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Govt to establish cocoa seedlings' nurseries

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Samia to award ministries, regional officials

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Poultry farmers trained on chick production

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Regional grid experts work on African power pool strategies

Africa will help each country to access electricity at lower prices when it is in short supply. The process will also help deliver electricity to the general public not yet connected to grid

By Henry Mwangonde

COORDINATING officials from the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) and the Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP) convened in a three day workshop in Dar es Salaam yesterday to set out a roadmap for establishing the African electricity market.

Abubakari Issa, the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (TANESCO) acting managing director, said that the workshop brings together experts from 13 countries, working on a legal framework to harmonise regulations enabling national power utilities to link up in the wider power pool.

In his opening remarks, the CEO said that the flagship project for the EAPP was first bilateral, linking Tanzania and Kenya which has been completed, noting that the wider project will benefit Tanzania as it will have the capacity to buy electricity from other countries, with other countries also benefitting from collaborating via this arrangement.

"The plan is for Africa to have one grid by 2040, enabling all the countries to have reliable electricity," he said, noting that Tanzania was already connected with southern African countries as well as East Africa.

Creating one power pool and a common market will greatly contribute to the growth of African economies, he said, affirming that growth in every country is influenced by reliable energy flows.

Tanzania was already implementing plans to ensure power reaches every corner of the country, he stated, while Crispin Zana, principal energy advisor at the African Union Commission, said that most African countries face energy challenges.

Upwards of 600 million people have no access to electricity at the moment, he said, citing the AU target as ensuring that by 2040 all countries have reliable electricity.

"We need not to look at the results of today's meetings but at the whole process, let's say 10 years from now and we look at the outcomes of the connections that we are establishing now," he re-

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Health ministry sets ten priorities, seeks 1.31trn/-



Members of the Hadzabe tribal community come together in preparing game meat for a meal after a hunting trek in the forest near Lake Eyasi in Arusha Region at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Ministry of Health has outlined 10 priorities for fiscal 2024/2025, asking the legislature to approve over 1.31trn/- to implement those priorities.

Health minister Umyy Mwalimu, tabling the ministry's budget estimates yesterday, said that the priorities will be implemented through 89 interventions, including strengthening vaccine services.

The priorities include improvement of maternal and child health, to reduce deaths, plus uplifting expertise generally and in "specialised and super specialised services."

She cited notable success in implementing the 2023/2024 approved estimates in different health cadres such new facilities, fewer incidents of maternal and child mortality, training of specialists and frequency of organ transplanting services.

Other success areas are improved services from dispensaries to referral levels, supervising alternative and traditional medicine, along with improved services for communicable, non-communicable diseases and epidemic control.

Other listed priorities include better mental health services, targeted services for children, older people and people with disabilities, plus conducting research and using research findings in administering health services.

Out of 1.61bn/- allocated for implementing a series of interventions, 1.5bn/- will be used for better vaccine intervention to reach estimated 3,117,564 infants, along with 871,429

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Rhino now lined up for Mikumi National Park

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Mikumi

EXPERTS at the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) are working on an ambitious conservation project to re-introduce rhinoceros at Mikumi National Park to boost southern circuit tourism prospects.

David Kadomo, the park's senior conservation officer and acting CEO, cites data to the effect that rhinos used to roam aplenty in the park until the mid-eighties, where an onslaught of poachers largely finished them off.

Three months from now Mikumi will be marking 60 years since it was established, upgraded from game reserve status, with the reintroduction of rhinos being a key element in uplifting the park's image.

The CEO said that among the new strategies to boost tourism and wildlife species in the park is to replenish the conservancy with some lost species including the legendary rhino, as the park is a natural habitat to the black rhino.

Bringing back the animals is largely to bring them back home, he said, noting that wildlife experts were raking parts of the na-

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'Mobile courts' initiative: World Bank grants \$30m

The systems will facilitate collaboration between institutions, raise public awareness on improved judicial services, seeking out robust citizen feedback mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank has approved \$30m new financing to improve access to justice, efficiency, and transparency of judicial services for Zanzibar.

Nathan Belete, the World Bank zonal director for Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe said in a statement yesterday that the support builds on current reforms supported by the global creditor since 2016.

Since 2016, the World Bank has been supporting the judiciary through the 'citizen centric judicial modernization and justice service delivery' (CCJMP) enabling the innovative use of mobile court services ('justice-on-wheels') for rural and hard-to-reach areas, he said.

The method provides easier and faster access to judicial services for vulnerable groups such as women and the poor, with

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SPORTS



COASTAL UNION GEARS UP FOR HIGH-STAKES ENCOUNTER AGAINST GEITA GOLD FC

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ARSENAL'S TENSE VICTORY SETS UP COMPLICATED CONCLUSION TO PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE RACE

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Regional grid experts work on African power pool strategies

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marked.

Many countries are lagging behind because they have challenges with power and the AU was already drafting regulations to ensure operationalization of the plan, the advisor indicated.

James Wahogo, the EAPP secretary general, said that plans for connecting electricity all over Africa will help each country to access

electricity at lower prices when it is in short supply.

The process will also help deliver electricity to the general public not yet connected to grids, he said.

"We are currently preparing recommendations for legal provisions where electricity companies like TANESCO would follow so that the power linkup is beneficial "and no one can do something that could cause problems for others," he added.

Rhino now lined up for Mikumi National Park

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tional park to identify the most suitable areas for keeping the rhinos for acclimatization.

Some of the animals may be taken from the Mkomazi rhino sanctuary in Kilimanjaro Region, while others can be flown from South Africa, he said, affirming that there is ample space in the park, located near Morogoro along the highway to Zambia.

It occupies some 3,230 square kilometers of savannah grasslands mixed with tropical forest hills, bustling with big game like the lion, leopard, elephant, giraffe, elephant and big herds of buffaloes.

Tour operators cite the need for

more trendy animals in the park, especially the 'big five,' where the rhino is missing, as the 'big cats' are present, along with elephants. River-based large species like crocodiles and hippos are not part of trendy wildlife, analysts affirm.

Mlema Mlema, a guide with Hola Africa Safari, said that Mikumi is smaller in size compared to parks like Nyerere or Serengeti, enabling viewing most big species within a single game drive.

Tour operators and conservators feel it is high time the rhino is brought into the fold to complete the 'big five' set and further boost already vibrant tourism activities in the park, he added.

Rural Ugandan woman gives hope to fellow sufferers of sickle cell disease

KAMPALA

THERE can be lifelong challenges for people with sickle cell disease in rural Uganda, where it remains poorly understood.

In one of the hotspots for sickle cell in the east of the country, a young woman living with the disease is ramping up efforts to educate and counsel communities about the disease.

Barbara Nabulo, now 37, was diagnosed with the inherited blood disorder when she was just two weeks old.

"They never thought of me as important, like someone who would grow up or someone who is supposed to get an education. Because they used to tell my mother that people like me don't grow, we can't go to school, and we don't produce children," she says.

Her mother looked after her, taking her to the local hospital, until she was 12 years old. When she reached that age, she would put Barbara in a taxi from their village and tell her to go to the clinic on her own.

The group of sickle cell disorders causes the normally round red blood cells to become hard and crescent shaped, clogging blood flow.

This often leads to infections, excruciating pain, organ damage, stunting, and other complications. The only cure for the pain is a bone marrow transplant or gene therapy that is beyond the reach of most patients.

The disease is not a public health priority in Uganda, despite the burden it places on communities, and funding for treatment often comes from donor organisations.

According to the Ugandan Ministry of Health, approximately 20,000 babies are born with sickle cell disease in the country each year.

At the Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, Barbara chats to medical staff before proceeding to a ward housing sickle cell patients.

She spends time talking to both the caregivers and patients, mostly children, who have been rushed here for medical emergencies after a sickle cell crisis.

In the hospital's crowded spaces, Barbara tells them about her survival and how they can survive too.

Her childhood was marked by bouts of severe illness and lack of understanding amongst family members. Her lack of formal education is hurtful for her and a source of shame for her parents, who repeatedly apologise for letting her drop out while her siblings studied.

Her mother, Agatha Nambuya, re-

members her daughter's head and limbs swelling up just two weeks after her birth.

"These children, they used to die so soon. By the way, you have to work so hard all the time, you have to look at her," she says.

But now she knows of children with sickle cell disease who grew to become doctors or whatever they want to be.

Encouraged by hospital authorities, Barbara makes weekly visits to the ward that has many children watched over by exhausted-looking parents.

Together with health workers, they urge openness and the testing of children for sickle cell as early as possible.

Dr Julian Abeso, the head paediatrics at the hospital and a researcher on the disease, says there is a drug, hydroxyurea that can reduce periods of severe pain and other complications from the disease.

"On average most of these children will start falling sick between the ages of six to eight months. So, by the time the child reaches say 10, they will have been admitted several times if we do not give some of these preventive drugs," she says.

"I would say it is a wonder drug, because it has changed the course of managing children with sickle cell. It improves the quality of life of these patients."

She says messages of hope from people like Nabulo help those who feel discouraged or worry that sickle cell is a death sentence, and that recent efforts to promote understanding of disease has increased the number of people seeking help from the hospital.

"Previously, families would have a child with sickle cell and they wouldn't even bring them to hospital because they thought that child would die and in the process," she says. Barbara's parents say they are proud of her role as a counsellor at the hospital.

"When Barbara was born, if someone had sickle cell, people looked at her as being sickly like that. But I think people are getting some little light (understanding)," says her father, Michael Kiboya.

Barbara is now a mother to twin daughters and a son, but despite positive trends being registered at the hospital in the fight against the, many people like Nabulo, continue to face discrimination.

Global estimates of how many people have the disease vary, but some researchers put the figure at between six and eight million, with more than five million of them living in sub-Saharan Africa.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured in Paris yesterday chairing talks between the Tanzanian delegation and high-ranking French government officials headed by Dr Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Minister of State for Development, Francophonie and International Partnerships. The president is in Paris to chair a summit to which the International Energy Agency has invited global leaders to deliberate on Clean Cooking in Africa. Photo: State House

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girls below nine years and expectant mothers projected at 3,298,437, the minister stated.

Upwards of 1.6bn/- will be used for nutrition demands awareness like breast feeding and purchasing 300 equipment for grain fortification (dozifiers).

The sum of 6.6bn/- has been allocated for improving hygiene and cleaning of environment, 1bn/- for an inclusive plan of community-based health inter-

Health ministry sets ten priorities, seeks 1.31trn/-

ventions, while 2.19bn/- is meant to improve services provided at health facilities including for procuring, storing and distribution of drugs and medical supplies, she elaborated.

In addition, 3.5bn/- has been

set aside to ensure availability of clean and safety blood services, a total of 8.5bn/- earmarked for diagnostic services, with 2bn/- set aside for technology for medical records control and reducing costs in service provision.

The ministry had set aside 4.9bn/- for improving the quality of services provided by nurses and midwives, she said, urging MPs to approve its 2024/2025 budget to enable the government to realise all these objectives.



Health minister Ummy Mwalimu addresses the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday shortly after tabling the ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2024/2025. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

'Mobile courts' initiative: World Bank grants \$30m

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case clearance rates dropping to 30 days compared to 120 days in a regular court. The time spent in a court has come down to four hours from 96 hours, earlier, the statement indicated, highlighting the construction of six Integrated Justice Centers (IJC).

It was the first ever IJC in Africa dedicated to matrimonial, probate and family justice services, where 18 subordinate courts were built covering vast rural areas.

"Citizens' access to High Court services has increased from 55 percent to 77 percent, while transparency has improved through increased online publication of High Court and Court of Appeal deci-

sions from below five percent to 85 percent," it said.

In addition, the backlog in cases has been cut by 50 percent, while the project has yielded a 27 percent increase in citizen confidence in justice services on the basis of opinion surveys, it explained.

The credit programme taking several years now recognize the importance of accountable and effective justice institutions and efficient procedures, "fostering an enabling environment for increased private sector investment," it stated.

"It will also contribute to unlocking the full economic potential of citizens and businesses," the director affirmed, noting that the Zanzibar Judicial Modernization Project

(Zi-JUMP) will strengthen access to justice by expanding the geographic coverage of court services.

This will involve the construction of five 'smart courts,' boost alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and support the development of a gender justice strategy, he further noted.

The project will also enhance court efficiency by investing in training for court staff, streamlining procedures, automatic case management systems and institutionalizing a performance management system.

The systems will facilitate collaboration between institutions, raise public awareness on improved judicial services, seeking out robust citizen feedback mechanisms to

ensure transparency and accountability, he asserted.

Benjamin Mtesigwa, a World Bank senior governance specialist and task team leader said that the Zanzibar project builds on the successes of the CCJMP, to prioritise early engagement with key stakeholders to identify critical gaps in judicial services and tailor interventions to address them directly.

"The citizen-centric approach supports the establishment of effective public and stakeholder feedback mechanisms to inform decision-making and monitor performance, while strong data collection systems and analytics will provide crucial insights into service delivery bottlenecks, allowing for targeted improvements," he added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango addresses Care International meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: VPO

By Guardian Reporter

VP for closer cooperation between government and Care International

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has called on Care International to cooperate and support Tanzania in climate change issues, including control and response to disasters as well as building the capacity of the early warning system.

Dr Mpango made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam while opening the Care International leaders' meeting, saying that cooperation can be further increased in building the ability to withstand climate change in enabling modern agriculture that is compatible with the climate to improve productivity and yield for small farmers.

He tasked Care International leaders to support Tanzania in various programs to raise women economically, including the use of clean energy.

He said President Samia Suluhu Hassan has already launched the Africa Women Clean Cooking Support Program (AWC-CSP), which is aimed at empowering women and girls across Africa, by providing access to clean cooking technologies.

According to him, President Samia launched the National Strategy for Clean Cooking Energy 2024/2034 where cooperation with stakeholders is needed to protect the environment and save the lives

of women from using energy unfriendly in the country.

Dr Mpango also encouraged them to increase cooperation in empowering boys and girls who are outside the education system to raise them in life and build a good future development for them.

The VP also said that cooperation is needed in research and planning on how to reduce the challenge of mother and child health facing the sub-Saharan countries.

He added that it is important to research the issue of increasing premature births as well as the issue of stagnation facing Tanzania despite being a food-dependent country in Africa.

The Vice President has said that through the efforts of cooperation between the Government, Care International, and various partners, great success has been achieved as shown by the important indicators of development.

He said that the number of people living below the poverty line of basic needs has been decreasing from 34.4 percent in 2007 to 26.4 percent in 2017-2018 and was esti-

mated to be 25.7 percent in 2020.

He mentioned the reduction in the under-five mortality rate from 81 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births between 2010 and 2022.

The number of people with access to clean and safe water increased from 74.5 percent in rural areas and from 86.5 percent up to 90 percent in urban areas, between 2021 and February 2024. Primary and Secondary school enrolment rates reached 92.7 percent and 89.1 percent in 2024 with a gender balance of 1:1.

He has said that until February 2024, 11,837 villages out of all 12,318 villages in mainland Tanzania were connected to electricity, equivalent to 96.1 percent.

Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe has congratulated the CARE Tanzania Institute for focusing on helping farmers facilitate better farming and processing of crops, especially the tea crop.

He congratulated them for facilitating the construction of the Sakare Tea Processing factory in Korogwe District, Tanga Region.

Govt due to establish cocoa seedlings nurseries in Kyela

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

THE government is set to establish nurseries to produce improved cocoa seedlings in Kyela District and distribute them for free to farmers to increase productivity of the crop.

The Deputy Minister for Agriculture, David Silinde, disclosed this here yesterday when addressing Kyela residents when Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa was on an official visit in the district, which is well-known for growing cocoa in Tanzania.

Silinde said the ministry is looking for an area to establish the nurseries tasking the Kyela council to allocate and prepare the required area.

He said the ministry intends to increase cocoa seedlings production from the current 34,000 distributed by the council to 100,000 seedlings, which he said will help the people to be motivated to engage in the cultivation of the cash crop.

According to him, the government is determined to strengthen the production of the crop due to the agricultural sector being the leading sector for offering employment opportunities with more than 65 percent of the population.

"But we have also directed the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) to conduct research to identify diseases and pests that attack cocoa and how to surpass them by using organic pesticides," said Silinde.

Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Exaud Kigabe said that the ministry continues to manage the cocoa sales system through the warehouse receipt system to ensure that it addresses challenges farmers incur.

He said that due to the system being used, cocoa selling price has increased from 25,000/- per kilogramme before the system to

the current 32,000/- per kilogramme.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa was shocked by the foul play in the competition of cocoa buyers where only two competed through the online platform.

Majaliwa witnessed the foul at the warehouse by the Association of Cocoa Farmers in Ipinda ward and when he questioned why only two buyers competed, he was told that others failed to utilize the online platform.

He instructed the managers of the cocoa auction system to ensure that they run it transparently to increase the number of buyers who will compete and get a price that will benefit the farmers.

"Why don't you call the buyers here to compete openly? If the problem is the online platform, why don't you make it clear so that other buyers can take part?" asked Majaliwa.

He asked government leaders, cooperatives and citizens to work together to control middlemen who have been destroying the market.

However, he directed the Kyela district officials to ensure that they regularly visit the farmers in their areas with the aim of providing education on the best cultivation of the crop as well as the benefits of selling their produce through the warehouse receipt system.

"But I also direct all AMCOS and the Association of Cocoa Farmers to have classrooms to teach farmers the best production methods of this crop," ordered Majaliwa.

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BY 25th May 2024



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Proposals will only be accepted from registered agricultural cooperatives, producer groups, and agricultural processors in Tanzania working directly in horticulture, coffee, edible oilseeds (sunflower and palm oil), and cereal (maize and rice) value chain sectors. Innovative approaches to agricultural and economic development will also be considered. This includes, but not limited to digitization, information technology, agricultural solutions using renewable energy.

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- (a) An application letter not exceeding 3 pages clearly showing how you meet the position requirements.
- (b) Comprehensive Curriculum Vitae.
- (c) Copies of your university degrees and its transcript (For foreign Universities degree attach TCU letter of recognition of your degree).
- (d) Copy of your NBAA's Associate/Fellow CPA Certification and proof of current annual subscription.
- (e) Copy of your NIDA card.
- (f) Contact address including telephone number(s) and e-mail address(s); and
- (g) Names and full addresses/contacts of three (3) professional-related referees.

Deadline for receiving applications is 04:00pm Friday 31st May 2024.
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

President Samia to present excellence awards to ministries, regional officials

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is set to present special excellence awards to government ministries and regional officials who will perform better in improving the business environment and promoting investment inflows.

Godwil Wanga, National Business Council (TNBC) chief executive officer revealed the plan here at the week end when speaking at a meeting that brought together stakeholders from the public sector and the private sector that aimed to discuss challenges faced by businessmen.

He said the awards will be given out on May 29 this year at the national dialogue meeting between the public sector and the private sector which will be held in Dar es Salaam and led by the president herself.

Wanga said that various criteria have been considered to get the winners of the awards which are called the 'President's Awards' which she said has been specifically prepared with the aim of motivating performance.

He said that the first criterion that will be considered to find the winners is leadership in addressing businessmen's problems, strengthening the business environment and sustainable economy and promoting the relationship between the public sector and the private sector through discussion.

The second criterion, he said, is to reduce the costs of establishing or revitalizing the business in accordance with the existing procedures in the relevant business.

Another criterion he said is to reduce the costs of meeting the requirements of laws and business regulations as well as the time lost during the monitoring and operation of those activities.

Another criterion he said is the policy and strategic position regarding improving the business environment to promote investment and the economy through the development of the private sector.

"But there must also be policies, strategies and training to develop businessmen and workers in the private sector, the existence of institutional

efficiency and legal procedures for conflict resolution," said Wanga.

He said there must be ease of getting land for investment and safe places to do business as well as reducing informal business costs including corruption and unnecessary deductions.

The last criterion is transparency and the provision of information on improvements in the business and economic environment in the relevant area and in the country as a whole.

Industry and Trade Minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji said president Samia has been leading the promotion of business growth and investment in the country by ensuring there is a good relationship between the private sector and the public sector.

She said that in every visit that the president has been traveling abroad, he has been involving businessmen by accompanying them so that they can learn more about the operation of international businesses.

She said the government intends to establish industrial areas in every district in the country to facilitate the processing of crops produced by farmers.

"These factories will be processing the crops produced in the respective area with the aim of increasing their value and ensuring that these factories do not lack raw materials," said Dr Kijaji.

Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Dr Hashil Abdallah said that the ministry has been collaborating with various institutions to conduct operations to arrest fake products imported into the country to protect local industries and the health of the people.

He said that his office recently conducted inspections in various regions of the country and arrested some businessmen selling fake phones and therefore took legal measures including confiscating the products and arresting the perpetrators.

He instructed the institutions responsible for product quality management in the country to continue to take action against those who violate it in order to promote local industries and protect the safety of citizens.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa delivers a speech shortly after laying the foundation stone for a Mbeya Girls Secondary School building at Busale village in Kyela District yesterday. Photo: PMO

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

TANZANIA Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) in collaboration with the Tanzania National Ranching Cooperation (NARCO) expects to embark on animal pasture cultivation through irrigation in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region.

The move is part of the efforts aimed to overcome the stressing pasture challenge which affect animals especially during dry season.

Prof Eric Komba, TALIRI Director General said the initiative will also involve 5000 acres of land which will be used for goat fattening.

He unveiled this yesterday during the handing over event of an incubation centre for youth in Kongwa District which has been constructed with support from Denmark government through the Private Agricultural

TALIRI, NARCO to embark on cultivation of animal pasture

Sector Support Trust (PASS).

"Today, as we receive this centre, TALIRI has already put a utilisation plan through loan from the African Development Bank (AfDB) which will start by training 200 youth per year on commercial goat fattening and pasture farming," he said. According to him, strong and modern irrigation infrastructure will be constructed in 5000 acres of land to facilitate the production of pastures.

He said youth who will be enrolled for the training at the centre will later benefit by initiating their own projects involving modern livestock keeping for their development.

Charles Chiza, PASS Trust board member said that they have been using the incubation hubs to provide training in order to increase efficiency and productivity to youth.

"We are proud of the achievements which have been recorded since 2019 where over 30 youth have benefited from the Kongwa project and have initiated their own projects in various parts in the country," he explained.

He thanked Denmark's government for facilitating construction of incubation centres in Kongwa and Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Morogoro thus directly touching lives of many youth in the country.



