



### National Pg 3 A wish for embassy in Islamabad



### National Pg 5 TOSCI plans to construct seed laboratory



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## EAC to host first China-US, Africa business summit

By Guardian Reporter

THE secretariat of the East African Community (EAC) is expected to host the Africa and China - US business summit sometime next year.

It said in a statement yesterday that Dr Peter Mathuki (pictured), the secretary general, made this affirmation in Arusha yesterday after a meeting with Robert Sun, the American Chinese CEOs Society president, where they discussed investment opportunities in the EAC partner states.

The summit is expected to attract over 500 CEOs and investors from China and the United States evaluating investment opportunities in the trading bloc, he said, pointing at the EAC's strategic location and its expansive market as key investment attractions.

The EAC is committed to providing a conducive environment for businesses, having in place an adequate legal framework, a big market with a population of 283.7m. The EAC has a GDP of \$305.3bn and low costs of doing

**“We are ready to do education and promotion for investors in China and the US, and share the opportunity presented by the EAC market”**

business, he said. “This presents immense opportunities for business and the region is ready for investment,” he said, laying stress on the bloc's immense natural resources as with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

It has a total land area of 2.3m square kilometres with \$24trn worth of minerals that are yet to be exploited, he elaborated, noting a presentation of bankable projects across the partner states.

For his part, Sun expressed interest in bringing investors to the EAC, affirming his being impressed by the region's economic potential, amplifying that a united East Africa, free from trade barriers, will mean business.

“We are ready to do education and promotion for investors in China and the US, and share the opportunity presented by the EAC market,” he said.

The CEOs society was looking at investing in hospitality, agriculture, health, real estate, insurance and others. US President Joe Biden had declared intent to facilitate upwards of \$50bn

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# Quadruple coalition wants activists freed

By Guardian Reporter

FOUR prominent groups of human rights defenders have condemned the detention of noted activists by the police.

In a joint statement issued in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the groups said the action is contrary to current government efforts to streamline civic prerogatives in the criminal justice system.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC), the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) and the Tanzania Constitution Forum (TCF) called on President Samia Suluhu Hassan to resolve the issue.

They urged the president to intervene in the matter and facilitate the release of the detained activists, namely, former Chadema secretary general Dr Willibrod Slaa, advocate Boniface Mwanukusi and activist Mpaluka Nyagali popular as ‘Mdude’. Anna Henga, the LHRC executive director, said at a press conference that efforts by the government to improve access to justice in the country were being undermined.

She said police still apply excessive force in arrests of suspects fighting for human rights. “Human rights defenders honestly believe in

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India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, officiates at the hoisting of the national flag of India in Dar es Salaam yesterday in marking the country's Independence Day. The event attracted scores of Indians in the diaspora and friends of India. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## NHC defaulters pay 23bn/- in one month

By Correspondent James Kandoya

NATIONAL Housing Corporation (NHC) tenants paid rent debts amounting 23bn/- during a one-month campaign to collect rent from tenants countrywide.

Muongano Saguya, the NHC public affairs and information manager, said at a press conference yesterday that the corporation has listed a number of measures to compel defaulters to pay up.

This move is related to instructions by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa when winding up parliamentary business at the end of its past sessions in which he gave a three month ultimatum to defaulters to clear their arrears.

NHC wishes to design a formula to prevent further accumulation of rents, he said, affirming that NHC initiatives to ensure

tenants pay their rent arrears include forming a virtual task force, a committee to oversee debt collection.

So far NHC has collected 5bn/- out of the 28bn/- it is owed by ex-tenants and active tenants, he said, noting that the measures include reaching agreements with tenants to pay their rent arrears in instalments.

In order to collect debts and avoid disturbances, from now on tenants will not be rented before paying a three-month security deposit, which will help NHC to use the security deposits when the rent defaulter is no longer visible, he said.

“From now NHC will not take up a tenant who has a bad record of not paying rent on time to avoid unnecessary inconveniences,” he said.

Active tenants who will fail to pay their

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## Samia seeking church help, hails self-reliance

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has tasked religious leaders with a leading role in addressing moral deterioration in the society by directing their preaching on the youth.

Officiating at the launch of a new commercial complex built by the Anglican Church in Dodoma, she said rising moral decay calls for everyone's involvement, including the church.

The church should take a leading role in

speaking against bad manners. We should teach the youth and even the elderly, arguing against those who use the church to do things which are outside the scope of that association.

She called upon religious leaders to urge their followers to work hard and tap opportunities emanating from shifting the government's seat to Dodoma.

“Dodoma will not be built in a day,” she stated, promising that she will find time to explain to the people of Dodoma what has

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan is witnessed by Anglican Church of Tanzania bishops as she cuts the ribbon in Dodoma city yesterday to inaugurate an investment complex known as Safina House - property of the church's Diocese of Central Tanganyika. Photo: State House

## Quadruple coalition wants activists freed

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the views issued by the commission formed to investigate state organs responsible for dispensing criminal justice," she declared.

She said the commission, chaired by ex-Chief Justice Mohammed Chande Othman, emphasized that police need to respect the public through fair execution of duty.

TCF executive director Bob Wangwe said they are working on a possibility to submit a request to meet President Samia for an audience on various issues going on in the country "to further help strengthen human rights and access to justice."

Paul Kisabo, a THRDC official,

said that they will ensure that they monitor the case to its end so as to ensure that the arrested activists access all the legal pursuits for justice.

Those arrested have been burdened with crimes which are not theirs, he said, affirming that on the basis of police explanations, "they should be charged for provocative statements and not treason."

Meanwhile, Dickson Matata, an advocate directly representing Dr Slaa, has expressed concern over the whereabouts of his client.

He said that Dr Slaa was previously reported to be under custody at the Oyster Bay police station, but he has since been shifted to an undisclosed

custody, even as he has spent over 24 hours in the police remand without being taken to court.

"We haven't seen Dr Slaa, the last time I saw him was on Monday when I went to the police station and was told that police will take him back to his residence in Mbweni. When I returned there I didn't find him; we are still making follow-up to know exactly where he is," he said.

Dr Slaa was reported to have been arrested on Sunday and detained at the Oysterbay police station, a day after the advocate Boniface Mwakusini and activist Nyagali Mpaluka alias Mdude were arrested.

Another was Emmanuel

Masonga, the Chadema southern zone secretary, at Mikumi in Morogoro Region as they drove to Dar es Salaam, well past midnight Saturday.

Inspector General of Police Camilius Wambura said at a media briefing in Dar es Salaam on Friday that activists planning to organise and coordinate illegal nationwide demonstrations in the wake of a negative court ruling for them, will have no chance to do so.

He asked members of the public to avoid being trapped by such people in the planned demonstrations as police would not spare anyone found taking part in any illegal walk.

## Samia seeking church help, hails self-reliance

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been completed and what is still in progress.

The commercial complex is a stepping stone to self-reliance for the church, she said, affirming government delight at self-reliance initiatives by the church, underlining that the government recognizes the role played by the Anglican Church in supporting developing initiatives.

They have been helpful in promoting the provision of services, similarly hailing the church for venturing in agriculture, complementing government efforts in the Building a Better Tomorrow (BBI) programme.

It involves supporting the youth in agriculture and livestock farming, she told the gathering, vowing that the government will see how best to work with the church and related institutions in ensuring that more youth benefit from the programme.

The Rt. Rev. Dr Maimbo Mndolwa, the head of the Anglican Church in Tanzania, asked the president to endure criticism from the public

on some issues while focusing on developing Tanzania.

Earlier, Bishop Dr Dickson Chilongani of the Central Tanganyika Diocese said the church has been playing a key role in facilitating national development through education and health in particular.

The diocese will celebrate its 91st anniversary in November, as the oldest diocese of the church in the sub-region and well beyond, he said.

In the new complex, there is a hall for the youth to meet and discuss key themes of life that help to shape their orientation, development.

Rosemary Senyamule, the regional commissioner, said the region has received substantial funds from the government for education infrastructure, with the region expected to enrol more secondary school students than in the past.

Building Msalato International Airport has now reached 40-percent, with construction work in the government city reaching 62.5 percent, she added.

## EAC to host China-US, Africa business summit

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investments into Africa within the current presidency ending late next year, he said.

Officials said the meeting was a positive step towards promoting investments in the EAC, enhancing expectations of increased trade and

cooperation between EAC, China and the United States.

The meeting was attended by Andrea Malueth, deputy secretary general for infrastructure in particular, American Chinese CEOs Society official Jerry Shang and the EAC acting director for Customs and Trade, Flavia Busingye.

## NHC defaulters pay 23bn/- in one month

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debt within the announced period will have their leases terminated and evicted from NHC buildings, he said, highlighting that NHC has entered into a contract with the Credit Information Bureau to send the names of defaulters to bar them from seeking services in other financial institutions.

Tenants who have not completed paying their security deposits need to comply before December 31 to avoid lease termination, he stated, hinting at possible measures to list names of defaulters in the newspapers to co-opt other companies not to do business with them.

Elias Msese, the NHC director of

property management, said that at present NHC has 3000 defaulters for from 18,000 houses leased countrywide, with

18bn/- owed by ex-tenants.

Upwards of 3bn/- is owed by public institutions, with the bulk of their arrears slated for payment during the current financial year, he said.

Last year, the Public Investments Committee (PIC) of the National Assembly directed NHC to speed up debt collection from defaulters for it to smoothly implement large scale projects.

PIC chairman Jerry Silaa (Ukongu) said that despite the good work being done by the corporation, the speed of recovering the money must be increased.

## Ecowas military leaders to discuss Niger coup at Ghana summit Thursday

NIAMEY

MILITARY leaders from the West African ECOWAS bloc are to meet in Ghana on Thursday to discuss a possible intervention to resolve the coup in Niger.

President Mohamed Bazoum has been held under house arrest with his wife and son since the armed junta overthrew him on 26 July.

ECOWAS, backed by France and the US, has said the junta's leaders should restore the democratically elected president to power.

This meeting, initially scheduled for 12 August, had been postponed and will finally take place on 17 and 18 August in Accra, the Ghanaian capital, according to a regional military source and a source within ECOWAS.

It will be held a week after the organisation's decision to deploy a "standby force" to restore President Mohamed Bazoum.

On Tuesday, during a telephone conversation, Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Malian counterpart Assimi Goïta, who came to power by a putsch in

2020, stressed "the importance of resolving the situation" in Niger, "only by means peaceful politico-diplomatic".

Mali, a neighbouring country of Niger, very quickly showed its solidarity with the military in power in Niamey.

The latter also raised their voices on Monday evening in the face of the threat of armed intervention.

They recalled Niger's ambassador to Abidjan for "consultation", after remarks by Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara who, according to them, "apologised for armed action" against their country.

AGENCIES



**The latter also raised their voices on Monday evening in the face of the threat of armed intervention**



Asim Mehmood Butt (in black suit), President of the Welfare Association of Pakistan in Tanzania, feeds a cake to Pakistan's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Siraj Ahmad Khan. This was at an event held in Dar es Salaam on Monday to mark Pakistan's Independence Day. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Ruto back in Kenya after 2-day state visit in Mozambique

NAIROBI

PRESIDENT William Ruto arrived back in the country on Saturday evening after a two-day State Visit in Mozambique.

He was received at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki, Chief of Defence Forces Gen Francis Ogolla, service commanders and other top government officials.

Ruto, accompanied by First Lady Rachel and top officials from the Foreign Office, departed from Maputo at 13.44 ending a visit that saw him commit to eight bilateral agreements.

During talks with his host Felipe Nyusi, Ruto called for the opening of African borders to enhance trade,

saying both Kenya and Mozambique will utilize the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) framework to spur economic growth.

The two leaders endorsed the reciprocal recognition of driving licences, a move that will allow citizens of both countries to use their licences both in Kenya and Mozambique.

Ruto rallied Africans to make deliberate decisions to increase trade among its nations.

Speaking at the Joaquim Chissano International Conference Centre, Maputo, during the Mozambique-Kenya business investment forum, President Ruto said African countries should eliminate barriers to trade in order for investors

to exploit opportunities in the continent.

Dr Ruto rooted for the promotion of intra-continental trade to facilitate efforts by investors to harness the continent's potentiality.

"I want to persuade the business people here to look beyond our two countries and explore opportunities in the continent," he said.

Ruto said there is the desire and aspiration that the continent should create a common market free from obstacles if 'we have to prosper'.

The Head of State reiterated the need to empower Pan-African Parliament to make Africa Union (AU) accountable in its operations.

"We must have a strong body that can be the continent's stand bearer on issues affecting the region," he

said.

President Nyusi said there were opportunities for investments in the field of agro-processing, production of flowers and infrastructural development among other sectors.

"We have improved our business environment for investments to thrive," said President Nyusi.

President Ruto assured Kenyans in diaspora that the Government will continue to carry out reforms aimed at improving service delivery. He promised to digitize all government services to support the endeavour.

Ruto urged the diaspora to embrace the culture of saving terming it as "[the] only sure way for us to succeed."

AGENCIES



Jessica Greene (2nd-R, foreground), Coordinator of the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in Tanzania, symbolically presents biometric fingerprint kits to Simiyu Regional Medical Officer Richard Marwa (to her right) and acting Mara regional administrative secretary Dominick Lusasi at the Tarime District Hospital yesterday. Left is the Director of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Tanzania, Dr Mahesh Swaminathan. The PEPFAR and CDC officials are in Mara Region chiefly to highlight the impact the plan has had in Tanzania in the last two decades. Photo courtesy of US Embassy

## Pakistan envoy expresses wish to see govt open Commission in Islamabad

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PAKISTAN High Commissioner to Tanzania Siraj Ahmad Khan has expressed a wish to see Tanzania opens High Commission in Islamabad to further bolster diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The envoy made the statement in Dar es Salaam on Monday when addressing Pakistanis living in Tanzania as part of the commemoration of 76th Pakistan Independence Day.

The new High Commissioner presented his credentials to President Samia Suluhu Hassan at

the State House in Zanzibar on July 24, this year.

"In my desire to stay here, I wish to see Tanzania opening the embassy in Islamabad next year, I requested President Samia Suluhu Hassan during our talks," he said.

"In our meeting with the minister for Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation, we discussed how to enhance our bilateral cooperation not only on trade but also in defence culture education," he added.

Khan said they have also agreed to expand the scope of cooperation and increase the country's interactions and have planned to have a joint commission in future.

The envoy said that his country has been collaborating on economic development, business textiles, shipping industries, mining and automobiles.

The envoy said the Pakistan Diaspora in Tanzania play a vital role in promoting bilateral relations and fostering a strong bond between our two countries.

"Pakistan and Tanzania stand poised to navigate the future together, building a world that epitomizes peace, prosperity, and unity. This day holds immense significance in the history of Pakistan, as it marks the dawn of our nation's freedom and the beginning

of a remarkable journey towards peace, progress and prosperity," he said.

According to the envoy, Pakistan intends to strengthen commercial ties with Tanzania to enhance the amount of trade volume is projected to reach over US \$ 400 million noting that currently, stands at US \$ 224 million

The two countries have also collaborated effectively on regional and international platforms, advocating for shared interests and concerns

In 2021, the main products that Tanzania exported to Pakistan were Raw Cotton (\$27.5m), Prepared Cotton (\$23.1m), and Dried legumes (\$7.22m) while imports of Pakistan from Tanzania mainly include tea, raw cotton, tobacco, edible oils and tanning materials and with a lot of potential to explore.

## Agriculture stakeholders call upon Africa to invest in research on indigenous seeds

By Guardian Reporter

AGRICULTURE stakeholders have called upon African countries to heavily invest in research on indigenous seeds which guarantee better nutrition, food security, and safety for consumers' health.

The stakeholders are meeting for three days in Dar es Salaam to discuss the future of indigenous seeds in their respective countries and globally.

Speaking at the conference, Paul Chilewa from the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) stated that the conference, which involved over 100 participants from 25 countries, is crucial for all stakeholders in indigenous seeds to discuss how to protect indigenous seeds.

Chilewa mentioned that Africa currently faces significant challenges with indigenous seeds, which could lead to food insecurity over extended periods.

He emphasized that indigenous seeds offer abundant and safe nutrition for consumers, thus research is necessary to ensure their sustainability. He suggested that if governments conduct research involving farmers who use indigenous seeds, the challenge could be addressed effectively.

Chilewa further noted that if there are no efforts to tackle the challenge of indigenous seeds, farmers might resort to purchasing seeds that require toxic pesticides and fertilizers, leading to various health issues.

Abdallah Mkindi, Coordinator of the Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity, emphasized that research shows that 80-percent of African farmers use indigenous seeds.

He also highlighted that indigenous seeds contain nutrients, and if society is encouraged to use them, it could address malnutrition issues prevalent in those countries. "Indigenous seeds have a significant role in combating climate change impacts, which have shown severe consequences globally. Therefore, I urge African governments to allocate funds for research on these seeds," Mkindi said.

Mkindi mentioned that TABIO,

in collaboration with the African Food Sovereignty Alliance (AFSA) and SwissAid, brought together stakeholders to discuss the fate of indigenous seeds, which are often overlooked by policymakers and regulations.

Hamisa Abdallah, Member of Parliament for Lindi Town, stated that traditional seed farming could bring productivity to the sector, as historical practices have shown.

She pointed out that traditional seed farming is cost-effective compared to modern methods, urging communities to embrace the old system.

She emphasized that due to the negative effects of modern agriculture, the world is shifting towards traditional systems centered around indigenous seeds. "I live with subsistence farmers, collaborating with them to promote the use of indigenous seeds. I support other stakeholders in calling for investment in research on these seeds, which are safe for human health," she said.

She added that the conference sends a clear message to world leaders to prioritize agriculture based on indigenous seeds, which are safe for both human health and the environment.

Beatrice Banzi from the ministry of agriculture mentioned that Tanzania has been encouraging researchers to study the field of indigenous seeds and other seeds.

Famara Diédhiou, Program Officer at AFSA, stated that it is the right time for African countries to unite in prioritizing indigenous seeds in the agriculture sector. He said, "We've gathered here in Tanzania, and I believe it's the right time for us to advocate for the presence of nutritious food by promoting the use of indigenous seeds."

