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Ministry mulling child phone cards to prevent online abuses

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government is holding inter-ministerial talks to introduce a mandatory, specialized child SIM card innovation to protect minors from online abuse, cyberbullying and damaging digital content.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister, aired this intention when presenting 108.02bn/- budget estimates for fiscal 2026/27.

The planned cyber security intervention targets rapid smartphone use among adolescents, which threatens youth mental health, thus the ministry is working with the Communication and Information Technology docket and the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) to develop the cellular platform, she stated.

The proposed specialised needs to feature network-level content filters to automatically block inappropriate materials, backed by a nationwide digital literacy campaign for parents and teachers, she explained.

Available data shows that 67 per cent of children aged 12 to 17 use smartphones, severely increasing their exposure to cyber predators and psychological distress, she said.

Achieving Vision 2050 requires a disciplined, resilient generation which is being forestalled owing to a decline in traditional parenting, with domestic violence, drug abuse and teenage pregnancies increasingly being normalised in the public eye, she stated.

"What is alarming is not merely the existence of these challenges, but when society begins to regard them as normal. That is precisely when a nation starts losing its moral direction."

To counter this, the ministry is pursuing structural reforms to restore the central role of the family, emphasizing physical parental guidance over screen isolation, she stated.

Citing a World Health Organization study showing that 25 out of 100 people globally experience mental health challenges, she urged the creation of school-based support networks.

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Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima tables her ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 21026/2027 in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

'Don't replace hypertension medication with raw garlic'

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

A cardiology specialist has issued a sharp reminder to those living with hypertension to avoid combining or replacing certified medical treatments with raw garlic consumption based on the unverified belief that it functions as a cure.

Dr Samuel Rweyemamu, a cardiologist at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac

You find someone whose blood pressure is dangerously high, they are taking prescribed medication and then they decide to stop and start using garlic instead. Later, they come ...

Institute (JKCI) Dar Group Hospital, has raised the concern during an online medical broadcast, cautioning that there is currently no scientifically proven evidence that garlic can replace medically approved drugs in controlling high blood pressure.

Urging diagnosed patients to strictly adhere to treatments that are nationally and internationally recognized by

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Gamondi sharpens Taifa Stars for crucial East African derbies

Vision 2050: Investments growth facility set to seek out private capital

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

TANZANIA is working on the formalisation of its position as an investment hub with the launch of the Tanzania Investment Growth Facility (TIGF).

Angellah Kairuki, the Information and Communication Technology minister unveiled the facility here yesterday, affirming that it is an investment facilitation platform engineered to turn public priorities into bankable assets.

The framework is meant to bridge the critical structural gap between prospective international financiers and under-capitalised domestic developments, she stated, addressing an international delegation of financiers and policy experts.

Alternative funding mechanisms have

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"We don't need to have deep pockets or be rich to help the needy, the poor and the hungry. We need to have a heart." Whoever it is that said this put it excellently. But then, how often is the appeal inherent in the terse saying heeded? Roving correspondent Imani Nathanaeli captured this scene - of a fruit vendor having a nap - along Dar es Salaam city's Biti Titi Mohamed Road yesterday afternoon.

Milk output reaches 4.22bn litres as state fuels dairy sector upsurge

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke, Iringa

GROSS milk production has increased to 4.22bn litres during fiscal 2025/26, from the 4.01bn litres recorded in the previous fiscal cycle.

Dr Bashiru Ally, the Livestock and Fisheries minister, made this observation here over the weekend when opening the 29th national milk week events, underlining that the upward trajectory reflects sustained structural expansion in the dairy industry, driven by targeted state-backed genetics, marketing and processing interventions.

He urged dairy sector actors to formalise their operations, safeguard consumer health

The 10-year initiative, running from 2024 to 2034, is a joint multi-million-dollar venture between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the government, designed to build rural economic resilience through sustainable dairy value chain transformation, he said.

while boosting household in-

comes to maximize the sector's contribution to the national economy.

Milk supply growth is linked with aggressive government campaigns aimed at upgrading herd genetics and equipping smallholders with modern, climate-smart cattle husbandry techniques, he said.

The total number of improved dairy cattle grew from 1.4m to 1.5m head over the past year, providing a larger, high-yielding livestock base for the country's commercial milk supply.

The state's livestock formalisation strategy has catalysed significant private capital inflows into midstream processing infrastructure, with the

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