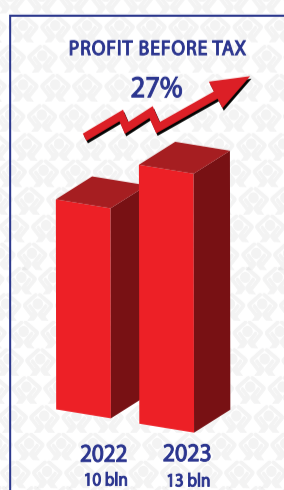
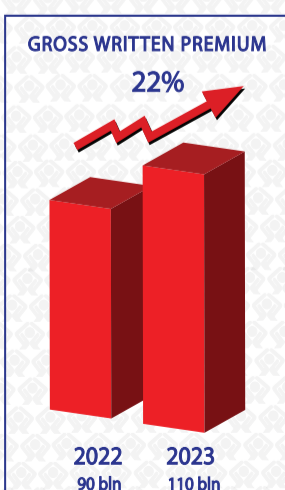
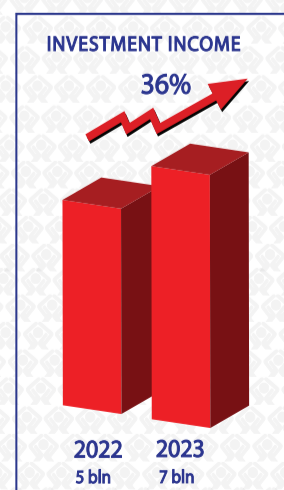
ALLIANCE INSURANCE CORPORATION LIMITED AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - GENERAL INSURANCE

Registered Head Office: 7th floor, Exim Tower, Ghana Avenue | P. O. Box 9942, Dar es Salaam
Tel: +255 689 885 043, 0754 780 050 | E-mail: admin@alliance.co.tz

| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023 | 31st Dec 2023 | 31st Dec 2022 Restated | 01 Jan 2022 Restated |
|---|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Tzs Millions | Tzs Millions | Tzs Millions |
| CAPITAL EMPLOYED | | | |
| Share capital | 12,500 | 11,500 | 11,500 |
| Contingency and Revaluation Reserve | 32,381 | 25,394 | 21,769 |
| Retained earnings | 6,444 | 5,688 | 4,886 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | 51,325 | 42,582 | 38,155 |
| REPRESENTED BY | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 4,572 | 1,052 | 3,452 |
| Reinsurance contract assets | 42,353 | 42,479 | 17,975 |
| Trade and other receivables | 1,212 | 1,305 | 1,223 |
| Deferred tax Assets | 816 | 1,824 | 2,138 |
| Intangible Assets | 111 | 241 | 413 |
| Investment in properties | 1,952 | 816 | 816 |
| Financial assets at fair value through other Comprehensive Income | 13,263 | 11,252 | 9,918 |
| Financial assets at amortised cost | 60,474 | 52,429 | 49,794 |
| Investments in subsidiaries | 9,078 | 9,078 | 7,912 |
| Loss to group companies | 3,050 | 3,050 | 3,050 |
| Propert,Plant and equipment | 2,667 | 1,354 | 1,545 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 139,548 | 124,879 | 98,236 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Current tax payable | 1,230 | 615 | 169 |
| Bank overdraft | 1,508 | 740 | 4,742 |
| Borrowings | 632 | - | 0 |
| Insurance contract liabilities | 81,601 | 74,467 | 50,915 |
| Trade and other payables | 3,253 | 6,475 | 4,256 |
| Total liabilities | 88,223 | 82,298 | 60,082 |
| Total net assets | 51,325 | 42,582 | 38,155 |

| STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | Tzs Millions | Tzs Millions |
| Insurance Revenue | 99,657 | 83,808 |
| Insurance service expenses | (70,594) | (75,897) |
| Net expenses from reinsurance contracts | (22,828) | (2,547) |
| Insurance service results | 6,235 | 5,364 |
| Finance income from reinsurance contracts issued | 129 | 184 |
| Finance income from reinsurance contracts held | 175 | 177 |
| Net insurance financial income | 304 | 362 |
| Net insurance and investment result | 6,539 | 5,726 |
| Investment income | 7,292 | 5,374 |
| Other operating expenses | (973) | (630) |
| Other operating gains (losses) | 375 | 2 |
| Movement in credit loss allowances | (64) | (81) |
| Profit before tax | 13,169 | 10,391 |
| Taxation | (4,436) | (3,060) |
| Profit of the year | 8,733 | 7,332 |
| Other comprehensive income | | |
| Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss | | |
| Gross on movement in revaluation reserve | 3,944 | 1,309 |
| Deferred tax relating to movement in revaluation reserve | (1,183) | (392) |
| Total Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss | 2,761 | 916 |
| Other comprehensive income for te year net of taxation | 2,761 | 916 |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | 11,494 | 8,248 |

| STATEMENT OF CASHFLOW FOR THE YEAR 2023 | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| | Tzs Millions | Tzs Millions |
| Cash flows from operating activities | | |
| Premium received | 99,034 | 89,993 |
| Reinsurance recoveries received | 8,645 | 15,170 |
| Reinsurance premium paid net f ceiling commissions received | (31,172) | (42,043) |
| Acquisition cost paid | (16,308) | (15,250) |
| Claims and other insurance service expense paid | (46,658) | (43,464) |
| Interest income | 6,691 | 4,794 |
| Dividend received | 601 | 581 |
| Dividend paid | (3,669) | (3,814) |
| Tax Paid | (3,996) | (2,717) |
| Net cash from operating activities | 13,168 | 3,249 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | (807) | (51) |
| Purchase of intangible assets | (105) | (44) |
| Proceeds from sale of intangible assets | - | 2 |
| Net movement in financial assets at amortised cost | (10,136) | (1,554) |
| Net cash from investing activities | (11,048) | (1,647) |
| Proceeds on borrowings | 632 | - |
| Net cash generated from/(used in) financing activities | 632 | - |
| Total cash movement for the year | 2,752 | 1,602 |
| Cash and cash equivalent at the beginning of the year | 312 | (1,290) |
| At end of year | 3,064 | 312 |



| STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 | Share | Revaluation reserve | Contingency reserve | Total reserves | Retained earnings | Total |
|--|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Balance at 1 January 2023 | 11,500 | 4,389 | 21,005 | 25,394 | 5,688 | 42,582 |
| Profit for the year | - | - | - | - | 8,733 | 8,733 |
| Other comprehensive income | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | | | | | 14,421 | 51,315 |
| Bonus issue of shares | 1,000 | - | - | 0 | (1,000) | - |
| Movement in contingency reserve | - | - | 3,308 | 3,308 | (3,308) | - |
| Revaluation gain on property for own use & investment | - | 1,933 | - | 1,933 | - | 1,933 |
| Other movements | - | 917 | - | 917 | - | 917 |
| Deferred tax charge on gain on revaluation of property | - | (580) | - | (580) | - | (580) |
| Fair value gain on financial assets | - | 2,011 | - | 2,011 | - | 2,011 |
| Deferred tax charge on gain on financial assets | - | (603) | - | (603) | - | (603) |
| Dividends | - | - | - | - | (3,669) | (3,669) |
| At 31st December 2023 | 12,500 | 8,067 | 24,313 | 32,381 | 6,444 | 51,325 |

Chairman: Mr. Shaffin Jamal
Director: Mr. Yogesh Manek
Group Managing Director: Mr. KVA Krishnan



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Manyara regional commissioner Queen Sendiga (squatting) pictured at the weekend exchanging greetings with people waiting for medical attention at Mrara hospital, which is enjoying the additional services of 35 visiting specialist doctors. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwasson Jasson

Chinese acupuncture therapy offers hope for patients in Africa

By Special Correspondent, Kampala

IN the China-Uganda Friendship Hospital Kampala, Uganda a 40-year-old Naome Kayongo joins the queue, a familiar routine in her journey toward healing. She is among a growing number of patients seeking acupuncture, a traditional Chinese therapy, hoping to restore movement to her paralyzed right hand.

Each needle inserted into Kayongo's body symbolizes a glimmer of hope.

In the East African country, the ancient Chinese practice of acupuncture is gaining popularity. As senior Chinese acupuncturist Wei Wei carefully places the needles, Ugandan nurse Stella Apio observes intently, learning from the specialist.

Wei is a member of a Chinese medical team on a year-long mission at the China-Uganda Friendship Hospital. Guided by Wei, Apio administers moxibustion, another form of acupuncture therapy, on Kayongo. While in China, acupuncture is typically performed by doctors, but Apio is eager to become certified in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) therapies.

Since 1983, China has sent medical specialists, including acupuncturists to Uganda as part of efforts to enhance healthcare in the country. This collaboration extends both ways, with many Ugandan healthcare professionals also traveling to China for training and exchanges.

Last year, Apio was among the medical personnel selected by the Ugandan government for a three-week training program in Beijing. In a recent interview with Xinhua, she shared her experience of being placed at a hospital in the Chinese

capital where acupuncture was a primary therapy. This exposure has fueled her optimism that with time, she will master the intricate skills of acupuncture.

"The acupuncture treatment rooms in China are spacious and equipped with machines, unlike here. We have received some machines from China, and we are using them," Apio said.

With 24 years of medical practice, Wei said it takes lengthy training to master acupuncture. She highlighted its effectiveness for both young and elderly patients suffering from various ailments such as stroke and back pain.

On average, the clinic attends to about 15 patients per day over the two days it operates each week, according to Apio. Patients typically receive two sessions per day, tailored to the severity of their condition.

"We sometimes get overwhelmed because of the high number of patients, considering we are only open two days a week," she added.

Kayongo is among the patients grateful for the availability of acupuncture at the hospital. Since a motorcycle accident left her right hand paralyzed last October, she has been undergoing acupuncture sessions.

"I have tried several treatments, but it is with acupuncture that I am finally noticing a difference," she said. Expressing her gratitude for the Chinese administration of this therapy, Kayongo has recommended the treatment to many of her friends.

According to the hospital administration, acupuncture, along with other forms of alternative or traditional medicine, is gaining prominence alongside Western medicine in Uganda, offering complementary treatment options.

Internet outage felt across East Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

INTERNET users in Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda have been complaining about poor connectivity as service providers across East Africa acknowledge there has been a problem.

They have said they are working to fix it.

The patchy service was a result of faults in the under-sea cables that connect the region to the rest of the world through South Africa, industry expert Ben Roberts said.

A similar outage was experienced in parts of West and Southern Africa in March.

On Monday, some East Africans were still experiencing slow internet speeds with some telecom providers indicating that the issue was yet to be fully resolved and

asking subscribers to be patient.

"We are still working with undersea fibre cable team to have them resolve the issue," Airtel Kenya responded to a Kenyan user concerned about the problem.

Vodacom Tanzania sent a similar message on social media to such queries.

Cloudflare Radar, which monitors internet connectivity, on Sunday said that Tanzania was one of the worst-affected countries with traffic falling to 30% of expected levels.

Tanzania's reports described what has happened as an "internet blackout [that] has affected major network channels."

On X, formerly known as Twitter, service providers have been fielding queries from frustrated customers.

In response to one Kenyan user who wanted to know if they

would be able to watch Sunday's Manchester United versus Arsenal English Premier League match, Airtel Kenya said its team was working on the "network issue" and apologised.

Safaricom, also in Kenya, said it was "experiencing a challenge."

Airtel Ugandan said it was aware of the "intermittent internet service". And MTN Rwanda said there was "an issue of degradation of international links".

Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar have also been affected according to Cloudflare Radar.

Roberts, from the pan-Africa company Liquid Intelligent Technologies, said that he had confirmed that one cable that runs alongside the coast of East Africa, known as Eassy, had been cut earlier on Sunday some 45km (28

miles) north of the South African port city of Durban.

Another cable was also cut. He ruled out the idea that it could be sabotage and said it was rather an unhappy coincidence.

Other cables linking East Africa to Europe are also available and gradually the service should improve as data is re-routed. But as a lot of big companies have data centres in South Africa the damage to the vital link that Eassy provides had a big impact.

In March, widespread outages were reported in countries including South Africa, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Benin, Ghana and Burkina Faso.

This was also put down to cable failures. The cause was not clear but led to the frustration of millions of customers around the continent.

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RE-ADVERTISEMENT

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MOLASSES

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of prequalifying companies for the supply and delivery of Molasses and is, therefore, inviting eligible and Interested applicants to submit Expressions of Interest as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST IN THIS SUPPLY. SHORTLISTED COMPANIES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO THE ANGGOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of Supply:

| REFERENCE NUMBER | SERVICE DESCRIPTION |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| GGME01795 | SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MOLASSES |

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

| PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS | 20% |
|---|-------------|
| COMMERCIAL | |
| Company Profile | 2% |
| Company Code of Conduct and Ethics | 2% |
| Copy of Current Business Permit and Trade license | 2% |
| Copy of Incorporation Certificate, the most recent BRELA Search, and the latest BRELA Application of Annual Return. | 2% |
| Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VRN Certificate | 3% |
| Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association | 2% |
| List of Directors and Company Shareholding Structure | 2% |
| Current NSSF Compliance Clearance Certificate | 2% |
| Compliance with Mining Act-Approved Local Content Plan. | 3% |
| FINANCIAL POSITION AND TERMS OF TRADE | |
| Applicants audited financial statements for the past three consecutive years, this will confirm the Supplier's experience in the business, and assist in comparability and business trend analysis. | 2% |
| At least 1 reference from the applicant's bankers regarding the supplier's credit position. If any. | 1% |
| All bank statements of the applicant's active bank accounts for the past 6 months to date | 2% |
| SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS | |
| OSHA Compliance Certificate | 1.5% |
| Environmental compliance certificate | 1.5% |
| Workers' compensation fund certificate | 1% |
| Safety and Environmental policy | 1% |
| OTHER POLICIES | |
| Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure | 1% |
| Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour | 1% |
| Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment | 1% |
| Grievance Procedure | 1% |
| Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme | 1% |
| PAST EXPERIENCE | |
| At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed) | 1% |
| Acceptance certificates /completion certificates | 1% |
| Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients | 3% |
| TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01795) | |
| Proof of previous experience in Molasses supply works in mining or related heavy industry such as Cement, Oil and Gas, or Petroleum. | 35% |
| Plants and Equipment availability related to molasses works (Haul Trucks, offloading pumps, etc.) with proof of ownership | 25% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

III. Interested Applicants must quote "**GGME01795 – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MOLASSES**" on the subject of the email for submission of Letters of Interest ("LOI"). Letters of Interest must indicate Applicant's full name, contact details and name of the principal contact.

IV. All LOIs and supporting documentation (in PDF format) must be submitted to the Company's via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com without copying any individual from the Company. Submission must not be later than **8.30AM (EAT) on 27th May 2024**. (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 150MB per email. In case the size of the email with attachments exceeds 150MB, applicants must split the submissions into multiple email.

V. Shortlisted Applicants will be notified within forty-five (45) calendar days from the submission deadline. Applicants not contacted within the forty-five (45) calendar days should consider themselves unsuccessful.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



RE-ADVERTISEMENT

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EARTHWORK PROJECTS

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") a subsidiary of an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of prequalifying Environmental Earthwork Contractors to execute all Environmental Earthwork Projects, that include Rehabilitation Works, Landfill Works, Mining after Care and Maintenance Works and other Earthworks. Therefore, the Company is inviting interested eligible Contractors to express their Interest for the provision of this service as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGGOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of Service:

| REFERENCE NUMBER | SERVICE DESCRIPTION |
|------------------|---|
| GGME01767 | PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EARTHWORK PROJECTS. |

List of Equipment Required (Provide Proof of Ownership):

Dozer, D9 R/K, CAT (1 No.) Max Usage 5000Hrs,
 Dozer D8 R/K, CAT (2 No.) Max Usage 5000Hrs,
 Motor Grader 140G /140H CAT (1 No.) Max Usage 5000Hrs,
 Roller Compactor (CAT, DYNAPAC) (1 No.) Max Usage 5000Hrs,
 Excavator 330L, CAT (2 No.) Max Usage 5000Hrs,
 Wheel Loader: CAT 5m³ Bucket (1 No.) Max Usage 5000Hrs,
 Water Bowser (18,000L): Raw water (1 No.) Max Usage 20000Km,
 Tipper Truck 15m3 (3 No.) Max Usage 20000Km,
 Articulated Dump Truck (18-20m3) (3 No.) Max Usage 5000Hrs

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

| PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (MANDATORY) | 20% |
|---|-------------|
| COMMERCIAL | |
| Company Profile | 2% |
| Company Code of Conduct and Ethics | 2% |
| Copy of Current Business Permit and Trade license | 2% |
| Copy of Incorporation Certificate, the most recent BRELA Search, and the latest BRELA Application of Annual Return. | 2% |
| Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VRN Certificate | 3% |
| Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association | 2% |
| List of Directors and Company Shareholding Structure | 2% |
| Current NSSF Compliance Clearance Certificate | 2% |
| Compliance with Mining Act-Approved Local Content Plan. | 3% |
| FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE | |
| Supplier's audited financial statements for the past three consecutive years, this will confirm Supplier's experience in the business, and assist in comparability and business trend analysis. | 2% |
| At least 1 reference from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position. If any. | 1% |
| All bank statements of the Supplier's active bank accounts for the past 6 months to date | 2% |
| SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS | |
| OSHA Compliance Certificate | 1.5% |
| Environmental compliance certificate | 1.5% |
| Workers' compensation fund certificate | 1% |
| Safety and Environmental policy | 1% |
| OTHER POLICIES | |
| Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure | 1% |
| Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labor | 1% |
| Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment | 1% |
| Grievance Procedure | 1% |
| Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme | 1% |
| PAST EXPERIENCE | |
| At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed) | 2% |
| Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients | 3% |
| TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01767) | |
| CRB registration certificate and annual subscription receipt - Civil Works (Class I-III) | 5% |
| CV of Key Technical personnel; Site Manager (Professional Registered Civil Engineer) -1, HSE Manager (NOSCH/NEBOSH)-1, Maintenance Manager (Professional Registered Mechanical Engineer)-1, Site supervisors (Professional Registered Civil Technicians)-3, HSE Officers-1, Maintenance Planner(1), Mechanics (4 people), Auto Electricians (2) | 10% |
| Proof of Machines and Equipment Ownership (Hiring won't be acceptable); | 15% |
| Equipment maintenance, history, plans and maintenance strategy (inclusive of component life tracking and changeout strategy). | 15% |
| Earthwork projects executed in recent 2-3 years with their respective values (Proof of Contracts and Completion Certificates from the Clients). Provide also summary sheet for current contracts commitments/work in progress. | 10% |
| Clearance certificate/letter from National Construction Council or Contractor Registration Board. | 5% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

III. Interested Applicants must quote "**GGME01767 – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EARTHWORK PROJECTS**" on the subject of the email for submission of Letters of Interest ("LOI"). Letters of Interest must indicate Applicant's full name, contact details and name of the principal contact.

IV. All LOIs and supporting documentation (in PDF format) must be submitted to the Company's via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com without copying any individual from the Company. Submission must not be later than **8.30AM (EAT) on 27th May 2024**. (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 150MB per email. In case the size of the email with attachments exceeds 150MB, applicants must split the submissions into multiple email.

V. Shortlisted Applicants will be notified within forty-five (45) calendar days from the submission deadline. Applicants not contacted within the forty-five (45) calendar days should consider themselves unsuccessful.

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Kariakoo traders tax talk right to focus on realism

MINISTRIES whose official responsibilities have a bearing on wholesale trade in metropolitan Dar es Salaam and leaders of members of the business community in the city's Kariakoo market zone have just had close consultations.

And they have announced having agreed on how to resolve challenges such as difficulties in starting businesses as well as relate to tax procedures repeatedly complained about by traders.

The Treasury said after the most recent meeting that the talks had come at a most opportune time - that is, during preparations for new tax measures, richly adding to views already collected from various stakeholders.

For many, feedback by the minister overseeing the Planning and Investment docket provided excellent food for thought.

He said, in part, that he had responded to complaints by some traders who had expressed fears that the opening of the East Africa Commercial and Logistics Centre, a Chinese initiative at Ubungo on the outer reaches of the city's business zone, could cause their businesses to collapse.

The minister discounted such fears, pointing out that the Kariakoo Market complex came up in the 1970s when the city had 300,000 people but now boasts a population 20 times that figure. It thus has room for several wholesale hubs.

Advising the traders to organise themselves and prepare to compete with foreign counterparts, he said that there are 1,860 large shop frames at the new logistics centre, with 850 large frames having been taken over by Tanzanian traders.

According to the minister, that implied that plenty of room is available for those wishing to have a foothold there.

He added that there is a standing rule at the logistics hub that the number of large frames operated by Chinese businesspeople should not exceed five per cent.

That was to suggest that when all the big frames were occupied, the number of expatriate wholesalers from the key exporter would be up to 190 or thereabouts. Some regional importers could also seek space to improve market control.

What may have also attracted interest was a report that 80 per cent of purchases made in Africa, presumably of this or other type of durable goods, are of Chinese origin.

That provided a setting for Tanzanian industrialists to devise ways of localising the production of such goods, partly owing to rising standards of living in China.

There would also be the likely inability to retain the cost advantage even with rock-bottom freight charges with super tanker ocean liners.

While the ministers talked of considerable trading opportunities both in the logistics centre and elsewhere, the production sphere has openings as well.

The Treasury spoke of arranging another round of discussions on May 25 and 26 to obtain traders' views - and comprehension - of scheduled tax measures and offer a response before the schedule is tabled in the Tanzanian legislature mid next month.

Evidently, the government does not need to obtain the green light from each group of stakeholders before placing tax measures to legislators for a vote, as accountability is rendered in the National Assembly and not with interest groups.

All this is just consultation so that no substantive stakeholders feel not having been adequately consulted.

It is also evident in this case that the four Rs (Reconciliation, Resilience, Reforms and Rebuilding) policy, but here particularly meaning reform, need to be observed for traders to be less demanding from the government, in the idea of protected wholesale district even with six million city residents.

Noticeably, the meeting saw plenty of work done on the 49 challenges cited during the downing of tools at the city's central business district a while back. It was six issues this weekend.

Both political will and reforms key to rise in intra-Africa trade

THE East African Business Council (EABC), the key business lobby bringing together the major East African Community (EAC) partner states, sees improved political will as decisive in improving EAC intra-Africa trade - rather than relying on foreign sources of goods.

The idea is to eliminate trade barriers within the region and trade more within, a formulation which would ideally imply maintaining some sort of barriers for those selling goods here from outside. The tone of the formulation is supportive of protection for those exporting from within the EAC bloc.

There are preliminary issues that need to be sorted out in that formulation, including as to whether trade barriers with anyone can improve trade with anyone else and, if that is the case, what are the most beneficial trade barriers and which are the most ineffective.

