol for the wealthy.

Currently, there are fewer than 30,000 African rhinos remaining, with the biggest population in Kruger National Park, where the highest number of incidents of poaching occur.



TANZANIA PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TPDC)

### OFFER FOR E SPOT PURCHASE OF CONDENSATE FOB MTWARA

Date: 29/02/2024

Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) is a National Oil Company of Tanzania participating and holds commercial interest on behalf of the Government of Tanzania for oil and natural gas projects and other value addition activities including Songosongo condensate.

TPDC (Seller) hereby calls for eligible firms for a spot purchase of 1594.031MT +/- 5% of condensate FOB Mtwara at Mtwara Bulk Storage Terminal.

Seller offers to sell condensate at a minimum price of USD 587.21 per metric ton (VAT inclusive) which caters for all costs and TPDC's margin. Therefore, Seller invites interested Buyer(s) to submit offers for purchase of the Condensate at or above provided price however, Price is subject to increase by 51.68USD/MT per month to cater for storage charges.

Where need be, the successful Buyer will be allowed to draw sample and conduct analysis to verify specifications at their own cost.

The Buyer has to engage and furnish logistics for discharging of the Product and if required by the Buyer, may hire Petroleum inspector to verify quantity of the Product prior to discharging.

During assessment (evaluation), the criteria to be looked at will be:

#### i. Eligibility:

Business License; Registration Certificates/ Incorporation certificate; Memorandum and Articles of Association (MEMARTS); TIN/VAT Certificates; Tax Clearance Certificate; Usage of the Product and final destination has to be clearly stated. For Buyer who will be intending to purchase and resale the Product, EWURA condensate dealership licence is a mandatory.

#### ii. Financial:

- Price quote in USD/MT; and price shall be VAT inclusive. Buyer to arrange and pay all relevant fees, charges and taxes related to the discharge and or purchase/ resale.
- Provide proof of the ability to prepay full product value through issuance of latest six (6) months bank statement accompanied with bank's confirmation on headed letter; latest audited financial statement and or; audited financial statement of the financier and commitment of the financier to fully pay on behalf of the Buyer in headed letter of the financier firm.
- Cash prepayment through Telegraphic transfer, cash deposits or cheque to be done prior to discharge or issuance of a confirmed irrevocable letter of credit (LC) with 30 days' maturity and 60 days' expiry period where, all LC related costs are to be borne by the Buyer.

Seller shall assess received offers with consideration to the most responsive offer as per criteria set.

The offer should be delivered physically, through registered mail or courier on Thursday, 7th March, 2024 at 11 hours at TPDC's office, 4th Floor room 401. Opening of the offers will be done same day and read outs will be done before all potential Buyer's representation.

An Offer letter should be in a sealed envelope and marked:

"OFFER FOR SPOT PURCHASE OF CONDENSATE FOB MTWARA" and addressed to:

MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
TANZANIA PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,  
P.O. Box 2774,  
Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.  
tpdcmd@tpdc.co.tz;

Two (2) Hard copies to be submitted to TPDC offices at Benjamin W. Mkapa Building, Tower A, Azikiwe/Jamhuri Street, 4th Floor room 401. Tel: +255-22 2200103/4.



THURSDAY 29 FEBRUARY, 2024

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Revenues reaching 15.6 pc of GDP needs structural reforms

EARLY 20th century Russian revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin once said that shame was a revolutionary sentiment.

He said that when employers start noticing that workers or the lowest rungs are very thin and begin to worry about it, there would already be change in the air.

This was to suggest that people would start to understand when there are demands for improved conditions for the working class, a model of ethical awareness that could be applied in many other situations.

Something of that sort is being noticed here, with top officials in the government feeling that the country is collecting much lower taxes than the continental average, and by significant gaps, from 15.6 per cent to 12 per cent.

The natural reflex in those quarters is to start working on a review of applicable tax legislation so that revenue collection is raised to an average of 15.6 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which has already been reached by many African countries.

When Vice President Dr Philip Mpango made this observation, there was a parameter he didn't immediately address: that many of the countries doing better in revenue to GDP ratio don't exactly compare with us in terms of natural resources.

In other words, we ought to be collecting an even greater percentage than most of those doing better than what we are.

Trouble is that in an experts' gathering, as was the case Dar es Salaam venue where the matter was raised, it is a matter of tax laws and what that implies for revenue collection levels.

This may be somewhat inward looking if one compares some data, for instance a September 22,

2023 online write-up to the effect that taxes collected by the central government in Kenya came to nearly 15.9 per cent of the neighbouring country's GDP in 2019.

Another datum, citing World Bank development indicators and entered in nearly the same environment and dated July 5, 2017, said that tax revenue (per cent of GDP) in Kenya was reported at 14.3 per cent in 2020.

Despite clear efforts to do better, all reference to reviewing tax laws to significantly improve collection levels will be directed at raising the rates and instituting sharp enforcement for compliance.

That is exactly that the Samia Suluhu Hassan government has laboured to obliterate over the past three years.

Presumably, some watchdogs are making efforts to call the government to attention: that we are slipping up in tax collection and are significantly below the sub-Saharan average.

That would inform and fortify our aggressive approach to taxes, at times possibly at the expense of methods found to have proved effective in investment drives elsewhere.

What needs to be said regarding the tax law reform school as to raising revenue collection levels by GDP comparison is that the Kenyan example shows that it isn't due to high taxes or harsh tax laws that they collect significantly higher revenues than ourselves. While the population levels are in our favour, with 11m more people by 2022 census data, our total budget is usually around 60 pc of theirs, while we have 63pc more territory than Kenya. We have far greater resources to exploit and raise substantial revenues but we cannot do it since the economy is excessively dominated by the public sector, a sort of straitjacketing.

## Bravo, TAHA for landing three horticultural crops export deal

AGRO-sector policy makers and top bureaucrats must have toasted to the wee hours on learning that the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) recently obtained an accord for regular placement of orders for three varieties of local crop produce. Reports said that the key sub-sector institution sent a delegation of growers and exporters to the Fruit Logistica trade show in Berlin, where the Frankfurt-based Daily Green Co. placed the orders. The firm has since then sent officials to the northern tourism capital to seal an export deal with specific plants or growers, under TAHA auspices. There was affirmation of obtaining substantial quantities of okra, bitter melon and African bird's eye chili, to wit.

The buyer placed an order for 2,340 metric tons of okra per annum that will earn farmers 3.51bn/-, along with 2,880 metric tons of bitter melon and 520 metric tons of African bird's eye chili, totaling 4.32bn/- and 780m/- in earnings, respectively. While all that is rosy, a stern test is likely to be experienced later due to this success, as TAHA's marketing blitz at Fruit Logistica 2024 also attracted the attention of five potential investors. They declared interest in invest in the local horticultural sub-sector, whereas accessing land for farming is a problem here; investors are pushed into hostile, disgruntled clan environments.

Yet in this aspect TAHA can enable the projects too succeed if it doesn't let investors follow the usual channel of obtaining land from the Tanzania Investment Centre whose land ceding accords

with local governments officials are not recognized by the communities around the area. What can best be done is that TIC and TAHA point at the relevant areas and then investors, with TAHA as witness, pay out the clans with claims to the land or in some cases, using it.

The idea that the lion's share of the new business opportunities would be directed at women and youth implies that credit is almost entirely set in that direction, when it is arranged by TAHA. But with improved land occupancy legislation, with titles enhanced from customary law to freehold ownership, the banks would easily lend for crops with assured markets, instead of excessive reliance on targeted credits from this or that development partner for instance. This source of credit was evident when TAHA expressed appreciation to its key partners, including the government, the Swedish Embassy, the World Food Programme and the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank for great support that enabled it to take part in Fruit Logistica 2024. Credit easily comes in as part of empowerment arrangements as a whole, boosting its outreach capacity, etc.

This stage of baby-sitting the horticultural industry will come to an end when land laws are improved to make it easy for banks to lend to farmers. It is clear that nearly all farmers look at specialized banks like TADB as the key resource they hold is not transferable to another person, as it isn't ownership, just a one-sided occupancy accord with clan and government. Plenty of marking time lies in wait, despite that in the past we used to say 'we must run while others walk.'

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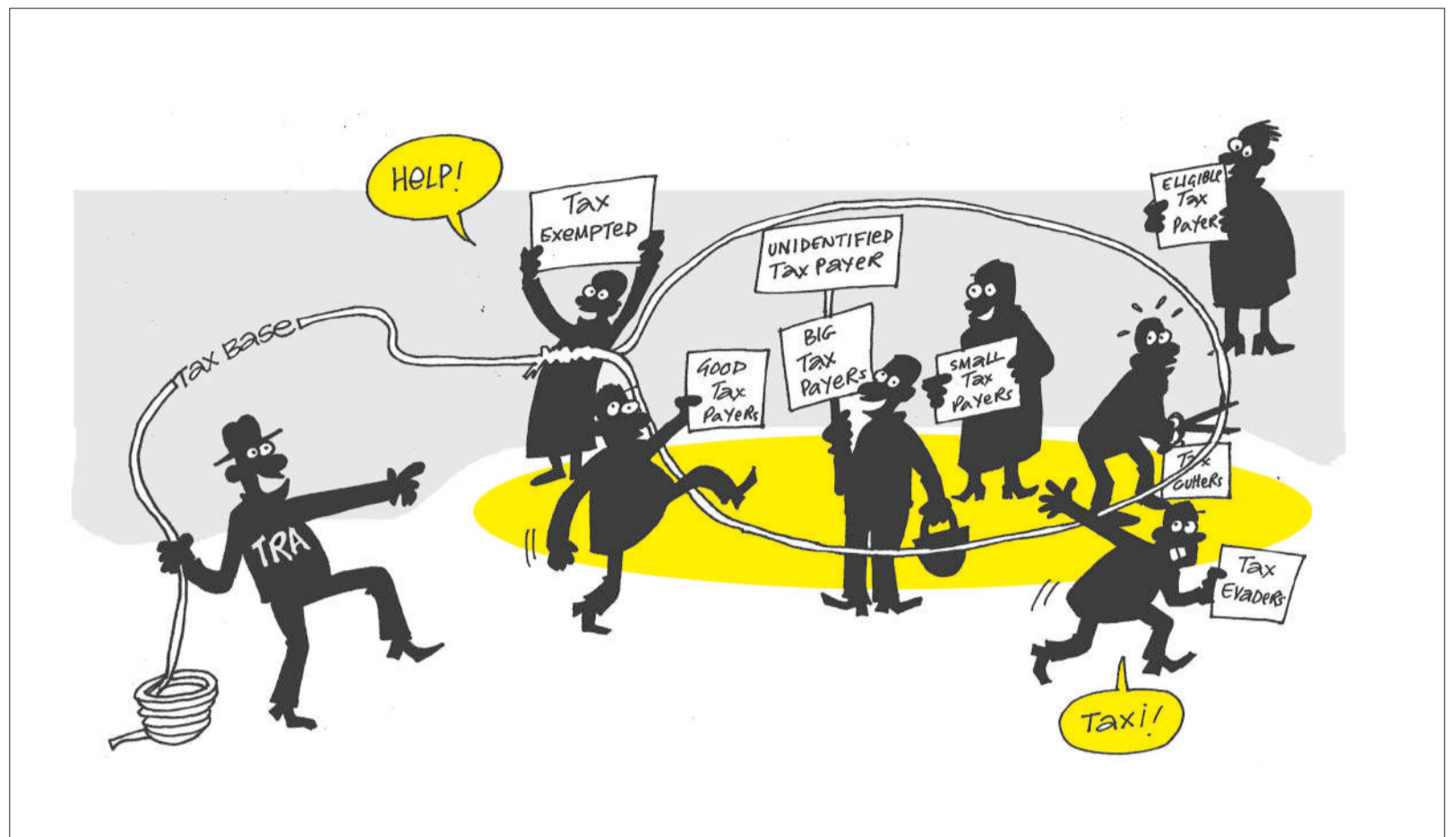
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## Why journalists should learn 'care ethics' to proactively engage with their audiences

By Mark Coddington and Seth Lewis

RQI Newsletter is almost four years old, and during that time we have chronicled again and again how research has shown how deeply frustrated many consumers are with news as it exists today.

In the United States, that's especially true for conservatives who feel alienated by the mainstream media, and thus have abandoned local and national news sources in favour of Fox News and other alternatives.

But they are not the only ones who feel forgotten or misunderstood by journalists. Many immigrants, African-Americans and various other communities report also turning away from traditional news organisations that they find alienating, instead looking to friends and family, ethnic media and social media influencers to fill the void.

These problems can seem intractable and, as our featured research article shows, the potential remedies can seem obvious in theory but hard to implement in practice: "Make content inclusive! Listen more! Diversify your newsroom!"

However, these solutions get subsumed by the daily chaos of economic crises, pandemics and the like.

That scenario is all too familiar and dispiriting for many newsrooms - but it's not inevitable.

Sue Robinson and Patrick Johnson illustrate as much in their newly published article in *Journalism Studies*, "Rectifying Harm Through Care-Based Practices: How Journalists Might Tend to Disengage Communities".

Truly, there is a lot of woe-is-journalism these days - just witness the many media layoffs in last month (January) - but Robinson and Johnson offer a compelling dash of evidence-based optimism.

This is at least when it comes to capturing how journalists might learn to listen and engage more proactively, and why doing so might lead to journalists who are "more receptive, flexible and empathetic to audiences".

For the research, Robinson and Johnson partnered with Trusting News, which works with news organisations on trust-building in their communities, in asking nine

newsrooms to host 78 listening sessions, nearly all involving a journalist talking one-on-one with "disengaged" community members.

Roughly half of these community members were white conservatives and the other half were BIPOC (black, indigenous, and other people of colour) individuals.

Trusting News provided the participating reporters with a set of open-ended questions to ask in the listening session, with the instruction that the journalist not get defensive at the responses.

Questions included: "What do journalists often get wrong about you or about things in your life (interests, demographics, values, beliefs, etc.)?"; "What could local news organisations and journalists do to earn more of your trust?"; and "Tell me about your experience consuming the news. What does it feel like, and what do you hope to get out of it?"

The researchers wanted to know, first, what people who are disengaged from mainstream news need from journalists for them to be willing to engage with - or even subscribe to - the news brand.

Second, using the journalist-conducted listening sessions in combination with follow-up surveys and reflections with reporters and participants, the researchers wanted to understand how these disengaged community members feel that journalists might "cause, relieve or otherwise negotiate harm in their communities".

The answers that Robinson and Johnson heard led them to suggest "care ethics" as a way forward for journalism: "The ethic of care offers a moral framework that prioritises the meeting of needs for all through intentional and active outreach and nurturing."

In essence, how can journalists actually rectify the feelings of harm that are present among disengaged community members?

So, back to research question one: What do people need from journalists? The specifics varied between participants of colour who were mostly independent or liberal and the other half who identified as right-leaning white people.

For instance, conservatives saw journalists' increasing use of "woke" language as a progressive

bias and thus an automatic rejection of their values, and BIPOC participants were frustrated that journalists rarely do the "work" to understand their communities and portray them in a nuanced, holistic way.

But the overarching feeling was the same for both sides: nearly everybody felt that their group was being over-generalised, under-represented and depicted in a negative way.

As Robinson and Johnson write: "Journalists need to be careful with their word choice and framing to avoid using polarising language and stereotypes. Journalists need to go out of their way to ensure many different voices are included. Journalists need to produce more positive stories reflective of cultures and ideologies. And journalists need to partner with people in the communities to produce more inclusive content."

On the second research question, about how harm is inflicted or remedied, "Community members told journalists that they felt trauma when journalists failed to appreciate the cultural relevancies associated with their political ideology, racial identity or sexual orientation," the authors write.

Of course, this is complicated by different ideas among different people about what harm looks like: For example, one community member talked about the harm of "journalists inaccurately (conflating) things on Latinx people ... assuming that they have all experiences being undocumented", while, on the other hand, conservatives felt harmed by what they saw as excessive and overly celebratory coverage of diversity and inclusion issues.

Yet across the board, there was a common thread in participants calling for journalists to be more positive - even if, as reporters responded, such stories don't get the same number of clicks as negative news - to avoid overgeneralising by quoting "the loudest person in the room" as a stand-in for groups and ideologies, and to care about the issues and people they care about.

Robinson and Johnson concluded: "It was clear to us, as we parsed all of these research stories, that all the community members - BIPOC or right-leaning

- yearned for a more care-based practice of journalism that reflected these five values (drawn from Joan Tronto's ethic of care): attentiveness, responsibility, competence, responsiveness, and solidarity."

The authors suggest that, while each is important, perhaps the most useful of those five elements for journalists is the fourth one.

The say: "Responsiveness means making sure to align the caring practice for the actual needs of the individual or community. In other words, the caregiver must not assume all kinds of caring are beneficial or equal. What is caring for one person, may be harm to another."

That may be tough when different community members define care and harm differently, but journalists can clearly do better.

The study aptly contends: "They can avoid polarising language including nicknames used for racial groups or policies."

