



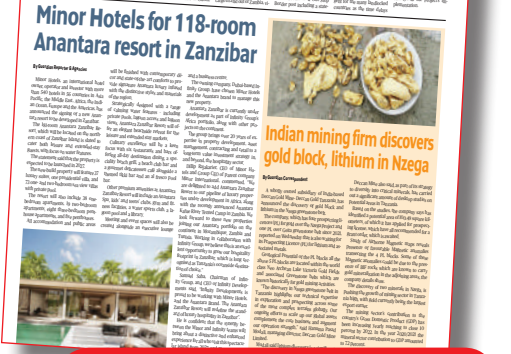
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EXPERTS DISCUSS DIGITAL INNOVATION AT ITU PAGE6



Minor Hotels for 118-room Anantara resort in Zanzibar

VP: I will resign if Mwanga-Korogwe water project will be further delayed

“The project is expected to produce 103,650 million litres of water per day and we believe that it will reach its level to meet people’s needs by 2038”

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanga

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has hinted at resigning if the Mwanga-Korogwe water supply project benefiting nearly half a million people is not completed in the next three months.

Visiting the project at Kiria village in Mwanga District, Kilimanjaro Region, he said that if the project is not completed in that time, “it will be difficult for me to look at these people. I will resign, but I don’t know what will happen to the leaders below me like the Minister

for Water, and others.”

The project costing \$300m is financed by the government in collaboration with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in particular, launched in 2014 and scheduled to be completed in 2017.

Officials said it has faced a number of challenges, leaving thousands of residents in the zone with no hope of a reliable water supply, with the VP saying that it wasn’t good looking at people who were promised to get reliable, clean and safe water 19 years ago.

Top officials at the Ministry of Water need

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Water ministry permanent secretary Mwajuma Waziri (with microphone) briefs Vice President Dr Philip Mpango on progress in the ongoing implementation of the Same-Mwanga-Korogwe water project when he toured the source of the project - Nyumba ya Mungu Dam in Mwanga District yesterday. Photo: VPO

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Tanzania clashes with Bulgaria in FIFA Series 2024

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Sepp Blatter interview: ‘I don’t want anything special – just a thank you’

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Kopunovic's exit looms as Tabora United grapples with NBC PL challenges

PM: Law officers must uphold professionalism, avoid politics

The government was employing legal service providers such as judges and magistrates, while also fostering the use of paralegals in lower levels of administration and mediation

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

STATE attorneys and law officers must uphold credible standards of professionalism, promoting justice and fostering excellence in the legal community, the government has appealed.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa made

this demand when officiating at the Tanzania Public Bars Association (TPBA) annual general meeting here yesterday, urging them to avoid working politically as they have a moral and legal obligation to serve all Tanzanians equally.

As legal practitioners within the public service they should connect, collaborate

and thrive while upholding integrity and professionalism at all levels in the course of legal service delivery, he said.

The theme of the meeting, ‘availability of legal service to the people is a strong pillar in the society’ is in line with Section 13(1) of the 1977 constitution and Section 12(1) of the Zanzibar constitution (1984), he stated.

The two mother laws state that all people are equal in the eyes of the law and have the right to live without discrimination, be protected and treated equally, for which the law officials need to work to expand legal awareness among the peo-

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‘Settle all EAC partner states trade bills in local currencies’

By Guardian Reporter

PARTNER states in the East African Community (EAC) zone need to settle payments in intra-EAC trade in local currencies to mitigate the depreciation of the shilling to dollar, a regional executive

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A tour guide (R, in light blue T-shirt) briefs foreign tourists on the world-acclaimed traditionally designed, carved and decorated Zanzibar doors at Mchamba Wima in Zanzibar West Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

Buzwagi SEZ set to refine rare metals, mineral sands

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

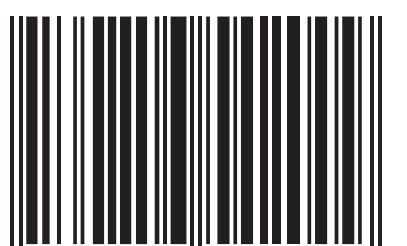
MINERALS minister Anthony Mavunde yesterday handed Lifezone Metals and Tembo Nickel Co. licences to refine a number of rare metals while Nyati Mineral Sands Ltd was licenced for refining heavy mineral sands.

He said at the handing over ceremony here yesterday that the government as a shareholder in both companies expects increased revenue generation and sector growth with the licences.

The project entails substantial employment opportunities and benefit in terms of local content supply of goods and services, he said, noting that special mining licences issued now exceed 20, with seven licences meant for industrial refinery projects.

The mineral sands firm where the government has a 16 percent share will be operating at Pangani in Tanga Region, holding 268m tonnes of proven resources with a mining lifeline of 23

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VP: I will resign if Mwanga-Korogwe water project will be further delayed

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to ensure that they put enough time to address any challenges thwarting implementation of the project in order to address the long-term cry of the people, he said.

"Regional and district leaders also have a big role to ensure that they supervise for timely completion of the project, arrange enough tours here to closely supervise its implementation," he elaborated.

The VP asked Permanent Secretary Mwajuma Waziri to recall what President Samia Suluhu Hassan directed to the ministry, to ensure that the June 2024 deadline for completion of the project is met.

Water should be available in Same and Mwanga districts plus Korogwe District in Tanga Region, he speci-

fied, hinting that top officials can even set up a camp at the site and closely monitor its implementation. The permanent secretary had earlier said the project has reached 85.7 percent to completion and it will be over in June as scheduled.

"The project is expected to produce 103,650 million litres of water per day and we believe that it will reach its level to meet people's needs by 2038," she said.

Part of the project is being funded by government, also raising loans from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), she stated.

'Settle all EAC partner states trade bills in local currencies'

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has appealed.

John-Bosco Kalisa, the East African Business Council (EABC) executive director, made this declaration at the CEOs roundtable meeting on East African integration and economic outlook for 2024 in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

It was organized in partnership with the Switzerland-Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) and RSM Eastern Africa, the regional link for a network of assurance, tax and consulting experts with offices all over the world.

In the EABC-RSM assessment, inflation in Tanzania is projected to moderately remain within 4.0 per cent during the year, even with pressures from global commodity prices and domestic demand.

Tanzania's real GDP growth is expected to reach 6.3 per cent during 2024, fuelled by the rebound in tourism and pursuit of investments in public infrastructure, it stated.

East African countries mostly exceeded 5.0 percent growth levels during 2023, underscoring strong performance and diversified economies, while showing a low share of savings and tax to GDP which leads to budget deficit and higher borrowing, it cautioned.

A curious submission was that the agricultural sector boosted Tanzania's GDP growth by 14.2 per cent, with the manufacturing sector contributing 7.3 percent to GDP growth. The financial and insurance sector grew by 14.7 per cent in the third quarter of 2023, it said, while online data indicates that overall agrosector growth stood at 4.1 percent in the third quarter of 2021, on the basis of a datum dated 30th January 2024mand may have crossed 50 percent with massive budgetary outlays to the sector in subsequent years.

The report emphasised that Tanzania should upgrade its agricultural economy to value-based processing, citing a global shortage of dollars causing depreciation of local currencies and curtailing import ability.

John Ulanga, the director of international trade at the Foreign Affairs ministry, noted that the EAC industrialisation strategy, transport inter-connectivity and trade facilitation are crucial elements to boosting intra-EAC and Africa-wide trade growth.

Paul Makanza, an EABC board member, stated that EAC economies will grow at 5.48 per cent on average for 2024, a significant increase from 4.9 percent in 2023 on the basis of data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF 2023). EAC inflation is projected to drop from 12.5 per cent on average in 2023 to 7.9 per cent in 2024, indicating a positive outlook for price stability, he said.

Amne Suedi, chairperson of Switzerland-Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, said that EAC countries

should leverage competitiveness as an EAC bloc in global value chains, stressing the need for harmonization of policies and infrastructure development.

The prosperity of East Africans through trade requires systematic elimination of non-tariff barriers, access to finance, and venture capital to scale businesses in the EAC bloc, she said in a panel session moderated by Zephaniah Shaidi, the EABC membership manager.

The panel session shared insights on the economic trajectory of the region, the continent and beyond, with Godfrey Mondri, a TPSF programme specialist, explaining the need to improve port efficiency for competitiveness.

There is also a need to use the Pan African payment settlement system to boost intra-African trade, while Jenipher Bashugwa, managing director for Alaska (T) Group, called for the commercialisation of agriculture, reduction of regulatory costs of compliance for SMEs, and the simplification of trade procedures.

EABC goodwill ambassador Mercy Sila focused on the importance of support to formalize the informal sector and upgrading agro-sector business ventures, at the roundtable that attracted 50 top business leaders.

They discussed the ratification of the EAC treaty on double taxation, enhancing business ties with newer EAC partner states especially Somalia, touching on the need for reduction of electricity and internet costs.

Other spheres examined are infrastructure development, strengthening of public-private sector dialogue, skills development, along with enhancing policy predictability to attract investments.

They similarly demanded harmonised laws, reducing restrictions to trade in services in the EAC Common Market scorecard, digitalising business processes and taxation plus strengthening regional agro-value chain and trade.

Joint EAC power projects were emphasised along with interconnected standard gauge railways to enhance competitiveness of the EAC bloc.



Tanzania's real GDP growth is expected to reach 6.3 per cent during 2024, fuelled by the rebound in tourism and pursuit of investments in public infrastructure



Mining Commission executive secretary Yahya Samamba (L) pictured in Dodoma city yesterday presenting a 20-year licence to Barrick Gold Corp. Country manager Melkiory Ngido, effectively extending the operations of Barrick Bulyanhulu mine located in Shinyanga Region for the stated period. Second left is Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde and second right is Shinyanga regional commissioner Anamringi Macha. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PM: Law officers must uphold professionalism, avoid politics

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ple, he stated.

"The government and other stakeholders in the legal sector have the responsibility to ensure that Tanzanians get legal services at any place countrywide," he further noted, asserting that the society is experiencing developments in various spheres, touching off demand for legal services.

Many people have low understanding of legal matters and can't

afford the cost of legal services, thus the need to expand legal services to the breadth of the population, he said.

This has been occasioned by reforms touching most sectors, thus the need to ensure availability of legal service even in villages, in pursuance of the Legal Aid Act, [Cap. 21] of 2017 to widen legal service provision.

The government has worked on an increased number of legal ser-

vice providers who are state attorneys and law officers and private legal service providers.

The government was employing legal service providers such as judges and magistrates, while also fostering the use of paralegals in lower levels of administration and mediation, he said.

Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Pindi Chana said that legal service providers' contributions were sparse, urging that they

work in accordance with the law and help the government reach those who cannot obtain legal service in a commercial setting.

She cited the 'Samia legal aid campaign' as having helped many people access legal services, while Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma hailed public legal service providers for the good work they are doing. Through this organization a lot of objectives were being realised, he added.



National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mussa Hassan Zungu (L) exchanges greetings with Russia's Ambassador to Tanzania, Andrey Avetisyan, who paid a visit to the legislative body's offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Buzwagi SEZ set to refine rare metals, mineral sands

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years, he said.

Heavy mineral sands will produce zircon, leucosene, rutile, garnet monazite and ilmenite used in the manufacturing of medical equipment, aircraft engines, laptops, crucibles and mobile phones, highly in demand in the United States, China, Japan, India, South Africa and other countries, he said.

Tembo Nickel Refining Ltd, a subsidiary Tembo Nickel Corporation, expects to invest nearly \$500m in

the joint venture, set to apply hydro-metallurgy instead of smelting.

Building a multi metal refinery provides a solution to miners who had to export ore concentrate for processing at a low price, he said, urging optimal utilisation of the refinery when it is operational.

The government wishes to see more investors taking up potential mineral resources available in the country, also pursuing socio-economic profits attached to such activities.

Chris Showalter, Lifezone Met-

als chief executive officer, said the licence marked significant achievement for the strategic Kabanga Nickel project, as the firm sets the stage for a comprehensive mining to refined metal hub within the newly established Buzwagi Special Economic Zone.

Lifezone Metals, which holds Tembo Nickel's shares, said that setting up SEZ I benefited from the co-operation and effort of the Barrick Gold Co. management.

"The plants will maximize the value of nickel, copper and cobalt,

with Tanzanian hands shaping Tanzania's future; he said, noting Lifezone's contribution to innovative Hydromet refining expertise.

It will position Buzwagi as a center of excellence in extraction of strategic metals, processing resources from across Tanzania and beyond.

In the joint venture, a total of \$127.7m will be invested, with profit envisaged after four years, enabling the government to generate an estimated \$437.96m from shares, taxes, fees and other proceeds, the minister affirmed.



Zanzibar's Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister, Riziki Pembe Juma (C), deputy minister Mwanaidi Ali Khamis (L) and Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania board chairperson Dr Ellen Otaru Okoedion attend a UN Women meeting in New York yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Stakeholders question readiness in teaching of new combinations

By Guardian Reporters

EDUCATION stakeholders have described the government's move to increase the number of combinations to be taught in advanced secondary school from 16 to 65 as well intended but questioned readiness to effectively implement it, especially availability of teachers and books for the new subjects.

In different interviews yesterday, some who spoke said that it was important for the government to engage education stakeholders when deciding to add more combinations instead of doing so unilaterally.

Richard Mabala, a renowned Tanzanian author said teaching and learning becomes successful by having enough teachers and books which cater to the needs of combinations.

"Do we have enough teachers and books for these new combinations? It is important to urgently hire private authors to support this in order to produce enough teaching and learning materials," he said.

Mabala said the government should have engaged stakeholders when planning this because the

impact of this move can be huge in the coming years.

According to him, there are some combinations which involve foreign languages such as Chinese and Arabic which also need enough and competent teachers along with materials in order to meet the set goals.

Suzan Lyimo, a retired teacher, said efforts made by the government to improve the education sector were good and that the new combinations offer pupils the opportunity to specialize in areas that are in line with the current job market and future trends. "Adding the combinations from 16 to 65 is good because the country is struggling with unemployment crisis. The new system will enable pupils to acquire knowledge and skills that will enable them to get employed or establish their own income generating projects," she said.

She however raised concern on the availability of teachers and books to facilitate teaching and learning of the new combinations.

The new combinations which will commence in July 2024 are grouped into seven categories

based on subject areas as Social Sciences whose subjects are History, Geography and Economics.

Other categories are Languages (Kiswahili, English, French, Arabic, Chinese); Business and Mathematics (Economics, Business Studies, Accountancy and Computer Science); Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, Agriculture, Food and Human Nutrition).

There are also Sports as well as Arts under which there are Theatre Arts, Music and Fine Arts as subjects while in Religious Studies category there are two subjects namely Islamic Knowledge and Divinity.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, Mohamed Mchengerwa, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) said that this was part of implementation of changes in Education Training Policy of 2024.

According to him, the initiative is part of the government's commitment to enhancing the quality of education and ensuring that pupils are well-prepared for the challenges of the future.

over 5700 community health workers and others, including in Tanzania, in an oral health online course, launched in 2023.

To further improve the country's oral health outlook, the government is working on procuring and installing necessary dental equipment and other relevant medical items and making essential dental medicines broadly available, without incurring financial hardship.

"Historically, oral health was a neglected area, but since 2022 the government has prioritized the improvement of oral health services, by procuring equipment, items and supplies, and recruiting a number of oral health practitioners to all levels of care," said Dr Omari Sukari, Regional Medical Officer for Geita Region.

Govt improves oral health services to tackle tooth decay

ORAL health services in the country have improved significantly compared to a few years before as government moves to tackle tooth decay, it has been observed.

One evening after work, 31-year-old Calvin Andrea went to the nearby Tumbi clinic in Kibaha District, Coast Region, as he could not endure the severe tooth ache he was suffering.

Andrea was surprised to consult with an oral health professional as he had in the past struggled to access these services. "After the swift response from the doctors, I am much better and happy and I have been relieved of the extreme pain," he said in an interview recently.

He was fortunate to visit one of the

primary care facilities in the country that currently offers oral health services. Only about 7 percent of primary care facilities in Tanzania provide oral health services. These include 184 district hospitals, 355 health centres and 10 dispensaries.

Many countries in the African region have limited oral health workforce. For instance, there are only 3.3 dentists for every 100 000 people (2014-2019), around one-tenth of the global ratio. In Tanzania, there are only 23 percent of the 191 dental specialists required and 39 percent of the required 979 dental surgeons, for example.

To improve oral health services, Tanzania is making a major,

multifaceted push focusing on service delivery at the primary care level. At the heart of this initiative is the Universal Health Insurance Bill, which was signed into law at the end of 2023. The legislation protects the right to health services for all Tanzanians, regardless of their ability to pay, and includes oral health services.

According to Dr Nzobo Baraka, Chief Dental Officer and Assistant Director, Oral Health Services, in the Ministry of Health, with the advent of the bill, the country aims to expand oral health services to at least 20 percent of primary care facilities by 2030.

"This includes oral health

promotion, oral disease prevention and control," he says. "The bill is a milestone for oral health in Tanzania and is expected to improve the health and well-being of millions of people who suffer from oral diseases. It aligns with WHO's vision of achieving universal health coverage for all and leaving no one behind," he said.

According to Tanzania's most recent national oral health survey in 2020, half of all Tanzanian adults, and four out of every five children, have never visited a dentist, with more than three-quarters of all adults and 31 percent of children suffering tooth decay.

Andrea is one of the beneficiaries

of the initiative to offer oral health to people who could not otherwise afford these services. "Thanks to my national health insurance, I received immediate assistance from an oral health professional," says Andrea. He also avoided long queues and waiting times that he had previously experienced and is happy to have access to a primary care facility "24/7", he said.

The country has trained and deployed dental therapists to health centres to enable access to oral health services at primary care level and reintroduced advanced diploma courses in clinical dentistry. In the African region, World Health Organization (WHO) has enrolled

Big Announcement

Coming Soon



Write stories that cheer participation of women in polls, journos asked

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) has called on journalists to write success stories that encourage women to participate in the coming elections.

Lilian Liundi, TGNP executive director, made the remark in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening community media training for 57 journalists from the mainstream, blogs and online TV from Lindi, Mtwara and Coast regions.

She said the training was organized by TGNP in collaboration with UN Women Tanzania through its project dubbed Strengthening Women's and Girl's Meaningful Participation, Leadership and Economic Rights (WLER).

The project is implemented in 18 districts in six regions namely Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Coast, Lindi, Mtwara and Singida.

Liundi said that one of the challenges hindering women participation in politics is lack

of political will and friendly environment as well as gender harassment.

She said the media have a great contribution to change people's minds, norms and customs by increasing community awareness.

"The aim of the training is to build their capacities on gender responsive reporting to encourage more women to participate in coming elections," she said.

Lindi said that despite the success achieved in the number of women participating in politics, the number is still low, adding that concerted efforts are needed.

She said currently, there are 24 elected female members of Parliament which is 9.1 percent of all 264 MPs while for Special Seats, the number is 113 which is equivalent to 29 percent.

Liundi said further that the total number of female MPs is 141 which is equivalent to 37 percent of the total number of 393 of all MPs.

"This number is still low

compared to the target of reaching 50/50 ratio. Awareness to society, especially women, is vital for them to know their economic and political rights," she said.

For ward councillors, statistics show that female elected councillors are 204 which is equivalent to 3.8 percent of all ward councillors

Also, she said that special seats councillors are 1,407 equivalents to 26.2 percent while the number of female councillors is 1,611 equivalents to 30 percent out of the total number of all councillors in the country which is 5,353.

She added that deputy ministers are 22, permanent secretaries 18 and judges 39 to mention but few.

"Negative attitudes and mindset are hindrance factors. Therefore, we need people to change their behaviours and notions," she said.

Tanzania is scheduled to hold its local government election later this year and its General Election next year.



Prof Kitila Mkumbo (2nd-R, foreground), Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment) witnesses the presentation of a dummy cheque for 800m/- to Bunda Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Bunda-WSSA) for being among the agencies to have met the criteria for concessional loans provided under collaboration between TIB Development Bank and the National Water Fund (NWF). The others are TIB Director of Fund Mobilisation Oswald Kwaka (R), NWF chief executive officer Haji Nandule (3rd-R), Bunda-WSSA managing director Esther Gilyoma (L), Bunda-WSSA public relations officer William Kusaga (2nd-L), and Bunda-WSSA customer service manager Moyo Faya (3rd-L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PUBLIC Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has opened new offices in five zones in efforts aimed at bringing its services closer to people.

Eliakim Maswi, PPRA director general made the remarks yesterday here during a meeting with the authority's staff which was also attended by leaders of Tanzania Union of Government and Health Employees (TUGHE).

He said the offices have been opened in Mwanza, Arusha, Tabora, Mbeya and Mtwara regions.

According to him, this brings the number of the authority's zonal offices to six whereas the other one is the Coast zone office located in

PPRA opens five zonal offices to expedite access to services

Dar es Salaam.

"From now on, Tanzanians will no longer be forced to travel to Dodoma to seek our services. We thank the government for capacitating the authority to bring services closer to the people," he said.

Maswi said that every zone has enough workers in all departments to ensure that services provided meet Tanzanians' and stakeholders' expectations.

He said the major focus of the authority is utilisation of the National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST), an electronic

system designed to facilitate various aspects of procurement, including e-registration, e-tendering, e-contract management, e-catalogue and e-auction within the government.

In addition, he urged the authority's employees to continue to work hard and with patriotism in order to achieve the government's goals of ensuring value for money in public procurement.

Maulid Kipenuka, TUGHE chair in Dodoma Region asked PPRA workers to increase efficiency in the provision of services.

New cases of Lassa fever reported across Nigeria

LAGOS

THE Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) has reported fresh cases of Lassa fever, along with 20 deaths spanning 16 states over the course of one week, from February 26 to March 3.

During the ninth week of 2024, the NCDC observed a rise in confirmed cases, with 96 cases recorded in the previous week.

Lassa fever is a severe viral disease transmitted to humans via contact with contaminated food or objects, usually from infected rodents or individuals. Symptoms range from fever, headache and sore throat to more severe

manifestations like bleeding from different body parts.

Despite extensive efforts, Nigeria continues to grapple with new cases and deaths, indicating the ongoing threat posed by Lassa fever. The country recorded a total of 109 cases within one week.

From weeks one to nine, Nigeria documented 682 confirmed cases and 128 deaths, with a case fatality rate of 18.8 percent, exceeding the rate recorded for the same period in 2023.

The outbreak has affected multiple states, including Ondo, Bauchi, Edo, Benue, Ebonyi, Kogi, Kaduna, Taraba, Enugu, Delta, Jigawa, Adamawa, Anambra,

Rivers, Ogun, and Oyo.

The report highlighted that 62 percent of confirmed cases originated from Ondo, Edo, and Bauchi, with the remaining 38 percent spread across 24 states.

Most affected individuals fall within the age group of 31 to 40 years, with a slightly higher incidence among males compared to females.

In response to the outbreak, the National Lassa Fever multi-partner, multi-sectoral incident management system has been activated to coordinate a comprehensive response at all levels through the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).



ZANZIBAR FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION



IN THE MATTER OF THE MERGER NOTIFICATION IN RELATION TO THE ACQUISITION OF 100% SHARES OF RELIANCE RESORT AND SPA LIMITED (TARGET FIRM),

BY

GERMANIA HOLDINGS LTD AND PREMIER TOURISM INVESTMENT FZE (ACQUIRING FIRM) PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE ZANZIBAR FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION

(Made under Section 5(1), 49 and 50 of the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018 and Regulation 48 of the Fair Competition Regulation 2019)

The Zanzibar Fair Competition Commission (ZFCC) is an independent government institution established under the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act, No.5 of 2018 to promote and protect fair and effective Competition in trade and to protect consumers from misleading market conduct.