What the EABC leadership is saying is that EAC member states are increasingly trading with one another and with other African countries, while reducing their trade with Europe, Asia, the Americas and other parts of the world.

This scenario appears to conform to an intra-Africa trade dream to boost commerce and livelihoods, but there is the fact that trade rules between African countries and within the EAC are subordinate to global or bilateral trade accords.

Additionally, increased trade presumes increased consumption or producer goods needs, while the

amount coming from within Africa is not compelling.

It is unclear if this results from a will to reduce imports from abroad in favour of regional imports, as the level of competition is still low. In any case, it is a matter of local manufacturing attaining enhanced quality and price advantage so that the home or regional base factor makes a difference.

For one thing, all preferential treatment is likely to be limited to locally provided goods as decision makers have to factor in revenue implications of bottom customs duties for anyone. The whole idea of building regional production capabilities is similarly tricky as it is a matter of investors building regional synergies to bring together various markets.

There are major local firms already doing that in spheres like gas, communications, grain and flour trade, broadcasting and credit systems.

The lack of political mergers is no hindrance to business synergy as it is a matter of using investment opportunities within the customs union and partly within the common market protocols. As the continental free trade initiative suggests, regional trading identity isn't a vision in itself.

In that case, EABC needs to alter its focus and merely see how far reforms help EAC-based firms to trade within the region optimally enough, without seeking any formal advantages against competitors from outside.

While EABC sees plenty of value in being members of a regional bloc, it is clear that economies sink or swim first in relation to how they interact at the global and bilateral level.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

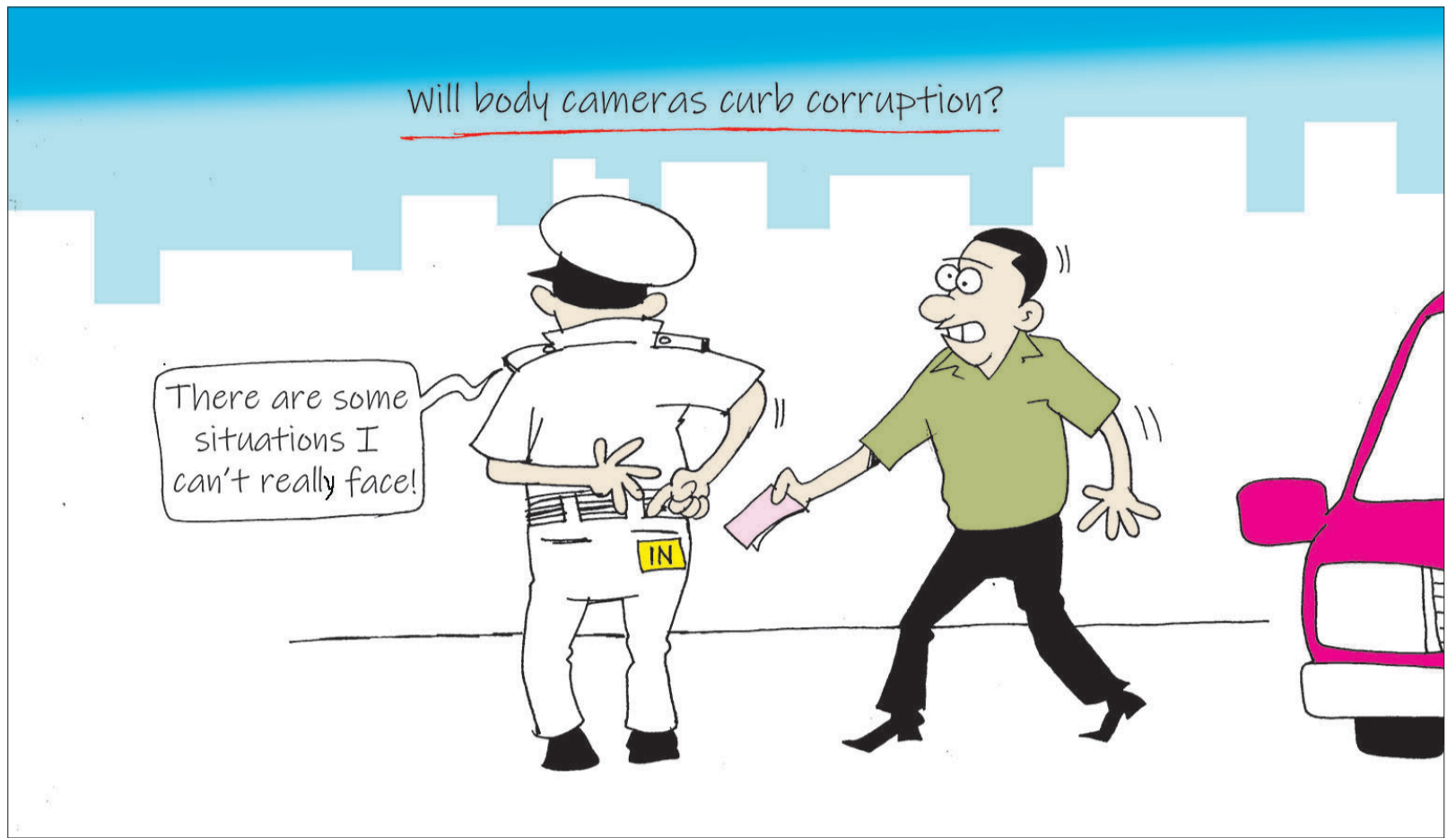
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

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

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Villagers cry foul as global giant exploits lithium in Zimbabwe

By Owen Gagare

MAX Mind Investments Zimbabwe, a subsidiary of Chinese global giant Shenzhen Chengxin Lithium Group, is being praised in Zimbabwe, where it is projected to generate \$2-billion in annual revenue. The government considers it a vital cog in its ambitious plan to establish a \$12-billion mining sector economy by 2030.

It is one of several international companies making the most of lithium, the globally sought-after mineral used to drive the clean energy transition - a transition that incorporates solar panels and rechargeable batteries for mobile phones, laptops, digital cameras and electric vehicles.

Zimbabwe is Africa's largest producer of lithium. Staff at Energy Capital & Power, the continent's leading investment platform for the energy sector, estimate that if the country's full potential of lithium resources is unlocked, it would meet upwards of 20% of global demand.

Investors - particularly from China - have been scrambling for the resource, which is exported globally as lithium concentrate. Chinese companies, including Max Mind Investments, which operates the Sabi Star Mine in Buhera district in the eastern province of Manicaland, have invested more than \$1-billion in Zimbabwe over the past few years.

Max Mind Investments enjoys support from the highest levels of Zimbabwe's government. President Emmerson Mnangagwa visited the mine twice, in 2022 and 2023.

However, as is the case in many parts of Zimbabwe where lithium is being mined, Max Mind Investments made way for its latest mine by moving 40 families from their ancestral land to pave the way for the company's operations, leaving a trail of bitterness over unfulfilled promises and ruined livelihoods. Most families relocated in August 2023.

The families believe the political support enjoyed by the company has been used to trample their rights, rendering them economically disempowered, food insecure and extremely vulnerable.

President's praises
At the ground-breaking ceremony of Max Mind's \$130-million mine on 14 December 2022, Mnangagwa was glowing about how the investment would set Zimbabwe "on an irreversible path of economic growth and development".

"The plant is set to see the company contributing over \$500-million in earnings annually towards the realisation of the \$12-billion sector economy by 2030. The single plant in Buhera, in two years' time, will be earning about \$2-billion," Mnangagwa said.

The president was back on 31 August 2023 to officially commission the mine.

On his initial visit to the mine in 2022, Mnangagwa praised Max Mind for building "state-of-the-art homes" for the 40 families who had to be relocated to make way for mining operations.

Of these families, 22 were relocated to the town of Murambinda, 17 to places within their communal area and one family to Mberengwa, in Midlands province.

"I am so happy that before the company has started making money here, they have already begun improving infrastructure in this area. They have upgraded the 30km earth road from the main road to this mine. They have built state-of-the-art homes for families relocated from the mining area. Some have solar boreholes at their homesteads," Mnangagwa said.

However, an investigation by The NewsHawks - which included interviews and site visits - has established that the lives of affected villagers is far less rosy. Relocated families don't share the president's praises; they feel abandoned and betrayed for several reasons.

They say they were coerced into relocation after being issued subtle threats by the Buhera district development coordinator (DDC), Freeman Mavhisa, and their traditional leader, Chief Nyashanu.

The NewsHawks established that the villagers signed compensation agreements and were given monetary compensation before being evicted. Max Mind registered the compensation agreement with Zimbabwe's Administrative Court, as required by law. The process was done in the absence of villagers on the strength of the compensation agreements they signed, which showed they were agreeable.

"They (the mining company) took advantage of our ignorance. We signed the agreements because we were told that if we refused, the government would forcibly move us and dump us at a place of their choice. The DA (the district administrator, DDC Mavhisa) told us we would be forcibly moved if we resist. We had no choice but to comply," said Martha Tagarira in an interview at Murambinda Growth Point, where she now resides.

Coerced eviction
Lahlwe Musikavanhu, who was also resettled at Murambinda, said: "We were shown disrespect right from the beginning. We saw people moving and drilling holes in our fields in 2021. They did not introduce themselves to us, but who knows, maybe they had engaged the chief and village head, but no one told us what was going on."

"Sometime in 2022, they told affected people that they will be moved but adequate compensation

will be paid to affected families. They promised to compensate for all the infrastructure one had at their homes, including boreholes, kraals, pens, fowl runs and even fruit trees. In the case of houses, they said whatever one had built, they would construct at least three extra rooms, but this did not happen."

She said formal engagements between the mine management, villagers, traditional leaders led by Chief Nyashanu, and government officials started in February 2022.

The government team, which included several departments, was led by Mavhisa.

"We did not have lawyers to represent our interests and we believed the DA (DDC), chief and village heads would represent us. But Mavhisa and Chief Nyashanu made it clear from the onset that the investment had government approval, so we had no choice but to move," she said.

"I was one of the people who did not want to move. I tried to resist, but they said I would move 'whether I like it or not'. In any case, they said my house would develop cracks because of the blasting at the mine."

The affected families say that whenever they raised questions directed at the mine management, which was represented by Alfas Mugova during negotiations, Chief Nyashanu would jump in to respond. Mugova was the company's project manager at the time.

"We later learnt that the company had constructed a beautiful house for him at Murambinda, although he was not affected by the mining operations. Many of us saw this as payment for ensuring we move without adequate compensation," said one of the affected villagers, who declined to be named, saying accusing a chief of corruption could compromise his family.

Several community members echoed this sentiment and told The NewsHawks that they believed the chief was bribed with a house.

The NewsHawks visited the house at Murambinda town (pictured).

The NewsHawks tried contacting Chief Nyashanu for comment, but he had still not answered calls by the time of publication.

Responding to questions, Mavhisa said villagers insisted on being resettled in town against his and Chief Nyashanu's advice. He added that the company offered to buy a farm to resettle all affected persons and that it had pledged to build a school and clinic as well as establish irrigation facilities for the families.

"They turned down that offer. As far as I know, government officials explained to them the implications of settling in town, but they refused to take our advice."

"It's unfortunate that the money they were given has run out, so now they are pointing fingers at us."

Mavhisa said a multigovernment team was always involved in all discussions.

Shattered livelihoods
Musikavanhu explains how people's livelihoods have been affected by the move off their subsistence farmland into town.

"We are now living in town and have to buy everything from vegetables to meat, but we don't have the money."

"We are now suffering. We tried to get compensation for the land we had in the communal area, but the chief and DDC were clear that we would not be compensated. They told us that all land belongs to the government."

"Chief Nyashanu emphasised that he was the custodian of the land, while the DDC said the land belonged to the government. They told us we had no claim at all. Village head Tagarira tried to fight in our corner but was silenced by the chief."

The evicted families now have small vegetable gardens in their backyards, but there is no space to grow maize and other crops that sustain them throughout the year.

Compensation agreement, unfulfilled promises and substandard infrastructure

A copy of the compensation agreement, seen by The NewsHawks, reveals that the company would build five-room houses for the affected villagers on stands measuring 450m².

The company also pledged to give them \$1,900 to help them settle.

This agreement was registered at the Administrative Court after Mugova made an application stating that the company and villagers had come to an amicable agreement. The court approved the evictions based on this statement of all parties being in agreement.

The villagers are, however, unhappy that they were not compensated for their goat pens, cattle kraals, wells and boreholes, as was verbally communicated to them.

Mugova's founding affidavit, lodged at the Administrative Court, recognises that the respondents "have built homesteads and own other assets, including inter alia cattle kraals and related infrastructure within the boundaries of the properties which they occupy as villagers of Mukwasi Village".

According to the compensation agreement, the miner committed to meeting the costs of compensation of properties occupied by the occupier. The miner also pledged to "construct a new residential property for occupation by the occupier in Murambinda Township" at its own cost.

By Guardian Reporter

Ngorongoro pupils relocated to Msomera village happy with learning environment

WHEN changes happen in a society people consider it in different ways and sometimes such changes may be perceived negative. And this mostly happen when such changes involve or touch the type of life they are used to since they were young.

Embracing change enables one to see its powerful positive impact because it drives growth in all the aspects of individuals' life.

One of the famous quotes that appeals for the acceptance of change is that of the late US President, John Kennedy, when he told Americans to accept requests of the civil rights movement in 1961.

He told them: "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past are certain to miss the future".

Among those who recently faced a challenge that required them to embrace are pupils who have been resettled from various schools within the Ngorongoro division in Ngorongoro District. They had to move to a Msomera village, in Handeni District, Tanga Region.

The pupils, just like their parents accepted the challenge in different ways, but accepted it with the hopes that it will enable them to uncover opportunities for improvement and advancement which they would not have discovered if they did not grab the offer to move forward without hesitation.

The government is relocating people from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) for purposes of protecting the lives of people and animals as well as preserving the biodiversity of a well-known global heritage site.

The pupils had recently conveyed their appreciation to the government for voluntarily resettling them from the vicinity of the wildlife sanctuary to Msomera village.

In a poignant testament to resilience, a number of pupils who have been resettled have now been enrolled in the prestigious halls of Msomera Primary School and Samia Suluhu Hassan Secondary School.

Their narratives echo a sobering reality of schooling within their hometown that is characterized with plenty adversities. They are no longer facing difficulties and risks which were part of their day-to-day life.

Their testimonies unveil stark realities that paint a vivid picture of the hardships they previously endured in search for education and survival.

From crossing unsafe distances with the looming threat of encountering fierce wildlife, to navigation through the impenetrable morning mist and fog-filled skies, these challenges epitomize the backdrop against which their educational journey unfolds.

Ngorongoro is a famous home of lions, elephants, cheetahs, zebras, black rhinos and other wild animals. The views from the crater rim over the crater



floor are spectacular. No wonder it is chosen as one of Africa's Seven Natural Wonders.

Soiti Lemurwa, currently enrolled at Samia Suluhu Hassan Secondary School, recalls the riotous lack of calmness that shadowed his days in Ngorongoro. The pervasive fear of wild animals frequently interrupted his studies, sometime compelling him to abandon school premises in pursuit of safety.

"We are grateful to the government for facilitating our resettlement. The relentless presence of wild animals made it challenging for us to go to school. Our safety took precedence above all else, and now, here in Msomera, we can focus on our education in a serene environment," remarked Lemurwa.

Mathew Saruni from the same school, said life in Ngorongoro posed numerous educational challenges, and he had almost given up hope due to increasing presence of fierce wild animals such as lions and leopards.

"Decisions by my parents to relocate to Msomera village have transformed my education journey. The situation was worse as we were exposed by a number of risks when walking to and from school," he added.

Another pupil, Elizabeth Napoiky expressed dismay at those who convinced their parents not to move from Ngorongoro saying life at the Msomera village is good with a conducive learning environment.

Charles Andrea, is the Head Teacher of the Samia Suluhu Hassan Secondary School, he commended the government

for its remarkable investment in educational infrastructure within the village.

Andrea lauded the government for ensuring the school become one of the best schools in the country with modern facilities as well as teachers and other resources. The school has computers which are connected to the internet to ensure pupils have access to online learning materials.

Hamis Dambaya, NCAA Acting Public Relations Manager said the government's intention to relocate the residents from Ngorongoro aims to mitigate life-threatening risks posed by the growing presence of dangerous wildlife within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

He said residents in the conserved area faces a number of challenges including restricted movement and wildlife threats, emphasized the need for them to relocate to Msomera and other places across the country.

Dambaya urged those who have relocated to be cautious of misleading messages from certain politicians and activists advocating against the resettlement initiatives.

"NCAA continues to educate Ngorongoro citizens who are registering for voluntary relocation. The authority has so far a lot of money in incentives graciously bestowed upon each of the relocating households," he added insisting NCAA will continue to uphold the rights of every citizen during the exercise.

Conservation of Serengeti and Ngorongoro ecosystems started in 1959, when there were 8000 people and 260,000 livestock, according to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA).

NCAA was established by the Game Park Laws (miscellaneous amendments) Act, 1976, and owns the majority of Ngorongoro conservation area land, including the crater. The area became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979, originally inscribed for its natural significance.

2017 Data from the authority indicates that the number of people of people living in protected area increased to 110,000 with 800,000 livestock.

Data arm Africa's fight against malaria

By Cynthia Mwase

YEAR after year, hundreds of thousands of lives in Africa are lost to malaria—a preventable and treatable disease.

As the region hardest hit by malaria, the stakes are high. In March, ministers of health from 11 countries with the highest malaria burden on the continent met in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and committed to accelerating malaria mortality reduction.

They made a declaration—"No-one shall die from malaria". Such a declaration requires new thinking about the best way to drive down the malaria burden.

Despite tremendous strides made in the fight against malaria over the past two decades, progress has stalled. Africa saw a rise in cases, with numbers climbing from 218 million in 2019 to 233 million in 2022.

In the face of threats including insecticide resistance, along with plateauing funding for the malaria fight, we must be more strategic in our use of current and future tools. Now, countries across the continent are embracing a new approach—one that uses high-quality data to select the optimal combination of tools for a local setting. These strategies help countries maximize the impact of limited resources to put Africa on an accelerated path to

ending malaria for good.

Malaria transmission varies considerably across the continent and within countries. Consider Mozambique, a country ranked among the top four globally for malaria cases and deaths. In the northern provinces, malaria prevalence soars up to 57 per cent. Conversely, the southern part of the country is on a path to malaria elimination, with only one per cent prevalence.

This striking contrast within a single nation underscores the critical need to tailor interventions based on the local setting. Blanket approaches spread precious resources too thin, leaving high-risk areas vulnerable and low-risk areas with tools that could be better used in other locations.

Tailored strategies use timely, accurate data on everything from malaria incidence to rainfall to mosquito populations to pinpoint the most effective combination of tools based on local conditions. This is the spirit of the Yaoundé Declaration's call for "strategic use of information for action."

Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Nigeria are the four countries leading this charge. These countries are employing sophisticated, data-driven strategies to determine the most suitable mix of tools such as treated bed nets, insecticide spraying, and vaccines for each district,

rapidly driving down the malaria burden in their respective countries.

Notably, Kenya was an early innovator in utilizing subnational data to tailor interventions effectively.

Tanzania's National Malaria Control Programme was an early adopter of an approach that uses data, including mathematical models to tailor the mix of tools for local contexts, which has informed its country-wide malaria strategy.

Mozambique has adopted the use of integrated surveillance technology. Through the Malaria Atlas Project, which uses genomics data, the country is blending routine malaria case data from the health system with point-in-time prevalence surveys to create granular maps of malaria risk and account for seasonal variability. The results speak for themselves—due to scaling data-driven approaches, malaria prevalence in young children in Mozambique fell by 17 per cent over five years.

Nigeria is currently working to develop a dashboard that simulates the use of a combination of different tools to prevent malaria in different areas of the country.

These scenarios are helping the Ministry of Health to make decisions about where the malaria vaccine can have the most impact and regions that should be targeted for rollout.

African science—and African scientists—are at the heart of this transformative approach. Institutions like the International Center for Research and Training in Applied Genomics and Health Surveillance (CIGASS) in Senegal and the African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases (ACEGID) in Nigeria are using cutting-edge genomic sequencing to identify and understand the patterns of resistance to anti-malarial drugs and insecticides used to control mosquitoes. National malaria control programs then adapt their strategies to respond with the right mix of solutions that will have the highest impact based on those resistance patterns.

Researchers like Susan Rumisha, co-lead of the Malaria Atlas Project in Tanzania, Isabella Oyier Research Scientist at KEMRI - Wellcome Trust in Kenya and Ify Aniebo, a senior research scientist focusing on genomic surveillance in Ni-

geria, are at the helm of developing, deploying, and building capacity for these tailored approaches to combat malaria.

Their leadership and expertise are crucial for Africa's fight against malaria and inspire future generations of scientists—especially female scientists—across the continent.

Scaling up tailored solutions can put the world on a fast track to malaria eradication, but only if we make eradicating malaria a top priority. The cost of inaction is too high.

Delay breeds resistance, which could cost millions more lives and billions of dollars in economic losses. Drugs and insecticides that once worked may fail, potentially leading to backsliding of progress we've worked hard to achieve over the last 20 years. Governments in the hardest-hit countries must therefore prioritise localised strategies and invest in the next generation of tools to combat malaria. Donors need to back these solutions financially and the private sector's entrepreneurial solutions must be embraced through innovative partnerships.

From Yaoundé came a bold promise—no more needless malaria deaths. Africa has the ingenuity to fulfil that promise and finally usher in a world where no life is lost to malaria ever again—but we must act fast.

Cynthia Mwase is the Director Health, Africa, at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She has over 28 years' experience in health delivery, working with both community and global organisations.

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Malawi women and children with anti-malarial nets.

By Karel Leyva

Island nation ‘paradise’ that’s beginning to scare Canadians

ATTRACTED by its beaches, warm climate, the hospitality of its people and competitive prices, Canadians have traditionally considered Cuba as a tourist destination without equal. Not only a vacation paradise, but also a reliable healthcare bastion. Even Canadian political leaders did not spare their praise for Cuban medical care, fuelling confidence in the services offered.

However, times have changed, a lot. Canadians’ perception of Cuba is undergoing a 180-degree turn, and not exactly towards a postcard of palm trees and mojitos. This change is due to multiple reasons that could definitively discourage travelers from choosing the Island as their vacation destination.

First, and this is crucial, Canadian government authorities have gone from encouraging the flow of tourists to Cuba to issuing warnings about the risks involved in visiting the Island. The Canadian Government is strongly asking citizens to exercise a “high degree of caution” when considering a trip to Cuba. It should be noted that, for many Canadians, whose culture is impregnated with what is known as high-context communication – filled with euphemisms and avoiding strong statements – this is equivalent to high alert.