Participating countries in the conference include Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Spain, Norway, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Australia, Togo, Mali, Benin, Chad, Tunisia, Niger, South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, Egypt, Rwanda, DR Congo, and Gabon.



The Guardian newspaper managing editor Wallace Mauggo (R) pictured in The Guardian Limited (TGL) newsroom in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting an award and a letter of special recognition to Nipashe newspaper sub-editor Sanula Athanas, who emerged Overall Winner in the 2022 edition of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT). The list of the winners was released at a ceremony held in the city late last month. Other winners from TGL similarly awarded yesterday are Francis Kajubi, Shaban Njia, Rahma Suleiman, Augusta Njoji and Elizabeth Kilindi. Witnessing the event are Nipashe newspaper managing editor Beatrice Bandawe (2nd-R) and the TGL Administrative Officer Rehema Shadrack Songoro. Photo: John Badi

## Traffic Police to install CCTV cameras at major highway black spots

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

THE Police in Iringa Region are in the process for the implementation of the grand plan to install modern CCTV cameras at all road black spots along the main road connecting the region and other regions.

The devices will first be installed at Majinja area in Mufindi District and Mt Kitonga in Kilolo District to reduce road accidents at the area.

Salim Abri Asas, Iringa Region Road Safety Committee chairman said the black spots with frequent road accidents will be installed at once as part of his panel's strategy.

The committee made a three-day tour in company with the traffic police officials in Iringa region for assessment of the situation.

Abri said traffic police cannot be stationed along the road 24 hours but cameras will help to nab drivers who violate road safety laws.

"We are therefore warning all drivers that any time CCTV cameras will be installed their time is up to arrest their uncouth behaviour," he said. Several black spots areas visited by the committee include the Kitonga area, Kawre Ruaha, Mbuyuni, Mazombe Gradient in Kilolo District, Mt Ipogoro and Tosa Junction

Others were Tanangozi Dome Hill, Mt Ihemi/Kichakani, Klibena Tamarare, Mt Ny'ang'oro, Mtera Bridge, Mt.Ipwasi and Zizi Corner in Iringa District, Rungemba, Mt Majinja/Changarawe, Nyololo Corner and Mbalamaziwa in Mufindi District.

For his part, Iringa Regional Road Traffic Officer Mossi Ndozero who is also the Committee executive secretary said during the two-day visit they conducted a patrol in some of the areas beginning last Saturday.

Road accident "black spots" are locations which witness more accidents by comparison to other similar locations on the road system, or locations which have accidents greater than a defined minimum.

In 2015, more than 41 people died at the Changarawe black spot in Mafinga District after a Majinja Express bus they were travelling in collided head on with a truck.

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### Expression of Interest

#### Grain Warehouse Storage Facility in Dodoma

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Tanzania seeks to identify potential grain warehouse storage facilities in Dodoma Municipal from a reputable companies that have operational and in good condition warehouses. The warehouse Facility will mainly be used for the storage of food commodities and some related non-food items.

WFP hereby invites qualified companies to express their interest by emailing to [sarah.bairu@wfp.org](mailto:sarah.bairu@wfp.org) with the Subject: **Expression of Interest - Warehouse Storage Facility in Dodoma - Tanzania until 21st August 2023, 10:00 hours (local time)**. The interested companies will receive a questionnaire to be submitted back to WFP by **25th August 2023, 10:00 hours (LMocal time)** as part of the preliminary vendor shortlisting.

The Expression of Interest will be followed by the physical inspection of the warehouse facilities and other amenities to the potential vendors based on the questionnaires.

All requests for clarifications and questions strictly relating to this invitation only, should be sent via e-mail to: [Hafeez.saka@wfp.org](mailto:Hafeez.saka@wfp.org).

Please note that this is not an Invitation to Tender. Rates/prices are not required at this stage, and this invitation does not bind the World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to the companies expressing their interest.

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**15 August 2023**

217552801

## SAGCOT calls farmers to tap opportunities during Dar es Salaam Global Food Summit

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) has called upon farmers in the country to tap opportunities in the coming Global Food Summit to be held in Dar es Salaam to expand their network for market access.

SAGCOT executive director Geoffrey Kirenga said the meeting, which is set to take place in September this year, offers an opportunity for farmers in the country to seek local and foreign markets for their produce.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan has welcomed everyone to register for the summit, which offers room for farmers to market their products," he said.

He said the government has welcomed various leaders from across the globe saying it is time for farmers to attend the summit and widen their network.

He said the meeting will see heads of state from various countries across the globe, heads of international organizations, investors, ministers and other stakeholders targeted to reach 3,000.

Kirenga said the summit will also offer room for investment from agriculture stakeholders to invite investors into the country's agriculture through idea exchanges and business ventures.

He said as part of the invitation to the summit, president Samia has put Tanzania on a world map

as a country which prioritises agriculture.

He said the 2023 Summit theme is 'Recover, Regenerate, Act: Africa's Solutions to Food Systems Transformation' which is anchored around building back better food systems with youth and women at the center.

He added that during the summit, public and private sector attendees will actively engage in dialogues and re-energised commitment in the food systems conversation with a focus on regeneration as a means of wealth creation for the continent.

Kirenga said SAGCOT being an umbrella body of agriculture companies, was ready to work with various stakeholders to ensure that every opportunity available reaches a farmer in Tanzania.

"We have every reason to mobilise farmers and other stakeholders to take part in the summit so that they market themselves," he said.



**President Samia Suluhu Hassan has welcomed everyone to register for the summit, which offers room for farmers to market their products**

## Ugandan govt sets new rules for online lending of money

KAMPALA

NO digital or online money lender will be allowed to charge a defaulting customer a penalty fee exceeding 50 per cent of the total amount they lent them once new operating guidelines come into play in less than six months' time.

The Uganda Microfinance Regulatory Authority (UMRA) Digital Lending Guidelines are almost complete and will be rolled out in December.

The 10 guidelines were developed following public outcry about businesses that run online money lending applications outside the law. Officials at UMRA say they will help restore sanity in the industry, which has been hijacked by quacks and suspected criminals.

The rules were developed after a collective effort involving the regulator, the Ministry of Finance, and Bank of Uganda.

They will cover licensing, governance, credit information, place of business, digital credit, consumer protection, an anti-money laundering mechanism, and reporting of requirements.

Rachael Vanesa Nakawooya, a manager-in-charge of microfinance institutions at UMRA, told stakeholders during an August 9 consultative meeting that illegal online money lenders had brought shame to the sector.

"We, as regulators, promised in that same article that we shall bring out regulations and here we are about to issue. By December this year, the regulations will be up and running," she said during the meeting held in Najjera, Wakiso District.

On April 5, Daily Monitor carried a story which showed how some online money lenders were operating illegally and charging extortionate rates.

Operators of some of the applications including Mangu Cash, Fair Credit, Redi Cash, Isente, Quick-Sente, have since registered with UMRA under one company called Volantis Co Ltd, according to the company's legal officer, Milly Nabukeera.

Nabukeera, however, refused to

disclose the physical address of the company saying, "when people are borrowing our money, do they ask us where we are located? Why should someone start asking after failing to pay? Just know we are legally operating now".

But according to UMRA's May 2023 published list of 2,132 licensed money lending businesses, Volantis Co Ltd is recorded under licence number ML2221, located in Kololo Courts P.O. Box 33913, Kampala.

Under the new guidelines, Volantis and any other similar business will be required to register and make public their physical address or risk being deregistered.

Nakawooya said another loophole which will be plugged is one where a majority of the businesses licensed by UMRA only declared either one or two portals, hiding others and thereby dodging payment of necessary fees.

"We found out that some of you come and register with our companies but hide some of your products. For example some of you own over six applications, but you declared one, under the new guidelines we shall disqualify you," Nakawooya said.

She added that online lenders will be regulated under the Tier 4 Microfinance Institutions and Money Lenders Act, 2016.

In cases where the client fails to pay a loan within the agreed timeframe, the new guidelines prohibit the lender from charging more than a half of the total loan principal in penalties.

"They are supposed to register a known business name, and should avoid threats, using obscene language and avail details of the recovery agent to the client prior to executing any arrears recovery plans and the company should provide clear loan terms," the regulations adds.

Nakawooya said the lenders shall declare a monthly interest rate which they shall then divide into four weeks in case they want to recover their money in seven days.

"We don't want to see a company charging clients 30 percent per month. And whoever fails to adhere will lead to revoking of our license," she said.



Tanzania Education Authority director general Bahati Geuzye (R) and Baobab Shalom Limited director Yev Semikov exchange documents in Dodoma city on Monday after signing an MoU involving the distribution of various publications in an effort to encourage students to pursue courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Lands ministry identifies over 3,000 contract land conflicts countrywide

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

LAND, Housing and Human Settlements Development ministry has identified more than 3,000 contract land conflicts that mar the ministry's image.

Among the conflicts is plot No. 118505 involving Valence Matunda and Badi Nkya against the late Zuberi Mwinymvua.

Land minister Dr Angeline Mabula made the remarks here yesterday on the long-time contract land conflict against the individuals in Mbezi Beach area, Dar es Salaam.

He said out of these land conflicts,

1,000 have been resolved through various committees appointed by the ministry for the purpose in various areas countrywide.

Dr Mabula said the many land conflicts are caused by people trying to con one another during plot sales, others follows families selling land plots twice thereby necessitating cases involving the ministry.

"I call on the people to be careful in regard to land plot selling and buying, you are supposed to abide by legal procedures including involving of lawyers," said Dr Mabula.

She explained that due to various

problems that emerge regarding sales of land plots she has appealed to the people to be extra careful in regard to issues of inheritance, including sale of property without family consensus.

In regard to the Mbezi land conflict, the minister said the dispute pitting investors, Matunda and Nkya landowners of the plot, the late Zuberi Mwinymvua is of long time, since 2007 and the investors were required to be paid 250m/- in order to implement the condition to get back the title deed.

She said what surprised many, Matunda, one of the investors was paid 1bn/- but did not implement

the condition he was told to implement hence the ministry will collaborate with other state organs to make sure the issue is addressed.

She further said the government has reached a good stage regarding conflicts in reserve areas involving 975 villages inside the reserves and so far the people are waiting to be compensated while President samia Suluhu Hassan providing 2,500 acres that the villagers will hold.

However, when located, Matunda told this paper that he asked to be paid 2.3bn/- in order to implement the directive requiring him to surrender the plot.



Raymond Zakayo (R, foreground), Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine's acting production manager, briefs senior officials from the Minerals ministry who visited the firm yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Dr Mwinyi: Z'bar continues to boost basic health services

By Guardian Reporter

THE Zanzibar Government says it will continue to boost basic health services in all areas of both Unguja and Pemba in tandem with the strengthening of safe maternity, dental, orolingual, ultrasound and laboratory services.

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi made the remarks on Monday at the inauguration of Bubwini Makoba health centre in North Unguja "B" District, North Unguja Region.

President Mwinyi said the government continues to improve infrastructures, availability of essential drugs, medical devices and human resources including

doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health specialists.

He explained that the aim of the government is to construct houses for health staff in some district hospitals in both Unguja and Pemba so as to reduce the shortage of staff houses in the health sector.

According to him, the step will boost the referral system and to a great extent reduce the congestion of patients at the Mnazi Mmoja hospital.

He said various challenges in the health sector still exist including the shortage of medical specialists in various cadres, the situation, he said, compels the government to spend a lot of money for the people to be treated outside Zanzibar.

Dr Mwinyi explained that in addressing the issue, the government has decided to collaborate with the private sector whose health staff continue to offer health services in government hospitals. He said the aim of the government is to attain its set goals in assuring the people of better health services within the time needed at all hospitals and health centres countrywide.

"I have decided to give this elaboration because there are some people who deliberately have started to mislead the people, and this procedure has begun to be used in great success at the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital and will be extended to all our district hospitals as well as

the Lumumba Regional Hospital in Unguja Urban West Region," he said.

In another development, President Mwinyi instructed all staff who will be assigned to work at Bubwini Makoba Health centre to make efforts in taking care of the infrastructures, work diligently and be kind to patients and abide by work ethics.

Speaking at the event, Zanzibar Minister for Health Nassor Ahmed Mazrui said the construction of the health centre is in line with the implementation of the Zanzibar Government to boost health centres for basic health services countrywide, as well as the building of 11 other hospitals including 10 districts and one regional.



Exim Bank CEO Jaffari Matundu (2nd-L) and the bank's longest-serving employees cut a cake in Dar es Salaam yesterday to mark the bank's 26th anniversary. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## ATCL to offer special discount for Tanzanian patients' travel to India

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE national flag carrier, Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) has entered into agreement with Indian based hospitals to offer discounts to Tanzanians travelling to India for treatment.

ATCL managing director, Eng Ladislaus Matindi made the revelation in Dar es Salaam yesterday when briefing journalists on his recent visit to India to promote tourism.

He said Tanzanian patients travelling to India with the company's flights will be provided with a discount on travel expenses as well as medical costs while in India.

"We already have a commercial relationship with the Kokilaben

hospital in Mumbai, travellers who use our flights get a discount on medical expenses when they are treated in that particular hospital," he said, adding they are finalising processes to sign new agreements that will be beneficial to both Tanzanians and Indians.

He said India is a new tourism market for Tanzania and Air Tanzania is paying special attention to the Indian market due to opportunities available. He said there is a market potential of 1.4 billion people in India.

Eng Matindi said in 2019, Air Tanzania expanded its travel network by entering the markets of Mumbai, India, adding they started with one trip a week, but due to increased demand, in October 2023, the company increased the

flights to five per week.

"We intend to further increase the trips, our target is to make sure that 80 percent of passengers travelling from Tanzania to Mumbai and India use TACL, an average of more than 66,000 passengers per year," he said.

He said despite the fact that the number is very small compared to all the passengers who travel outside the country every year, especially tourists, ATCL managed to own 80 percent of all passengers traveling between Tanzania and Mumbai due to the quality of service.

He said that ATCL has Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft which are modern, quiet in the air and with a large space and the ability to make travellers feel proud and special.

"Passengers traveling with our planes have continued to enjoy internet services 'Wi-Fi' in the air, natural food as well as refreshments," he said.

On the new modern cargo plane Boeing 767-300F which started flying recently; Matindi said the plane continues to transport cargo including perishable products, general cargo and products that require temperature Control such as medicine.

He said the presence of the plane with the capacity to carry 54 tonnes at once has enabled the Glenmark Pharmaceutical Company, one of the largest human drug manufacturing companies in India to use ATCL planes to distribute its drugs within Africa.

He said that they have entered into commercial cooperation negotiations for carrying passengers (Interline Agreement) with Vistara Airlines, which has a large network for domestic flights in India.

## TOSCI planning to construct ultramodern seed laboratory worth 980m/- in Morogoro

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) is planning to construct a state-of-the-art seed laboratory worth 980m/- in Morogoro Region as part of its efforts to digitise seeds inspection and certification in the country.

The development is being implemented under the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Programme.

The vital programme which focuses to help increase the performance of the two key economic sectors in the country, agriculture and fisheries, is coordinated by the office of the Prime minister whereby the ministry of agriculture is the main implementer.

Speaking during a special televised session at the Tanzania Information Service (MAELEZO) headquarters in Dodoma city, the TOSCI director general, Dr Patrick Ngwediagi unveiled that construction of the high-tech facility will go in tandem with the general work for the construction and rehabilitation of the institute's zonal seed laboratories. "We have decided to implement the project in order to improve our internal seeds inspection and certification standards. Currently, there is a potential increase in seed demand in the country so that we must stand on a better and equipped side to assure the farmers are reached with quality seeds for the general improvement of the country's agriculture sector," he said.

He informed that during 2023/24, TOSCI received a total of 12.6bn/- from the state coffers as its annual budget, saying the amount will wisely be used to implement several projects, all with an eye to improving the seed sub-sector in the country.

"Among the targeted programmes, involve also efforts to educate the farmers across the country on how to identify and make use of certified (labelled) seeds varieties," he said.

TOSCI's chief boss communicated that the institute has so far inspected and registered more than 647 seed varieties for diverse crops in the country. "The future focus is to ensure Tanzania becomes a counterfeit seeds-free country through capacitance of our seeds inspection and certification facilities," he added.

Dr Ngwediagi said TOSCI was working to assure all seed varieties being certified and registered in the country are of high quality, basically in terms of yields and resistance to diseases insisting that seed quality attributes are expressed in terms of germination, purity, vigor and seed health.

In a further effort to help improve performance and standards of the seed sector across the country, Dr. Ngwediagi informed that the institute had implemented a special program to capacitate the seed dealers across the country to deliver services in accordance with the Seed Act, 2003 and its regulations.

With its headquarters in Morogoro region, the institute is now recognized internationally since it has been accredited to International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) admitted to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Seed Certification Schemes, whereby seed produced in Tanzania and certified by TOSCI can now be sold in the country and the excess can be exported to other countries.

TOSCI is responsible for field and seed inspection, sampling, seed testing, variety evaluation and verification through National Performance Trials (NPT), Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability tests (DUS) and control plot testing.

**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

### Construction of gender-sensitive and inclusive grassroots sports grounds in Pemba and Unguja, Zanzibar, Tanzania

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is currently implementing its project sport for development in Africa (S4DA) in Tanzania. As part of this project GIZ intends to award a contract for the new construction of gender-sensitive and inclusive grassroots sports grounds at Unguja and Pemba, Zanzibar, Tanzania. The scope of work includes:

1. The new construction of three (3) multipurpose courts for handball, volleyball, basketball and netball with excellent concrete surface finish as per the drawing and bill of quantities including rubber painting works and design.
2. The construction of three (3) WASH facilities including changing rooms, storage unit and sanitation facilities.

Tender procedure from invitation to tender until signing of contract is expected to take place between **25<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**. Construction work is expected to be performed and completed approximately within 8 months from signing of contract.