The same Act gives a mandate to the ZFCC to review, investigate and prohibit any proposed Merger and Acquisition which is contrary to the requirement of sections 49 and 50 of the Zanzibar Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018 and regulation 32 of the Fair Competitions Regulations 2019.

Pursuant to Section 50 of the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No.5 of 2018 read together with Regulation 32 of the Fair Competition Regulation 2018, ZFCC has received merger notifications to the effect that Germania Holdings Ltd and Premier Tourism Investment FZE (Acquiring firms) intends to acquire 100% shares of Reliance Resort and Spa Limited (Target Firm).

Germania Holdings Ltd (as an Applicant) is a Limited company with registration number 159506 under the seal of the Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Premier Tourism Investment FZE (as an Applicant): is incorporated under the free zone laws in Emirate Fujairah, Fujairah. with registration number S.No.1714. United Arab Emirates.

Reliance Resort & Spa Limited (Target Firm) is a company incorporated under the laws of Zanzibar with a certificate of incorporation number Z000054295. The registered office of the body corporate at Michamvi, South Region-Unguja. P.O. Box 1627.Zanzibar.

The Acquiring Firm and Target Firm are collectively referred to as the "Merging Parties" Based on the Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) entered between Germania Holdings Ltd and Premier Tourism Investment FZE and Reliance Resort and Spa Limited on 2nd October 2023, The Acquiring Firm intends to acquire 100% shares of the Target.

ZFCC is currently investigating the intended acquisitions in line with the provisions of the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018 and the Fair Competition Regulations, 2019. Pursuant to Regulation 48 of the Fair Competition Regulation 2019, parties (both legal and natural) who deem themselves as having sufficient interest in this merger, or, if the merger is not objected to, they will have or are likely to have material effect on their interests, are hereby, NOTIFIED to Director General their interests and or objections (if any) or file any information that will assist the ZFCC in reaching just and reasonable decisions with regard to Acquiring Firm's notification of the intended merger.

All such parties shall file and register such interest(s) or information by way of written submissions to the ZFCC within Fourteen (14) days, starting from the first day of publication of this public notice. Submissions filed after the said deadline shall not be accepted.

Registration of the said interests, objections or information should be accompanied by a duly filled Form ZFCC No. 10 of the Fair Competition Commission Regulations, 2019. Failure to fill in Form ZFCC. No 10 will deny a party the right to make any oral submissions before the Commission and the presence of that party in the proceedings will be as an observer only.

Parties should take note that pursuant to Regulation 10 (4) of the Fair Competition Regulation, 2019 as applied to this Public Notice, ZFCC shall not entertain a subject of the petition where: (a) it does not fall under Act or Regulation (b) it has no material effect on competition; and (c) the same in whole or in part is before any court, tribunal, arbitration, judicial or quasi-judicial body or was previously determined by any court, tribunal, arbitration, judicial or quasi-judicial body.

Form (ZFCC NO 10) can be collected at ZFCC office.

Submissions must be submitted to the ZFCC at the address below.

DIRECTOR GENERAL,

The Zanzibar Fair Competition Commission,

Darajani,

P.O. Box 1066,

Telephone No: 0242232013,

Email : info@zfcc.go.tz,

Zanzibar.

MOHAMMED SIJAMINI MOHAMMED,
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How Three Years of President Samia have Positively Impacted Tanzania's Banking Sector

By Abdulmajid Nsekela,
Group CEO & MD CRDB Bank PLC



The well-known adage 'Give credit where it's due' finds resonance in my beautiful country with the famous phrase 'Mpeni maua yake,' underscoring our cultural tradition of acknowledging individuals for their contributions while they are still present.

While this phrase may not typically find its way into boardroom discussions, I find it fitting to use it now as a gesture of gratitude towards President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her exceptional leadership throughout the past three years of her administration.

When President Samia assumed office on March 19th, 2021, Tanzania, like the rest of the world, was grappling with the challenges of the global pandemic, COVID-19. The banking sector, along with numerous other

facets of the economy, bore the brunt of this crisis. From the tourism industry to manufacturing, trade, and the small businesses that constitute the clientele of banks, all experienced severe setbacks.

As strategists and economists were working hard to find solutions to rescue economies, President Samia adopted a number of key measures to curb the challenges brought out by the COVID-19 outbreak that have had an impact on all sectors, including tourism and MSME, which are the most important industries for our economic growth and employment.

On October 10th, 2021, the government launched an Economic Recovery Plan and Response to COVID-19 worth TZS 3.62 trillion. Complemented with fiscal and monetary measures implemented by the Bank of

Tanzania (BoT), the bold move bore fruit, benefiting our economy. In line with the president's vision, liquidity and performance within the banking sector have significantly improved.

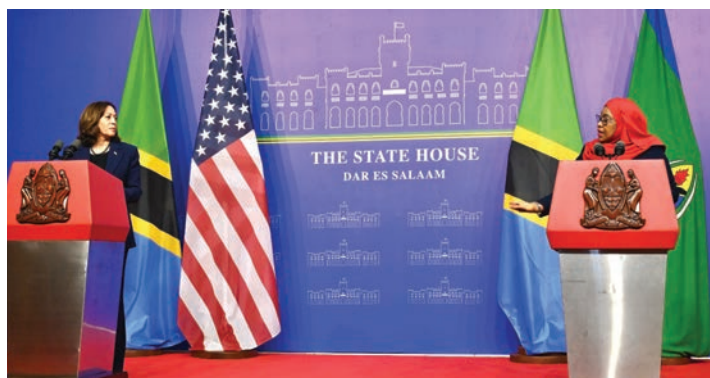
To speed recovery for most COVID-19-challenged key sectors, the government, through the BoT, introduced a Sh1 trillion special loan fund to facilitate access to low-interest finances for banks to lend to the private sector. CRDB Bank, in particular, led the charge by reducing interest rates to a single digit, charging 9%, hence setting a precedent in the banking sector.



President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan, speaking to various leaders and citizens of Dar es Salaam Region during the launch of the Tanzania The Royal Tour film held at the Julius Nyerere Convention Center in Dar es Salaam on May 8th, 2022.

CRDB Bank's loan provision to the agriculture sector has grown from Sh647.229 billion in 2021 to Sh1.347 trillion in 2023. This has not only benefited more farmers but has also facilitated the improvement of the basic infrastructure, leading to increased farm produce and making Tanzania a food-secure country.

President Samia's proactive stance on economic diplomacy have not only enabled institutions like CRDB Bank to expand into neighboring countries like Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) but have also fostered collaborations in the financial sector, attracting additional funds to fuel economic growth.



President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan, speaking to various leaders and citizens of Dar es Salaam Region during the launch of the Tanzania The Royal Tour film held at the Julius Nyerere Convention Center in Dar es Salaam on May 8th, 2022.

As clients repay the loans, operational efficiency has been enhanced. As such, the cost-to-income ratio, which stood at 61.6 percent in 2020, went down to 49.5 percent in 2023.

Meanwhile, while our bank held Sh5.4 trillion in customers' deposits in 2020, the amount has since gone up by an incredible 64 percent to close at Sh8.859 trillion in 2023. The good thing is that, apart from assuring clients of a steady flow of loans to fuel their businesses, the superb performance also translates into tangible outcomes for shareholders.

In the past three years, the sector's profit has seen a massive leap. CRDB Bank's net profit has surged by 58.2 percent to Sh424 billion in 2023 from Sh268 billion recorded in 2021.

The current administration has undoubtedly played a pivotal role in catalyzing this growth trajectory, paving the way for transformative change and improved livelihoods across Tanzania.

The remarkable performance of banks has enabled them to contribute significantly to the completion of strategic infrastructure projects such as the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) and various sections of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR). These projects have firmly positioned Tanzania as a preferred destination for investors.



The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan (centre), cutting the ribbon to mark the inauguration of the construction of the Modern Railway section from Mwanza to Isaka covering 341 kilometers



President Samia Suluhu Hassan speaking during discussions at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) held at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Center (JNICC) on September 7th, 2023.

For instance, CRDB Bank forged funding agreements worth over Sh700 billion with various international institutions such as Proparco, USAID, Africa Guarantee Fund (AGF), Africa Development Bank (AfDB), AFRIEXIM, and International Finance Corporation (IFC), underscoring the country's global reputation and trustworthiness that have been strongly built and strategically positioned in the last three years.

The administration's efforts have also led to a notable increase in the uptake of banking services, with Finscope 2023 reporting a rise to 22 percent from the 17 percent recorded in 2017.



The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan (third from the left), receiving an explanation of the construction of the modern market at Kizimkazi Dimbani on August 29, 2023, in Zanzibar. The market which is funded by the CRDB Bank Foundation is approximately estimated to cost Sh 2 billion until its completion.

The president's commitment to youth and women's empowerment has also spurred innovation in the financial sector. Over the past three years, we have witnessed a strengthening of women's empowerment forums nationwide. Nevertheless, the Building Better Tomorrow (BBT) program exemplifies the commitment.

In alignment with the president's vision, the CRDB Bank Foundation launched the IMbeju program, offering training, mentorship, seed capital, and support necessary to propel women and youth-owned businesses to new heights. As of January 2024, the foundation had provided training to over 150,000 youth and women and disbursed a total of Sh5 billion in seed capital.

Another area that has catalysed innovation is climate finance. Since taking office, President Samia has consistently advocated for nature and the environment while educating on the impacts of climate change. She has been actively attending climate change conferences, including last year's COP28 that was held in Dubai, where she launched the African Women Clean Cooking Support Programme (AWCCSP).

As a leading financial institution, CRDB Bank is leading the way in supporting the government's efforts by coming up with innovative green financing products. Last year, our bank issued the first green bond, the 'Kijani Bond', in the country and the largest in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Minister of Investment and Planning, Prof. Kitila Mkumbo (center), CRDB Bank Board Chairman, Dr. Ally Loay (third right), Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of CRDB Bank, Prof. Neema Mori (first left), Group CEO of CRDB Bank, Abdulmajid Nsekela (third left), CEO of CMSA, Nicodemus Mkama (second from the right), and Acting CEO of DSE, Mary Mhivasa (far right), displaying the Green Bond Prospectus during the launch event held on August 31st, 2023.



Group CEO and Managing Director of CRDB Bank, Abdulmajid Nsekela (left), and the Managing Director of Proparco East Africa, Jean Benoit-Du Chalard (right), displaying agreement documents worth Sh 182 billion to empower entrepreneurs affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in the country at an event held on May 29th, 2022.

This is also evidenced by the number of loans provided by the banking sector. The portfolio has grown massively. For instance, CRDB Bank has expanded its loan portfolio to Sh8.269 trillion in 2023 from Sh5.148 trillion in 2021.

Amidst this growth, CRDB Bank's asset size has surged by 88 percent, reaching Sh13.3 trillion in 2023. Loan extensions have increased by 118 percent, while non-performing loans (NPLs) have been effectively managed within regulatory thresholds.



The Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Congo, Dieudonné Fikiri Alimasi (third from the left), handing over a banking license to the Managing Director of CRDB Bank, Jessica Nyachiro. Witnessing the event are the Chief Financial Officer of CRDB Bank, Fredrick Nshakanabo (at the center), along with senior leaders of the bank.

Kijani Bond's success has been nothing short of remarkable, with a subscription level soaring to an unprecedented 429.57%, raising a staggering TZS 171.82 billion. This resounding achievement not only exceeded the bank's initial target but also demonstrated the overwhelming support from our local and international investors.

American entrepreneur Anne Wojcicki once said,

“The reality is that the only way change comes is when you lead by example. One of the most important things a leader can do is lead by example. If you want everyone else to be passionate, committed, dedicated, and motivated, you go first.”

President Samia has embodied this ethos in her dedication to transforming Tanzania's economy, leaving a lasting impact across various sectors, including the banking industry. We appreciate all the dedication and efforts she exerts to develop our country.



EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is expanding its network to meet the strategic business needs which focus on sustaining the recorded achievements and remain an airline of choice that meets and exceeds customers' expectations in line of its mission of provision of reliable, safe, and high-quality services. Therefore, applications are invited from qualified Tanzanians to fill the following positions: -

1. POSITION: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER II (1 POST)

1.1 MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be a holder of Bachelor Degree in one of the following fields; Public Administration, Human Resources Management, Human Resources Planning and Management, Manpower Planning, Industrial Relations, Business Administration/Commerce majoring in Human Resources Management or equivalent qualification from recognized institutions or equivalent qualification from recognized institutions

1.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Initiates the updating of a comprehensive, accurate and inventory of all office furniture, fittings and equipment.
- Monitors performance of contracted private service providers such as ground maintenance, office cleaning, security guards and catering services to ensure quality of service.
- Ensures efficient running of administration transport services at ATCL.
- Ensures that machinery and other office equipment are properly maintained.
- Supervises activities performed by supporting staff such as Drivers, Office Assistants and Messengers.
- Keeps a record regarding vehicle maintenance and inspects vehicles' logbooks.
- Monitor cleanliness of office premises.
- Performs any other official duties as may be assigned by the immediate Supervisor.

2. POSITION: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER II (1 POST)

2.1 MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be a holder of Bachelor Degree in one of the following fields; Public Administration, Human Resources Management, Human Resources Planning and Management, Manpower Planning, Industrial Relations, Business Administration/Commerce majoring in Human Resources Management or equivalent qualification from recognized institutions or equivalent qualification from recognized institutions.

2.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist in attending staff matters regarding recruitment and selection, confirmation promotions and internal transfers
- Assist on preparation of orientation and induction programs
- Collect, analyze and keep employment records
- Assist in the preparation of performance reports, compile and update personal particulars for employees
- Assist in preparing training needs assessment.
- Assist in interpretation of the scheme of service, staff regulation and various Acts related to employees.
- Assist in monitoring of daily staff attendance and recommend solutions to resolve chronic attendance difficulties.
- Follow up on all office requirements in liaison with procurement unit.
- Prepare staff Leave Roster.
- Perform any other duty may be assigned by the supervisor.

3. POSITION: DRIVER II (4 POSTS)

3.1 MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a holder of Form IV Certificate and a Class "C1 or E" Driving License who has attended Basic Driving Course offered by VETA or any recognized Institution with Driving experience of at least one (1) year without causing accidents. Possession of Trade Test Grade II/Professional Level II in Motor Vehicle Maintenance/Mechanics is an added advantage.

3.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Drive staff towards approved destinations in accordance with traffic regulations.
- Take vehicles due for routine maintenance / repair to the appointed service agents.
- Undertake minor mechanical repairs.
- Maintain log books and records all movement as instructed.
- Make pre-inspection to the assigned vehicles prior travelling and report mechanical damages / defects.
- Certify safety and cleanliness of the vehicle at all times.
- Verify that valid documents and permits are acquired prior commencement of any journey.
- Perform any other duty may be assigned by the supervisor.

4. POSITION: RECEPTIONIST II (1 POST)

4.1 MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- Holder of a Certificate of Secondary Education with passes in English and Swahili.
- He/she must have attended training in one of the following; Telephone Operation or Front Office Course.
- Must be conversant with basic computer applications.

4.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Answers calling signals
- Connects calls within the exchange area
- Makes booking calls and searches them as appropriate
- Keep safe custody of office property where required;
- Certify that all office premises are cleaned.
- Perform any other official duty may be assigned by the supervisor.

5. TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Ten (10) years contract with attractive remuneration and fringe benefits as per ATCL Salary Structure and Incentive Scheme.

6. MODE OF APPLICATION FOR ALL APPLICANTS:

Interested applicants must submit a dully signed letter for consideration of the application attached with the following:

- A curriculum vitae (CV),
- Certified copies of all certificates (including secondary school, birth certificates), other relevant certificates, Applicants who have studied outside Tanzania should have their certificates approved by relevant authorities Tanzania Commission for University (TCU) or National Examination Council- NECTA)
- Two recent passport size photographs
- Name and address of at least two reputable referees;
- Applicant's reliable contact address, email address and telephone number.

7. CLOSING DATES:

Applicants should reach the undersigned within 14 days from the first date of this announcement.

**MANAGING DIRECTOR & CEO,
AIR TANZANIA COMPANY LIMITED,
P.O. Box 543,
DAR ES SALAAM.**

ATCL is an equal opportunity employer. Women are encouraged to apply. Misrepresentation of qualifications or any other information on application shall warrant legal consequences.

Date: 22nd March, 2024

Tanzanian delegation at ITU inaugural meet on digital innovations

By Guardian Correspondent, Geneva

A Tanzanian delegation comprising government officials and private sector experts is taking part in the inaugural meeting of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)'s new digital innovation board taking place this week here.

The meeting brings together stakeholders from across the globe to chart the course for future digital innovations.

Members of the delegation include Dr Jabiri Bakari, director general of Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga, director general of Information and Communication Technologies Commission and Eng. Mwesigwa Felician, TCRA's director of sectoral affairs.

The digital innovation board operates under the auspices of the Innovation and entrepreneurship alliance for digital development, a cornerstone initiative propelled by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the ITU.

This board plays a crucial role in moulding an inclusive digital future for all by fostering local digital innovation and entrepreneurial capabilities.

Dr Bakari, who represents Tanzania members of the board, said the meeting is centered on inaugurating the board, discussing

its future duties and availing board members, adding that it is also an opportunity to exchange experience on digital innovation matters.

"Our discussions delved into strategies aimed at bolstering ICT innovations, fostering collaboration among innovation hubs and institutions, and devising mechanisms for the global dissemination of innovation centre insights," he said.

Also on the agenda are topics such as digital innovation, intellectual property rights, governmental contributions to innovation promotion and the prioritization of digital innovations that are centred on providing solutions that address societal challenges.

"This session also focused on exploring ways in which member countries can prioritise digital innovations emerging from startups dedicated to addressing the daily challenges faced by our communities," he said.

The board's inauguration and subsequent discussions were aimed at making operational the board's responsibilities, enlightening members on the strides taken by the Innovation and entrepreneurship alliance since its inception and facilitating a collaborative environment for representatives from 17 innovation acceleration centers to share their strategies.

This initial meeting not only serves as a platform to operationalize the board's mandate but also provides a unique networking opportunity for innovation leaders whereby the majority of board members were picked from communication regulatory bodies.

Dr Albert Tibajuka, a communications lecturer at St. Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) - Mwanza said: "Tanzania's presence in this board meeting signifies a pivotal moment, one that unveils a golden opportunity for our nation."

"This is our chance to spearhead the establishment of a groundbreaking national ICT innovation centre because we are there, right in the kitchen," he asserted.

The don further emphasised that such endeavours are poised to catalyse remarkable progress in the digital innovation sphere, positioning Tanzania at the forefront of the global digital economy and seamlessly transitioning towards the advent of the fourth industrial revolution.

The newly appointed digital innovation board is expected to immensely contribute to shaping an inclusive digital future for all, as the alliance aims to accelerate digital transformation by fostering local digital innovation and entrepreneurial capacities.



State Mining Corporation managing director Venance Mwashe (L) and Buckreef Mine manager Gaston Mujwahuzi pictured yesterday signing an agreement under which Buckreef Mine will sink 420m/- into the construction of a built health centre at Lwamaga village and a doctors' house at Busanda health centre - both in Geita district. Photo: Correspondent Jactan Ngelyi

Mwinyi optimistic after first round of licensing of offshore exploration

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has said that the launch of the first licensing round for oil and natural gas exploration will attract potential investors from across the world thus opening up the isles' economy.

He made the remarks on Wednesday here during the launch of the licensing round which was conducted collaboratively by the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries and the Zanzibar Petroleum Regulatory Authority (ZPRA).

During the opening, President Mwinyi invited bids for eight blocks totalling 31,883 km² situated offshore to the east of Unguja and Pemba Islands, with water depths ranging from 500m to 3,000m.

He assured the investors of full support from the government which he said will always ensure there is a conducive investment environment.

"We welcome more oil and gas exploration companies from across the globe to come and participate

in this round and the government will be there to provide all needed support," he said.

The deadline for bid submission and closure of the licensing round is September 16, 2024, with the bid evaluation period scheduled from September 17 to November 16, 2024. The announcement of bid round awards is expected on November 17, 2024.

Dr Mwinyi said that oil and natural gas exploration activities in Zanzibar started back in 1950 when the British Petroleum (BP) company in collaboration with Shell conducted deep exploration and drilled two wells in Unguja and Pemba.

He said the activities were completed in 1963, building a strong foundation in developing oil and natural gas exploration in the isles.

According to him, the government reviewed the legal and contractual frameworks around oil and gas before launching the round in order to attract more investors into the hydrocarbon industry.

He said the government's

intention is to stimulate and strengthen the blue economy for sustainable development.

"We believe that the blue economy has a number of opportunities which, if well exploited, will fast-track implementation of development plans and help fight poverty," he said.

Shaaban Ali Othman, Minister for Blue Economy and Fisheries said the launch of the licensing round highlights the government's commitment to fostering investment in the hydrocarbon sector.

The minister said eight blocks are already there and urged bidders to utilise that opportunity.

Ali Khalil Mirza, Zanzibar Petroleum Development Company (ZPDC) board chairman said once exploration activities commences, Zanzibar will greatly benefit with various economic opportunities.

Mikidadi Alli Rashid, Chief Executive Officer of ZPDC said interested investors have been given enough time to submit their applications.



Tanzania Rural and Urban Agency (Tarura) technicians paint a zebra crossing sign at a busy Kimara Stop section of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Accounting Week: Experts empower businesspeople on keeping of records

By Guardian Reporter

IN commemoration of Accounting Week nationwide, the Tanzania Association of Accountants (TAA) in collaboration with various stakeholders launched an educational outreach initiative targeting traders in Dar es Salaam. Speaking recently in Dar es Salaam, president of TAA Godvictor Lyimo said that the programme aims to provide guidance on proper record-keeping practices and ensuring accurate tax compliance.

He highlighted the multifaceted approach of the initiative. Alongside educating business owners, TAA plans to offer mentorship to aspiring accountants and extend assistance to a school for the deaf in Temeke municipal.

"This week are engaging with the business community in Kariakoo's Tandanti Street, with a focus on educating our members who are businesspeople. Our objective is to promote accurate record-keeping practices and ensure proper tax payments to the government."

"The ultimate goal is to equip traders with the necessary skills to maintain comprehensive records, facilitating easier access to loans at favourable rates."

This year's initiative was enabled through partnerships with NMB Bank, UTT, and Watumishi Housing.

"We will also host a mentorship event aimed at providing guidance to budding accountants. Experienced professionals will offer valuable insights and instructions to those aspiring to join the profession," he said.

Lyimo urged accountants

nationwide to actively participate in these initiatives through various channels, emphasizing the importance of collective engagement.

Boniface Moses, a beneficiary of the educational outreach on record-keeping, encouraged fellow businesspeople to seize the opportunity for learning. "This education is invaluable for us. Many traders are engrossed in daily operations, but by participating, we can ensure better financial management and security of our businesses," he said.



This week are engaging with the business community in Kariakoo's Tandanti Street, with a focus on educating our members who are businesspeople. Our objective is to promote accurate record-keeping practices and ensure proper tax payments to the government

Khat trade: Deputy minister says police, prison cells full

By Guardian Correspondent, Hai

DEPUTY Minister for Home Affairs Jumanne Sagini has said that the police cells and prisons in Kilimanjaro Region are flooded with drug suspects, especially khat dealers and smugglers.