"They can also break out of the left-right, Democrat-Republican binary that frustrates people, and they can develop more and better relationships - ones built on attentiveness from the start - with people representing marginalised groups in their communities."

Journalists can simply start listening. Indeed, it would pay to consider what Robinson and Johnson say are "the most significant and startling findings to come from the listening sessions in the post-surveys from the community members."

In sum, it is that more than two-thirds of the participants reported feeling that the conversations had built trust for them with the news outlet and the specific journalists, and one-third of the sample wrote that they were considering subscribing to the news brand.

This is so remarkable - especially given that the transcripts of these listening sessions seemed, in many cases, to demonstrate so much anger and vitriol towards the journalists and the mainstream news brands.

\* This article was originally published on the RQI Newsletter and republished on IJNet International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists.



# Strategies to effectively engage learners into a lesson

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is addressing the issue of youth entrepreneurship and employment in Central Asia by launching a seven-year €200 million (US\$ 218 million) Youth in Business (YIB) programme.

The programme is designed to provide better access to finance and relevant training to young entrepreneurs in the region, where up to one third of the pop

THE modern era has witnessed much emphasis on need to change teaching methodologies and approaches. This is due to changes that have occurred and are causing competition. People need to think properly and possess a lot of skills to successfully move on with life pursuits.

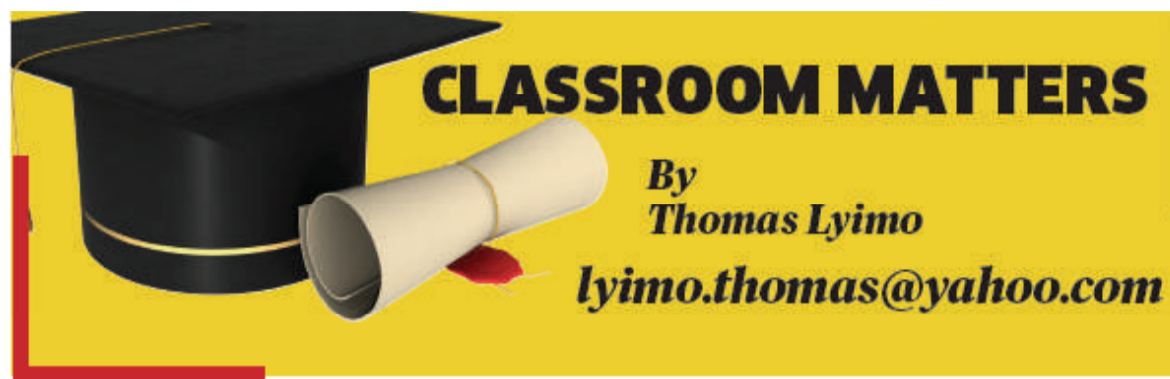
In the past, the ability to read and write was something precious but in the current era it has become something normal that doesn't hugely capture attention of educational stakeholders.

The agenda now is how individuals can utilize resources around them to improve their lives. To achieve this objective it has also been necessary to change curriculum so that individuals are imparted with skills which can enable them to live comfortably in their local environment.

The focus for now is on engaging learners into a lesson. The emphasis has been making learners part of the lesson and not observers. When learners participate effectively in the lesson they become competent, thus being able to put the knowledge they have acquired into practice.

Learning without been able to apply what someone has learnt is a waste of time. The current world is experiencing a variety of challenges which makes it necessary for learners to be competent to survive in the competitive global market.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for a country to reserve some resources for her citizens as the level of interaction is increasing and what counts is the ef



sometimes leave learners without expected understanding.

The other way of engaging learners effectively is the use of teaching aids. Teachers should use as many teaching aids as possible to make learners understand the concepts that are taught in class. Using few teaching aids makes the teacher talk more on something which is against the current teaching nature which places much weight on learners as source of learning. The use of many teaching aids makes learners more engaged into a lesson.

However, prioritizing group discussions enables the teacher to effectively engage learners into a lesson. When learners discuss in their groups they become more comfortable and confident unlike when asked questions in class.

Freedom in group discussions stimulates learners' participation in lesson, thus increasing chances of more understanding. This helps to reach the objective of making learners the centre of learning.

Again creating a peaceful atmosphere in a class helps to effectively engage learners in a lesson. Pupils should be made comfortable to contribute to some points in a class. This makes the lesson more attractive and not boring.

Some pupils fear of being criticized when they make mistakes in answering or contributing some points in a lesson. Learning is leisure and not punishment or creating the environment that may lead to emotional violence.

Any success requires costs and efforts. To succeed in engaging learners into a lesson demands a serious effort. Teachers need to prepare a lot to make their lessons effective. The society expects much from the teaching profession because most of the challenges which face people are expected to be resolved by the aid of schools. Teaching is engaging learners into a lesson.

iciency in the utilization of resources for maximum benefits. With this reality, education becomes a prerequisite for someone to be able to contain challenges and move on with life pursuits successfully.

The only feasible solution to the challenges that the modern world has put before us is making sure that we have competent teachers at schools. Teachers are the key players in the struggle to improve our education. The government should not get tired of preparing seminars aiming at building capacity for teachers to meet the challenges of today's world in the teaching and learning process.

Allocation of funds for the education sector should be increased to enable schools to have modern and enough teaching and learning facilities. Any revolution costs a lot of money but the hope is having a generation of people who won't be left behind in the chase for opportunities in the modern world.

Big results in education are needed so that the money invested in education sector by the government bears fruits. After having all the necessary facilities and competent teachers, educators are required to come up with strategies which can facilitate effective engagement of learners into lessons.

One way of ensuring effective engagement of learners into lessons is by creating situations when teaching. It has been a custom for many teachers to interpret or translate concepts which they teach to make learners understand.

This methodology has been seen to be ineffective in creating competent learners who can help the society advance socially and economically. When the educator teaches by creating a situation where learners get an opportunity to think critically, it increases their competence.

Learners should be made to understand through describing a situation and not through explanation or translation which

## Tanzania qualifies for irrevocable debt relief under HIPC initiative - WESP 2024

By Telesphor Magobe

Tanzania is among the qualified countries for irrevocable debt relief under Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and has been provided with debt relief, according to a recent UN World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2024 report.

World Bank/IMF Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) of 2021/22 shows Tanzania's value of public debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio remained contained at about 30 percent, well below the 55 percent threshold. "The results of the DSA underscore the importance of accessing, to the extent possible, external financing on concessional terms."

According to IMF, there are four ratings for the risk of external public debt distress: 1) low risk - if none of the debt burden indicators breach their respective thresholds under the baseline and stress tests; 2) moderate risk - if none of the debt burden indicators breach their thresholds under the baseline, but at least one indicator breaches its threshold under the stress tests; 3) high risk - if any of the external debt burden indicators breaches its threshold under the baseline scenario, but the country does not currently face any repayment difficulties; or 4) in debt distress - when the country is already experiencing difficulties in servicing its debt.

As of April 2022 public debt was Sh69.44 trillion (14.4 per cent increase) compared to Sh60.72 trillion in April the previous year. Debt sustainability analyses under the joint Bank-Fund Debt Sustainability Framework for Low Income Countries (LIC-DSF) published in July 2022 showed that Tanzania's risk of external debt distress was moderate and also its risk of overall debt distress was moderate and as of September 30, 2022, nine countries were in debt distress, 28 countries were at high risk, 25 countries (including Tanzania) were at moderate risk, and 7 countries were at low risk of debt distress.

Presenting estimates of government revenue and expenditure for the 2023/2024 financial year in the National Assembly, Minister for Finance, Mwigulu Nchemba said as of April 2023, the government debt stock was 79.10trn/-, an increase of 13.9 percent compared to 69.44trn/- recorded in April 2022.

He explained that out of the total government debt stock, domestic debt stock was 27.94trn/- (equivalent to 35.3 percent) while external debt stock was 51.16trn/- (equivalent to 64.7 percent). Furthermore, he said out of the total external debt stock, concessional loan was 37.69trn/- (equivalent to 73.60 percent), which indicates that a large portion of external debt was comprised of loans with concessional terms.



On debt sustainability analysis, Nchemba said the debt sustainability analysis conducted in December 2022 revealed that public debt was sustainable in short, medium and long-terms. "The results show that, the present value of public debt to GDP is 32.5 percent compared to the threshold of 55 percent.

The present value of external debt to GDP is 18.1 per cent compared to the threshold of 40 percent and the present

value of external debt to exports is 13.5 compared to the threshold of 15 percent." According to him, the results were consistent with the debt sustainability analysis results conducted by IMF published in April 2023.

To make government debt bearable, according to Nchemba, the government has undertaken steps to ensure: i) priority is given to loans with concessional terms as in the proposed budget for

2023/2024 concessional loans increased by 22.8 percent and loans with non-concessional terms decreased by 14.4 percent; (ii) non-concessional loans are channelled through projects which stimulate economic growth and enhance exports; and (iii) the government improves tax and non-tax revenue collection strategies to ensure a large portion of the budget is financed by domestic revenue and unnecessary expenditure is

cut down without affecting government operations.

Tanzania is both on the list of 46 least developed countries (as of November 2023) (UN DESA) and of 39 heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) (as of January 2023) (World Bank & IMF). According to the WESP 2024 report, as of January 2023, there were 39 economies that were qualified, eligible or potentially eligible for and might wish to receive HIPC Initiative assistance.

Citing IMF (2023), the WESP 2024 report shows that debt sustainability challenges continue affecting Africa's growth prospects. "According to latest estimates, 18 countries in Africa recorded a debt-to-GDP ratio of over 70 percent in 2023, with many of them facing debt distress." For instance, the WESP 2024 reports shows, debt servicing as a proportion of GDP has increased rapidly.

"Zambia, Malawi, Kenya and Ghana spend over 20 per cent of their tax revenue on interest payments. Due to high and rising debt-servicing burdens, essential government spending on education and healthcare is taking a back seat in public expenditure allocation."

However, the WESP 2024 report says the African Union (AU) is in a process to establish an independent credit rating modality that will provide balanced and comprehensive risk evaluations for African countries to lower their borrowing costs in international financial markets.

The WESP 2024 report has been produced by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), in partnership with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the five UN regional commissions: the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).



# Catalonia's farmers demand more help over drought

By Guy Hedgcock

THE smell of barbecued artichokes wafts along a row of dozens of tractors parked in central Barcelona, as rock music blares out of speakers, and wine is poured into plastic cups.

The scene is festive, but this is a protest, not a party. Hundreds of Catalan farmers have driven into their region's capital to voice their grievances, central to which is the climate.

"We're now in a situation where we have a full-on drought," says Xavier Oliva, an artichoke farmer who owns land just outside the city. "If it doesn't rain you can't plant anything."

Oliva and his colleagues are protesting about a range of issues, including what they see as overly tight EU farming regulations. But the most immediate threat to their profession is posed by lack of water, and they are calling for more direct help from the regional government.

In late January, the water level of reservoirs supplying Barcelona and the towns surrounding it in the Ter-Llobregat basin system had dropped on average to below 16 percent of capacity.

The regional government of Catalonia responded by declaring a state of emergency affecting around six million people. That triggered the introduction of a range of restrictions on water use.

For livestock farmers that means only being allowed to consume half the water they would normally use, and for crop farmers like Oliva, it means reducing water use by 80%.

"We'll plant 80 percent less crop than normal, or even less than that," says Oliva, who is part of the El Prat farming cooperative, as he looks ahead to the coming months.

"It's pushing us closer and closer to a situation where we'll have to shut down our farms."

Other measures introduced as part of the state of emergency include capping the amount of water town halls



Protesting farmers in Barcelona, here cooking artichokes, want more assistance to help them deal with continuing drought

allow for consumption per day to 200 litres per person, with water pressure being reduced in towns where consumption has been particularly high. Also, river flows are being regulated, with their flows heavily reduced.

A number of restrictions have already been in place over the last year or so, with decorative fountains switched off, and tight controls on the watering of gardens and parks and the use of water for cleaning streets. However, the new measures, which will include the arrival of boatloads of water from other Spanish regions if the drought continues, are much more drastic.

"We wanted to be cautious and then begin to anticipate, plan and be prepared for the worst-case scenarios, like the one we have now," says Meritxell Serret, Catalonia's minister for foreign action.

Catalonia had a drought in 2007-08, but it only lasted around half the duration of this one, which began in the autumn of 2020, and is the worst since records began more than a century ago.

A 2021 drought plan drawn up by the regional government has sought to manage the impact of the current period of abnormally low rainfall. Irrigation systems have been modernised, leaks in water pipelines mended, and a total of €2.4bn (\$2.60bn; £2bn) is scheduled to be invested in increasing water production capacity in the region by 2027.

There has been a major drive to diversify Catalonia's water sources away from rainfall, meaning that 55% of consumption in the area affected by the drought is covered by desalinated and recycled water, with those sources due to double their output

in the next three years.

"What we've been trying to stress for the last three years is how to prepare for these drought scenarios, how to be more resilient regarding the negative expectations regarding climate change in the Mediterranean," says Serret.

Temperatures are rising in the Mediterranean region 20 percent faster than the global average, according to the UN's Climate Programme. Other areas of Spain, such as the southern region of Andalusia, are also suffering drought, although so far only Catalonia has declared a state of emergency.

On the outskirts of Barcelona, Canaletas, a company that makes and exports drinking fountains, is implementing the new norms imposed by the regional government, including a 25 percent reduction in

water consumption by industries.

"That 25 percent reduction in water use, I think industry can adapt to it - not all but most industry, at least - if it's for a short time," says the company's owner, Jordi Morera. "But if this goes on indefinitely it's going to be a serious problem."

Canaletas, which employs 45 people, is installing water counters in its factory to gauge where savings can be made. Morera says that toilets and bathrooms are where a lot of water use will be reduced.

However, he is concerned about the viability of the new guidelines. "If your company increases its output or its personnel, reducing water consumption is going to be impossible," he says.

Other business leaders believe that industry should be compensated for the impact of the drought and the restrictions on water use.

"Measures need to be taken to offset the damage caused to companies in the form of formal financial help," says Jaume Roura, president of UPM, Barcelona's metal industry association.

Roura also says that the Catalan government should have acted more promptly with regard to issues such as leaks in the region's pipelines. His association is currently evaluating the possible effect of the drought on industry.

"Apart from industrial output itself, water is necessary for the whole working of industry - healthcare, personnel, food - and so we're trying to understand exactly how big the impact of this will be," he says.

However, one consequence he is sure of is that less water will mean higher prices. "The consumer of the end product will have to pay for the increase in costs caused by the lack of water in the production chain," he says.

BBC

By Tshilidzi Marwala

SUPPOSE Tinyiko from Duthuni Village goes to Elim Hospital. The nurse, Thuso, orders an emergency x-ray image of Tinyiko's lung to ascertain whether he has a condition called pulmonary embolism. Because no doctor is in sight, Thuso uses an AI system that predicts whether Tinyiko has a pulmonary embolism condition.

The AI system makes a diagnostic that says Tinyiko has no pulmonary embolism condition. AI systems like this have been under development for a long time. For example, in 2007, Simon Scurr, David Rubin and I developed an AI system that predicts whether a patient has a pulmonary embolism.

With the increase in data and computational power, these systems are beginning to exceed the accuracy of human doctors.

The consequences of errors in healthcare applications are exceedingly severe, given that they may result in life-threatening misdiagnoses, inappropriate treatments, or lost opportunities for early intervention.

The crucial question is whether or not the AI system that predicts whether a patient such as Tinyiko has a pulmonary embolism is enough? This AI system can determine whether Tinyiko has a pulmonary embolism, and additionally state its confidence in its prediction. For example, the AI system can quantify the prediction risk by stipulating that it is 80 percent confident that Tinyiko has a pulmonary embolism.

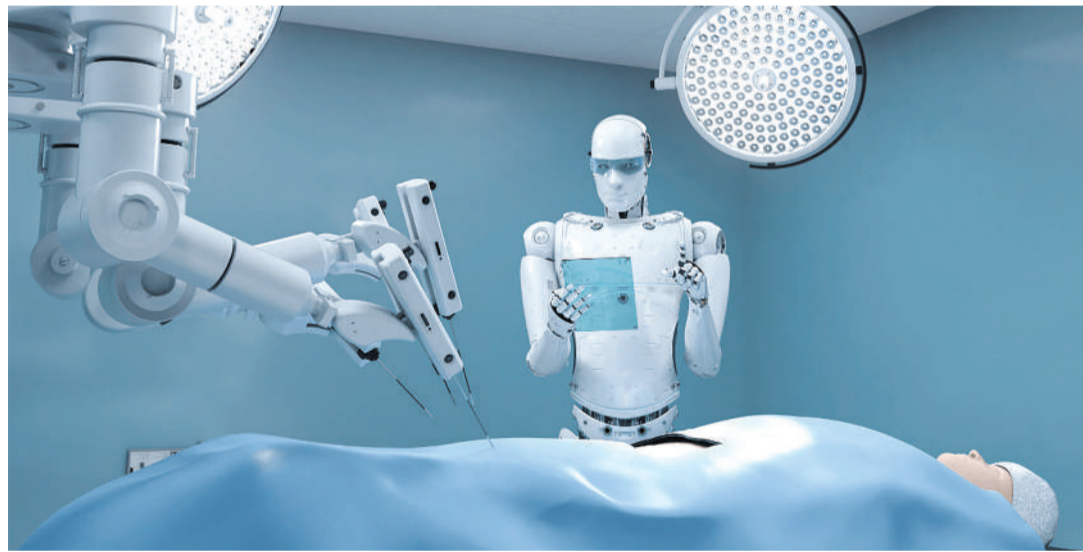
Of course, this additional confidence or risk quantification requires further computational and, thus, financial resources. This article suggests that society is placed in a risky position without carefully measuring this risk (80% confidence level), potentially subjecting it to unanticipated repercussions that may erode confidence, and the ethical underpinnings that ought to govern AI.