The following information and documents for eligibility assessment are required to be submitted by the interested companies to qualify for consideration in the tender procedure:

- 1) Official letter expressing interest
- 2) Company details including full company name, full address, phone and email
- 3) Copy of Tax Identification Number (TIN) from Zanzibar Revenue Authority AND Tanzania Revenue Authority
- 4) Copy of Certificate of incorporation or registration from Zanzibar Business and Property Registration Agency (Registrar of Company)
- 5) Copy of Certificate of registration from Zanzibar Contractors Registration Board - minimum class 3 registration
- 6) Company profile including number of employees (permanent / temporary in total) and number of professional staff qualified to perform the works, each for the last five (5) years
- 7) References of works of similar nature as specified above (performed within the last five (5) years)
- 8) Total value of works of similar nature as specified above (for each of the last five (5) years)
- 9) Annual total turnover for each of the last three (3) years

The information and documents specified above shall be submitted to GIZ in PDF format **by 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at the latest** to the following email address: **Tz\_quotation@giz.de**

The subject line must be clearly marked as follows:

**"GIZ-S4DA-2023-83441447-EOI-Construction of gender-sensitive Sports Grounds**

Please do not send technical or financial offer or other documents not requested. Kindly note that complete tender documents will be sent to all companies that will be assessed as eligible by GIZ based on the information and documents submitted as specified above.

## TIRA motivates public to invest in innovation

By Getrude Mbago

THE Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) has encouraged players in the sector to invest in innovation and bring new insurance products that will benefit Tanzanians both in urban and rural areas.

Dr Baghayo Saqware, TIRA Commissioner made the call in Dar es Salaam on Monday when officiating the launch of Wakandi Tanzania life insurance product.

The product launched by Wakandi Tanzania in partnership with Sanlam Life Insurance Tanzania Limited will focus on saving and credit cooperative organisations (SACCOS) and micro finance Institutions (MFIs).

"The insurance companies have to continue to be innovative and bring new insurance products that I firmly believe in one way or another will be able to help the people as well as promote and develop the insurance industry," TIRA Commissioner underlined.

He urged the companies to work hard and be more creative so as to support the achievement of the goals highlighted in the country's Financial Sector Development Master Plan of 2020-2030 which aims to expand services to reach more people both in urban and rural areas.

According to him, insurance is key to the country's financial inclusion agenda considering the fact that the bulk of growth of the financial sector in the coming decade is hinged on insurance.

Dr Saqware said TIRA will continue to create an enabling environment for the insurance market, while calling the insurance companies to increase creativity in designing various insurance products that are beneficial for

Tanzanians, especially low-income citizens.

TIRA boss said he is optimistic that the product will improve the financial security and well-being of SACCOS members and increase contribution to the growth of the insurance sector.

He also called on insurance companies to raise insurance awareness and encouraged all Tanzanians to have various insurance including life insurance and to protect themselves from various disasters.

Sanlam Life managing director, Julius Magabe said to ensure the penetration increased stakeholders must ensure the products reach more people by creating various ways of selling.

He said the partnership with Wakandi will further strengthen provision of insurance services reaching more people with on time digital services.

Wakandi Tanzania, Country Manager, Daudi Boaz said the fintech company is aimed at creating equal opportunities for finance through technology and accelerating the digital transformation of the informal economy.

He said the newly launched product intended at improving the financial security and well-being of savings and credit of SACCOS and MFI by giving them the opportunity to protect themselves from financial risks through insurance.

"We are moving on a road to a technology-enabled financial world, Wakandi provides the opportunity for informal financial groups to manage their finances as easily as sending a text message", he added.

Wakandi Tanzania has been licensed for online insurance activities by Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA).



Elias Mseke (C), National Housing Corporation's director of property management, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on reports about chronic debtors. He is with head of communications and relations Muungano Saguya (R) and finance director Adolph Kasegenya. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

## 500 artisanal, small-scale gold miners issued with licences in Msalala District

By Guardian Correspondent,

Shinyanga

MORE than 500 small miners in Msalala District, Shinyanga Region have been issued with gold mining licences during FY 2023/24 in order to stop the practice of removing small miners from areas they themselves discover and taken up by miners with large capital.

One of the miners issued with a mining licence, Maziku Wilson said

the licences has helped them in curbing disputes in mining areas while they have enabled them to get loans.

"We have to thank the government for this important step as it continues to recognize and empower us, the situation that will help us conduct our mining business without bother, access to loans from banks and other financial institutions as compared to the situation in the past.

For his part, Msalala district

Executive Director, Hamisi Katimba said they will make sure they create a friendly environment for conducting their activities including building of roads and toilets so that they collect revenues without any hindrances.

Speaking about miners who received licences, Msalala Member of Parliament, Iddi Kassim who is also member of the parliamentary mining Committee said that in the step is to make sure the mining sector benefits small miners and

eradicate the practice of chasing away small miners from mining areas they themselves discover.

He said the 500 miners have been issued with mining licences and now the work remaining is to educate and supervise them on mining activities by adhering to mining and environmental protection laws, regulations and procedures.

He said the licences will also reduce conflicts among themselves and with large miners.

He added that the government, through its State Mining Corporation (STAMICO), expects to construct gold processing plants at Segese Town where small miners without processing equipment can process their minerals.

## African Union convenes talks amidst Niger crisis

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union on Monday held talks on the Niger crisis as the country's post-coup rulers showed defiance yet also pointed to diplomacy for a potential solution.

But talks at the AU's headquarters in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa coincided with a flare-up over threats by the regime to prosecute Niger's deposed president.

"AU's Peace and Security Council meets to receive an update on the evolution of the situation in Niger and the efforts to address it," the pan-African body said in a post on Twitter.

Those attending included AU Commission Chief Moussa Faki Mahamat as well as representatives from Niger and the West African bloc ECOWAS, it said.

President Mohamed Bazoum, whose election in 2021 was a landmark in the country's troubled history, was toppled on July 26 by members of his presidential guard.

His ousting unleashed a shock wave around West Africa, where Mali and Burkina Faso – likewise battered by a jihadist insurgency – have also suffered military takeovers.

Seeking to stop the cascade of coups, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) slapped sanctions on Niger and last week approved deployment of a "standby force to restore constitutional order."

But uncertainties hang over any intervention – from operational feasibility to internal divisions within ECOWAS – and the bloc also says it wants a peaceful outcome.

On July 30, it issued a seven-day ultimatum to restore Bazoum or face the potential use of force, but the deadline expired without action.

Mixed signals have emerged from the regime as the crisis nears the end of its third week.

At the weekend, the coup leaders said they were open to a diplomatic push after their chief, General Abdourahmane Tiani, met with Nigerian religious mediators.

Those talks came after a scheduled meeting of ECOWAS military chiefs in Ghana was postponed for "technical reasons."

But on Sunday night, Niger's rulers declared they had gathered sufficient evidence to prosecute Bazoum for "high treason and undermining internal and external security."

The legal threat was angrily condemned by ECOWAS.

In a statement, the bloc said it had learned of the threats "with stupefaction."

"It represents yet another form of provocation and contradicts the (regime's) reported willingness... to restore constitutional order through peaceful means."

Washington said it was "incredibly dismayed" by the plan to try the detained president.

Bazoum's foreign minister said on Monday that there were "pogroms" in the capital Niamey, but did not specify against whom they were directed.

"Currently in Niamey... there are pogroms with hordes of young people excited by racial and ethnic hatred," Hassoumi Massaoudou, the foreign minister in the ousted civilian government said.

"That is why there is an urgent need to stop this and put Niger back on a path of peace, stability and economic progress."

In a further sign of mounting acrimony between the leaders of Niger's coup and regional powers, the generals recalled Niamey's envoy to Ivory Coast after they said that country's president had shown "eagerness" for military intervention against them.

Referring to the greenlight given by Niger's West African neighbours for possible armed intervention to restore democracy, the generals said President Alassane Ouattara wanted to "see this illegal and senseless aggression against Niger come to pass."

Bazoum, 63, and his family have been held at the president's official residence since the coup, with international concern mounting over his conditions in detention.



Health minister Umyy Mwalimu (C) has a word with journalists in Tanga yesterday on the arrival of Afyacheck Institute health experts now camping in the city. She is with Afyacheck chief coordinator Dr Isaac Maro (L) and CRDB official Samson Keenja. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

## Youths advised to start business tech startups

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

YOUTHS in the country have been encouraged to invest in science and technology to come up with tech-start up ideas that will help address various business challenges in the society as well as increase income.

Director of Science, Technology and Innovation in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology,

Prof. Maulilio Kipanyula made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking at a short ceremony to distribute 700 educative magazines issued by Baobab Shalom Limited in Dar es Salaam.

The magazines were issued after a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Director General of Tanzania Education Authority, (TEA), Bahati Geuzye and the Director of Baobab Shalom Limited, Yev Semikov at the TEA offices in Dodoma.

Prof. Kipanyula said Science and Technology has brought about a great revolution nationally and internationally and especially in the sectors of education, information, business and various social services.

He added that the sixth phase government has prioritised the education sector by investing heavily in building classrooms, providing learning and teaching materials to encourage students to study hard and be creative.

Semikov said the magazines

will support students who utilize them to be creative and curious to conduct big and innovative things that will improve their lives.

TEA director general, Bahati Geuzye thanked Baobab Shalom Limited for providing the magazines through the Education Fund managed by TEA assuring full support from the authority.

He assured them that education aids that go through the Education Fund are fully managed and used as per intended goals.



Tanzania Seed Quality Control Institute (TOSCI) director general Patrick Ngwediagi briefs journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on progress in the execution of the institute's duties responsibilities and its projections for financial year 2023/2024. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

## NGO launches young women programme for green actions

By Henry Mwangonde

A Non-Governmental Organisation Environmental Conservation Community of Tanzania (ECCT) yesterday launched the second cohort of a programme designed to empower young women in Tanzania to become champions of green actions and environmental stewardship.

The programme dubbed 'She Leads Green Action Programme' is aimed at empowering young women to participate in environmental conservation actions through mentorship and practical training.

Speaking yesterday, ECCT executive director Lucky Michael said her organization is dedicated to promoting sustainable practices and raising awareness about the importance of environmental conservation.

"So far, we have been able to organise several environmental and health-related programs that have become synonymous with our commitment to environmental conservation and today 40 students are graduating," she said.

She said the programme targets young women with an aim providing them with a comprehensive understanding of green actions and the environment, empowering them to become catalysts for change and promote gender equality in taking the lead in environmental actions.

"Through a combination of back-to-back interactive workshops, field trips, and hands-on projects, we will foster a deep connection with nature and inspire a lifelong commitment to environmental conservation," she said.

She gave an example of the Green Hangout programme which she

said has provided a platform for like-minded individuals to engage in meaningful discussions, share ideas, and collaborate on initiative solutions that address the pressing environmental challenges.

"Through initiatives like the Beach clean-up extravaganza, we have rallied volunteers from all walks of life to come together and restore the natural beauty of our coastal areas," she said.

Another programme according to her was the Sanitation and Hygiene by Handwashing in Schools in Kisarawe District to Prevent COVID-19 Infections Project.

Marsha Yambi, executive director of UN Global Compact Network Tanzania said her organisation was a champion for sustainable development saying environment conservation was key to achieve it.

"Achieving the SDGs requires all partners, namely the private sector and others, because we believe through imparting knowledge to this group, we will reach out to many," she said.

She said women and the first victims of climate change due to various factors including their biological needs.



**Through initiatives like the Beach clean-up extravaganza, we have rallied volunteers from all walks of life to come together and restore the natural beauty of our coastal areas**

## Ewura warns unlicensed technicians over electricity installation in homes

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

ENERGY and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has given a stern warning to people who use middlemen to install wiring systems in their buildings and homes, saying severe legal steps will be taken against them.

The warning was issued here on Monday by EWURA manager for northern zone, Lorivii Long'idu when providing training to VETA students studying craftsmanship on the importance of having

licences in order to reduce the number of the middlemen.

However, Long'idu said the practice by some people using the middlemen has caused disasters from electrical short-circuiting in various areas including residences and factories.

He said the government, through EWURA, has begun to implement a plan that aims to curb middlemen who install electricity in residential and other areas.

He said the plan includes providing education on the

importance of electrical technicians to be licensed and warned all the people who continue using technicians who are not licensed by EWURA.

"I advise these unlicensed technicians to go to VETA colleges which have procedures to formalise them including short term courses for those who have been working as licensed electrical contractors.

For his part, senior electrical engineer for EWURA northern zone, Tegemea Kamando has

called on the trainees to be good ambassadors to other technicians to stop using other people's licences while looking for contracts.

He said it is an offence under Section 5 of the Electricity Act (Cap 131) for anyone to install electrical wiring in a building without having a licence.

He further said section 8 (a) subsection (1, 2(h) of the Act empowers EWURA to issue licences to all electric technicians in Tanzania Mainland.

## CBT embarks on big project to establish major industrial park

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Cashew Board of Tanzania (CBT) is working to embark on a grand project for the establishment of a major Industrial Park (IP) at Malanje area in Mtwara Region.

The envisaged \$116 million (273bn/-) worth project will incorporate installation of more than 30 processing plants to facilitate processing of various crops including cashew nuts and sesame.

CBT's director general, Alfred Francis told this paper in an interview that the investment, which expects to occupy at least 1,500 hectares, will involve construction of ten plants for the processing of ten factories for processing of 300,000 tonnes of cashew annually.

He said ten other factories will process sesame at the capacity of 300,000 tonnes per year.

"Not only that, but as per the project's design, there will be another ten factories that will be producing oil from cashew nuts," he informed.

The CBT's chief boss added that the investment which is projected to create a total of 3000 employment will involve installation of special facilities for the production of sacks.

"The general vision behind the project is to ensure the country discloses a poor economic trend of exporting raw cashew. Huge per cent of the cashew produced in Tanzania and marketed to the world market, at least 98 per cent, are at the first grade but the problem is that we export them raw, prompting a low price," Francis expressed.

He added that the board was working round the clock in cooperation with the ministry of agriculture to heighten cashew processing and value addition in the country in order to allow the country's cashew to enjoy a wider market in the world market.

"Through selling raw cashew, we're minimising our market scope as we are being compelled to sell only to India and Vietnam, but if processing, we can sell our cashew into many more countries including USA, Germany, the United Arab

Emirates and South Africa," he unveiled.

Under the coming investment, he said the focus was to attain other possible cashew value addition, including production of cashew juice and wine.

Moreover, he communicated that establishment of the Industrial Park will go in tandem with special programs to assist the cashew farmers to adopt cultivation of other economic cash crops that thrive in their producing zones.

"The focus is to ensure the farmers are not end-up cultivating cashew per se, but also grabs the economic fortune of growing other crops, the development which will generally improve their livelihood," he said.

According to him, the helpful program which aims to improve food security, will see the CBT assist the cashew farmers with seeds varieties for the other cash crops that flourishes in their areas.

"Through producing and marketing other crops, the farmers would stand a possible chance to raise money to help them procure enough inputs for caring for their cashew plantations," he observed.

Cashew is currently produced within more than 12 regions across the country. Tanzania is one of the largest cashew producers in Africa, with exports providing between 10 and 15 per cent of the country's foreign exchange.

The country is the eighth-largest grower of cashew nuts in the world and ranks fourth in Africa.

However, further statistics depict that Tanzania provides at least 20 per cent of Africa's cashew nuts and only trails in production of Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, and Guinea-Bissau, according to figures by United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

However, despite such excellence in the production of the cash crop, only 5 per cent of the raw cashew nuts are being processed locally, with the other 95 per cent being exported all the way to Vietnam or India for value addition before reaching consumer markets of Europe and America.

It is estimated that this created a loss of around 216bn/- (equivalent to 83 million EUR) in the season.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Albert Chalamila (3rd-L) cuts a cake in Dar es Salaam yesterday in launching an ALAF Ltd product warranty programme as members of the firm's management team look on. Story on Page 15. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Speed up work on Nzovwe Folks Development project'

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Government has directed the building committee of Nzovwe Folk Development College being built at Idiga village, Songwe valley ward, Mbeya District to complete the project soon to start operating.

The government picked the area to build the college complex in order to shift the college's activities from Nzovwe ward in Mbeya city as the college was housed in Catholic Church buildings.

The directive was given here on Monday by Deputy Permanent

Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr Franklin Rwezimula during his visit to inspect the project progress and listen to various challenges facing the workers.

Dr Rwezimula also directed that various irregularities identified in some buildings be rectified in order to make the project go in tandem with the money value.

"I am not satisfied with the work speed, work day and night to enable its completion in time, but also make sure you build to the required standard, there are areas that need

rectification, do so as quickly as possible," he said.

He said when completed the College will help the youth roaming in nearby villages to get the right skills so that they can employ themselves and get income.

He also commended the college for interpreting the empowerment concept for the youth by coming up with attractive courses for them and should make sure they produce good experts in the course they provide.

In regard to the expansion of the College area, Dr Rwezimula called

on village officials to convene a meeting with the villagers and ask them to increase land area to the college, as the present college area is only 10 acres.

The college's principal, Nickson Mandele appealed to the education ministry to increase the number of staff and to speed up delivery of funds for shifting college and staff property.

He pledged to supervise the project to its completion in time and move their activities to the new area so that the old buildings go back to the Catholic Church.

## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA

## Newsdesk

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

## Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
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## City secondary schools with boarding option a good idea

NEW initiatives are being mooted that have the capacity to end perennial nightmares of many secondary school goers in the city of Dar es Salaam. It is the endless drudgery of walking long distances to nearest bus stop, face discrimination on entering the bus as usually it is peak hours, and being rather tired on arrival in school. That is the lot of many students; they will themselves and their parents be truly relieved to obtain a boarding option that is affordable.

The government announcement wasn't a finished deal where all the money is available or the dormitories have all been built, so it is uncertain how long it will take for the plan to be accomplished. But from the record it is easy to say that the public can expect that the government will do it, even if that involves seeking some assistance from well-wishers. It is for once unlikely that this is singularly an idea of the regional authorities, without having checked it with the highest authorities for its feasibility, but that awaits more elaborate clarification.

RC Albert Chamalila explained the move with an assessment that Dar es Salaam Region has many schools that are not boarding schools and the streets are rampart with challenges like vehicle congestion, so it is better that students study in boarding schools. He asserted that the schools will improve the task of managing the upbringing of young people and for teachers to closely coordinate their lessons. At times teachers can conduct some evening lessons after students had had time to rest, the way university students hold informal group seminars.