Sagini made the remarks yesterday when addressing a public

rally at Kwa Sadala Village in Hai District, after he was invited to greet the crowd during Vice President Dr Philip Mpango's tour of the region.

Sagini said the illicit drug production and transportation is still a big challenge facing youth thus affecting the nation's workforce.

"The drugs kill our youth and

weaken the nation's workforce; there are increasing incidents of khat peddling and usage and police cells and prisons are overwhelmed by this challenge," he said.

Meanwhile, the deputy minister said Kilimanjaro is one of the regions which lead in conflicts between farmers and pastoralists, a situation which threatens peace in

some areas.

"It is important that district and regional safety and security committees to implement measures to ease tension between farmers and pastoralists because without peace all the daily development activities including farming and pastoralism will not flourish," he said.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS



TANZANIA NATIONAL ROADS AGENCY

DISCLOSURE OF RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN (RAP) FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DAR ES SALAAM BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) INFRASTRUCTURE PHASE 4

The Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) on behalf of the Ministry of Works intends to construct Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Infrastructure Phase 4 located in Dar es Salaam City under World Bank financing.

Resettlement Action Plan for the project has been prepared in fulfillment of the requirement of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Frameworks (ESF).

TANROADS is now disclosing the document to the Public and inviting all Stakeholders and the Community at large to access the document for the purpose of following up its implementation during the execution of construction works.

The public can access the RAP document for the project through TANROADS Website: www.tanroads.go.tz and at the following offices:

- Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS)**
P.O BOX 11364
10 Shaaban Robert Road/ Garden Avenue Junction
Dar es Salaam.
Email: tanroadshq@tanroads.go.tz
- TANROADS- Dar es Salaam Regional Office**
P.O box 4838
Dar es Salaam
Email: rm-dsm@tanroads.go.tz

Ruhinde Street, Plot 92,
Ada Estate, Kinondoni,
PO Box 9270
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

REF: KSL/IOM/129/24

Date: 19 March 2024

INVITATION TO BID

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1951 and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society.

In the framework of IOM Operations in Tanzania, the IOM Bids Evaluation Committee ("BEC") now invites Bidders to submit "Bids" for the Proposed Constructions at the Makere IOM compound, Kasulu District in Kigoma region Tanzania.

No	Description of work	Quantity	Bid collecting date from 0900 - 1500hrs	Bids Submission date: at 10:00AM
1	CONSTRUCTION OF RESETTLEMENT PROCESSING CENTRE IN MAKERE (STAGE 2), KASULU DISTRICT, KIGOMA, TANZANIA	1	28.03.2024 - 03.04. 2024	11.04.2024

Interested bidders shall obtain a complete set of the "Instruction to Bidders". The Instruction to Bidders will be obtained at the IOM Office in Dar es Salaam and Kasulu Sub Office for further (see dates mentioned above)

- IOM Kasulu is located at Kasulu Town, Murubona road, near Kasulu TTC. Box 303, Kasulu.
- Interested vendors are required to attend the mandatory Pre-bid meeting on the **28th of March 2024** at Makere Refugee Processing Centre in Kasulu District, Kigoma Region at 10:00AM. Please confirm your participation in the meeting via the following e-mail: iomkasulutender@iom.int
- Vendors who do not attend the Pre-bid meeting will not be eligible to submit bids to this tender.
- Only construction companies registered as "Class - 1 building" are Invited to participate in the tender.

Submission of Bid is due (see above-mentioned dates). Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened within the validity period of the bid.

IOM reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, cancel the procurement process, and reject all bids at any time prior to awarding the Contract, without obligation to inform the affected Bidder/s of the ground of IOM's action.

Very truly yours,
IOM- Tanzania Bids Evaluation Committee

Mission in the United Republic of Tanzania
Tel: +255 689 103 096 • E-mail: iomdar@iom.int Website: www.iom.int

FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2024

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

We need to see stepped-up disaster preparedness, better infrastructure

MANY parts of Tanzania normally experience the long - and heavy - rains beginning around March, with the short rains normally falling in November and December.

Of course, the "intervention" of climate change in its various forms has made things so less predictable these days that one could be easily tempted into suggesting that anything could literally happen any time.

In part, this explains the intermittent occurrence of some of the unseasonable rains time and again reported in some parts of our country and various other parts of the world.

Our focus is on the "sudden and unexpected" short-lived rains experienced off and on not only in areas with notoriously poor roads and related infrastructure but also, surprisingly, in much better served parts - with even cities and other major urban areas far from spared.

Some incidents have seen some segments of even our commercial capital, Dar es Salaam, literally rendered unreachable courtesy of rain lasting no more than an hour.

This would at times lead to what has commonly been accepted as a some fact of life - flooded roads and bridges as well as knee-deep stagnant water in residential areas mainly blamed on poor drainage.

This is telling evidence that, while decently huge amounts of funding have gone into the development of infrastructure, we are still wide of the mark.

This is considering the poor drainage systems even in some of what go as well planned and well served sections of our urban areas.

Nevertheless, this isn't all there has been to the sad tale, as the situation is at times so bad that it is impossible to venture outside, as some residences were literally surrounded by floodwaters and

inaccessible even to rescue forces.

Often, flash floods can be explained as suggesting a natural disaster difficult or even impossible to control however good our early warning systems are. However, when our urban streets are filled with stagnant water even after a fleeting drizzle, we know that the villain is drainage systems that have long ceased to function and no one cares for them anymore.

If even a mere two-hour rain can so horrendously disrupt people's activities, what is to be expected if the long rains indeed set in with a vengeance

It would be unfair to heap blame on the government when floods and other natural disasters strike. But here is a situation that is by no means beyond control - it is only that too little is done to rectify matters by putting enough proper infrastructure and other resources in place before it is too late.

It is not very good press for us to find ourselves in such a mess this easily, particularly when this applies in areas already ostensibly adequately served.

When it comes to floods, we often address the after-effects, the consequences, instead of concentrating on disaster preparedness at least to mitigate damage.

The moral for all of us here is that it is high time government authorities placed a premium on efforts to make urban areas as permanently navigable as resources allow but without ignoring the rest of the country.

We are a nation too old and too experienced to remain at the mercy of even events of only minimally destructive potential such as a short-lived drizzle that we could have easily transformed into a boon by leading the water into farms, dams or household water reservoirs instead of letting it destroy crops, roads, etc., as we helplessly look on.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

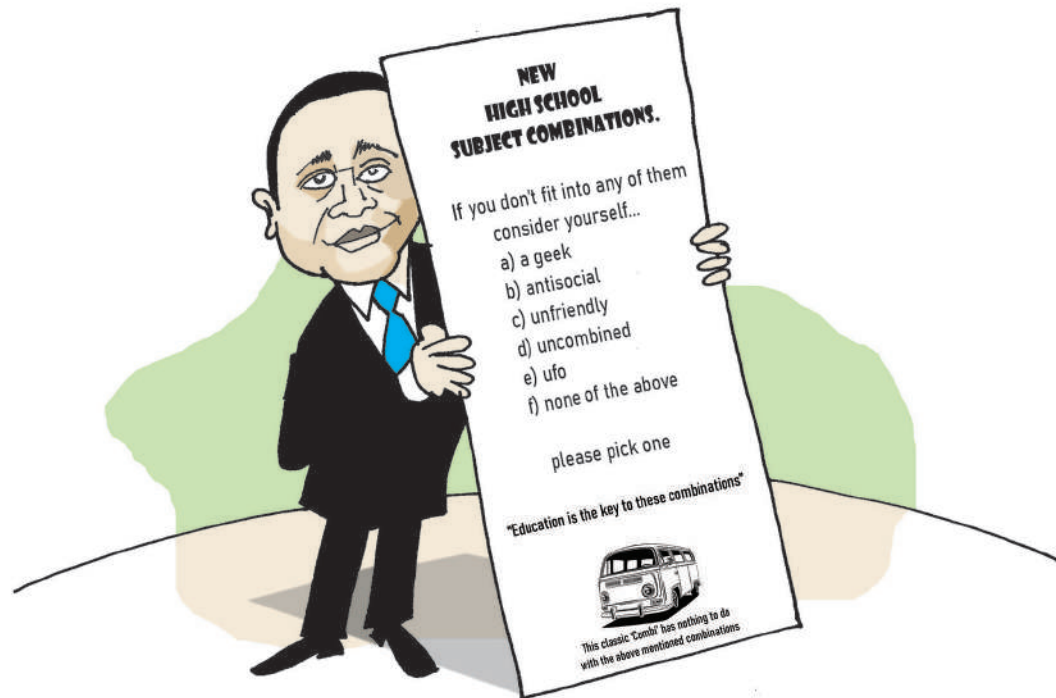
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UNITED NATIONS

In the developing world, land rights for women remain tenuous in the agricultural sector. But if women farmers are recognized as landowners in their own right, it can lead to greater economic empowerment and be a positive step towards eradicating poverty.

This formed part of the wider discussions that are being hosted during the 68th session of the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW68) in New York. The leading theme of CSW68 and its side events is the effort to accelerate gender equality by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions.

In the context of the agricultural sector, what this would entail was the subject of its own side event, hosted in New York on March 14.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of Canada convened the discussion "Harvesting Empowerment: Women's Resource Rights to Advance Gender Equality, Poverty Alleviation, and Food Security in Agriculture" to discuss a transformative agenda for ensuring women's rights over land in rural areas. The event showcased efforts made by IFAD and its partners to enact what they call a transformative gender approach to empowering women and local communities at large to access their rights to land and resources.

In rural areas, women play a key role in the management of their households and their farmland. However, it remains rare for women to be legally recognized as landowners. IFAD Lead Technical Specialist for Gender, Targeting, and Social Inclusion, Ndaya Beltchika, said as she opened the event that collective action and cooperation are needed in order to ensure resource rights for women, particularly in rural areas. "Empowering women transforms livelihoods and the agricultural landscape," she said.

Since 2021, IFAD, in partnership with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), has launched a global initiative to integrate a gender transformative approach in developing interventions to promote resource rights for women, such as through policies, tools, and practices. It has been implemented in six countries where IFAD is currently delivering interventions, such as Kyrgyzstan, Uganda, and Bangladesh. It involved conducting a gender analysis of the barriers that prevent gender equality in rural communities, as well as identifying the needs and priorities of the participating communities. While the analytical framework is the same, the recommendations are context-

Women's land rights in farming surely need further recognition



Women's land rights formed part of the discussions of the 68th session on the Commission for the Status of Women. Credit: Naureen Hossain/IPS

specific and differ across each country due to socioeconomic, cultural, and political factors.

"How can we take that gender analysis and apply it locally?" said Elisabeth Garner, Scientist and Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Lead, CIFOR. According to Garner, this strategy has made it possible for locals to motivate responses and elevate community needs. This has included IFAD and its partners providing additional training on human or legal rights for poorer communities. In Bangladesh, for instance, through this framework, it has allowed them to work with marginalized communities to empower them and strengthen their climate change responses.

Citizen-driven efforts for visibility and data can make a difference for marginalized communities, including women, grassroots efforts raise awareness at the local and national level. Esther Mwaura-Muiru, the Global Advocacy Director for the Stand for Her Land campaign, added that "all too often, it is up to civil society to knock at the doors" of government institutions. She cited Kenya as an example, where 80 percent of farmers are women. Through grassroots and community-led efforts, the Kenyan government was able to collect data on the number of women who reported owning land. This had the effect of tracking data on the crops and seeds that these farmers grew. Though Mwaura-Muiru said that in order to reduce the exclusion of women, there had to be multiple ways to show proof of ownership.

"Land is pre-conditional to gender equality and sustainable development," she said.

While a transformative gender approach is possible to address

poverty and strengthen financial access for poor communities, this alone will not be enough. Making structural changes can also require societal acceptance. According to Moni Rowshan, Deputy Executive Director of the Association of Land Reform and Development (ALRD) Bangladesh, ensuring total rights to land and resources for women will require a change in society's mindset. The contributions of women are not always recognized as farming, even by women themselves. As Rowshan told IPS, when they do not recognize their work in the homestead as farming, there is a tendency to minimize their effort or credit themselves as supporting their male relatives who run the farms.

If more women own land, then men may have less. The structural shift this could cause is likely to be met with resistance due to underlying sociocultural discrimination against women's involvement in the agricultural sector and, by extension, women's rights. This mindset can both reinforce and be influenced by laws that recognize land rights for men, but not for women.

However, this does a disservice to the women who are at the "frontier of food supply" for their families, the nation, and the rest of the world. Rowshan also added that, compared to their male counterparts, women farmers do not typically have access to modern tools to till and harvest crops, and have to work with fewer resources and use older, indigenous techniques. While the government should take measures to implement and enforce laws that recognize women's land rights, society must also recognize the efforts of grassroots activists and farmers who

advocate for land rights. "If society and government institutions do not recognize women as farmers, these supports are not going to them," she said.

In cases where the government may have existing programs for farmers and women, those who would benefit from them are typically not aware they exist. Rowshan told IPS how, through the Stand For Her Land campaign, women in Bangladesh learned to articulate their demands and increase their understanding of legal issues as they pertained to them. "Once they talk about that, they bring other stakeholders like the government and different agencies to listen to them. The government does have some programs for farmers and women, but these are not reaching them. So once they interact regularly, support starts coming to them. The more they are involved and present, the more support they can get," she said.

Land rights for women mean greater economic empowerment through ownership of farming land or property and additional access to resources. By investing in women's resource rights, investments are made to eradicate poverty through generating income and increasing food security. This would reflect the reality in many countries of the legitimate role that women play in the agricultural sector as farmers and landowners in their own rights. As the event reached its conclusion, there was a call for partnership and cooperation in raising the effort to promote women's land rights. This level of recognition may only be achieved when all stakeholders involved can agree to this reality.

IPS UN Bureau Report

TAZARA rolling stock accord ground-breaking PPP example

WHAT some parastatal managers have dilly-dallied on for years is now starting to look like reality, namely, inviting the private sector into their areas of operation - as part of what is known as public-private partnership (PPP) policy.

The idea of PPP can be practised through different mechanisms as, in the final analysis, it is a sort of joint venture where the two interacting corporate entities collaborate intensely in a vital sphere of mutual interest. They remain distinct, separate, for the rest.

The news is that the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) and the local branch of an international freight forwarding company have entered into an open access agreement to facilitate seamless movement of the firm's freight trains on the TAZARA railway.

The TAZARA chief executive said at the signing event that the pact was part of the PPP policy, with the government having opened the doors to the private sector to invest in railway operations.

As will be evident to many, this pact has been feasible since the degree of integrating capital investments is low to the point of being almost negligible.

It is as if the logistics firm is renting out space, or freight motion time, to use the rails when TAZARA trains are not passing, not to buy shares.

The CEO said that the ground-breaking pact followed the awarding of a tender to Bravo Group Ltd in the wake of a competitive tender

process comprising local, regional and international companies.

Bravo Group Inc., a firm linked with the Morgan Stanley investment finance conglomerate in the US commercial capital of New York, will therefore get the rights to deploy rolling stock on the railway.

In real terms, it is capable of purchasing the country's railway assets if they were up for sale; it can also fill up all available operational space, collecting regional export and import goods traffic, if the terms are right.

The CEO listed the benefits of PPP, in this context identified commercially as open access accord, as involving giving access rights to multiple private train operators to utilise the same railway infrastructure, fostering competition and utilisation of extra capacity as well as enhancing efficiency in the rail transport sector.

TAZARA thus anticipates heightened regional presence in annual freight tonnage deliveries. It will, in like manner, increase revenues alongside attracting investments.

It is not clear how much this open access formula is usable for other public firms operating under capacity do, but it ably shows what can be done and how it can be done.

It is to rent out space, synchronise operational time to allow 'seamless' traffic in all directions, which adds to the quality of monitoring and corrective action, when there is a wider number of operators. Even as others wait to take the model, let's have it on SGR, and fast.

Digital economy: Central bank adopts instant payment system modules for money transfer

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

INSTANT payments are a relatively new type of credit transfer responding to the needs of an increasingly digitalized society. The application allows money to be transferred in seconds and instantly.

The instant payment mode's vibrant application mechanism allows people and business owners across the globe to pay and receive payments more conveniently and efficiently.

With the use of mobile phones, buyers can easily settle their bills even with sellers of products located in far flung areas and receive funds without delays.

Instant payments are the next big change in the payments industry and are expected to have even more positive impacts than any other money transactions applied by financial institutions.

The adoption of this mode of payments are increasingly worldwide as they represent a major technological innovation in payments, which allows releasing of funds that are locked in the 'back-office' of the financial system in order to make them immediately available to end users.

It is from this point of view that, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has incorporated all payment services providers in the country to a single unified Tanzania Instant Payments System (TIPS) that is tipped to reduce costs and risks of sending money from one point to another.

TIPS is an interoperable digital payment platform that allows users to send and receive money in real time using their mobile phones or bank accounts. It also allows the transfer of payments between different Digital Financial Service Providers (DFSPs), both banks and non-banks such as e-money issuers.

This newly introduced system aims to facilitate faster, cheaper, and more



secured money transactions between different digital financial service providers like mobile money operators such as Airtel Money, Tigo Pesa, M-Pesa, HaloPesa, Ezy Pesa and T-Pesa and all banks countrywide.

Users can register on the system through Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) code which is a Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) protocol that is used to send text messages and search for the name of the recipient in the system.

The new system confirms the commitment of BoT to meet expectations of the people to avoid bureaucracy and unnecessary inconveniences likely to be caused while sending money, and instead it facilitate among others prompt payments between different digital financial service providers and all banks in the country.

The central bank started testing the system involving three banks two years ago and now it has officially rolled out the system and

made it workable to the entire financial sector ecosystem. The initiative is in line with the global market shift towards digital payments the focal point of a cash light economy of the country.

BoT Governor, Emmanuel Tutuba said last week in Arusha city at a grand launching ceremony of the new system which was graced by Vice-President Dr Phillip Mpango and attended by over 1,200 delegates from within and outside the country.

The occasion was done in sidelines with the 21st Conference of Financial Institutions (COFI) that was organized by the Bank of Tanzania under the theme, "Strengthening Financial Sector Resilience in Challenging Economic Times"

According to Tutuba, TIPS systems in Tanzania are designed to facilitate instant funds transfer across different payment systems based on international standards in enabling financial transactions to be done quickly and at a cheaper cost.

BoT is mandated to ensure stability of the country's payment ecosystem with efficiency and security by collaborating with various stakeholders such as the treasury and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA). Other key players are Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) Chairman Theobald Sabi told The Guardian at the TIPS launching ceremony that by end of January this year, some 39 banks out of 62 financial institutions licensed by BoT, as well as six telecoms had been integrated into the new system.

According to him, as more other banks are coming in line, plans are underway for TIPS to be integrated with the Government e-Payment Gateway (eGePG) system to facilitate funds transfer and government payments. As years goes by, the use of TIPS will reduce the use of cash in the country, he affirmed.

The move aims to reduce bureaucracy and unnecessary inconveniences likely to be caused while sending money as well as facilitating among others prompt payments owned to prospective customers and service providers including contractors who had the habit to lounge for compensation whenever payments were delayed.

Another advantage which the government is likely to benefit under the new system is that, unlike before, delays of any payments entitled to contractors and others alike resulted into a number of penalties that emanated due to violation of contractual agreement.

In regard to the latest annual reports by the office of Controller and

Accounts General (CAG) for the 2022/2023 fiscal year which disclosed that delays of payments entitled to contractors and other service providers had a devastating effect that caused huge losses to the government to the tune of 415bn/- that were compelled to payment of compensation.

But according to financial experts, with the coming of TIPS being an interoperable digital payment platform, will allow service providers to send or receive money instantly using their mobile phones or bank accounts. The system is not just another piece of technology, but rather a strategic tool that can transform the payment landscape in Tanzania.

Other benefits for the TIPS system includes the increase of uptake of electronic payments, it reduces the usage of cash handling, enhance transparency, foster a level playing field for innovation and competition as well as promotion of financial inclusion where costs of interoperable transactions are reduced.

Tanzania's payment industry is flourishing making the need for industry partners to work together to be inevitable. There are a number of potential benefits offered by interoperability of financial services which includes

cost effective and secure means of payments.

Tanzania is one of the African countries that has embraced digital payments and financial inclusion. The BoT started working to get control of the system in recent years but could not succeed due to the breakout of Covid-19 pandemic that delayed the project. The BoT then conducted a pilot project in June 2021 with three banks and two mobile companies.

As years goes by, BoT expects that TIPS will bring many benefits to the Tanzanian economy and society, such as reducing transaction costs and risks, increasing financial inclusion and enabling innovation and development.

BoT as a regulator is a stakeholder in this regard bearing in mind the role it plays in financial sector, it gives advice and setting policies to ensure smooth, safe and secure operations among parties involved.

The Central Bank of Tanzania is mandated to license, regulate, supervise and de-license banks, financial institutions and Bureaus de change shops. In this regard however, the central bank is empowered by the National Payment Systems (NPS) Act 2015 to carry out its noble duties as aligned by the law.

WWD 2024: The power of partnership in ensuring water security in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

WATER is not just a resource but a lifeline of mankind where peace, social and economic development are realised. Recognizing this, the United Nations annotated March 22nd as a World Water Day to serve as a poignant reminder of the critical role that freshwater plays in sustaining life and fostering development.

Inaugurated in 1993, World Water Day has continued to spotlight the urgent need to manage the most precious resource sustainably. This year's theme 'Water for Peace' aligns with Tanzania's commitment to water security.

Since 1988, Tanzania has started commemorating the importance of water by initiating the Water Week aligned to the World Water Day. In this regard, every year, the Ministry of Water has been celebrating the Water Week through a series of national events that are held between March 16th and March 22nd. The national theme for this year's Water Week is 'Water Security for Peace and Harmony'.

Tanzania's journey towards water security is a testament to its commitment and foresight in effective and sustainable management of water resources. Recognizing that effective management of water cannot rest solely on the shoulders of the government.

The Ministry of Water embraces the Integrated Water Resources Management principles, effectively devolving

management and governance of water resources to basin and catchment level.

This strategic foresight was underpinned by significant legislative and policy frameworks. These frameworks laid the foundation for establishment of critical water governance structures such as the Basin Water Boards, Water User Associations and Multi-Sectoral Forum (NMSF) on Water Resource Management and Development at the level of the national, basin and catchment.

Effective establishment and operationalization of these water governance structures requires partnership with other stakeholders in the sector. In this regard, the Ministry of Water has continued to collaborate with different partners, not only to support stakeholder platforms, but also in implementing strategic initiatives.

One of such partners is the Global Water Partnership Tanzania (GWPTZ) that has an active Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Water in both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. The MoU covers various areas including programme development, resources mobilization, capacity development as well as convening national and international events.

It is on the strength of this MoU that the GWPTZ has been supporting the water sector in Tanzania mainland in implementing various initiatives including operationalizing the National Multi-Sectoral Forum (NMSF) through the Global Water Leadership Programme

(GWL) funded by FCDO.

The programme supports development of response strategy to bottlenecks impeding progress to climate resilient water resources management through NMSF working groups.

Revitalizing the working groups for the NMSF has been a game changer in water resources management as noted by Dr George Lugomela, the Director of Water Resources in the Ministry of Water.

"The financial and technical support from Global Water Partnership to operationalize the NMSF working groups brought insight, energy and enthusiasm in the sector. It also underscored the value of partnership in multi-sectoral collaboration in tackling complex issues in water resources management and climate resilience in the water sector," asserts Dr Lugomela urging other partners to join hands in supporting the National NMSF as well as other initiatives in the water sector.