What do Canadian authorities communicate to their citizens? Well, they warn travelers about the serious shortage of food, medicine and fuel in Cuba. They insist on the increase in violence, assaults and financial scams, including credit card fraud and the risks associated with ATMs empty of cash.

In addition, they warn about poor security for women, the lack of reliability in telecommunications, complications in online transactions and the prevalence of theft of bags and wallets in tourist spots, markets, public buses, nightclubs and beaches. They warn that thefts from hotel rooms and vehicles are common occurrences in Cuba and explicitly advise keeping windows and doors securely closed, not resisting in the event of robberies, and being cautious when using debit or credit cards.

And that’s not all. Canadian authorities inform travelers that Cuba’s health care infrastructure is critically deficient, with a marked lack of medications, supplies and equipment, compounded by insufficient hygiene practices, slow responses to emergencies and, to top it all off, inadequate mental health services (certainly necessary in the event of a crisis in any of the situations described above).

In fact, the Canadian government asks travelers, if they still decide to take the risk of going to Cuba, to carry their own supplies of medications due to the presence of diseases such as the Zika virus, cholera, hepatitis A, typhoid fever and diarrheal diseases.

With the additional threats of vector-borne and zoonotic diseases such as chikungunya, dengue fever, West Nile virus and malaria, personal health preparedness, they suggest, is crucial. All of these risks have been confirmed and exposed by the Leadership and Democracy Lab at Western University (London, Ontario).

To all this (and especially to the fact that it is announced by a Government in which its citizens have a high degree of trust) are added the “traveler reviews.” And I’m not just referring to the ones they leave on websites that are, of course, consulted when making a decision, but to the warnings that these travellers have been giving to their families, neighbours, friends, colleagues and, of course, if that were not enough, to the press.

Recently, the dream of an idyllic vacation in Cuba was described in numerous Canadian media outlets as a nightmare. Complaints range from the presence of cockroaches and dirty guest areas to



children being robbed in their own rooms, to a lack of food and bottled water supplies and even a shortage of toilet paper for guests.

Canadian tourist Deanna Lang took legal action against Sun wing travel agency in Manitoba, seeking to recover C\$8,000 (about US\$5,830) spent on what turned out to be a disastrous vacation at the Memories Varadero Beach Resort (a well-known name: it is guaranteed that she will never forget that unfortunate stay). Additionally, Lang criticized the resort staff’s ineffective response to her complaints and the challenges she faced in communicating with Sun wing representatives during her stay.

A couple from Ontario had a similar experience earlier this year at the Meliá Marina resort in Varadero. Their unfortunate experience began right upon arriving at the hotel, the conditions of which they described as “deplorable.” The elevators were out of service, forcing the couple to use the stairs. They then found themselves in dark hallways, illuminated only by flashing lights, so they had to use the flashlights on their cell phones to make their way. The presence of cigarette butts, stains on the walls and, most alarmingly, what appeared to be blood stains on the sheets, made them feel like they were starring in a horror movie, details that they did not fail to comment on extensively to the press.

Unacceptable accommodation conditions, including issues with room cleanliness and a faulty toilet facility, led the couple to explore the resort in search of some redemption in the amenities on offer, only to find further signs of neglect, squalor and disrepair. Even when, after much effort, they managed to be transferred to another hotel, they found

similar conditions, including a lack of toilet paper and running water. The couple, who spent almost 7,000 Canadian dollars on the trip, were compensated only 150 dollars.

Another experience widely reported in the Canadian press is the case of Caroline Tétrault. Caroline had the terrible luck of having to undergo emergency surgery in a Cuban hospital.

Her husband, Christian Maurais, told several media outlets about all the needs they experienced, from not being able to get into the ambulance because of the defective stretcher to the precariousness of obtaining the necessary antibiotics. They had to ask family and friends for help to get medical supplies from Canada.

Christian narrated on television how he had to resort to the black market to acquire specific foods required for Caroline’s liquid diet. When asked what message he wanted to convey, he warned other travellers about the importance of researching the quality of medical services and health infrastructure before traveling abroad. Due to this experience, the couple has decided not to return to Cuba.

I could continue listing reasons, from the political activity of the Cuban exile in Canada and the awareness work they carry out in public spaces, to the position of open criticism of the Cuban Government by senators and members of the Canadian parliament for the county’s more than 65 years of repression and its constant violations of human rights.

The truth is that when Cuba appears in the news in Canada it is no longer to praise it as a paradisiacal and warm place, but to show the horrors faced by the daring people who decide to travel there against the warnings of their Gov-

ernment. Horrors that can include the body of a deceased relative being mistakenly sent to Russia, while the wrong body is received in Canada.

When Canadians hear about Cuba, it is about its ties to Cuban mercenaries involved in the war in Ukraine, about its brutal practices, about the people’s desire to liberate themselves and, what touches Canadians most closely, about the already widely publicized fact that the misery imposed on the Cuban people has metastasized, and not even tourists, the jewel in the crown, are safe from precariousness, chaos and fear.

The difference is that while the Cuban people lie crushed by the dictatorship and their options to free themselves from so much oppression entail risks, Canadians can simply choose another tourist destination. Fortunately, they have the enviable luck of being able to say what Caroline husband is declared to Radio-Canada: “Cuba is over for us.”

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Ambassador Tone Tinnes commends agricultural progress in Kilosa District

By Correspondent Elizabeth Shumbusho, Kilosa

In a display of international collaboration and agricultural innovation, Ambassador Tone Tinnes recently visited Raha Farm in Dumila Juu, Kilosa District, Morogoro Region to witness firsthand the transformative agricultural practices reshaping the local community. This visit, which highlighted the thriving tomato farming sector nurtured by Raha Farm's introduction of high-quality seedlings, was part of a broader initiative to strengthen ties between Norway and the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT).

The picturesque setting of Dumila Juu served as the perfect backdrop for this diplomatic engagement, where Ambassador Tinnes, alongside vital regional leaders and agricultural experts, delved into discussions on advancing Morogoro's agricultural potential. With Raha Farm at the forefront, this event underscored the critical role of innovative agrarian techniques and international partnerships in fostering sustainable development and economic growth in Tanzania.

Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the verdant highlands in Dumila Juu, Kilosa District Council, Morogoro, lies a close-knit community deeply entrenched in the art of tomato farming—a fundamental pillar of its economic and culinary landscape. Nevertheless, a transformative breakthrough emerged with the introduction of top-tier tomato seedlings by Raha Farm. This visionary initiative has revolutionised farming practices in the region and ignited a wave of optimism and prosperity among its inhabitants.

Before Raha Farm's intervention, farmers in Dumila Juu re-

lied heavily on traditional seeds directly sown into the fields. While steeped in tradition, this method often resulted in low germination rates and poor seedling vigor, leading to suboptimal yields. The introduction of Raha Farm's scientifically bred and nurtured seedlings solved these age-old problems. The farm's founder, Ms. Raha Alyce, a visionary young entrepreneur, recognised the untapped potential of improving seed quality and its direct impact on productivity and sustainability.

Raha Farm did not merely introduce superior seedlings; it brought a holistic change to farming practices in Dumila. Alongside the seedlings, the farm introduced modern agricultural techniques, including drip irrigation, crop rotation, and integrated pest management. These practices were complemented by regular training sessions for the farmers, empowering them with the knowledge to optimise their crop production sustainably.

The farm's agricultural prowess of Raha Farm in Dumila Juu, Kilosa District Council, Morogoro, was on full display during a visit by Her Excellency Ambassador Tone Tinnes on April 23, 2024. Accompanied by her diplomatic staff and joined by Dr Ally Musa Ally and SAGCOT CEO Godfrey Kirenga with their respective teams, the group engaged deeply with the farm's extensive operations.

Raha Farm has established itself as a pioneering force in the agricultural sector, particularly noted for its innovative production of vegetable seedlings. These high-quality seedlings were historically a rarity in the local market, predominantly available only through imports. Raha Farm, under the leadership of Raha Alyce, is dedicated to providing high-quality vegetable



From left to right are SAGCOT CEO Godfrey Kirenga, Tone Tinnes Norwegian Ambassador to Tanzania Guro Glavian, First Secretary, Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment, Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania; and Raha Alyce, owner of Raha Farm. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

seedlings across Tanzania. With ambitious plans to expand her reach, Raha is committed to improving the agricultural landscape by ensuring farmers have access to quality vegetable seedlings, enhancing crop yields and sustainability.

Ambassador Tinnes expressed satisfaction with the progress in Tanzania's agricultural sector and praised the collaboration between Norway and the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT).

"We are so happy to travel with SAGCOT. It's so good to meet the people of Tanzania, like Raha, who are showing us the potential of agriculture in Tanzania," and the way forward to expansion, and even the export markets, remarked Ambassador Tinnes. The Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) is transforming into The Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (AGOT) following a directive from President Samia Suluhu Hassan. This change is part of a broader strategy to expand the initiative's reach and impact beyond its original geographical scope, encompassing more diverse agricultural zones and addressing wider issues within Tanzania's agricultural sector.

Dr Ally Musa, Morogoro regional administrative secretary, expressed profound gratitude following Her Excellency Ambassador Tone Tinnes' visit to Morogoro. He articulated an exceptionally optimistic vision for the future of agriculture in the region, particularly highlighting the vital role of young entrepreneurs like Raha Alyce in transforming the agricultural landscape.

During his remarks, Dr. Ally praised the innovative efforts of young agriculture leaders steering agricultural advancements and sustainability in Morogoro. "We are immensely proud of what young innovators like Raha are achieving here," he said. "Their drive and dedication are not only revitalising our agricultural practices but are also laying the groundwork for a sustainable and prosperous future." Dr Ally heartfelt encouraged Raha and her peers to continue their impactful work. He reassured them of the government's unwavering support, emphasising the commitment to facilitating an enabling environment that nurtures their ventures. "The government is fully committed to supporting our young agriculturists," he explained.

Further broadening his call to action, Dr Ally encouraged more young people to venture into agriculture, stressing the sector's growth potential and critical role in the nation's development. "I urge more of our youth to step forward and take up the mantle in agriculture. This sector is brimming with opportunities, from technological innovation to export potential. Morogoro's agriculture's future depends on our young people's fresh ideas and energies, and we are here to support them every step of the way."

SAGCOT CEO Godfrey Kirenga praised the farm's comprehensive approach to agriculture, emphasising its significant impact beyond just providing seedlings. According to Kirenga, Raha Farm in the area has become a crucial part of the local community, actively supporting and empowering women, providing essential training and extension services to

farmers, and even extending its support to a nearby orphanage.

"Raha Farm is a prime example of how agricultural enterprises can effectively contribute to socio-economic development," Kirenga stated. "Apart from their robust seedling production, they are deeply invested in the community, especially in empowering local women through training and job creation."

"I am deeply honoured by Her Excellency Ambassador Tone Tinnes's visit and truly grateful for the recognition," said Raha Alyce. The collaboration with SAGCOT has been instrumental in fueling our growth and has provided a tremendous platform to showcase the potential of Tanzanian agriculture. I appreciate their continued support and partnership," said Raha.

On April 22, 2024, key stakeholders, including Morogoro regional officials, the Norwegian envoy, and SAGCOT leadership, met to advance plans for transforming Morogoro into a central spice hub in Tanzania. This initiative aims to capitalise on Morogoro's distinctive climatic and geographical attributes to boost the production of spices such as cloves and black pepper. Recently, SAGCOT established the SAGCOT Spice Value Chain Partnership, positioning the Morogoro region as a leader in this effort.

The discussions focused on the initiative's potential to create jobs, increase local farmers' income, and implement environmentally sustainable agricultural practices. By tapping into international markets and establishing robust supply chains, the initiative promises to spur economic growth in the region. It aims to position Tanzania as a critical player in the global spice industry. The meeting underscored a shared commitment among all parties to provide the necessary support and infrastructure to achieve these ambitious goals, highlighting the transformative impact this could have on Morogoro's agricultural landscape.

Paradigm shift in US mission's view on press freedom in Tanzania

By Correspondent Benjamin Alimwene, Dodoma

If you still hold views that press freedom was in shambles in Tanzania, you ought to seek an audience with this top-notch head of American diplomatic missions in the country, whose view is that the media space has gotten better and brighter today.

He believes that the citizenry is freer now, than it was the case some years ago. He even says he is in direct engagement with the people via various online media platforms. It is indeed a positive development as regards to outsiders' views on freedom of expression.

You can briefly forget about some insinuations and other sensational media coverage, mainly from some irresponsible, if not renegade online channels and individuals that tend to mudsling the media space in the country for now.

You don't want to imagine his views and those of his diplomatic mission sometime like two years ago. I would rather they reserve the same for the story of some other day altogether. It is quite a different story one can presume.

These views from a diplomatic heavyweight were given Dodoma recently, when delivering his speech on the commemoration of the World Press Freedom Day, which the world has been commemorating since 1993. This year in Tanzania, the lead media organization in these commemorations was the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs.

Freedom of the press draws its inception from Article 19 of the universal declaration of human rights. It is important to note that some excerpts of Article 19 therefore emphasize that everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.

Also, that everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression and this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regard-



of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.

The US Ambassador to Tanzania, Michael Battle (pictured) says free press is the oxygen of a healthy democracy, hence freedom of the press is a basic prerequisite to freedom for the people. He is of the view that time is ripe for Tanzanians across the country to consider the value of this universally recognized human right.

"Press freedom fosters an informed citizenry, and an informed citizenry can make informed decisions on the best direction for its people. An informed citizenry can make informed decisions on who is best suited to lead them," he says.

Citing, he said, since coming to Tanzania, he has been quite impressed with the wide variety of journalists he has been engaged with, ranging from citizen journalists he has met with

them at the Jamii Forums' Storytellers of Change gala, to the professional journalists at national outlets, who he had the pleasure to hold interview with them. He simply says "I greatly commend them for the work they do to advance Tanzania's democracy."

However, he is quick to caution that, in this age of mis and dis-information, the onus has never been more on the public to verify their news sources and to make sure media houses earn the public trust through truthful and responsible reporting.

He says, generally and collectively, the work of the press greatly helps in combating ignorance, while greatly contributing to educating the public, adding that in principle, quality journalism depends heavily on quality information at hand.

Ambassador Battle is of the view that with two vital elections approaching in the next two years, it

is important to reflect upon Tanzania's ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights nearly fifty years ago.

"In fact, the United States signed and ratified this International Covenant after Tanzania, but we cherish and hold dear these principles with Tanzanians." He says adding that in the U.S. constitution, the first 10 amendments are commonly referred to as the bill of rights. The very first right outlined in the first amendment, is the right to freedom of speech, which also guarantees a free press.

According to ambassador Battle, Tanzania is on the right path towards attainment of a better realm of press freedom as regards to what the incumbent President is doing towards that end.

"We are heartened by the steps the President Samia Suluhu Hassan and her administration have taken to

deepen democracy in Tanzania, and to strengthen Tanzania's economic partnership with the United States and others.

We are excited to continue to work with Tanzanians across government and civil society to make that vision more of a reality for all Tanzanians," he says, adding that American people will always join the call of people across the world, defending the freedom of the press, and supporting informed citizenries across the globe as well as stand together with Tanzanians in their democratic journey, today and in future.

As for the US government assistance, he says his government supports Tanzania's growth path and prosperity in three ways namely bilateral assistance, multilateral assistance and creating a favorable policy environment to facilitate trade, immigration, and investment.

He says as part of his government's commitment to contributing to Tanzania's prosperity, his government pledged \$560 million in bilateral assistance for 2024 and this was announced when U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris visited Dar es Salaam in April 2023.

"We then began the US-Tanzania Commercial Dialogue pursuing four mutual priorities: the digital economy, market access, regulatory and business climate reform, and trade missions and trade fairs," he says.

He says under the same auspices, The Millennium Challenge Corporation has bounced back into the country, which is a U.S. government agency that provides grants to promote economic growth and strengthen institutions - announced in December 2023 that Tanzania had been selected for a Threshold Program.

The ambassador says taken together, the estimated U.S. government-driven assistance to the Tanzania economy is roughly one billion U.S. dollars annually, this is without taking into considerations vast people to people ties, the American private sector, universities, foundations, charities, non-governmental organi-

zations, and individual citizens partner with Tanzanians every day. If all those are factored into the equation the support goes to \$2.6bn annually.

It is common knowledge that the Press always needs readily available data, but more so preferably open data.

Open data is also a prerequisite for investigative journalism and for further advancement of democracy in Tanzania and elsewhere.

Ambassador Battle says there is an American institution called AidData, a data research lab at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, which has done some great work for quantifying the impact of data which can greatly help the press in the country to work better.

He announces the publishing of a report by AidData on assessing the value of the U.S.-Tanzanian relationship in the lives of everyday citizens.

"AidData's mission to advance the cause of data transparency, enables journalists to accurately assess the value of development dollars. Using this data, Tanzanians can now assess for themselves how countries like the U.S. are contributing to their development, and then make informed choices on how best to partner," he says.

He says according to AidData, the Tanzanian diaspora who are welcome to live, work and study in the U.S. their remittance is \$96.4m every year.

"Also, on AidData, one would read our work through our flagship health partnership, PEPFAR, has spent 20 years investing in strengthening health infrastructure, and tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic, as a result, some 750,000 Tanzanians have been saved from premature death from this deadly disease for the past 20 years," he says adding that, through USAID, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Walter Reed Army Institute for Research the US is directly contributing to the strengthening of Tanzania's health systems, laboratories, and overall health.

Togo's constitutional changes to foster cooperation between executive and legislature

By Koffi Améssou Adaba

LOOKING at the current constitutional revision, the changes are so extensive that it's more fitting to describe it as a radical change rather than a mere revision.

Basically, the changes to the constitution establish a parliamentary system that fosters close collaboration between the executive and legislative branches. Under this new framework, the executive branch is led by two figures. The president of the republic (head of state) has symbolic powers. The president of the council of ministers (head of government) conducts the nation's policy and leads the parliamentary majority.

The changes extend to the broader institutions of the republic. The overhauled justice system is now under the authority of a court of cassation, as the Supreme Court has been abolished.

Among the independent institutions, the High Authority of Broadcasting and Digital Communication has become the High Authority for Regulating Print, Broadcasting and Digital Communication. Its role includes regulating online platforms and social networks. The revision replaces the Mediator of the Republic with a Citizen's Protector, tasked with safeguarding citizens against abuses by the public administration. The revised constitution has 100 articles, down from 159.

What are the main reasons for the constitutional reform?

This is Togo's fourth constitutional amendment (2002, 2007, 2019 and 2024) in three decades. It's also the second time the sixth legislature is making a constitutional amendment (2018 and 2024).

The proponents of this new amendment cite several reasons for the change. These centre on strengthening democracy, protecting citizen rights and freedoms, and improving the effectiveness and representation of institutions. They argue that the



Faure Gnassingbé, who has been the President of Togo for 19 years.

balance of power established by the previous system had become inadequate, and that the new reform aims to achieve governmental stability. MPs say the reform fosters greater citizen involvement in political life and decision-making processes.

Are these arguments legitimate?

These reasons appear legitimate at first glance. One could also consider the general costs of elections and the potential benefits of reducing them. But it would be interesting to take stock of the implementation of the old constitution before proposing a new revision. This would allow for an evaluation of the advantages and challenges faced in implementing the old constitution.

For instance, the 2019 amendment was aimed at addressing the political crisis of 2017, particularly regarding presidential term limits. The extent to which the Togolese people have benefited from previous revisions is unclear, making it equally uncertain if they can expect benefits from a new constitution.

How do the constitutional changes affect the balance of power in Togo?

The new revision introduces a system of flexible separation of powers. Under the old constitution, the people directly appointed each branch of government. The legislature could dismiss the executive, and vice versa, for political reasons. This created a system that was neither fully presidential nor parliamentary.

With the new revision, there's a closer collaboration between the legislature and the executive in legislative matters. However, each branch of government retains the ability to terminate the mandate of the other.

Executive power is now divided between two institutions: the president of the council of ministers and the president of the republic. The president of the republic doesn't govern independently but relies on the support of parliament for legitimacy. No act of the president of the republic is valid unless countersigned by the president of the council of ministers.

The judges of the constitutional court are now appointed by the president of the council of ministers, parliament and the supreme council of the judiciary. Each institution has a one-third quota. These judges serve a single, non-renewable nine-year term. They must ensure that both the legislature and executive comply with the constitution.

Is there a risk of conflict between the two heads of the executive?

I don't believe there's a significant risk of conflict between the two executive presidents. Their power is contingent on both respecting the roles defined in the new constitution. In addition, the president can be from any political party, no matter how small, as long as they are elected by the parliamentary majority.

However, in power dynamics there is no such thing as zero risk.

How do these constitutional changes affect the democratic process in Togo?

Since independence from the French in 1960, Togo has formally proclaimed its commitment to democracy in all its constitutions. What has changed now is the fundamental shift in focus from presidential to legislative elections.

Under the new system, legislative elections will become more important to the Togolese population than presidential elections. Moreover, the multiparty system could undergo changes through collaboration among smaller political parties, potentially leading to the formation of larger political groupings.

However, the fact that the president of the council will be elected not directly by the Togolese people but by their representatives suggests that the power of the people will be somewhat diminished in favour of their representatives.

Could the current president become president of the council and remain in power indefinitely?

This scenario seems quite plausible to me. It's difficult to envision Faure Gnassingbé assuming the role of president of the republic under the new constitution. It holds no significant power and doesn't require the support of the parliamentary majority. Meanwhile, the president of the council retains virtually all the powers previously held by the president. Therefore, it seems likely that Gnassingbé would aim to become president of the council.

This would provide him with several advantages. The disputes over presidential term limits that would affect him in 2030 would disappear. He could also remain in power for life as president of the council as long as his party remained in the majority.

Referring to the reform as a "constitutional coup" seems questionable to me, however. This isn't the first time the Togolese parliament has amended the constitution. However, if the opposition perceives the revision as a total overhaul of the constitution, then it would be justified in labelling it a "constitutional coup" due to the lack of a referendum.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 104 -

Crossword grid with numbers 1-23 and a vertical credit line on the left: 'By Felix Magezin: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezi@gmail.com'

- 15. a thing that takes place
17. the back of a person's neck
19. a donkey
21. long, narrow inlet formed by the partial submergence of a river valley
22. Origins
23. Chancellor of Germany
DOWN:
1. Rwandese President
2. a long distinct period of history
3. nymphs inhabiting rivers
4. having a good or detailed knowledge of
5. a native of Mali
6. traditions in Kiswahili
11. use or take advantage of
13. the third month of a year
14. playfully make fun of or attempt to provoke
16. National Social Security Fund
18. a baked dish of savoury or sweet ingredients encased in or topped with pastry
20. the star round which the earth orbits

Word puzzle grid with the word 'REX' visible in the bottom right corner.