He handed a project document

to the visiting Local Governments minister, airing the view that in case there will be sponsorship from various sources the city boarding schools plan needs to be taken up with a fresh mindset. It might have been a moment to set the ball rolling, so that when the government moves to make the change official, or takes a loan to that effect, the public will know the idea was generated in regional councils, in view of the perennial hardships.

There is probably no dispute that boarding schools are better performing than day schools, as the wider civic environment where the young people live is rife with people with negative interest in one way another. Impediments to quiet study are numerous even at home, without adding bothers on the street and in buses, along with the fatigue. And while we are at it, the food is often sparing and not all students get the coins to buy supplements regularly, against fatigue.

To an extent the move has to do with levelling up study conditions for city secondary schools as for high schools, which are largely boarding schools already as high schools select students from different regions countrywide.

Secondary schools have students that are in most cases locally based but that doesn't mean they study easily because home is 'just within the city.' Paying fees were recently removed for high schools, and now boarding comes to secondary schools as a matter of policy due to the city environment. It all fits into a pattern as the whole issue of improving educational output has to do with whether students can actually deliver on what the teachers provide.

## Trailblazers empower women to boost clean energy workforce

THE government's support for skills and training is an essential step to ensuring clean and affordable energy for all. Tanzania solar panels, mini-grids, modern cookstoves and other proven technologies can bring power to even the most remote Tanzanian communities. But this won't happen without trained engineers, salespeople, and many others playing crucial supporting roles.

The skills challenge is so enormous that innovation is needed at every level from government ministries to off-grid villages in order to transform the lives of millions Tanzanians.

The biggest skills gap is in Tanzania of about 60 million people is lack access to electricity, and there are only few jobs in renewable energy across the country. Gender inequalities are a huge factor in this skills challenge. Worldwide, only 32 per cent of renewable energy jobs are held by women.

Barriers to progress include a disconnect between training and the 'real world' requirements of employers and their clients or customers. And while the skills to install solar panels and other technologies are crucial, so are the skills to run or finance clean energy businesses.

In many parts of the world, the burden of building a skilled workforce often falls on frontline organisations - whether they are businesses selling clean energy products and services, or non-profits powering up marginalised communities.

The best trailblazers show that the skills and training challenge can be tackled - and also reveal the economic and social benefits action will bring. In particular, they show what's possible with an approach

that takes on the skills gap and gender inequality.

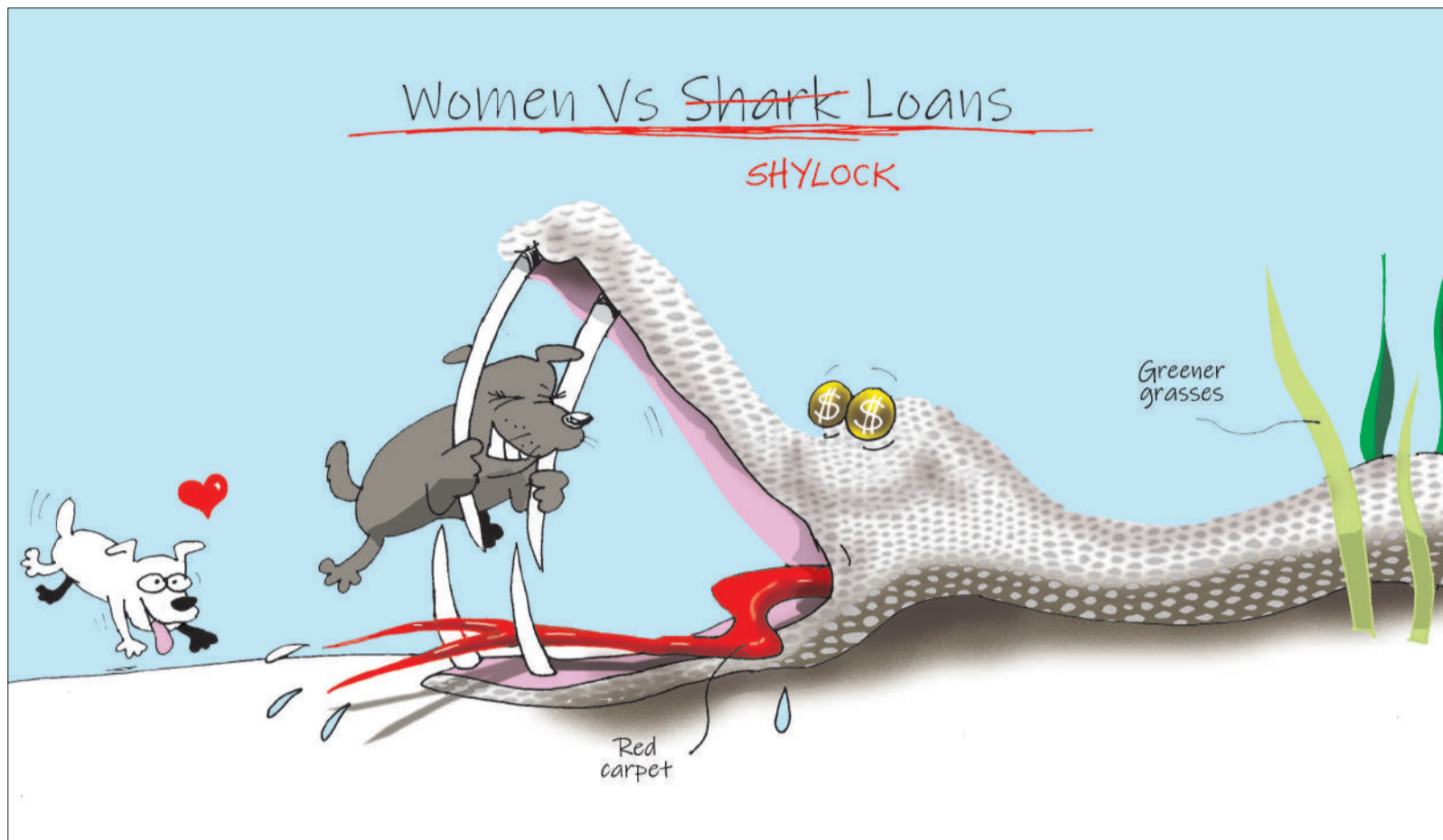
Many frontline organisations are taking a holistic approach to tackle the skills shortage, often working in partnership to achieve impact. Italian NGO Fondazione ACRA is working to empower 1,200 women in rural Senegal as clean energy entrepreneurs and technicians. These women sell or maintain technologies used by local households and businesses, from tailors and hairdressers to goat farmers. Crucially, ACRA's training ranges from basic engineering to business skills.

Electrifying health facilities is another area where progress is held back by skills shortages. NGO We Care Solar has a long history of tackling gender equality by electrifying off-grid maternity services. Its work includes projects in Sierra Leone, where more than 3,000 lives are lost each year from complications of pregnancy and childbirth.

There, a We Care Solar scheme aimed at boosting the number of women technicians includes hands-on 'labs' passing on practical skills, and supervised sessions delivering real installations.

Another organisation focused on tackling gender barriers is Kenya's Women in Sustainable Energy and Entrepreneurship. This network of energy professionals offers technical training and mentoring, providing hands-on installation experience, to help women enter the sector.

At the heart of its work are strong partnerships with local universities, energy companies, NGOs, officials, faith groups and community leaders. These allow it to recruit women and girls from marginalised communities, and link them with practical training and employment opportunities.



## By Special Correspondent

LAST Thursday's (August 10, 2023) bloody clash between rival supporters of opposition Candidate Joseph Nyumah Boakia of the Unity Party (UP) and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in Electoral District , Montserrado County left zealous youth wounded in a campaign for the October 10th elections was totally unwarranted. No Liberian or partisan of a political party has to die or has to be disfigured just for the love of a candidate.

After it all, we Liberians have to coexist as one nation whether members of a winning party or losing parties. And there will be many losing parties as only but one out of the 20 candidates in the race, including incumbent President Weah will be declared winner either in the first or second round.

So why do we inflict injuries on one another during campaigns for the sake of rival candidates? Do Liberians have to go to such extreme to demonstrate love and

## Bloody campaigns are unwarranted in Liberia

loyalty for a particular candidate? We think not.

As LPP's Presidential Candidate Cllr. Tiawan S. Gongloe has pointed out, political campaign should not be about enmity, but competition of ideas, ideas of how our candidates or candidates of our choice intend to improve the nation and all of its people, not only partisans, if elected President or member of the legislature.

However, the violence that transpired on August 10th in District #9 barely five or six days into the campaign was not only unfortunate but highly disappointing especially, after political parties' leaders and candidates had expressed before the citizenry and international partners their commitment to violence-free elections.

Sadly also, we did not see leadership demonstrated at the highest level of the political parties that were involved in the clashes except denial by the ruling CDC and threats from the opposition UP that it would use every means at its disposal for self-defense.

We think that was below the belt. Both the incumbent administration and those desiring leadership should exercise tolerance and maturity in responding to crisis, which is one of the marks of good leadership.

In our wisdom, all that was needed is for leaders of the two parties, thank God, they both have served our country at the highest level - President Weah being at the helm of power for six years and is seeking a second term and Amb. Boakai, who had served as Vice

President for 12 years and wants to come to the presidency.

So why was it so difficult in calling their respective followers and supporters to order, that citizens had to suffer wounds? Why was it so difficult for both leaders to call each other before coming out? Campaign should not be about enmity, but in Liberia, dare say Africa, this is what it is.

There is yet a long way to go, as campaign is officially expected to end on October 8, 2023, for Elections Day on October 10th. The denial and the threat coming from both sides are sending wrong signals to the electorate and creating fear in the entire population of the kind of canvassing to expect, one mar by terror and blood perhaps, as we go to the polls, which is absolutely unwarranted.

## By Special Correspondent

IT did not escape the attention of millions of people across the world that at a time when many countries pulled resources together to rescue five wealthy men who went missing aboard a Titanic-bound submersible, hundreds of poor migrants were drowning on the Mediterranean Sea without much attention.

According to statistics from the United Nations' International Organisation for Migration (IOM), no fewer than 2000 migrants died between January 1 and June 26 of this year, mostly from drowning. In the same period last year, 1,358 died.

The migration crisis, as we have reiterated several times, is a cruel twist of the logic of the transatlantic slave trade. In the old trade, African agents of European slave traders hunted men and women and forcibly sold them off to be transported across the Atlantic. In the new 'trade', Africans are willingly subjecting and submitting themselves as fodder and merchandise for enslavement across the Mediterranean. From the accounts of some of the returnees, many who make it to Europe or the Middle East are usually forced into prostitution, used as mercenaries,

## Central Africa remains in the migration crisis

deployed as household servants, factory workers, drug couriers, and even as organ donors.

Driven by economic desperation, thousands of able-bodied young men and women are, almost on a daily basis, embarking on suicide missions in the bid to migrate towards the northern hemisphere in search of opportunities that have since disappeared in those very societies. While only few of these migrants eventually reach their destinations where they face disappointments and frustrations, majority of them usually perish on the way.

In Nigeria, it is important to interrogate the conditions that create the desperation to leave the country for unknown destinations. Today, we live in a country where many are not only poor but cannot find jobs. Factories are closing down and selling their warehouses to promoters of religious organisations while several businesses are shut down or moving out of the country

due to lack of electricity.

Meanwhile, there is also a criminal dimension to the problem with some unscrupulous people now recruiting from their villages and towns young girls with the promise of securing for them good jobs abroad only to turn them to prostitutes.

There are chilling statistics which suggest that human trafficking has become one of the biggest money-making businesses after drug trafficking. Today, our country is regarded not only as a transit route for this illegal trade but also a source as well as a destination with children and young adults, especially of the womenfolk, now becoming merchandise for what has become a cross-border crime.

Curiously, hardly any African country has embarked on a conscious effort to address the scourge of the new migration. Yet the increasing number of our citizens being humiliated, repatriated or killed in recent migration

reversals places a heavy burden on leaders within the continent. In what is clearly an organised crime involving international syndicates, human traffickers move their victims to Europe through North Africa by caravan, most often forcing their victims to cross the desert on foot. In the process many die even as the survivors are subjected to all forms of indignity, in the bid to repay the heavy debts owed their "benefactors" by way of travel expenses. But the trade is thriving because most of the people involved wield powerful influence with which they circumvent the law.

While we condemn this modern-day slavery to which our young men and women are unwittingly submitting themselves, there is an urgent need for a demonstration of political will to examine the cause. There is also a need for a sustained sensitisation campaign to let our young men and women know that the grass is not necessarily greener on the other side.



# A common African approach to environmental challenges now and in the future

By Elizabeth Maruma Mrema

**T**HERE has never been a time in human history when collaboration between nations was more sorely needed than now, and there is no place that would benefit more from it than in Africa.

As 54 of our Environment Ministers gather this week (August 14-15) in Addis Ababa for the next session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), their agendas are packed with a long list of burning environmental issues. They will need to act in unison and with determination to achieve positive movement on these challenges.

We live in an era of climate change-induced hunger, of collapsing ecosystems – the continent’s forests are disappearing, and we face the bleak prospect of dwindling biodiversity.

We experience killer floods from Senegal to Nigeria to Malawi, Mozambique to South Africa, lethal heat and fires in North Africa, and drought across East Africa, and suffocating air and plastic pollution from Cairo to Ouagadougou.

As nature erodes, food security is undermined by climate-induced locust attacks, conflicts between humans and wildlife closer encounters with some species that risk the spread of deadly viruses.

But we also live in an exciting era of opportunities, one of information and innovation, and one in which African policy leadership – nationally, regionally and continentally – is increasingly cognizant of the challenges presented by the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and waste.

Cognizant that despite the African continent contributing the least to climate change, Africans are already facing some of the worst impacts of the climate crisis, which must be urgently addressed.

This awareness is already translated into actions, from the Tarfaya and Ras Ghareb wind farms in Morocco and Egypt, through massive solar projects in South Africa, Namibia, and Ghana, to pioneering use of geothermal energy in Kenya. Restoration initiatives like the Great Green Wall aim to halt desertification and support livelihoods across the entire width of Africa. And a majority of African governments already banned single-use plastics, albeit with mixed results.

In September, we expect leaders to convene in Nairobi for an Africa Climate Summit and in November, a meeting – also in Nairobi – will continue negotiations on a global treaty to end plastic pollution.

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai will cap a year of multilateral and national work to strengthen global action on climate, while one year following the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, we’ll be closely monitoring its implementation.

At these meetings, Ministers and their governments



Climate change has already led to increased temperatures and rising sea-levels in Tanzania and without major investments in adaptation, nearly a million Tanzanians in coastal towns are at risk of exposure to floods caused by rising sea-levels between 2070 and 2100, says the UN Environment Programme. Credit: United Nations

will flesh out the details of a legally binding international agreement – will single-use plastic polluters have to own the brunt of its costs?

They will address natural resources – how will the extraction of critical minerals benefit a rapid global shift away from carbonized economy, while respecting human rights and maximizing the economic benefits to resource-rich nations?

Other issues may be less contentious, but are vital for a just transition and a sustainable environment for Africans: a common African demand for climate finance and contributions for a fund for the loss and damage resulting from the climate crisis carries more weight

than such a demand made by individual governments. When setting up early warning systems against extreme weather events, like those adopted decades ago in Bangladesh, it is much more beneficial to gather data across regions and even the entire continent. When it concerns biodiversity, protected areas restricted along the lines of national borders can overlook how endangered species move about and neglect conserving crucial corridors.

We are not short of forums to churn out resolutions – it is just critical that decisions already taken are implemented. The African Forum of Environment Protection Agencies is a forum to enhance the implementation of important work

that is already underway.

And that must guide the ministerial meeting in Addis Ababa. As the seat of the African Union, it is the ideal location to advance a united African approach. Decades ago, Kwame Nkrumah, former President of Ghana, said: “We face neither East nor West; We face forward.”

More recently, UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, similarly said of a Climate Ambition Summit next month in New York: “There will be no room for back-sliders, greenwashers, blame-shifters or repackaging of announcements of previous years.”

And Kenyan President William Ruto, during the last Africa Energy Forum in Nairobi (home to the UN Environment

Programme) reminded us: “This is not the time for finger-pointing and passing blame. We want to have a conversation of equals.”

To deliberate as equals is essential within Africa, as it is for when Africa’s leaders embark on engagements and partnerships beyond the continent. It means grounding positions and commitments in science and on a breadth of issues that are too important to the continent’s people to be split on.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema of Tanzania, is Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme

IPS UN Bureau

# Is red meat bad and does it make a difference if it’s processed?

By Katherine Livingstone

**R**ESearch shows that regularly eating red meat can increase your risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease and certain cancers. But is eating a beef burger worse for your health than eating a lean grass-fed steak? And how much red meat should we be eating?

## Types of red meat

First of all, it’s good to clarify that red meat refers to all mammalian muscle meat. So that includes beef, lamb, pork, veal, mutton and goat. Then we can distinguish red meat types by how the animal has been raised and how the meat is processed.

Here are some key terms to know: Conventional meat, also called grain-fed, is meat from animals that are grass-fed for part of their lives and then given a grain-based diet for the remainder. Most red meat available in major supermarkets is grain-fed. Grass-fed meat comes from animals that have grazed on pasture for their entire lives. This means grass-fed meat tends to have higher levels of unsaturated fats than conventional meat, and this is why some research suggests it’s healthier. Grass-fed meat is also likely to cost more.

Organic meat is seen as a premium product as it has to meet government standards for organic produce. For example, meat labelled as organic cannot use synthetic pesticides or use hormones or antibiotics to stimulate growth. Processed meats have been preserved by smoking, curing or salting, or by adding chemical preservatives. Examples include sausages, ham, bacon and hot dogs.

## What is the nutritional value of red meat?

Red meat contains many nutrients that are important for health, including protein, vitamin B12, iron and zinc. Red meat is a good source of iron and zinc as they are more easily absorbed by the body from meat than from plant foods.

Red meat is often high in saturated fats, but this can range widely from less than 1% to over 25% depending on the cut and whether it’s trimmed of fat or not. Minced meat typically ranges from 2% to 9% saturated fat depending on whether it’s extra lean or regular. To limit your intake of saturated fats, opt for leaner mince and leaner cuts of meat, such as pork tenderloins or beef steak with the fat trimmed off.