AI prediction risk

Measuring AI prediction risk is paramount in augmenting AI systems' transparency. Providing a coherent structure that enables stakeholders to understand predictive models' constraints and possible modes of failure enhances their capacity to offer well-informed decisions.

End-users and those impacted by

## Risks of AI prediction performance should be measured in critical areas such as healthcare



AI-driven choices, in addition to developers and administrators of AI systems, must have transparent access to AI prediction risk information. It promotes a climate of responsibility in which AI system developers are incentivised to comply with elevated benchmarks of dependability and security.

Furthermore, measuring prediction performance risk is crucial for establishing and sustaining public confidence in AI technologies. The foundation for the extensive adoption and acceptance of AI is trust. People are more likely to adopt AI solutions when they comprehend the associated risks and know that safety and risk management protocols are in effect.

On the contrary, insufficient AI prediction risk quantification and communication may result in adverse public reactions, regulatory repercussions, and a hindrance to productive advancements.

Technical and social requirement  
Measuring the risk associated with AI prediction performance is not only a technical requirement but also a social one. AI prediction programs are prone to failure. The consequences can range from moderate to severe, depending on the situation.

For example, the inability of AI-powered financial algorithms might significantly upset the market, while the imprecision of predictive policing models can exacerbate

social inequality

Measuring risk is critical for understanding, mitigating, and communicating the possibility of such failures, thereby protecting against their most serious consequences. The quantification of AI prediction risk takes us to the exciting world of Reverend Thomas Bayes.

Thomas Bayes was an English Presbyterian minister, philosopher, and statistician born around 1701. His most renowned contribution outside theology is the development of Bayes' Theorem, which outlines the likelihood of an occurrence by utilising prior knowledge and evidence of potentially associated conditions. Bayes' contribution, which remains seminal in statistics, was not published during his lifetime.

Following his death, Richard Price, an acquaintance of Bayes, published it on his behalf.

Bayes' work has emerged as an essential tool for measuring the risk of AI predictions. So, how does Bayes' Theorem operate to quantify AI prediction risk?

Robust mechanism

With its probabilistic underpinnings, the Bayesian framework provides a robust mechanism for incorporating prior information and evidence into the AI prediction procedure, thus offering AI prediction risk. This Bayesian procedure has been ap-

plied successfully to many vital areas.

One example is my 2001 work using AI systems, based on Bayes' work in aircraft structures. Another by Chantelle Gray is how Bayes' work is used to build algorithms shaping our politics.

Although the Bayesian method presents notable benefits in terms of adaptability, accuracy and uncertainty management, it is crucial to consider the substantial investments in computational and financial resources necessary to implement and maintain these approaches successfully.

However, methods have been developed to reduce this computational load. For example, in 2016, Ilyes Boulkaibet, Sondipon Adhikari and I developed robust methods for reducing the computational cost of the Bayesian AI prediction risk quantification procedure.

Furthermore, Tsakane Mongwe, Rendani Mbuva and I, in our 2023 book, developed a Bayesian risk quantification method for machine learning. Given the viability of AI prediction risk quantification, what are the governance, regulatory and policy implications?

A concerted effort from all parties involved in the development, deployment and governance of AI systems is required to maximise the benefits of AI while mitigating its risks. It is imperative that policymakers champion and enact regulations mandating AI prediction risk quantification.

AI developers and organisations must incorporate risk quantification into their development lifecycle as a fundamental component of ethical AI development, rather than treating it as an afterthought.

End-users and the public should be engaged in a transparent dialogue regarding AI prediction risks, ensuring that the design and deployment of AI systems reflect societal values and ethical considerations.

In "Tinyiko's" hospital visit, it is evident that measuring AI prediction risk is advantageous and imperative in the

healthcare industry. The consequences of healthcare decisions on patients are substantial; therefore, it is vital to comprehend the reliability and constraints of AI-powered predictions.

Severe consequences of errors  
The consequences of errors in healthcare applications are exceedingly severe, given that they may result in life-threatening misdiagnoses, inappropriate treatments, or lost opportunities for early intervention.

Healthcare personnel can weigh the inherent uncertainties of AI-driven insights against the benefits they provide to make informed decisions by measuring the risk associated with AI predictions. This methodology facilitates a sophisticated approach to patient care by integrating AI recommendations with clinical expertise in a transparent, accountable, and patient-centric manner.

Moreover, from a regulatory standpoint, it is critical to quantify prediction risk to verify that AI systems satisfy rigorous safety and effectiveness criteria before implementation in essential healthcare settings. In the era of AI, this meticulous risk assessment is vital to preserving patient confidence and adhering to the ethical standards of medical practice.

To conclude, measuring performance risk associated with AI predictions, even though it adds additional cost, is not merely a technical obstacle but also a social and moral imperative.

Our collective endeavours for safety, fairness and success will be determined by our capacity to quantify and manage the risks associated with these powerful technologies as we approach a future that AI progressively influences.

Measuring AI prediction risk must become mandatory for all critical applications such as healthcare.

Professor Tshilidzi Marwala is the seventh Rector of the United Nations (UN) University and UN Under Secretary-General.

DM



# 'I haven't forgotten where I came from,' states incoming IRRI chief

By Neena Bhandari, Sydney

**G**ROWING up on a small farming station in Holetta (Ethiopia), Yvonne Pinto would accompany her agriculturist father to the farm, where she would spend her time cross-fertilizing plants.

Her tiny fingers making the task easier, as she would marvel at the end product of a prospective new and higher yielding variety. These formative years laid the foundation for her career in agricultural science.

Ethiopia in the late 1970s and 1980s was ravaged by a terrible famine, drought, civil war, and international conflict. It became clear to Pinto from the outset that such exigencies could rapidly deteriorate everyday life and the absence of food could decimate a population. These events instilled in her a deep appreciation for the role agriculture and food systems play in human survival.

"I haven't forgotten where I came from," says Pinto, the incoming Director General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). A second-generation Kenyan by birth, she feels privileged to have been brought up in Ethiopia, a country that was never colonized and where she felt fortunate to grow up as an equal, a rare experience then.

The small farming station in Holetta, about an hour's drive from the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, is now the National Agricultural Biotechnology Research Centre. She says, "My father was its first director.



Yvonne Pinto, the incoming Director General of the International Rice Research Institute, at the 5th All Africa Horticulture Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco, February 26 to March 1, 2024.

From the mid-1960s, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural

Research and the creation of the Ethiopian Seed Corporation in 1978. I'm undoubtedly a product of those

institutions and influences. My father has been my champion."

She has continued to work with people from those institutions, and while it's important for her to add value and make a contribution where she can, Pinto affirms, "It is also very important to enhance the contribution of others because having bright and capable people contribute to ideas, approaches, and solutions is often the difference between success and failure."

On 22, 2024, she will take over as the Director General of IRRI, where she started her working life as a visiting research scholar in 1985, when eminent agricultural scientist and geneticist Dr M S Swaminathan was the institute's director general.

"My time at IRRI, which is referred to as the jewel in the crown of the CGIAR system, and encouragement from my supervisors clearly influenced my decision later in life to do a PhD in rice," adds Pinto, who will be the first woman to lead the institute, which is dedicated to abolishing poverty and hunger among people and populations that depend on rice-based agri-food systems.

She says, "There are opportunities now for girls and women that weren't present in the past. There's an interesting societal transition happening in the world, gaining momentum through the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement to the growing focus on equity, inclusion, and diversity. I'm actually a product of that change and thinking."

Out of the hundreds of congratulatory messages she received on her appointment, "One-third of them were girls and women. All I can say to them is that if I can do it, you can do it," says Pinto, who also drew inspiration from her mother, a medical surgeon.

In Africa, where rice cultivation is the principal source of income for more than 35 million smallholder rice farmers, women provide the bulk of the labour, from sowing to weeding, harvesting, processing, and marketing, according to the Africa Rice Centre.

Acknowledging the challenges faced by small and middle-income rice farmers, she emphasizes the need to ensure that farmers receive fair returns on their investment.

"Smallholder farmers are reliant upon the private sector or non-governmental organizations to receive the material, such as seeds and other agriculture inputs. In rice and rice seed systems, for example, there are a number of private sector players who are involved. We have to have very intelligent Intellectual Property (IP) arrangements with the private sector to ensure that our farmers have affordable access to these materials and they are not disadvantaged in the process," says Pinto, who will also serve as the CGIAR Regional Director for South-East Asia and the Pacific and Country Representative for the Philippines.

Unlike in most Asian countries, where economic growth and increasing urbanization have led to a

decline in rice consumption, in African countries, consumption has significantly increased. Demand for rice is growing at more than 6 percent per year, which is faster than for any other food staple in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the Africa Rice Centre.

Looking ahead, Pinto envisions IRRI playing a pivotal role in promoting circular agricultural practices in rice production and underpinning the importance of rice in human health and nutrition.

She says, "We have tremendous opportunities to create more nutritious and resilient rice varieties capable of withstanding climate change, benefiting both farmers and consumers alike. There is an opportunity to enable IRRI's germplasm, not only to influence and impact the Asia-Pacific region but to support other rice producing and consuming countries, notably in Africa".

Rice is now the second-most important source of calories after corn in many sub-Saharan African countries. The region's total rice consumption is projected to grow to around 36 million tons by the end of 2026, and the region is expected to import over 32 percent of globally traded rice by 2026, mainly from India, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam, according to a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) report.

Reflecting on her extensive experience chairing boards and committees worldwide, she says effective leadership hinges on "fostering connections, building trust, and nurturing partnerships and collaboration, as leadership is a collective responsibility within an interconnected ecosystem."

Pinto is poised to drive impactful change in agricultural research, advancing food security and sustainability.

## Xi holds talks with Sierra Leonean president

BEIJING

**C**HINESE President Xi Jinping held talks with President of the Republic of Sierra Leone Julius Maada Bio, who is on a state visit to China, in Beijing on Wednesday.

Noting that China and Sierra Leone enjoy a time-honored friendship, Xi said the two sides have supported each other on issues concerning their core interests and major concerns, carried out efficient cooperation in the fields of economic and social development, coordinated closely on issues such as world peace and development, and worked together to fight against Ebola and the COVID-19 pandemic.

China-Sierra Leone relations are a good example of China-Africa solidarity and cooperation, Xi said, adding that China is willing to work with Sierra Leone to consolidate high-level political mutual trust, advance pragmatic and mutually beneficial cooperation, and strengthen coordination on international and regional affairs to push bilateral relations to a new level.

Xi said China firmly supports the Sierra Leonean people in pursuing a development path suited to their national conditions. He said

China stands ready to strengthen exchanges with Sierra Leone on national governance, and work with Sierra Leone to continue supporting each other's major concerns and safeguarding their respective sovereignty, security and development interests.

China is also willing to provide assistance and support to the best of its ability for Sierra Leone's development in agriculture, infrastructure construction and human resources, and encourage Chinese enterprises to invest and do business in Sierra Leone, Xi said.

Both sides should strengthen cooperation on UN Security Council affairs and jointly safeguard the interests of Africa and developing countries, Xi noted.

The Chinese president welcomed Sierra Leone to participate in the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, and jointly promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

"China has always regarded solidarity and cooperation with African countries as an important cornerstone of our foreign policy," Xi said.

China will work with African countries to align its initiatives to

support Africa's industrialization, agricultural modernization and national development with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the development strategies of African countries; and to further integrate the development of China, Africa and the world to promote the upgrading of China-Africa cooperation and move the world towards a bright future of peace, security, prosperity and progress, Xi said.

China is ready to work with African friends, including Sierra Leone, to make this year's session of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) a success, Xi said.

Bio said China is a trustworthy and reliable friend, thanking China for its great support for its economic and social development.

He spoke highly of the Communist Party of China leading the Chinese people to achieve leapfrog development and promoting national rejuvenation. Bio said China's experience provides inspirations for developing countries to accelerate their development.

Bio said Sierra Leone abides by the one-China principle, supports China in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and supports China in safeguarding its core interests.

He said Sierra Leone is willing to learn from China's experience, strengthen cooperation with China on the Belt and Road Initiative, and tap the potential for cooperation on infrastructure, trade, education and public services.

After the talks, the two heads of state witnessed the signing of bilateral cooperation documents in the fields of the Belt and Road Initiative, agriculture, economic development, and the implementation of the Global Development Initiative.

Both sides issued a joint statement on deepening their comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

Prior to the talks, Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan held a welcome ceremony for Bio and his wife Fatima Bio at the Great Hall of the People.

In the evening, Xi and Peng held a banquet for Bio and Fatima.



Chinese President Xi Jinping

## Africa's debt crisis needs bold new approach, way forward

By Danny Bradlow, Pretoria

IT hasn't been easy for African states to finance their developmental and environmental policy objectives over the past few years.

Recent events suggest that the situation may be improving. For the first time in two years, three African states have been able to access international financial markets, albeit at high interest rates. Kenya, for example, is now paying over 10% compared to about 7% in 2014.

Many African countries continue to face challenging sovereign debt situations. Total external debts as a share of Africa's export earnings increased from 74.5% in 2010 to 140% in 2022.

In 2022, African governments had to allocate about 12% of their revenues to servicing their debt. Between 2019 and 2022, 25 African governments allocated more resources to servicing their total debts than to the health of their citizens.

And in late 2023 the International Monetary Fund estimated that over half the low income African countries were either potentially or actually experiencing difficulties paying their debts.

This suggests that it will be very difficult for Africa to raise the US\$1.6 trillion that the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) estimates it needs to reach the sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030.

One of the lessons of the COVID pandemic and the climate negotiations is that Africa can't count on the global community to provide it with sufficient new funds or with debt relief to deal with either its development needs or the consequences of crises such as pandemics or extreme weather events.

Its official bilateral creditors appear more focused on their own needs and on other parts of the world than on Africa. Commercial creditors are happy to provide financing when conditions are fa-



A mobile money stand in Accra, Ghana

vourable and African debt can help them satisfy their investment mandates.

But they are less forthcoming when the going gets tough and the risks associated with the transaction - and for which they have been compensated - actually materialise.

This suggests that Africa needs to advocate more aggressively for its own interests. This year offers some good opportunities to promote a more effective approach to African debt.

There are two international conferences where global economic governance will be on the agenda. This is also the first year that the African Union participates as a full member in the G20. In addition, South Africa, the G20 chair in 2025, currently serves on the troika that manages the G20 process. (G20 Finance Ministers are scheduled to meet in Brazil 28-29 February).

Debt and development finance will be an important topic in all these forums. African representatives can use their participation to advocate for a new approach to sovereign debt that is more responsive to African needs and concerns. They can also lobby other participating states and non-state actors for their support.

But African states will need to plan carefully. Their starting point should be the well recognised fact that the current sovereign debt restructuring process is not working for anyone. The G20 agreed a Common Framework that was supposed

to help resolve the sovereign debt crises in low income countries.

Four African countries applied to have their debts restructured through the framework. Despite years of negotiations, it has failed to fully resolve the debt crisis in three of them.

Countries outside the Common Framework, such as Sri Lanka, have not managed to fully resolve their debt crises either. This is costly for both debtors and creditors. It is therefore in everyone's interest to look for a new approach.

This requires all parties to be willing to entertain new ideas and to experiment with new approaches to old problems. African states should offer their own innovative proposals. They should also state that they are willing to take on new responsibilities if their creditors are willing to do the same.

They can remind their creditors that these experiments would not be taking place in a vacuum. They can be guided by the many existing, but under-utilised, international norms and standards applicable to responsible sovereign debt transactions, for example the Unctad principles on responsible sovereign debt transactions. Some of these relate to the conduct of sovereign borrowers.

Others focus on responsible lending behaviour and are often cited by creditors in their own policies dealing with environmental and social issues, social responsibility or human rights.

By basing any new approach on these international norms and standards, both debtors and creditors will merely be agreeing to implement principles that they have already accepted.

Working from this starting point, African states should make three specific proposals.

**Danny Bradlow is Professor/Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria.**



# Prime Minister Majaliwa's Mara tour unveils corruption challenges amidst calls for reforms

By Adonis Byemelwa

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa embarked on a comprehensive five-day tour of Tanzania's Mara Region from February 25th to February 29th, 2025. The tour aimed to address a myriad of challenges, inaugurate key development projects and engage with local communities.