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

- EATER HOTEL ASTIR ANASAZI MALI
ATHENS THEME AARGH
ITERATE UTTER: ERE ARTEL
NEMESIA PAINED REX

Yesterday's solution

Grid showing the solution for yesterday's puzzle with words like FINDER, RIVER, ALIKE, etc.

- ACROSS:
1. Nairobi is her mother city
7. Associate of the Royal Academy
8. the largest continent in the World
9. serving to increase wealth
10. Insane
12. the person who leads prayers in a mosque

Radio One advertisement for 'RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI'. Includes the Radio One logo and a detailed schedule of programs from Monday to Sunday, listing times and program names like 'Hali ya Hewa', 'Muziki', 'Mchanganiko', etc.

Footer with the slogan 'Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One' and social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, followed by the 'Radio One' logo.



Journey to shift from charcoal, fuel, firewood consumption-2

Page14



Bahi residents participate in tree restoration project

Page14



Extension officers urged to regularly visit farmers

Page15

Drilling locates high-grade nickel, copper cobalt in Kabanga

By Guardian Reporter

RESULTS from completed seven out of eleven exploration drill holes at the Safari Link Area of Kabanga Nickel project located in Ngara district have intercepted high grade nickel, copper and cobalt mineralization, Lifezone Metals Limited's update on operations and unaudited Q1 2024 financial summary has said.

Lifezone Metals Limited's Chief Executive Officer, Chris Showalter said the company is advancing its Kabanga Nickel Project through a strategic partnership with the government of Tanzania and BHP.

In November last year, mineral resources update assumed an underground mining rate of 2.2 million tonnes per year.

However, based on the size of the Kabanga Resources, Lifezone believes that a higher throughput of 3.4 million tonnes per year will provide a more optimal outcome in the Definitive Feasibility Study.



Kabanga is believed to be one of the world largest and highest-grade undeveloped nickel sulfide deposits.

The update notes that Lifezone has also received the Kahama Hydromet Refinery Licence from the government of Tanzania, and Kahama will be located within a newly promulgated Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

During the first quarter, the company reported both basic and diluted loss per share of \$0.05, com-

pared to basic and diluted loss per share of \$0.10 in Q1 2023.

Showalter stated: "In the first quarter of 2024, we made significant progress in advancing our Kabanga Nickel Project in Tanzania across various fronts and remaining on track to complete the Definitive Feasibility Study by the end of Q3 2024".

This included advancements in areas such as concentrator and refinery design work and mine planning, and the evaluation of potential resource

additions. During the period, he said, the government of Tanzania continued to demonstrate its steadfast support for Kabanga with the issuance of the Kahama Hydromet Refinery Licence and the declaration of the Special Economic Zone - two critical milestones for Kabanga nickel project.

"We remain close with the government of Tanzania, our local communities and BHP, our project partner, as we advance Kabanga project," he said. "Beyond Kabanga, the closing of funding for Phase 1 of our PGM recycling partnership with Glencore during the quarter marked another significant achievement for Lifezone".

Furthermore, the CEO said: "This partnership enables us, in parallel with Kabanga, to demonstrate the versatility and benefits of our Hydromet Technology in yet another compelling, large and growing metals recycling market and focused here in the United States. We look forward to concluding our pilot project in Q3 2024."

The company has recorded more than 1.8 million hours worked without

a lost time injury at the project, which testify the commitment to promoting and implementing comprehensive workplace health and safety measures, which include rigorous monitoring and reporting systems.

During Q1 2024, the concentrator and refinery design work and mine planning continued for the Kabanga nickel project and progress was made on the various technical workstreams supporting the Definitive Feasibility Study.

The two-phased development plan was finalized and will form the basis of the Definitive Feasibility Study - which will involve a 1.7 million tonne per year Phase 1 with an additional 1.7 million tonne per year Phase 2 expansion, for an expected 3.4 million tonne per year operation in the aggregate.

The Kabanga Nickel Project is currently 69.7 percent owned by Lifezone, and measured and indicated resources attributable to Lifezone total 43.6 million tonnes grading 2.02 percent nickel, 0.28 percent copper and 0.16 percent cobalt (2.57 percent nickel-equivalent).

TZ's social bond listed at London Stock Exchange

By Guardian Correspondent, London

TANZANIA'S financial market product has broadened its footprint in the global capital markets, after the first listed social bond on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) made its entrance at the London Stock Exchange (LSE).

This has made history as the first in the EAC and SADC blocs to debut a sustainability bond on the stock market's International Securities Market and Sustainable Bond Market platform.

The second offshore cross-listing of the bond follows its last month admission to trade at the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, where the locally listed gender bond has been successfully trading since last year.

Julia Hoggett, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), LSE plc, said: "We are delighted to welcome NMB Bank's sustainability bond to the London Stock Exchange, and to be the venue of choice for the bond's first admission to trading outside Africa. This not only highlights NMB's dedication to transparency and commitment to their sustainability objectives, but also showcases the continued international investor support that issuers across Africa can find in London. We are a leading global hub for sustainable finance and proud

to be at the forefront of enabling capital flows towards the green economy."

She further said the region's largest and the first-ever sustainability bond also empowers investors with the opportunity to make money while bettering lives and helping to protect Mother Nature.

The lender floated the dual-tranche bond last year to raise 75bn/- in local currency and \$10 million for bankrolling social and green projects that had shoe options of 25bn/- and \$5million. Proving the bank's credit worthiness and showing investors' readiness to support its sustainability agenda, the TZS and USD tranches of the bond were oversubscribed by 284 percent and 730 percent respectively raising a record 400bn/- (about US\$160 million).

CEO Ruth Zaipuna who led NMB officials and other dignitaries to celebrate cross-listing of the bond said the historic securities development enhances the bank's credentials in global money markets and its visibility to the international investor community.

"Today's listing of the Jamii Bond cements the bank position as a trailblazer in sustainability within the African capital markets and now at a global stage," Zaipuna noted.

Attendees at the function included



Tanzania's High Commissioner to the UK, Mbelwa Kairuki (2nd L), and NMB Bank managing director Ruth Zaipuna (C) follow proceedings at the listing of Tanzania's social bond at the London Stock Exchange yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania's High Commissioner in the UK, Mbelwa Kairuki, and the British Minister of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Andrew Mitchell, whose presence also signified relevance of the transaction in the diplomatic space.

"This extraordinary success highlights the strong confidence Tanzanian and global investors have in NMB Bank's soundness and commitment to sustainability across operations, business, community, and the environment," she added.

Zaipuna said that apart from giving the two bonds better visibility internationally, the offshore ventures also enable the bank to tap funds from a deeper pool of capital and wider investor base for financing enhancement of lives, transformation of communities and shaping a better future for all.

The Jamii Bond is the first tranche of current 10-year Itrn/- (circa USD 385 million) multi-currency Medium-Term Note (MTN) Program whose proceeds are being

dedicated to support impactful projects such as renewable energy, sustainable water and waste water management, green buildings, food security, and employment generation.

"We had started with the cross-listing of this bond at the Luxembourg Stock Exchange last month, and today we are listing here at LSE so we can give more impact investors an opportunity to make a positive difference while earning a lucrative return of 6 Month Term SOFR plus 250 basis points on their investments," Zaipuna explained.

AICC out to build special conference centre

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) is embarking on a major project on the construction of a special conference centre for hosting the International Apicultural Congress, Apimondia.

Apimondia is the global apiculture event which brings together beekeepers, manufacturers of beekeeping equipment and a wide variety of scientists involved in apiculture, apitherapy, pollination, development and economics.

Christine Mwakatobe, Managing Director, AICC, revealed that the state-of-the-art structure will be installed in a tailor-made design to shelter the crowd-puller event professionally.

Tanzania has been selected to host the 50th edition of the International Apicultural Congress, drafted for 2027, the major forum which will see over 4,000 international beekeepers convene under the same roof in Arusha.

"AICC is dedicated to ensuring the success of Apimondia 2027, and we're currently making significant strides in constructing the vast-modern conference building with international quality and capacity to accommodate the prestigious event," she expressed.

She said AICC has also realised the imperative of collaboration with the Tanzania Honey Junction (THJ) in organising the Tanzania Honey Show 2024, to will be staged to help cementing Tanzania's preparedness ahead of the Apimondia Congress.

Drafted to take shape for three consecutive days, from June 19 to 21, the Tanzania Honey Show 2024 exhibition will be staged at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC), thanks to AICC.

Mwakatobe and Tanzania Honey Junction managing director, Rose Msangi, convened a meeting over the weekend on how best the two sides can work in sync to ensure for professional and successive organisation of the events.

During the talks, Mwakatobe highlighted AICC's rationale for partnering with the Tanzania Honey Show, saying: "AICC is deeply committed to supporting initiatives that catalyze growth and innovation across various sectors. Our partnership with Tanzania Honey Junction for the Tanzania Honey Show 2024 is rooted in our belief that fostering a vibrant beekeeping industry not only aligns with our sustainability goals but also contributes to Tanzania's global competitiveness."

"Our partnership with Tanzania Honey Junction for the Tanzania Honey Show 2024 is communicating a clear message over the AICC's commitment towards preparations for Apimondia 2027 in Tanzania," she said. On her part, Msangi expressed delight over the timely partnership, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in driving impactful change into the key economic sector within the country.

"THJ is deeply concerned with this patriotic collaboration from AICC ahead of the Tanzania Honey Show



Arusha International Conference Centre, managing director, Christine Mwakatobe (2nd L), with Tanzania Honey Junction managing director Rose Msangi (2nd R) and other officials after a brief meeting in Arusha. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

2024 event. This partnership signifies a shared vision for advancing the beekeeping industry in Tanzania and underscores our collective commitment to preparing for Apimondia 2027," she expressed.

During a special conference held September last

year in Chile, Tanzania and United Arab Emirates (UAE) where selected to vie for the prestigious slot to host the Apimondia 2027 forum, whereby Tanzania emerged the winner.

Tanzania stands 14th country for beekeeping in

the world, and 2nd in Africa with most of the country's produced honey and beeswax often exported to Germany, France, Belgium and Netherlands, Oman, USA, Japan, Botswana, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Congo DRC, Somali and neighboring Kenya.

SPECIAL REPORT

Journey to shift from charcoal, fuel, firewood consumption-2

By Francis Kajubi

IN yesterday's issue of The Guardian, we highlighted the government's new plan aiming to enhance investments in the natural gas sector, to cut spending on imported fuel for its vehicles, while enabling families and institutions to cut energy spending through shifting from the use of biomass and fossil fuels to natural gas.

In this final part of the report, the writer sheds insights on the government's commitments towards cleaner energy consumption bearing on mind that 33,000 Tanzanians die annually due to consumption of charcoal and firewood in line with climate adaptation and mitigation measures, alongside the expert's recommendations towards using electric vehicles; excerpts.

Addressing the Conference of the Parties (COP 28) Climate Summit in Dubai on December 1st 2023, President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan said that Tanzania is maintaining efforts to ensure environmental conservation as stipulated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The President said the country is advocating for cleaner cooking energy and requested global leaders to support the cause through enhanced financing.

She pledged that Tanzania will be on the front line in the implementation of the new adopted Africa Women Clean Cooking Support Programme (AWCCSP).

The programme she launched herself during the COP 28 summit targets at fostering the use of clean cooking energy to address health, environmental, economic and social challenges that mostly pose negative impacts on women and children.

Dr. Samia used the opportunity to call upon global leaders to act on unfulfilled pledges in tackling climate change implications including the Copenhagen Climate Agreement in which world nations committed to a collective contribution of \$100 billion (253trn/-) annually for climate actions.

She cited the Paris Agreement as another pledge that nations ought to act on. According to the United Nations (UN), the Agreement aims at limiting global Carbon emissions to below 1.5 degree Celsius.

"Unfulfilled commitments erode global solidarity and trust in achieving sustainable development targets based on strengthened climate adap-



Energy minister, Dr. Doto Biteko

tation and resilience," said President Samia.

Globally, the COP 28 themed: "Unite, Act and Deliver," while Tanzania observed the event under the theme: "Strengthen resilience agriculture and blue economy to prevent climate change."

Maimuna Ramadhani (32), a food vendor at Mbezi commuter bus stop said that Charcoal is becoming the most expensive commodity in running her business.

"Since the rainy season began, charcoal prices have been soaring on a weekly basis. Early November last year I used to pay 1,200/- for a can which I now pay 2,000/-," said Maimuna.

According to her, customers prefer food cooked on a charcoal stove than on a gas stove.

Twalibu Saidi, Chairman of Charcoal sellers at Mabibo market in Dar es Salaam said at the market there are five charcoal dealing units that each unit brings two trucks a month in the city each truck lashed with 280 sacks of charcoal weighing between 45 and 50kg each.

He explained that ten trucks with 280 charcoal sacks each enter Mabibo market from Njombe, Pwani and Iringa regions a month. The sacks weighed between 45 Kg and 50 Kg are sold at 35,000/- and 45,000/-

"I can't switch to selling LPG because every business needs experience. I have been in this business for nine years. It's hard to abandon charcoal consumption. People have gas cylinders and still use charcoal in their homes," he said adding:

"Street bar owners and meat roasters are still our core customers. The same applies to cassava and potato roasters, they must have charcoal. It is possible to cut down on charcoal consumption but not eliminate it."

Johari Isaak, an LPG cylinders retail seller at Goba suburb in the city said that most of her

customers prefer 15Kg cylinders that fetch 24,000/- each.

"I serve a maximum of 20 customers a week who come to buy and exchange cylinders. One can use the 15Kg LPG cylinder for a month," said Isaak.

Engineer Gerutu Bosinge, CNG Workshop Manager at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) said that a shift to natural gas and biogas is inevitable bearing in mind the impacts of climate change that had led to floods and drought since 2021.

According to him, DIT started the conversion of vehicles into the CNG system in 2008 with three cars. DIT monitored the performance of the cars until 2018 when it was satisfied that the system works well with long durability and cost saving advantages.

"As the government's entity we have been closely collaborating with the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) in converting the vehicles. Of the 4,500 already converted vehicles as of this month, DIT converted 3,200 while the remaining were converted with TPDC," said Bosinge.

He asserted that to convert a car to using CNG it costs between 1.8mn/- and 2.5mn/- depending on the engine capacity which according to him is affordable due to government's interventions unless people could have been paying between 3mn/- and 4mn/- to convert their cars.

"CNG emits only one gram per kilometer of carbon in the air while the number of carbon emissions in the air by a car using diesel is 12 grams per kilometer and that using petrol emits eight grams per kilometer. In that regard, CNG is more environmentally friendly than petroleum products," said Bosinge.

Bosinge defended that small vehicles using CNG are likely to save more than three times

per filling compared to their petrol counterparts. For medium and big CNG using vehicles, the economic savings is significant, and varies depending on the route length.

He said according to a study conducted by DIT in Dar es Salaam June 2022 when petrol cap rice in the city stood at 2,994/- per liter, it was proved that IST drivers paid 17,000/- for an 11 Kilogram CNG cylinder that could go the same distance as an IST driver who paid 75,000/- for petrol. The savings was 58,000/- for a CNG consumer.

Bosinge said the study further revealed that an IST car using an 11 Kilogram CNG cylinder can go a distance of between 200 Kilometers and 280 Kilometers. This translates into a distance of between 18 Kilometers and 25 Kilometers per one Kilogram of CNG.

He explained that a RAV 4 with a 17Kg CNG cylinder can go between 140 Kilometers and 220 Kilometers plying between 13 Kilometers and 20 Kilometers per one Kilogram of CNG.

"For a Land Cruiser V8 which is mostly used by government officials a 17 Kilogram CNG cylinder which currently fetches 17,000/- can be used for traveling between 80 Kilometers and 100 Kilometers;

It means that one kilogram of CNG can be used to travel between five to nine kilometers. By using petrol the same consumer is likely to pay up to 200,000/-," affirmed Bosinge.

Emmanuel Gilbert, TPDC Gas Business Manager said that the corporation has been supplying the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) liquefied natural gas (LNG) from which it generates 60 percent of electricity supplied by the company.

"There are 57 factories in Dar es Salaam, Lindi and Mtwara regions that TODC supplies LNG for production of electricity and for running machineries. Five CNG filling stations in Dar es Salaam are also supplied with LNG," said Gilbert.

According to him, so far 1,500 houses in Dar es Salaam, Lindi and Mtwara regions are supplied with LNG of which 880 are in Dar es Salaam, 500 in Mtwara and the remaining are in Mnazi Mmoja suburb in Lindi region.

"TPDC plans are as of May this year to commence connection of LNG to another new 1,000 houses at Mnazi Mmoja in Lindi region and in Mkuranga district in Pwani region," said Gilbert.

On the way forward, he asserted that TPDC has already secured a one acre plot along the Sam Nujoma highway where it plans in the 2024/25 financial year to construct a CNG filling sta-

tion with a capacity of serving 16 cars at once. "There are six companies that I can disclose for now that has shown interest in opening CNG stations in Dar es Salaam. They are also conducting a market survey in Dodoma, Manyara and Morogoro regions for establishing CNG stations," said Gilbert.

The National Climate Change Response Strategy 2021-2026 states that Tanzania's economy depends on climate sensitive sectors that have significant contributions on employment and gross domestic product growth (GDP).

It mentions these sectors as agriculture, mining, tourism, fisheries, construction and transportation. It states that among major objectives of the strategy is to enhance mainstreaming climate change issues at the nation and local government development plans and budgets.

"The strategy targets at attracting diversification of clean energy sources for household and industrial consumption come 2026 so that to minimize emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change," reads the strategy in part.

Janevive Samson, a Mikochehi resident in Dar es Salaam said that her car would be converted into using CNG in 2022 basking that it is cheaper and durable compared to petrol.

"I spent 2mn/- in converting the car. I think conversion costs might have been scaring away people. The cost should be reviewed to bring in more vehicle owners," she suggested.

Founder and CEO of Syntroleum Petrochemical Group Limited Abraham Baisi argued that the government shouldn't be promoting LPG and CNG consumption if it truly needs to shift from carbon emitting energy sources such as natural gas and coal.

"LNG, CNG and LPG are not clean energy sources for the environment. The government should be speaking of converting vehicles into using electricity if it really wants to shift to using clean energy," argued Baisi.

The 2022 World Bank (WB) report dubbed: "Economics of Electric Vehicles for Passenger Transportation," states that adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in developing countries is slow.

It states that more than half the world benefits economically by adopting electric mobility.

"The financial rewards of electric mobility can be substantial even considering high up-front costs because electric vehicles from two-wheeled scooters to buses are less expensive to run and maintain," reads the World Bank report.

Bahi residents participate in tree restoration project

By Guardian Correspondent

IN response to the escalating impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, Heineken Tanzania has forged a strategic partnership with the Lead Foundation environmental organization to undertake sustainable initiatives for the restoration of degraded forests and the protection of the environment.

Obabiyi Fagade, the Heineken Tanzania country manager has emphasized the significance of this partnership in safeguarding the environment and ensuring a sustainable future.

Addressing journalists after visiting one of the environmental conservation projects in Mpamantwa Ward, Bahi district, Fagade emphasized the importance of environmental stability in supporting ecosystems and biodiversity, underscoring the necessity for collaboration with the Lead Foundation.

"The environment is paramount to us; without its preservation, our operations and communities in which we serve would be compromised. This partnership with the Lead Foundation, particularly through its Kisiki Hai tree restoration project, spans regions including Dodoma, Singida, Manyara, and Arusha," stated Fagade.

Lilian Pascal, the Company's Trade Marketing Manager, echoed Fagade's sentiments, highlighting the critical role of environmental protection in combating the adverse effects of climate change.

"Our commitment to environmental stewardship aligns with our responsibility to our customers and the community. The production of Heineken products relies heavily on water, making it imperative for us to prioritize environmental conservation," Pascal affirmed.

Njamasi Chiwanga, Director of Projects at the Lead Foundation, provided insights into the ongoing initiatives aimed at forest regeneration and rainwater harvesting.

The 'Kisiki Hai' project, focused on tree regeneration, has already made significant strides, reaching over 500 villages in Dodoma, Singida, Manyara, and Arusha regions.

"To date, our project has successfully cultivated over 18 million trees and engaged more than 200,000 citizens," Chiwanga noted.

Local resident Bosco Malogo expressed appreciation for the project's impact on their community.

Through innovative methods such as growing trees from living stumps, residents have witnessed tangible benefits including fodder, medicinal fruits, and the rapid establishment of forests at minimal cost.



"This project has transformed our environment, offering sustainable solutions that benefit both people and nature," remarked Malogo.

Heineken Tanzania remains committed to fostering environmental sustainability and supporting initiatives that promote the well-being of communities across Tanzania.

The country lost almost 470,000 hectares (1.16m acres) of forest a year, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Between 70 - 80 percent of deforestation in Tanzania is due to the conversion of forest land to agricultural land.

Additionally, the loss of trees has resulted in reduced rainfall and an increase in tem-

peratures, which has disrupted the water cycle and led to droughts.

The high population growth rate of 2.8 percent, which demands more land for agriculture, settlement, grazing, wood extraction for building materials, charcoal and firewood, has been a major threat to the forest resources in Tanzania.

Northern zone economy inks stronger growth of activities

By Guardian Reporter

AFTER they were hit hard by the pandemic since 2019 to 2022, the regions of the northern zone of Tanzania mainland is continuing to record strong growth of economic activities.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) consolidated zonal economic report for the fourth quarter of this year shows continued strong gains of activities and earnings including manufacturing, tourism, revenue, cross-border trade and financial services.

The gaining of the economic activities also stimulated the central and local governments' revenue collections, job creations and savings and credits markets.

Northern zone of Tanzania mainland comprises of Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Manyara region, is the home of major tourism hotspots, second largest port, mining activities, cross-border trade and industries.

The report shows the value of manufactured goods of the zone, which accounts for 10 percent share of all manufactured goods countrywide increased by 38 percent to 583bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 421bn/- recorded during similar quarter of 2022.

The major growths of manufactured goods in the zone were recorded on textile sector, which its value tremendously grew to 170bn/- compared to 32.7bn/- and sugar production, which its value went up to 88.6bn/- from 65.6bn/- respectively.

Other manufactured goods which recorded positive trend during the reported periods were tea and coffee manufacturing, which amounted to 29bn/- in Q4, 2023, from 17bn/- recorded in Q4, 2022 and rolled steel, which jumped to 22bn/- compared to 16.3bn/- respectively.