Moreover, the Global Water Partnership Tanzania (GWPTZ) contribution extends beyond policy and planning to tangible physical projects that directly impact communities. The drilling of a solar powered borehole and construction of cattle troughs in Ruvu Darajani village is a prime example, showcasing efforts by GWP Tanzania to provide water for people as well as protecting river riparian zones from uncontrolled pastoral activities.

This is on and above constructing a modern office block for the Mvuhwa Water User Association in the Wami Ruvu Basin.



Water Minister, Jumaa Aweso

This initiative was part of a broader program under the Intra African Caribbean and Pacific - Global Climate Change Alliance program, funded by the European Union.

The Executive Director of Global Water Partnership Tanzania (GWPTZ), Dr Victor Kongo, highlighted that GWPTZ is part of the regional Global Water Partnership of Southern Africa whose Regional Board Chair is Former President Jakaya Kikwete.

GWPTZ main objective is to support the country in ensuring sustainable climate resilience water resources management for current

and future generations. We are now supporting the Ministry of Water through Basin Water Boards to access climate funds of which are critical in implementing climate resilient projects"

GWPTZ has been supporting the Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals in Zanzibar on various areas including undertaking strategic research on groundwater assessments, reviewing water policy, convening the annual International Zanzibar Water Conference among others. The annual water and energy conference is planned to take place from September 18th to 19th

2024.

Moreover GWPTZ has been pioneering implementation of the African Union (AU) led Africa Water Investment Program (AIP) in Tanzania. GWPTZ supported Zanzibar to develop a \$665 million Zanzibar water investment programme, launched by Dr Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the President of Zanzibar in March 2022.

Currently, GWPTZ is supporting the Ministry of Water in Tanzania to develop the \$15.02 billion Tanzania Water Investment Programme. AIP aims to mobilize annual investments of \$30 million to bridge the water sector's investment gap in Africa.

Eng Mbogo Futakamba, the current Chairman of the National Water Board, commended the good efforts done by GWPTZ stating: "Achieving a climate-resilient water resource management system hinges on the seamless collaboration and coordination across different sectors and stakeholders".

Eng Ngwisa Mzembe, Board Chairman of Global Water Partnership Tanzania, highlights that GWPTZ is committed to supporting the government in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) No. 6 by facilitating the development of climate resilient projects that will ensure water security for all.

The clear and significant impact of the partnership between GWPTZ and the Ministry of Water in both mainland and Zanzibar showcases the importance of establishing collaborative endeavours and engaging stakeholders in the water sector.

Oman's mountain oases offer ancient farming lessons for a warming future

IN some ways, village life on Oman's Jabal Akhdar Mountain is the same as it has always been. Water still runs through the ancient aflaj channels. People still cultivate pomegranates, walnuts and grapes. Goats still go out to pasture, and the day begins and ends with the call to prayer.

In other ways, life – and farming – is quite different. Over the past 50 years, Oman has developed at a dizzying speed, while climate change is also impacting agriculture. As change sweeps across these mountains, people are searching for ways to preserve and adapt these ancient oasis agro-ecological systems.

At first glance, Oman's Hajar

Mountains are an unlikely place for agriculture. This is a dramatic landscape of rugged plateaus slashed by deep, snaking canyons. It's almost always sunny, and when it does rain, water rushes across the rocky hill slopes and cascades down the canyon walls in magnificent torrents.

But by channelling water from mountain springs and pools to terraced fields, and enriching the soils with manure from their goats, people have, for millennia, managed to grow an astonishing variety of food in a seemingly inhospitable land.

"It's the only place in the world that I know of where 1,500 years of irrigated agriculture ... has not led to salinization," says Andreas Bürkert,

professor in agro-ecosystems research at the University of Kassel in Germany. "In Oman, we can learn how [to do] agroforestry under irrigated dry land conditions with very little water."

As the world grapples with unprecedented changes, Oman's traditional knowledge of how to grow food sustainably in a dry climate may prove invaluable.

A sustainable agro-ecological system

Irrigated oasis agriculture is practiced all over the Hajar Mountains, but it is on Jabal Akhdar, a towering limestone massif in the center of the range, where some of the most spectacular examples are found.

This unique type of agriculture relies on three main components: the irrigation channels, rich terrace soils, and traditional knowledge.

The irrigation channels, known as aflaj (singular falaj), employ gravity to convey a steady stream of water from springs or other water sources to agricultural areas and villages. A communal resource, the water is divided into time shares according to customary rules. Traditionally, the aflaj channels were made from stone; today, many have been repaired with modern cement.

To create the terrace soils, farmers used a mix of clay, silt and gravel to get the proper drainage and minerals. For organic matter, they added

large amounts of manure, primarily from their goats, which grazed freely on the surrounding mountain slopes.

Building up the soil took centuries, and tremendous effort. Bürkert and colleagues estimate that locals moved some 100,000 metric tons of sediments over the course of 600 to 800 years to create the gardens at the oasis village of Bilad Sayt, hauling it up from the riverbed basket by basket.

"It's the admixture of the clay [and sediments] that comes from the river with the manure that was the secret of sustained fertility of the terraces," says Bürkert, who has studied these systems for more

than 25 years. "You see, in the soils when you pick them up, the upper 50 centimeters (20 inches) has a carbon content that is only comparable to compost."

Finally, there are traditional farming practices, including planting a diversity of crops in agroforestry systems. The wide variety of crops across the mountains reflects Oman's trading connections with Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean, while the types of crop depend on the elevation.

For example, in villages lower down the mountain, at 1,000 meters (3,300 feet), locals plant date palms alongside banana, papaya and guava, as well as tomatoes, wheat and other annual crops underneath. Closer to the top of the mountain, at elevations of about 2,000 m (6,600 ft) where it's cooler, they grow pomegranates, apricots, plums, walnuts and others, as well as wheat, alfalfa, carrots and other vegetables.



JOB VACANCY

Associate Program Officer- Inclusive Markets Trade & Finance

Location: **Dar es Salam, Tanzania**

Job Reference: **IMTF/PD/TZ/03/2024**

AGRA and its Work

AGRA is an African-led institution that actively supports the drive towards inclusive agricultural transformation and sustainable food systems. We do this by empowering the continent's 33 million smallholder farming households to transform their agriculture from a struggle to survive to profitable businesses. The continent's farmers regularly face challenges, and we aspire to provide uniquely African solutions that respond to their agricultural and environmental challenges, leading to increased harvests for reduced hunger and more income.

Working in alignment with the development priorities of our focus countries, we enable farmers to access improved and high-yielding seeds, gain knowledge on sustainable farming, and linkages to profitable markets.

In our work, we aspire to build the alliances, partnerships, and networks required to drive an inclusive agricultural transformation. We work with our partners to create an equitable youth-friendly environment that harnesses the youth dividend on the continent to drive growth and facilitate open employment opportunities for young women and men. We achieve our key objectives through a focus on the following four areas of intervention:

1. Policy and state capability - We support governments in creating an enabling environment for private sector involvement in agricultural transformation.
2. Seed systems - We trigger higher productivity by increasing the availability and access to improved seeds by farmers allowing them to increase their harvests for food security and better incomes.
3. Sustainable farming - We support farmers in building resilient farming systems for sustained high yields through interventions such as mechanization and irrigation.
4. Inclusive markets and trade - We work to increase the linkages between farmers, and other market actors for a positive, sustained cycle of commercialization and reinvestment.

Implementing Our New Strategy Through People

People are the heart of our organization and remain the true drivers of our delivery and our impact.

We work with incredible people and partners who have roots in farming communities across the continent combined with an inclusive and diverse workforce from over 24 nationalities. Our commitment to a call to action goes beyond ourselves as we arise to catalyze African Food Systems transformation by being Deeply collaborative, Executing Excellently, Sincerely Constructive and Increasingly Entrepreneurial aligned with our values of (I-RISE; Integrity, Respect, Innovation, Stewardship and Equity).

We are looking for people who are passionate about Africa to join our innovative, growing, and multidisciplinary team. Together, we can grow Africa's food systems improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. Want to join us?

The Position

Associate Program Officer Job Reference: IMTF/PD/TZ/03/2024

The Associate Program Officer - Inclusive Markets Trade and Finance will be responsible for the overall coordination, planning, provision of technical support and oversight of the country program in the implementation of Inclusive Markets, Trade and Finance related interventions and the successful delivery of this programmatic focus.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Contributes to the development of analytical tools and methodologies that relate to inclusive finance and market-led development.
- Implement and scale-up value chain approaches that increase the participation of smallholder farmers, with special attention to women and youth, in local, regional and global markets and trade.
- Support in the design and implementation of grant-making activities that address constraints to farmer knowledge, practices and behavior change, which apply new ideas to the extension of improved access to finance.
- Facilitate access to finance deals between off-takers and smallholder farmers at the county and national level.
- Lead key initiatives and provide leadership in country inclusive finance development as per the strategy direction of Inclusive Markets Trade and Finance.
- Identify and report key access to finance, trade and market trends and barriers which inform issues of national trade and market policies and initiatives in the Country.
- Conduct in-depth market research and analysis to identify opportunities for expanding Inclusive Markets and Trade.
- Support markets and trade policy and regulatory influencing agenda through gathering of evidence, lead engagements with key stakeholders and produce knowledge products or other forms of collateral.
- Contribute to Inclusive Markets, Trade and Finance Strategy development and further execution.
- Support the Food Trade Coalition work and IMTF's other strategic initiatives at country level.
- Builds and supports multi-disciplinary networks of individuals and organizations that promote linking smallholder farmers to markets.
- Managing the project grants in compliance with AGRA, grant and Audit requirements.
- Assist in collecting and sharing data to the center of technical expertise for program's Food Security Monitor and other knowledge management products.
- Assist country teams in development of grant proposals in the areas of markets shaping, policy, and resilience with respect to trade.
- Provide technical assistance to grantees and assist in monitoring progress of implementation of Inclusive Finance Markets & Trade program in the country.

Key Qualifications and Experience required:

- A bachelor's degree in agriculture, Development, Economics, agribusiness, rural finance or related disciplines with deep knowledge in inclusive finance, market access or other relevant areas of the agriculture value chain.
- Professional experience in agri-business and development efforts in Africa
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Experience in agricultural development, inclusive markets, trade, finance and economic policy.
- Understanding of agricultural finance barriers and solutions.
- Experience in grant making and in leading policy-related development initiatives.

If you believe you are the right candidate for this position, kindly submit your application with a detailed CV in English (including your e-mail and telephone contacts) to recruit@agra.org. Please quote the job referencenumber in the subject line of the application e-mail.

Applications must be received on or before 29th March 2024. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

For more information on the AGRA, visit www.agra.org

AGRA is an Equal Opportunity Employer



JOB VACANCY

In-Country Monitoring & Evaluation Officer - Tanzania

Location: **Dar es Salam, Tanzania**

Job Reference: **M&E/PD/TZ/03/2024**

AGRA and its Work

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We are looking for people who are passionate about Africa to join our innovative, growing, and multidisciplinary team. Together, we can grow Africa's food systems improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. Want to join us?

The Position

In-Country M & E Officer - Tanzania Job Reference: M&E/PD/TZ/03/2024

The In-Country M & E Officer will be responsible for the coordination and management of country results progress tracking and knowledge management activities, in line with the AGRA Tanzania Country Investment Plan and the overall AGRA results framework.

S/he will coordinate all country M&E activities, including Country context data synthesis and reporting; grant awards support through country charters; grantee data synthesis, support & validation; and Grantee AMIS training and support. The In-Country M&E Officer will report to the Country Director with matrix reporting to the Regional M & E Officer and with close working relationships with the country program team.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Coordinate all country M&E activities in close liaison with the central and regional M&E teams.
- Support country grants award processes with development of Results Frameworks, KPIs, milestones and targets through country charters and grants committee.
- Support the alignment of country grantees investments to country Results framework and overall AGRA's theory of Change.
- Schedule and undertake trainings for country staff and grantees on AMIS use, with scheduled continuous user support.
- Review and approve reports in the AMIS system, including timely resolution of grantee data/report issues/quality in the AMIS system.
- Compile, analyze and disseminate country program performance every quarter, or as prescribed including detailed context analyses.
- Support coordination of evaluation, special studies and baselines in the country as scheduled in liaison with central and regional M&E teams.
- Builds and manages external relationships and keeps current of key developments in partner institutions.
- Support knowledge sharing (reviews and reflection meetings) in the country by engaging units, offering training required, and facilitating seamless exchange of information with both internal and grantees.
- Supports collation of AGRA data for the quarterly and annual reporting of the AGRA wide program results
- Collaborates with the communications team to customize and package AGRA grantees success stories and documents detailing evidence of successful models to meet the stakeholder needs.
- Collaborates with the grants team to organize joint results review meetings.
- Leads in the design and execution of learning and adaptation initiatives eg webinars.
- Plans for the collection of information and evidence of demonstrated models from AGRA grantees for the creation of AGRA beneficiaries' success stories and document detailed evidence of successful models.

Key Qualifications and Experience required:

- A first degree in Arts, Social Sciences, or other relevant field with additional training in results -based Monitoring & Evaluation and project management.
- Experience in monitoring and evaluation in international development or agriculture related field.
- Ability to work independently with little supervision but serve as a facilitator of other people's work and a team player.
- Outstanding writing analytical skills essential, computer proficiency and familiarity with a range of software applications including word processing, spreadsheets, and databases.
- Demonstrated experience in writing professionally an advantage.

If you believe you are the right candidate for this position, kindly submit your application with a detailed CV (including your e-mail and telephone contacts) to recruit@agra.org. Please quote the job reference number in the subject line of the application e-mail.

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Aquaculture reducing pressure on nature forest reserves in Iringa

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

VILLAGERS living along the Kilombero Nature Forest Reserve (KNFR) and Uzungwa Scarp Nature Forest Reserve (USNFR) in Kilolo District, Iringa Region are now engaging in fish farming, a move that reduces pressure on the protected forests and serves the environment.

This involves over 600 villagers in nine villages in Kilolo District, which surrounds the forest reserves. They have been empowered with fish farming skills and so far they have established 290 fish ponds, thanks to the initiatives played by the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF).

EAMCEF project coordinator, Aristide Nsiima said the project started in 2018 and has helped to reduce agriculture in the

wetlands.

Nsiima said that until now there are 15 groups in the district and that in Lulindi village there is a youth called 'Amka' who was given 500 fish fingerlings of the Nile tilapia type and have doing well and other people got interested in aquaculture.

According to him, so far more than 600 people have been trained on the matter and the number of fish ponds has increased from nine to 290.

"Currently, there is no more environmental degradation in the forest reserves as villagers are now busy with income generating projects, which in most cases improved their nutrition status and income too," he said.

Counfres Myumbo, Amka youth group vice chairman said: "We started with one fish pond but now we've 15. We're getting reasonable income and other people are encouraged to get into fish

farming, the move that leaves the forest reserves free from encroachment."

Through fish farming, Myumba bought a motorcycle, which he used as a 'bodaboda', which makes him able to bring bread to the table daily, hence no harm to the forest reserves.

Rosemary Boniface, EAMCEF Southern Zone Projects Officer said they have been facilitating community projects to reduce the rate of destruction in the nature reserves so that villagers are not depending on forest reserves for income.

She said that the fund provides grants for many projects, including beekeeping, piggery, dairy cows and goats, and energy projects—biogas and charcoal-saving stoves.

"Our idea is to make projects sustainable and finally people can go on with projects even if EAMCEF will not be around," she said.



Kilolo District's piggery project coordinator, Leonards Kanyonga said the project aims to reduce poverty and improve the livelihoods, and KNFR and USNFR and 57m/- have been obtained after selling pigs in the village.

According to him, in the past villagers were illegally getting in the forests for deforestation and hunting and now 739 people are

engaging in livestock husbandry across the district.

Saibu Mtengela, one of the beneficiaries of the dairy cow project in

Lulindi village said that the project which started in 2022 has changed his life completely.

"I was given one dairy

cow and after a while, I was able to collect 2,160,000/-, the money I used to establish a shop and increase the size of

my farm," he said.

Dr. Bahati Goliama, Iringa Region's natural resources and tourism consultant said that agriculture, beekeeping, cattle, fish farming, and tree planting projects have reduced people's dependency on natural resources.

"They have also strengthened conservation efforts," he stressed.

"Iringa region has 2,824 water sources and a large percentage pumps water into major national strategic projects such as Mtera, Kihansi Kidatu, and Julius Nyerere Hydropower dams, so these income-generating projects play a key role in making water flowsustainable," he said.



Report shows impact of innovation, youth job creation, farmers' incomes

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

HEIFER International, a global non-profit working to end hunger and poverty through sustainable farming, on Wednesday, in Nairobi, Kenya, released a report highlighting how tens of thousands of smallholder African farmers have seen their livelihoods transformed by a tech-driven mechanization initiative.

The report, titled 'Mechanization for Africa: Innovative Financing for Agricultural Transformation and Youth Job Creation', examines the role and benefits of agricultural innovation, mechanization, and catalytic financing in empowering smallholder farming communities in Africa while creating new opportunities in agriculture for Africa's youth population.

It showcases how Heifer's support and investment in innovation and youth catalysed the expansion of an agritech initiative to power large scale affordable access to tractors for smallholder farmers. The resultant increased mechanization spurred enhanced productivity, leading to improved livelihoods for smallholding farming communities across the pilot countries in Africa.

"Smallholder farmers are the backbone of Africa's food systems, accounting for up to 80 per cent of food production in sub-Saharan Africa," said Adesuwa Ifedi, Senior Vice President, Africa Programs, and Heifer International.

"Equipping them with the right tools and resources, including appropriate and sustainable mechanization, is essential for increased productivity.

As this report shows, access to affordable tractors increased incomes of smallholder farmers by 227% within the beneficiaries' pool, leading to not just enhanced productivity, but a plethora of critical transformational pathways - increased inclusion, an energised ecosystem, and job creation for Africa's ener-

getic youth."

Impact summary

Key findings of the report include the value of catalytic financing and partnerships to scale innovative agricultural solutions, as well as the effect of affordable mechanization on improved agricultural yields, labour efficiency, and household income for smallholder farmers. The importance and advantage of incorporating local contexts, farmer needs, and gender equity into new technologies is also emphasized.

The report reveals that the initiative provided service to 21,048 smallholder farmers in need of mechanization services in the three pilot countries of Nigeria, Kenya, and Uganda, as of December 2022. A total of 104 farmers became tractor owners through a Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) model. The project also created 368 direct jobs for youth serving as booking agents, tractor operators and technicians, and 784 indirect jobs across target communities.

Heifer - Hello Tractor Partnership

Heifer partnered with Hello Tractor to launch a Pay-As-You-Go (P.A.Y.G) tractor financing service to facilitate affordable tractor rental services to smallholder farmers via a tech platform that enables ease of monetization and for tractor owners, and overall effective monitoring.

Hello Tractor is an agricultural technology company that connects tractor owners to smallholder farmers in need of tractor services. Hello Tractor works like the ride-hailing service, Uber, using Internet of Things (IoT) technology via the Hello Tractor app.

The Hello Tractor app is a marketplace that enables smallholder farmers' access to equipment, while enhancing profitability for equipment owners and building technical capacity. The app works by identifying and listing equipment owners

looking to rent, recruiting booking agents and establishing them as links between equipment owners and farmers' requests for equipment leasing. This information available on the app also provides financiers with the data and ability to calculate returns and measure results.

The AYuTe Challenge

Hello Tractor leveraged catalytic funding of US\$1M from Heifer Africa's Agriculture, Youth and Technology (AYuTe) Initiative to kickstart expansive operations. The Initiative is a catalyst for growth, combining grants with business development and ecosystem transformation initiatives to translate the energy and ideas of young African innovators into meaningful impact for African farmers. One of the pillars of the AYuTe Africa Initiative is an annual Challenge that awards cash grants to promising young agritech innovators and firms across the continent - professionals who are using technology to reimagine farming and food production in Africa.

With the grant in place, Heifer Africa and Hello Tractor co-designed a mechanization program to ensure maximum impact and sustainability. Heifer provided an additional US\$3.5 million in grant financing to pilot the model in three countries (Nigeria, Kenya, and Uganda). This grant financing further unlocked commercial capital of over US\$7M for increased tractor penetration and ecosystem development.

"The partnership with Heifer and Hello Tractor was the first of its kind," said Jehiel Oliver, Founder and CEO, Hello Tractor. "By injecting capital at the base of the pyramid and empowering traditionally unbanked entrepreneurs to become tractor owners, we are driving economic growth and transforming livelihoods. This investment has unlocked commercial capital for Hello Tractor and has contributed to the prosperity of our tractor owners and the thousands of smallholder farmers they serve every season."



JOB VACANCY

Safeguarding Officer

Location: Dar es Salam, Tanzania

Job Reference: SO/PD/TZ/03/2024

AGRA and its Work

AGRA is an African-led institution that actively supports the drive towards inclusive agricultural transformation and sustainable food systems. We do this by empowering the continent's 33 million smallholder farming households to transform their agriculture from a struggle to survive to profitable businesses. The continent's farmers regularly face challenges, and we aspire to provide uniquely African solutions that respond to their agricultural and environmental challenges, leading to increased harvests for reduced hunger and more income.

Working in alignment with the development priorities of our focus countries, we enable farmers to access improved and high-yielding seeds, gain knowledge on sustainable farming, and linkages to profitable markets.

In our work, we aspire to build the alliances, partnerships, and networks required to drive an inclusive agricultural transformation. We work with our partners to create an equitable youth-friendly environment that harnesses the youth dividend on the continent to drive growth and facilitate open employment opportunities for young women and men. We achieve our key objectives through a focus on the following four areas of intervention:

1. Policy and state capability - We support governments in creating an enabling environment for private sector involvement in agricultural transformation.
2. Seed systems - We trigger higher productivity by increasing the availability and access to improved seeds by farmers allowing them to increase their harvests for food security and better incomes.
3. Sustainable farming - We support farmers in building resilient farming systems for sustained high yields through interventions such as mechanization and irrigation.
4. Inclusive markets and trade - We work to increase the linkages between farmers, and other market actors for a positive, sustained cycle of commercialization and reinvestment.

Implementing Our New Strategy Through People

People are the heart of our organization and remain the true drivers of our delivery and our impact.

We work with incredible people and partners who have roots in farming communities across the continent combined with an inclusive and diverse workforce from over 24 nationalities. Our commitment to a call to action goes beyond ourselves as we arise to catalyze African Food Systems transformation by being Deeply collaborative, Executing Excellently, Sincerely Constructive and Increasingly Entrepreneurial aligned with our values of (I-RISE): Integrity, Respect, Innovation, Stewardship and Equity).

We are looking for people who are passionate about Africa to join our innovative, growing, and multidisciplinary team. Together, we can grow Africa's food systems improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. Want to join us?

The Position

Safeguarding Officer Job Reference: SO/PD/TZ/03/2024

The Safeguarding Officer will oversee the implementation of AGRA's gender and safeguards policy, strategy and program to protect those we work with from harassment, sexual exploitation and all forms of abuse - to contribute and strengthen the safeguarding culture, and to promote within the teams a better understanding and adherence to AGRA's values, particularly through the support and coordination of country teams and grantees.