The journey began with a warm welcome at the Small State House in Musoma town, where the Premier received a briefing from Regional Commissioner Said Mohamed Mtanda. Greetings were exchanged with local leaders, setting the tone for a tour that would encompass various districts, including Bunda and Butiama.

On the second day, the Prime Minister directed Mara Regional Police Commander, Salum Morcase, to intensify efforts in investigating an abduction case that had lingered since September 10, 2023. This directive came during a rally where citizens, including a woman named Flora, expressed concerns about alleged kidnappings.

The tour continued with a visit to Bunda District, where Majaliwa engaged with citizens in the Mariwanda area. He inspected the Sabasita Primary School and laid the foundation stone for the Mara Region Girls' Secondary School in the Bunda District Council. Additionally, he inaugurated the Sazira water project, emphasizing the significance of water infrastructure for local communities.

In Butiama, the birthplace and burial site of the late Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, PM conveyed the government's intention to transform Nyerere's residence into a tourism center. He instructed the District Commissioner to assess



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa inaugurating the Msi Zanzibar water project in Sazira ward, Bunda town, Mara Region on Monday this week.

the area and improve the road network to enhance accessibility for tourists.

Addressing corruption concerns became a central theme as Prime Minister Majaliwa issued directives to the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to investigate financial mismanagement in Bunda Rural. He stressed the need for transparency in government fund utilization and called on Tanzanians to be vigilant guardians of development projects.

During a meeting with Bunda Town and Bunda District Council employees, the Premier criticized the misuse of funds, ex-

pressing dissatisfaction with the council's oversight of development projects. He emphasized the importance of transparent and accountability in the use of government funds to ensure effective service delivery.

The tour's culmination showcased Majaliwa's strong stance against the mismanagement of public projects. He inspected the progress of the construction of the Mara Region Girls' Secondary School in Buramba, Bunda District, and expressing dissatisfaction with the lack of oversight and rampant theft in public projects. Urging local leaders to

take immediate action, he emphasized the need to prevent theft and corruption.

The Prime Minister's commitment to addressing these issues reflects the Tanzanian government's determination to ensure transparency and accountability in public administration. The tour served as a hands-on approach to governance, emphasizing the government's proactive measures in tackling corruption and fostering a transparent and accountable public administration.

As Tanzania continues its journey toward devel-

opment, the Prime Minister's tour underscores the importance of citizens' involvement in safeguarding public resources and ensuring the success of development projects across the nation. The issues raised during the tour highlight the government's dedication to addressing challenges and propelling the country forward.

This is not the first time the Prime Minister has raised allegations of dissatisfaction with the performance of local authorities, where many executives, especially directors and district commissioners, as well as national security officers, are still in office, yet the central government comes to complain to the media about the embezzlement of public property.

Speaking in interviews with the media, a charismatic politician and a member of Chadema, Tundu Lissu, pointed out that what undermines the Tanzanian government and pushes opposition parties to demand a new constitution is the usurpation of the people's power.

Lissu stated that officials such as police, ward executives, and regional and district commissioners are all guided by orders from above, which denies them freedom and the authority to take action according to the will of the people.

According to Lissu, this situation is different from

Belgium, where he lived for more than five years, where the mayor of the city can remove an unfit executive because the full authority is brought closer to the citizens, meaning local governments have the power to decide their affairs. Recently, in an interview with the online TV channel The Chanzo, veteran journalist

General Ulimwengu criticized government leaders for perpetuating lies endorsed by some officials. He claimed that when the Prime Minister visits a location, district commissioners feed him false information and speeches to protect their authority and positions, a situation that he said should be avoided by having leaders who are chosen by the people.

"It is not wise to have a regional or district commissioner whom we did not choose and who is not accountable to us, leading us and using our taxes to spread lies about the central government. This is a colonial administration that is outdated," said General Ulimwengu, adding that the current constitution gives the president dictatorial powers as they can fire and hire.

The Prime Minister's fight against corruption may be challenging because the President of the country has been quoted admitting that his officials indulge in corruption to the extent of having indigestion from their long ropes of theft.

A documentary report on YouTube by a US news outlet shows that even President Samia is one of the leaders who accumulated wealth in a short time, displaying luxurious cars and houses she built in Zanzibar, while the Prime Minister himself is accused of owning a large luxury hotel he inaugurated in Ruangwa District.

However, he denies these accusations, claiming that the hotel belongs to an ordinary farmer and that he only went there to inaugurate it. The corruption situation in the country, especially at the local government level, is so distressing and repulsive that it seems like every leader wants to eat and leave crumbs where they are.

A political and legal expert, Prof Patrice Lumumba, was quoted saying that no youth is afraid of taking bribes, but most fear being arrested for corruption. He explained that the nation is heading into the hands of strange thieves in the future because corruption has become an alternative way to progress economically.

That's why every citizen is fighting to become a political leader. It's not the first time the Prime Minister of Tanzania has raised corruption allegations where suspects seem to evade consequences, leading the public to perceive it as mere theatrical performances, wasting funds on official tours.

## Project creates effective learning environment, brings hope to pupils and teachers in Chamwino District

BY POLYCARP MACHIRA, DODOMA

RESIDENTS of Wilunze Village in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region have expressed gratitude with implementation of a project that saw two primary schools in the village getting 140 desks, 22 teachers' tables and 14 chairs.

While the project has helped solve the challenges both teachers and pupils face at the learning facilities, they are amazed by the time and efficient implementation of the project, thanks to guideline provided to a local women group that got grant to implement the project.

The group dubbed 'Ujirani Mwema' is one of the two groups from within the village that sought for grant to implement a pilot project on participatory grant-making.

Participatory grant-making aims at giving local people and communities more say and control over what is funded in their area. Community members help design and drive programs, set goals, make decisions about how to allocate resources, and evaluate success.

It involves ceding grant-making power to affected

community members, placing them at the centre of grant, making by giving them power to decide who and what to fund.

As for the project in Wilunze, the group got funding from the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) and was a pilot project to see how effective the participatory grant-making works.

It all started when the foundation thought of implementing participatory grant project in partnership with its partner organizations operating at the local community level.

FCS in collaboration with Wilden Ganzen funded the project AFNET, a member-based organization which works with communities to bring positive change socially, politically, economically and culturally.

With support from AFNET, two groups within the village applied for the grant and it was 'Ujirani Mwema' that proved to have ability to implement the project, given its nature and time frame.

Before commencement of the project, a village assembly was held and officials from the above-mentioned organizations attended and explained to the residents on the intention to implement participatory grant-making

project in the area.

As per the conditions of the grant, villagers were given opportunity to identify the most needful projects. They realized several needs but settled on the desks and tables for the two schools.

Thereafter an advisory committee was formed to work closely with the group in implementing the project which was to be undertaken within three months.

George Nahani, former chairperson of the advisory committee says one of the tasks was to prove guidance and close monitoring of the project.

But before the project, members of the committee attended training at the FCS office in Dodoma Region where they were trained on project supervision, among other things.

"The capacity building training we got at the FCS office in Dodoma helped us a lot in the supervision of the project and we ensured it was implemented as per the set standards and timely," said the chairperson.

He commended the transparency in the project starting from how it was identified, disbursement of funds and how it was executed, terming it the best ever project in the village.



A Cross-section of parents and pupils joyously look at the furniture during the handing over event. Photo: Polycarp Machira.

According to Nahani, who is also a religious leader in the village, the approach of disbursing funds directly to a group was a good practice.

"We have experienced a lot of delays and bureaucracy in several project in the past but this one was transparent, and all the involved parties were pleased with its implementation" he added.

Leaders of the women group-'Ujirani Mwema' that implemented the project were also trained at the same office on issues related to financial and project management as well as other related matters.

The group chairperson, Joanita Khaywa told The Guardian that the project was implemented at the cost of 12,719,900/-, enabling Wilunze Primary School to get 90 desks eight teachers tables and six chairs while Juhudi Pri-

mary School got 50 desks, six teachers tables and six chairs.

She said implementation of the project began in August 2023 and it was handed over in October, the same year. According to the chairperson, the project helped empower the group and they now have the knowledge to handle even bigger projects.

"We are now confident of undertaking much bigger projects after getting training and successful implementation of the pilot project" she said, adding that they are now seeking funds to implement different projects in the village.

Joanita added that the group comprising of 19 women members is seeking another project in the village, appealing to FCS to consider implementing similar project in the neighbouring school which is in dire need of support.

She noted that the group has impressed residents since before the project it had conducted several volunteering activities like donating various items like sanitary towels and learning materials for children in some eight schools within the area.

The project has brought relief to parents, teachers and pupils who now study in a better environment as attests Elizabeth Vincent, a teacher at Welunze Primary School.

She says, "Before the project that saw our school get the desks, the situation was not good as most pupils used to sit on the floor and there were no teachers' tables in several classrooms".

According to the teacher, the project has helped solve the problem that was facing pupils and teachers. The school has 602 pupils and 15 teachers.

Hali Ally, a teacher at

the Juhudi Primary School shared similar sentiment, expressing gratitude to FCS, AFNET and the Ujirani Mwema group for the good work.

"This is one of the best projects in the village and it has met all the set criteria and time" said the teacher, adding that the women group also proved its capability in handling such projects.

AFNET's Project Officer, Tobias Mtui while acknowledging the timely implementation of the project applauds the 'Ujirani Mwema' group for the good work. "This is a clear indication that such groups at the grass root can help bring positive changes" he said.

He said his organization has been working with different groups in the district in effort to bring development to people.





# Borrowers get relief as lending rate decline further

By Guardian Reporter

**B**orrowers are currently paying less cost of credits compared to 12 months ago, as commercial banks are continuing to scale down the lending interest rates, which indicates their increased trusts.

Data from commercial banks and Bank of Tanzania (BoT) computations show overall lending rate reached 15.34 percent during the end of last year, from 16.06 percent recorded at the end of 2022.

Five years ago, the central banks report shows overall lending rate was more than 17 percent, while the short term lending rate was nearly 18 percent.

However, lending rates have remained 'high' in accordance with the borrowers 'wishes', as many would hope them to go down to a single digit, although analysts believe further decline due to improvement of bank's asset quality.

Only agriculture sector, which accounts for 10 percent of total banking lending enjoy the single digit interest rate of at least nine percent, partly associated with ongoing government policies and measures to improve the sector's

productivity.

Banking industry depends mainly on customer deposits as the main source of funds for financing various economic activities.

The BoT's monthly economic review for January shows the short-term lending rate (up to one year) also experienced the downward trend, after closing last year at 15.91 percent, compared to 17.27 percent recorded in December 2022.

However, the lowest short term lending rate was also recorded between 2019 and 2020, as it was ranging below 16 percent.

The overall negotiated lending rate remained unchanged at 13 percent during the period of 12 months ending December, 2023, while for prime customers; the rate eased to 13.30 percent from 14 percent, according to BoT.

To work on this trend, the central bank has noted that the government is implementing reforms to reduce impediments to the stickiness of lending rates, include reforms to increase financial inclusion and improve business environment.

This testifies that this trends; coupled with the decline of bad



loans, have improved the banking appetite to continue lending to various sectors of the economy, in a time when the government continues to improve business environment.

According to BoT reports, the rate of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) has declined to 4.3 percent in December 2023, below the regulatory benchmark five percent.

However, banking sector has aggressively continuing to implement various measures on assets recovery as well as improving credit issuance procedures.

"The level of NPLs is expected to continue declining as banks continue implementing measures to improve the quality of assets. Furthermore, the stress testing indicated the bank-

ing sector to be resilient to baseline, adverse and severe shocks across all major risk factors," the central bank report notes.

With the central bank currently implementing the interest rate based (price) policy, which was adopted since the start of this year, the costs of credits are still determined by market forces, depending on terms and conditions agreed between a borrower and a lender.

According to the BoT report, private sector credit growth remained strong, albeit declined reaching 17.1 percent in December 2023, compared with 18.3 percent registered in the preceding month and 22.5 percent in the corresponding period in 2022.

expected to improve further and facilitate intermediation activities," BoT's monetary policy statement, mid-year review for February 2023 says.

The measures include amendment of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act to allow compliance with the requirements of capital adequacy as a step towards the migration to Basel II/III risk-based supervision standards and issuance of new Capital Adequacy, Liquidity Management, and Prompt Corrective Action Regulations in line with Basel II/III standards.

Other measures include implementation of the Real-Time Supervisory Information System to ensure real-time availability of supervisory information to facilitate timely and proactive policy and regulatory actions, and implementation of the National Financial Inclusion Framework 2023-2028, which aims at improving access and usage of financial products and services.

# CRDB launches sharia-compliant bancassurance services Takaful

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed CRDB Bank has officially launched the sharia compliant insurance services "Takaful" targeting both Muslim and non-Muslim clients.

Speaking during the launch of the product, Dr Abubakar Zuberi, Mufti of Tanzania congratulated CRDB Bank for spearheading the move in recognizing the increased demands for such services for the community.

"I congratulate you for this innovation. Sharia is important for Islamic believers, although there are non-Muslim who also prefer sharia compliant basis. Through Takaful, I believe you will cater for the demands for many people and I call for Muslims and other people wishing to protect their properties and life to use Takaful insurance services," he said.

The Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) Commissioner General Dr Baghayo Saqware said innovation to solve the prob-



Mufti of Tanzania, Dr Abubakar Zuberi

lems facing Tanzanians through insurance services is needed to promote inclusive insurance as well as enable them to assure the implementation of their programmes and projects.

"Takaful is the service that invites Muslim who are not satisfied with conventional insurance services which have interests. It is not only an insurance service, but also an investment that benefits an

individual customer and a company offering such services. With the use of your wide branch network, I believe that CRDB will reach more people across the country," said Dr Saqware.

Four years ago, CRDB Bank launched the sharia compliant banking services "Al Barakah" making it the first to roll out the service countrywide, which has attracted 135,000 clients with 125bn/-financing to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The bank's chief commercial officer Boma Raballa said CRDB Bank has always improving its products and services and last year it established special product for those who wish to attend Hijja.

"In this continuation of improving our services, CRDB bank in collaboration with Zanzibar Insurance Corporation (ZIC -Takaful), we are today launching this insurance service. This is also making our bank as the first in Tanzania to offer such service," he said.

Explaining on the difference between sharia compliant and conventional insurance services, Raballa said Takaful has no inter-

est rate and is formed through the basis of collaboration (taawun), when someone of facing any uncertainty facing investment and the benefit is distributed to members using the basis set out by a company offering Takaful.

"Through this collaboration, we are going to offer general insurance services including fire, property, transport, vehicle and machinery. I would like to invite Tanzanians to grab opportunities found in this insurance service. Takaful is for anybody who prefer sharia compliant financial services," he said.

On his part, Said Abdallah, chief executive officer, ZIC Takaful said he was happy with the collaboration with CRDB Bank because will help to reach more people across Tanzania.

"I believe that this collaboration will enable Takaful services to reach out to more people. We will continue to collaborate with other stakeholders who are willing to roll out this service to more Tanzanians. Insurance is the only option for protecting properties, business and health," he said.

# A guide to transferring money between different banks

TECHNOLOGY has made banking easier, especially when it comes to moving money between accounts. Online transfers are an easy way to move money from one bank to another and we can accomplish this with just a simple click or two.

How you transfer money from one bank to another is typically safe, easy and fast. When selecting the right transfer method, you'll need to consider how quickly you need the money moved and what cost you're willing to pay.

Understanding different transfer methods

How you transfer money between bank accounts depends largely on where you send the money and how fast you need it to land in another account.

"One way to transfer money between your accounts at two banks is by using a bank-to-bank transfer service that is based on the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network. Many banks provide this type of ACH transfer service," said Ken Tumin, the founder of DepositAc-

counts.com, a bank comparison site. "You typically have to establish a link to your other bank account and verify that you are the owner of that bank account. Once the link is established, you can initiate ACH transfers between the accounts."

Other methods of bank transfers include wire transfers, peer-to-peer payment platforms like Zelle, paper checks and cash.

Checking transfer fees and timeframes

Before initiating a transfer, check your bank's website or contact customer service to see if there's a fee. The good news, however, is that many transfer services are free.

"There are associated costs for financial institutions to transfer money," said Kari Mitchum, vice president, payments policy at the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA), an association of community banks. "In most instances, however, consumers receive these services as part of their account services, meaning a consumer is not charged."



You likely will incur charges, however, if you transfer money by wire. To give you an idea of the fee for a wire transfer, U.S. Bank charges \$20 for an incoming domestic transfer and \$30 for an outgoing one. Internationally, the fees are \$25 and \$50, respectively.

Domestic wire transfers typically complete on the same day, according to Wells Fargo.

An ACH transfer, Tumin said, can take up to three days. Zelle transfers

are free and typically take less than an hour to complete, he added.

Initiating a transfer online

First, you'll need to link the accounts involved in the transfer. Log in to your bank's website or mobile app and enter the appropriate information for the account you want to link. To link to a checking or savings account at an external bank you'll need the external account's routing and account numbers.

Once you have established a link

between your bank accounts, you can set up the transfers. If you're moving money between your accounts at different financial institutions online, you usually will need only your routing and account numbers to do so, Mitchum said.

Transferring money via mobile banking apps

If you want to transfer money between your own accounts or to another person, such as a gift for a relative or to pay a contractor who did work at your home, Zelle is an option. It's available through more than 2,100 banking apps, according to the company.

Zelle reported that in 2022, 2.3 billion payments totaling \$629 billion went through its network.

"Zelle is primarily intended to be a payment service in which you transfer money to another person," Tumin said. "It can be used to transfer money to yourself between accounts at different banks, but you'll have to set up Zelle profiles at the two banks with different email addresses and/or phone numbers."

In-person bank transfers

A trip to the bank is no longer required for transfers.

"Real-time payments will be embedded in most banking apps and online offerings," said Dave Scola, the US chief executive officer at fintech company Form3. "You certainly won't have to go to a teller."

However, if you have any questions or if you are transferring large sums of money between bank accounts, a trip to the bank could put your mind at ease.

Setting up recurring transfers

If you want to transfer between your bank accounts at different banks frequently, setting up a recurring transfer will save time. And it's easy to accomplish.

"Many banks offer ACH services that allow you to set up recurring transfers," Tumin said. "Once you have established a link to your account at another bank, the ACH transfer program will step you through the process of setting up recurring transfers."



# THE RISKS AND SAFETY OF MOBILE BANKING

By Kelvin Mkwawa

In today's world, time is money and everyone is busy and has no time to spend sitting in a bank branch hence mobile banking has become an ideal solution for them to keep track of their finances. Managing your money has never been so easy thanks to new banking options like mobile banking.

Paying your bills and checking your balance can be as simple as posting your picture to your Instagram feed. But there is a price to pay for the conveniences that mobile banking offers – the increased risks that your private data and access rights to your financial accounts could fall into the wrong hands. Hence, here is a million-dollar question, is it a safe way to manage your money through mobile banking?

Mobile banking is generally secure but the main challenge is from the customer side as customers don't understand that their phones are vulnerable to attacks just like their notepads and computers. Most consumers do not understand the technology their bank is using but need to feel confident that their financial data is protected.

If you are unsure of how secure your financial data is, you are not alone, several studies suggest that many consumers still have security-related concerns when

using mobile banking.

Banks have more responsibility to protect your financial data but I would say that you should be the first line of defense of your financial data. Studies show that nearly 40 percent of smartphone owners do not have password-protecting their phones.

If any of those people lose their phone, anyone who picked them could access their banking app and their data, hence it is important to secure your phone at all times. Nonetheless, the best way to protect yourself is to know the risks so this week I will share a few risks of mobile banking.

Poor Network Reception Means Poor Security - If your phone's mobile network drops into the lower range while using mobile banking, the security of your financial data could be at risk. Poor network reception is not as secure hence vulnerable to attackers who might steal your financial data and intercept your banking transactions.

Wireless Networks - It is worth noting that, unlike websites, mobile applications don't properly encrypt information, therefore, it is not a good idea to access your mobile banking when you are on an unsecured Wi-Fi or public wireless network. If you plan to do banking transactions through mobile banking, you are better off using the secured wireless network as



Kelvin Mkwawa

this will help you reduce the risk of your financial data being intercepted by a third party without your authorization.

Fraudulent Mobile Apps - In this digital world, there are millions of mobile apps out there for us to use in our daily lives including apps from financial institutions. Unfortunately, some of the mobile apps are fraudulent apps posing as your bank's official app and if you unknowingly start using one, the app creators can access your data and abuse it. Therefore, it is strongly advised to download your bank's app directly from your bank's website to avoid scammers.

In conclusion, even though it's not easy to tell how secure your bank's mobile banking app is, it is important to know the risks so you can protect yourself. Banks also need to step up their efforts to ensure mobile banking safety for their customers. With that being said, there are a few things that consumers can do to help themselves: download your bank's mobile app through your bank's website only and don't access your mobile banking through unsecured Wi-Fi networks and when your mobile network is weak.

Kelvin Mkwawa, MBA is the seasoned banker based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached through: Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com

## NCAA distributes 3,179 beehives to apiculturist groups

By Francis Kajubi

THE Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) has between 2021 and January this year distributed 3,179 beehives to 123 apiculturist groups through its five-year apiculture project 2021/22 - 2025/26.

The project covers four districts namely Ngorongoro, Karatu, Meatu and Monduli.

Richard Kiza, NCAA chief executive officer said in Dar es Salaam on Monday that of the 123 apiculturist groups, 68 are based in Ngorongoro district council, 29 groups in Karatu district council, 18 Meatu district council and eight groups are based in Monduli district council.

Kiza said that beekeeping is one of the development projects implemented by NCAA for two primary purposes: First, to help the indigenous communities within the area generate revenues by selling honey and other goods, and secondly, to engage communities within and neighboring villages in biodiversity conservation endeavors.

"The NCAA's apiculture project is carried out effectively and systematically by organizing small groups of apiculturists who are then eligible for beekeeping training, free beehives, and harvesting equipment," said Kiza.

However, he said, the project is intended just for communities located within or next to the conservation area.

According to him, the five-year project is being carried out through three main components, namely increasing bee product production and efficiency by involving more individuals in the beekeeping

industry.

The second component is to increase the value of bee products by constructing a honey processing factory and thirdly is introduction of apiculture as a new supplementary product for attracting tourists.

On food security related issues, Kiza said that the NCAA has been distributing flour, sugar and butter for porridge for 27 primary schools within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

He said between the year 2021 and January 2024 a total of 32,620 kilos of flour, 11,350 kilos of sugar and 3,100 kilos of butter were extended to those schools.

The NCAA has been purchasing and distributing corn at a discounted price to the indigenous community whereas as of January in 2024, 600 tons had been distributed to residents living within NCA.

He further said that a student scholarship program was introduced by the NCAA in 1994 with the primary objective of enabling students from low-income families within NCA gain access to education.

The program offers assistance to children from pre-primary school through university by freely providing stationery, tuition fees, transport expenses, accommodation costs, and field practical training expenses.

In order to support educational services, the NCAA spends roughly 2bn/- on sponsorship programs each year. As of the current statistics, more than 12,000 students have so far benefited from this program.

BANKING&FINANCE



## Revolution or market bubble? Investors weigh the AI boom

NEW YORK

AS the artificial intelligence (AI) boom reaches into more areas of workers' lives and sends stocks hurtling sky high, some investors worry about whether AI is the real deal and what happens if it isn't.

Shares of Nvidia have exploded higher with no end to their upward trajectory in sight. The California chipmaker's stock is about 240 percent higher over the past year, and it isn't alone.

AMD is up 126.5 percent since a year ago, and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co stock is nearly 50 percent higher over the same period.

The so-called Magnificent Seven tech stocks – Apple, Microsoft, Nvidia, Amazon, Google, Meta and Tesla – that dominate the S&P 500 have also benefited greatly from AI buzz. They're collectively up about 55 percent over the past year.

Large companies, meanwhile,

are already shifting their resources to invest heavily in AI technology and are sometimes laying off employees in anticipation of an increase in productivity through automation.

"This is not hype," JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon told CNBC on Monday of AI.

Dimon, who is often skeptical of new technologies and fads, said that there are about 200 people at JPMorgan dedicated to researching generative AI.

"When we had the internet bubble the first time around... that was hype. This is not hype. It's real," he said. "People are deploying it at different speeds, but it will handle a tremendous amount of stuff."

The top 10 companies in the S&P 500 are more overvalued today than they were during the tech bubble in the mid-1990s, wrote Torsten Slok, chief economist at Apollo Global Management, in a note to investors on Sunday, citing the companies'

price to earnings ratios.

The growth of these companies has created a Teflon stock market – nothing bad seems to stick to it, even higher-than-expected inflation data and delayed expectations for interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve, said Yung-Yu Ma, chief investment officer at BMO Wealth Management.

"The idea that AI can unleash both spending and productivity is a strong narrative that markets are focused on right now," he said. But that sole focus on AI is worrisome.

"Thoughts of the mid-1990s (tech boom) are creeping into today's equity market, as during that time the ensuing productivity boom propelled equities for years despite relatively high interest rates," he said. "The current hype may be slightly more advanced than what AI can deliver in the near-term for productivity gains."

Some shareholders are also

worried about Big Tech's investment in AI. Apple is reportedly on track to spend \$1 billion a year on generative AI.

Two very large Apple investors, Norges Bank Investment Management and Legal & General, have said that they will support a resolution at the company's annual shareholder meeting Wednesday that would require the iPhone maker to disclose and report AI-related risks.

The proposal asks the company to "disclose any ethical guidelines that the company has adopted regarding use of AI technology."

The shareholder proposal was introduced by the union federation AFL-CIO.

In a filing to the US Securities and Exchange Commission, Apple proposed the vote be skipped. Lawyers for the company argued that shareholders were being too controlling by requesting the disclosure of AI risks.

## Investors urged to take advantage of special economic zones

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

Investors have been urged to take advantage of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and Export Processing Zones (EPZ) programmes to produce and process goods for domestic and international markets.

Local and foreign investors are granted licences by the Export and Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) to produce and process goods through the EPZ and SEZ programmes.

The EPZA Head ICT Unit Elias Mshomba made the remarks recently during their visits to make evaluation of industries licenced by EPZA in three; Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya.

"There is a huge opportunity for local and foreign investors to produce and process agricultural products for domestic and international markets that could ultimately contribute to the country's economy," he said.

He said the EPZA through the EPZ and SEZ programmes has been

producing and processing goods that meet the required standards for the global markets like the USA, Asia, Europe and other markets in the continent.

Mshomba said they visited 10 industries licenced by the EPZA during their visits in the three regions. Some of the industries are producing and processing goods for the international markets.

Some of the products produced in these industries are namely avocado, charcoal briquettes, wood products like plywood, marine

board, veneer and furniture board.

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

He said the aim of their visits to these industries was to meet investors, update their information and listen to their challenges with ultimate goal to boost efficiency in industrial production.

Also, their visits focused on providing education on EPZA pro-

grammes namely including SEZ and EPZ to investors and other stakeholders.

Mshomba said one of the obligations of the Authority is to fulfill the country's dream of making Tanzania an industrial economy, to produce more jobs, processing of local raw materials and ultimately contributing to economic development.

He said provided education on EPZA obligations, investment procedures to be met in establishing SEZ and EPZ, the EPZA success sto-

ries since its establishment and the need for councils to set aside areas for investment.

For example production of goods through the SEZ window allows exporting 80 per cent of all goods produced and only 20 per cent sold in domestic markets.

Some of the sectors which are currently given more emphasis in the SEZ and EPZ programmes are agriculture, mining, energy, forestry, garment and steel.



# Brazzaville unveils its first LNG carrier, initiating major gas export endeavours



By Dotto Charles

**T**HE launch of the Republic of the Congo's first LNG carrier, emerging from the nation's premier Congo LNG Project, showcases the country's firm dedication to responsibly harnessing its natural resources and advancing towards a more sustainable and eco-friendly economy.

According to yesterday's state-

ment by the African Energy Chamber, this milestone delivery promises to enhance local electricity provision and extend vital gas resources to neighboring nations, marking a significant advancement in the country's energy landscape.

The said historic moment signifies a pivotal leap forward for the Republic of the Congo's burgeoning hydrocarbons sector, as it inaugurates its maiden LNG delivery.

The ceremony, graced by Presi-

dent Denis Sassou N'Guesso and Minister for Hydrocarbons Bruno Jean-Richard Itoua, marks a decisive stride towards the country's ambition of becoming a prominent global LNG exporter.

"First gas for the Congo LNG project which is strongly supported by the African Energy Chamber (AEC) - the voice of Africa's energy sector boasts a liquefaction production capacity of 1 billion cubic meters (bcm) per year and was received in

December 2023," the stamen reads in part.

The project leverages gas resources and existing production infrastructure from the Marine XII concession roughly 3km offshore the Republic of the Congo.

As such, with a specific focus on exporting its natural gas and oil resources to Europe, the long-awaited expansion of the Marine XII project is set to raise the country's hydrocarbons output to 500,000 barrels

of oil per day (bpd) and 4.5 bcm of gas within two years.

It is said that LNG production at the project will be driven further by the arrival of a second LNG vessel with a capacity of 3.5 bcm, which is currently under construction and will begin production in 2024. This additional unit will be able to store over 180,000 cubic meters of LNG, which will be used to meet domestic demand.

Aimed at driving the optimal ex-

ploitation of the Republic of the Congo's abundant gas resources which are estimated at 10 trillion cubic feet and boasting a zero-flaring technological approach, the entire volume of LNG produced from the project will be marketed to international buyers by energy supermajor Eni.

Meanwhile, with the anticipated start-up of the country's new 50,000 bpd refinery due to come online in 2025, the country is set to become self-sufficient in domestic demand while leaving excess production available for further export to international markets.

The construction of the refinery is slated to begin later this Q1 2024, with production expected to start 18 months later.

"Through initiatives such as the GMP, the Republic of the Congo is making great strides towards capitalizing on its natural gas wealth. The country's gas resources stand to play a central role in facilitating global energy security while accelerating a transition to a decarbonized energy future. The launch of the first carrier from the Congo LNG Project is a testament to this and we are proud to have reached this milestone," stated Minister Itoua.

The Republic of the Congo is also the fifth largest exporter of crude oil in Africa, with an average export volume of 210,000 bpd at its flagship Djeno crude in 2022. The country also produces and exports light sweet M'Kossa and heavy sweet Yombo crude derivatives, primarily to Chinese markets.

"It's safe to say that the Republic of the Congo is closing in on its LNG export dream and proving to the world that there are ways to monetize immense natural gas discoveries while helping to decarbonize the world's energy mix," states NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the AEC.

## Africa needs \$200bln annually to unlock a new era of energy growth

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICA requires over \$200 billion in annual financing until 2030 to meet the Sustainable Africa Scenario's energy and climate objectives, highlighting a growing opportunity for project developers, financiers and technology providers.

A statement issued yesterday by Africa Energy Chamber, indicated that

between 2012 and 2021, the continent received an average \$35 billion in annual finance from G20 nations and multilateral development banks, underscoring a significant investment gap.

Therefore, the launched African energy finance summit, aims to address this gap by galvanizing financial support for African energy growth alongside intra-African energy trade and a just energy transition.

in fact, development of oil and gas has taken the forefront of many national development agendas in Africa, as countries move to monetize resources to make energy poverty history by 2030.

In addition to expansion efforts across established oil and gas markets such as Angola, Nigeria, Algeria and Egypt, new frontiers are being revealed as discoveries showcase high-impact deposits.

It is said that in the last two years, Na-

mbia made eight hydrocarbon discoveries in the Orange Basin, with reserves estimated to be as much as 11 billion barrels. Other discoveries such as the 20 trillion cubic feet (tcf) Yakaar-Teranga discovery in Senegal; the Orca find in Mauritania; the 650 billion cubic feet Eban-Akoma Complex find in Ghana; the Mukuyu-2 gas discovery in Zimbabwe and many more underscore the potential for million-dollar upstream investments in Africa.

Meanwhile, Africa is poised to be at the forefront of the global energy transition due to its critical mineral wealth.

The continent has 85 percent of the world's manganese resources; 80 percent of the world's platinum and chromium; 47 percent of the world's cobalt; 21 percent of the world's graphite, among many other resources.

Investment in this industry will support both economic growth in Africa through revenue generation and infrastructure development as well as the world's transition to a cleaner energy future.

Projects such as Namibia's Eisenberg Rare Earth Minerals project; the DRC's Metalkol RTR mine; Zimbabwe's Bikita Lithium Mine; and many more represent some of the largest in the world.

on the other hand, the continent's hydropower potential is estimated at 340 GW; it's wind potential is estimated at 180,000 TWh per year; while the continent owns approximately 40 percent of the globe's potential for solar power generation. Yet, only 11 percent of Africa's hydropower is currently being exploited while the continent accounts for 1.48 percent of the world's total solar capacity, highlighting lucrative opportunities for clean energy project developers.

Policies such as South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer program pave

the way for increased private capital in renewable energy while efforts to develop large-scale green hydrogen projects in Namibia and Mauritania are poised to transform the continent.

By uniting global banking institutions, financial ministers and authorities, and international development platforms, the summit will see numerous deals signs that will further accelerate project growth in Africa.

At the same time, the summit promotes the need for integration across the finance and energy sectors, demonstrating the benefit and opportunity of industries working hand-in-hand to create attractive environments to do business.

Across the continent, efforts are already well underway to attract energy investment through policy reform. Energy majors TotalEnergies and Shell are planning \$6 billion and \$5 billion in investment, respectively, in Nigeria over the coming years, owing largely to improved fiscal and monetary terms implemented through the Petroleum Industry Act (2021).

In Angola, TotalEnergies announced a multi-year strategy including the \$850 million Begonia oil development while ExxonMobil is looking at investing \$15 billion in the country. These commitments are as a result of improved upstream terms that encourage exploration and development spending.





## WORLD

## Trump, Biden win Michigan primaries

DEARBORN

US President Joe Biden easily won the Democratic presidential primary in Michigan on Tuesday, Edison Research projected, but a protest vote by Democrats angry over his support for Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza was growing as returns were counted.

Donald Trump won the state's Republican presidential primary by a large margin, Edison Research projected, strengthening his grip on the party's White House nomination as Nikki Haley, his last remaining rival, came in a distant second.

Although Biden and Republican former President Trump had been expected to easily win their separate party primaries, the vote count for both was being closely watched for signs of wavering support.

In Michigan, home to a large Arab American constituency, Democratic voters had been urged to mark their primary ballots as "uncommitted" on Tuesday in protest at Biden's Gaza policy.

Early returns showed the number of "uncommitted" voters had exceeded 24,500 after 16 percent of Democratic ballots were counted. That was more than double the 10,000 target for uncommitted voters that protest organizers had been hoping for.

Many in Michigan's Arab American community who backed Biden in 2020 are angry, along with some progressive Democrats, over Biden's support for Israel's offensive in Hamas-ruled Gaza where tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed. "There's a lot of folks that are voting un-

committed who I think were not directly associated with the Arab American community," said Michigan pollster Bernie Porn. He said it remained to be seen how big of an issue the Middle East would be for Biden in November when the situation could look different.

Early returns showed Biden and Trump with solid overall leads. With 16 percent of the estimated Democratic vote counted, Biden had 80 percent support, with "uncommitted" getting 15 percent, and with 17 percent of the estimated Republican vote counted, Trump had 66 percent support to Haley's 29 percent, according to Edison Research.

Michigan routinely offers an "uncommitted" option as a way of questioning whether a named candidate has the support of the party's base. It could not be determined how many of those votes were protesting Biden's Gaza policy.

Michigan is expected to play a decisive role in the head-to-head Nov 5 US presidential election, a likely rematch between Biden and Trump.

It is a battleground state that could swing toward either party. Biden beat Trump in Michigan by just 2.8 percentage points in the 2020 election.

Nikki Haley to carry on

Michigan turnout for former UN Ambassador Haley, who won nearly 40 percent of Republican votes in her home state of South Carolina on Saturday, was also being scrutinized for signs of vulnerability for Trump among moderates, whose support



This combo photo shows US President Joe Biden (left) in Salt Lake City on Aug 10, 2023, and former US president Donald Trump speaking in Bedminster on June 13 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

he would need in a general election.

Despite having lost to Trump in every primary race, Haley has performed well with moderate voters, although she has no clear path to the nomination.

On Tuesday, shortly before Trump was projected the winner in Michigan, Haley vowed to carry on.

"We've only seen a handful of states vote," Haley told CNN. "We're taking this one state one day at a time."

Late on Monday, Biden said Israel had agreed to halt military activities in Gaza for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan expected to begin on the evening of March 10, as Hamas studied a draft for a truce that includes a prisoner-hostage exchange.

It should have happened sooner, said Michael Bristol, 21, a student at Wayne State University who said he cast an uncommitted vote.

Engage Action and Listen to Michigan said before the vote they were aiming for 10 percent of Michigan's Democratic primary voters to mark their ballots uncommitted, a symbolically significant 10,000 votes - about equal

to Democrat Hillary Clinton's loss in Michigan to Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

Democrats, overall, support Biden's handling of the Israel-Hamas conflict by 61 percent, February polling by Harvard-Harris shows.

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and other Democrats have warned that if Democratic voters abandon Biden, they could hand the swing state and the country back to Trump in November. Biden defeated Trump in the 2020 election.

A senior Biden campaign official said: "We're taking this seriously. The president himself has said repeatedly that he hears these demonstrators and that he thinks that their cause is important."

On Feb 1, Biden won a strong pledge of support from union autoworkers, a Michigan voting bloc no less crucial to his reelection bid. The state is home to nearly 20 percent of all US auto production, more than any state in the country.

Michigan's Republican Party, beset by internal turmoil, will allocate some delegates to the party's July convention based on Tuesday's primary results.

## Zelensky facing disaster on frontline, Macron's pledge won't help, says Russian diplomat

MOSCOW



THE situation on the frontline is catastrophic for Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky, and the recent statement by French President Emmanuel Macron about the possible deployment of French troops to Ukraine will be of no help, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told Sputnik radio.

"The Kiev regime is facing a deplorable situation on the frontline, and nothing will help it," the Russian diplomat said. According to her, some bold and powerful rhetoric was needed to encourage Ukrainian troops.

"Has Macron's statement had any effect? The situation is the complete opposite," Zakharova maintained.

In addition, Zakharova said, in the wake of Macron's statements, a lot of NATO officials and agencies ruled out sending troops to Ukraine.

Macron said at a press conference after a meeting of around Western leaders in Paris on Monday that there was no consensus on the formal deployment of ground troops to Ukraine. However, he did not rule out such a possibility in the future.

## Drought-stricken Botswana wildlife faces dire conditions, prompts urgent climate action

GABORONE

WILD animals in the wildlife-rich northern part of Botswana are suffering severely, with some dying, as longer droughts in the southern African country take a toll on wildlife.

Grace Muzila, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, said that in her office in the capital city of Botswana, Gaborone, she has received regular reports of anguish this year from the country's national parks.

Climate change-induced drought conditions have forced elephants, lions, buffaloes, baboons, and several other wild animals to travel long distances in search of water and food, Muzila said. While it is natural for wild animals to die, Muzila expressed concern that they are perishing at a young age due to starvation, thirst and exhaustion after traveling long distances in search of sustenance.

"Wild animals get stuck in the mud desperately looking for water and they die. The experience is heartbreaking," said Muzila, adding that Botswana lost at least 300 elephants in mysterious circumstances in 2023 alone.

Muzila said that wildlife authorities began compiling statistics in November 2023 on lions, buffaloes, baboons, and several other wild animals that succumbed to the devastating impact of prolonged droughts until May this year.

John Steglin, a senior meteorologist at the Department of Meteorological Services in Botswana, said the dry spells are becoming longer and more severe in this landlocked southern African country. Steglin said that Botswana's rainy season, which ran reliably from October to March for decades, has become erratic in recent years, sometimes starting only in December with no guarantee of consistency.

"Climate change is turning out to be our biggest challenge," Steglin said, adding that the weather patterns have become unpredictable, leaving animals in the national parks with no food or water.

"Right now, we are in February, and there should be incessant rainfall to provide the much-needed moisture for the plants to effectively reach the maturity stage. However, the rest of the country has been receiving less than 10mm of rainfall per event," he said.

Some areas have been experiencing above-normal rainfall, causing extensive damage to infrastructure such as schools, houses and bridges being destroyed by overflowing water.

Across Africa's national parks, similar effects of climate change are being felt, with multiple studies showing that extreme weather events are leading to the loss of plants and animals, which struggle to cope with longer dry spells and hotter temperatures.

In light of this, Botswana is seeking to accelerate its green transition by fostering solar energy, as mentioned by Peggy Serame, Botswana's minister of finance, when announcing a budget proposal of 10.28 billion U.S. dollars earlier this month.

Serame told the parliament of Botswana that the economy has become highly vulnerable to climate change, affecting mainly the agricultural and tourism sectors. She emphasized the need for urgent and targeted responses to climate change.

Xinhua

## Foreign companies optimistic about Chinese market in 2024, says report

GUANGZHOU

THE majority of 183 companies studied are optimistic about the growth of the Chinese market, according to a report released by the American Chamber of Commerce in South China (AmCham South China) on Tuesday.

Of these companies, 76 percent plan to reinvest in China in 2024. For those who have plans for reinvestment in China in 2024, 45 percent state that their primary area of investment focuses on sales, marketing and business development. Other key areas include research and development, automation and productivity development, according to the report.

The annual special report on the state of business in south China is regarded as an important window into China's business environment. This year marks the 20th release of the report by AmCham South China.

The enterprises studied by the report come from the United States, China, the European Union and other countries and regions, of which wholly

foreign-owned enterprises account for more than half. American companies represent nearly half of the businesses studied.

Eighty-six percent of the companies studied claim that they will not decouple from the Chinese market due to the trade tensions between China and the United States. In 2023, 62 percent of the companies studied chose not to shift their investments out of China. Sixty-six percent of American companies claim that they will remain committed to the Chinese market, representing the highest proportion of all businesses studied.

Potential growth of the Chinese market is the primary driver for increasing investments in China or shifting investments from other markets to China, followed by industrial cluster effect and preferential policies, said Harley Seyedin, president of AmCham South China.

Over half of the companies studied believe that their overall return on investment (ROI) in China is better, compared with their overall return on global investment. Eighty-eight percent of the companies stud-



This aerial photo taken on June 10, 2023 shows the night view of the urban areas in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province. Xinhua

ied have already made profits in China, among which 46 percent reported to have met their budget expectations. Moreover, 90 percent of American companies have achieved profitability in China, according to the report.

Fifty-seven percent of the studied foreign companies consider China one of their

top three investment locations, an increase of 5 percent from 2022. Guangzhou, the capital city of Guangdong Province and known as south China's manufacturing hub, has maintained its status as the top investment destination in the country for seven consecutive years, followed by Shenzhen, Shanghai and Beijing.

The proportion of companies that consider the overall business environment in south China as "excellent" or "good" grew by 1 percent to 75 percent. Over half of the companies studied see an improvement in the business environment in south China, an uptick of 5 percent compared with 2022, said the report. Xinhua

## Conflict in Gaza is of great concern to us - Jaishankar

ANI | Updated: Feb 27, 2024 12:49 IST

New Delhi [India], February 27 (ANI): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday said that India is concerned over the conflict in Gaza and stressed that humanitarian crisis arising from conflicts require a sustainable solution that gives immediate relief to those most-affected. He asserted that world needs to be clear that terrorism and hostage taking "unacceptable."

In his virtual address at the 55th Session of the Human Rights Council, Jaishankar said, "The conflict in Gaza is of great concern to us all. The

humanitarian crisis arising from conflicts require a sustainable solution that gives immediate relief to those most affected. At the same time, we must be clear that terrorism and hostage-taking are unacceptable."

"It also goes without saying that international humanitarian law must always be respected. It is vital that the conflict does not spread within or beyond the region. And efforts must also focus on seeking a two-state solution where Palestinian people can live within secure borders," he added.

Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was one of the first world leaders to call out Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7 as a terror attack. Fol-

lowing Hamas' attack, Israel launched a counter-offensive against the terrorist group in Gaza.

Highlighting India's approach, he said, "Let me recall what Indian civilizational thought has always emphasized that the world shares one earth, we are one family and we have one future. Both as a motivating vision and as a call for action, this Indian approach is one of recognizing that we are defined more by how much we are alike than by our differences. But the many are impacted by the choices made by even a few and that this interconnectedness means a genuine dialogue as the only way to find solutions is not just and imperative but in

fact inevitable."

He stated that nations need to work together in the United Nations and outside to find lasting solutions to geopolitical challenges and called it a "collective responsibility." He stressed that it is important to recognise that they need to reform "outdated structures and fix systemic flaws" for multilateralism to be credible, effective and responsive.

In his remarks at the 55th session of the Human Rights Council, he said, "It is therefore in our collective interest and responsibility to work together in the UN and outside to find lasting solutions to geopolitical challenges. For this to happen it is vital that we

first recognize that for multilateralism to be credible, effective and responsive it is now high time to reform outdated structures and fix systemic flaws and urgently make multilateral frameworks fit for purpose reflecting current global realities.

Let me conclude by reaffirming India's steadfast commitment to global promotion and protection of human rights and to their enjoyment by our people."

He noted that India's approach to human rights is rooted in democratic principles and pluralistic ethos. He said that society and polity of India are enshrined by the institutional strengths of an independent judi-

ciary, robust media and vibrant civil society.

He said, "India's approach to human rights is rooted in our democratic principles and pluralistic ethos. Our constitution guarantees protection of civil and political rights and provides for progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights. Our society and polity are anchored by our institutional strengths of an independent judiciary, robust media and vibrant civil society. These values have continued to inform India's policies domestically, and globally. And therefore, I believe we have much to contribute."

ANI



## India, Germany discuss bilateral security and defence issues

BERLIN

DEFENCE Secretary Giridhar Aramane and German Ministry of Defence State Secretary Benedikt Zimmer chaired the India-Germany High Defence Committee (HDC) meeting in Berlin on Tuesday. The two sides discussed a range of bilateral security and defence issues, with a focus on developing the defence cooperation as a key pillar of the Strategic Partnership between India and Germany.

Giridhar Aramane and Benedikt Zimmer held talks on the regional situation and discussed on potential defence industrial projects and proposals, according to Ministry of Defence press release. The two sides stressed on the need for a closer defence partnership and connecting defence industries of India and Germany.

In a press release, Ministry of Defence stated, "They exchanged views on the regional security situation, discussed likely joint exercises with Germany in the Indo-Pacific, and deliberated on potential defence industrial projects and proposals."

"They emphasized on the need for a closer defence partnership and connecting the defence industries from both sides together. Of particular focus was the collaboration in high technology in defence," it added.

The India-Germany High Defence Committee (HDC) meeting comes after German Federal Minister of Defence Boris Pistorius' visit to India in 2023.

In a post on X, Ministry of Defence Principal Spokesperson A Bharat Bhushan Babu stated, "Strengthening ties: Defence Secretary Shri @giridhararamane and Germany's State Secretary, Mr. Benedikt Zimmer, co-chaired the India-Germany High Defence

Committee meeting in Berlin, fostering deeper collaboration in security and defence realms."

During his visit to Germany, Giridhar Aramane interacted with a prominent think tank German Institute of International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik - SWP) in Berlin.

India was also among the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with Germany after the Second World War. In 2021, the two nations marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. India and Germany have a 'Strategic Partnership' since May 2000, according to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

German Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Annalena Baerbock visited India to attend the Raisina Dialogue held on February 21-24. Raisina Dialogue is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics committed to addressing the most challenging issues faced by the international community.

On February 16, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a meeting with his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock on the sidelines of Munich Security Conference. The two leaders discussed global challenges and the pathway ahead. The two leaders reviewed preparations for the next meeting of India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations.

Taking to X, Jaishankar stated, "So good to meet my German colleague FM @ABaerbock on #MSC2024 sidelines. A wide ranging conversation on global challenges and the pathway ahead. Appreciated her insights and assessments. Also reviewed preparations for the next meeting of our Inter Governmental Consultations."

ANI

## Japan again discharges Fukushima nuclear-tainted water

TOKYO

AGAIN, Japan started a new round of releasing nuclear-contaminated water from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the ocean yesterday.

Quite like the previous three rounds, approximately 7,800 metric tons of nuclear-contaminated water will be discharged into the Pacific Ocean over a period of around 17 days, according to the Tokyo Electric Power Company, which operates the nuclear power plant.

Acting against wishes of local fishermen and neighboring countries and regions, TEPCO said it will skip the process of temporarily storing nuclear-contaminated water in a large tank to assess the tritium level before its release. Instead, the company will monitor the tritium level as the water passes through pipes.

Xinhua reported TEPCO's discharge of the radioactive wastewater started at around 11:30 am local time Wednesday.

The discharge of nuclear-contaminated water began in August last year, despite strong opposition both domestically and internationally. The release is expected to last for about three decades. EPCO estimates that a total of 31,200 tons of nuclear-contaminated water will be discharged during fiscal year 2023 ending March.

Earlier this month, a spokesperson of the Chinese embassy in Japan said the discharge of nuclear-contaminated wa-

ter from the Fukushima plant into the sea concerns the health of all mankind, the global marine environment and international public interests.

"We once again earnestly urge Japan to take seriously the concerns of neighboring countries and the international community, engage in sincere consultations with relevant stakeholders, fully cooperate in establishing effective international monitoring arrangements with substantive participation from stakeholders, and handle nuclear-contaminated water in a scientific, safe, and transparent manner," the spokesperson said.

Hisataka Yamasaki, co-representative of No Nukes Plaza Tokyo, a nonprofit citizens' organization also known as Tanpoposya, criticized the Japanese government and TEPCO for betraying their promise not to discharge nuclear-contaminated water into the sea without the consent of the fishing industry. He highlighted their falsehood regarding insufficient land for storage and said: "They have continuously deceived the public and international opinion with convenient explanations. Can they still claim it is safe in the future?"

Yamasaki further emphasized the history of dishonesty from both the government and TEPCO, noting that criticisms regarding the lack of earthquake and tsunami countermeasures were raised even before the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011. Despite this, they persisted in asserting safety, a stance that remains unchanged today.



This photo taken on March 6, 2023 shows the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Futabacho, Futabagun of Fukushima Prefecture, Japan. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

## Envoy urges to prevent further humanitarian crisis in Gaza

UNITED NATIONS

A Chinese envoy urged the global community to take action to avert a more severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

"The international community must take actions to protect civilians, save lives, and make every effort to prevent an even greater humanitarian disaster," Dai Bing, charge d'affaires of China's permanent mission to the United Nations, said Tuesday at the UN Security Council briefing on the food security risks in Gaza.

Dai said Gaza has sunk into an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe since the conflict's outbreak over four months ago, with nearly 30,000 civilians having lost their lives. "Millions of people in Gaza are suffering the pain of losing their loved ones or still unable to find safe shelter after multiple times of forced displacement."

"They lack the most basic safety guarantees and supplies for survival and are constantly faced with the threat of death, hunger, and disease. Even more so, women and children are living in fear and desperation every single day," he said.

He said events in Gaza severely violate international law and international humanitarian law and go beyond the bottom line of human morality and conscience.

"The international community must take actions to protect civilians, save lives, and make every effort to prevent an even greater humanitarian disaster," said Dai.

The envoy stressed that humanitarian assistance is what the people in Gaza rely on for hope of survival.

"With the focus on protecting civilians and expanding humanitarian access, the council has adopted Resolutions 2712 and 2720."



Dai Bing (right, front), charge d'affaires of China's permanent mission to the United Nations, speaks after the UN Security Council adopted a resolution to boost humanitarian aid access to Gaza, at the UN headquarters in New York, on Dec 22, 2023. XINHUA

"However, due to man-made obstacles, the entry of humanitarian supplies into Gaza has faced many difficulties. For nearly a month now, the humanitarian supplies received in Gaza have been far below the average of earlier periods, and Northern Gaza has not received any humanitarian supplies," the envoy added.

"We call on Israel to earnestly fulfill its obligations as the occupying power under the Geneva Convention, fully cooperate in the implementation of Security Council resolutions, open up all land, sea, and air access routes, and ensure the safe, rapid, and unimpeded entry of humanitarian supplies," Dai said.

Dai pointed out that Israel should strictly comply with the requirements of deconfliction, effectively guarantee the safety of humanitarian agencies and personnel and provide necessary facilitation for humanitarian agencies to carry out assistance in Gaza.

He underscored that the International Court of Justice ordered provisional measures that require Israel to take all measures to prevent genocide and provide the population in Gaza with urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance. "The order of provisional measures must be effectively implemented."

Noting that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is the lifeline for the people in Gaza, the envoy said that "its role is indispensable and irreplaceable. We support

the UN in conducting an independent and impartial investigation into the allegations against UNRWA staff. Israel should support and cooperate with the UN in the investigation."

Dai said that the international community should continue to support UNRWA and other humanitarian agencies in their work.

"We call upon the international community, and in particular, the major donors, to promptly resume their funding for UNRWA."

Dai quoted UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as saying that with Gaza under gunfire, conditions are impossible for the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The envoy stressed that an immediate ceasefire is necessary to protect civilians, deliver assistance and alleviate the humanitarian disaster.

"This is currently the overwhelming call of the international community and the overwhelming consensus among Council members."

"We hope that the relevant country will adopt a responsible and constructive attitude and support the Council in taking action to demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza," he said.

"China will continue to work with the international community to make tireless efforts to restore peace and save lives, to end the fighting in Gaza, to implement the two-state solution, and to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East," Dai said. Xinhua

## China's Xiamen: A successful practice of sustainable development in bay city

Xiamen in southeast China's Fujian province is a typical bay city. It rises from the sea, drawn into its embrace.

The ecological conservation of bay cities is a global issue. Xiamen is rich in marine resources, but its sea area is small, which has been subjected to intense development and frequent economic activities. As a result, the city's marine ecosystem was once fragile.

On March 30, 1988, Xi Jinping, who then served as a member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China Xiamen Municipal Committee and executive vice mayor of Xiamen, chaired a special meeting on cleaning up the Yundang Lake in Xiamen.

The meeting is believed as the start of the comprehensive treatment of the lake that has lasted more than 30 years so far. It also started Xiamen's ecological protection and restoration of sea, river basins, and the entire region, as well as coordinated efforts on land and at sea to improve the city's marine ecological environment.

While advancing the comprehensive treatment of the Yundang Lake, Xiamen launched cooperation with the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) in 1994 for integrated coastal management.

It successfully developed a model featuring in-advance legislation, centralized coordination, technological support, integrated law enforcement and public participation, which has been recognized by the International Maritime Organization as the "Xiamen Model."

This model for integrated coastal management in Xiamen, along with efforts for the River Thames in Britain and the Boston Harbor in the U.S., has been highlighted by the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection as three exemplary global cases that show that determined, coordinated action can produce benefits even in large urban areas, where development and population pressures are concentrated. The "Xiamen Model" has been widely promoted internationally and has had a significant impact.

Over the past 30 years, Xiamen has gradually built a "circle of friends" to share its ideas and experiences, actively participating in global marine governance.

The city has conducted training courses in Costa Rica on topics such as mariculture technology and marine spatial planning. It has also collaborated with Thailand on beach restoration in Pattaya and established a joint marine ecology station in North Sulawesi province, Indonesia.

"The practices of Xiamen in marine ecological conservation provide valuable references for other countries and regions. This is a meaningful step in the history of global marine governance," said PEMSEA Chair Emeritus Chua Thia-Eng.

In October 2005, an international marine city forum was held in Xiamen, and since 2007 it has been officially upgraded to the World Ocean Week in Xiamen. The event



Foreigners pose for a photo during the 2023 World Ocean Week in Xiamen. (Photo from the official website of the Xiamen Marine International Cooperation Center)

has become one of the most important platforms globally for promoting water cooperation and exchanges.

Today, the World Ocean Week in Xiamen has been held for 18 consecutive years and has gradually developed into an international annual event that combines ocean-themed forums, professional exhibitions, and ocean cultural carnivals.

Many important collaborations on the ocean took place in the grand event, and many significant achievements were born there.

It has collaborated with important international programs such as the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and established a long-term cooperation mechanism with the Global Ocean Negative Carbon Emissions program.

The International Digital Twins of the Ocean Summit 2023 was held during the World Ocean Week in Xiamen, which used data to create a virtual ocean and provide a strong digital foundation for the development of the ocean economy and ecological protection.

The Digital Deep-Sea Typical Habitats major scientific program was officially announced during the 2023 World Ocean Week in Xiamen, bringing together top scientists around the world to explore the deep sea.

"I am very encouraged by Xiamen's active participation in international ocean cooperation," said Peter Thomson, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, when attending the opening ceremony of the World Ocean Week in Xiamen in November 2023. It was the third time for him to join the event.

Xiamen is deeply involved in global ocean governance, fostering "blue partnerships" and strengthening cooperation with relevant countries and regions in areas such as marine resource development and marine ecological restoration.

It has collaborated with ASEAN countries on the seaweed industry and the construction of marine protected area networks. It has also joined forces with BRICS countries to establish a BRICS ocean sustainable development research center.

Additionally, Xiamen

has partnered with multiple countries' marine authorities, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Solomon Islands, as well as the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific, to launch the Blue Citizen Initiative and incorporated it into the deliverables of maritime cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Furthermore, the Secretariat of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments has permanently settled in Xiamen.

Through these efforts, Xiamen aims to contribute Chinese wisdom and solutions to addressing global marine ecological issues, and to provide solutions for the protection and sustainable development of the world's marine environment.

"I find China's ecological civilization approach to be very inspiring," said Thomson, adding that Xiamen, once a participant in international programs, should take the lead in certain areas of marine conservation.

People's Daily



# Kassim warns Kidunda ahead of WBF title bout

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**T**ANZANIA'S pugilist Twaha Kassim has issued a warning to his compatriot, Selemani Kidunda, who will fight South African Asemahle Wellem in the World Boxing Federation (WBF) Intercontinental title bout at Masaki, Dar es Salaam this weekend.

The Super Middleweight bout, scheduled for Friday, will consist of 12 championship rounds, in a day nicknamed 'The War Night'.

Kassim, who lost to Wellem in an international bout in Mwanza last year, cautioned Kidunda to take the South African ace seriously as he has fast punches and is always looking for a knockout punch.

The Morogoro pugilist said that Wellem is a young boxer looking to rise to prominence in the African boxing scene.

He disclosed the South African boxer is energetic, a quality that is sometimes a challenge for opponents, especially the ones as popular as Kidunda.

"He should not take his bout against Wellem lightly, he should fight him from the beginning to the end without allowing Wellem to be in control, especially in the first rounds because it will bring in problems."

Unlike so many aspiring local professional boxers, Wellem has a solid amateur foundation.

Fighting out of Mdantsane, he featured in 210 fights (200 wins) and won five South African titles, plus a silver medal in the Zone Four Championships and an international tournament in Germany.

He, since, improved his record to 7-0 (3 KOs), having barely broken a sweat while doing so.

Kassim went on to say his experience in international bouts is what Kidunda should consider



Tanzania's Super Middleweight pugilist, Selemani Kidunda.

the most.

The boxer disclosed: "Once you look at his track record from his previous bouts is an area where a boxer should consider reviewing his prowess and weakness to try and exploit to his advantage, I have trust in Kidunda although this is a different type of fight for him."

With a few days remaining before the bout takes place, Kidunda said that the preparations he made with many tactical reviews will

give him hope to win the fight, which he expects to be very competitive.

The pugilist noted: "If our strategy is right, the fight should not go 12 rounds but we are preparing ourselves for 12 rounds."

"I want to win the WBF belt in the country, even my fans like to see that and I will make sure I don't let them down by winning with enough points and flying the Tanzanian flag well," Kidunda insisted.

The boxer who has a record

of playing 10 bouts, seven of which were wins by knockout, revealed his victory in the fight will be a warning for other boxers who wish to challenge him.

Apart from the main fight, there are international undercard fights, one of which will see Tanzanian boxer Loren Japhet take on Zambian Hillary Kataya.

Another fight is between boxer Nassib Ramadhani, who will fight with Namibian Emmanuel Naidjala.



Some Dar es Salaam jogging clubs' members are pictured doing physical exercises at Leaders Club venue after featuring in a 5km race which took place yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

## Dar Swimming Club shines in Taliss-IST Championships

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR Swimming Club's swimmers have shown stellar displays in this year's Taliss-IST Championships that climaxed on Sunday at the International School of Tanganyika at Masaki in Dar es Salaam.

The club's head coach, Radhia Shabani, pointed out that the swimmers had shown great potential in the extremely competitive showdown.

"I am satisfied with the standards shown and my players have been able to follow the instructions I gave them," the coach said.

He said some of his swimmers have managed to break records, improve

their Personal Best times, and get bronze medals, gold medals, and trophies.

The swimming outfit's manager, Inviolata Itatiro, said the competition was good and claimed that the swimmers from Nairobi, Kenya challenged the Tanzanian swimmers.

She said they are currently in the process of organizing competitions for children aged five and above next year.

"Next year we want to organize a children's competition, the aim is to give a chance to the youngsters- we ask parents to bring their children so that we can teach them swimming," Inviolata said.

## Barrick Gold Corporation's staff take pride in participation in 2024 Kilimanjaro Marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Barrick North Mara Runners Club, made up of Barrick Gold Corporation mine workers, last weekend battled it out in the 2024 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon in Kilimanjaro.

The club is of late participating in several races in various parts of the country.

The mining firm's staff, who make the outfit, took part in the marathon held at Moshi University College of Co-operative and Business Studies (MUCCoBS) venue, with some of them running long distances.

The firm has a strong policy of supporting its employees' involvement in sports by setting up training facilities such as a gym, swimming pool, football pitch, netball court, and basketball court.

It also provides various equipment and materials for practicing, as well as paying employees to participate in competitions held outside its mines.

The company, moreover, through the Health and Safety division, organizes internal competitions for various to take part in to keep the staff physically and mentally fit.

The company has further been organizing an athletics race, known as Bulyanhulu Healthy Lifestyle Marathon.



Barrick Gold Corporation's staff are pictured celebrating after participating in the 2024 Kilimanjaro International Marathon held in Kilimanjaro last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BARRICK GOLD CORPORATION

## JATA selects 13 judo players for All-Africa Games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Judo Association of Tanzania (JATA) has selected 13 judo players set to represent the country in the coming All-Africa Games slated for next month in Ghana.

Innocent Mallya, JATA secretary-general, said the team is camping at

Filbert Bayi School in Kibaha, Coast Region.

The JATA leader disclosed he is optimistic that the team will do well in the Games.

He mentioned the judo players as Andrew Thomas Mlugu, who is based in France, Thomas Mwenda, Raphael Daudi,

Khamis Hussein Ali, Ibrahim Muhamad Kharnis, Adam Mwakisoma, and Asiatu Juma.

Anangisye Pwele, Abubakar Mcheteko, Nicholas Gregory, Oscarius Ponsian, Rahim Kinyaga and Salmini Bunu complete the squad's list.

The technical staff is made up of

Mallya operating as head coach, team manager Zaidi Hamis, physical training coach Omar Mgole, and team doctor Aziz Kitengo.

Mallya thanked the government for sponsoring the team's camp and trip to Ghana.

The JATA boss noted: "Our national

judo team is in Kibaha preparing for the All-Africa Games slated for next month in Ghana."

"We thank the government for sponsoring the team and we promise all Tanzanians that the team will perform well and bring smiles to them," he said.





## Five-goal Haaland crushes Luton as Man City make FA Cup quarter-finals

LONDON

MANCHESTER City's Erling Haaland scored five times as the FA Cup holders ran riot in a 6-2 rout of Luton in the fifth round on Tuesday.

Aided by Kevin De Bruyne's trio of assists, Haaland completed his treble inside the first 40 minutes at Kenilworth Road.

Jordan Clark struck twice to briefly reduce Luton's deficit to just 3-2.

But any Luton hopes of an incredible comeback were ruthlessly erased by Haaland as the Norway striker scored twice more after the interval to send City into the quarter-finals.

Mateo Kovacic netted to cap City's second six-goal haul this season after their 6-1 thrashing of Bournemouth in the Premier League in November.

Haaland now has 27 goals in all competitions this season, making a mockery of the critics who took a swipe at him after a misfiring display in a recent draw against Chelsea.

It was the second time Haaland had hit five goals in a single game for City after his heroics in the Champions League last 16 second leg win against RB Leipzig in March 2023.

Saluting De Bruyne's role in his demolition of Luton, Haaland said: "Kevin is massive. It's a pleasure playing with him. We know what we both want from each other."

On his own form since returning from a foot injury that sidelined him for two months, Haaland added: "I'm getting back to my best. Finally I'm feeling good."

"It's an amazing feeling. It's coming, we're coming. Exciting times ahead. We are ready to attack."

Guardiola added: "What can I say? Erling is on fire, and Kevin. The connection was perfect. Kevin needs players like Erling and Erling needs players like Kevin."

City have won 14 of their last 15 games in all competitions as they try to emulate last season's Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup treble.

Haaland and De Bruyne are rounding into form in time for Sunday's crucial Premier League showdown against Manchester United at the Etihad Stadium.

City needed just three minutes to take the lead this time as Haaland finished off a flowing move.

Matheus Nunes clipped a clever pass to De Bruyne and he picked out Haaland inside the Luton area, where the City striker fired past Tim Krul with ease.

De Bruyne was the provider again in the 18th minute when Haaland bagged his second goal.

Taking Haaland's lay-off on the halfway line, De Bruyne unfurled a sumptuous pass that sent the Norway star clean through on goal for a typically predatory finish.

Haaland completed his treble in the 40th minute, accelerating onto yet another sublime De Bruyne assist before dinking a deft finish over Krul from 12 yards.

It was Haaland's eighth hat-trick for City and his first away from the Etihad since signing from Borussia Dortmund in 2022.

Clark reduced the deficit five minutes later with a superb long-range curler and scored again in the 52nd minute. But De Bruyne and Haaland proved impossible for Luton to stop.

Kyle Walker's eye-catching pass with the outside of his foot set De Bruyne free in the area and he unselfishly teed up Haaland for a 55th minute tap in.

Haaland got his fifth three minutes later, taking Bernardo Silva's pass and shooting low under Krul's weak attempted save. Kovacic smashed a 20-yard drive past Krul in the 72nd minute to put a bow on City's evening to remember.

Abdul Fatawu's stunning strike gave Championship leaders Leicester a surprise 1-0 win at Premier League side Bournemouth.

Leicester struck in the 105th minute when Fatawu collected Kelechi Iheanacho's pass on the edge of the area and curled into the top corner.

Newcastle survived a scare to beat second tier Blackburn 4-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw at Ewood Park.

Anthony Gordon's 71st minute opener was cancelled by Blackburn's Sammie Szmodics eight minutes later, before Newcastle keeper Martin Dubravka emerged as the shoot-out hero with two saves.

AFP

# MLS quickly realizing: You can't stop Lionel Messi, you can only hope to contain him

By Henry Bushnell

THE Los Angeles Galaxy had two full months to prepare and two decades of film to study. They had a high-profile date with Lionel Messi and, by Sunday night, a masterplan to halt him. They'd try to "condense the field," as Galaxy coach Greg Vanney said. They'd try to "isolate" Messi and Luis Suarez "as much as possible," defender Maya Yoshida added. And for 91 minutes on Major League Soccer's opening weekend, they succeeded.

But in Minute 92, their goalkeeper's scouting report proved prophetic.

"It's Messi. He's good, man," John McCarthy said with an incredulous chuckle.

McCarthy had faced Messi last year with LAFC, so a reporter wondered whether he'd relayed any tips to teammates. McCarthy shook his head, and added: "There's not much you can say."

And there wasn't much he could do when Messi pounced on a minor mistake and drove at Galaxy defenders in stoppage time. There wasn't much any of them could do to protect a 1-0 lead. Their tired legs scrambled and weary brains spun as Messi and Jordi Alba passed and moved into the penalty area.

"When he and Alba connect like that, it's ridiculous," Vanney said. "It's really, really difficult to defend." It erased an otherwise excellent Galaxy performance; Messi's goal earned Miami a 1-1 draw. And it highlighted the Herculean challenge vexing every Messi opponent.

"Unfortunately," Vanney said, "he just slipped away from us for a split second. And that became the difference."

Ever since Messi joined Inter Miami, MLS coaches like Vanney have been scheming. They've dissected Messi's movements; analyzed his tendencies; and dreamt up tactics to contain him. They've stressed the importance of narrowing gaps and closing space. They've armed their players with painstaking detail.

But they've realized, almost invariably, that Messi masterplans are often futile.

"It is almost comical how much we think we can control things as a coaching staff, at times," Houston's Ben Olsen says.

"You are facing one of the most talented players ever in the world, arguably the best – or maybe not so arguably," says Atlanta United head coach Gonzalo Pineda, whose team lost 4-0 to Messi's Miami last July. "He's super talented, so at times, it is really difficult to set a collective strategy on how to stop Messi. Honestly, it's almost, like, impossible. Just because he has so many different ways to unbalance you."

**"Playing in awe of Messi**  
Lionel Andrés Messi has been unbalancing or bamboozling fellow soccer players for most of his life, and by now,



Lionel Messi (on ground) scores the equalizer in injury time during the second half against the Los Angeles Galaxy. Agencies

his greatness is ubiquitous. His greatest hits live in memories and digital archives. His exploits are documented exhaustively, so extensively that every MLS adversary is primed. Every coach's laptop is overflowing with video. Every team is privy to Messi's skills and desires.

But that doesn't mean they're prepared.

"Until you play him the first time, there's nothing that can prepare you for it," Philadelphia Union head coach Jim Curtin says.

In August, Curtin drew up gameplans for a Leagues Cup semifinal against Miami. Together with staff, he outlined a plot to man-mark Sergio Busquets and stay in touch with Messi. But before he could even assess its efficacy, his typically solid team had leaked two goals via mistakes.

"Those first 15 to 20 minutes, all of us – from the coaching side, from the player side – we were in awe of the moment. We were in awe of him," Curtin says. "And by that time, it was 2-0 already. And we were doing things that were uncharacteristic."

Real Salt Lake had a similar experience last week, on 2024 MLS opening night. "It's only natural, right?" RSL coach Pablo Mastroeni said. "We have a relatively young group. You're coming to Miami, you're playing against Messi, and Suarez, and Busquets, and Alba, guys that they probably grew up watching. And so it's only human to have these types of nerves."

Mastroeni tried to preempt them. As matchday neared, he emphasized to his players: "There's a job to do every time the ball moves." They drilled specific shifts and rotations; they also refined their minds. "If the internal monologue is, 'I have a job to do now, I have a job to do now,' then you stay in the present," Mastroeni said two days prior.

But still, when the game kicked off, he sensed the nerves, that "natural reaction to the moment." His team seemed to shrink from it for 45 min-

utes, during which Messi and Robert Taylor combined to put Inter Miami in front, en route to a 2-0 victory.

Once RSL players recovered, and "engage[d] with an intense mindset," as Mastroeni said, they realized that Miami "can make mistakes as well ... that they are human."

"I think it came down to being aggressive in the press," RSL midfielder Diego Luna told reporters. "Once we committed together, they were giving us the ball."

Four days later, the Galaxy adopted a similar approach. They squeezed the field; shadowed Busquets and Messi; and dared Miami to play over the top, in behind their not-too-deep back line. For 91 minutes, they shoved aside nerves and seemed to author a blueprint. "I thought our guys handled [Messi's movement] really, really well," Vanney said. Yoshida thought it was the Galaxy's best defensive effort since he joined the club last summer.

And then, of course, they received a cruel reminder that any Miami gameplan has a potentially fatal flaw: Messi's genius.

### \*Be the protagonist

That, of course, has not stopped coaches from brainstorming. Some – such as Nashville, the only team to shut out Messi and Miami in a meaningful game – have bunkered. Others, such as FC Dallas and Atlanta, have hardly strayed from their aggressive, proactive systems.

"What you try to do is collectively minimize the danger [Messi] can create. I always think having more of the ball than the opponent helps with that," Pineda, Atlanta's coach says. "Because if Messi doesn't have the ball, he cannot hurt you. You're trying to have 70% possession of the ball against him, and then you can deal with the 30%. He maybe scores a goal, but if 70% of the time you have the ball, hopefully you score a few more."

Pineda spoke about "controlling the game," about pinning Miami back, so

that "they don't have Messi with six guys running in front of him, or with a lot of space to counter and dribble you." He spoke about constantly monitoring Messi, with "one or two players always aware," even while their team is in possession and attacking.

It sounded great in theory. Of course, it can spectacularly backfire. But the idea, Pineda said in a preseason Zoom interview, is "to be the protagonist," and "to be who we are."

In Vancouver, Whitecaps manager Vanni Sartini laid out a similar philosophy. "One of my non-negotiables is, we never man-mark," Sartini explained. Some opponents have assigned Messi to a single defensive midfielder. But most haven't, because man-marking Messi requires compromising defensive structure to follow him as he floats all over the field.

And in many cases, doing so would disrupt a team's entire game model.

"We never defend related to the man, it's always pure zonal, it's always the ball," Sartini said. "So, the idea of stopping Messi is actually an idea that – it's nonsense. You cannot stop Messi. But what can you do? You make it, for him, almost impossible to play, because you're so well organized that ... when the ball arrives to him, it arrives to him always in bad positions, so we can limit him. That will be our idea."

Even the best ideas, though, are susceptible to human error and brilliance. Messi is a class, if not a world, above every mortal who tries to stop him. "Everybody sees his quality on the ball," Vanney said Sunday. "For me, it's the brain. It's what he sees on the field, where he recognizes different spaces. He knows where everybody is all the time, and he's already organized with the next series of plays he's looking at – not just the next pass, but the next series of passes. He's already calculated all of that out, and he's already manipulating things on the field."

"Which is hard to coach against, but it's a pleasure to watch."

yahool!sports

## Chelsea boss Pochettino hits back at bottle job jibe

LONDON

MAURICIO Pochettino has hit back at "unfair" and "annoying" criticism of Chelsea after his side were labelled billion-pound bottle jobs.

Chelsea were given the "blue billion-pound bottle jobs" label by former Manchester United defender Gary Neville after Sunday's 1-0 defeat to Liverpool in the League Cup final.

Neville, working as a commentator for Sky Sports, was scathing of Chelsea's lethargic performance in extra-time at Wembley as an inexperienced Liverpool line-up extended the Blues' wait for their first domestic trophy since 2018.

Despite spending over £1 billion (\$1.5 billion) on signings since Todd Boehly's consortium bought Chelsea in 2022,

the west London club have gone backwards over the last two seasons. But Pochettino refused to accept Neville's swipe, telling reporters on Tuesday: "The problem is so annoying when after eight months always people talk about one billion."

"I feel that's a little bit unfair. The new owners arrived with the right intention and they want to build something that is different from the past."

"For me the players have an amazing quality, they only need time. It's not an excuse for me because if I am here or not, it's not dependent on me. I think we are doing an amazing job."

Chelsea are languishing in 11th place in the Premier League and have been booed off by their frustrated fans several times this season.

Boehly has already sacked Thomas Tuchel and Graham Potter during his short reign and Pochettino cannot afford an embarrassing FA Cup fifth round exit at home to second tier Leeds on Wednesday.

But, adamant Chelsea will get it right in time,

Pochettino said: "We cannot see maybe great results. But I think with time we are going to have an amazing team."

"We are young, we are learning. People that work here for many years say they start to feel in a different way how the club is."

"But unfortunately we cannot relate in points. Always this type of process needs time."

Asked if he expects the club's ownership to remain patient, Pochettino replied: "Why not? I am confident until they tell me something."

"I feel the support

from them. When I go up (to receive his runners-up medal at Wembley), I was so upset, nearly crying when I arrived there."

"And then Todd sent a very, very nice text to me, and then I met (co owner) Behdad (Eghbali) and he was really good."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

MLS quickly realizing: You can't stop Lionel Messi, you can only hope to contain him

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## Simba SC rallies fans ahead of do-or-die CAF CL match vs Jwaneng



Simba SC Media and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**S**IMBA SC has urged fans to turn up in large numbers and support the club when it takes on Jwaneng Galaxy in the CAF Champions League Group Stage game on Saturday.

The Tanzanian club will host the Botswana side at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam and the former's Media and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally has reminded the supporters that they play an important role in motivating the team from outside the field.

He urged supporters to show up in large numbers and show support more than ever as they look to secure a ticket in the quarterfinal stage of the CAF Champions League for the fourth time.

Ally revealed: "On Saturday we are going to progress to the quarter-finals for the fifth time in a row. For us qualifying for quarter-finals is a normal thing. We are used to playing in the quarter-finals and we have never

failed to go past the group stage."

"We triumphed over red hot AS Vita, we decimated USGN, we swept away Horoya AC, and we cannot lose to Jwaneng Galaxy."

Ally said: "When Simba SC wants the quarter-finals, there is no stopping us, even if all the other teams in the world unite to form one team against us. Jwaneng Galaxy has picked a bad time, we want to take our revenge."

The official pointed out: "It choked

us for three years, it is now time to spit out the bile against Jwaneng Galaxy, we stayed in pain for three years and second we want to enter the quarter-finals. We cannot be closed by the team that is dragging its tail in our group."

Ally insisted: "We will do everything possible for Simba SC to win on the day and nothing is impossible. Be it on the ground, in the air, or under the sea."

He noted: "For the team to win, it needs all Simba SC supporters, not Mo Dewji, not 'Try Again', not Mangungu but all of us together. If we join forces, Jwaneng Galaxy will not be able to safely leave Dar es Salaam."

Ally maintained: "If you come to the stadium, you are to not only cheer but also send Simba SC to the quarter-finals. I believe that if 'Wana Simba' unite in our cause, there is no one to stop us."

Abdelhak Benchikha's side is positioned second in Group B with six points from five games, having registered a draw with ASEC Mimosas last time out. That draw in Abidjan means Simba SC's fate is in the club's hands.

Victory over Jwaneng Galaxy is enough for Simba SC to book a spot in the last eight regardless of the outcome of Wydad AC's home game against ASEC Mimosas.

The Msimbazi Street squad can also qualify with either a draw or a loss if Wydad AC fails to beat ASEC Mimosas.

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**SALAMA NA**  
Meet Salama with her renown friends who share their relatable stories on her one on one interviews to inspire fellow Tanzanians

**11:00 DADAZ**  
**12:00 KIPENGA XTRA**  
**13:00 Mpera Mpera**  
**13:30 Kali Za Wana**  
**14:00 Kilimo Plus**  
**14:30 Ujenzi (r)**  
**15:00 Funguka**  
**15:30 Dondoo Za Michezo**  
**15:30 Obongo Kids**  
**15:58 Dokezo Za Michezo**  
**16:00 Zote Kuntu**  
**16:15 Dondoo Za Michezo**  
**16:17 Zote Kuntu**  
**16:45 Dondoo Za Michezo**  
**16:47 Zote Kuntu**  
**17:00 SSELEKT**  
**17:55 Kurasa**  
**18:30 Kali za Wana**  
**18:15 Dondoo Za Michezo**  
**18:17 Kali Za Wana**  
**18:30 Bongo Hits**

**18:58 Dokezo Alya**  
**19:00 EATV SAA 1**  
**20:00 DADAZ (r)**  
**20:58 Dokezo Mambo Ya Pesa**  
**21:00 SALAMA NA**  
**21:30 Zote Kuntu**  
**21:45 Dondoo za Michezo**  
**21:47 Zote Kuntu**  
**22:00 Bongo Hits**  
**22:15 Dondoo Za Michezo**  
**22:17 Bongo Hits**  
**22:45 Dondoo Za Michezo**  
**22:47 Bongo Hits**  
**23:00 Kurasa**  
**23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)**

**eastafrica 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 DAR ES SALAAM**

## Katwila urges Mtibwa Sugar to keep calm in relegation battle

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MTIBWA Sugar head coach Zubeir Katwila has called on the club to stay calm as it battles to get out of trouble at the foot of the 2023/24 NBC Premier League.

The Morogoro-based Mtibwa Sugar was held to a goalless home draw by Dodoma Jiji FC on Tuesday. The results put the sugarcane millers in danger of getting relegated to the Championship League.

After ending 2023 with a rare win against fellow strugglers Mashujaa FC, Mtibwa Sugar has started the new year with back-to-back defeats.

The squad endured defeats to Coastal Union and Ifehu SC, and Tuesday's stalemate stretched the squad's winless run to three league games.

With only two wins and eight points, rock-bottom Mtibwa Sugar is now 10 points from the safety of 12th position with 13 games to play.

Katwila admitted they are in a difficult time and called for calm heads as the pressure steps up in the relegation battle.

The gaffer disclosed: "What remains is to look at the tactical and calmness of how we can use these opportunities that we create. We are having a hard time, the situation is not good but we need to stay calm."

"If you play like this, you are expected to get results, so we should not be discouraged. We need to keep calm in other games and play like this because we are determined to get positive results," Katwila noted.

Two teams will be relegated automatically at the end of the season. Second from bottom Mashujaa FC boosted its survival hopes with victory over Geita Gold FC on Sunday.

The Kigoma-based outfit is now three points ahead of Mtibwa Sugar and also within touching distance of other relegation battle candidates.

Safety remains a mathematical possibility for Mtibwa Sugar with more than a dozen games to play.

With several teams positioned down at the foot of the table meeting over the next coming rounds, Katwila and his charges know how quickly the picture could change.

Mtibwa Sugar is slated to come up against Singida Fountain Gate FC in Mwanza and Tanzania Prisons will be at home next week, fixtures that could either ease or heighten their relegation fears.

## Yanga players set to face Al Ahly with right mindset

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**I**N the aftermath of Yanga's progression to the 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinal phase with a game in hand, the outfit's players have put much focus on the coming game to ensure their club tops Group D.

Yanga, scheduled to lock horns with Al Ahly tomorrow, will have a tough task against the CAF Champions League defending champions at Cairo International Stadium.

The duel will determine which club faces one of the second-placed teams from other groups.

Speaking ahead of the game, Yanga's versatile midfielder Pacome Zouzoua pointed out they will approach the game with caution to secure the group's top spot as they are not resting on their laurels following their 4-0 win against CR Belouizdad.

Yanga boasts the best scoring record in the group having secured nine goals, while Al Ahly garnered five goals, although in terms of best defensive record Al Ahly has conceded only one goal while Yanga has allowed five goals.

Zouzoua disclosed: "We are focused on finishing first in our group, we are not overconfident due to our previous game, we understand this is a different type of game and we need to put our head high to achieve our goal."

"Al Ahly are very good, especially at home, we have to be United on the field of play and play for each other if we want to win all three points," the midfielder noted.

"We are tactically getting players on the field. Players understand the coach very much and this is pleasing for us in playing these tough fixtures," Zouzoua stressed.



Tanzania's Yanga players jubilate when the outfit garnered a goal in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group D game against Algeria's CR Belouizdad that took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Yanga clobbered CR Belouizdad 4-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

The Ivorian midfielder has become popular among Yanga fans with the amount of impact he has made since he arrived at the club.

Zouzoua scored the equalizer when the two sides met last time in a first-leg duel, which ended in a 1-1 draw, at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last year.

Yanga assistant skipper Dickson Job called for much energy and emphasis to be made among the squad on Friday's match because they need to finish first and write history for the club.

The defender noted: "Al Ahly wants to finish first and we want the same, we need to approach this game with so much energy to force errors on Al Ahly to our advantage as well as taking precautions on our side to avoid conceding early goals that will distort our game plan."

"We understand the discipline we need to embrace in 90 minutes without committing any fouls that will cause problems to us," the player pointed out.

"Al Ahly- like any other North Africa

club- is deadly in set pieces and we are ready to repel them," Job stated.

Yanga is placed second in Group D- the club ought to finish first to avoid the likes of Mamelodi Sundowns, Esperance de Tunis, and Petro De Luanda in the quarterfinals- given they are the teams that have topped their respective groups in the CAF Champions League.

Al Ahly boasts nine points, Yanga collected eight, CR Belouizdad posted five points whereas Medeama SC is sitting at the bottom with four points.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