The central bank report shows, the value of other manufacturing commodities also grew to 85bn/- from 30.3bn/-.

However, the report shows the value of mineral extractions slowed by 13 percent to US\$23.2 million compared



Tourism activities account for the largest share of northern zone economy. File photo

to US\$26.7 million recorded during the fourth quarter of 2022.

The value of tourism activities in the zone increased by 83.8 percent to 86.6bn/- from 52.9bn/-, despite the decreased of number of visitors to 433,525 from 476,502 respectively.

The central bank report shows the value of earnings from visitors to the museums available in the zone increased by 66 percent to 43.1bn/- compared to 20.5bn/- as the number of visitors to museum sites went up by 42.3 percent to 4,246 from 2,983 respectively.

Electricity generations also increased to 123,641 megawatt per hour during the fourth quarter of last year from 35,067 megawatt per hour generated during the fourth quarter of 2022.

Central government revenue collected in the zone amounted to 372.7bn/- against 387bn/- collected during similar quarter of 2022, while local government revenue collections amounted to 82bn/- against 17.6bn/-.

On cross-border trade, the zone which borders Kenya, the Tanzania's largest trade partner, recorded exports amounting to 331bn/- in the last quarter of 2023, compared to 205bn/- recorded in 2022.

The value of imports to the zone, according to the central bank also increased by 75.4 percent to 395bn/-, compared to 226bn/-.

Cargo handed to Tanga port also increased by 34 percent to 371,299 tonnes recorded during the fourth quarter of last year, compared 275,806 tonnes recorded during the fourth quarter of 2022.

The increased economic activities also stimulated the savings mobilizations among banks, as the stock amounted to 3.6trn/- compared to 3.2trn/-.

Loans issuance by commercial bank also increased during the period to 2.9trn/- compared to 2.3trn/-, of which the largest shares were directed to personal loans, wholesale and retail businesses, agriculture and manufacturing.

Extension officers urged to regularly visit farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

EXTENSION officers Lindi Region have been urged to regularly visit farmers and provide them with the necessary knowledge to produce high-quality cashew nuts.

Majid Myao, assistant Lindi regional administrative secretary made the call here over the weekend when speaking at the seventh annual general meeting of the Lindi Mwambao Cooperative Union (LMCU) in conjunction with grand prize handover ceremony.

The Union was awarded a tractor by NBC Bank in its 'Wekeza NBC Shambani Ushinde' campaign, which targeted cashew farmers in the Mtwara and Lindi regions.

Launched in Mtwara last October, the initiative aimed to boost cashew nut and crop production in the regions, offering various prizes to winners, including smartphones, sprayers, TVs, motorcycles, laptops, digital scales, and tractors.

He said that cashew farmers need a close follow ups so that they produce better cashew nuts for them to compete in the competitive markets.

Myao also emphasized that farmers in the region should ensure they bank their funds in the bank and maintain financial discipline, including investing more in the purchase of modern farming equipment to increase production and improve their economic well-being.

He said that the prizes arrived at an opportune time, as the region is implementing a strategy to increase cashew nut production to align with the government's goal of reaching 700,000 tonnes of cashew nuts by 2025. "It is the government's plan to see the agricultural sector grow by 10 per cent by 2030, so we are grateful to



Assistant Lindi Regional administrative Secretary Majid Myao, (sitting on the tractor), tests the quality of the tractor provided by NBC Bank to the Lindi Mwambao Cooperative Union. Witnessing the event are Iovin Mapunda, branch manager NBC Lindi, (R), Union chairperson, Ismail Nalinga (2nd R), other union leaders, and bank officials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

see the bank fully participating in achieving this goal through the campaign," said Myao.

Iovin Mapunda Lindi, bank's branch manager revealed that since the campaign's launch, a total of 150 winners, including individual farmers and Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS), from Lindi and Mtwara, had received prizes worth 200m/-. "As we expect to launch the fourth season of this campaign at the end of this week, I continue to urge farmers to continue channeling their cashew payment funds through the bank he said.

Mapunda also emphasized that the bank was determined to collaborate effectively

with farmers to ensure the improvement of the agricultural sector, and besides the campaign, the bank has been providing different loans to various cooperatives in the regions as a way to support their work related to cashew nut production.

Nuridin Swala, LMCU manager thanked the bank for organizing the campaign as it has been of great help to them, while emphasizing that their secret to success is using the bank extensively to process their cashew nut sales payments.

"We are very grateful to the bank for the tractor prize as it will greatly assist us in achieving our goals, including increasing cashew nut production in Lindi Region," said Swala.

Kongwa-based agribusiness centre handed over to a research institute

By Correspondent Valentine Ofora, Kongwa

The Kongwa - based Agribusiness Innovation Centre (AIC) has been handed over to the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) through the Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries.

The key center was initiated in 2018 by PASS Trust in cooperation with the government of Denmark, to bring positive changes to small livestock sector by equipping youth with practical skills in goat fattening and entrepreneurship along the value chain.

The centre was also aimed at ultimately fostering self-employment, assisting livestock farmers in accessing goat markets, increasing raw materials availability for meat industries and expanding the international market for quality meat products.

Since its inception in 2019, at least 30 youth entrepreneurs have successfully gone through the incubation process at the key livestock facility, and the beneficiaries have so far managed to venture into their own businesses in various parts of the country.

Speaking yesterday during the official handing over of the equipped center, PASS Trust Board Chairperson, Prof Sylvia Temu observed that they're successfully make fruitful use of the innovation incubation centres to do agribusiness coaching, mentorship and mindset transformation to the youths of this country.

"PASS Trust is pleased to transfer ownership of the facilities to TALIRI in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between PASS Trust and TALIRI in 2018. These facilities will serve to empower Tanzanian youth through the Youth Incubation Programme under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries," Prof Temu said.

"The generous support provided by the Danish government has played a pivotal role in the success of the Innovation Centres at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) Morogoro and TALIRI Kongwa."

Speaking during the event, the Minister of Livestock Development and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega, said the agricultural sector needs the whole value chain from farmers to markets to allow access to global markets.

"Currently we have managed to reach more than 12 markets globally; a strategic move pioneered by our President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan. The rise of global markets has contributed to the overall increase of meat sales in our country," he observed.

The Managing Director of TALIRI Prof Erick Vitus Komba stated confidently at the handover event that "TALIRI is amongst organizations which are responsible in supervising many youth innovation centers."

He observed that, through the robust innovation programmes, the local youth are being equipped with necessary skills in fattening goats, cattle and pastures sourcing, as well as providing them the access to market.

The handed over center, which will from now operate under the shadow of TALIRI, is equipped with key facilities, including one modern office structure, 10 goat sheds, a storage warehouse, a fenced goat holding area, a veterinary isolation shed, as well as small toilet unit and related water supply network.

Others are the abattoir cold rooms, capable of storing 100 goats, 10 fully kitted butcher shops (with fridges and meat cutters) with ancillary facilities (storage rooms, offices, washrooms and meeting room) and cold rooms for the butcher shops capable of storing 200 goats, to mention but a few.

China uses cheap gas, coal to rebuild stocks

BEIJING

CHINA is taking advantage of lower international prices for coal and natural gas to replenish stockpiles of power fuels ahead of another long, hot summer.

Gas imports through the end of April jumped 21 percent from the previous year, while coal purchases climbed 13 percent.

The increase in coal in particular has defied predictions that imports would moderate from last year's record-setting pace, and comes after domestic production posted its first quarterly drop since the third quarter of 2020.

Coal miners are wrestling with heightened scrutiny on safety after a spate of fatal accidents, as well as depleting quality after the rush to expand capacity in recent years. Producers of China's mainstay fuel are also putting limits on output growth as Beijing's deadline to peak coal consumption by 2025 approaches.

That's forcing utilities to lean more heavily on imports, an advantage given relatively lower fuel costs on the global market.

The Japan-Korea marker for liquefied natural gas, Asia's benchmark, averaged just over \$9 per million British thermal units in the first quarter, down from \$18 in the same period in 2023. Newcastle coal futures in major exporter Australia averaged \$127 a ton, from \$236 in the prior year.

Ensuring power supplies has been a priority for policymakers since a series of embarrassing shortages in 2021 and 2022 forced widespread factory shutdowns. Meanwhile, another unusually hot summer in the northern hemisphere is forecast, which is likely to raise demand for air-conditioning in coming months.

Even as China has dramatically ramped up wind and solar in recent years, its power demand, including from electric vehicles, continues to outpace new supply, creating an ever greater need for fossil fuels. This year China's power consumption is expected to increase 8 percent in the first half, with peak demand expected to surpass last year's record by 100 gigawatts

– the equivalent of adding Australia to the grid.

Still, there are signs the country may have reached a tipping point where new clean energy installations are enough to meet additional usage, which will push fossil fuels and their emissions into a long-term decline.

Gas and coal prices have also inched up in recent weeks, leading some gas buyers to offer to resell summer cargoes, suggesting that the surge in imports may cool.

According to International Energy Agency (IEA), global coal production is forecast to have risen by 1.8 percent in 2023, with continued growth in India, China and Indonesia more than offsetting declines in the United States and the European Union.

Thus, 2023 marked another all-time high in global coal production, totaled 8,741 Mt.

Steam coal and lignite account for about 87 percent of global coal production and their growth in production accounts for similar share of the global production increase.

Coking coal accounts for the balance, driven by strong growth in Mongolia. For the forecast period, IEA expects a net reduction in global coal production starting in 2024, which would mean global coal production peaking in 2023 in line with global coal demand.

Ongoing declines in the United States and the European Union are likely to be complemented by reduced production volumes in Indonesia, as Chinese demand for seaborne thermal coal is likely to decrease.

The last bastion of remarkable growth in production is India, serving the growing demand from its power sector. Our model suggests that declines in other countries will more than offset this growth, resulting in global production of 8,394 Mt in 2026.

China is the largest coal-producing country in the world, with production reaching 3,942 million tonnes, a 2.5 percent growth. The country's coal mine production is expected to remain flat, at a CAGR of just 1.1 percent between 2021 and 2025, to reach 4.1 billion tonnes in 2025.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

Putin proposes Belousov as Shoigu's replacement: What is known about cabinet reshuffle

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has proposed appointing Andrey Belousov (pictured), who previously served as the first deputy prime minister, as Russia's new defense minister.

Russia's current defense chief Sergey Shoigu will replace Nikolay Patrushev as the Security Council Secretary.

Other heads of security ministries and services, as well as Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, will retain their posts in the government. The president has also proposed appointing Boris Kovalchuk as the Chairman of the Accounts Chamber. This post has been vacant for one year and a half.

TASS has summed up information about the cabinet reshuffle.

Reshuffle in the Russian Defense Ministry

Sergey Shoigu, who has headed the Russian Defense Ministry since 2012, has been appointed Secretary of the Security Council. Putin has proposed appointing Andrey Belousov as Russia's new defense chief. Belousov earlier served as minister of economic devel-

opment, Russian presidential aide for economic issues and the first deputy prime minister, who oversaw the economic bloc.

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the decision to appoint Belousov as the defense minister is linked to the need of "making the economy of the security bloc part of the country's economy." Now the budget of the defense ministry is nearing the level of the 1980s, "which is not critical but extremely important."

Chief of Russia's General Staff Valery Gerasimov will retain his post, Peskov stressed. Belousov's appointment "will in no way change the current coordinate system" in terms of defense issues, he noted.

Shoigu to replace Patrushev

As the Russian Security Council Secretary, Shoigu will among other issues oversee the work of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, which recently became directly subordinated to the president.

Apart from that, Shoigu will also become the president's deputy in the Military-Industrial Commission. Now Putin



is its chair, while Dmitry Medvedev is his first deputy in this body.

Patrushev was relieved from his duties in connection with his new post, according to the presidential decree. The Kremlin will announce further details about his new position "in the coming few days," Peskov said.

Reappointments

Putin has proposed that the other heads of ministries and agencies of the security and foreign policy bloc should retain their posts. Thus, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Internal Affairs Vladimir Kolokoltsev, Minister of Emergency Situations Alexander Kurenkov and Justice Minister Konstantin Chuychenko will keep performing their duties.

Other officials who will retain their posts are Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service Sergey Naryshkin, the heads of Russia's Federal Security Service and Federal Protective Service, Alexander Bortnikov and Dmitry Kochnev, as well as the head of

National Guard (Rosgvardiya) Viktor Zolotov. Alexander Lints will remain head of the Main Department for the President's Special Programs (he is in charge of developing and implementing the state policy in the field of mobilization issues and planning respective events).

Accounts Chamber

Putin has also proposed appointing Boris Kovalchuk as the Chairman of the Accounts Chamber. This post has been vacant since November 2022 when Alexey Kudrin tendered his resignation. The chairman of the Accounts Chamber is appointed by the Federation Council. Kovalchuk was one of three candidates suggested for the president by Russia's upper house speaker Valentina Matviyenko.

In 2010-2024, Kovalchuk was Chairman of the Board of Inter RAO. In March 2024, he was appointed deputy head of the control directorate in the Russian presidential administration.

Agencies

Guterres urges 'humanitarian ceasefire' in Gaza, release of hostages

NEW YORK

THE United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, said on Sunday that an immediate humanitarian ceasefire is the need of the hour and urged for a "surge" in humanitarian aid to the besieged Gaza Strip, according to The Times of Israel.

"I repeat my call, the world's call, for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, the unconditional release of all hostages, and an immediate surge in humanitarian aid," Guterres said in a video address to an international donors' conference in Kuwait.

"But a ceasefire will only be the start. It will be a long road back from the devastation and trauma of this war," he said.

Calling the Gaza conflict "horrific human suffering," Guterres said that the war has resulted in "devastating lives, tearing families apart, and rendering huge numbers of people homeless, hungry, and traumatised."

He made the remarks at a summit in Kuwait, which was arranged by OCHA, the UN agency responsible for humanitarian coordination, and the International Islamic Charitable Organisation (IICO).

Meanwhile, Israeli strikes in Gaza continued on Sunday after the Israel Defence Forces expanded an evacuation order for Rafah despite international outcry over its military incursion into eastern areas of the city.

In the midst of negotiations through mediators to gain the release of hostages who were kidnapped from Israel during the Hamas October 7 attack, the operation's scope is still restricted.

A vital humanitarian conduit, the Rafah Border Crossing, continues to remain closed.

Egypt is reportedly refusing to work with Israel to arrange the flow of goods into Gaza through the crossing because of Israel's incursion into the city, according to The Times of Israel.

IDF assessments indicate that about 300,000 Palestinians have left Rafah's original evacuation zone and adjacent localities to relocate to a designated "humanitarian zone," the report added.

Israel claims to have prepared to remove civilians from fighting zones, but it maintains that in order to completely destroy Hamas in the enclave, it must take on the organisation's last battalions in Rafah. ANI



International Monetary Fund urges overhaul of Pakistan's tax system

ISLAMABAD

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has urged the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to revoke the discretionary powers held by the Board and the cabinet in granting tax incentives. Additionally, it calls for amendments in tax laws pertaining to NGOs, charitable organisations, and taxed pensioners, Geo News reported.

Concerning pensions, the IMF suggests either taxing pension contributions or benefits. It proposes eliminating the deduction benefit of voluntary payments to workers' participation funds and ceasing the exemption of pensions, advocating for taxation via one of the described alternatives.

Critical discussions between Pakistan and the IMF are set to commence this week, starting on Monday. Pakistan formally seeks a fresh bailout package ranging from USD 6 to USD 8 billion under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), with the potential for augmentation through climate finance, according to the report.

The IMF has outlined a wishlist regarding tax incentives, emphasising that these incentives should only be granted when their economic benefits, such as increased employment and value addition to the economy, outweigh the costs to the budget.

"In the current dire fiscal situation, few, if any, existing incentives would meet that test. Any remaining incentives should be well-designed and cost-based rather than profit-based," stated the IMF to the FBR.

The IMF differentiates between cost-based incentives, like accelerated depreciation and special tax deductions, designed to reduce initial capital costs and encourage new investments, and profit-based incentives, such as tax holidays and preferential tax rates, which are less effective and may only benefit already profitable projects.

Furthermore, the IMF highlights the adverse effects of special tax regimes in the construction sector, advocating for their removal to enhance tax efficiency.

To streamline tax incentives, the IMF suggests eliminating most tax incentives in the Income Tax Ordinance (ITO), retaining only those legally obligated



or deemed necessary for policy reasons. It estimates this action could yield an additional 0.2% of GDP in revenue. In terms of tax administration, the IMF recommends repealing the FBR's discretionary power to grant tax incentives for industrial undertakings and the cabinet's discretionary power to award tax incentives. It proposes augmenting the Tax Expenditure Report with a chapter assessing the costs and benefits of tax incentives.

Future tax incentives, if granted, should be time-bound and subject to regular cost-benefit assessments. If costs outweigh benefits, incentives should be promptly withdrawn or transformed into cost-based incentives.

Additionally, the IMF suggests reforming the minimum tax regime, implementing a half-year rule to limit deductions in the asset's first year of use, and eventually repealing the minimum tax as capacity for Corporate Income Tax (CIT) administration strengthens. Regarding agricultural taxation, the IMF advises

harmonizing tax rates and bases between federal and provincial levels. It recommends phasing out the SME tax framework for the manufacturing sector and subjecting the construction sector to standard income tax regimes.

Charitable donations and non-profit organizations face proposed reforms, with the IMF calling for streamlined rules and the substitution of tax credits for exemptions to enhance regulatory oversight.

"All types of donations and non-profit organizations should be subject to the same rules," asserted the IMF, advocating for the repeal of remaining exemptions and the introduction of tax credits. It also suggests reviewing charitable donations tax credits and eligibility requirements for certain persons, Geo News reported.

ANI

If West wants to solve Ukraine conflict on battlefield, 'so be it', says Lavrov

MOSCOW

IF the West wants to solve the Ukraine conflict on the battlefield, "so be it," Sergey Lavrov, candidate for the post of Russia's foreign minister, told a Federation Council committee meeting discussing his reappointment.

"If they want [to resolve the conflict in Ukraine] on the battlefield, let it be on the battlefield," Lavrov (pictured) said.

He reiterated that Russia was ready to negotiate peace not only in words, but also in deeds. "[During talks] in Istanbul, we indeed were a step away

from signing an initial document to end the special military operation on conditions that Ukrainian sponsors now admit were very beneficial to Ukraine," Lavrov continued. "Our political analysts also say so. And I agree with this," he added.

According to Lavrov, the Istanbul negotiations were Russia's last attempt "to extend trust and show good will, despite multiple past deceits on the part of the West."

"And we were misled again, so they forced us to go fight," he concluded.

Agencies



Biden's ultimatum on Israeli offensive sparks bipartisan backlash on Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden finds himself at the centre of bipartisan criticism from Capitol Hill regarding his recent ultimatum to Israel, warning of a halt in some US weapons shipments in response to a potential major Israeli offensive in Rafah, CNN reported.

In a televised interview with CNN's Erin Burnett, Biden's declaration drew swift rebuke from lawmakers across the political spectrum. Republican Senator JD Vance of Ohio questioned the coherence of Biden's approach, pointing out the contradiction between ex-

pressing concern for Palestinian civilian casualties and withholding weapons designed to minimise such casualties.

"On the one hand, they're saying too many Palestinian civilians have been killed. With the other hand, they're depriving us of the precision-guided weapons that actually cut down on civilian casualties," Republican Senator JD Vance of Ohio told CNN though Biden specifically mentioned withholding bombs and artillery shells deemed by the administration as indiscriminate and imprecise.

"So if you're worried about Palestinian casual-

ties, the stated policy here actually doesn't make a ton of sense," Vance said, as reported by CNN.

The administration's decision extends beyond mere rhetoric, with a review underway regarding the sale or transfer of munitions like Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) kits to Israel. However, these potential transfers remain pending, according to a US official.

Biden's public announcement marks a significant shift in US-Israeli relations since the conflict between Israel and Hamas erupted seven months prior. Despite the administration's assertion that Israel had been

forewarned, the move has stirred controversy, particularly among Republicans.

Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina condemned the ultimatum as detrimental to the US-Israel relationship, urging the administration to maintain weapons shipments and engage in dialogue with Israel. Senator Rick Scott of Florida went further, accusing Biden of aligning with the "pro-Hamas wing" of his party.

Yet, dissent isn't confined to partisan lines. A group of 26 House Democrats, led by Representative Josh Gottheimer of New Jersey, penned a letter expressing

deep concern over the message conveyed by withholding weapons shipments. They called for clarity from the White House on its decision and the timing of aid delivery to Israel.

While some Democrats have defended Biden's stance, highlighting the administration's efforts to prevent civilian casualties, others have criticised the lack of clarity in the messaging. Representative Adam Smith of Washington state clarified that only certain types of weapons, specifically "dumb" bombs, were being withheld due to concerns over their use in densely populated areas like Rafah.

Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut emphasised Biden's attempt to learn from past military campaigns, suggesting that excessive civilian casualties could strengthen Hamas and invite further attacks on Israel and the US.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken echoed concerns over civilian casualties, stating that Israel must do more to minimise harm. He highlighted discrepancies in Israel's application of procedures to mitigate civilian casualties during the ongoing conflict, according to CNN.

The toll of the conflict on Gaza's civilian population has been significant, with

the Ministry of Health reporting a staggering number of casualties. Despite this, a State Department report fell short of officially accusing Israel of violating international humanitarian law, a decision that drew criticism from Democratic Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland.

Van Hollen expressed concern that the report's findings could embolden Netanyahu to continue deadly strikes. He lamented the administration's failure to provide a comprehensive assessment of Israel's actions and their compliance with international law.

ANI

Japan's military needs more women, but it's still failing on harassment

TOKYO

AS Japan embarks on a major military build-up, it's struggling to fill its ranks with the women that its forces need and its policymakers have pledged to recruit.

Following a wave of sexual harassment cases, the number of women applying to join the Self-Defence Forces (SDF) decreased by 12 percent in the year ending March 2023, after several years of steady growth. Some victims have said an entrenched culture of harassment could deter women from signing up.

But nine months after the defense ministry pledged to take drastic measures, it has no plans to take action on a key recommendation issued by an independent panel of experts - implementing a national system for reviewing anti-harassment training standards - according to two ministry officials responsible for training.

The government-appointed panel had identified in a report published in August that the military's superficial harassment education - which made only limited mention of sexual harassment - and a lack of centralized oversight of such training were contributing factors to cultural problems within the institution.

The head of the panel, Makoto Tadaki, said some training sessions - one of which Reuters attended - were at odds with the gravity of the situation.

A servicewoman who is suing the government over an alleged sexual harassment incident also said in an interview that the education she received over the past 10 years was ineffective.