S/he will support in the day-to-day integration of the gender and safeguards policy, principles and priorities into field activities, coordinates and manages relationships with a range of stakeholders in the field, supports field data collection and analysis and provide for mechanisms for reporting on breach of safeguards. Integrate gender and safeguard measures at the country levels and working with AGRA teams, consultants, and external partners to help them understand gender and safeguard issues and response measures for AGRA investments.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Lead the analysis to identify context specific risks and vulnerabilities for youth and women and identify potential areas/concerns for gender and safeguarding plan.
- Develop AGRA's gender and safeguarding framework in close consultation with the legal unit, develop necessary tools for aligning safeguarding framework with AGRA's programmatic work.
- Leads the development of implementation plan based on findings from the various analyses (gender analysis, youth aspiration analysis, ecosystem mapping and value chain analysis) at country level.
- Identify and develop practical response system towards gender-based violence, harassment, abuse, allegations of harm, exploitation, or misconduct within the agricultural sector and promoting a safe and inclusive working environment for youth and women in AGRA country.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive framework that effectively integrates social safeguard protocols into AGRA Tanzania's agricultural development initiatives. Ensure that these protocols are seamlessly aligned with the organizations overall objectives.
- Ensure that AGRA's interventions are responsive to the circumstances, needs, aspirations, and priorities of youth and women, and guarantee equal employment opportunities to prevent women and vulnerable groups from being adversely affected by our work.
- Support the application of the Gender and safeguards requirements in new grants to local partners and proposals to donors.
- In collaboration with the gender and inclusiveness team, develop training modules and awareness raising materials specific to the region on gender and safeguards principles, including case studies and good practices from the region.
- Organize and implement continuous training programs to AGRA staff, relevant partners, community members and other stakeholders on the application of, and compliance with the Gender and Safeguarding requirements by delivering online webinars and/or in-country training sessions and ensuring these are embedded in or linked with other relevant AGRA programmatic trainings.
- Enforce and oversee health and safety protocols throughout every facet of agricultural projects. Ensure strict adherence to rigorous safety standards, effectively reducing potential risks for workers and stakeholders, whether within private sector operations or workplace engagement.
- Provide reports on gender sensitive and safeguards indicators and share results, and lessons learned during AGRA Program implementation of Gender and safeguarding, to improve the performance of AGRA and maintaining safeguard standards.
- Develop relationships with and promote the active participation of gender and women-focused NGOs, CSOs, government entities working on gender equality and youth to learn and share lessons and magnify impact.
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of gender and safeguarding tools and best practices related to youth and women employment in agriculture and making recommendations for improvement.
- Ensure strict adherence to established labor standards, ensuring that ethical work practices are upheld across all projects. Guarantee that labor rights are protected and maintained in line with Tanzania's labor regulations.
- Take a proactive role in preventing child labor within AGRA Tanzania's agricultural initiatives. With assistance from the respective institutions and departments enforce strategies that keep child labor at bay, aligning with national and international standards.

Key Qualifications and Experience required:

- First's degree or equivalent in gender studies, social science, international development, humanitarian or related discipline.
- Strong knowledge of the existing gender and youth safeguards policies/framework at country and continental level, particularly relating to agriculture and agrifood sector
- Possesses a good understanding of stakeholders, women and youth organization, collectives, networks and associations at country and continental level which best represent the voices and interests of youth and women employment in agriculture sectors.
- working experience in the fields of gender and youth safeguarding practices, preferably with focus on youth and women employment and entrepreneurship in agriculture sector.
- Good knowledge of international and national laws and policies related to safeguarding of women, youth and other vulnerable groups, and strong working experience with governments, international development agencies, local organizations, and authorities in integration of gender and safeguards dimension into agricultural project/program at all levels.
- Solid commitment to promoting gender equality, safeguarding of children and youth and in the agricultural sector, and to upholding ethical and professional standards in the workplace.

If you believe you are the right candidate for this position, kindly submit your application with a detailed CV (including your e-mail and telephone contacts) to recruit@agra.org, the subject line of the application e-mail.

Applications must be received on or before 29th March 2024. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

For more information on the AGRA, visit www.agra.org.

AGRA is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Promoting sustainability and security: Championing water for a viable future

On March 22nd every year, the World Water Day is commemorated globally providing a moment to reflect on the significance of water and its profound impact in the planet. This year's theme, 'Leveraging Water for Peace', underscores the vital link between water management and global stability. In light of this theme, our Correspondent Constantine Akitanda, interviewed Dr Fides Izdori, a distinguished expert in water and environmental affairs. As the founding Chairperson of Water & Environmental Champions (WEC), Dr Fides shares invaluable insights into the organization's impactful initiatives and strategies in Tanzania. Below is an excerpt from their enlightening conversation.

Question: Could you provide a brief introduction about yourself and explain why you are involved in addressing issues related to water and the environment in Tanzania?

Answer: I am Fides Izdori, one of the Founding Members of Water and Environmental Champions (WEC) in Tanzania. My involvement spins around addressing issues concerning water and the environment.

I believe that water resources are essential for development of all sectors reliant on water. Well-preserved environments create a conducive setting for ensuring sustainable availability of water. I will give a good example of this.

As Tanzania aims to achieve a middle-class economy by 2025, industrialization plays a pivotal role in this endeavor. In this case, the presence of energy security, particularly electricity, is crucial to compliment the country's industrialization efforts. Mega hydro projects like the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Plant (JNHP) are important for energy security.

However, any negative impacts to the environment must be identified and mitigated early in the project cycle.

WEC is devoted to collaborate with stakeholders including local communities and government institutions to ensure conservation of water sources and the environment at large, thereby promoting sustainability and security across all sectors dependent on water.

Q: Could you share with us how WEC perceives this year's World Water Day with its theme, 'Leveraging Water for Peace'?

A: On an international scale, water resources often traverse multiple countries, necessitating equitable sharing among riparian states.

Similarly, within a country, water resources may traverse various landscapes, crossing administrative, cultural, and tribal boundaries. Such diverse settings highlight the importance of coop-



eration and dialogue to ensure that everyone benefits from the utilization of water resources.

This underscores how water can serve as a unifying force, as reflected in this year's water day theme, which is highly relevant to the current state of water resource management at both national and international levels.

At international level, Tanzania is a signatory to several treaties aimed at fostering cooperation in water resource management and development, including the Songwe River Basin Commission, Zambezi River Basin Commission, Tanganyika Lake Authority, Lake Victoria Basin Commission, and the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement.

These agreements are rooted in the principle that cooperation is preferable to conflict when it comes to accessing the benefits of water resources.

At national level, the country is divided into river basins to facilitate the implementation of integrated water resources management.

These basins serve as platforms for all water users within a basin to convene and discuss issues affecting their lives. Consequently, water is utilized as a tool for pro-

moting peace across all contexts.

Q: As we approach 2030, the urgency to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is escalating. Is there any intersection between the focus of WEC and implementation of SDGs?

A: Indeed there is! In a world rife with challenges and complexities, WEC has opted to focus its efforts on particular aspects within the broader scope of SDG 6, which specifically addresses ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

In the field of water resources management, our endeavors will center on ensuring the availability and sustainability of water services. Similarly, in addressing sanitation concerns, our focus will be on fostering a safe environment and preventing water pollution.

We can also provide a link here to other SDGs such as improving health and well-being, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities and combatting the impacts of climate change (SDGs 10, 11 and 13)

Q: A lot of efforts have been directed in the Water, Sanita-

tion and Hygiene (WASH) sector, but challenges still persist. Does WEC have any unique approach that guarantees success or more positive results in tackling water and sanitation crisis, especially in Tanzania, where access to safe water remains a pressing issue for many communities?

A: Currently, water coverage in Tanzania stands at 79 percent in rural areas and 90 percent in urban areas. The national objective is to achieve 85 percent coverage in rural areas and 95 percent in urban areas by December 2025.

WEC actively collaborates with government bodies and local communities to raise awareness about the significance of addressing water and sanitation challenges at the grassroots level and ensure efficient management.

This initiative aims to leverage on technology, collaborate with stakeholders and empower marginalized groups so as to secure sustainability of water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services.

Q: How does WEC prioritize its initiatives and projects in addressing water and environmental challenges, particularly in regions where access to safe

water is limited?

A: WEC adheres to a policy of maintaining relevance, which entails directing our services to areas with the greatest need.

We will utilize prioritization tools to concentrate our efforts and resources on these critical areas. By analyzing water supply and environmental hotspots, we aim to ensure that our interventions have the greatest impact.

Q: Can you elaborate on some key strategies employed by WEC to promote sustainable water management practices and environmental conservation in Tanzania?

A: WEC employs dynamic engagement strategies to ensure active participation from local communities and stakeholders in our water conservation and environmental protection initiatives.

We prioritize interaction at both basin and grassroots levels, fostering dialogue and collaboration among diverse stakeholders. Our approach encompasses a range of innovative tactics.

WEC conducts interactive workshops and training sessions in local communities to educate residents about water conservation techniques, sustainable

practices, and the importance of environmental protection.

It facilitates participatory planning processes, where community members are actively involved in decision-making regarding water resource management and environmental conservation initiatives. This involvement ensures that projects align with local needs and priorities.

WEC engages youth through educational programs, youth clubs, and environmental stewardship initiatives. We also establish a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of community engagement efforts.

Q: Could you share any successful partnerships or collaborations that WEC has forged to advance its mission of improving water accessibility and environmental sustainability in Tanzania?

A: WEC is currently in the phase of establishing its presence in Tanzania. It aims to forge highly productive partnerships and collaborations with Basin Water Boards and Water Users Associations to enhance water and environmental sustainability.

Q: As we commemorate World Water Day 2024, what message would you like to convey to Tanzanians and the global community on the importance of safeguarding water resources and promoting equitable access to clean water for all?

A: WEC would wish to communicate the following message to Tanzanians and the global community: It is crucial for everyone to recognize and value water resources as vital to our economy.

It is in the best interest of all to preserve and protect water sources and ensure the conservation of the environment for the benefit of everyone.

World Water Day is celebrated annually on March 22nd. It is a day designated by the United Nations to focus on the importance of freshwater and advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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NAKONDE BORDER POST UPGRADE TO BOOST ZAMBIA-TANZANIA TRADE

By Guardian Correspondent, Lusaka

The Government of Zambia, Trade Mark Africa and have entered into a Partner Support Agreement (PSA) to upgrade the Nakonde One Stop Border Post, a key trade route between Zambia and Tanzania.

Funded by the UK government, the ZMK 197 million (£71 million) project will improve the flow of goods and people along the Dar es Salaam Corridor, promising to streamline operations and reduce cargo clearance times by more than 100 percent on both sides of the border.

Currently, it takes more than two days to clear cargo trucks crossing the border, leading to significant delays and losses for businesses.

Zambia's finance minister, Situmbeko Musokotwane, and TMA's CEO, David Beer, launched the programme.

Minister Musokotwane highlighted the project's potential to upgrade infrastructure, decrease congestion, and improve trade flows across the region.

"This agreement paves the way for transformative interventions aimed at upgrading infrastructure at Nakonde OSBP, improve border effi-

ciency, reduce congestion and enhance trade facilitation." He added: "By improving infrastructure at the Nakonde OSBP, we aim to enhance clearance efficiency along the Dar-es-Salaam corridor, reduce time taken to clear both cargo and passengers and ultimately facilitate trade flows," said Musokotwane.

The Nakonde Border Post will see improvements, including upgrade of road infrastructure within the OSBP and truck parking yard, construction of additional office buildings and warehouse, and the installation of a modern, cargo scanner.

The initiative also includes the digitisation of clearance processes, and installation of smart gates aimed at cutting dwelling times for cargo trucks from the current average of 55 hours.

The design reviews for Nakonde OSBP were finalised over the last one year, with support from Trade Catalyst Africa and the Tony Blair Institute that has supported the process and Government, as well as providing technical support.

TMA CEO, David Beer, underscored the impact of efficient OSBPs on reducing trade times and costs, and enhancing regional integration. Drawing on TMA's experience



Zambia's Finance minister, Situmbeko Musokotwane (R) and TMA chief executive, David Beer (L) sign an agreement for the upgrading of Nakonde One Stop Border Post. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

in East Africa, Beer expressed confidence in the project's success and its contribution to a more connected Africa.

"There is no denying the effect that integrated, fully operational and efficient OSBPs can have in reducing the time and cost of trade, thereby stimulating cross-border prosperity. Our experience in establishing similar border facilities across East Africa has shown us that such efforts can reduce clearance time by an average of 70 percent. It's for this reason that I am happy that we are joining forces today with the Government of Zambia and United Kingdom,

in coordination with other partners, to mark this important milestone. The Nakonde One Stop Border Post stands as a crucial milestone on our path to a more interconnected, inclusive and thriving Africa," said Beer.

British High Commissioner to Zambia Nicholas Woolley said he was delighted that the UK Government had entered a new partnership with Zambia and TradeMark Africa to upgrade the strategic trade frontier between Zambia and Tanzania: "The Nakonde/Tunduma border is one of the busiest entry/exit points for cargo in and out of Zambia, vi-

of-the-art cargo scanner.

This initiative is part of TradeMark Africa's broader efforts to facilitate trade across the continent. With over 15 OSBPs established in East Africa, resulting in an average 70 percent reduction in border crossing times, per time and traffic evaluation surveys conducted on these border posts, the Nakonde project is set to deepen trade ties between Zambia and its neighbours, leveraging Zambia's strategic position as a land-linked country reliant on regional ports for its international trade.

Duncan Onyango, the Chief Executive Officer of Trade Catalyst Africa, who supported the design of the OSBP, said, "TCA's investment in Nakonde OSBP is a strategic choice because not only have borders within Africa acted as key choke points for trade, but they are also extremely expensive to develop and maintain. Long delays at the borders due to inadequate infrastructure and inefficiencies in processing both goods and passenger traffic at the borders have both resulted in significant time and cost being added to both formal and informal trade happening between African countries. The penalties are most stringent for the many landlocked countries as the time delays

translate directly into higher consumer prices for food and other imported commodities."

The project enjoys the support of various stakeholders, including senior government, diplomatic, and development sector officials. Also in attendance were Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Chipoka Mulenga; Minister of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, Charles Milupi; TradeMark Africa Board Chair Amb. Erastus Mwencha; the British High Commissioner to Zambia, Nicholas Woolley; Trade Catalyst Africa CEO Duncan Onyango, Tony Blair Institute Country Director, Maria Mkwandire; the head of the Presidential Delivery Unit, Kusobile Kamwambi; World Bank Country Director for Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe Nathan Belete; various Permanent Secretaries, the Commissioner General of Zambia Revenue Authority and the Director General Roads Development Agency, among others.

With rigorous management, monitoring, and evaluation practices in place, the partnership commits to transparency, inclusivity, and sustainability throughout the project's implementation.

Minor Hotels for 118-room Anantara resort in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

Minor Hotels, an international hotel owner, operator and investor with more than 540 hotels in 56 countries in Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Africa, the Indian Ocean, Europe and the Americas, has announced the signing of a new Anantara resort to be developed in Zanzibar.

The 181-room Anantara Zanzibar Resort, which will be located on the northern coast of Zanzibar Island is slated to cater both leisure and extended-stay guests, with focus on water features.

The statement said that the property is expected to be launched in 2027.

The new-build property will feature 37 luxury suites, one presidential villa, and 73 one- and two-bedroom sea view villas with private pool.

The resort will also include 38 one-bedroom apartments, 19 two-bedroom apartments, eight three-bedroom penthouse apartments, and five penthouses.

All accommodation and public areas

will be finished with contemporary décor and state-of-the-art comforts to provide signature Anantara luxury infused with the distinctive styles and materials of the region.

Strategically designed with a range of calming water features - including private pools, lagoon access and lagoon views, Anantara Zanzibar Resort will offer an elegant beachside retreat for the leisure and extended stay markets.

Culinary excellence will be a keen focus with six restaurants and bars offering all-day destination dining, a speciality beach grill, a beach club bar and a gourmet delicatessen café alongside a themed tikki bar and an al fresco pool bar.

Other premium amenities at Anantara Zanzibar Resort will include an Anantara Spa, kids' and teens' clubs, gym and fitness facilities, a water sports club, a lagoon pool and a library.

Meeting and event spaces will also be created alongside an executive lounge

and a business centre.

The owning company, Dubai-based Infinity Group, have chosen Minor Hotels and the Anantara brand to manage this new property.

Anantara Zanzibar is currently under development as part of Infinity Group's Africa portfolio, along with other projects on the continent.

The group brings over 20 years of expertise in property development, asset management, contracting and retail to a long-term value investment strategy in, and beyond, the hospitality sector.

Dillip Rajakarier, CEO of Minor Hotels and Group CEO of parent company Minor International, commented, "We are delighted to add Anantara Zanzibar Resort to our pipeline of luxury properties under development in Africa, along with the recently announced Anantara Kafue River Tented Camp in Zambia. We look forward to these new properties joining our Anantara portfolio on the continent in Mozambique, Zambia and Tunisia. Working in collaboration with Infinity Group, we believe this is an excellent opportunity to grow our hospitality footprint in Zanzibar, which is long recognised as Tanzania's oceanside destination of choice."

Samuel Saba, Chairman of Infinity Group, and CEO of Infinity Developments said, "Infinity Developments is proud to be working with Minor Hotels, and the Anantara Brand. The Anantara Zanzibar Resort will redefine the standard of luxury hospitality in Zanzibar."

He is confident that the synergy between the Minor and Infinity teams will bring about a distinctive and enhanced experience for all who visit this spectacular island from 2027, and many years to come.

This development follows the January launch of the 174-room Anantara Mina Al Arab Ras Al Khaimah Resort in the UAE.



Indian mining firm discovers gold block, lithium in Nzega

By Guardian Correspondent

A wholly owned subsidiary of India-based Deccan Gold Mine- Deccan Gold Tanzania, has announced the discovery of gold block and lithium in the Nzega greenstone belt.

The company, which has four prospecting licences (PL) for gold over the Nzega project and one PL over Geita greenstone belt since 2021, reported on Wednesday that is also waiting for its Prospecting Licence (PL) for lithium and associated metals.

Geological Potential of the PL blocks all the above 5 PL blocks are located within the world class Neo Archean Lake Victoria Gold Fields and associated Greenstone belts which are known historically for gold mining activities.

"The discovery in Nzega greenstone belt in Tanzania highlights our technical expertise in exploration and prospecting across some of the most complex terrains globally. Our ongoing efforts to scale up our global assets complement the core business and augment our operation strength," said Hanuma Pasad Modali, managing director, Deccan Gold Mine Limited.

Modali said lithium discovery is a significant step towards the company strategy to diversify into critical minerals.

The statement said the company recently applied for a lithium prospecting license, which has been recommended for grant.

Deccan Mine also said, as part of its strategy to diversify into critical minerals, has carried out a significant amount of desktop studies on potential areas in Tanzania.

Based on the studies, the company says has identified a potential area of 100.49 square kilometers, of which it has applied for prospecting license, which have all recommended for a grant order, which is awaited.

Study of Airborne Magnetic maps reveals presence of favourable Magnetic anomalies transecting the 4 PL blocks. Some of these Magnetic anomalies could be due to the presence of BIF rocks which are known to carry gold mineralization in the adjoining areas, the company details show.

The discovery of two minerals in Nzega, is pushing the growth of mining sector in Tanzania high, with gold currently being the largest export earner.

The mining sector's contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been increasing yearly reaching to close 10 percent by 2022. In the year 2020/2021 the mineral sector contribution to GDP amounted to 7.2 percent.

The value of minerals exported abroad reached a staggering US\$3.4 billion in 2023, representing 56 percent of total exports. This highlights the mining sector's importance in generating foreign exchange for the country.



A rendering of the Anantara Zanzibar Resort. Photo: Minor Hotel Group Limited

TANAPA BOSS UNVEILS WHY 3-STAR HOTEL PROJECT AT CHATO IS STUCK

By Francis Kajubi

THE construction of the three-star tourist hotel in Chato District, Geita Region has been accomplished by only 67.5 percent by mid this month.

Musa Kuji, Conservation Commissioner for the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), told journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the delay of the project's accomplishment is attributed to the shortage of funds.

Without being specific on when the project will be completed, Kuji said that the construction works of the 30-sleeping rooms' hotel is ongoing.

He was presenting a three-year report of successes realized under Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan's presidency between 2020/21 and 2023/24 financial years.

"Construction of the hotel which is being implemented in Rubambagwe in Chato district is ongoing well, though we are facing the challenge of shortage of funds to implement the project," said Kuji.

According to him, there have been rec-



ommendable milestone achievements in the tourism sector since the six phase government assumed power mid-March in 2021.

Kuji revealed that TANAPA's revenue generation during the reported period increased to 337.42bn/- in 2022/23 from 174.72bn/- earned in 2021/22.

"In the current financial year, especial-

ly from July 2023 to mid-March this year, the authority has earned 340.10bn/- compared to the target amount of 295.47bn/-," said Kuji.

He asserted the authority expects to collect revenues amounting 382.31bn/- as of June 2024.

As for the construction of the tourists' three-star hotel stagnation which is in-

tended to accommodate tourists visiting the Burigi-Chato National Park and nearby tourism destinations, reports show that TANAPA has already paid the whole amount of project implementation.

It's nearly four years since the project implementation commenced in April 2020 and was earlier expected to last for twelve months, according to the available reports.

The Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report for 2021/22 revealed weaknesses in the project implementation by uncovering that there was controversy surfacing the procurement process.

CAG Charles Kichere stated that controversy and delays in the project's accomplishment resulted in the disbursement of 12.9bn/- by TANAPA.

He disclosed that on July 05, 2019 TANAPA signed the project's implementation contract with the economic wing of the National Service-Suma JKT for the construction of the hotel.

Kichere asserted that he had found from his audit that before the commencement of the project on August 02,

2019 TANAPA made a 500m/- advance payments to Suma JKT. However, the authority paid another 500mn/- on February 17, 2020.

Procurement processes by TANAPA commenced on July 11, 2019 by invoice No. 2 through single source tendering.

He said Suma JKT had an experience of less than five years and had a deficit gap in construction sales valued at 1bn/-.

"Regardless of the deficit on March 26, 2020 TANAPA's board of trustees signed a contract No. PA/037/2019-20/WHQ/139 with Suma JKT valued at 11bn/- for the implementation of the project for the period of 12 months from April 14, 2020," states CAG Kichere in the report.

According to the CAG report, as of October 31, 2021 TANAPA had paid 4.1bn/- an equivalent of 37 percent of the total project's cost. The implementation had reached 40 percent as of the audit day on December 20, 2021.

"I recommend that TANAPA observe the law, regulations procedures of public procurement in the coming projects," said Kichere in the report.

Indians invited to invest in pharmaceuticals, vaccines manufacturing

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

TANZANIA is inviting Indian diaspora to invest in pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing to reduce the reliance on imports.

Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi, Member of Parliament, Kilosa Constituency, made the statement recently when speaking to Indian Diaspora from Tanzania who attended a seminar on contribution of Indian Diaspora in developmental journey of Tanzania and shaping of India-Tanzania relations.

"We need to sit together to see where we can partner; because both India and Tanzania have experts, but what we need is infrastructures," he said.

Also, Indian Diaspora are invited to invest in making electric vehicle battery for Bajaj and motorcycles in Tanzania as well as invest in five ports for expanding the movements of goods and transportation.

He said Tanzania is a beautiful country enjoyed peace and political stability and has good relationship with India since independence.

"Our bilateral relations have growth from strength to strength and Tanzania and In-



dia have enjoyed traditionally close, friendly and cooperative relations," he said.

According to the report from Indian High Commission to Tanzania, as per Tanzania Investment Centre our investment since 1990 has reached US\$3.68 billion.

In the last one year, there has been a positive trend in investments in agro-processing, animal vaccines, pharmaceuticals,

hospital and ports, among others.

India is also working with Tanzania on capacity building. He also called upon Tanzania and India to cooperate in IT industry.

According to the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) Indian Diaspora keen to invest in those areas, the government has put in place all the necessary incentives to support industrializa-

tion and strive to ensure Tanzania becomes a favorable place to set up industries and do business for both local and foreign investors.

"Believe our Indian brothers have potential to team up with local partners and exploit this market," he said.

Among fiscal incentives provided under TIC for investors keen to invest in Tanzania include: exemption on project capital goods in terms of zero import duty on capital goods and zero import duty on raw material and tax relief on deemed capital Goods- Import Duty exempted by 75 percent.

Also reduced corporate tax to 20 percent for the first five consecutive years on manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, textile or leather products, Capital Allowance on Agriculture (100 percent), Mining-first 5 years (20 percent), Hotels (50 percent), fish farming (50 percent) and tourist services (50 percent).

Reduced corporate tax 10 percent for the first five consecutive years on assembly of motor vehicles, tractors, fishing boats or out boat engine and depreciation allowance (37.5 percent - 5 percent).

Manoj Verma, Charge

d'Affaires, High Commission of India explained that the event brought together business leaders, writers, academics, social activists, political leaders, Indian diaspora and Tanzanian friends of India.

He said the insights shared and discussions held during the seminar will not only deepen our understanding of the Indian Diaspora's contributions in Tanzania, but will also serve as inspirations to explore new avenues for cooperation and collaboration.

He said the high commission plans to continue such dialogues with civil society, Indian Diaspora and think tanks of Tanzania.

They also plan to publish a bilingual book compiling all information that highlights about what Indian Diaspora has been made in Tanzania.

"This book will be very useful for future generation of the community showcasing the contributions of Indian heritage and culture in Tanzania," he said.

Tanzania with its vibrant culture, diverse landscapes and dynamic economy has been a key partner in India's engagement with Africa.

Bank rewards millions in cash to customers

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

A TOTAL of 5m/- along with other joyful prizes; caps, and clothing meant for the NMB Pesa - 'Haachwi Mtu' customers were distributed yesterday.

This amount is part of many rewards given by NMB as part of their ongoing campaign, 'Weka na Ushinde' which commenced in February 2024 and is expected to end this May. Winners will secure cash prizes of 10m/-, 3m/-, a three-wheeled motorcycle, a refrigerator, gas cylinders, and a television set.

Victor Dilunga, the Manager of NMB's Mazengo Branch in Dodoma, mentioned that the rewards distributed were part of the 150m/- set aside by the bank for its customers in this competition that entered its sixth phase yesterday.

Dilunga explained that they have been conducting draws weekly and monthly to select winners transparently, with the final draw offering the largest prizes overall since the campaign's inception.

"We have today selected 10 winners, each receiving 500,000/- . Opening this account is simple; one only needs 1,000 Shillings and either a NIDA identity card or number," mentioned Dilunga.

After opening the account, customers are required to deposit 50,000/-, making them eligible for the draw, where they can compete for a portion of the 150m/- allocated for the entire competition.

Ibrahim Sikana, an official from the Gaming Board of Tanzania, asserted that winners selected through various NMB competitions are legitimate, as the bank adheres to the regulations and laws governing gaming whenever it conducts its draws.

Sikana commended the bank for its adherence to gaming regulations and advised other institutions to follow suit or emulate their procedures, as it helps address complaints and discontent from those who miss out on prizes.

He further emphasized NMB's maintenance of its current system to ensure reliability, stating that this is the sole pathway that earns the trust and credibility of being safe guardians of Tanzanians' finances.

Janeth Nyamko, the Sales Manager from the NMB Headquarters, reiterated the public's need to trust the bank, which has distinguished itself by undertaking significant ventures beneficial to citizens and has at times acted as a source of comfort to Tanzanians.

Janeth indicated that the next draw will occur at the Wami Branch in Morogoro, as it is their established practice to conduct these gaming events in rotation across their branches nationwide.

Perseus increases takeover offer price of OreCorp

LONDON

ASX- and TSX-listed Perseus Mining has increased its off-market takeover offer price to acquire OreCorp to A\$0.575 a share, provided that OreCorp recommends that shareholders accept the offer.

This compares with its initial A\$0.55 all-cash bid, which equated to a consideration of A\$258-million.

Compared with another takeover offer made by TSX-listed Silvercorp Metals to take over OreCorp for A\$0.53 in cash and shares, OreCorp has confirmed that Perseus has made the superior offer and that, in the absence of SilverCorp amending its offer, will recommend that shareholders accept Perseus' offer.

SilverCorp now has until March 27 to increase its offer price or provide another alteration of its bid terms.

OreCorp further confirms that it has received intention statements from its major shareholders, which collectively own 15.6 percent of OreCorp, to accept Perseus' amended proposal in respect of all shares they own.

Both suitors are interested in gaining control of OreCorp's \$618-million Nyanzaga project, in Tanzania, which would cost \$474-million to build and produce



about 242 000 oz/y of gold over the first decade of operation.

The project is located 30 km northeast of Barrick Gold's Bulyanhulu mine and 60 km east of AngloGold Ashanti's Geita mine.

Through the acquisition of OreCorp,

Perseus aims to diversify its portfolio into Tanzania and further grow its asset base on the African continent.

Perseus has three operating mines in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire producing gold at a rate of more than 535 000 oz/y.

In turn, Silvercorp produces silver,

gold, lead and zinc from various mines in China.

With its proposed takeover of OreCorp, Silvercorp aims to become a globally diversified precious metals producer, with enhanced trading liquidity and further upside from the Nyanzaga project.

CONSTRUCTION

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FACES NEW HURDLE AS PETITIONER MOVES TO COURT

NAIROBI

A Nakuru doctor has moved to the High Court seeking orders to temporarily suspend the commencement, levying, obligations, operationalisation and effecting of the Affordable Housing Act, 2023.

In a petition filed on Tuesday, Magare Gikenyi argued that there is no justification as provided by the Act to limit the enjoyment of rights to individuals.

He said the Act has failed to appreciate that some Kenyans “wameshajipanga na housing”.

This is including the place of the building, the style, design and mode of payment among others, adding that there is no rational need to force all Kenyans to pay the levy just for the others.

He further argued that the Affordable Housing Act tries to introduce “communist ideologies”, where the constitution does not allow the government to introduce such.

“Kenya is not a communist state and the constitution does not envisage it,” he said.

Gikenyi went on to state that it was unconstitutional that the Act purports to use public land pursuant to the Land Act, 2012 and sell the housing unit to a



President William Ruto has a word with a construction worker at Kibra, Soweto B Social affordable housing project in Nairobi

private individual or corporate.

Backing up his claim, he cited Article 62(2) and (3) of the Constitution, that all public land is held and managed and/or allocated by the National Land Commission (NLC) and not any other body.

“The Act does not give NLC on allocation of land and the process of processing of land acquisition,” he added.

He emphasised that the procedure for the sale of public land whether with or without housing units in it, is governed by constitutional provisions and as such an Act of Parliament cannot purport to oust the said provisions.

Further, he told the court that the respondents in the suit had not given the rationale and legality of building on public land and then selling the same to

private individuals or private companies (corporate).

The respondents include the Cabinet Secretaries for Lands and Treasury, the Attorney General, The National Assembly and the Senate.

Gikenyi faulted them for “the blatant dismissal of the results of the public participation process”, saying they impose a levy which the majority of Kenyans are opposed to.

He cited the TIFA report released in December 2023.

He also argued that the levy has been established with a faulty legal framework and structures for implementation, making its application a matter for the executive’s discretion.

He said this, therefore, makes it susceptible to abuse in violation of the principles of public finance.

The doctor also claimed that the fund has been established without any basis in law, “essentially making it a private fund that is being funded by public resources”.

He raised concerns about the lack of guarantees to contributors of benefits and there being very low penalties for stealing from the fund.

“For all practical purposes, the fund subjects employees and other income

earners to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, which is tantamount to servitude,” he said.

He also faulted the Parliament for failing to uphold the Constitution as required by the law and failing to oversight and protect Kenyans against excessive and illegal taxation.

Gikenyi told the court that the action of the respondents would lead to a loss of public confidence and outright abuse of political power to the detriment of many Kenyans.

He noted the importance of maintaining constitutionalism, the rule of law, Law and Order, good governance, non-discrimination and protection of the Constitution.

He also sought orders prohibiting the respondents from evicting Kenyans from public land ostensibly for purposes of the Affordable Housing Act pending the hearing and determination of the suit.

Gikenyi urged that the matter be placed before a judge and the orders issued to preserve and safeguard public interests.

The Act was passed by the National Assembly with amendments on February 21, and by the Senate on March 12, 2024.

It was then assented into law by President William Ruto on Tuesday, March 19.

Dubai villa prices in top areas double in three years

DUBAI

Highly desired villas in Dubai have more than doubled in value in three years, whilst apartment prices are up by just over a third on average, new data showed on Wednesday.

The ValuStrat Price Index (VPI) for February registered 164.1 points, up 23.1 per cent annually, with a monthly increase of 2.1 per cent. Villas were at 206.1 points, and apartments were 136.6 points, this is compared to 100 points base set in January 2021.

The VPI is a valuation-based price index constructed to represent periodic change in capital values and rental values experienced by typical residential and commercial properties. The VPI for Dubai’s residential capital values is updated on a monthly basis. The VPI for Dubai’s residential rental values is updated on a quarterly basis.

The apartment submarket in the emirate saw prices accelerate at 1.9 per cent monthly and expand a record 18.6 per cent an-



nually. The highest year on year capital growth in apartments was recorded in Discovery Gardens (30.7 per cent), The Greens (27.9 per cent), Palm Jumeirah (27.4 per cent), Town Square (23 per cent), and Dubai Production City (22.9 per cent).

Villa capital gains during the

month were up 2.4 per cent compared to January and 28 per cent since last year. The top annual performers were villas in highly desired Jumeirah Islands (36.1 per cent), Palm Jumeirah (35.1 per cent), Dubai Hills Estate (33.6 per cent), and Mudon (29.6 per cent).

Off-plan Oqood (contract) registra-

tions jumped 32.6 per cent annually and 5.7 per cent monthly. Ready home transaction volumes grew 30.5 per cent annually and 9 per cent monthly, representing a minority 36.9 per cent share of overall residential sales for the month.

February saw 20 transactions of ready properties priced over Dh30 million, these were located in Emirates Hills, Palm Jumeirah, District One, Jumeirah Bay Island, and Dubai Hills Estate.

Topping the sales charts overall this month were properties developed by Emaar (13.3 per cent), Damac (9.9 per cent), Danube (7.6 per cent), and Sobha (5.7 per cent).

Top off-plan locations transacted included projects located in Jumeirah Village Circle (11.8 per cent), Dubai Maritime City (11.4 per cent), Business Bay (6.4 per cent), and Bu Kadra (4.5 per cent).

The majority of ready homes sold were in Jumeirah Village Circle (9 per cent), Business Bay (7.2 per cent), Dubai Marina (5.9 per cent), Downtown Dubai (5.8 per cent), and Dubai Hills Estate (5.1 per cent).



Mozambique: Beluluane industrial park injects \$900m to GDP

MAPUTO

The 52 companies located in the Beluluane Industrial Park, under the management of MozParks, in Boane district, Maputo province, contribute around US\$900 million to Mozambique’s gross domestic product (GDP).

They include companies from 17 countries, including the United States of America (USA), Pakistan, India, South Africa, Portugal and Tanzania, most of which operate in the Mozal aluminium value chain.

Domingo has learned that Mozal produces around 500,000 tons of aluminium per year, a significant part of which is used locally by Midal Cables Internacional, producer of electrical cables.

Some of the aluminium is also absorbed locally by the metalworking sector for the production of industrial accessories to supply companies located in the park.

The park also houses factories in the agro-processing sector, with emphasis on cashew nuts, plus others producing tubes for oil and gas piping, while another segment provides catering services.

Onório Boane, general director at MozParks, explained that some of the companies located in Beluluane operate under the Industrial Free Zone regime and are anchored to Mozal.

Altogether, the 52 companies are responsible for creating around 10,000 jobs, of which 5,000 are directly linked to the Mozal project and the remainder performing functions in industries with no direct connection to the anchor company.

Boane also notes that around US\$3.2 billion was invested in the design of Beluluane Industrial Park, with Mozal contributing more than US\$2 billion.

US Fed’s rate cut plan to affect housing market

NEW YORK

Federal Reserve officials are planning to cut interest rates this year, real estate agents are likely to slash their commissions after a major settlement and President Biden has begun to look for ways his administration can alleviate high housing costs.

A lot of change is happening in the housing market, in short. While sales have slowed markedly amid higher interest rates, both home prices and rents remain sharply higher than before the pandemic. The question now is whether the recent developments will cool costs down.

Economists who study the housing market said they expected cost increases to be relatively moderate over the next year. But they don’t expect prices to actually come down in most markets, especially for home purchases.

Demographic trends are still fueling solid demand, and cheaper mortgages



could lure buyers into a market that still has too few homes for sale, even if lower rates could help draw in more supply around the edges.

“It has become almost impossible for me to imagine home prices actually going down,” said Glenn Kelman, the chief executive of Redfin. “The constraints on inventory are so profound.”

Mortgages have been pricey lately in part because the Fed has lifted interest rates to a more-than-two-decade high.

The central bank doesn’t set mortgage rates, but its policy moves trickle out to make borrowing more expensive across the economy. Rates on 30-year mortgages have been hovering just below 7 percent, up from below 3 percent as recently as 2021. Those rates could come down when the Fed lowers borrowing costs, particularly if investors come to expect that it will cut rates more notably than what they currently anticipate.

Mortgage rates and some other borrowing costs tend

to adjust when investors shift their expectations for what the Fed will do, rather than when the central bank actually makes a move. That is one reason mortgage rates have been drifting lower from a peak of about 7.8 percent in late 2023: Inflation has eased, and it has become clear that the Fed could soon reduce its policy rate.

Central bankers projected on Wednesday that they could make three rate cuts this year and three more next year.

Some analysts think mortgage rates could drop further in 2024. Greg McBride at Bankrate, for instance, thinks they could end the year around 6 percent.

Cheaper borrowing costs will have two big effects on the housing market. First, they make it slightly less expensive to finance a purchase: The monthly payment on a \$400,000 mortgage with a 7.8 percent rate is about \$2,880, but more like \$2,400 with a 6 percent rate. Such a decline could stoke demand from would-be buyers.

Second, lower rates could induce more homeowners to sell. Many Americans are sitting on cheap mortgages that they refinanced during the pandemic and are hesitant to give them up to move. The smaller the gap between those existing mortgages and market mortgage rates becomes, the more that rate lock-in might disappear – potentially making more starter homes available.

WORLD

Somali pirates' return adds to crisis for global shipping companies

MOGADISHU

AS a speed boat carrying more than a dozen Somali pirates bore down on their position in the western Indian Ocean, the crew of a Bangladeshi-owned bulk carrier sent out a distress signal and called an emergency hotline.

No one reached them in time. The pirates clambered aboard the Abdullah, firing warning shots and taking the captain and second officer hostage. Chief Officer Atiq Ullah Khan said in an audio message to the ship's owners.

"By the grace of Allah no one has been harmed so far," Khan said in the message, recorded before the pirates took the crew's phones. The company shared the recording with Reuters.

Rising costs

A week later, the Abdullah is anchored off the coast of Somalia, the latest victim of a resurgence of piracy that international navies thought they had brought under control.

The raids are piling risks and costs onto shipping companies also contending with repeated drone and missile strikes by Yemen's Houthi militia in the Red Sea and other nearby waters.

More than 20 attempted hijackings since November have driven up prices for armed security guards and insurance coverage and raised the specter of possible ransom payments, according to five industry representatives.

Two Somali gang members told Reuters they were taking advantage of the distraction provided by Houthi strikes several hundred nautical miles to the north to get back into piracy after lying dormant for nearly a decade.

"They took this chance because the international naval forces that operate off the coast of Somalia reduced their operations," said a pirate financier who goes by the alias Ismail Isse and said he helped fund the hijacking of another bulk carrier in December.

He spoke to Reuters by phone from Hul Anod, a coastal area in Somalia's semi-autonomous northeastern region of Puntland where the ship, the Ruen, was held for weeks.

While the threat is not as serious as it was in 2008-2014, regional officials and industry sources are concerned the problem could escalate.

"If we do not stop it while it's still in its infancy, it can become the same as it was," Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud told Reuters last month at his highly-fortified art deco palace, Villa Somalia.

Over the weekend, the Indian Navy intercepted and freed the Ruen, which was sailing under Malta's flag, after it ventured back out to sea. The European Union's anti-piracy mission, EUNAVFOR Atalanta, said the pirates may have used the ship as a launchpad to attack the Abdullah.

The Indian Navy said all 35 pirates aboard surrendered, and the 17 hostages were res-



General Cargo PEGASUS 01 vessel offloads cargo at the Port of Bosaso, in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland, Somalia, Jan 28, 2024. REUTERS

cued without injuries.

Cyrus Mody, deputy director of the International Chamber of Commerce's anti-crime arm, said the intervention of the Indian Navy, which has deployed at least a dozen warships east of the Red Sea, could have an important deterrent effect.

"This intervention does show that the risk/reward is very much against the pirates, and hopefully that will make them think a few times over," he said.

A Bangladeshi foreign ministry official, however, told Reuters the government was "not in favor of any kind of military action" to free the Abdullah. The official, who asked not to be named to discuss a sensitive matter, cited the pirates' advantages when operating close to the Somali coast.

The waterways off Somalia include some of the world's busiest shipping lanes. Each year, an estimated 20,000 vessels, carrying everything from furniture and apparel to grains and fuel, pass through the Gulf of Aden on their way to and from the Red Sea and Suez Canal, the shortest maritime route between Europe and Asia.

At their peak in 2011, Somali pirates launched 237 attacks and

held hundreds of hostages, the International Maritime Bureau reported. That year, the Oceans Beyond Piracy monitoring group estimated their activities cost the global economy about \$7 billion, including hundreds of millions of dollars in ransoms.

The current rate of attacks is significantly less, with the pirates primarily targeting smaller vessels in less patrolled waters, maritime risk managers and insurers said. Since November, they have successfully seized at least two cargo ships and 12 fishing vessels, according to EUNAVFOR data.

But the mission - which as of February had identified up to five so-called pirate action groups active in the eastern Gulf of Aden and Somali Basin - has warned that the end of the monsoon season this month could see them push further south and east.

Their raids have extended the area in which insurers impose additional war risk premiums on ships. Those premiums are getting more expensive for voyages through the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea, adding hundreds of thousands of dollars to the price tag for a typical seven-day voyage.

US failed its policy in Ukraine, says Russian diplomat

MOSCOW

THE United States has failed its Ukrainian policy, the Russian foreign ministry's official spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, told Channel One.

"The United States of America has failed its Ukraine-related policy. They failed it not just in the context of promises that were given to Ukraine - which is their least concern, I presume - they also failed it with regard to their own close circle of allies."

In her opinion, the United States treats Ukraine as "a tool," and as "some sort of an inanimate object."

Zakharova described the US policy on Ukraine as a "gruesome bloody performance" that will never be forgotten.



UK plan to deport refugees to Rwanda to be delayed

LONDON

THE passage of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's contentious bill to deport refugees to Rwanda may be delayed until at least next month after the upper house of parliament defeated the government and reinstated demands for greater protections.

The government wants to relocate thousands of asylum seekers who arrive in Britain on small, inflatable boats each year to live in Rwanda, but legal challenges have so far prevented anyone being sent to the East African country yet.

The legislation is central to Sunak's pledge to stop the arrival of asylum seekers and he hopes the deportation flights will reverse the fortunes of his Conservative Party, which is heavily trailing in the polls with the next election looming.

Unelected members of the House of Lords, largely made up of former politicians and government officials, voted on Wednesday for a second time to amend the legislation to put more safeguards in place to protect the rights of asylum seekers.

The Lords voted for amendments that would require ministers to take "due regard to domestic and international law" and another that would only declare Rwanda a safe country when a treaty with Britain had been implemented.

The defeats for the government means the bill will be sent back to the House of Commons in a process known as "parliamentary ping-pong" where the two chambers try to find common ground.

The resulting back-and-forth means the bill is unlikely to become law until after parliament returns from its Easter break - in the middle of next month at the earliest.

This is likely to push back when the first deportation flights take off because, one government official said, it will probably take at least a month to organize them from the moment when the legislation passed.

The government suffered a setback to its plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda last year when the UK's Supreme Court ruled the policy was unlawful because there was risk that people sent there could be sent back to their country of origin and their safety jeopardized.

To overcome objections by the court, Sunak's government is passing the bill that declares Rwanda a safe country for asylum seekers and disapples parts of human rights law in an attempt to block further legal challenges.



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak leaves Downing Street to attend the weekly session of Prime Ministers Questions in the House of Commons in London, on Wednesday. AP

International forum on democracy held in Beijing

BEIJING

THE third "International Forum on Democracy: The Shared Human Values" was held Wednesday in Beijing.

Li Shulei, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a keynote speech.

Over 200 guests from various countries, regions and international organizations engaged in discussions on topics including "Democracy and Modern Governance," "Democracy and the Rule of Law in the Digital

Times," "AI and the Future of Democracy" and "Democracy and Global Governance in a Multipolar World."

They agreed that democracy is a significant sign of the progress of human civilization, and is what the CPC and the Chinese people have consistently been pursuing.

After long exploration, China has carved out a democratic development path with Chinese characteristics, which has safeguarded the democratic rights of over 1.4 billion Chinese people, and provided strong support for advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization, accord-



Guests read displayed books before the third "International Forum on Democracy: The Shared Human Values" in Beijing on Wednesday. The forum was held in Beijing. Xinhua

ing to the guests.

Noting that democracy is a common value of all mankind, the guests called for full respect for developing countries' efforts to pursue, develop and realize democracy, and voiced their opposition to the acts of triggering division, spreading prejudice and undermining peace in the name of democracy.

The forum was hosted by the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council Information Office, and co-organized by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the China Media Group and the China International Communications Group.

Ethiopian security forces arrest 50 suspects for plotting armed violence

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIAN security forces have announced the arrest of 50 suspects for plotting armed violence and terrorist activities in the country's capital, Addis Ababa, and its surroundings.

The Ethiopian Joint Security and Intelligence Task Force said in a late Tuesday statement that the apprehended suspects are members of a covert armed group.

According to the task force, the group had been "conspiring to perpetuate armed terror activities in Addis Ababa

and its surroundings after their mission to create chaos and violence in the country's Amhara region was foiled by the coordinated efforts of regional and federal security forces."

The task force said that the covert group has been recruiting members and organizing logistics in various parts of Addis Ababa.

The suspects were apprehended after a secretive operation conducted by the National Intelligence and Security Service over the past five months. They were seized in possession of various weapons,

bombs and explosives, incendiary materials, resources used for the group's sustenance, currency notes from different countries, as well as various documents.

The task force further disclosed that the main coordinators of the covert group are individuals based in different foreign countries. Over the past months, the group has been working to create its own political, military, information, finance, media, and propaganda wings.

In August 2023, the Ethiopian parliament ratified a six-month state of emergency rule in the Amhara region amid

prolonged conflict between the military and local militiamen.

The state of emergency rule followed several days of fighting in towns across Amhara, the country's second most populous region, between federal forces and local militia known as Fano.

In February this year, the Ethiopian parliament further extended the initial six-month state of emergency for an additional four-month period with a view "to further solidify the existing peace in the region with a level that could never be reversed."

Xinhua

Upholding one-China principle an unstoppable historical trend

THE separatist activities for "Taiwan independence" are the most destructive elements to the peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, said Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi when answering questions from Chinese and foreign media about China's foreign policy and external relations recently.

To truly safeguard cross-strait peace, the world must unequivocally oppose "Taiwan independence." The stronger the commitment to the one-China principle is, the greater the guarantee for the peace across the Strait will be, said Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

This solemn stance on the Taiwan-

related issues made by the Chinese government has given a serious warning to the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces and external forces behind them, once again sending a powerful message that the historical trend of upholding the one-China principle is unstoppable.

Taiwan is China's Taiwan. The elections in Taiwan held this January are just local elections in one part of China. The result does not change, even in the slightest terms, the basic fact that Taiwan is part of China. Nor does it change the historical trend of Taiwan's return to the motherland.

Since the elections ended, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokespersons promptly shared the reaction of the

international community to the elections. In just a few days, more than 100 countries and international organizations have reaffirmed their commitment to the one-China principle and their support for China in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia said in a statement that Serbia, in accordance with its consistent policy and advocacy for adherence to the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, supports the one-China principle, that it does not recognize the statehood of Taiwan. The Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade reaffirmed Hungary's commitment to the one-

China principle in the country's foreign policy.

Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, Prime Minister of Nepal, said Nepal opposes "Taiwan independence," never allows others to use Nepal's territory to engage in any activities that harm China's interests, and opposes any interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The spokesperson of the Russian Foreign Ministry Maria Zakharova said that the Russian side opposes any form of Taiwan's independence, and called on all outside forces to refrain from provocative actions undermining regional stability and international security.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry said

that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China, and any election or action carried out in Taiwan should not affect this fact.

Leaders of the Maldives, Sierra Leone and other countries issued joint press communiques or joint statements with the Chinese side during their visits to China, reaffirming their commitment to the one-China principle, opposition to external interference in China's internal affairs, and support of all efforts made by China to achieve national reunification.

These voices of justice and peace reflect the broad consensus of the international community in firmly upholding the UN Charter and the basic norms governing international

relations, and embody the trend of the times and of history.

The one-China principle is what underpins peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. Whatever changes take place in Taiwan, the basic fact that there is only one China in the world and Taiwan is part of China will not change; the Chinese government's position of upholding the one-China principle and opposing "Taiwan independence" separatism, "two Chinas" and "one China, one Taiwan" will not change; and the international community's prevailing consensus on upholding the one-China principle and long-standing and overwhelming adherence to this principle will not change. *People's Daily*

Emirates wishes customers a happy Holi

DUBAI

ON March 24 and 25, Emirates will be celebrating the most colourful festival in the world, wishing customers a happy Holi onboard select flights to India with refreshing Thandai drinks and sweet Holi treats.

Often called the Festival of Colors, Holi is a vibrant celebration that involves dancing, singing, and the playful throwing of colored powders and water at fellow revelers. Holi is celebrated widely across parts of India, where it originated, as well as in other countries in South Asia.

Emirates' customers travelling to and from seven destinations in India - Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai, will enjoy the much-loved Indian sweet Kesar Gujiya, alongside their meal for breakfast, lunch or dinner. The deep-fried dumpling stuffed with solidified milk and dried fruits will be served in a specially designed box, reminiscent of the colourful festival of Holi. First and Business Class customers will be warmly welcomed with cold Thandai -

a festive drink made from milk and nuts, flavoured with fragrant saffron and rose petals.

Fliers can get into the holiday spirit with hundreds of classic Bollywood movies in the world-class ice entertainment library with up to 260 Indian movies including new titles, classic Bollywood and regional Indian movies.

Movies include box office hits like Pathaan, The Great Indian Family, Gaslight and many more. There is also a special collection of Yash Raj Films, Bollywood's 'father of romance.' Passengers can also enjoy music videos from Yash Raj in Indian TV, plus over 30 albums and playlists of Indian music, including a special music video compilation called Holi Hai!

Emirates' celebration of Holi underscores the airline's enduring connection with India, spanning 37 years of shared history and cultural affinity. Serving nine destinations in India with 170 weekly flights, Emirates connects millions of customers travelling to India from Dubai and from across its global network each year.

Agencies



African experts meet in Kenya to advance green transition

NAIROBI

MORE than 60 African climate change experts on Wednesday began a three-day meeting in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, to discuss ways of influencing green policies in favor of the continent.

During the meeting organized by the African Group of Negotiators Experts Support, a think tank, the experts are looking toward ensuring that the continent asserts its role and engagement in the global climate agenda.

Festus Ngeno, principal secretary in the Kenyan Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, said the experts must work closer together, and support each other on fundamental issues to present a united front and push towards desirable outcomes for the continent, denoting that climate change continues to pose a serious threat to Africa, impacting people, livelihoods, ecosystems and biodiversity. Ngeno urged the experts to increase awareness of climate change and help in supporting policy development among experts, researchers, academics, practitioners and policymakers.

David Gikungu, director of Kenya Meteorological Department, said that with Africa hosting half of the world's most vulnerable countries, the region faces significant threats. Gikungu noted that Africa must take proactive steps to address climate change and safeguard its future.

He said that the time has come for Africa to lead the development of tailored responses to climate change that align with the continent's unique needs, circumstances and priorities. George Wamukoya, team lead at the African Group of Negotiators Experts Support, said that Africa's participation in the assessment cycles of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change, is essential for ensuring that the continent's unique challenges and perspectives are adequately addressed.

Wamukoya noted that as the world confronts the escalating impacts of climate change, particularly in rapidly urbanizing regions, Africa must contribute fully to the generation of knowledge and the formulation of strategies to build resilience and mitigate risks.

He said that through collaborative efforts and strategic planning, the experts can leverage Africa's expertise to drive impactful change and pave the way for a more sustainable future.

The Nairobi forum serves to leverage Africa's expertise and experiences from past assessment cycles, focusing on refining strategies to address unique challenges, particularly in bolstering urban resilience, and bridging knowledge gaps specific to the continent's context.

Xinhua

Sudan facing one of the worst humanitarian disasters in recent memory, says UN

KHARTOUM

THE United Nations has warned that Sudan is suffering from one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent history after nearly a year of war. Al Jazeera reported.

Fighting between the army, headed by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, since last April has killed tens of thousands of people, as the threat of famine looms amid international inaction.

"By all measures - the sheer scale of humanitarian needs, the numbers of people displaced and facing hunger - Sudan is one of the worst humanitarian disasters in recent memory," Edem Wosornu, director of operations at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said on Wednesday. "A humanitarian travesty is playing out in

Sudan under a veil of international inattention and inaction," Wosornu told the UN Security Council on behalf of OCHA head Martin Griffiths.

"Simply put, we are failing the people of Sudan," she added, describing the population's "desperation."

According to the United Nations, the conflict has led to the displacement of more than eight million people, Al Jazeera reported.

Earlier this month, the Security Council called for an immediate ceasefire during Ramadan and urged better access to humanitarian aid. However, the ceasefire was not realised due to disagreements between the warring sides.

Notably, over 18 million Sudanese are facing acute food insecurity - 10 million more than at this time last year - while 7,300,000 Sudanese children are believed to be suffering from severe malnutrition.

ANI

Opposing West-monopolised democracy, int'l experts call for diversity of political opinion

BEIJING

WESTERN countries should inwardly reflect on their malfunctioning democracy instead of weaponizing democracy against others, experts said at an international forum on democracy here Wednesday.

Fretting about the monopolization of democratic values by the West, especially the United States, participants at the third International Forum on Democracy: The Shared Human Values called for cross-border dialogue and respect for political diversity.

AILING WESTERN DEMOCRACY

"The glorious season in which the democratic principle was 'one head, one vote' has gone, and the new principle is 'one dollar, one vote,'" said Massimo D'Alema, former prime minister of Italy.

He warned that modern media control enables overpowering money to manipulate political opinion.

D'Alema was one of many speakers who expressed concerns about money politics. Anthony Carty, an Irish professor of international law, told Xinhua that widespread "financial plutocrats" across Europe and North America have corrupted media and politics to serve their interests, leading to distrust between the public and the political sector.

Inequality poses another major threat to Western democracy. Citing a survey from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Georgios Katrougkalis, former Greek foreign minister, said that today majorities in all Western countries believe that their governments are not acting to promote the general interest but to "promote the interests of the wealthy and the powerful."

However, despite the "ubiquitous, pathetic scenes" of illicit drug abuse, street vagabonds and looting of shops in U.S. cities, "the bipartisan legislators on the Capitol Hill seem to remain unperturbed," said Ong Tee Keat, former deputy speaker of the lower house of the Malaysian Parliament.

D'Alema said Western coun-



tries should rebuild democracy with public policies that can relieve inequality and social injustice and limit the power of money.

For his part, former Peruvian Foreign Affairs Minister Cesar Landa underlined the risk of social networks to Western democracy, as social networking platforms can be used "to manipulate voters, sometimes in an emotional and irrational way."

"Given the manipulation of personal data in the last U.S. election campaign, there is serious concern in the world that the elections could be won not by the candidates with the best policy proposals, but by those who use and control technology," he said.

WEST-MONOPOLIZED DEMOCRACY

Despite their deteriorating systems, some countries continue to wave democracy as a flag against other countries, trying to build a "new Berlin Wall," said D'Alema.

Electoral democracy is widely touted as a West creation and has ever since been made "the one-size-fits-all benchmark" for democratic rule worldwide, which is a "fallacy," said Ong.

"The cohesive transplant of electoral democracy, either through military intervention or brutal regime change, as was initiated by Washington in the developing world, has only added more failed states and ensuing humanitarian disasters to the lists," he said.

"Everywhere they've applied this system, it led to chaos," British economist John Ross told Xinhua, noting that U.S. attempts to impose so-called democracy in Iraq and Libya have caused hundreds of thousands of deaths and a destabilized Middle East.

"You cannot impose a system from the outside for a very good reason because the main factor in any country is always domestic," said Ross, also a former director of economic and business policy for the mayor of London.

The underlying intention of the United States, Ong said, is to use democracy as a weapon "against geopolitical challenges, or potential adversaries in

the global power play."

Western countries underwent a long "peculiar historical process" in democracy, which is precisely why the West should see that its model "cannot be exported and imposed in other parts of the world, as the experiences in Afghanistan or Iraq or in the Middle East have shown again in recent years," said D'Alema.

HARMONIZING DIFFERENCES THROUGH DIALOGUE

With diverse levels of modernization and development, trajectories of nation-building, and history of nationhood across the developing world, the practice of democracy varies, which, nevertheless, has "consistently been the blind spot" of the developed West, said Ong.

For instance, China has "a better system for hearing the people and a better system for responding to them," said Stephen Perry, president emeritus of Britain's 48 Group Club.

"Chinese democracy and governance works. We should be studying in China, not trying to lecture China," he said.

Participation and governance matter most regardless of form in the practice of democracy, said Ong.

Peter Mwangi Kagwanja, president of the Africa Policy Institute, said the international community is calling for a more multipolar world given the "glaring democracy deficit."

For democratic global governance, an equal multipolar world requires "equal rights, equal opportunities and equal rules for every nation" and countries that "are not grouped according to their strength," he said.

Essam Sharaf, former prime minister of Egypt, called for mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness among civilizations to tackle global challenges.

"We can break cultural barriers by harmonizing differences," Sharaf said. "Different colors and shapes ended up with one beautiful painting."

Xinhua

Palestinian support for Hamas and war remains high - Survey

TEL AVIV

A survey of Palestinians living in Gaza and the Palestinian Authority released on Wednesday found popular support for Hamas remains high despite the war.

The poll, conducted by the Ramallah-based Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research found that 71 per cent of Palestinians surveyed viewed

Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel as correct. This perception was identical between Palestinians living in the PA and Gaza.

The survey also found that Palestinian satisfaction with Hamas remains stable at 70 per cent (75 per cent in the PA and 62 per cent in Gaza) and with Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar at 61 per cent (68 per cent in the PA and 52 per cent in Gaza).

Satisfaction with Fatah was

much lower at 27 per cent (24 per cent in the PA and 32 per cent in Gaza) and with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas at 14 per cent (8 per cent in the PA and 22 per cent in Gaza).

Compared to a December survey, support for Hamas rose in Gaza by 10 per cent but dropped 10 per cent in the Palestinian Authority.

When asked who should be in

control of Gaza after the war, 59 per cent preferred Hamas (64 per cent in the PA and 52 per cent in Gaza).

Thirteen per cent selected the Palestinian Authority without Abbas, while 11 per cent chose the PA with Abbas. In addition, 3 per cent selected one or more Arab countries, 1 per cent chose the UN and 1 per cent preferred the Israeli military.

ANI

Russian scientists in awe of Tanzanian nature

FROM February to March, a group of Russian scientists, representatives of the Russian scientific sphere, NPOs, as well as the Russian Environmental Development System, toured six national parks in Tanzania.

The group of leading researchers included two PhDs, two doctoral candidates and the Director of the Scientific Research Center "Povolzhye". After their return home, one of the members shares their experience.

"We climbed the Shira Plateau on Kilimanjaro and descended into the caldera of the Ngorongoro Volcano, walked along the shore of Lake Manyara, wandered among baobabs in Tarangire, admired herds of ungulates in Serengeti and met black and white colobus in Arusha", recalls Olga Kharkova, Ph.D., Deputy Director General of the International Ecological Fund "Clean Seas".

"It really blew our minds how close the wild Tanzanian animals let cars get to them", shares Dr. Kharkova. "People and cars were nothing more than an element of the landscape for all them. They did not feel threatened by humans. Tanzania has impressed us very much!"

The focus of the trip was not only the unique nature of Tanzania, but the conservation and protection system in Special protected natural areas, the work of the rangers, as well as the features of visitor infrastructure.

"We would be very glad to come more than once and bring our colleagues from Russian Special pro-

TECTED natural areas, to show our achievements and exchange experience in such areas as nature conservation, environmental education, ecotourism", says Dr. Kharkova.

"It is also possible to expand the sphere of interests and present our experience and proposals in the field of assessment and monitoring of environmental condition of ecosystems, assessment of the condition of crucial engineering facilities (e.g. hydroelectric dams), etc."

Russia has a vast system of Special

protected natural areas that includes several Natural World Heritage sites, as well as some of the largest and oldest natural reserves in the world (Barguzinsky Reserve was the first to be established in 1917).

Yet it was only during recent years that ecotourism has begun to gain momentum. No doubt, two countries as immersed in conservation and protected nature area management as Russia and Tanzania have a lot to offer each other in terms of exchange of experience and expertise.

Agencies





Tanzania's Yanga footballers participate in their club's training in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League and 2023/24 CAF Champions League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Mamelodi Sundowns a tough hurdle for Yanga in CAF CL semi-final pursuit

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THIS season's CAF Champions League quarterfinals between Yanga and Mamelodi Sundowns is the most anticipated fixture in Tanzania.

It can hardly be compared with the fixture pitting Tanzania's other envoy in the showdown phase- Simba SC- versus Egypt's Al Ahly because the two sides have met several times in the continental showdowns in recent years.

The two sides will meet in the first leg at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on March 30 before locking horns in a reverse fixture at Loftus Versfeld Stadium in South Africa on April 6.

Miguel Gamondi coached Sundowns in 2005/6 whereby he led them to the South Africa Premier League victory in his one-year stint.

Some will urge that Yanga versus Mamelodi is a match that brings two of the best outfits at the moment in the CAF Champions League, while some will counter that the Tanzanian side is eager to test big guns.

Yanga reached the final of the previous season's CAF Confederation Cup and they will be eager to replicate the impressive run in the grandest stage of them all in continental club football.

The two sides last met in 2001 in the second round of the showpiece and Yanga was knocked out on a 6-5 aggregate after a 3-2 loss away which was followed by a 3-3 draw at CCM Kumba Stadium in Mwanza.

The same year, Mamelodi Sundowns went to the final of the competition and lost to Al Ahly- who as a result won their third title. The Egyptian club is of late 11-time winner.

After 24 years apart, Mamelodi Sundowns have emerged as one of the powerhouses in African football in terms of performance, titles, and results- highlighting how difficult will the challenge be for Yanga to tackle.

Mamelodi Sundowns' ambition is to conquer the world by dominating African football and they aim to compete for the FIFA Club World Cup slated for next year in the USA.

This season Mamelodi Sundowns won the inaugural African Football League under head coach Rhulani Mokwena who is one of the best tacticians in African football at 37 years.

Commonly known as the Brazilians, they hardly lose at home in the CAF Champions League, making it difficult for the teams they play against.

At Loftus Versfeld Stadium, Pretoria, they have gone 16 games without losing, winning 12 games and 4 draws since losing 2-1 to CR Belouizdad in 2021 thus making their home pitch a fortress.

Their prowess extends in away games, they have lost once in the last 10 games, winning 7 and 2 draws, this is due to their well-constructed technical bench that has contributed to forming a strong team on and off the pitch.

Mamelodi Sundowns have 24 personnel on their technical bench under Mokwena and assistant coach Manqoba Mngqithi while according to Transfermarkt.com, Mamelodi Sundowns' squad value is Euro 35.15 million (92bn/-).

Matias Esquivel from Lunas of Argentina who joined the club in January cost the club around Euro 2.3 million (6.4bn/-).

Soccer enthusiasts can talk about the quality and prowess of Mamelodi Sundowns due to their DStv Premiership dominance but they also have to understand that despite winning the AFL, Mokwena is under intense pressure.

Since 2016, when the outfit won the first CAF Champions League title under tactician Pitso Mosimane, it has failed to reach the final of the competition, taking part in semi-finals twice including last season.

The outfit further failed to advance to the quarterfinals in 2017/18 while playing quarterfinals from 2019-2022.

This year, Mokwena- who is on his third full season at the club- will be eager to get over the hump and replicate his AFL trophy win in the CAF Champions League where they are deemed as favourites.

An area Mokwena will rely on is the experience of his players including skipper Themba Zwane who was among the other six Sundowns players who made up the first 11 of head coach Hugo Broos in the 2023 AFCON finals in Ivory Coast.

Yanga needs to understand the pattern plays of Mamelodi Sundowns that are based on short passes while pushing the ball forward in triangular movements, with players moving forward and launching attacks.

The South African champions like to dominate games and force teams to play as they dictate the game, something Miguel Gamondi is aware of heading into the first leg.

Mokwena hardly fields the same line-up in games as only Chilean Marcelo Allende turns out to be the mastermind on Mamelodi Sundowns' midfield alongside Teboho Mokoena on a 3-4-3.

The formation has midfielder Themba Zwane playing upfront are the only outfield players who have maintained their spots in the club's last three games while others are either rotated or come off the bench.

With the South African side's midfield being the strongest base, Yanga needs to have Khalid Aucho and Pacome Zouzoua back to fitness so the outfit can tame Mamelodi Sundowns' prowess via Yanga's 3-4-3 formation that Gamondi uses against well-structured teams.

Yanga has some struggles this season- defending in transitions against strong teams and, for that matter, either a 3-4-2-1 or 3-4-3 formation will suit Gamondi and his charges against Mamelodi Sundowns given all areas of the pitch will be balanced.

Kopunovic's exit looms as Tabora United grapples with NBC PL challenges

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TABORA United FC is on the brink of making a significant announcement regarding the club's coaching staff.

Sources close to the team reveal that it is preparing to bid farewell to head coach, Serbian Goran Kopunovic, citing the team's unsatisfactory performance under his tutelage.

In a recent development, the club's management held a crucial meeting with Kopunovic to convey its decision to part ways with the gaffer.

According to insider reports, the leadership has initiated the process of scouting for a suitable replacement.

Assistant coach Bernad Fabian shed light on the situation, revealing: "Information available to us suggests that we may be parting ways with head coach Kopunovic, although no official statement has been issued."

Speaking on the team's struggles, Fabian highlighted ongoing issues within the squad, emphasizing the need for corrective measures to salvage their precarious position in the league standings.

"Several factors have contributed to our current predicament, among them is our persistent failure to rectify mistakes, which has left us in a perilous position," Fabian stated.

Further inquiries into the matter prompted a response from Chief Executive Officer



Tabora United FC's head coach, Goran Kopunovic.

Thabit Kandoro, who affirmed Kopunovic's status as the team's coach.

However, it is evident that behind the scenes, preparations for Kopunovic's departure are already underway, with the search for his successor in progress.

Tabora United's skipper Said Mbatii voiced the team's concerns, acknowledging the turbulent phase they have found themselves in.

"Tabora United has encountered setbacks,

and our lack of consistency is troubling. None of us is content with the current trajectory, which appears to be heading downhill," Mbatii remarked.

Reflecting on Kopunovic's tenure, Mbatii expressed gratitude for the coach's guidance and mentorship.

The left fullback pointed out: "Kopunovic has been a paternal figure to us players, both on and off the field. His impact on our footballing journey has

been profound, and his departure would undoubtedly leave a void."

As Tabora United deliberates on its next course of action, the impending departure of Kopunovic marks a pivotal moment in the squad's history.

With the search for a new head coach underway, the team braces itself for a period of transition, hoping to emerge stronger from this challenging chapter.

Tabora United's per-

formance in the Premier League has been under scrutiny, with the team managing just four victories in 21 matches played.

With nine draws and seven losses, their record reflects a struggle to secure consistent wins on the pitch.

A major concern lies in the team's offensive capabilities, which have faltered under Kopunovic's tenure.

Despite playing 11 matches, the offensive line has so far managed to score 15 goals, finding the net in just nine of those encounters.

Compounding their woes, Tabora United's defensive line has also come under fire, conceding a total of 25 goals in Premier League fixtures thus far.

This vulnerability in defense has further added to the team's challenges on the pitch.

Looking ahead, Tabora United faces a crucial phase in the season, with nine matches against formidable opponents including JKT Tanzania, Kagera Sugar, and Simba SC remaining.

The outcome of these fixtures will undoubtedly shape the Tabora team's fate in the league standings as they strive to turn their season around.



The Federation of Uganda Basketball Associations (FUBA)'s national team committee officials, betPawa executives, and representatives of the two senior national basketball teams pose after the sponsorship contract signing ceremony which took place recently. AGENCIES

Betting firm to sponsor Uganda's national basketball teams

By Guardian Correspondent & Agencies

UGANDA'S national basketball teams- Silverbacks (senior men) and Gazelles (senior women) have received a boost from the local betting brand, betPawa, which is set to sponsor them for the next three years.

In an announcement made on Tuesday, betPawa said it will give the Federation of Uganda Basketball Associations (FUBA) UGX 2.6 billion (1.8bn/-) towards the management of these two teams between now and 2026.

The costs to be covered under this partnership include team training, travel and accommodation to attend tournaments, medical insurance, and supplements among others.

"The costs to be covered under this partnership include team training, travel and accommodation to attend tourna-

ments, medical insurance, and supplements among others," betPawa's Chief Branding Officer Spencer Okach revealed.

In addition, betPawa will directly pay the players UGX 150,000 per match for every win their team gets under their flagship Locker Room Bonus initiative. Locker

Room Bonus is a direct reward to players by the sponsor for winning matches, as a way of boosting their morale and recognizing great performance.

Confirming the signing of the sponsorship, FUBA CEO Marcus Kwikiriza said: "This is the first time our players are getting an incentive such as the Locker Room Bonus and also the first time in East and Central Africa that a private company is sponsoring a national basketball team."

The Minister of State for Sports Peter Ogwang lauded betPawa for the sponsorship noting that in most countries sports are supported mostly by the private sector, adding that he hopes to see the same in Uganda.

"Clap for this special occasion. The problems facing sports can only be solved by the partners we have here. Elsewhere private sponsors play a big role in supporting teams. Thanks to betPawa for bringing the challenge here," he said.

The national team manager and administrator Albert Ahabwe said the teams' progress had been affected by financial difficulties in the past despite the great talent on board.

"With betPawa on board we are ready to prepare, and when we prepare well and in good time, we are ready to take

over the continent," Ahabwe revealed.

betPawa's Chief Commercial Officer Ntoudi Mouyelo said the sponsorship is timely given the global spotlight on the game brought on by the Basketball Africa League.

He said the partnership will increase players' exposure to top clubs at home and abroad as betPawa will support them in attending tournaments where they can showcase their skills.

"With Uganda Silverbacks recently being ranked by FIBA as one of the most improved countries by ranking, moving up four spaces to position 83, out of 160; we see huge potential here. These kinds of partnerships can help them aspire to reach even greater achievements both regionally and globally," he added.

Sepp Blatter interview: 'I don't want anything special - just a thank you'

By Ben Rumsby

SEPP Blatter is back at Fifa. Almost eight and a half years since he last inhabited the most powerful seat in world football, the "Godfather" of the modern game has returned to the Fifa House he built.

He cannot enter, of course. He has been banned from doing so since being cast out of the sport during its worst ever corruption scandal. Seeing Fifa's Zurich headquarters up close therefore brings back bittersweet memories for a man who has gone from appearing untouchable atop football's highest authority to being pursued like a villainous traitor by it.

Blatter is here while promoting a new autobiography, aptly entitled *Overtime*, in between conducting interviews about the book at a nearby restaurant. That is where he opens up about his extraordinary downfall, the criminal action against him he says he almost died while fighting, and his fears it may yet follow him to his grave.

"The angels were coming. I said I'm not ready to go"

Blatter has just turned 88 and is noticeably frailer than the figure who maintained a stranglehold on the Fifa presidency for 17 years, albeit still perfectly turned out in a navy-blue suit and open-necked white shirt. As he begins to speak, it is clear that what friends would call his unique charisma, and enemies his boundless ego, remains undiminished, as does his flair for the theatrical.

"Not president," he says when asked how he prefers to be addressed, before adding: "I am 'Le President' in France. Because you never lose a title when you are promoted in France."

For those who buy into what Blatter complains in his book is a portrayal of him as "a thief, a fraudster, a liar, a fraudulent deceiver or a document forger with criminal intentions", the loss of a title is the least he deserves. To them, he is a mafia don who should be locked up. Like those henchmen spirited away under bedsheets in the FBI-led dawn raid of their favourite luxury Zurich hotel back on May 27, 2015.

They may yet get their wish. Having avoided a similar fate to those Fifa executives extradited to the United States - Switzerland does not hand its citizens over to foreign powers - Blatter has since been pursued for years through his own nation's criminal justice system.

He thought it was all over in July 2022 when he and Michel Platini were found not guilty of fraud and other offences over the notorious two million Swiss francs (£1.8 million) Blatter paid the ex-Uefa president 11-and-a-half years earlier. But an appeal was lodged against their acquittals



Blatter believes his trial in Switzerland contributed to his health problems. Agencies

that has dragged the saga into a ninth year.

All this has taken a major toll on Blatter's health. On the first day of his trial, he told the court he was too ill to testify because of chest pains. That was after having had heart surgery a year and a half earlier which resulted in him spending a week in an induced coma. The latter culminated in what he now describes as a quintessential near-death experience.

"I had hallucinations," he recalls. "I have seen that angels were coming for me and wanted to take me off. And I have said, 'No, I'm not ready to go'. I was in a coma, I was out, and there were two lovely white-dressed ladies that were looking after me and I had some apparatus to breathe. And then they had to change it. But, in my dream - or, at that time, my reality - it was that there were angels. They said, 'You have to come. You have to die now. They are awaiting you in heaven'. I took more than three months afterwards just to realise that I'm still alive."

Upon regaining consciousness, he says he was initially immobile and lost the power of speech, the latter returning initially only in the form of the dialect of his Valais birthplace, before being followed by French, English and Spanish.

This is not the first time Blatter has described being "very close" to death. In Nov 2015, weeks after being placed under criminal investigation and banned by Fifa over the Platini payment, he told Swiss TV channel RTS he had collapsed while visiting his parents' grave. He added: "I was among the angels singing and the devil with the fire. But it was the angels who sang."

His latest brush with mortality has convinced him he was always destined for a higher purpose. "I was premature when I was born. I was one kilo, 250 grams [2.76lbs]," he says, recounting fears he would "not survive". He adds: "They say my mother must have been a saint."

"Americans are bad losers"

Blatter says he suspects those pursuing criminal action against him in Switzerland - including Fifa itself - are banking on him finally succumbing to nature before his retrial so he avoids winning again in court. He also claims to

have had a tip-off that authorities in the United States investigating the theft of \$200 million (£156 million) from the game - described in 2015 as "the World Cup of fraud" - planned to put him "in handcuffs" if he ever went there.

The US may have missed its chance. Six months ago, a New York judge quashed a pair of convictions in the Fifa scandal, citing an earlier May ruling by the country's Supreme Court that foreign commercial bribery schemes were not prohibited under American law. More appeals are pending from those brought to justice partly thanks to one of Blatter's own corrupt executives, the late Chuck Blazer, turning super-grass and covertly recording colleagues using a key-fob with a hidden microphone.

"Americans, they're bad losers," says Blatter, who has always suspected what happened in 2015 was revenge for the now-infamous Dec 2010 award of the 2022 World Cup to Qatar at the expense of the US. For that, he still blames Platini, who he accuses of swinging the vote on where the tournament would be staged in favour of the tiny Gulf state. Blatter claims Platini bowed to pressure from then French president Nicolas Sarkozy, who had been forging strong links with Qatar. Sarkozy and Platini have both denied this. Blatter has always maintained his own vote went to the US.

Whatever the US authorities' motives, the bidding process for what was both the 2018 and 2022 World Cups was indisputably mired in bribery and corruption. The same could be said for Fifa itself for much of Blatter's entire time there, not only throughout his long reign as president but his 25-year career beforehand. So much so that the most enduring image of that era is of him being show-

ered in fake banknotes by British comedian and serial prankster Simon Brodtkin at the height of the 2015 scandal.

Blatter was not amused. "Those who have done it, they are not friends of football - definitely not," he says of the stunt. "And they have to ask themselves what is the damage they have done to the game?"

Blatter has always denied any personal involvement in the paying or taking of bribes. He was cleared in 2013 of knowingly handling a bung intended for predecessor Joao Havelange. He has said he had no knowledge of brown envelopes stuffed with cash that were alleged to have changed hands during his own maiden presidential election campaign in 1998. And he said the same about a \$10 million (£7.85 million) payment by South Africa that the country's government also denied was intended to buy votes to secure it the 2010 World Cup.

It remains a source of deep resentment that his ongoing ban from football has come courtesy of the Fifa ethics committee set up during his presidency. "My committee," he laments. Both he and Platini maintain the payment behind their 2015 suspensions was for work carried out on Blatter's 1998 election campaign, over which they struck a "gentleman's agreement" to defer to a later date. The timing of Platini finally receiving the cash, between the award of the 2022 World Cup and Blatter's 2011 bid for re-election, could hardly have been worse.

Two years ago, and with Blatter's six-year ban about to expire, Fifa's ethics committee extended his exile until June 2027. That was after finding he accepted undue economic benefits totalling 23 million Swiss francs (£20.4 million) and approved payments or bonuses of a further 46 million Swiss francs

(£40.8 million) to other officials. He chose not to appeal against a verdict of a body he said had become an "extended arm" of his successor, Gianni Infantino.

Blatter's new book is much a polemic against his fellow Swiss polyglot as a memoir of his own career, with Infantino accused of having a "vendetta" against him and of seeking to "destroy" his legacy. That includes by expanding the World Cup to 48 teams, the "absurd" staging of the 2030 edition across three continents, and the impending coronation of Saudi Arabia as hosts four years later.

Overtime, which features contributions from Blatter's daughter and other figures, portrays its author as a wrongfully persecuted patriarch who both saved Fifa and "created a monster" in making it and the World Cup what they are today. The book also features an account of his criminal trial - "I kept feeling like I was in the wrong movie" - and some of the other corruption allegations against him. But not all the controversies are accounted for, particularly those that saw him subjected to ridicule: his bid to use football to bring peace to the Middle East - and his pursuit of a Nobel Peace prize - for example; his claim racism could be solved with a handshake (a comment he later retracted); or his suggestion female players could wear "tighter shorts" to promote the women's game. There is certainly no mention of a vehemently-denied accusation by former US Women goalkeeper Hope Solo that he sexually assaulted her - "I had Sepp Blatter grab my ass" - at the Fifa Ballon d'Or awards ceremony 11 years ago.

"English football is too successful"

Reflecting now on his 42 years at Fifa and whether he simply clung on to power for too long, he says: "If I would always go through all my life back [over] what was wrong, what would have been better, then I would start to put myself in situations where I would say, (lowering his voice) 'Oh, you're a bad boy. You are a bad boy already at school.'" He adds: "Let's say I have no regrets [about] what I have done and especially no regrets [about] what I have not done."

He prefers to focus on the good times, his personal highlights reel

including a reception by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace two decades ago to mark Fifa's 100th anniversary - "one of the greatest events in my life". He retains a keen interest in the Royal Family, having earlier brought up the doctored Mother's Day photograph of the Princess of Wales and her children.

Blatter's affection for the British monarchy did not help football 'come home' when England were twice humiliated bidding for the World Cup on his watch and he suggests the nation's standing in the game has diminished further since the late Queen's passing. He laughs when asked where previous bids had gone wrong and what could be done to bring the tournament back to what he calls "the Motherland".

"I would say, in my life, I will not witness it!" he says. "The problem is that English football is too successful." He also warns that certain stereotypes still persist of the British - "nose in the air, (imitating the accent) 'We are British. We are English'". He says he would love football to do "something very special for England". But he adds: "Who would say that now when the game is in the hands of the Arabs?"

He talks about changes he would make if he were still at Fifa, including to the Video Assistant Referees system it oversees. "I would say, 'We must have the same system for the whole of football', and not only a system for the rich. Because it's a system for the rich." Of sin-bins in the sport, he adds: "Let the game be as simple as it is."

But, despite his pilgrimage to Fifa HQ, he wants to make it clear he is not dreaming of making a comeback, saying: "I don't miss the presidency. I live for football still now because I cannot forget football."

"I was 42 years in Fifa but I'm aware that I'm out of the game. Out of the game physically. But I'm still into the game, which was my passion and my mission. I was like a missionary. And a missionary never gives up."

He adds: "I only want what my daughter is saying in the book, that somebody should have said, 'Thank you for what you have done'. That's all. Nothing very special."

THE TELEGRAPH



The Spanish football federation's headquarters at Las Rozas was searched by police as part of a corruption investigation. Agencies

Police search Spanish football federation offices over alleged corruption

MADRID

SPANISH police searched the Spanish football federation (RFEF) headquarters and its former president Luis Rubiales' house among other locations as part of an investigation into alleged corruption and other crimes, judicial sources said Wednesday.

According to Spanish media, the operation is part of a court investigation into contracts signed by former federation chief Rubiales to take the Spanish Super Cup to Saudi Arabia.

The contracts signed are worth 40 million euros a year (\$43.3 million) and were arranged with former footballer Gerard Pique's company Kosmos acting as an intermediary.

The operation involved searches of various locations across Spain as well as the RFEF's base in Las Rozas, on the edge of Madrid, and Rubiales' property in Granada, although the 46-year-old is currently outside of Spain.

"I am absolutely surprised by all this," Rubiales told a journalist from Spanish television channel Telecinco.

"I have been working here for months in the Dominican Republic, I've been here for over a month straight, and in fact, my family was going to come and spend Easter with me."

Rubiales stepped down in disgrace in September after forcibly kissing Women's World Cup star Jenni Hermoso to provoke worldwide outrage, following Spain's triumph in the Sydney final in August.

A Spanish judge said in January Rubiales will face trial over the incident.

The police searches across 11 locations were part of "an investigation linked to presumed crimes linked with corruption in business, fraudulent administration and money laundering", said judicial sources.

Sources said four arrests have been made so far, including the federation's external legal advisor Tomas Gonzalez Cueto, and two RFEF directors.

"The RFEF has today offered its full cooperation to the police investigation, as well as to the public prosecutor, after the search of its headquarters," the Spanish federation said in a statement.

"Furthermore, the RFEF has called for total transparency in the institution that runs Spanish football."

"As such, it is keen that the investigation underway should proceed uninhibited until its conclusion," the RFEF added, citing its "deep concern".

- Stadium searched -
Police have also searched Seville's La Cartuja stadium, where the Copa del Rey final will be held on April 6.

Spanish media said no arrests were made at the federation's headquarters, where the Spanish national team is currently based ahead of upcoming friendlies against Colombia on Friday in England and Brazil on next Tuesday in Madrid.

"I had no idea about (the police operation), we trained as normal," said Spain and Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya.

The Spanish Super Cup took place for the first time in Saudi Arabia in 2020.

After the following edition returned to Spain because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the subsequent three competitions were back in Saudi Arabia.

Spanish prosecutors opened a probe in 2022 into the Super Cup deal after audio recordings between Rubiales and Pique were leaked in which they spoke of multi-million value commissions.

Rubiales has always defended the legality of the deal to take the Super Cup to the oil-rich Gulf state.

"If there is any type of commission, Kosmos will get it from Saudi Arabia -- the federation has not paid, is not paying and will not pay a single euro in commission to anyone for this deal," Rubiales said in 2022.

Former Barcelona and Spain defender Pique said in April 2022 "everything is legal" and that he was "proud" of the deal.

The defender twice played in Spanish Super Cups in Saudi Arabia with Barcelona before he retired from football in November 2022.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Sepp Blatter interview: 'I don't want anything special – just a thank you'

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Yanga releases injury updates ahead of CAF CL tie vs Mamelodi

By Guardian Correspondent

AS Young Africans SC, also known as Yanga, prepares to take on Mamelodi Sundowns in the CAF Champions League quarterfinals' first leg slated for March 30 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, the club has provided injury updates on its players.

Speaking to the media during a press conference, Yanga Media & Communication Manager Ali Kamwe discussed the progress of five injured players.

Kamwe revealed: "Kibwana Shomari has received treatment and is doing well. The good news is that on Monday Kibwana will start light training on the pitch."

"Khalid Aucho has entered the second phase of his recovery and has started fitness exercises. When he finishes this phase, he will start some light training before joining his colleagues for a full training program," Kamwe said.

"Zawadi Mauya is doing well and as soon as possible he will join the team for training together with his colleagues."

He noted: "Kouassi Yao Attohoula, after a medical check-upcheck-upcheck-up by our doctor Moses Etutu, it was discovered that he had a thigh muscle problem that he picked up in our league game against Azam FC."

"The doctor has been very clear that due to Kouassi's recovery, his availability is so far at 50/50. Doctors are still working hard to make sure he is fit."

"Pacome was diagnosed with a knee problem. While he was in the process of starting treatment, he was fortunate enough to be called to the Ivory Coast national team."

"The call came when it was already reported that Pacome had had a knee injury. So we made contact with the Ivory Coast national team."

Kamwe disclosed: "The national team also has its panel of doctors and they asked us to send the player because of his importance and see if they can help in his treatment so that he can be used in their games upon full recovery."

Yanga will host Mamelodi Sundowns in the last eight of the CAF Champions League on March 30. The return tie is set to be held in Tshwane on April 5.

The Tanzanian team will come into the tie after finishing second in their CAF Champions League group. They managed to end their campaign with eight points, finishing ahead of Algeria's CR Belouizdad and Ghana's Medeama.

They will have their work cut out against the South African champions, who won four of their six group stage matches and are desperate to emulate their 2016 success when they lifted their first-ever continental title.

The aggregate winner of this clash will go on to face the victor between Tunisia's Espérance and Ivorian outfit ASEC Mimosas in the semi-finals set for late April.

Tanzania clashes with Bulgaria in FIFA Series 2024 opener



Footballers making Tanzania's senior national football team are pictured participating in drills in Baku, Azerbaijan yesterday in preparation for the 2024 FIFA Series kicking off today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

TANZANIA will square off against Bulgaria in the first match of the FIFA Series 2024 tournament at Liv Bona Dea Arena, Baki, Azerbaijan this Friday afternoon, with kick-off slated for 4 pm.

While Tanzania is ranked 119th in the world by FIFA, Bulgaria finds itself 36 places higher up the standings- having been ranked 83rd.

Bulgaria's best-ever world ranking is eighth in 1995 while Tanzania has a faraway position 65 achieved in 1995 to boast of.

Tanzania is currently five games without a win across all international fixtures, but

this encounter represents a good opportunity to end that winless run that stretches back to November 18.

Interim head coach, Hemed Suleiman 'Morocco', is using the FIFA Series 2024 tournament as part of his preparation for the 2026 World qualifiers which will resume in June with back-to-back games against Zambia.

"These matches are excellent and crucial for us because they will help build our players and elevate their standards.

These competitions will

also aid our team in fostering good chemistry within the squad respectively." Morocco said ahead of the first match of the FIFA Series tournament.

'Morocco' will rely on the squad that did duties in the African Cup of Nations in January.

However, captain Mbwana Samatta did not join the squad during this international break citing personal reasons.

As for Bulgaria, they are on an 11-game winless run that runs back to November 2022.

They finished bottom

of their Euro 2024 qualifying group section that was dominated by the likes of unbeaten Hungary and Serbia, failing to win any of their eight matches.

Back-to-back draws over the top two sides in November, though, restored some pride for a faltering national side.

Ilian Iliev's side will be using the FIFA Series games to prepare for the upcoming UEFA Nations League campaign which commenced during the September international break, with Bulgaria placed in League C alongside Lux-

embourg, Northern Ireland, and Belarus.

Goalkeeper Dimitar Mitov who plies his trade with Scottish side St. Johnstone told Bulgarian journalists that Tanzania is an unfamiliar opponent but they have analysed them through video and he hopes for a victory.

Mitov began on the topic before Bulgaria's last training session, revealing: "I think this match with Tanzania is a game like any other where we have to prepare as well as possible and go out and get a good result."

"We are not very familiar with the opponent, but that's why there are videos and if we follow the tactical instructions of the technical bench I hope we will have success," Mitov added.

The shot-stopper stated: "The opponent relies on physical presence, but we have that too. We just have to be the better team on the day. We have players who can win the game."

He concluded: "Basically every team has its strengths and weaknesses, the most important thing is how we will present ourselves. The atmosphere in the national team since I have been here has always been good. The mood is at a high level, I feel good."

Simba SC striker admits needing time to adapt to Tanzanian football

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

GAMBIAN striker Pa Omar Jobe admits Simba SC has yet to see the best of him.

Jobe has been slow to adapt to life in the NBC Premier League following his switch from Europe to Simba SC in January.

The 25-year-old has found the net just once in nine league appearances for his new club. However, he has scored two goals in the Federation Cup and CAF Champions League.

Jobe will now be looking to show more glimpses of his talent when Simba SC hosts Al Ahly in the CAF Champions League quarterfinal first leg to be played Friday at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The lanky striker opened up on his early days at Simba SC including adapting to Mainland Tanzania Premier League, CAF Champions League quarterfinal preparations, and the huge fans' expectations since his arrival.

"It is important to prepare for this game because Al Ahly is not a small team. It is a big team on paper but inside the pitch, we have 11 players against eleven so there's nothing big."

"But in papers, they are big because they win trophies and they are always in this competition in Africa."

Jobe believes there is a big difference between playing in the CAF Champions League

and the NBC Premier League.

The forward noted: "When you play in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League it is more difficult than playing in the CAF Champions League because there (CAF Champions League) you play basics, tactics, and formal football but here (Ligi Kuu) it is kind of different."

Jobe stated: "The league competition is so far good because teams are winning and some are losing. Competition is high among fourth, third, and second and the guys down are fighting to go up."

"It is normal, this is African football. We are all born in Africa and we know how African football is," the forward revealed.

Commenting on his slow start to life at Simba SC, Jobe- who has played in various European leagues- believes new players like him need to be given time to adapt.

"We keep on pushing because Simba is a big club and the fans always expect a lot from us. They

have to give us time because we are new players," he stated.

"We don't even have two months here in the country. Football is adaptation, you need to adapt to the league you are playing."

"It has been a while for us without playing in Africa so if we come back to play it will take time for us to see what we can do. But we keep on pushing because this is a big club."

"In Tanzania people love football. They are crazy about football, if you see in the media the way they talk is just like England."

"The media is powerful. England is like that, the media talks about players and teams and Tanzania is like that too."

The forward disclosed: "But the most important thing is the player's mentality, you forget about what the outside people talk about. If you play well they will talk. If you play poorly they will talk so you must focus and prepare for the game."



Roman Catholic's Dar es Salaam Archbishop Thaddeus Ruwa'ichi (C), speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday about preparation for the Pugu Marathon scheduled for May in the city. He has been flanked by (R) Chairman of the Mission of Catholic church's men Amadeus Masha, and Mkombozi Bank's Digital Services Manager Filemon Tesha. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Winger Willy Onana eager to retain spot in Simba SC's XI

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER getting back to the pitch and scoring a goal in recent three games, Simba SC winger Willy Onana has said it would not be easy for him to go straight into the starting lineup.

The winger conceded there is massive work underway to convince the side's head coach Abdelhak Benchikha.

Simba SC has traveled to Zanzibar to prepare for the CAF Champions League quarterfinals against Al Ahly- with the first leg set to take place on March 29 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Onana picked up an injury last year and has since missed eight games. He was injured when his side was locked to a 2-2 draw with Kinondoni Municipal Council FC at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on December 22.

The Cameroonian winger went on to miss league games against Mashujaa FC, Tabora United, Azam FC, Geita Gold FC, JKT Tanzania, and Tanzania Prisons.

The winger has also missed two games in this season's CAF Champions League, which ended with Simba SC notching a 0-0 draw with ASEC Mimosas and thereafter thrashing Jwaneng Galaxy 6-0.

Onana noted it is hard breaking in the starting eleven after coming from an injury with his fellow players performing well. The footballer made his eagerness to retain his place known.

The winger revealed: "It is hard to break into the starting lineup, especially after coming out from injuries, you

get a few minutes that aim to raise your fitness level while the fitness and head coach assesses your progress on your return."

Onana noted: "I came back and found other players performing at at top level, which is key for the team and I want to be part of this success, I am happy with the minutes I get and I want to contribute to more wins in the team, I want to return my starting place in the eleven but with hard work to show the coach."

In Benchikha's preferred formation of 4-2-3-1, the Algerian has mostly been deploying Zambian midfielder Clatous Chama on the left wing, whilst assigning Saidi Ntibazonkiza an attacking midfield role and Kibu Denis to play on the right wing.

With Onana pushing to start, he will likely retain his position on the left wing while Chama and Ntibazonkiza will keep their places on the starting lineup in other roles.

Simba SC has many wingers- with Luis Miquissoine, Ladack Chasambi, Edwin Balua, and Salehe Karabaka also pushing for a starting place at the club.

Onana's records this season favour him the most ahead of other wingers as he has better numbers in the CAF Champions League- scoring two goals in four games.

In his recent comments on Onana's return, Benchikha said he is happy to have more depth and quality of experience on his squad, stressing it welcomes massive competition ahead of two decisive games against Al Ahly.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