Wagyu beef (which simply translates to Wa = Japanese and Gyu = cow) has been touted as a healthier alternative to conventional red meat, as it tends to be higher in unsaturated fats. But research is limited, and ultimately it still contains saturated fat. Processed meats, such as bacon, salami and sausages, contain



Many dietary guidelines around the world now recommend limiting red meat consumption for environmental reasons. (Photo: Unsplash)

beneficial nutrients, but they are also high in saturated fat, sodium and contain preservatives.

## Is red meat bad for your health? And does the type matter?

It’s widely reported eating too much red meat is bad for your health because it can increase your risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. But most of the evidence for this comes from observational studies, which cannot de-

termine whether red meat intake causes the condition. Most evidence is observational because it’s simply not ethical or feasible to ask someone to eat large amounts of meat every day for many years to see if they develop cancer.

## So let’s take a look at the evidence

Heart disease and type 2 diabetes: In a review of 37 observational studies, the authors found weak evidence of an association between eating unprocessed red meat and heart disease and type 2 dia-

betes. But for processed meat, a recent review showed that for each additional 50g of processed meat consumed per day, the risk of heart disease increased by 26% and the risk of type 2 diabetes increased by 44%, on average.

Cancer: Leading international organisations have declared there’s strong evidence consumption of red and processed meat increases the risk of colorectal cancer. For example, in a study of nearly 500,000 people, each additional

50g of red meat consumed per day increased the risk of colorectal cancer by 18%. And each additional 25g of processed meat consumed per day, equivalent to a slice of ham, increased the risk by 19%. While research has linked consumption of red and processed meat with increased risk of other types of cancer, such as lung, pancreatic and breast, the evidence is not consistent.

It also matters how red meat is cooked. For example, cooking a steak over high heat, especially an open flame, chars the outside. This causes chemical compounds to form that has been shown to cause cancer in very high doses in animal models, and some studies in humans have found an association with increased cancer rates.

When it comes to how the animal was raised or its breed, based on current evidence, it’s unlikely the nutritional differences will have a substantial impact on human health. But research is limited in this area.

## How much red meat should you eat?

Many dietary guidelines around the world now also recommend limiting red meat consumption for environmental reasons. To optimise both human nutrition and planetary health, the EAT-Lancet Commission recommends consuming no more than 98g a week of red meat and very low intakes of processed meat.

## So what does all of this mean for your diet?

The bottom line is that red meat can still be enjoyed as part of a healthy diet, if not eaten in excess. Where possible, opt for unprocessed or lean cuts, and try to grill less and roast more. Consider swapping red meat for lean chicken or fish occasionally too. If you are looking for meat alternatives that are better for your health and the environment, minimally processed plant-based alternatives, such as tofu, beans and lentils, are great options. DM

# #AfghanGirlsVoices campaign to elevate voices of young Afghan girls on global stage

By Joyce Chimbi

**T**WO years ago, the then 19-year-old Somaya Faruqi and the Afghan Robotic Team travelled from Herat City to Kabul, the heart of Afghanistan—the Taliban had taken over Herat city, cutting off electricity and internet. The all-girls team's great passion for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) had driven them to Kabul to rehearse for a competition.

"After three days, I woke up, looked outside the window, and saw the Taliban in the streets. I was very shocked and could not believe it. I never imagined that the Taliban could take over Kabul. There were thousands and thousands of people trying to flee the country, and after three days of trying, we flew to Qatar with the help of the Qatari government. I wondered what would become of my sister and classmates who were left behind," Faruqi tells IPS.

It did not take long for the de facto authority to unveil their plans. One month after the takeover, the de facto Taliban authorities banned girls from accessing secondary schools. In December 2022, university education for women was also suspended until further notice. After year six, they are to stay at home, says Yasmine Sherif, Executive Director of Education Cannot Wait (ECW)—the United Nations global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises.

"Afghan girls and young women are banned from accessing secondary and tertiary education because of their gender, and this is the most ruthless form of discrimination. They cannot understand why they are not allowed to attend school like their brothers. Their pathway to education has been cut, and they are in pain, suffering and (often) struggling with suicidal thoughts. We must stand in solidarity with them, for in the words of Martin Luther King Jr, injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere. Their distress should shake us to the core," Sherif tells IPS.

She says that the situation in Afghanistan is one of the worst in the world. To elevate Afghan girls' voices on the global stage, ECW has launched the #AfghanGirlsVoices Campaign. It is a compelling, poignant campaign developed in collaboration with Faruqi, who is an ECW Global Champion.

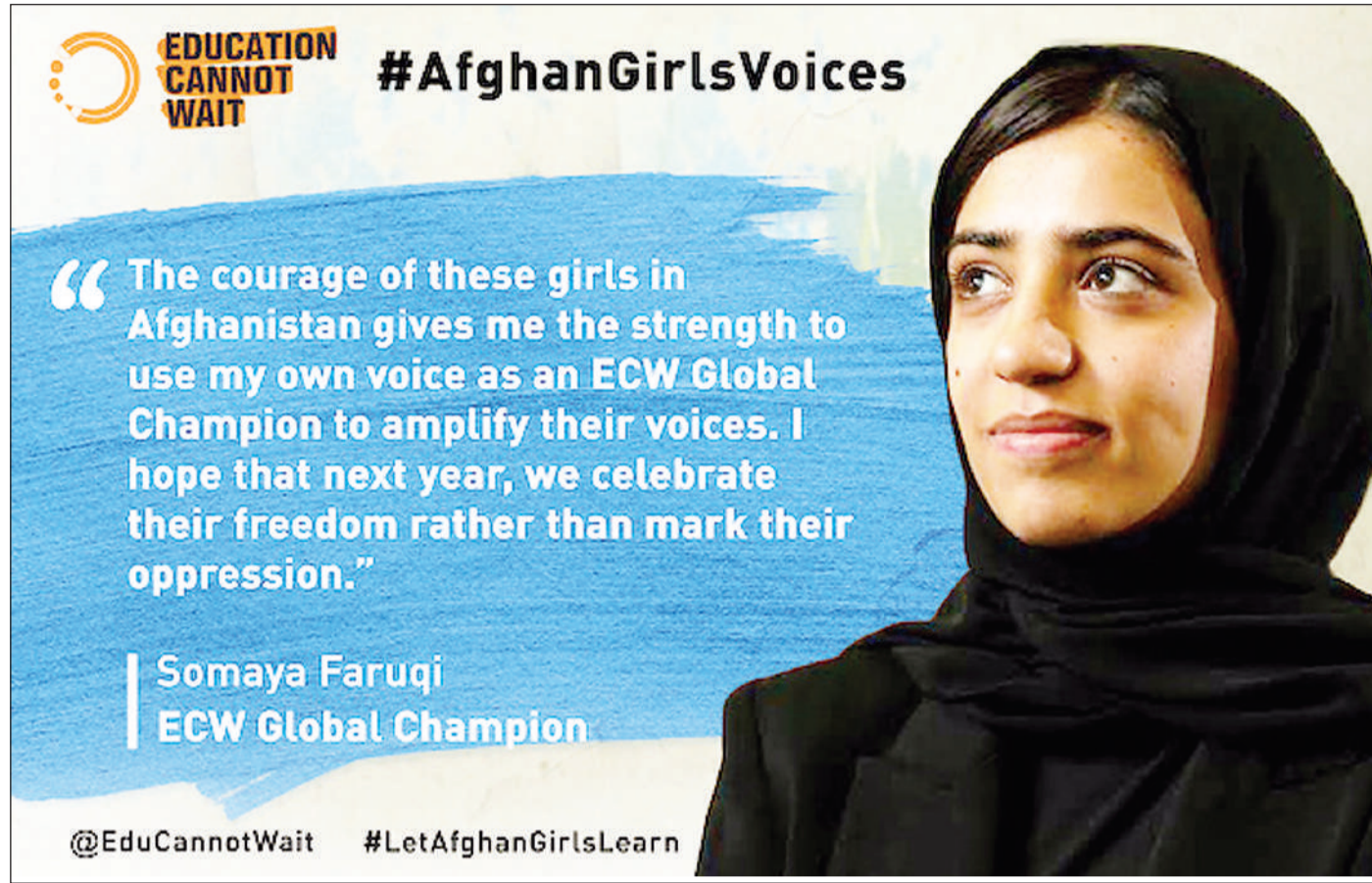
Faruqi finished her 12th grade in Qatar, from where she applied to college and received a scholarship from the Qatar Fund for Development to pursue mechanical engineering studies in the United States. Her astounding progress and brilliance are a testament to the devastating blow being dealt to millions of Afghan girls.

"The situation in Afghanistan gets worse from one day to the next. Women and girls are prisoners in their own homes, in their own country. They cannot leave their homes without a male guardian - a father, brother or relative.

They have been denied the freedom to pursue any interest outside their home, and they sit around with nothing to do. Through this campaign, I want the world to know that there is a country today where girls are denied fundamental human rights, forced out of school and into marriages," Faruqi explains.

The campaign is to be launched on August 15, the second anniversary of the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan. Gordon Brown -UN Special Envoy for Global Education and Chair of ECW's High-Level Steering Group - on the eve of the launch, stressed the need for the international community to hear this poignant call from the heart of Afghan girls and young women. Faruqi affirms the need to hear from those inside Afghanistan, at the very heart of the ongoing injustice, to hear how their lives have been turned upside down and how a fragile future now hangs in the balance if the global community remains silent.

According to a recent UN experts' report, the systematic restrictions of the fundamental rights of girls and women and the severe discrimination they experience under the de facto Taliban authorities' regime could amount to "gender apartheid" and "gender persecution."



The #AfghanGirlsVoices Campaign is a compelling and poignant campaign developed in collaboration with ECW Global Champion, Somaya Faruqi. CREDIT: ECW

Sherif says the situation is an unacceptable violation of girls' fundamental right to education, making Afghanistan the only country in the world where girls and young women are forbidden from attending secondary school and higher education institutions.

The ban is a significant setback to the important progress realized for girls' education in Afghanistan over the last 20 years. Between 2001 and 2018, the number of girls in primary school in Afghanistan increased from almost zero to 2.5 million. By August 2021, 40% of students in primary education were girls, and there



Yasmine Sherif, Executive Director of Education Cannot Wait (ECW)—the United Nations global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises, says the ban on girl's and women's education has the effect of forcing them to live once again in the shadows. CREDIT: ECW

were over 100,000 female students in Afghan higher education.

The campaign uses moving images by a young Afghan female artist and determined testimonies from Afghan girls. It features a series of equally inspiring, heart-wrenching and determined testimonies from Afghan girls whose lives have been abruptly upended by the ban preventing them to pursue their education and dreams.

Their powerful words are conveyed together with striking illustrations depicting both the profound despair experienced by these Afghan girls and young women, along with their incredible resilience and strength in the face of this unacceptable ban on their education.

ECW invites partners and the wider public to stand in solidarity with Afghan girls by posting messages from Afghan girls across social media every day—from 15 August, the date when the de facto Taliban authorities came into power in Afghanistan 2021, until 18 September, which marks the start of the official ban on school for adolescent girls.

Sherif says the campaign is in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4 and will run through the UN General Assembly and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit. The Summit aims to mark the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the SDGs with high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to 2030 - progress that cannot be achieved with Afghan girls left behind.

"ECW, through our in-country partners, has been supporting education in Afghanistan since 2017, first through a mix of formal and non-formal education and now exclusively through programming outside the formal education system.

More than 70 percent of the Afghan population is in dire humanitarian need. It is a country on the brink of collapse in terms of people's well-being. We are therefore calling for urgent funding to continue to fund community-based education through our grassroots partners," Sherif emphasizes.

The ECW-supported extended Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP) in Afghanistan aims to support more than 250,000 children and adolescents across some of the most remote and underserved areas of the country.

The programme delivers community-based education, organised at the local level with support from local communities, and is critical to keep education going. Girls account for well over half of all the children and adolescents reached by the MYRP.

IPS UN Bureau Report

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

# Chinese empower Tanzanian teachers on teaching maths

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

**M**ORE than 100 Tanzanian mathematics teachers have been trained under a Tanzania-Shanghai mathematics programme focusing on methodologies for teaching mathematics in secondary and primary schools.

The two-week training, which ended Friday, was undertaken by a team of Chinese mathematics teachers from Shanghai.

The Shanghai team was headed by Huang Xingfeng, a professor with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Teacher Education Centre (TEC). The UNESCO-TEC aims at promoting the development of teacher education worldwide, with a particular focus on supporting developing countries in Asia-Pacific and Africa to improve education quality and teacher quality.

According to Huang, during the two weeks, the Shanghai mathematics teachers' team collaborated with Tanzanian mathematics teachers at a school located in the Dar es Salaam University College for Education (DUCE) compounds to improve the Tanzanian teachers' professional development.

"We talked and discussed how to improve mathematics teaching," Huang told Xinhua in an interview

at the end of the Dar es Salaam Regional Teacher Workshop held at the DUCE compounds Friday.

He said that the training focused on supporting teachers to understand the curriculum and use of textbooks, improve teaching quality, develop teaching materials, share teaching experiences, organise examinations and provide intervention for students learning.

Ding Ruoxi from UNESCO-TEC talked about a hybrid model for teacher professional development.

Ding said in May, 40 Tanzanian policymakers, mathematics teachers, and educators visited six Shanghai local schools. "Especially for teachers and educators, we arranged for them to observe classroom teaching and teaching research group activities," she said.

Jacob Dibogo, a mathematics teacher at Chang'ombe demonstration secondary school and one of the beneficiaries of the training, said he learned a lot of things in connection to teaching mathematics during the programme.

"I learned how to teach mathematics in a class, how to prepare a lesson, how to interact with the students and how to give students a chance to participate in acquiring mathematics content," said Dibogo who teaches mathematics in Form Four.

He said the programme was a re-



A Chinese teacher instructs a Tanzanian math teacher during a training session under a Tanzania-Shanghai mathematics programme in Dar es Salaam.

sult of the wonderful cooperation that exists between China and Tanzania. "Chinese and Tanzanian teachers have benefited from how they teach using technology and how we teach without technology."

Coleta Kitule, a mathematics teacher at Chang'ombe demonstration primary school, said she has learned that pupils should be involved when preparing a mathematics lesson. Both schools are under the supervision of DUCE.

Fika Mwakabungu, director of Curriculum Training at the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE), said the Tanzania-Shanghai Mathematics programme traced back to 2021 when collaboration between TIE and Shanghai was initiated in facilitating Teachers Continuous Professional Development (TCPD) programmes.

Under the programme, TIE was responsible for collecting the needs and requirements of Tanzanian primary and secondary schools, while the UN-

ESCO-TEC developed a mathematics educational resource system containing textbooks, learning materials, teaching videos, and lesson plans and motivated professional development for teachers in schools where the resources have been adapted to teaching practices, she said.

"It's my hope that the learning opportunities for our children will be improved by this facility," said Mwakabungu while thanking the Shanghai team for its contribution.

# UN sets October 29 as annual day of care work

By Moraa Obiria

IN the early 2000s when proponents of men's care work started introducing the conversations at global conferences, including UN meetings, on gender equality, they became victims of ridicule.

Nevertheless, the fire had been lit by MenCare and MenEngage, among other global communities and campaigns.

In 2021, UN Women launched a five-year campaign, Generation Equality, under which it calls for a

global shift to equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, as a way of promoting equal socioeconomic growth of a woman.

Now, a day has been set aside for the global population to focus on unpaid care and domestic work, a milestone in the push for recognition, reduction and redistribution of care work.

The resolution calls upon member states, the UN system, civil society, the private sector, academia, and the public to observe the day annually. It acknowledges the dis-

proportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women and girls and highlights the need to address these structural barriers to women's empowerment.

In Oxfam's 2021 report on Addressing unpaid care and domestic work for a gender-equal and inclusive Kenya, UCDW is defined as the often-invisible work of caring for children, the elderly and sick people. It is also caring for those living with disability, as well as cleaning, cooking, washing, col-

lecting water, and fetching firewood, among other tasks.

In Kenya, findings from Oxfam's 2019 household care survey show women spent 11.1 hours per day on care compared to just 2.9 hours per day for men. But men spent almost double the time that women spent on paid work.

When women spent 5.3 hours, men spent 10.5 hours. This means a woman would earn less if they were on an hourly wage.

Going by the Gender Gap calculator created by Code for Africa,

on average, a man in Kenya earns 39 per cent more than a woman. This implies that when inflation hits, women's pockets are wiped faster than those of men.

On February 8, 2020, UN Secretary-General António Guterres' said 127 women for every 100 men aged between 25 and 34 lived in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa.

The report said too few workplaces support men's care just as a handful of politicians don't consider men's caregiving.

According to Taveeshi Gupta, the director of research, evaluation and learning at Equimundo and one of the report authors, care work and men's emotional self-care are interlinked.

"Men who say they take care of their emotional selves are eight times more likely to report caring for a partner," she said.

They are also six times more likely to report caring for a child's emotional needs or tend to older family members' physical needs, she said.

# Over 1000 stakeholders, partners to participate in this year's 'CSO Week'

By Getrude Mbago

OVER 1000 stakeholders from inside and outside the country including development partners and officials from the government and private sector are set to take part in this year's Civil Society Organisations-CSO Week expected from October 23 to 27 in Arusha Region.

The week-long event will bring stakeholders from inside and outside the country including civil society organisations, development partners and officials from the government and private sector are set to take part in this year's

Justice Rutenge, coordinator of CSOs Week 2023 told this paper that the participants will come from 500 organisations including civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), partners and stakeholders from inside and outside Tanzania.

Rutenge said this important week, which builds upon the success of its previous editions in 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022, is expected to forge strategic collaborations and chart a path towards collective representation and independence within the civil society landscape.

He said the event will be conducted with an aim of catalysing for transformative change, fostering a deeper understanding of the impact of technology on society and its potential role in shaping the future of Tanzania.

Under the theme: "Tech and Society: Then, Now, and Beyond," the CSOs Week 2023 will delve into the crucial intersection of technology and society, equipping CSOs with the knowledge and tools to navigate the opportunities and challenges that arise from the ever-evolving world of technology.

He noted: "Digital transformation that we're experiencing has drastically changed our societal frameworks and has the potential to continue reshaping our world in profound ways. Discussions on the intersection of tech and society are vital to understanding these changes, navigating the challenges they pose, and leveraging the opportunities they present."

Also, speaking recently in Dar es Salaam during the launching event, Rutenge stated that the week seeks to empower civil society organizations with the insights and expertise needed to advise both the government and private sector on the advantages and potential pitfalls of technology for the country's development.

Moreover, it aims to inspire CSOs to embrace technology's transformative power, leveraging it to serve the best interests of the communities they support, while remaining vigilant about its potential risks.

"The intertwining of technology and society is undeniable, having significantly altered the way we interact, communicate, work, and perceive the world around us. To ensure continued relevance and impact, civil society organizations must adapt, innovate, and proactively navigate these shifts," he said.

He explained that the theme "Then" component encourages CSOs to reflect on the historical relationship between technology and society.

"By examining past technological advancements, civil society can gain valuable insights into how they have influenced societal structures, systems, and processes, including the work of CSOs in effecting positive change," he said.

The "Now" component of the theme urges CSOs to critically analyse the current state of affairs, focusing on how technology impacts societal dynamics and the opportunities and challenges it presents for their work in driving meaningful change.

"And the 'Beyond' component prompts civil society to envision the future, acknowledging that the interplay between technology and society will continue to evolve. Embracing this forward-looking approach, CSOs can proactively anticipate and prepare for future technological trends, ensuring they remain at the forefront of progress."

Francis Kiwanga, Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) executive director said that investing in technology to boost various development



initiatives and create a tech-empowered society is of paramount importance.

He noted that in a broader perspective, the CSO Week seeks to create and deepen a sustainable model for growth fuelled by civil societies effective engagement in efforts to achieve Tanzania's development vision through collaborations that can enable CSOs to effectively serve excluded, marginalised and vulnerable populations in the interest of development in Tanzania.

He urged stakeholders in the development sectors to participate in the CSO Week 2023 and explore the transformative power of Tech and Society and work together towards a brighter and more inclusive future for Tanzania.

Kigamboni MP, Dr Faustine Ndugulile urged CSOs to utilize information and communication technology (ICT) opportunities to address unemployment problems.

Stakeholders in the development sectors were urged to participate in the CSOs Week 2023 and explore the transformative power of

tech and society and work together towards a brighter and more inclusive future for Tanzania.

He also urged stakeholders in the development sectors to participate in the CSOs Week 2023 and explore the transformative power of tech and society and work together towards a brighter and more inclusive future for Tanzania.

According to him, the use of ICT in increasing employment opportunities is not as effective in the country compared to other nations.

Ndugulile said there was still a dire need to utilise ICT to increase job opportunities for the youth.

The CSO Week is an annual event organized by a consortium of Tanzania-based local and international civil society organizations. The CSO Week started in 2018 as a brainchild of a number of CSOs whose reflections revealed the need to convene sectoral players in a week-long event that would enable them to forge stronger partnerships with each other, and with other key development actors.

# Kenya reinstates subsidy to stabilise fuel prices amidst public outcry

NAIROBI

KENYA has reintroduced a small subsidy to stabilize retail fuel prices for the next 30 days, according to the country's energy regulator.

President William Ruto had previously removed fuel and maize flour subsidies when he came into office last year.

The decision was made in an effort to redirect funding towards production rather than consumption, as well as to address the government's mounting debt repayments.

However, these subsidy cuts, along with recent tax hikes, have led to a rise in living costs and sparked violent anti-government protests.

In response to public anger over the high cost of living, the energy regulator has announced that the maximum retail price of a litre of petrol will remain constant at 194.68 shillings (\$1.35) for the next month.

The government will cover the cost of any price increase, shielding consumers through a price stabilization fund. Additionally, small subsidies will also be implemented for kerosene and diesel.

This decision by the government marks a reversal of its previous stance and reflects the impact of public pressure.

However, the energy regulator has not provided any explanation for this change in policy. As of now, there have been no comments from EPRA, the energy ministry, or the finance ministry regarding this decision.

The removal of subsidies and subsequent tax hikes resulted in a significant increase in fuel prices. The situation worsened in July when a law was passed that doubled the fuel tax.



# BUSINESS

## New food crops harvest season, NFRA's stock selling ease prices

By Guardian Reporter

THE wholesale food prices have eased over the last three months, ended in June 23, this year, thanks to an ongoing crops harvests in different parts of the country.

To ensure food availability and stability in food prices, the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) has also continued to supply food to councils facing shortages at subsidized prices.

Data by the ministry of trade and industry and Bank of Tanzania (BoT) computation show the wholesale prices of maize, rice, beans, sorghum and finger millet decreased in June, compared to the prices recorded in April.

According to the ministry and BoT data, the price of maize, the main staple for both rural and urban consumers declined to 102,073/- per 100 kilogramme in June this year, compared to 108,048/- recorded in

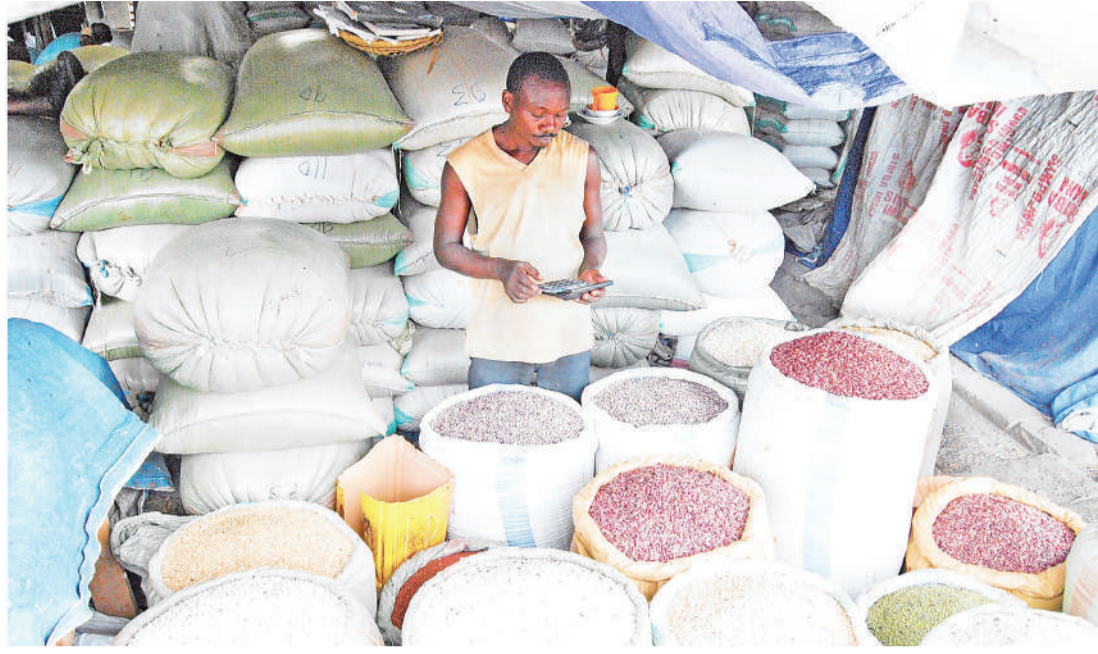
April.

However, the wholesale maize price for June this year still higher than 78,163/- recorded in June last year.

According to data from US department of agriculture (USDA), maize production in Tanzania during 2022/2023 amounted to 5.9 million metric tonnes from cultivated 4,000,000 hectares of farmlands, with the average yield of 1.5 tonnes per Ha.

The production was however, lower than 5-year average of 6.3 million metric tonnes and an average yield of 1.5 tonnes per hectare, according to the US department's online update on August 11 found on its website.

Tanzania has three main maize harvest seasons including January to mid-February for September and October Vuli rains' planting season and the second harvest happen from May to June for November to March msimu rains' planting season.



The price of rice went down to 264,534/- per 100 kilo in June, compared to 300,067/- in April. File photo

The third maize harvests, according to the US department of agricultural services occur in July and August for the crops planted during mid- February to March masika rains.

According to the USDA, during the last ten years the highest average yield was 1.9 tonnes per hectare recorded in 2018/2019 and the lowest was 1.2 tonnes per hectare recorded in 2012/2013 harvests season.

According to USDA, the production of corn in MY 2023/24 is anticipated to increase roughly 3 percent to 6.1 million metric tons (MT), as more farmers switch to corn production in response to high prices.

The trade and industry data also show the wholesale price of rice went down to 264,534/- per 100 kilo during the period ended in June 23, this this year,

compared to 300,067/- recorded in April 23, this year; but higher than 202,331/- recorded in June last year.

This has also lowered the retail price of rice, the second main staple, by between 5 to 15 percent in some of the regions of Tanzania mainland over the last six months.

In some parts of Dar es Salaam region, one kilogramme of quality rice is now ranging from 2,400/- to 2,700/-, lower than previously highest price of 3,300/- per kilo.

In 2022-23, rice production was estimated to decline by 15 percent to 2.2 million tons compared with the prior year due to dry weather and low input application because of the removal of fertilizer price ceilings in mid-2021.

Data by the US organization also shows rice production is forecast to increase from 2.2 to 2.4 million MT in 2023/24, as farmers join new irrigation schemes in the Southern Highlands and Northern Regions.21 Mar 2023. Rice cultivation occupies over 1 million hectares in Tanzania producing 2.2 million tons, establishing rice as Tanzania's second-most important crop, next to maize.

Rice production in Tanzania is mostly rain-fed and irrigation systems largely consist of channeling rainwater to rice fields, making them vulnerable to low rainfall.

In 2023-24, rice imports are forecast to decrease slightly to 180,000 tons from 200,000 tons as increases in domestic production account for a larger share of Tanzania's available supply. The price beans, also slightly decreased to 273,349/- per 100 kilogramme in June this year, compared to 278,991/- recorded in April this year, although was higher than 186,985/- recorded at the end of June last year.

The ministry report shows the wholesale price of sorghum also recorded similar declining trend after closing at 141,131/- in June this year, compared to 148,010/- recorded in April this year.

However, the price of round potatoes, mainly consumed in major cities for fries increased during the reported period to 108,364/- compared to 98,158/- respectively.

## Norway seen lifting policy rate to 4.0 per cent this week

OSLO

NORWAY'S central bank is expected to raise its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 4.00 percent this week to curb inflation, economists polled by Reuters unanimously predicted.

Norwegian core consumer

prices rose 6.4 percent year-on-year in July, more than three times the central bank's goal of 2 percent annual price growth but down from a record 7.0 percent in June.

The July inflation print was broadly in line with Norges Bank's own 6.3 percent forecast and policymakers are thus un-

likely to repeat their hawkish June move, when they opted for a 50 bps rise, also referred to as a "double" hike, economists said. "The risk of another double rate hike is clearly reduced," Handelsbanken said in an Aug. 11 note to clients.

Norges Bank's monetary policy committee has said it

will likely hike the policy rate to 4.25 percent in the course of this year to prevent a continued rapid rise in prices and wages that could see inflation become entrenched.

"The recent economic trend has in our view increased the probability of a September hike following a hike in August, and

we expect Norges Bank to signal this," DNB Markets said on Aug. 11.

The Norwegian currency, which strengthened against the euro during the early parts of summer, has weakened following the release of the milder July inflation data.

The European Central Bank

last month raised its key policy rate to 3.75 percent, but a narrow majority of economists polled by Reuters expect the ECB to temporarily pause its rate-hiking campaign at its September meeting.

All 31 economists polled in the Aug. 10-15 period said Norges Bank would announce on

Thursday that it will increase its policy rate by 25 bps to 4.00 percent.

The poll's median prediction showed that the policy rate is expected to hit a peak of 4.25 percent later in the third quarter, although some predicted it could rise to 4.50 percent by the end of the year.

## Absa group reports 2 pct earnings gain

By Guardian Correspondent

THE South Africa headquartered Absa Group recorded a 2 percent earnings to R11.2 billion from a high base a year earlier, as strong revenue growth of 16 percent higher credit impairments, the group's interim financial report.

Speaking on a virtual conference from South Africa, Absa Group Chief Executive Officer, Arrie Rautenbach said that with resilient results in an increasingly challenging operating environment during the first half of 2023.

"With the right strategy in place, an experienced and diverse leadership team, a strong balance sheet and consistent execution, Absa remains positioned for growth," Rautenbach

said.

He noted that the Group's well-diversified franchise helped mitigate the earnings impact of the increasing strain on consumers in South Africa, which is Absa's largest market.

Headline earnings in South Africa declined 17 percent, given elevated credit impairments, while earnings for regions outside of South Africa, collectively known as Africa regions, almost doubled.

"Our deliberate diversification strategy stood us in good stead in the first half of 2023, given weaker economic conditions and significant pressure on consumers in South Africa," said Arrie Rautenbach, Absa Group Chief Executive Officer. "We will further diversify going forward by deploying resources and capital

into attractive growth prospects on the continent which provides a natural performance hedge for the group, while continuing to invest in South Africa."

The Group's underlying performance during the period is reflected by 16 percent higher pre-provision profit, which is profit before setting aside money for bad debts, tax and other items.

"We are executing consistently against our strategic focus areas, as we strive to become a leading Pan-African bank. This is evident in the continued progress we have made against key targets," said Rautenbach.

"We are seeing tangible progress in becoming the primary partner for our customers, which is shown by improved client experience, accelerated cus-



Absa Group Chief Executive Officer, Arrie Rautenbach

tomers growth and solid deposit growth," said Rautenbach.

Absa continued to grow as a primary partner, with a focus on building its transactional business through investments across its businesses, notably in

Private & Wealth, Youth propositions, Bancassurance and Business Banking during the period.

Communities will also benefit from the launch of one of the largest broad-based black economic empowerment

transactions in recent times.

The transaction sets aside 7 percent of Absa Group shares for the benefit of staff and communities in South Africa, underscoring our commitment to transformation. Staff outside of South Africa will be able to participate in a cash-equivalent scheme, pending local approvals.

"We are particularly pleased with our return on equity of 16.7 percent and with our cost-to-income ratio improving further to 49.8 percent, driven by solid revenue growth," said Jason Quinn, Absa Group Financial Director. "We remain well capitalised to fund growth opportunities," he said.

Meanwhile, the financial performance in Absa Tanzania remains promising as the bank recorded T32.720bn/- before tax in June this year compared to 17.953bn/- in June last year which reflected to 82.2 percent increase.

"The great achievements we have made in the last six months for doubling the profits within a short period of time, says Head of Marketing and Corporate Relations, Absa Bank Tanzania, Aron Luhanga.

SINGAPORE

AS headline oil prices edge ever closer to \$90 a barrel, there's little sign of a let up in the day-to-day demand that's underpinned the rally.

Across the global market, record crude demand has driven up the premiums that traders pay to get cargoes.

The differentials for spot cargoes from the Middle East have surged in recent days as buyers in China grab supplies. In the North Sea, a vital window has seen a spate of bidding, while Asian buyers have also bought millions of barrels of US crude. Those are all signs that the latest cycle is off to a strong start, even as Chinese data highlight its economic challenges remain potent.

The move comes as refining margins – the profit processors make from buying crude and making fuels – have increased in recent weeks.

The International Energy Agency said on Friday that global oil consumption surged to a record in June and should rise further on average later in the year.

London's Brent crude has climbed almost 20 percent since late June, as Saudi Arabia and Russia prolong their voluntary supply

## Oil price edges closer to \$90 a barrel

curbs and further tighten international oil markets.

"The driver of the tightness is the Saudi production cut, with refineries looking for alternative barrels," said Giovanni Staunovo, an analyst at UBS Group AG. "Demand is solid in large parts of Asia as well as the US, mostly mixed in Europe."

Chinese mega-refiner Rongsheng Petrochemical Co. secured millions of barrels from the spot market last week. That's in addition to the nation's refiners having been given about 40 percent more crude from the Saudis month-on-month for September loading after asking for extra barrels.

Across Asia, plants already snapped up about 40 million barrels from US crude for November arrival this month in what's seen as a robust pace of purchasing following the previous month's massive buying spree.

In the Middle East, the premium of Abu Dhabi's Murban crude also soared against the Dubai benchmark despite Asian buyers picking up comparable-quality West Texas Intermediate crude from the US



earlier in the month.

The premium was near \$3 a barrel on the ICE Futures Abu Dhabi exchange on Monday, about 30 cents higher than the start of the month, according to PVM Oil As-

sociates data compiled by Bloomberg. The more sulfurous and dense Upper Zakum also surged in early-cycle trading.

Production cuts from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting

Countries and its allies and steady price increases from Saudi Arabia have been a major driver behind the move, forcing refineries to hunt out supplies in key pricing regions.

There have also been low-level disruptions in major producing nations from Nigeria to Kazakhstan, further tightening balances.

To be sure, China – the world's principal engine of growth for oil demand – is battling a worsening property slump, and consumer spending has also weakened, troubling signs for world's second-largest economy. While recent crude-import figures point to strong demand, China's oil demand for this year may already have peaked, according to Energy Aspects Ltd.

The recent physical-market rally has also had varied impacts on different grades of crude. The OPEC-cuts and subsequent price hikes have made medium-sour barrels like Norway's Johan Sverdrup more expensive.

That has led to a slow pace of sales for Northern Europe's largest crude stream, and also pushed some buyers to seek cheaper light

alternatives instead.

Even so, grades like Forties that is part of a basket of crudes that makes up the Dated Brent – the world's most important benchmark – has strengthened.

Forties last traded at a premium of 85 cents a barrel to Dated Brent on Thursday on a pricing window run by S&P Global Commodity Insights, better known as Platts. This compares with a discount of 35 cents on July 31.

"Much of the strength in global physical markets this year has been driven by the medium and heavy, sour barrel," RBC Capital Markets LLC analysts including Michael Tran wrote in a report. "That said, key global light, sweet marginal barrels have shown strong signs of tightening so far in August."

The current enthusiasm may be reduced in coming months; however, as US fuel-makers, the largest buyers of crude after China, prepare to halt refineries for the upcoming fall turnaround season at a time when drilling in the Permian grows.

The restart of oil sands production in Canada, which is undergoing summer maintenance, should also help to beef up supplies.

# Major minerals, tourism boost exports income

By Guardian Reporter

EXPORTS of goods and services amounted to US\$12,767.6 million in the year ending June 2023, higher than US\$11,004.1 million in the previous year, driven by non-traditional exports, in particular minerals and services receipts.

Export of non-traditional goods recorded an annual growth of 4.2 percent largely driven by minerals, particularly gold, coal and diamonds.

Coal exports increased to US\$229 million in the year to June 2023, from US\$57.6

million in the previous year, due to growing demand in the wake of supply shortages following the war in Ukraine.

Exports of diamonds almost doubled to US\$46.9 million from US\$29.6 million in the year ending June 2022, largely due to price effects.

As for gold exports, the increase was largely on account of volume effects.

According to data by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) gold exports amounted to US\$2.9 billion, more than twice of the amount obtained from exporting manufactured goods and more than three times of earnings



from traditional exports.

Manufactured goods exports also

recorded an annual growth of 6.1 percent to US\$1,402.2 million, largely

driven by fertilizers and cement.

Exports of traditional goods slightly

increased to US\$752.3 million from US\$737.8 million. The increase was mostly manifested in exports of tobacco, cotton, and coffee.

On monthly basis, traditional goods worth US\$21.5 million were exported in June 2023 compared with US\$30.9 million in the similar month in 2022, while non-traditional exports increased to US\$584 million up from US\$545.3 million.

Services receipts amounted to US\$5,398 million in the year ending June 2023, higher than US\$3,906.7 million in the year ending June 2022, driven by travel (tourism) and transportation receipts.

The increase in travel receipts is mostly explained by the escalation in tourist arrivals, which rose by 45.9 percent to 1,638,850 – the highest level reached historically – as the tourism sector continues to recover.

On monthly basis, services receipts were US\$513.7 million in June 2023 compared with US\$390.5 million in June 2022.

# NCBA commits to arousing Zanzibar economy

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

IN a move set to cement a positive impact on the socio-economic landscape of Zanzibar, NCBA Bank has reignited its commitment to strengthen its substantial contribution aimed at driving growth and development in the region.

Recognizing the potential for collaboration and growth in the islands, NCBA has extended its support to Zanzibar through a range of innovative products and services designed to empower local communities and foster economic progress.

This new reinvigoration aligns with NCBA's commitment to inspiring change and enabling sustainable development in the areas it serves.

'I am thrilled to announce that we will be running new innovative initiatives that will set new standards for the tourism industry in Zanzibar.

Our reimagined tourism services have been designed with your success in mind, tailored specifically to empower business owners in this vibrant sector', said the new NCBA Managing Director and CEO Claver Serumaga as he reiterated the bank's position at a customer gala dinner graced by Dr. Saada Mkuya, Minister of State President's Office Finance and Planning Zanzibar.

The Director underscored recent accomplishments and achievements to drive financial inclusion in the region.

He said, 'through platforms like M-Pawa, that has opened doors to financial inclusion for over seven million Tanzanians, empowering both the unbanked and transforming lives. We have also taken great pride in supporting micro and small businesses, providing them with the resources they need to flourish and contribute to the fabric of Tanzania's economy'.

The Minister applauded NCBA's resilient commitment to helping the Zanzibarians. She elucidated, 'I would like to commend NCBA Bank Tanzania for its significant contributions to our local economy.'

Through their innovative financial solutions, tailored services, and steadfast support, they have empowered individuals, businesses, and communities in Zanzibar to reach new heights of success.

By fostering an ecosystem that nurtures entrepreneurship, they have unlocked doors of opportunity for aspiring business owners, igniting the spark of economic empowerment and transformation'.

As a renowned financial institution with a deep commitment to responsible banking and driving



Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office, Finance and Planning Dr Saada Mkuya (L) receives a gift of honor from the new NCBA bank CEO Claver Serumaga at a customer event organized by the bank to announce their intention to continue investing in the tourism sector in Zanzibar over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent

financial inclusion, NCBA's robust offering hasn't gone unnoticed, picking up an award in 2022 as

the best digital bank in Tanzania.

The bank anticipates further investments to

catalyze progress and uplift the quality of life for its customers and the entire nation.

# China's gold prices rising higher than rest of world

BEIJING

CHINA'S gold price is rising against levels in London, a trend that local traders say is due to government curbs on imports of the precious metal.

The Shanghai spot price was more than \$40 an ounce higher than that in London on Aug. 14, according to Bloomberg calculations based on exchange data.

That's the biggest premium in more than five months, with the gap steadily widening from late June even as consumer demand in China remained sluggish.

Authorities moving to limit gold imports appears to be a major driver behind the growing gap, according to traders and importers.

The government has reduced or stopped issuing import quotas to some local banks, according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified as the information is private.

That's resulted in a drop in flows over the last few months, two of the people said, and there's no immediate prospect of the affected quotas being issued again. The reason for the curbs isn't clear.

China vies with India as the world's biggest buyer of gold, so demand and supply trends there can influence global prices for the metal.

Chinese demand has struggled to regain momentum as the country's economic jitters turn consumers off gold jewelry or investments in the metal, with purchases in those categories still below long-term averages.

## China's Gold Gains in Value Versus World's Traders say supply is tighter due to import curbs

■ SGE vs. LBMA spot price (premium/discount)



Source: Shanghai Gold Exchange, London Bullion Market Association

Bloomberg

As recently as June, prices in Shanghai were at a discount to the international market.

### Money Issues

The swing to a premium is being driven by tighter supply in China, the World Gold Council said in a report last week, without elaborating.

While some bullion is still making its way to China, the volume of orders is weak, one of the people familiar with the matter said.

The country's imports of non-monetary gold fell 35 percent in June from the previous month to the lowest level since January.

The People's Bank of China typically issues quotas to financial institutions for the amount of gold allowed to enter the country, though the exact details of permitted volumes are never publicly disclosed.

The PBOC didn't respond to a faxed request for comment.

Gold could be an attractive investment for Chinese facing a weaker domestic cur-

rency, and authorities may potentially stymie that trade – lending some support to the yuan – by squeezing import quotas.

The offshore yuan fell toward its weakest level this year on Monday after an array of disappointing economic data fueled worries about sputtering growth.

The outlook for Chinese gold demand looks fairly lackluster, according to Nikos Kavalis, managing director at consultancy Metals Focus Ltd. "It's not great, it's not bad," he said. "But what we're definitely seeing is tighter supply conditions."

# Exim Bank (T) marks its 26th anniversary strong

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank Tanzania yesterday celebrated 26 years of being more than a bank and reaffirmed its commitment to continue supporting Tanzania's socio-economic development.

Speaking during a brief event held at the bank's head office in Dar es Salaam, the Exim Bank Chief Executive Officer Jaffari Matundu said throughout the 26 years of the bank's existence, the bank has become a trusted partner playing a pivotal role in the growth of the country's economy.

"Over the past 26 years, Exim Bank Tanzania has evolved to become a trusted financial partner for our clients, providing a comprehensive range of services tailored to their unique needs. We are not limited by the confines of a traditional bank. We have transcended the boundaries of banking to become a catalyst for growth, innovation, and progress within our nation," he said.

Matundu said the bank has consistently embraced the values of integrity, trustworthiness, and customer-centricity that has helped to win the loyalty of its customers.

"We have recognized the responsibility we hold in contributing to the socio-economic development of Tanzania and empowering individuals and businesses alike," he added. Matundu noted that the bank has invested in projects that foster entrepreneurship, support sustainable development, and promote financial literacy.

"We are committed to uplifting the society and we have undertaken numerous initiatives to contribute to the progress of Tanzania through our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs in sectors including education and healthcare, and environmental sustainability. By doing so, we have not only fulfilled our obligations as a bank but have actively become agents of positive change within our communities," he stressed.

He said the bank has demonstrated unwavering commitment to technological advancement by embracing digital innovation to provide seamless, convenient, and secure banking solutions to its customers.

"By staying at the forefront of technological advancements, we have not only enhanced our banking experience but have also transformed our own internal operations to become more efficient and agile," he added.



## WORLD

## PM Modi on 77th Independence Day says World is facing inflation but India...

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi, yesterday, said the world is facing inflation but India has taken several measures to tackle inflation and will continue to do so.

In his 10th address from the ramparts of the Red Fort today, PM Modi said, "The world has still not recovered from Corona. The war gave rise to another crisis. Today, the world is facing the crisis of inflation. Inflation has the entire global economy in its clutches...It is unfortunate that when we import goods of our necessity, we also import inflation."

"But, India made all efforts to control inflation...We can't be content just because our situation is better than the rest of the world. I have to take more steps to see that the burden of inflation goes further down on the citizens of my country. We will take those steps and my efforts

will continue..." he said.

Recalling the era of COVID-19, the Prime Minister said that India helped different countries during the time of crisis and that India has emerged as a "Vishwa Mitra" (friend of the world).

"We have to make our country so strong that will contribute to Vishwa Mangal (Global welfare). After Covid, the way India helped the world during the time of crisis, India has emerged as Vishwa Mitra. When we talk about Vishwa Mangal which is India's basic idea that we have to expand," PM Modi said while addressing the countrymen.

"We have presented philosophies and the world is now connecting with India over them. For the renewable energy sector, we said 'One Sun, One World, One Grid'. After Covid, we told the world that our approach should be of 'One Earth, One Help'. We can solve the problem when we address the issues of people, animals and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation from the ramparts of Red Fort on the occasion of 77th Independence Day, in New Delhi yesterday. ANI

plants equally. For the G20 Summit, we should focus on the idea of 'One World, One Family, One Future,' the prime minister he added.

He also stated that India has launched Mission LIFE for the climate issues that the world is facing. And also made the solar alliance which now many countries are becoming part of.

In his 10th consecutive Independence Day speech, the Prime Minister said that after the COVID-19 pandemic, the world order and the definition of the geopolitical equation have changed and India has become the voice of the global south.

Earlier, PM Modi hoisted the national flag and after this flower petals were showered at the

venue by two Advanced Light Helicopters Mark-III Dhruv of the Indian Air Force.

PM Modi, in his speech, also lauded the contribution of youth and said those from tier 2, and tier 3 cities are also making a lot of impact in various fields, including start-ups.

ANI

## Majority of countries prepared to stand up for their sovereignty in shaping future, says Putin

MOSCOW

MOST countries are prepared to stand up for their sovereignty and the times call for the international community to work together in shaping the world of the future, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a video



address to participants and guests of the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security.

"We are seeing consistent movement toward the emergence of a multipolar world order. Most countries are prepared to stand up for their sovereignty, national interests, traditions, culture and way of life," he emphasized.

The Russian head of state underscored the fact that new centers of economic and political authority were gaining in strength. According to him, all of this "can provide an important basis for stable, progressive global development and, most importantly, for efforts to find genuine solutions to social, economic, technological and environmental issues, as well as for improving the quality of life and well-being of millions of people."

Putin stressed that open, honest and unbiased discussions, such as the Moscow conference, were highly important and relevant because "the entire international community will need to work together on an equal footing to shape the future."

## Swahili version of Chinese President Xi Jinping's book on governance launched in Kenya

NAIROBI

THE Swahili version of Volume One of The Governance of China by Chinese President Xi Jinping was launched at a seminar here on Monday.



Experts and scholars from China and Kenya present at the seminar said that the book reflects Xi's strategy for governing the country and provides useful references for developing countries including Kenya by introducing China's development achievements and experiences.

The publication of the Swahili version is an important achievement of the cooperation between the publishing and translation circles of the two countries, serving as a vivid example of bilateral exchange and mutual learning of the experiences on state governing.

Experts said that the publication of the book will help African readers understand the historical backgrounds and cultural roots of China's path of development, the governing philosophy of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese wisdom about building a better world.

As this year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of China-Kenya diplomatic relations, both sides will take this event as an opportunity to deepen people-to-people exchanges, promote traditional friendship and contribute to the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between China and Kenya, said the participants.

The Swahili version of the first volume of The Governance of China was jointly translated and published by China's Foreign Languages Press and the Kenya Literature Bureau, a state agency in the Kenyan Ministry of Education. The first volume of the book has so far been published in 37 languages, covering more than 180 countries and regions.

Monday's event was attended by about 500 people from all walks of life. *Xinhua*

## India plays an important constructive role in international affairs - Putin

MOSCOW

INDIA "enjoys well-earned respect" in the world arena and plays an important "constructive role in international affairs," Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday in his congratulatory message on the occasion of Independence Day.

"Please accept cordial congratulations on the occasion of the Indian national holiday - the Independence Day. Your country has achieved universally acknowledged success in economic, scientific and technical, social and other fields.

India enjoys well-earned respect in the world arena and plays an important constructive role in international affairs," Putin said in his message to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"We attach great importance to the relations of the special and privileged strategic partnership with New Delhi. I am confident that with joint efforts we will further enhance fruitful bilateral cooperation in all areas and constructive

partnership in solving topical issues of regional and global agenda.

This, undoubtedly, meets the core interests of our friendly nations and contributes to the security and stability of the planet," he added.

He wished the best of health and every success as well as happiness and well-being to all Indian citizens. As India celebrated its 77th Independence Day yesterday, various world leaders have sent their warm wishes to the people of India.

Earlier, French President Emmanuel Macron congratulated India on its 77th Independence Day and said New Delhi can count on Paris as a "trusted friend."

On the social media account, X (formerly known as Twitter), Macron called Prime Minister Modi a "friend" and said that they had set new ambitions for Indo-French relations.

"Congratulations to the Indian people on your Independence Day! A month ago in Paris, my friend @narendramodi and I set new Indo-French ambitions all the way to 2047, the centenary year of



Dignitaries listen to the 10th address of Prime Minister Narendra Modi (Unseen) from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the occasion of the 77th Independence Day, in New Delhi yesterday. ANI

India's Independence. India can count on France as a trusted friend and partner, always."

He reshared his old video of dated July 15, where he shared the highlights of Prime Minister Modi's 2-day official visit to France.

Apart from them, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal wished India on the occasion of the 77th Independence Day.

"On the auspicious occasion of

the 77th Independence Day of India, I extend warm greetings and best wishes to PM @narendramodi ji and to the friendly people of India for continued peace, progress and prosperity @PMOIndia," Nepal PM said in a tweet.

The US, Sri Lanka, Australia and Nepal's Foreign Ministers also extended warm wishes to India.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Ali Sabry on Tuesday wished India

Independence Day and said that he is confident that bilateral ties will be "further strengthened" between the two nations.

"Warm Greetings, Foreign Minister @DrSjaishankar and the Government & people of #India on the occasion of your Independence Day. I am confident that in the years ahead our bilateral ties will be further strengthened between our two nations India and Sri Lanka," Sabry said on the social media account X.

Nepal's Foreign Minister Narayan Prakash Saud also extended wishes on the occasion.

"As India celebrates its 77th Independence Day, I would like to convey warm greetings and felicitations to H.E. @DrSjaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India. Wish Happy Independence Day to the people and Government of India!" he tweeted.

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong wished India and said that the relationship between the two countries is growing from the foundation of the "three 'Ds': democracy, diaspora and dosti - or friendship." *ANI*

## Macron congratulates India on its Independence Day, says it can count on France as trusted friend, partner

PARIS

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron congratulated India on its 77th Independence Day and said New Delhi can count on Paris as a "trusted friend."

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PM Modi was on a two-day visit to France on July 13 and 14.

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The United States Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, attended the Independence Day celebration at the Red Fort here today and extended his greetings.

He also said that it is an "honour" to be present at the "iconic Red Fort."

Earlier, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken extended his wishes on India's 77th

Independence Day.

"On behalf of the United States of America, we send our warmest wishes to the people of India as they commemorate 76 years of independence this August 15. On this momentous day, we reflect on the depth and breadth of our strategic partnership, and we celebrate the proud history of the Indian people, who are the key to the bright future we are building together," Antony Blinken said in a statement.

Blinken noted that the relationship between India and US has grown "deeper" and it has become "more expansive than ever."

ANI

## China boosts in-depth integration of information technology into transportation sector

CHINA is making great efforts to promote the in-depth integration of information technology (IT) into its transportation sector. With new products and new business models continuously emerging across the country, people across China are benefiting from improved travel experiences in various scenarios - from city streets to intercity expressways.

This summer, many people in China have found that map apps can display shaded "sun protection" routes for pedestrians in real-time and automatically recommend a shady route based on

user's destination.

"By leveraging remote sensing technology, our app can intelligently identify the distribution density of trees around roads, and calculate the dynamic light and shadow condition of road sections based on relevant factors of specific locations," said an executive of leading Chinese mapping service provider Amap.

Thanks to the application of intelligent mobile terminal technologies, urban transportation services in China have witnessed significant improvement in quality and efficiency.

"There are peaks and valleys in urban travel demand. The waiting time for taxis spike during rush hour," said Li Xinhua, general manager of the taxi division of Amap's ride hailing services.

In an effort to improve the supply-demand matching efficiency, Amap has leveraged big data to predict congestion and adjust pricing in real time, according to Li. IT is penetrating every corner of urban transportation in China, continuously meeting people's diverse and individualized travel needs.

Data released by China's Ministry of Transport (MOT) showed that over 300

Chinese cities have ride-hailing services, with over 25 million daily orders; and that a total of 15 million shared bikes have been deployed nationwide, generating over 28 million orders on a daily basis.

"Rapid economic development has stimulated more demand for transportation, while challenges like congestion, accidents and pollution have become increasingly prominent," an official of the science and technology department of the MOT pointed out.

IT, represented by artificial intelligence (AI), can provide new approaches

to enhancing the service capabilities of transportation infrastructure, the official noted.

By building and transforming intelligent facilities, which enable dynamic adjustment of signals based on real-time vehicle flows, at 332 intersections, Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area, also known as E-Town, in China's capital city Beijing, has achieved remarkable results in addressing traffic congestion.

The intelligent facilities have reduced queue length by 30.3 percent and unnecessary time of green lights by 18.33

percent in relevant areas.

Xiangyang Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone in Xiangyang city, central China's Hubei province, has seen autonomous driving services expanding to over 140 application scenarios of the Internet of Vehicles (IoV), 234 intersections, 510 kilometers of two-way roads, and an environment for large-scale city-level application covering an area of 150 square kilometers, according to an executive of a project of the Central and Southern China Municipal Engineering Design and Research Institute Co., Ltd.

*People's Daily*





# SPORT



Ballers making Dynamos hoops side are pictured engaging in training at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's courts in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Dar boxers start camp for 2024 Olympics' qualifiers

By Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S boxers enter camp today to prepare for qualifiers for the 2024 Olympics slated for next month in Dakar, Senegal.

Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT) president Lukelo Wililo said the qualifiers will be held from September 9-15.

He said seven pugilists that are under coach Samuel Kapungu are currently attending non-residential training at JKT Mgulani in Dar es Salaam.

The BFT official mentioned male boxers as Yusuf Chagalawe (80kg), Mwalani Salum (57kg), Abdallah Abdallah (51kg), Ilankunda Nkundabanyanka (71kg), and Mussa Malegesi (92kg).

Female boxers making the squad are Grace Mwakamele, fighting in 66kg, and 50kg boxer Zulfa Macho.

Wililo said the seven pugilists are expected to depart for Senegal on September 6.

The official expressed his confidence that many local boxers will qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Wililo said: "Our seven boxers enter camp today to start preparations for the continental boxing championships set to be used as qualification for next year's Paris Olympics."

"I'm confident that many of our boxers will qualify for the 2024 Olympics to be held in France," he said.

Three out of the seven boxers, Chagalawe, Grace, and Zulfa, represented the country in the just-ended AFBC African Boxing Championships in Cameroon.

Chagalawe lifted a bronze medal in Men's Cruiserweight category, and Grace grabbed a silver medal in the Women's Light Middleweight category of the continental showpiece.

According to International Boxing Association (IBA), this year, there will be seven weight categories instead of eight for the elite male pugilists in Olympics qualifiers.

The weight categories are 51kg, 57kg, 63.5kg, 71kg, 80kg, 92kg, and +92kg, the middle points have simply been removed.

The 2020 Olympics qualifiers had allowed 22 male boxers to qualify in eight categories but the 2024 Olympics qualifiers will only qualify seven male boxers that are winners of their categories.

As for the elite male pugilists, there will be six weight categories instead of the five that were arranged for the 2020 Olympics qualifiers.

The weight categories for female pugilists in the 2024 Olympics qualifiers are 50kg, 54kg, 57kg, 60kg, 66kg, and 75kg. The 54kg category has been added to the list.

The 2020 Olympics qualifiers allowed 11 female boxers to obtain their qualification in five categories, in contrast, the 2024 Olympics qualifiers will qualify 11 female boxers from six categories.

Thereafter, two world events will allow African boxers to snatch

## NBC Bank sponsorship for NBC Premier League drives economic growth, sporting success



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF)'s president, Wallace Karia (L), and NBC Bank's Managing Director, Theobald Sabi (R), display signed sponsorship contracts for the NBC Premier League spanning five years - starting from the 2023/24 Premier League season. Others witnessing are senior officials from both sides. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Guardian Correspondent

THE recently announced extension of NBC Bank's sponsorship contract for Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League has set the stage for immense economic benefits and sporting achievements in Tanzania.

The contract, valued at 32.56bn/-, not only secures the future of the Premier League but also paves the way for the development of the U-20 Premier League and Championship League, now rebranded as the 'NBC Championship'.

In an enthralling signing event held in Tanga last weekend, Managing Director of NBC Bank, Theobald Sabi, expressed elation about the extended partnership.

He emphasized the bank's unwavering support and sponsorship of the esteemed NBC Premier League, highlighting its significance.

NBC Bank MD revealed: "As time has passed, the league has evolved into a hub for socio-economic development, creating employment opportunities, promoting financial inclusion, and facilitating economic activities throughout the value chain."

"Our collaboration amplifies the bank's pledge to actualize possibilities for the Tanzanian community, and we eagerly anticipate witnessing the sustained progress of football and the expansion of economic opportunities in our nation," Sabi exclaimed.

One of the remarkable benefits of NBC Bank's sponsorship lies in the job creation it has catalyzed.

The sponsorship has directly generated employment opportunities for over 7,000 individuals and has indirectly created millions more jobs.

These positions span players, coaching

staff, doctors, stadium workers, journalists, leaders, and team employees, among others.

Moreover, the ripple effect of the NBC Premier League has stimulated job growth in various sectors such as industry, transportation, food, and lodging, thereby establishing the NBC Premier League as a vital contributor to the economy.

The lender has also experienced a prodigious boost in brand growth through its association with the NBC Premier League.

The NBC Bank boss noted: "The league's unparalleled popularity has inclined it to become a subject of fervent daily discussions in media, workplaces, schools, and even places of worship."

"Consequently, NBC Bank's brand has become intertwined with the lives of countless Tanzanians, thereby propelling the bank towards the attainment of its business goals," the MD acknowledged.

Furthermore, sponsorship has played a pivotal role in financial empowerment and inclusion.

According to Sabi, NBC Bank's association with the NBC Premier League has facilitated the reach of the institution's financial services to a wider audience, integrating it into the formal financial system.

This progressive step has promoted financial inclusion and empowered individuals across the nation.

The NBC Premier League's contribution to national income and tourism demands recognition. The league has been a substantial contributor through taxes and various fees.

Additionally, the growing acclaim of the NBC Premier League has attracted top-tier players from neighbouring countries and regions, elevating the international recognition and reputation of Tanzanian football.

Simultaneously, it has enticed tourists, invigorating the tourism industry of the country.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia also conveyed gratitude towards NBC Bank for the institution's steadfast commitment to Tanzanian football.

Karia believes that with NBC Bank's sponsorship, Tanzanian football is poised to reach unprecedented heights.

The TFF leader noted: "The extended partnership with NBC Bank is a testament to our shared vision and

dedication to promoting excellence in football."

He said: "Through our unwavering support, we will continue to nurture the growth of the NBC Premier League, elevating it to new levels of competitiveness and entertainment."

NBC Bank's sponsorship is a game-changer, enabling us to unleash the full potential of Tanzanian football and inspire generations to come," he stated.

NBC Bank's continued sponsorship of the NBC Premier League has resulted in significant economic impact and outstanding achievements for both the bank and Tanzania.

The sponsorship not only creates job opportunities but also cultivates brand growth, financial empowerment, national income, and tourism.

With the extended partnership spanning until the 2027 season, it is anticipated that these economic benefits will reverberate further, positioning the NBC Premier League as an indispensable pillar of the Tanzanian economy.

## ZFF lines up strategies for excelling in 2023/24 CAF inter-club tournaments

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

ZANZIBAR Football Federation (ZFF) is set to meet leaders of the Isles' Premier League outfits, KMKM FC and JKU SC, to look into the clubs' strategies for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League and 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup preliminary stages.

Suleiman Jabir, ZFF president, stated that the plans between his federation and the teams' leaders are aimed at ensuring that they represent the Isles well in the continental tournaments.

Jabir added that KMKM FC, this season's Zanzibar Premier League champion, will represent the Isles in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League whereas JKU SC will battle it out in the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup.

"Immediately after coming to power in the recent election, we have planned to talk to the leaders of KMKM and JKU, our goal this season is to support the teams so that they at least play in the Group Stage, not the other way around," the ZFF president pointed out.

He also said the 2023/24 Zanzibar Premier League is scheduled to start on September 9, adding each of the participating teams will be allowed to register nine foreign players.

Jabir said that the move is aimed at strengthening the Isles' soccer clubs so that they can successfully compete internationally.

The ZFF leader noted: "I believe this is just the beginning, we have started by allowing each of the Premier League clubs to register nine foreign players."

"ZFF will continue to make changes and introduce various regulations, we need to make more improvements so that it (the league) can be highly competitive," the official said.

JKU SC will represent Zanzibar in the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup, whereas KMKM FC is scheduled to start in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League preliminary round.

KMKM FC is, on August 18, slated to come up against Saint George SC of Ethiopia in the first leg of the First Preliminary round at the former's home venue, Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

JKU SC will lock horns with Mainland Tanzania's Singida Fountain Gate FC in the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup's First Preliminary round's first leg at the latter's home ground the same day.

Jabir added that the Isles' squads will play their home fixtures at Azam Complex Stadium because Zanzibar's Amaan Stadium is under major renovation.

He admitted that the Zanzibar teams have not been doing well in CAF inter-club competitions but he promised that they want to, this season, achieve success and that is why they have started preparations early on.

## Youths urged to battle it out in marathons

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

TANZANIA'S youths with a passion for running have been urged to engage in marathons to fulfill their dreams while enhancing personal growth and fostering their economic prospects.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) vice-president William Kalaghe issued the appeal when he graced the official launch of the 2023 Maendeleo Bank Marathon in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Maendeleo Bank Marathon, themed 'Hatua ya Faraja', is out to raise 200m/- to assist children with special needs.

The AT leader said that running marathons not only helps youths to stay fit and healthy but also helps them become independent and achieve financial freedom.

Kalaghe noted that apart from giving them financial independence, participation in marathons can offer them a chance for personal growth and empowerment because the physical and mental challenges of training and completing a marathon can help youths develop resilience, discipline, and determination.

The AT official noted skillful youths and those desiring to run a marathon should use such organized charity marathons to test their strength by choosing to run distances they are comfortable with so that when presented with real running challenges they can conquer such challenges.

He further noted that preparing for and participating in marathons encourages an active lifestyle with numerous benefits.

Kalaghe pointed out regular exercises improve cardiovascular health, boost mood and reduce stress by advocating healthy living marathon runners set an example for others, inspiring them to prioritize their well-being and make positive choices.

Maendeleo Bank Director, Ibrahim Mwangalaba, appealed

to Tanzanians to continue registering for Maendeleo Bank Marathon, slated for September 2 in Dar es Salaam, saying each of the runners is required to pay 35,000/- in fees.

Mwangalaba revealed the race's organizers are out to achieve the target of obtaining funds amounting to 200m/-, of which 100m/- will be directed to the KCMC Hospital and 100m/- will be sent to the childcare center for needy children located at Mtoni.

He further noted that marathons, apart from being a good sport, serve as a good charitable cause which is giving a helping hand to needy people.

Maendeleo Bank Director pointed out: "This is the charity marathon and we all know that it activates the power of collective action because when a large group of people come together for a common cause their effort can make a significant impact."

"The funds raised can help in reducing different issues that people in need are faced with," Mwangalaba noted.

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# SPORT

## Carmona's late stunner takes Spain into maiden Women's World Cup final

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Arusha to host darts team's preparations for 2023 Uganda Open Championships

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THIS season's Tanzania Darts Championship, slated to take place in Arusha from August 25-27, will set the stage for the selection of the country's team to participate in the Uganda Open Darts Championships coming up next September in Kampala.

The Tanzania Darts Championship to be staged at the halls located at the Magereza grounds, Kisongo, is being organized under the Tanzania Darts Association (TADA) and is therefore going to be known as the 2023 TADA Cup.

Joseph Innocent, TADA Secretary-General, explained that the TADA Cup features individual teams from across the country that will be competing to come up with the overall national champion.

Innocent noted: "This TADA Cup is in preparation for the forthcoming Uganda Open darts competition coming up in September... the only challenge facing the event is lack of sponsorship."

"This is because darts events are yet to gain roots in the country," he stated.

Arusha Regional Darts Association (ARDA)'s secretary Yohana Guliku noted for many years the national darts leagues were being staged in Dodoma.

Guliku revealed: "This year, Arusha sent a proposal to host the event and has been granted the request."

The ARDA official said the region has been at the forefront of promoting darts in the country.

According to the ARDA secretary, a total of 10 clubs from Arusha alone will be participating in the 2023 TADA Cup.

It is also expected that the rest of Mainland Tanzania regions will be sending their teams to Arusha for the anticipated 2023 TADA Cup, set to be one of the biggest sporting events in the region this year.

So far, several darts clubs from Tanga, Mara, Mbeya, Mwanza, Dodoma, Manyara, Morogoro, Kilimanjaro, and Dar es Salaam have confirmed their participation.

The 2023 TADA Cup will feature singles, doubles, and team games, with winners set to get monetary prizes and trophies for both men's and women's teams.

## Oliveira thrilled with winning first trophy at Simba SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC Brazilian tactician Roberto Oliveira 'Robertinho' is elated after clinching his first silverware with the Tanzanian football giant.

After playing to a barren draw in regular time, Simba SC beat arch-rivals Yanga 3-1 on post-match penalties of 2023/24 Community Shield final to clinch the showdown's title in Tanga on Sunday evening.

Yanga's Khalid Aucho- also a former Gor Mahia midfielder- saw his penalty saved by Simba SC's custodian Ally Salim alongside the spot kicks by the midfielder's teammates Pacome Zouzoua and Yao Attohoulia.

Oliveira won titles in both Rwanda and Uganda during his stints with teams in the two countries but was yet to lay his hands on something in Tanzania.

Following the victory, the coach believes that the title will help Simba SC visualize the upcoming season as the squad seeks to dethrone Yanga.

The Brazilian gaffer pointed out: "I'm happy to win my first title here, it's a big thing that gives us a vision for the new competition season. I have won three titles while in Rwanda and three while in Uganda, but here in Tanzania, this is my first."

Oliveira pointed out: "I congratulate the players, the technical bench, and the leaders for achieving this. I congratulate our fans, they love their team very much."

"They always show up in large numbers on the field whenever the team is there, this increases the enthusiasm of the players," Oliveira disclosed.

His focus as well as that of the club will be on the league title the outfit last won in 2021 before Yanga took over in the last two seasons.

Simba SC will play the side's first NBC Premier League clash for 2023/24 tomorrow against Mtibwa Sugar at Manungu Stadium in Morogoro as the 2023/24 CAF Champions League draws to a close.



Bulls football team's attacker, Prosper Joseph (2nd L), dribbles past Sportslink Academy's defenders in an U-11 friendly game that took place at Mikocheni ground in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

## JKU SC ready to face Singida Fountain Gate FC in CAF CC First Preliminary round



Zanzibar's Jeshi la Kujenga Uchumi (JKU) Sports Club will represent the Isles in the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ZANZIBAR'S representative in the 2023/24 TotalEnergies CAF Confederation Cup, JKU SC, says it is ready for the squad's First Preliminary round match against Mainland Tanzania's Singida Fountain Gate FC slated for Saturday at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Khatib Shadhil Khatib, JKU SC Secretary-General, described the game as very difficult but said his outfit's charges are ready for the encounter and are looking forward to grabbing victory.

He said the team is currently training at JKT Mbweni venue in Dar es Salaam under head coach Salum Ali Haji.

Khatib noted: "It would not be an easy game but my team is training very well, morale in the camp is high and the players are looking forward to the match."

"The good thing is that up to today (Tuesday) we don't have any

injury in the camp, it will be a tough game but the team is ready," he said.

On paper, Singida Fountain Gate FC is favourite but Khatib said JKU SC, having played five times in CAF inter-club show-downs games, has a lot of experience the squad will bank on.

"We know how to handle CAF games, we have played five times in CAF inter-club tournaments' games, and we have experience which is vital," he said.

The Zanzibar club, in the past, played in CAF Champions League preliminary rounds and CAF Confederation Cup first round.

Ahead of the Saturday encounter, JKU SC played some friendly matches including a clash against NBC Premier League defending champions, Young Africans SC, alias Yanga.

The friendly duel, held at Avic Town ground in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam, witnessed JKU SC settling for a 0-0 draw with Yanga.

Singida Fountain Gate FC information Officer, Hussein Masanza, said his team is looking forward to the Saturday game against JKU SC, stressing the former aims

at reaching the Second Preliminary round of the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup.

He said after the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Community Shield tournament which took place in Tanga and ended with Singida Fountain Gates ending fourth, the team remained in Dar es Salaam to undergo intensive training.

"The Community Shield tournament which was held in Tanga was an eye opener to our team, the technical panel headed by our head coach Hans van Pluijm is rectifying the mistakes made by the team and I am hopeful our team will proceed to the Second Preliminary round," he said.

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We know how to handle CAF games, we have played five times in CAF inter-club tournaments' games, and we have experience which is vital

## AT: Three local athletics events certified by WA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has said so far three private domestic running events are certified by the World Athletics (WA) and athletes are ranked.

Jackson Ndaweka, AT Acting Secretary-General, disclosed in an interview that out of all private races happening in Tanzania, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon, NBC Dodoma Marathon, and CRDB International Marathon are so far the races that have been certified by WA.

Many private races are held for charity purposes, and attract top local and foreign runners while others serve as recreation and opportunity for socializing.

The three private annual marathons certified by WA are held in February, July, and August respectively. Ndaweka said for a running event to be certified by WA it ought to meet some of the conditions including dope testing, standard measurements of routes, and electronic timekeeping.

He pointed out that one of the benefits of race being certified by WA is that athletes earn ranking issued by the World Athletics.

According to WA, in some of the requirements for an athlete to earn WA ranking, the performance must be conducted according to athletic rules, and performance must be achieved on a course that holds a valid international course measurement certificate of no more than five years before the date of the race.

The WA further said athletes' performances can be considered in all competitions from grassroots to elite international level.

However, the results must be by the WA rules and regulations in force and either WA or one of its area associations/member federations must have officially ratified the results. The AT leader noted earning a WA ranking enables an athlete to compete in the world's top prestigious marathons.

The official stated: "Yes, we have many athletics events in our country, most of them are held for charity and fundraising purposes but so far there are three events that are certified by World Athletics."

"Organizers of those running races approached us to help them get certified by WA and they are on the list of WA events," he said.

However, Ndaweka disclosed that many running events in the country meet the AT conditions of registration but the majority have not met WA conditions.

Many marathon organizers across the world are members of the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS).

The AIMS was formed in 1982- its members are the organizers of over 470 international long-distance races hosted in more than 120 countries.

Some of the association's objectives include sharing and exchanging information and knowledge as well as expanding marathon and road races around the world.

AIMS also established course measurement standards, provided world record certification, and, in cooperation with WA, certified records for marathons/long-distance road races.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