Women make up just 9 percent of military personnel in Japan, compared to 17 percent in the United States, Tokyo's key security ally.

The SDF referred Reuters' questions to the defense ministry, which said in an emailed response that harassment "must never be allowed, as it destroys mutual trust between service members and undermines their strength."

The ministry said it had hosted harassment prevention lectures by external experts since 2023, made sessions more discussion-based and planned to in-



Members of the Japan Self Defense Forces (JSDF) wearing protection gears take part in a civil protection exercise in Tokyo, Jan 15, 2023. AP

invite specialists to review its training this year.

It did not respond to questions on whether it would implement the panel's recommendation to centralize oversight of training.

After ex-soldier Rina Gonoï went public with allegations of sexual assault in 2022, the defense ministry conducted a survey that year that uncovered more than 170 alleged sexual harassment incidents in the SDF.

Another alleged victim was an Okinawa-based servicewoman who accused a senior of making lewd remarks toward her in 2013. She was then publicly named in harassment training materials distributed to her colleagues in 2014, she told Reuters. The alleged perpetrator was not identified in the materials.

Reuters does not name alleged victims of sexual harassment. Her allegations were corroborated with documents in the lawsuit she filed last year, after she said she exhausted an

internal complaints process.

Haphazard training

The defense ministry offers an annual online module on general harassment. It also provides training materials to officers for in-person sessions, but doesn't offer training on delivering harassment education and doesn't track how or when the officers carry out harassment training, the two defence officials said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, justified the existing system as offering flexibility to commanders.

The six experts concluded in their review that existing training amounted to "generic, superficial statements" that were "not effective in helping people apply the training in the real world."

In April, Reuters attended a harassment pre-

vention course delivered by an external instructor to over 100 mid-ranking military officers at a base on the outskirts of Tokyo.

Instructor Keiko Yoshimoto presented harassment as a communication issue and focused discussions on generational differences and how they played out in preferences for types of cars and flavors of crisps.

"Generational differences make it hard for people to communicate," she said, adding that people should understand the basics of communication before they could deal with specifics around sexual harassment.

Law professor Tadaki, who separately witnessed part of Yoshimoto's session, said it "did not feel like the sort of training you would expect against a backdrop of there being so many cases of harassment surfacing."

He added that it would likely take more time to increase oversight over the quality of training.

Two months after the panel issued its report, local media reported that a sailor had in 2022 been ordered against her will to meet a superior that she had accused of sexual harassment. She later quit the SDF.

Gonoï and the Okinawa-based servicewoman have criticized the system as inadequate.

"People would say 'everyone put up with that kind of behavior, it was normal back in our time,' - but these issues are being passed down to my genera-

tion because nothing was done to stop it," the servicewoman told Reuters in March.

She added that the harassment training she has since received was often poorly conducted and that more centralized oversight was needed: "Rather than trying to make a point about sexual harassment, (officers) pick materials that are easy to teach, something that will fit into the time they have."

Fear of complaints

The defense ministry officials said that training on sexual harassment largely takes place within a broader anti-harassment curriculum. At the two-hour training session attended by Reuters, about two minutes were dedicated to sexual harassment.

When Reuters asked about sexual harassment incidents during interviews with the officials, as well as two senior uniformed officers, they responded by speaking about general harassment.

The officials said it was challenging to give standardized training on harassment because service members in high-stress environments may give orders in a direct way that is unusual in other circumstances.

The two officers said there were concerns within the military that too much focus on harassment could create operational issues and one suggested it might lead to unfair complaints.

Agencies

Airtel Africa posts loss of \$89m, blames naira, kwacha devaluation

LAGOS

AIRTEL Africa has posted a loss after tax of \$89 million in the past year as its unimpressive earnings results was primarily impacted by the \$549 million net of tax impact of the exceptional derivative and foreign exchange losses.

In its financial result for the year ended March 31, 2024, the firm said that the loss was specifically due to the Nigerian naira devaluation in June 2023 and quarter 4 of 2024 and the Malawian kwacha devaluation in November 2023.

Despite the challenges, the company has also recorded revenue growth by 19.4 percent in constant currency, driven by voice revenue growth of 11.9 percent and data revenue growth of 29.2 percent.

It has recorded growth of its total customer base by 9.0 percent to 152.7 million with transaction value increasing by 38.2 percent in constant currency with annual transaction value of over \$112 billion in reported currency.

This, according to the company, reflects the enhanced range of offerings and increased cus-

tomers adoption, supporting constant currency ARPU growth of 8.6 percent.

The report stated that continued network investment to support an enhanced customer experience and drive increased 4G coverage, 95 percent of sites now 4G operational, facilitating a 42.3 percent increase in 4G customers over the year.

Revenue in constant currency grew by 20.9 percent with growth accelerating to 23.1 percent in quarter 4. Nigerian constant currency revenue growth accelerated to 34.2 percent in quarter 4 of 2024 despite the challenging backdrop. Reported currency revenues declined by 5.3 percent to \$4,979m reflecting the impact of currency devaluation, particularly in Nigeria.

Across the group mobile services revenue grew by 19.4 percent in constant currency, driven by voice revenue growth of 11.9 percent and data revenue growth of 29.2 percent.

Mobile Money revenue grew by 32.8 percent in constant currency, with a continued strong performance in East Africa.

Basic EPS of negative (4.4 cents) compares to 17.7 cents last year. EPS before exceptional items was 10.1 cents, a decline of 25.9 percent. Both EPS before exceptional items and basic EPS were primarily impacted by significant derivative and foreign exchange losses during the year.

EPS before exceptional items and derivative and foreign exchange losses was 18.3 cents compared to 20.5 cents in the prior period.

Capex was broadly flat at \$737m and was below our guidance largely due to a deferral in data centre investments. In addition, the company invested \$152m in licence renewal and spectrum acquisitions, including \$127m for the Nigerian 3G licence renewal.

Leverage of 1.4x on 31 March, 2024 was flat from the previous year. The firm has around \$680m of cash available at HoldCo, to be

utilized to fully repay the remaining \$550m debt, falling due in May 2024.

The Board has approved a share buyback programme of up to \$100m, over a period of up to 12 months. On 1 March 2024, we announced the commencement of the first tranche of this buyback up to a maximum of \$50m. During March 2024, the company purchased 7.4 million shares for a total consideration of \$9m.

The Board has also recommended a final dividend of 3.57 cents per share, making the total dividend for financial year 2024 to 5.95 cents per share.

Olusegun Ogunsanya, Airtel Africa chief executive officer (CEO) said facilitating this growth has been, and will remain, fundamental to their performance.

"The consistent deployment of our 'Win with' strategy supported the acceleration in constant currency revenue growth over the recent quarters which have reduced the impact of currency headwinds faced across most of our markets.

This strong revenue performance is a reflection not only of the opportunity that is inherent across our markets, but also the resilience of our affordable offerings despite the inflationary pressure many of our customers have experienced," he said.

Furthermore, the firm's rigorous approach to de-risking balance sheet and capital allocation priorities has materially reduced the risks that the currency devaluation has had on the business.

"Key initiatives include the reduction of US dollar debt across the business and the accumulation of cash at the HoldCo level to fully cover the outstanding debt due. We will continue to focus on reducing our exposure to currency volatility.

At the beginning of March, we launched our first buyback programme reflecting the strength of our financial position," he said.

He added the growth opportunity that ex-

ists across the company's markets remains compelling, and that it is well positioned to deliver against this opportunity by focusing on margin improvement from the recent level as we progress through the year.

"Our landmark five-year \$57 million partnership with UNICEF launched across 13 markets providing access to educational resources, free of charge, on our way to transforming the lives of over one million children through digital learning by 2027, we partnered with the government of Rwanda to launch the ConnectRwanda 2.0 initiative which aims to provide more than a million people with affordable smartphones to bridge the digital divide," he asserted.

Agencies

Olusegun Ogunsanya, Airtel Africa chief executive officer (CEO) said facilitating this growth has been, and will remain, fundamental

If West wants to solve Ukraine conflict on battlefield, 'so be it', says Lavrov

MOSCOW

IF the West wants to solve the Ukraine conflict on the battlefield, "so be it," Sergey Lavrov, candidate for the post of Russia's foreign minister, told a Federation Council committee meeting discussing his reappointment.

"If they want [to resolve the conflict in Ukraine] on the battlefield, let it be on the battlefield," Lavrov said.

He reiterated that Russia was ready to negotiate peace not only in words, but also in deeds. "[During talks] in Istanbul, we indeed

were a step away from signing an initial document to end the special military operation on conditions that Ukrainian sponsors now admit were very beneficial to Ukraine," Lavrov continued. "Our political analysts also say so. And I agree with this," he added.

According to Lavrov, the Istanbul negotiations were Russia's last attempt "to extend trust and show good will, despite multiple past deceptions on the part of the West." "And we were misled again, so they forced us to go fight," he concluded.

Agencies

DG DIA DS Rana to visit Tanzania

NEW DELHI

DIRECTOR General Defence Intelligence Agency (DG DIA) Lieutenant General DS Rana has proceeded on an official visit to Tanzania, said the Ministry of Defence.

The aim of this visit, scheduled from 13-15 May 2024, is to further reinforce the robust defence ties between the two nations and discuss opportunities for regional security collaboration.

During his visit, the DG DIA is scheduled to interact with the senior military leadership of Tanzania, including the Chief of Defence Staff of Tanzania People's Defence Force, General Jacob John Mkunda, and his counterpart Maj Gen MN Mkeremy, Chief of Defence Intelligence.

In his visit to the Tanzanian National Defence College, he will discuss India's Security Perspective with future leaders of the TPDF. The meetings will be aimed at fostering mutual understanding and strengthening bilateral defence cooperation.

Lt Gen DS Rana will also inaugurate the newly set up Defence Wing at the High Commission of India, Dar Es Salaam. As a gesture of goodwill towards expanding military cooperation, he will present the TPDF with Indian manufactured Bullet Proof Jackets.

At the Command and Staff College CSC Arusha, the DG DIA will inaugurate the Library and lay the foundation stone for the gymnasium that is being facilitated through the Government of India assistance.

ANI

Emirates Group records full-year profit of AED18.7 billion

DUBAI

THE Emirates Group today released its 2023-24 Annual Report, hitting new record profit, revenue, and cash balance levels. Both Emirates and dnata saw significant profit and revenue increases in 2023-24, as the Group expanded its operations around the world to meet strong customer demand for its high-quality products and services.

For the financial year ended 31st March 2024, the Emirates Group posted a record profit of AED18.7 billion (USD 5.1 billion), up 71 per cent compared with an AED10.9 billion (USD 3.0 billion) profit for last year. The Group's revenue was AED137.3 billion (USD 37.4 billion), an increase of 15 per cent over last year's results.

The Group's cash balance was AED47.1 billion (USD 12.8 billion), the highest ever reported, up 11 per cent from last year.

Combined Group profits for the last 2 years, at AED29.6 billion, surpass pandemic losses of AED25.9 billion during 2020-2022.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates airline and Group, said, "The Emirates Group has once again raised the bar to deliver

a new record performance.

Throughout the year, we saw high demand for air transport and travel related services around the world, and because we were able to move quickly to deliver what customers want, we achieved tremendous results. We are reaping the benefit of years of non-stop investments in our products and services, in building strong partnerships, and in the capabilities of our talented people.

Huge credit is also due to the UAE's visionary leaders, especially Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

It is thanks to their leadership and the nation's progressive policies that the Emirates Group is able to flourish. Both Emirates and dnata have forged successful business models leveraging Dubai's unique advantages, in turn generating enormous value for Dubai and the communities they serve around the world."

Sheikh Ahmed added, "The Group's excellent financial standing today places us in a strong position for future growth and success. It enables us to invest to deliver even better products, services, and more value to our customers and stakeholders."

He said, "We enter our 2024-25 financial year on strong foundations for continued growth. Emirates will receive

delivery of 10 new A350 aircraft in 2024-25, adding to our fleet mix and supporting the next phase of its network growth. dnata will continue to leverage synergies and scale across its business divisions to grow its footprint and capabilities. In tandem, we are investing resources to minimise our environmental impact, develop our people, look after our customers and the communities we serve."

He added, "Looking further ahead, the Dubai government has announced plans to start the next phase of expansion at Al Maktoum International Airport, which will eventually be the new hub for Emirates and dnata's operations.

This AED128 billion (USD 35 billion) investment will significantly expand and enhance Dubai's aviation and logistics infrastructure, supporting the city's growth, and Emirates' and dnata's growth."

Emirates' total passenger and cargo capacity increased by 20 per cent to 57.7 billion ATKMs in 2023-24, recovering to near pre-pandemic levels.

The airline hit a new record profit of AED17.2 billion (USD 4.7 billion) exceeding last year's AED10.6 billion (USD 2.9 billion) result, with an exceptional profit margin of 14.2 per cent, marking it the best performance in the airline's

history.

Emirates carried 51.9 million passengers (up 19 per cent) in 2023-24, with seat capacity up by 21 per cent.

The cargo division reported a solid revenue of AED13.6 billion (USD 3.7 billion), contributing 11 per cent to the airline's total revenue.

At the end of 2023-24, Emirates' SkyCargo's total freighter fleet stood at 11 Boeing 777Fs. The cargo division expects delivery of its 5 additional Boeing 777Fs on order from mid-2024.

Emirates continued to meet all its regular aircraft-related payment obligations and repaid an additional AED2.2 billion (USD 596 million) from the AED17.5 billion (USD 4.8 billion) borrowed during the COVID-19 crisis.

Emirates closed the financial year with its highest-ever level of cash assets at AED42.9 billion (USD 11.7 billion), 15 per cent higher compared to 31st March 2023.

dnata increased its profit by 330 per cent to AED1.4 billion (USD 387 million) in 2023-24, reporting solid results across its business divisions.

dnata's total revenue increased by 29 per cent to hit a new record of AED19.2 billion (USD 5.2 billion), driven by increased flight and travel activity across the world.

ANI

SPORT



Denver Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon (50) dunks during the second half of Game A of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Sunday, May 12, 2024 in Minneapolis. (AP Photo)

Defending champ Nuggets tie Timberwolves with 2nd straight road win, 115-107 in Game 4

MINNEAPOLIS

THE Denver Nuggets were far from done after dropping the first two games of the Western Conference semifinals at home in humbling fashion.

Nikola Jokic scored 16 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter, and Aaron Gordon had 27 points on 11-for-12 shooting to propel the Nuggets to a series-tying 115-107 victory over the Timberwolves on Sunday night in Game 4.

"It's just like a laser-sharp focus," Gordon said, "and a surgical execution."

Jamal Murray had 12 of his 19 points in the third quarter for the defending champion Nuggets in a momentum carryover from his buzzer-beating swish from behind half court, and the Wolves only had the deficit below double digits in the second half for a total of 3:19.

Anthony Edwards scored 44 points in another spectacular performance for Minnesota that set the franchise postseason record, shooting 16 for 25. But despite a 42-31 rebounding edge, the Wolves were beaten at their own game for the second straight time at home.

"Game 2 definitely woke us up," Murray said. "We realized we can't hold ourselves back."

The series goes back to Denver for Game 5 on Tuesday night.

"This is a series. We won two games, but we didn't think it was going to be easy," Edwards said.

Mike Conley had 15 points, Karl-Anthony Towns went just 5 for 18 from the field for 13 points and 12 rebounds, and Rudy Gobert came alive late to score 11 points and grab 14 rebounds. Still, the Wolves were on their heels at home for a second straight game.

The Nuggets scored eight straight points in 20 seconds to close the first half, highlighted

by Murray's improbable heave.

Gordon didn't miss until there was 3:39 to go. Most importantly, he took the lead in hounding Towns and even took some turns trying to slow Edwards.

"The shot-making, the play-making, the physicality, the defense on two All-Stars, so much is being asked of him right now," coach Mike Malone said. "What you love about Aaron Gordon since Day 1, when he put on that Nuggets uniform, it's always been about the Nuggets first. He is truly selfless."

The three off days between Games 2 and 3 did the Wolves no good, yielding a 27-point defeat after which coach Chris Finch declared them feeling "fat and lazy" after all the fawning near and far for their performance in Denver. They needed to reintroduce their edge right away to keep the crowd consistently roaring, and Edwards dutifully led that response.

The 2020 first overall draft pick scored nine points in the first four-plus minutes before Murray even touched the ball, with Gordon and Jokic sharing the point guard duties to reduce the burden on Murray and his strained left calf muscle.

After a quiet Game 3, Edwards was on a mission to will the Wolves to win, as the Nuggets fully expected. Their loading up on him in the lane wasn't enough, as he hit from everywhere on the court, but the rest of the Wolves frequently failed to make the Nuggets pay for leaving them open.

They missed tip-ins at the rim, not just corner 3s. Towns missed his first seven shots, and while his effort and defense never suffered, he was a mess trying to get the ball to the basket, rarely drawing the fouls he argued for.

"It's unfortunate that on Mother's Day I have a shooting performance like that," Towns said. "But it's the way the game goes. It's not a fun game sometimes."

Yanga seemingly coasting to title triumph in a league desperately needing fiercer competition

By Lloyd Elipokea

SINCE time immemorial, there have been two clubs on the local scene who have admirably held sway over domestic football, and these outfits are of course Simba and Young Africans.

Although a few clubs have tried to challenge the supremacy of Simba and Yanga on the local football stage, these two behemoths have managed to successfully resist the exertions of their rivals through the years.

This trend of Simba's and Yanga's near-total dominance has continued into the 21st Century despite the emergence of new sides like Azam FC, who have fruitlessly sought to dislodge the Msimbazi Street side and Young Africans from the pinnacle of local football.

In fact, Yanga, who are the reigning NBC Premier League champions, are attempting to retain the league trophy this season, which just goes to demonstrate this writer's point.

Sadly, things have not panned out as expected for Simba SC this season, who find themselves unhappily sitting in third place, a minuscule one point behind Azam FC, who have amassed 57 points.

It should be noted here that Simba reigned supreme over local football a couple of seasons ago when they outstandingly secured four league trophies in a row.

In the wider context, though, one can vividly see that there is a dire need for stiffer competition in local football's top flight.

Dear Reader, it might occur to you to ask why fiercer competition is so vital to the progress of local football.

Well, you see if there were a bunch of clubs who could potentially end the dominance of Yanga and Simba over local football, then this would automatically bolster the caliber of our national team, the Taifa Stars, as the Stars' tacticians would have a wider array of local clubs from which to select players for national team duty.

Indeed, this would be in stark contrast to the present status quo, where national



Yanga's goal-getter Kennedy Musonda (R) outfoxes Simba SC left-back Mohamed Hussein when the clubs locked horns in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League duel at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on April 20, 2024. Yanga cruised to a 2-1 victory over Simba SC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

team players can only be picked from a handful of the most successful sides in local football's top tier league.

Viewed against this dissatisfying backdrop, then, it is hoped that the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF)'s bigwigs can strain every sinew in an effort to make local football's bread and butter infinitely more competitive.

Let us switch gears now to delve into local basketball where excitement is mounting over this year's Taifa Cup, which is set to tip off on June 19th in the country's capital, Dodoma.

The delayed basketball championship features the country's regions going toe-to-toe with one another in an all-out attempt to garner the coveted piece of silverware.

It is also hoped that the respected competition will provide a fitting stage for the discovery of sparkling young gems in the undeniably entertaining sport.

Importantly, the Taifa Cup will feature both men's and women's categories which is a wholly positive development for the sport.

Thus, as we await the much-anticipated national basketball tournament to tip off, it is hoped that the top echelons of the TFF will also deem it fit to revive football's version of the Taifa Cup for the good of local football.



Serbia's Novak Djokovic reacts during a match against Chile's Alejandro Tabilo at the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome, Sunday May 12, 2024. AP Photo.

Djokovic follows Nadal to early exit at Italian Open in first match after being hit by water bottle

ROME

NOVAK Djokovic's performance was so poor on Sunday that even the 24-time Grand Slam champion admitted it was "concerning."

Djokovic put on one of his worst displays at one of his favorite tournaments as he was upset by 29th-seeded Alejandro Tabilo in the third round of the Italian Open.

It was Djokovic's first match since accidentally getting knocked on the head by a water bottle while signing autographs after his opening win on Friday.

"I managed to sleep okay. I had headaches. The next day

or yesterday was pretty fine, so I thought it's okay. Maybe it is okay. Maybe it's not," Djokovic said.

"I mean, the way I felt on the court today was just completely like a different player entered into my shoes. Just no rhythm, no tempo, no balance whatsoever on any shot. It's a bit concerning."

Djokovic started off with a double-fault and it didn't get much better for the six-time Rome champion.

The top-ranked Djokovic lost his first two service games and went on to lose the match 6-2, 6-3 in just 68 minutes, handing Tabilo the victory when he double-faulted - his

fifth of the match - amid boos at the Foro Italico.

"I'm trying to soak it all in and wake up right now," Tabilo said after the biggest win of his career. "I was just trying to keep my nerves in and keep swinging. Towards the end my arms were getting tired but I was trying not to think about it."

"It's crazy, I just can't believe what's happened. I can't believe it right now. I don't think anyone can believe it."

The third-round loss marked Djokovic's worst performance at the Italian Open. He had lost only once before to an opponent outside the top 10 in Rome, where he

had never gone out before the quarterfinals.

Djokovic followed Rafael Nadal to an early exit after the record 10-time Rome champion lost his third-round match to Hubert Hurkacz 6-1, 6-3 on Saturday.

While Djokovic had said he was "fine" after the water bottle incident, it was an unusually off-key performance from the Serb as he tries to step up his game on clay before attempting to defend his title at the French Open, which starts on May 26.

"I was going for kind of easy training yesterday. I didn't feel anything, but I also didn't feel the same," Djokovic said.

"Today under high stress, it was quite bad - not in terms of pain, but in terms of this balance. Just no coordination. Completely different player from two nights ago ... I don't know. I have to do medical checkups and see what's going on."

Djokovic had 12 unforced errors to Tabilo's four and produced 14 winners to his opponent's 22. It was also a rare occasion when he had zero break point chances.

He was broken four times in the match, including in the final game, and Djokovic could only shake his head when another unforced error handed Tabilo match point.

Djokovic is still without a title this year - the first time he's reached May without a trophy since 2018, when he was returning from a right elbow injury.

Tabilo next faces 16th-seeded Karen Khachanov, who beat Francisco Cerundolo 6-2, 6-4.

Third-seeded Alexander Zverev advanced after the 2017 Rome champion beat Luciano Darderi of Italy 7-6 (3), 6-2. Grigor Dimitrov and Thiago Monteiro also advanced, while Taylor Fritz beat American compatriot Sebastian Korda 6-3, 6-4. Another American, Ben Shelton, lost to Zhang Zhizhen.

In the women's tournament, second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka eased through to the fourth round with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Dayana Yastremska.

American Sofia Kenin, who won the Australian Open in 2020 and also reached the final at Roland Garros the same year, was upset by Slovakian qualifier Rebecca Sramkova 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

American Danielle Collins is safely through after beating Caroline Garcia 6-3, 6-3. Also advancing in third-round matches were Maria Sakkari, Irina-Camelia Begu, Jelena Ostapenko, Victoria Azarenka and Elina Svitolina.

Goodbye goal: Mbappé gets mixed reception from fans in last PSG home game before scoring in 3-1 loss

PARIS

KYLIAN Mbappé got a mixed reception from Paris Saint-Germain fans in his last home game for the club before scoring in a 3-1 home defeat against Toulouse in the French league on Sunday.

Mbappé grabbed his league-leading 27th goal of the season in the eighth minute after sprinting clear and rounding the goalkeeper.

But defensive errors followed as French champion PSG slipped to only its second league defeat of the season, but third straight overall after back-to-back 1-0 losses against Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League semifinals.

As the lineups were announced at Parc des Princes, there were loud jeers from sections of the crowd when Mbappé's name was read out. But shortly after, ultra supporters from the CUP – Paris Ultras Collective – unfurled a banner in his honor behind one of the goals.

It read "Enfant de la Banlieue" (Kid from the Suburbs) in reference to the Parisian suburb of Bondy where Mbappé grew up. They also made a giant tifo in his image, featuring Mbappé in a trademark pose with his arms crossed. Mbappé went over to the fans and applauded.

After the final whistle, fans sang "On est les Champions" (We are the Champions) but did not chant Mbappé's name.

Mbappé publicly confirmed on Friday that he is leaving at the end of the season, having already informed the club in mid-February. He spoke Friday in a video posted on X and not through the club's communications department.

Although he has yet to announce his destination, Mbappé is widely

expected to join 14-time Champions League winner Real Madrid.

Mbappé's early goal was quickly canceled out by Dutch striker Thijs Dallinga following slack defending.

Midway through the second period, PSG's defenders backed off and forward Yann Gboho curled a fine shot into the top right corner. With seconds remaining in stoppage time, striker Frank Magri volleyed in from close range.

"Even though we are champions, we shouldn't lose in this manner," PSG winger Ousmane Dembélé said. "We have to give the best versions of ourselves in every game."

Mbappé has three matches remaining – two league games and the French Cup final against Lyon on May 25 – to add to his club-record tally of 256 goals.

Also on Sunday, Monaco clinched second place with a 2-0 win at Montpellier.

Defender Kassoum Ouatarra and France midfielder Youssouf Fofana grabbed the goals for Monaco, which is six points clear of both third-place Lille and fourth-place Brest.

The top three qualify directly for the Champions League and the fourth-place side enters the qualifying rounds.

Canada striker Jonathan David reached 19 league goals as Lille won 2-1 at Nantes, and veteran forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang netted twice to move onto 16 goals as Marseille won 3-1 at home to Lorient.

Rock-bottom Clermont was relegated after losing 1-0 at home to Lyon. Also, Metz lost 2-1 at Strasbourg, and Rennes drew 1-1 with Lens.

AP

Leverkusen erases memories of last year's loss by beating Bochum 5-0 to extend 50-game unbeaten run

BERLIN

BAYER Leverkusen erased memories of its last defeat almost a year ago by beating Bochum 5-0 away in the Bundesliga to stretch its unbeaten start to the season to 50 games across all competitions.

Sunday's win atoned for Leverkusen's 3-0 loss to Bochum at the same ground on the final day last season. Xabi Alonso's team has not lost any game since – a run that has eclipsed Portuguese club Benfica's record of 48 consecutive games unbeaten in all competitions from late 1963 to early 1965.

No other top-flight European team remained unbeaten for as long as Leverkusen, which has already wrapped up its first Bundesliga title and will play in both the German Cup and Europa League finals.

"I think already the Bundesliga – you can't imagine how much that means for the club or the fans," Leverkusen midfielder Robert Andrich said. "We'll lift the trophy next week in our stadium. It's going to be very emotional. And then we go to Dublin and we go to Berlin. We want to get two titles there and then go on vacation with the triple in our backpack."

Leverkusen faces Italian team Atalanta in the Europa League final in Dublin on May 22, three days before it plays Kaiserslautern in the German Cup final in Berlin.

Bochum made an encouraging start Sunday but was undone by Felix Passlack's sending off in the 15th minute for bringing down Nathan Tella, who was through on goal.

Arthur crossed for Patrik Schick to open the scoring in the 41st and there was still time before the break for Victor Boniface to tuck away a penalty awarded for Keven Schlotterbeck's foul on Tella.

A young Bochum supporter in the stands struggled to contain his tears. The home team needed a point to be sure of Bundesliga survival. Leverkusen controlled the game without too much exertion. Amine Adli scored, then set up the next for Josip Stanišić, who set up the next for Álex Grimaldo.

Leverkusen took its league tally to 87 points with one round remaining, while Bochum remains three points above the relegation zone before its final game at Werder Bremen next weekend.

TUCHEL'S FAREWELL

Lovro Zvonarek scored minutes into his first Bundesliga start to help injury-hit Bayern Munich beat Wolfsburg 2-0 in Thomas Tuchel's last home game in charge.

The 19-year-old Zvonarek fired in for Bayern off the far post in the fourth minute, and Leon Goretzka grabbed the second goal nine minutes later.

Bayern threatened to run riot despite the absence of injured forwards Harry Kane, Jamal Musiala, Leroy Sané, Serge Gnabry and Kingsley Coman. Wolfsburg's defense regrouped as Bayern's intensity dropped.

Tuchel, who agreed in February to leave after the season, was able to take off goalkeeper Manuel Neuer with some 15 minutes remaining. Neuer was making his 500th Bundesliga appearance.

Swedish defender Matteo Vinčić went on at the same time for his Bayern debut, and Zvonarek went off in the 90th for the 18-year-old Jonathan Asp-Jensen to make his debut.

Hoffenheim routed relegated Darmstadt 6-0 in the early game. St. Pauli clinched promotion from the second division.

AP

Arsenal's tense victory sets up complicated conclusion to Premier League title race

By Miguel Delaney

IN having done the bare minimum here, Arsenal have so far done all they can in the title race. It was not pretty, but it will now mean potential drama on the last day. That's at least what Mikel Arteta's side have taken the title race to, with this grind of a 1-0 victory over Manchester United now meaning Manchester City have to win at Tottenham Hotspur on Tuesday. That game and the final week is now about with complicated storylines, which is why Arteta had to keep it as simple as possible.

The relief could be felt when David Raya caught a late cross by Alejandro Garnacho. Arsenal had not exactly been firing, and it said much the only goal came through Casemiro's laxness rather than any lightning play. That doesn't matter at this point. Leandro Trossard was there again, and Arsenal are there on the final day. It was just about getting through. If Arsenal didn't look at their best, mind, the reality was United never looked like scoring. They just didn't have it in them, despite a broader improvement in performance.

You could draw all sorts of metaphors from the way a diluvian rainstorm started the second the game finished, as United trudged off.

Erik Ten Hag had been so conscious of the criticism that inevitably came after Crystal Palace, that some at the club felt there was a greater focus to the preparation. It is probably not coincidence that United conceded their lowest number of shots in months. Arsenal didn't even get close to 20. United again looked much closer to the team that Ten Hag wants – if with a few glaring gaps. One was in that chasm of space left by Casemiro to play Arsenal's entire attack inside for Trossard's goal.

It is genuinely impossible to work out what a player of such experience was doing, or even thinking. The Brazilian was ambling around the United



Arsenal's Leandro Trossard, centre, scores his side's opening goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Arsenal at the Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester, England, Sunday, May 12, 2024. AP Photo

area as if looking for a tennis ball he'd lost when walking the dog last week. It was remarkable.

While it was difficult for the eye not to be drawn to Casemiro, looking at Jonny Evans was almost as amazing. That isn't to say the central defender was any way at fault. Quite the opposite.

Evans had been dutifully getting the team to push up while making sure Sofyan Amrabat was picking someone up. He wouldn't have expected to also corral his centre-half partner into doing the very basics of the position but then he didn't have an actual centre-half beside him. Literally or figuratively. Evans looked across to empty space. From that, Arsenal claimed a hold of Andre Onana's ball up, Kai Havertz squared and Trossard finished easily.

It was Arsenal's best chance for almost 80 minutes of the match.

They hadn't actually been that convincing, which was one reason United didn't concede as many shots. One

reading of that is that Arteta purposely played conservatively in order to just get the job done here at a stadium with a lot of emotional baggage with the club. That still might have influenced the fact Arsenal were unusually error-prone. They weren't really shutting this down. In moments where they tried to alleviate pressure and work the ball up the pitch, even Bukayo Saka was playing the ball straight to United players. In one attack, Martin Odegaard had to do a complete 360 because no option presented itself.

There was probably a goal there for United, if they could just focus. They weren't exactly clinical, though. Too many counters or shots were just off. A tone had seemed to be set when Rasmus Hojlund fell backwards and skied the ball with their first proper attack of the game. Garnacho was a constant danger but that usually involved being led into corners.

William Saliba and Gabriel, for their part, were again superb. There were so

many moments when United looked like they might force an opening in the box, only for one of the centre-halves to get a vital touch.

A sign of the game's psychology was in Arsenal regularly just opting to boot the ball clear. No playing it out there.

That wasn't down to United's threat, of course, but more the consequences of what might happen with any bad bounce.

It was getting that tense. That was only compounded when Onana made two fine saves after the 80th minute, both from headers from set-pieces. That has been Arsenal's great strength this season, and it looked like something United were at least alert to.

They couldn't raise it any more. Arsenal did enough – at least until next Sunday. They had to fight until the last moment here, and it means they fight until the last day.

THE INDEPENDENT

Kylian Mbappé's relationship with PSG ending on a sour note after starting amid fanfare

PARIS

KYLIAN Mbappé's relationship with Paris Saint-Germain started with great fanfare but is ending amid ongoing tensions and without a Champions League trophy.

Mbappé joined as a teenage phenom from Monaco in 2017 in a deal worth 180 million euros (\$194 million). On Sunday, the 25-year-old superstar played his last home game for PSG and scored in a 3-1 loss to Toulouse.

He was loudly jeered by sections of the crowd at Parc des Princes when his name was announced – two days after finally making it official he is leaving – though Mbappé got a warmer welcome from other PSG fans.

As the soccer world discussed his imminent departure on Friday, French champion PSG did not comment on the matter.

The late-evening announcement by Mbappé may have taken PSG by surprise since it was in a video posted on X, and not through the club's communication department.

Between then and the Sunday night kickoff, there were more than 20 posts on PSG's official feed on X.

Those included an exclusive look at next season's home strip, an item on a betting site, a clip of PSG's women's team reaching the French Cup final, and kickoff times for the match in different parts of the world – but nothing on Mbappé.

No tribute was paid to him by the club during Sunday's game, either, albeit not the last match of the season.

It was left to the ultra supporters from the CUP, or Paris Ultras Collective, to honor him with a banner and a giant tifo in his image.

The fracture between the cash-rich Qatari-owned club and its 256-goal record scorer appears to run deep.

Here's a look at how relations deteriorated.

NEW CONTRACT

PSG may be feeling let down by Mbappé after offering him the most lucrative contract in the club's his-



Kylian Mbappé

tory when he signed a new contract in 2022. But Mbappé was frustrated because he felt promises to sign key players – notably a top-class center forward like Robert Lewandowski so he could play in his favored position wide left – were not kept.

When he signed the new deal, he was paraded in front of fans holding up a jersey with 2025 on it. Mbappé was reportedly annoyed about this, because the contract was until 2024 with the option for an extra year.

OFFER DECLINED

Mbappé stunned PSG in June last year by informing the club he would not take the option for an extra year. With his contract effectively into its final year, it put PSG in the position of needing to sell Mbappé

to avoid losing him for free when the contract expired.

PSG insisted he would be sold but Mbappé wanted to see out the final year, so the club flexed its muscle by leaving him out of the pre-season tour to Japan in late July.

Al-Hilal came in with a world record \$332 million bid, but Mbappé was not interested and reportedly refused to meet with representatives from the Saudi club in Paris.

FALLOUT AND TENSIONS

After being left out of the pre-season tour, Mbappé posted a photo of himself online after training with some fringe players, stopping to sign autographs outside the club's training complex. The standoff continued when Mbappé was dropped

for this season's opening league game, watching from the stands as PSG drew 0-0.

With Lionel Messi gone and Neymar on his way to join Saudi club Al-Hilal, PSG coach Luis Enrique simply could not afford to keep overlooking Mbappé. He returned in the next league game and scored a penalty.

TIME TO LEAVE

Relations appeared to be repaired for a while, but they took another turn for the worse when Mbappé informed club president Nasser Al-Khelaifi in mid-February that he was leaving, although he did not go public until Friday.

In between times, Mbappé's relationship with Enrique – knowing his best player would be leaving – reportedly became more tense.

Enrique showed his authority in recent weeks by either putting Mbappé on the bench or taking him off during important games.

LOWER STATUS

Mbappé's near-untouchable status at PSG was suddenly in question.

When Enrique replaced him midway through the second half against bitter rival Marseille on March 31, a surprised Mbappé appeared to mutter something negative as he walked off.

Enrique said he was rotating Mbappé to keep him fresher for the bigger games. They jumped into each other's arms after PSG knocked Barcelona out of the Champions League quarterfinals, with Mbappé scoring twice in the second leg. AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Arsenal's tense victory sets up complicated conclusion to Premier League title race

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Dar es Salaam Soccer Academy (DSA) striker Kassim Abdul (L) negotiates his way past Jakaya M. Kikwete Sports Center (JMKYP) defender Mohamed Abdallah during a friendly match held at the Jakaya Kikwete grounds in Dar es Salaam recently. DSA won 1-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Tembo Warriors to leave for AAFCON tomorrow

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE national amputee football team (Tembo Warriors) is expected to fly tomorrow to Cairo, Egypt where it will compete in this year's edition of the African Amputee Football Cup of Nations (AAFCON).

Zaharani Mwenyemti, who is the team's manager, said Tembo Warriors will be flagged off today by the National Sports Council (NSC) officials in Dar es Salaam.

He said all preparations for the team's trip are over and he is confident the team will do well at the Championship.

"All is set for Tembo Warriors trip to Cairo for the AAFCON finals, which are slated to kick off this weekend to end of the month. We are confident the team will do well at the Championship," he said.

The team has been attending residential trainings in Arusha for more than one month and this is the third time that the country is competing in the AAFCON finals which are organized by Confederation of African Amputee Football (CAAF).

The first time was in 2019 and the following year (2020) when the finals were hosted by Angola.

In the two finals the national amputee team, which is known as Tembo Warriors, finished in the fourth position.

Players making the team are Bashara Alombile, Hassan Ame, Ali Abdallah, Abdul Amiri, Anthony Manumbu, Richard Swai, Alifack Msomi, Juma Kidevu and Emmanuel Nakaru.

Others are Saleh Mwipi, Kassim Mbaruku, Salimu Bakari, Rodgers Kadala, Akhafan Kiyanga and Frank Ngairo.

The technical panel is made of Salvatory Edward as head coach, Khalfan Mbonde, who doubles as assistant head coach and goalkeepers' trainer, Robert Manyere is the technical director, team doctor is Abdallah Suleiman and Zaharani, who is the team manager.

Leaders who will accompany the team to Cairo are Tanzania Amputee Football Federation (TAFF) president Vincent Kaduma, his vice Athuman Lubandama and secretary general Idd Lulinda.

The finals will be used as 2026 World Cup qualifiers and have attracted 19 African teams and the draw will be made today.

Meanwhile, Mwenyemti hailed the government for its full support of amputee football in the country and promised that Tembo Warriors will fight for honors at the finals.

He said this upcoming tournament will be another important milestone to showcase the excellence of our players to the fans and the society in Africa and the world.

“

All is set for Tembo Warriors trip to Cairo for the AAFCON finals, which are slated to kick off this weekend to end of the month. We are confident the team will do well at the Championship,

Guardiola warns Man City will lose the Premier League title if it fails to win at Tottenham

MANCHESTER

PEP Guardiola ramped up the pressure on his players ahead of Manchester City's clash with Tottenham today.

With two games to go in the Premier League season, defending champion City needs to pick up maximum points to be certain of winning the title. And with rival Arsenal leading the standings by a point, having played a game more, Guardiola left his players in no doubt about what is required to win a record fourth-straight title.

"It's obvious. We have just one option: win the game. We travel for that," he said at a news conference Monday. "The mindset is easy because if we don't win, we don't win the Premier League."

The title race will go down to the last day of the season after Arsenal beat Manchester United 1-0 on Sunday to move above City at the top of the standings.

But City will be in control of its own destiny and move two points clear at the top if it wins at Tottenham on Tuesday.

City has lost its last four Premier League visits to the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, but is unbeaten in the league since December and has won its last seven games in the top flight.

Meanwhile, Bournemouth manager Andoni Iraola has signed a new contract through to the end of the 2026 season, the Premier League club said Monday.

The Spaniard signed a two-year deal when he was hired last summer and has gone on to lead Bournemouth to its highest points total in the Premier League with a game still to go.

"For me, it is a matter of renewing the confidence from both sides," Iraola said. "We have had a good experience with our first season together in the Premier League, and I am happy that both sides want to continue the relationship further."

Iraola replaced former manager Gary O'Neil last June and preserved the club's topflight status despite failing to win any of his first nine league games in charge.

Bournemouth is 11th in the standings on 48 points. It's previous highest total was 46 in 2016-17 under former manager Eddie Howe.

"I'm proud that we achieved the points record. We are playing in a difficult competition, with very good opposition," Iraola said. "The season started slowly, but I think we improved a lot and are playing in the right way."

AP

Coastal Union gears up for high-stakes encounter against Geita Gold



Yanga midfielder Maxi Nzengeli (L) races past Coastal Union's Shedrack Mulungwe (C) and Daudi Semfuko when the sides met in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League match in Dar es Salaam last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN what promises to be a thrilling showdown, Coastal Union Football Club is preparing to face off against Geita Gold FC in a crucial NBC Premier League match slated for 4:0 PM EAT today.

Coastal Union is brimming with confidence following their earlier 3-1 victory against Geita Gold at their home ground, Mkwakwani Stadium, Tanga, in the first round of this season.

However, Geita Gold FC is eager to turn the tables and seek redemption in today's clash.

Reflecting on the significance of the upcoming match, Coastal Union coach David Ouma emphasized: "The league is getting tough, especially in this second round. We are aiming to secure a top-four finish, and I believe in my players' capabilities to make it happen."

Ouma's strategic prowess and dedication to enhancing the team's tactical and technical abilities have been instrumental in Coastal Union's recent successes.

Taking over coaching duties

from Mwinyi Zahera last November, Ouma has wasted no time in making his mark on the team. Under his guidance, Coastal Union has witnessed a remarkable transformation, with Ouma steering the team to five consecutive victories out of the 17 matches he has led them in.

His focus on individual player development and innovative tactics has propelled Coastal Union into contention for a coveted top-four finish.

Despite initial skepticism, Coastal Union has defied expectations and emerged as formidable contenders for the top spots in the league.

While Singida Fountain Gate was widely tipped for success due to their roster of foreign talent and previous season's performance, Coastal Union's consistent performance this season has been nothing short of impressive.

Heading into today's match, Coastal Union has played 26 NBC Premier League fixtures, securing 10 wins, seven draws, and nine losses. Notably, they boast the second-best defensive record of the season, conceding only 18 goals, trailing behind Young Africans SC, who have conceded just 12 goals.

With only a few matches left in the season, Coastal Union understands the impor-

tance of securing a victory against Geita Gold FC to solidify their position in the top four. Their upcoming matches against Kagera Sugar, JKT Tanzania, and KMC will also be crucial in determining their final standing.

Meanwhile, Geita Gold FC finds themselves embroiled in a battle to avoid relegation, currently sitting in the 15th position.

With just five wins, nine draws, and 12 losses in 26 matches, they face an uphill struggle to retain their position in the top flight. Having conceded 30 goals so far, their defensive vulnerabilities pose a significant challenge in their fight against relegation.

As the two teams prepare to clash on the field, it's not just another ordinary match. For Coastal Union, it's a quest for a top-four finish and the opportunity to etch their names in the annals of NBC Premier League history.

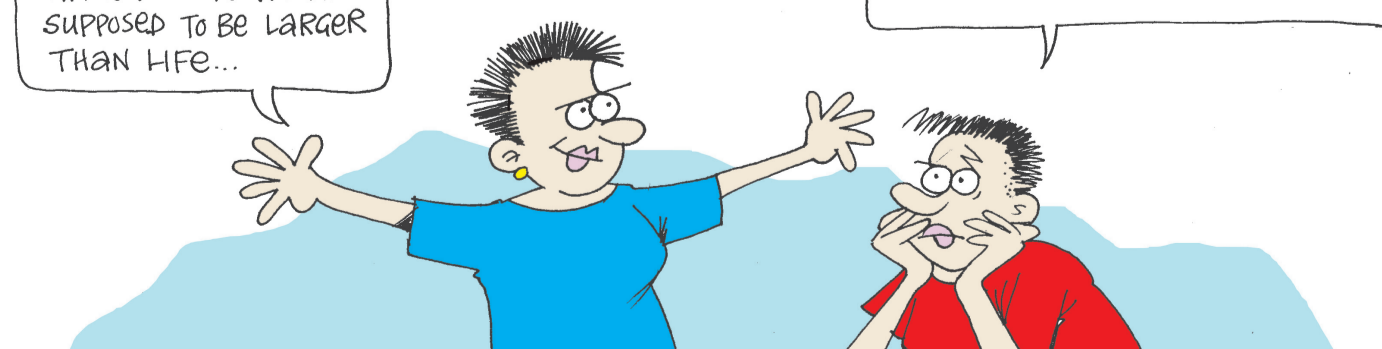
Meanwhile, for Geita Gold FC, it's a battle for survival, as they strive to avoid the dreaded drop to the NBC Championship League next season.

With so much at stake, football fans can expect nothing short of an electrifying encounter as these two teams vie for victory and their respective objectives in the league.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE LARGER THAN LIFE...

...as HOW THEY ARE 'SEEN ON TV'?



EATV TUESDAY

MJADALA

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 SSPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and; is keen to share, engage and participate in the shapping process.

eastafRICA RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM