

TANZANIA

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FEBRUARY-APRIL, 2025 | ISSUE NO. 003 | FREE COPY



SERENGETI'S GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION REACHES EXCITING 42% MILESTONE

MIKUMI NATIONAL PARK RISES TO BECOME NEW SPORTS TOURISM FRONTIER



MADINA IDDI IN HIGH GEAR

TPDF SHINES AT 15TH WORLD MILITARY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

GOLF ON FOOTBALL PITCHES TO INSPIRE JUNIOR PLAYERS

NIGHT GOLFING LIGHTS UP MOROGORO GYMKHANA

THE PREMIER LEAGUE STAR WHO BECAME A GOLF PRO



Mikumi National Park

rises to become new sports tourism frontier

By Catherine Mbena

The vibrancy of Tanzania stretches beyond its world-renowned wildlife safaris, daunting mountain climbing adventures and pristine beaches. For years, these facets of Tanzanian tourism have captivated the hearts of global adventurers. Yet, the nation holds an untapped potential that promises to transform its tourism landscape—sports tourism.

In recent times, visitors seeking more than wildlife safaris, mountain climbing and beach escapades have often overlooked Tanzania.

However, the tides are turning. After a decade of meticulous planning, relentless hard work and significant investment, a new chapter in Tanzania's tourism story is unfolding, right within Mikumi National Park in the Southern Tourism Circuit.

“Sports tourism is our next frontier,”

announced Tanzania Conservation Commissioner, Juma Kuji.

The commissioner has spearheaded the initiative to develop sports infrastructure within Mikumi National Park—a project that is already showcasing gratifying results.

The park, famous for its rich wildlife and scenic vistas, is now a sanctuary for sports enthusiasts who desire to combine their love for games with the thrill of the wild.

Mikumi's pristine pitches and courts have begun to attract athletes and fans alike, generating substantial revenue and diversifying tourism opportunities. Tourists from across the globe, less interested in traditional game drives, are starting to flock to Tanzania for an entirely new type of adventure.

Kuji highlights a landmark event that put sports tourism on the map: The visit of the USA's Pensacola Christian

College soccer team. The team travelled to Mikumi National Park, not only to play an exciting friendly match with local players but also to immerse themselves in the stunning natural beauty of the park. The match unfolded against the backdrop of wild landscapes and roaming wildlife, offering an unparalleled experience that blended sports and nature.

Furthermore, Tanzania's premier football club, Simba Sports Club—ranked the sixth-best team in Africa—chose Mikumi as the stage to unveil its prestigious 2024 kits. This event drew thousands of fans from Dar es Salaam and other parts of the country, transforming the park into an electrifying hub of sports excitement and wildlife appreciation.

The unveiling illustrated the park's potential to cater to massive sporting events, showcasing a blend of natural splendor and athletic spirit.

The year-long span from August 2023 to July 2024 saw a remarkable influx of sports tourists to Mikumi, with official records noting an impressive 2,142 sports visitors. The development underscores the growing allure of this unique tourism product.

“Athletes and sports aficionados from around the world are discovering that Tanzania offers more than just traditional safari adventures,” Kuji remarked, his voice filled with undeniable pride and optimism.

The commissioner conveyed that this innovative approach to tourism is not only broadening Tanzania's appeal but also fostering sustainable economic growth and development within local communities.

In coupling the inherent natural beauty of Tanzania with invigorating sports activities, sports tourism is

paving the way for a promising new future. It offers a dual experience that captivates the senses and enriches the soul, providing both thrill-seekers and sports enthusiasts with an unforgettable journey through the heart of Africa.

Thus, as Tanzania ventures into this new tourism frontier, it beckons global travellers to embrace its diversified offerings, where every visit promises the excitement of sports set against the majestic allure of the wild. In doing so, Tanzania is not only redefining its tourism narrative but also solidifying its place on the global map as a premier destination for sports and adventure alike.

Hives of activities in Mikumi National Park

Since August 6, 2023, Mikumi National Park has become a hub of vibrant activity, hosting a series of events that have drawn over 2,000 visitors.

The festivities kicked off with a spiritual gathering that saw around 400 followers from the Moravian Tanzania Church, accompanied by devotees from other denominations, come together to celebrate the Power of Prayer and Tourism festival.

It was a day filled with uplifting gospel music, as several gospel groups delivered soul-stirring performances.

The event not only lifted spirits but also raised funds for the construction of

Pensacola Christian College Students, from the United States of America engaged in a football match inside the Mikumi National Park shortly after undertaking a game drive through during which they managed to see the big-four animals.



a Moravian Church within Mikumi.

As the year drew to a close, the park continued to be a beacon of celebration.

On the eve of December 31, 2023, the park was a flurry of excitement with a New Year's Eve festival.

The air was thick with joy as about 450 revellers gathered to watch traditional dances and listen to a series of compelling speeches that echoed hope and new beginnings.

But Mikumi's embrace of community didn't stop there. In June, the park transformed its savannah into a football field for two major matches that further energised the locale.

About 200 fans came to support their beloved Simba and Yanga veteran teams, cheering vehemently as the Yanga Veterans clinched a 2-0 victory.

The second match saw the Sokoine University of Agriculture students pitted against university staff in a friendly game that fostered camaraderie among the participants.

The following month, the park welcomed over 670 ardent supporters of one of Africa's foremost football clubs, Simba Sports.

These fans ventured deep into the wilderness to launch the latest kits for their team's jerseys, an event watched with curiosity by Mikumi's own lions, the park's majestic namesakes.

Rounding off the series of events was an international affair.

Mikumi's home team faced off against Pensacola Christian College from the United States in a spirited charity match.

Even with a modest crowd of about 70 fans, the game was intensely competitive, culminating in a 1-0 victory for the local team.

These events have not only highlighted the versatility of Mikumi National Park but have also transformed it into a hotspot for community engagement, cultural exchanges and sporting events, enriching the lives of all who have participated.



SCO David Kadomo - TANAPA (right) hands a ball to Rev. Jerry Wyatt during a friendly match between the students of Pensacola Christian College from USA and the team of Mikumi National Park's staff, the match was played in the Park.



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By Staff Reporter

EDITOR'S NOTE

Celebrating remarkable achievements of female golfers

It is with great excitement and pride that we present to you the Third Issue of Royal Golf Magazine. This magazine is a celebration of the vibrant and growing golf community in our beautiful country. Whether you are a seasoned golfer, a newcomer to the sport, or simply an enthusiast, we aim to provide you with engaging content that inspires and informs.

In this issue, we highlight some of the remarkable achievements in Tanzanian golf, including the recent triumphs of our talented female golfers on the international stage. Their dedication and success are a testament to the potential and passion that exists within our golfing community.

Indeed, Madina Idd has been riding high this year and recently she achieved a significant milestone with her victory at the Uganda Ladies Open, held at Entebbe Club from August 22 to 24. Madina, who also won the UGC Ladies Open and the Zambia Ladies Open earlier this year, secured the title with a three-day total of 228. This victory marked her first Uganda Ladies Open title after finishing second last year.

The tournament featured golfers from various countries, including

Ghana, Japan, Burundi and Uganda. Other Tanzanian golfers also performed well, with Yasmin Chali winning the Guest prize in the Bronze Category, Hawa Wanyeche finishing second and Neema Olomi third.

Former Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports, Damas Ndumbaro, commended Madina and her fellow golfers on their achievements and announced plans to bring in a competent golf coach to further develop domestic female golfers!

We also bring you exclusive interviews, expert tips and in-depth features on the best golf courses in Tanzania. Our goal is to not only showcase the sport but also to foster a sense of community among golfers of all levels.

Having embarked on this exciting journey together, we once again invite you to join us in celebrating the sport we love. Your feedback and participation are invaluable as we strive to make Royal Golf Tanzania a magazine that truly reflects the spirit and enthusiasm of our readers and stakeholders.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to sharing many more stories and successes with you in the issues to come.

Happy golfing!

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GRATITUDE FOR OUR VALUABLE PARTNERS

Unwavering support and collaboration have been instrumental in the success of our inaugural magazine. We deeply appreciate your trust and partnership!



Madina Iddi in high gear

By Staff Reporter

Tanzania women's golf has achieved another significant milestone with Madina Iddi's victory at last year's Uganda Ladies Open, held at Entebbe Club from August 22 to 24.

Madina added the Uganda Ladies Open title to her recent wins at the UGC Ladies Open and the Zambia Ladies Open, which she claimed in Lusaka in June.

The three-round tournament, supervised by the Uganda Ladies Golf Union (ULGU), featured female golfers from Ghana, Japan, Burundi, and the host nation, Uganda.

Playing off a handicap of 0.6, Madina delivered an impressive three-day total of 228, scoring six-over-par 78 in the opening round, followed by 76 and 74 in the subsequent rounds to secure the overall title.

This victory marks Madina's first Uganda Ladies Open title. Last year's edition, held in October; saw her finish in second place, narrowly losing to Peace Kabasweka by a single shot.

Madina expressed her joy, noting that this triumph was particularly meaningful, as she had been striving for this success for a long time. She recalled her previous struggles in the Uganda Ladies Open, including previous close defeat.

"God was waiting for the right moment to bless me and He has done so," the soft-spoken Madina revealed.

She highlighted that putting was her

biggest challenge during the tournament, especially on the opening day. However, her putting improved significantly on the second and final days, contributing to her victory.

Madina believes her success will positively impact efforts to elevate women's golf standards in Tanzania. She encouraged women to take up golf, emphasising its physical and mental benefits.

She acknowledged tough competition from Ugandan Martha Babirye and fellow Tanzanians Hawa Wanyeché and Neema Olomi, whom she faced during the final two days of the tournament.

Six other Tanzanian golfers also competed in last year's Uganda Ladies Open. Yasmin Chali won the Guest prize in the Bronze Category, while Hawa Wanyeché secured second place with a three-day total of 230. Neema Olomi finished third with a total of 232.

Ugandan golfer Martha Babirye prevented a Tanzanian sweep of the top four spots by finishing fourth, while Tanzania's Aalaa Somji rounded out the top five with an aggregate score of 238.

The Uganda Open Golf Championship commenced on August 22, featuring competitors in the Ladies Open and



Seniors Open at Entebbe Club.

Ugandan golfer Sam Muwanga commented after the event, "We will get there! Baby steps... we need to grow the sport... quality games... good sponsorship will make this happen! Thank you for the challenge."

He pointed out, "You are already there. You are better than you think. The quality and depth of ladies' golf in Tanzania is unparalleled."

The golfer added, "Compile the achievements of Angel Eaton, now a professional golfer, Madina, Hawa and Neema Olomi on the continent and see. It is time to up our game at home to get more players like Aalaa, who hit a hole-in-one in Entebbe and promising talents like Loveness Mungure to ensure continuity."

A delighted Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU) President, Queen Siraki, revealed, "This win was inevitable with the dedication these ladies have put into the sport! Saying we are proud is an understatement."

"These ladies are amazing, and we thank them so much for tirelessly representing our country," she remarked.

Tanzania's Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports, Damas Ndumbaro, lauded Madina and her fellow female

golfers from Tanzania for excelling in Uganda.

The minister noted that the government has promised to bring in a competent golf coach, adding that the coach would be paid by the government.

He added that the presence of the golf coach aims to groom domestic female golfers so they can competently challenge for titles in international competitions.

Ndumbaro was adamant that the government has made this resolution in women's golf because domestic female golf players have been excelling in various international tournaments.

Madina's success in last year's Uganda Ladies Open follows her victory in last year's Uganda Golf Club Ladies Open.

Additionally, the World Amateurs Golf Ranking event was held at the Uganda Golf Club's course from August 15-17.

She won the silverware in the Uganda Golf Club Ladies Open, recording scores of 78 on the first day, and 76 on the second and third days, to notch a 14-over-par total of 230 gross.

Her closest challenger, Peace, came second with a total of 235 gross, returning scores of 80 on the first day,

78 on the second day and 77 on the third day.

Madina's compatriot, Aalaa, finished eighth with a three-day total of 248, scoring 83 on the opening day, 85 on the second day, and 80 on the final day.

She has also enjoyed tremendous success in other high-profile ladies' golf tournaments this season.

The golfer won the title in the Zambia Ladies Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship at Lusaka Golf Club from June 28-30.

In 2023, she emerged victorious in the Zimbabwe Ladies Open. Madina has also become the first domestic golfer to be mentioned in a speech by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa for two consecutive years when he wrapped up the Budget Session in parliament in Dodoma.

The golfer is also one of the top three domestic athletes in the 2024 National Sports Council Awards, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

Golf's Inclusion in Inter-School Games: A Positive Step Forward

By Staff Reporter

Golf promotion in Tanzania has taken a significant leap forward with Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa's recent announcement that the government has approved the inclusion of golf in the Inter-Primary Schools (UMITASHUMTA) and Inter-Secondary Schools (UMISSETA) sports competitions starting this year.

Historically, these annual school games have featured familiar sports such as football, athletics, basketball, volleyball and netball. The decision to add golf reflects the government's commitment to diversifying sports offerings and providing a platform for both popular and elite sports to thrive.

Former Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports Dr Damas Ndumbaro confirmed the addition of golf to the UMITASHUMTA and UMISSETA events for next year. He noted that preparations are already underway, with Tanzania Golf Union (TGU) Chairman Gilman Kasiga and Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU) President Queen Siraki leading the efforts. Starting in September, the government will organise golf training for teachers and from October to December, pupils and students will receive training to form golf teams representing their schools, districts and regions.

Dr Ndumbaro highlighted the importance of collaboration from various stakeholders, including KCB Bank and Vodacom Tanzania, who have shown support for this initiative. He welcomed further involvement from companies, institutions and other entities to help bring golf to young people across the country.

The Minister emphasised that golf is no longer just a sport for the wealthy. He pointed to examples of young players from middle-income families thriving in the sport, such as those training at the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) Lugalo Golf Club and a standout



TGU Chairman
Gilman Kasiga

youth golfer from a recent event at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club.

Efforts to dispel the misconception that golf is an elite sport include organising caddy tournaments and integrating the best players into club memberships. Local players have started from humble beginnings and achieved success in major East African competitions.

In June last year, Dr Ndumbaro presented a special request to Prime Minister Majaliwa to include golf in the school games, which the Prime Minister approved, recognising its potential to nurture future golf talent.

For the initiative to succeed, substantial investment is necessary. Attracting major investors and constructing modern facilities in regions without golf courses will be crucial. The Lake Zone, with regions like Geita and Shinyanga already active in golf, is a prime area for further development.

The 'Unleash Your Drive in Schools' programme, developed by the Golf Foundation and supported by Scotland's R&A Golf Club, will play a key role. This programme aims to introduce children from all backgrounds to golf, teaching fundamental skills and promoting

mental toughness in an engaging way.

With robust support and structured initiatives, Tanzania is poised to become a formidable force in international golf.



Morogoro Junior Malik Ally



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa

A Groundbreaking Success in Debut Year

By Staff Reporter

In its inaugural year, the Lina Professional Golfers (PG) Pro-Am Tour has already earned widespread acclaim for its exceptional organisation and unique approach.

Claver Serumaga, CEO of NCBA Bank Tanzania, hailed the event as “a very unique tournament, unlike anything Tanzania has seen before.”

The tour, organised by the Said Nkya family in collaboration with the Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU), the Tanzania Professional Golfers Association (TPGA) and Penda Golf Tanzania, introduced to honour the late Lina Saidi Nkya, a former national golf team player who passed away on January 19, 2021, in Moshi.

Road to Dubai: A Competitive Journey

The Lina PG Pro-Am Tour, comprising five competitive series held across various courses, culminated in the top two professional golfers and one elite amateur securing spots in an international tournament in Dubai.

The overall winners were:

Nuru Mollel (Arusha Gymkhana Club), the overall professional champion, Fadhil Nkya (Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club), son of the late Lina Nkya a runner-up and Isiaka Daudi Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) Lugalo Golf Club of Dar es Salaam, the elite amateur category overall winner.

The final series, hosted at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC), delivered unexpected twists and excitement, eclipsing the drama of the earlier series with Fadhil and Daudi won pros and elite amateurs titles respectively.

Praise for the Lina Tour

Serumaga expressed admiration for the tour's organisation and its impact, saying: “This is a truly unique golf event



Lina PG Tour overall champion Nuru Mollel (second right) receives a trophy from chief guest NCBA CEO Claver Serumaga during the presentation ceremony at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club. Tournament director Yasmin Chali (left) and president Said Nkya are also present.

for Tanzania. The final series at DGC has been fantastic and the Lina Tour has been excellently organised.”

He announced NCBA Bank's commitment to supporting the tour as a corporate partner from this year, with plans to engage other partners to expand the tour.

“We aim to keep professionals busy year-round and motivate elite amateurs to transition to the professional ranks,” he added.

Serumaga highlighted the broader vision of the tour nurturing talent for future international representation, including the 2032 Olympics Games.

Supporting players and communities

The Lina Tour provides cash prizes to the top 10 professionals and top five elite amateurs in each series.

Professional winners earned TZS 6.8 million, while the runner-up, bagged

TZS 4.3m/-, third placed took home TZS 3.4m/-, while 4th placed claimed TZS 2.7m/- and 5th TZS 2.2mil/-, 6th TZS 1.2mil/- while 7th to 10th each pocketed TZS 480,000.

In elite amateurs winner received TZS 2.2mil/-, TZS 1.3mil/- went to second place, third place took TZS 900,000 while 4th and 5th were awarded TZS 700,000 and TZS 570,000/- respectively.

Tour president Said Nkya emphasised the importance of the event in creating opportunities for players to earn a livelihood.

He also commended former Tanzania Golf Union (TGU) Chairman Dioniz Malinzi for his enduring contributions to youths and golf development.

“Many of today's top professionals, including Mollel, are products of Malinzi's programmes, which have provided training and equipment to aspiring golfers,” Nkya noted.



Fadhil Nkya (left) embraces his father, Said Nkya, after receiving a dummy cheque of 6.8 million TZS for winning the professional golfers' category in the final series at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club.

He complemented organising team especially Hassan Nkya for the job well done.

Honoring Lina Nkya's Legacy

The tour also serves as a tribute to Lina Saidi Nkya's passion for golf.

Tournament director Yasmin Chali, Lina's daughter, expressed gratitude to NCBA Bank for supporting the event.

“This tournament keeps our mother's memory alive and celebrates her love for golf,” she said.

Memorable Performances

Mollel's dominance throughout the tour, including victories in three of the five series, cemented his status as the standout professional.

His 1-2-1-1-5 record placed him ahead of Fadhil, who dedicated his final series victory to his late mother.

“I want to thank the Nkya family for the incredible work they have done for professional golf in Tanzania,” said Mollel.

“My regards also go to legend Dioniz (Malinzi), who has shaped many of us into the pros we are today. I'm thrilled to see him at this final. I also want to thank Enock Magile for his unwavering support throughout my career,” added Mollel.

Fadhil expressed his gratitude said: “I want to thank everyone who made this



Jay Nathwani

possible. I deeply appreciate all the efforts, support and the Nkya family's dedication to bringing this event to life.”

The elite amateur category was unpredictable, with new winners emerging in nearly every series. Isiaka Daudi ultimately secured the Dubai slot after edging out Ally Isanzu of TPC Moshi Club in a countback after points tied.

Isanzu, with a record of 1-1-5-2-3, found himself tied at the top of the standings with Daudi, who had a 2-2-4-2-

1 performance. However, the countback favored Daudi to win the Dubai slot.

The Lina PG Pro-Am Tour has not only elevated the profile of golf in Tanzania but also provided a platform for players to shine on the international stage.

As it looks ahead to its next season, the tour promises even greater opportunities for professionals and amateurs alike.

With the unwavering support of the Nkya family, corporate partners and the golf community, the Lina Tour is poised to take Tanzanian golf to new heights.



Dar, Seoul seal golf partnership

tournaments hosted by Lugalo Golf Club. "We are grateful to the club for welcoming us. Our love for Lugalo drives us to continue supporting its development," he pledged.

Lugalo Golf Club Chairman Mr Michael Luwongo praised KGCT for its relentless support, noting that the new



KGCT Secretary General Tiger Lee and Lugalo Captain Japhet Masai.



Lugalo Chairman Michael Luwongo shakes hands with Korean Golf Community Tanzania Chairman Jaewoong Jang after receiving flagsticks and hole cup.



From left KGCT members Mr. Wooksoo Lee, Secretary General Tiger Lee and Ms. Haemyung Rhee in a souvenir photo with Lugalo Chairman Michael Luwongo and Captain Japhet Masai.

By Staff Reporter

The golf community of South Korea is significantly enhancing bilateral relations with Tanzania through increased support for the Lugalo Golf Club, part of the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) in Dar es Salaam. Recently, the Korean Golf Community Tanzania (KGCT) donated new equipment, including 18 flagsticks and hole cups, to further the development of this prominent club.

Founded by retired General George Waitara, Lugalo Golf Club is renowned for its vibrancy and stature in

the country. During a recent ceremony, which featured a special golf event, KGCT Secretary General Mr Tiger Lee expressed his gratitude for the collaboration between the Korean community and Lugalo Golf Club.

"As previously stated, Lugalo is like a home to us and we are committed to its growth," Mr Lee remarked. "This donation of flagsticks and hole cups is part of our ongoing support. We aim to contribute more in the future, as we have consistently done."

Mr Lee also highlighted that KGCT's support extends beyond the senior team, including contributions to the club's junior team and various

equipment would greatly benefit the club. He emphasised that the Korean Golf Community's generosity should serve as a model for others. "KGCT has been a vital part of our club for many years, contributing consistently. Their support, including this modern equipment, is greatly appreciated."

Mr Luwongo also highlighted the significance of the recent golf tournament, which featured players from both the club and the Korean

community. "This tournament was organised to strengthen our unity and inspire other golf clubs to host similar events. It's important for fostering friendships and bringing communities together."

The tournament saw Khalid Shemndolwa emerge as the overall champion with 38 stableford points, while Vicky Elias claimed the top spot among women. More than 60 golfers competed for top honours.

Lugalo Golf Club Captain Mr Japhet Masai expressed appreciation for the participation and support despite the short notice. Notable attendees included Mr Luwongo, Tanzania Golf Union Chairman Mr Gilman Kasiga and several KGCT members.

Overall, the collaboration between Lugalo Golf Club and the Korean Golf Community Tanzania has fostered strong ties and contributed to the club's continued success and development.

Ambassador of Kingdom of Morocco to Tanzania Zakaria El Goumiri (second right) in discussion with National Golf officials. From left are Tanzania Ladies Golf Union president Queen Siraki, Tanzania Golf Union Chairman Gilman Kasiga and Golfer Arshid Esmail.



Africa Diplomatic Golf tournament takes shape

By Staff Reporter

WHILE Tanzania and Morocco are gearing up to mark the 60th Anniversary of diplomatic relations this year, the golf fraternity in the country will not be left behind in marking the historic moment between the two nations.

This is because the Africa Diplomatic Golf tournament is online to take the two countries through diplomatic relations anniversary by storm.

Plans are already underway for the possible golf tournament to celebrate this milestone and create a platform to further

tourism boots as it promotes the government agenda using golf as one of the tourism products.

The two-country golf top bodies bosses with the golf mission possibly went to discuss with the ambassador about a possible establishment of a partnership between Tanzania and Morocco.

This is aimed at extending the relationship that already exists between Tanzania and Morocco in various sports but this time around is exclusively for golf discipline.

Ms Siraki explained that it was the ambassador's suggestion to establish the African Diplomats Golf tournament that will involve all African diplomats and guests to enjoy and embrace Africanism through the sport.

TLGU and TGU took this initiative with claps as it will be a kind of a tournament that will bring Africa together for a common course and a good platform to connect, socialise, play and steer up relationships.

Many must question that, among all countries, why Morocco? Never mind, it is a simple question as TLGU president Siraki has answered.

"Morocco is a country with so many success stories of how they have revolutionised sports, golf included.

"The country has successes in golf tourism through its admirable well landscaped golf courses thus making it one of the ideal destinations to partner and for golf trips in Africa.

enhance the relationship between the two countries.

The wonderful idea for the country's golf tourism boost is due to brainstorming between the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Tanzania, Zakaria El Goumiri and officials of Tanzania's top golf bodies.

It all started on July 11th 2024, when Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU)'s President, Ms Queen Siraki, and Chairman of Tanzania Golf Union (TGU), Mr Gilman Kasiga, visited Ambassador El Goumiri at his office in Dar es Salaam.

The day should remain one of the important steps when it comes to golf

sport largely developed through the reign of King Hassan II, the father of the current and the family took over the sport to a high level."

Ms Siraki noted the fact that golf has reached heights in Morocco, they believe there is so much to learn from the country and heighten Tanzania levels as well, but also enjoy the relationship and partnership the two countries have had over so many decades now!

Several initiatives also were discussed during the meeting according to Ms Siraki Tanzania and Morocco golf partnership where the golf unions can partner to develop the sport between the two countries.

Golf tourism was another discussed initiative to find a common course for Tanzania to enhance movements between the countries and share cultural as well as sports engagements.

Ms Siraki continues: "Special Tanzania and Morocco golf series which in particular marks and entices the diplomatic relationship we have had between the two countries has also given thought."

On the other hand, TGU Chairman, Mr Kasiga emphasises the importance of hosting joint tournaments, sharing best practices and promoting golf tourism.

Mr Kasiga underlined that a significant aspect of the partnership initiative, aimed at attracting golfers from both countries to play at the Dar es Salaam Golf Clubs in Tanzania and the Royal Dar es Salaam Rabat Golf Course in Morocco.

He added that the initiative aims to capitalise on the global tourism appeal of both nations, offering golfers unique experiences in two of the world's renowned tourist destinations.

The programme will also include opportunities to play on various other golf courses in both countries, promoting a vibrant golf tourism industry.

Bunge Golf Team Lives Up to Expectations

Other men's team members included Hamis Kigwangala and Issa Mtemvu, Ally Jumbe and John Salu, the latter three marked their maiden appearances at the event.

On the women's side, seasoned golfer Neema Mgaya delivered a standout performance, tying with 50 points. She was ably supported by teammates



The Bunge team proudly represented Tanzania at the Mombasa Games. From left: Esther Matiko, Ally Jumbe, Team Captain Nape Nnauye, Issa Mtemvu, John Salu, Dr. Alice Kaijage, and Esther Malleko.

By Staff Reporter

The 2024 East African Community (EAC) Inter-Parliamentary Games (IPG), held in Mombasa, Kenya, witnessed a stellar performance by the Tanzania Bunge Golf Team, which lived up to its growing reputation.

Competing against formidable teams from seven East African countries, the Tanzanian squad achieved remarkable success, securing second place in the women's category and third in the men's category.

Led by Captain Nape Nnauye, the men's team clinched the

bronze medal with a cumulative score of 148, demonstrating consistency across three rounds (R1: 45, R2: 66, R3: 37).

Meanwhile, the women's team captured the silver medal with a score of 153, finishing just behind Uganda.

Their impressive performance, especially with several first-time participants, highlighted Tanzania's rising competitiveness in regional golf.

Individual Brilliance

Captain Nnauye stood out in the men's individual standings, recording an impressive 58 points over three rounds.

Esther Matiko and Esther Malleko, who both scored 40 points and Christina Mzava, all three competed for the first time.

Under the guidance of professional coach Godfrey Leverian, the team's success reflects their determination to elevate Tanzania's presence in the sport.

This achievement is even more significant given that the team was unable to compete in the team category in 2023 due to insufficient players.

Captain Nnauye attributed the



Hamis Kigwangala



Neema Mgaya

progress to collective efforts and highlighted the team's growth since its inception in 2018.

He said back then, Tanzania was represented by just two players—himself and Peter Serukamba who is now the Regional Commissioner for Iringa and no longer a Member of Parliament.

"Over the years, the team has grown steadily, with more Members of Parliament joining the sport, particularly women," noted Nnauye.

The team's performance garnered praise from regional powerhouses like Kenya and Uganda, with Nnauye emphasising that many of Tanzania's players were first-time participants.

"This year's success is a testament to our efforts, I want to complement the Government and Bunge Sports Club under chairman Abbas Tarimba," he said.

"We are immensely proud to have earned both silver and bronze medals. These achievements motivate us to aim even higher in the years to come."

Tarimba also lauded the team's progress. Speaking to 'Royal Golf',

Tarimba recalled how Tanzania struggled in the 2023 Games in Rwanda, failing to field a full team.

He attributed this year's improved performance to deliberate efforts to strengthen the squad as Tanzania fielded 11 golfers at the event.

"Golf has gained attraction among our legislators, including myself," Tarimba stressed.

"The ongoing commitment to building a competitive team is paying off, and we aim to become a dominant force in East African golf."

With growing interest in golf among Tanzanian lawmakers, the future of Bunge Golf looks promising. Both Nnauye and Tarimba expressed optimism that Tanzania will continue to improve and eventually lead in the sport.

As the dust settles on the 2024 EAC IPG, the Tanzania Bunge Golf Team's achievements serve as a proud milestone and a stepping stone for even greater success in the future as government acknowledge golf as one of tourism products.

Golf

on football pitches to inspire junior players

By Staff Reporter

ON August 3rd, last year, the Tanzania Golf Union (TGU) and the Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU) received a significant boost in their efforts to nurture young golfers.

Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports Dr Damas Ndumbaro was present to accept special training equipment intended for aspiring junior golfers.

The equipment was unveiled during a ceremony held in conjunction with the KCB East Africa Golf Tour at the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) Lugalo Golf Club in Dar es Salaam.

TGU Chairman Gilman Kasiga noted that this equipment, provided by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club (R&A)



Golf players (from left) Salhaty Adam, Ella Muga and Samia Saidi Junior.

of Scotland as part of a global golf development initiative, is designed to facilitate golf training in unconventional spaces such as soccer pitches. Kasiga explained that this equipment is ideal for schools, allowing young golfers to practice before transitioning to a traditional golf course.

The equipment will be distributed to golf clubs with Junior Golf Programmes nationwide. This initiative aligns with the government's goal to integrate golf into schools, preparing for its inclusion in the Inter-primary and secondary school games UMITASHUMTA/



UMISSETA this year.

TGU and TLGU are enthusiastic about this timely addition to their school programmes and are working on securing further equipment. Minister Ndumbaro praised R&A for their support and encouraged golf clubs, TGU and TLGU to create specific plans to achieve the goal of integrating golf into schools.

The golf in schools programme has already attracted 300 students from local schools, reflecting its potential impact. TLGU President Queen Siraki also acknowledged the contributions of R&A and the government, emphasising that these collaborative efforts will advance the development of golf in Tanzania.

Mikoh Mwakawago

Perfect Start to 2025 for Dhruv, Natalie

By Staff Reporter

TWO of Tanzania's rising junior golf stars, Dhruv Patadia from Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) and Natalie Isaya from Kilimanjaro Golf Club in Arusha, had an excellent start to the year, proudly representing Tanzania at the US Kids NCBA Invitational Golf Tournament.

The event took place at the prestigious Windsor Golf Hotel and Country Club in Nairobi, Kenya from 4-6 January this year.

Dhruv competed in the Boys 15-18 age category and delivered an impressive performance over the three-day, 54-hole event.

He carded scores of 83, 75 and 75, finishing with a total of +17 to earn him a share of third place with Kenya's Nathan Mwangi (76, 78, 79).

Host player Tsevi Soni clinched the title with a +8 (73, 78, 73), while Ugandan Anthony Otokei secured second place with a +9 (78, 71, 76).

Natalie Isaya, just nine years old, competed in the Girls 9-10 age category. She played nine holes each day in a 27-hole battle, finishing in 6th place.

Her scores were 55, 48 and 46 over the three rounds, marking a promising debut in her first international tournament.

A Memorable Debut for Natalie

Natalie's participation was an inspiration, showcasing her determination and passion for the sport at such a young age.

Her mother, Rehema Bahati, who accompanied her to Nairobi, expressed immense pride in her daughter's achievement.

Speaking to 'Royal Golf', Bahati shared her excitement: "Natalie had the incredible opportunity to raise the Tanzanian flag, plant a tree and enjoy fun golf activities in the evening.

"It's inspiring to see her grow through experiences like this while proudly representing Kilimanjaro Golf Club and Tanzania."

She also praised the Kenyan golf community for its dedication to nurturing junior talent.

"From the caddies to the coaches, parents and organisers, the level of seriousness and support they provide is



A joyful Natalie Isaya proudly raised the Tanzanian flag before the tournament teed off in Nairobi.



Dhruv Patadia received an award after securing third place in Nairobi.

truly inspiring. This experience has been an eye-opener for us."

Bahati highlighted the importance of supporting young golfers, urging parents, sponsors and organisations in Tanzania to invest in junior talent.

"This journey has taught us so much. We're committed to supporting Natalie's growth in golf and we hope other parents and stakeholders will also explore opportunities like this. Travelling and competing internationally broadens perspectives and teaches valuable lessons."

Maryanne Mugo, a member of the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) Lugalo Golf Club of Dar es Salaam Junior Committee, also attended the event, support Dhruv and Natalie.

She commended their performances, emphasising the potential they have to excel further.

"Dhruv tied for 3rd in a highly competitive category, while Natalie had a fantastic event. She was even called to the podium for a photo alongside Dhruv in recognition of her efforts. This experience

will undoubtedly motivate her further," Mugo noted.

"Natalie's mother had a job well done for bringing her to participate. This will definitely make her more motivated in her golf journey. She has so much talent and potential and we look forward to seeing her growing in golf," added Mugo.

Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU) President Queen Siraki applauded parents for their dedication to nurturing her talent, which aligns with the union's vision of building a strong national golf squad.

She also extended her best wishes for Natalie's future endeavours.

"This tournament is an important step in shaping future golf stars," Siraki remarked, adding that such international events are key to developing junior golfers.

For both Dhruv and Natalie, this tournament marks the beginning of what promises to be an exciting year.

Their performances have not only brought pride to Tanzania but also highlighted the importance of supporting junior golf talent in the country.



Tanzania Golf Union TOURNAMENT CALENDAR, 2025



01 Northern Zone Championship
28th February - 2 March 2025 - TPC Golf Club

02 Coastal Zone Championship
28th - 30th March 2025 - Coastal Region (TBC)

03 Tanzania Amateur Strokeplay
3rd - 5th May 2025 - TPC Golf Club

04 AGC Ladies Open
TBC - Arusha Gym Khana

05 Lugalo Open
23rd - 25th May 2025 - Lugalo Golf Club

06 Tanzania Junior Open
13th - 15th June 2025 - TBC

07 Lugalo Ladies Open
27th - 29th June 2025 - Lugalo Golf Club

08 DGC Ladies Open
TBC, Dar GymKhana

09 Morogoro Open
17th - 20th July 2025, Morogoro Golf Club

10 Southern Highland Open
25th - 27th July 2025, Mufindi Golf Club

11 Tanzania Open
28th - 31st August 2025, KiliGolf

12 Morogoro Ladies Open
TBC, Morogoro Golf Club

13 Tanzania Ladies Open
5th - 7th September, TBC

14 Arusha Open
26th - 28th September, Arusha Gymkhana

15 CDF Trophy
3rd - 5th October 2025, Lugalo Golf Club

16 Mufundi Open
18th - 19th October 2025, Mufundi Golf Club

17 Kilombero Open
25th - 26th October 2025, Kilombero Golf Club

18 TPC Open
7th - 9th November 2025, TPC Golf Club

19 Moshi Open
21st - 23rd November 2025, Moshi Golf Club

Perseverance, heartbreak and ultimate triumph highlight Paris 2024 Olympic Golf

By Special Reporter, PARIS

THE Paris 2024 Olympic Golf Tournament was a grand spectacle, filled with excitement, drama and the kind of nail-biting finishes that make the sport truly thrilling. The competition, held at Le Golf National, saw 60 of the world's top male and female golfers vying for the ultimate prize: Olympic gold.

The men's tournament teed off first on August 1st, with the French fans proudly singing "La Marseillaise" as their own Victor Perez hit the first shot. Perez called it a "once-in-a-lifetime" experience, though he had no idea what was to come by Sunday.

The tournament's final day was anticipated to be a showdown between some of golf's biggest names: Xander Schauffele, the defending gold medallist and a two-time major winner in 2024, Jon Rahm, and Tommy Fleetwood.

But as golf so often goes, the script didn't follow expectations. Schauffele surprisingly played his way out of contention early, leaving the stage seemingly set for Rahm.

The Spaniard was on fire, making six birdies in an eight-hole stretch and at one point, he held a commanding four-stroke lead with eight holes to go.

Yet, in an almost surreal twist, Rahm's game unravelled. A series of mistakes — four bogeys and a double bogey — saw him finish tied for fifth, a result that left many, including himself, in disbelief.

While Rahm was grappling with his shocking downfall, Victor Perez was experiencing something entirely different.

The Frenchman, buoyed by the home crowd, shot an electrifying 63 in the final round. His spirited play had the fans roaring with approval, especially as he made a thrilling back-nine run.

Perez ended up just one shot shy of the podium, but his performance was a moment of pride and passion

for the French supporters.

In the end, it was Scottie Scheffler who seized the day.

The world No. 1 American, who had been off the lead at the start of the final round, charged through the back nine with an incredible 29, carding a 9-under 62 to secure the gold medal by one shot.

Scheffler, who had faced whispers that his stellar season might not be enough to earn him the PGA Tour Player of the Year honours, silenced any doubters with his dominant finish.

His stated goal had been to simply have fun, but in the process, he also earned himself an Olympic gold medal — a prize he no doubt cherished.

Just as the men's tournament was winding down, the women's competition kicked off and it quickly became clear that this event would have its share of drama.

Lydia Ko, the New Zealand star, entered Paris with a singular focus: to win the gold that had eluded her in the past two Olympics.

She had already won silver in Rio 2016 and bronze in Tokyo 2020 and victory in Paris would not only complete her Olympic medal collection but also secure her place in the LPGA Hall of Fame.

Ko's biggest rival turned out to be the nerves that come with high stakes.

After three rounds, she was tied with Switzerland's Morgane Metraux, a relatively unknown player ranked 137th in the world.

However, Metraux, overwhelmed by the pressure, faltered early in the final round. Nelly Korda, the world No. 1, looked poised to challenge Ko, but a disastrous shot into the water on the 15th hole ended her medal hopes.

As Ko played her final holes, her once comfortable five-shot lead dwindled to just one.

The tension was palpable and Ko later admitted that the nerves were so intense she never wanted to go through that again. But like the champion she is, Ko held her composure when it mattered most.

She even birdied the last hole to win by two strokes, securing the gold medal she had worked so hard for. It wasn't a dramatic, last-minute twist — just the culmination of a story that Ko had been writing throughout her career.

In her own words, it was a "storyteller," a fitting end to a remarkable Olympic journey.

The Paris 2024 Olympic Golf Tournament will be remembered not just for the incredible golf on display but for the stories of perseverance, heartbreak and ultimate triumph that unfolded on the course.

Scottie Scheffler and Lydia Ko both walked away with gold medals, but more importantly, they left a lasting impression as true champions of the sport.



Lydia Ko, of New Zealand, (centre), waves to the crowd wearing her gold medal during the medal ceremony, with Esther Henseleit of Germany (left), silver medal and Xiyu Lin of China on the winners podium following the final round of the women's golf event at the 2024 Summer Olympics at Le Golf National, in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France.

National Ladies Golf Team Fights Gallantly in Morocco



Charles Maguzu, a Sports Officer from the National Sports Council (NSC) (centre), poses for a souvenir photo after handing over the national flag to the national ladies' golf team ahead of the All-Africa Challenge Trophy (AACT) in Dar es Salaam. Pictured from left are Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU) treasurer Joyce Ndyetabura, honorary secretary Yasmin Chali, president Queen Siraki, team captain Hawa Wanyeché, player Neema Olomi, and TLGU vice president Ayne Magombe, who served as the team manager.

By Staff Reporter

The Tanzania ladies' golf team showcased remarkable determination and resilience, securing 5th place at the 2024 All Africa Challenge Trophy (AACT) held at the Tazegzout Golf Club in Agadir, Morocco.

The three-day, 54-hole competition brought together 20 nations, with Tanzania finishing just one stroke behind Uganda (475) and well behind Kenya, which claimed 3rd place with 439.

Last year's result, however, fell short of their 3rd-place finish at the 2022 in the biannual event hosted in Dar es Salaam.

The team—comprising captain Hawa

Wanyeché, Neema Olomi and Madina Iddi—competed valiantly against stiff competition.

Entering the tournament as reigning East and Central All Africa Challenge Trophy champions, a title they secured in Kigali, Rwanda, in 2023, expectations were high for at least another top-three finish.

However, the unfamiliar and challenging conditions in Morocco posed a significant hurdle.

Challenges on Foreign Courses

Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU) President, Queen Siraki, highlighted the difficulties faced by the team, primarily due to the lack of modern and challenging

courses at home.

"Our players rely on experience and are giving it their all," Siraki stated.

"But to truly prepare for such high-level competitions, we need to improve our local infrastructure. Courses like Agadir, with coastal winds and hilly terrain, are not something our players regularly encounter."

"Tanzania has only nine golf courses, in countries like Uganda, which has 18 standard courses have more advantages.

"Despite these limitations, the team has performed admirably over the years, showcasing their potential on various platforms," she added.

Individually, Neema Olomi stood out, finishing 7th among 59 players with a

score of 236.

Her teammates, Madina Iddi and Hawa Wanyeché, placed 14th and 17th with scores of 241 and 250, respectively.

The 16th edition of the AACT marked a historic moment, with hosts Morocco clinching their first-ever title.

Morocco, hosting the 16th edition of the AACT for the first time, dominated the competition, winning both the team

and individual championships.

The Moroccan team, led by 15-year-old prodigy Sofia Cherif Essakali, delivered a stellar performance, finishing with a combined team score of 425 (-7).

Sofia's individual score of 204 (-12) secured her the title, setting a benchmark for African women's golf.

South Africa's Keshia Louw and Lisa Coetzer followed in 2nd and 3rd place with scores of 210 and 217 to secure the defending champions South Africa second place closely with 427 (-5).

Established in 1992 in Harare, Zimbabwe, the AACT has become a key platform for nurturing and showcasing women's golf talent across Africa.

South Africa has won all but 2024 and 2006 hosted in Lusaka, Zambia won by Egypt.

The 2024 edition, held from November 28-30, featured 20 nations.



The National Ladies Golf Team proudly represented Tanzania at the 2024 AACT Tournament in Morocco. From left- Neema Olomi, Madina Iddi, and team captain Hawa Wanyeché.

The final team standings also saw Zimbabwe in 6th place with 481 strokes, followed by Zambia at 7th 509 (172, 169,168), and 8th: Egypt, at 509 509 (163, 173,173). Botswana (512) and Tunisia (515) rounded out the top 10, while Mauritius finished 11th with 532 strokes.

Other final results include: 12th: Nigeria (536), 13th: Rwanda (554), 14th: Ghana (565), 15th: Côte d'Ivoire (575), 16th: Namibia (582), 17th: Gabon (603), 18th: Togo (607), 19th: Cameroon (680) and Angola at bottom 770 strokes.

Call for Greater Investment in Golf

Siraki urged the government and stakeholders to prioritise golf infrastructure and talent development.

She emphasised the importance of preparing junior players while also supporting the current national team.

"Our ladies performed admirably to

finish 5th out of 20 countries, but to go further, we must invest in their growth," Siraki said.

She stressed the need for more competitive selection processes, modern facilities and adequate preparation to match the team's unwavering dedication.

In 2022, Tanzania secured 3rd place with a total score of 455, just behind South Africa (444) and Morocco (449).

The hope was to build on that success, but inadequate preparation and limited resources proved to be significant obstacles.

Despite the challenges, Siraki remains committed to developing young talent and strengthening Tanzania's presence in African golf.

With better infrastructure and increased support, Tanzania has the potential to reclaim its position among the top teams in the continent.



TPDF Lugalo Golf Club Captain, Major Japhet Masai (third right) in a souvenir photo with the TPDF Golf Team in Zimbabwe.



Lugalo Golf Club Captain, Major Japhet Masai

TPDF shines at 15th World Military Golf Championship

By Staff Reporter

The Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) men and women's teams received high praise from Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) General Jacob Mkunda for their stellar performance at the 15th World Military Golf Championship. The tournament, held in June last year at the Elephant Hills Golf Resort in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, showcased international military golfing talent.

On behalf of General Mkunda, TPDF's Chief of Personnel, Major General Marco Gaguti, commended the Tanzanian teams for their impressive achievements. The championship attracted 12 men and seven women's military teams from around the world.

The TPDF women's team earned a bronze medal, while the men's team secured seventh place—remarkably the highest finish by an African team in the event. Germany won the men's category, with other competitors including Canada, Bahrain, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Botswana and Tanzania.

In the women's category, France claimed victory, with other participants including hosts Zimbabwe, Tanzania, the Netherlands, Canada, Kenya and Botswana.

Major General Gaguti conveyed General Mkunda's congratulations to the teams, noting that the CDF is committed to supporting more intensive preparations for future tournaments. "The CDF has praised the team

for their performance and is focused on ensuring even better results in the next competition. With enhanced preparation, winning first place is within reach," Major General Gaguti stated.

He also extended congratulations from the CDF to the leadership of Lugalo Golf Club, including Chairman Brigadier General (Rtd) Michael Luwongo and Captain Major Japhet Masai, as well as the Tanzania

Ladies Golf Union (TLGU) for their contributions to the team's success. The seventh-place finish by the men's team was particularly noteworthy as the best position achieved by any African team.

Brigadier General (Rtd) Luwongo praised the youthful teams, highlighting their potential for future success. He also expressed gratitude to General Mkunda, the club's patron, for his substantial support, which has been crucial to the club's achievements.

The Tanzanian delegation to the championship, led by Major Joseph Masai, included Samuel Kileo, Marius Kajuna, Nsajigwa Mwansasu, John Hiza, Samwel Moshia and Chedieli Mchechu in the men's category and Leticia Kapalila, Khadija Selemani and Sara Dennis in the women's team.



Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) General Jacob Mkunda (right) and Lugalo Golf Club Chairman Brigadier General (Rtd) Michael Luwongo

Serengeti's Golf Course Construction Reaches Exciting 42% Milestone

The layout details reveal a total course length of **7.065** kilometres—split into 3.528 kilometres for the front nine and 3.357 kilometres for the back.

With **72** pars, evenly distributed between the front and back nines, each design element is strategically crafted to provide exceptional quality that sets it apart from other golf courses worldwide.



Chairman of the Board of Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), General (Rtd) George Waitara (6th from right), poses with members of the Generals Golf Team from the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) Lugalo Golf Club of Dar es Salaam, including Dr. Edmund Mndolwa, Ambassador Charles Sanga, and Ambassador Job Masima. Also present are members of the TANAPA Management Team and Tanzania Golf Union Handicap Secretary Enoch Magile (first right) during a recent visit to the Serengeti National Park Golf Course.



By Catherine Mbena, Serengeti

The construction of the grand Serengeti National Park Golf Course, nestled at Fort Ikoma just beyond the iconic Serengeti National Park, has impressively reached the 42% mark.

This visionary project, conceived by the TANAPA Board of Trustees under the leadership of General (retired) George Waitara, aims to transform the area near the Serengeti—the world's renowned and Africa's leading national park—into a premiere golfing destination.

The ambitious venture involves creating the “Tee and Green” for eighteen dynamic holes, meticulously divided into the first nine (front-nine/inbound holes) and the last nine (back-nine/outbound holes).

Central to the project is the drilling of two deep wells, each capable of providing an impressive 10,000 litres of water per hour, essential for sustaining the lush

grounds.

In addition, two expansive reservoirs, each with a staggering capacity of 22 million litres, are being constructed alongside a comprehensive 5.2-kilometre road encircling the entire course.

The development is further bolstered by the construction of a powerhouse and the installation of water pumps, enhanced with solar panels atop the drilled wells.

Dr Richard Matolo, the Assistant Conservation Commissioner and consulting engineer overseeing the project, highlights the unique design of the golf course.

He explains that each hole is lengthened, adding challenging “dog leg” holes and integrating existing trees to make it one of the exceptional longest globally.

The idea is to provide both a test of skill and a scenic experience for players, making the course both beautiful and competitive.

The layout details reveal a total course length

of 7.065 kilometres—split into 3.528 kilometres for the front nine and 3.357 kilometres for the back.

With 72 pars, evenly distributed between the front and back nines, each design element is strategically crafted to provide exceptional quality that sets it apart from other golf courses worldwide.

Beyond the course, the facility promises additional amenities, including a state-of-the-art driving range, a modern clubhouse and luxurious cottages for players, cementing its status as a world-class destination.

The design features an array of hazards, including sand bunkers, water ponds, streams and bridge-like structures, enhancing the challenge and allure of the course.

Dr Matolo envisions the Serengeti

Golf Course as the ultimate African golfing adventure, where enthusiasts can play alongside the stunning backdrop of native wildlife, including giraffes, zebras, impalas and monkeys.

While on the course, players will likely encounter these animals and more, like cheetahs and various aquatic life, making each round an unforgettable experience.

“For those who yearn for a world-class golf course experience amid breathtaking landscapes and awe-inspiring wildlife, the Serengeti Golf Course will soon be their ultimate destination,” Dr Matolo assures.

“Here, visitors will revel in the beauty of fresh air, melodious bird songs, captivating wildlife migrations and the peace and tranquillity we all desire.”

After engaging in their maiden round of golf on the newly developed course, Honorable Ambassadors Charles Sanga, Job Masima, and Dr Edmund Mndolwa, alongside Retired General George Waitara, Chairman of the TANAPA Board of Trustees, shared their enthusiasm for the unfolding vision they had stepped into.

The air was filled with a sense of accomplishment and potential, as the lush greens and vibrant wildlife formed a picturesque backdrop.

Hon Dr Edmund Mndolwa expressed his heartfelt appreciation, remarking, “This has been a historic maiden game and I highly commend the TANAPA management for their exemplary work in advancing sports tourism and golf diplomacy. Their efforts have truly set a precedent.”

Equally impressed, Hon Ambassador Job Masima added, “This field is a game changer. No other field worldwide matches its vast expanse and captivating scenery. The harmonious blend of golf and nature here is unrivalled.”

Further reflecting on this milestone, Ambassador Charles Sanga noted, “Our dream of establishing a modern golfing haven in the Serengeti is steadily becoming a reality. Witnessing the ongoing construction and its advancements assures us of a bright future.”

Sprawling across 450 acres, this ambitious project is an impressive fusion of nature and sport, set to revolutionise golf tourism in Tanzania.

With an estimated investment of nine and a half billion shillings, its anticipated completion in June 2025 holds a promise of not only being an outstanding golf destination but a testament to strategic collaboration and vision.

Major Masai Feat for a Memorable Hole-in-One in Malawi

By Staff Reporter

It was a sunny Thursday, October 31, 2024—a day etched in the memory of Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) soldier Major Japhet Masai, a passionate golfer.

Playing at the prestigious Limbe Country Club in Blantyre, Malawi, Masai experienced one of the most remarkable moments of his golfing journey.

Little did he know that the 10th hole, a picturesque par-3, would become the stage for his first-ever hole-in-one.

Masai, an avid golfer with a handicap of 8, had been introduced to the game in 2005 at the TPDF Lugalo Golf Club in Dar es Salaam.

Over the years, his dedication to the sport grew, fuelled by his love for physical exercise, the pursuit of better scores and the camaraderie shared with fellow golfers.

His consistency in playing almost daily had sharpened his skills, but he had never imagined such an extraordinary achievement.

"On the tee box of hole number 10, I carefully studied the 135-yard layout. The green, framed by well-placed bunkers and swaying trees, seemed to beckon," he recounted.

Holding his trusted pitching wedge, he steadied himself. His playing partners—

Malawian Brigadier General Kalino Kondwani, Captain Samuel Mosha and Captain Peter Msechu—watched intently as he addressed the ball according to him.

With a smooth swing, the ball launched into the air, tracing a perfect arc against the clear Malawian sky. As it descended toward the green, it landed softly, bounced twice, and rolled straight into the cup.

A deafening cheer erupted, breaking the serene silence of the course as shared clip shows by Captain Mosha who quickly shared the exciting news in the Lugalo Golf Club WhatsApp group

Mosha said: "What a lucky day for Major Masai—he got a hole-in-one at Limbe Country Club in Malawi!"

The announcement was followed by a flood of congratulatory messages and playful demands from Lugalo members for Masai to extend his drinks offer to his home club.

Masai had achieved every golfer's dream—a hole-in-one! Overwhelmed with joy, he raised his arms in triumph and laughed jubilantly.

"What a lucky day for me!" He exclaimed, his voice filled with disbelief and excitement. It was his first time accomplishing such a feat and doing so on a foreign course made it even more special.

The celebration that followed was

legendary. Tradition dictates that a golfer who hits a hole-in-one buys drinks for their companions, and Masai gladly obliged.

At the clubhouse, he treated his fellow golfers to drinks, sharing stories and laughter.

His generosity extended beyond Malawi, as he continued the celebration upon his return to Lugalo Golf Club.

Masai expressed his happiness and gratitude told the 'Royal Golf': "This moment is a testament to the importance of dedication and practice. I've been playing golf for almost two decades, and moments like these make it all worthwhile."

Masai's journey in golf began in 2005, when he first picked up a club at Lugalo Golf Club. Since then, he has not only excelled as a player but also as a leader.

As a successful golf captain, he has played a pivotal role in the club's juniors development programme, working closely with the club management and the Lugalo Juniors Development Committee under Chairman Kain Mbaya.

In 2024, Masai also led the women's team to a bronze medal finish at the 15th International Military Sports Golf Tournament (CISM) held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The men's team secured a respectable 7th place finish.



Major Japhet Masai



LINA PG TOUR (PRO-AM)



2025 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

27TH - 2ND
FEB-MAR

Moro Gymkhana

15TH-18TH
MAY

TPC Club - Moshi

3RD-6TH
JUL

Morogoro/DSM

25TH-28TH
SEP

Moshi/Arusha

13TH-16TH
NOV

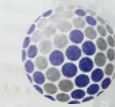
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Hawa Wanyeché



Neema Olomi



Rachel Mushi



Maryanne Mugo



Aalaa Somji and Madina Iddi



Vicky Elias

TZ Open Golf 2024

boosts tourism, golf development

By ESTER MALIKA, Arusha

The 2024 Vodacom Tanzania Golf Open has cemented its place as a flagship event, showcasing Tanzania's potential as both a golfing powerhouse and a premier tourist destination.

Held at Arusha's scenic Kilimanjaro Golf Course, the tournament attracted over 150 golfers from across Africa and beyond, further solidifying the nation's reputation for hosting world-class events.

The four-day 72 holes competition not only displayed exceptional athletic talent but also contributed to the growth of golf in the region and boosted Arusha's tourism sector.

Agapinus Tax, Vodacom Tanzania's Director of Tax and Compliance, the tournament's Chief guest emphasised the event's broader impact.

"This tournament has demonstrated Tanzania's capacity to host international events while highlighting the unifying power of sports and its role in promoting tourism and community development," Tax said.

Once again Kenyan golfers showed their dominance as Greg Snow and Sammy Mulama headlined the event

with remarkable performances in the professional and elite amateur categories.

Snow clinched the professional title with a stunning -2 (74, 68, 70, 74), while Mulama secured the elite amateur crown with a score of +16 (76, 77, 75, 76).

Tanzania's top amateur performer, Isiaka Daudi from Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) Golf Club of Dar es Salaam, finished third with +22 (85, 74, 74, 77), following Kenyan runner-up Josphat Rono, who scored +20 (83, 74, 75, 76).

In the professional category, Tanzania's Isaac Wanyeché utilised well his home course tied for third place at +7 (74, 75, 73, 73), sharing the spot with Kenya's Daniel Nduva (77, 73, 77, 68). Rwandese golfer Celestin Nsanuwera finished second with +6 (77, 69, 73, 75).

In the 2023 tournament, sponsored by NCBA Bank and held at the same course, Uganda national team golfer Godfrey Nsubuga emerged as the champion.

After four gruelling rounds, Nsubuga impressive posted a total gross score of level-par 292 over four days on the par-73 Kili course.

Tanzanian golfer Isiaka Daudi finished second with a score of 311, edging out Uganda's Ibrahim Bagalana

on a countback, as both players carded identical totals.

In the professional category in 2023, Nuru Mollel, Tanzania's best performer secured second place with a score of +13 (305), just two strokes behind Kenya's Daniel Nduva, who claimed the title with +11 but could not defend his title this time around. Kenya's Justus Madoya completed the podium, finishing third with a score of +14.

The winners were honoured in a vibrant closing ceremony, where trophies and cash prizes were awarded.

Tax praised the efforts of the Tanzania Golf Union (TGU) and its partners for organising such a successful event.

"This tournament exemplifies Vodacom Tanzania's commitment to fostering sports and strengthening international cooperation," he said.

"It also reinforces our nation's position as a hub for global sporting events."

Gilman Kasiga, Chairman of the TGU, expressed gratitude to all stakeholders, highlighting the role of partnerships in advancing golf development.

"The Vodacom Tanzania Open is a testament to the progress of golf in our country," Kasiga said.

"With support from partners like Vodacom, we are building a platform that inspires future generations and positions Tanzania as a centre for sporting excellence."

Supported by sponsors such as NMB Bank, Serengeti Breweries Ltd, BLANQ Marketing and Communications Agency, Karibu Camps and Lodges, Karimjee Mobility and Pepsi, the 2024 Vodacom Tanzania Open demonstrated how sports can elevate communities and drive economic and cultural growth.

This year's tournament not only crowned champions but also set a new benchmark for golf in Tanzania, leaving an enduring legacy for tourism, sports development and international collaboration.



Daudi:

The 2024 Tanzania GOT King

By Staff Reporter

The 2024 journey of Tanzania's golf prodigy, Isiaka Daudi, has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Rising from the junior ranks at the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) Lugalo Golf Club in Dar es Salaam just a few years ago, Daudi has already established himself as a dominant force in the game.

Recently crowned Tanzania's Golfer of the Year (GOT) 2024, Daudi finished the season with an impressive 123 points, cementing his position at the top of the amateur golfing scene.

Tanzania Golf Union (TGU) Chairman Gilman Kasiga praised Daudi's remarkable consistency and competitive spirit while unveiling the country's GOT for 2024.

Daudi's journey to the top began at the Northern Zone Open Championship held at TPC Moshi in the Kilimanjaro Region, where he earned 20 points early in the year.

He followed up with 14 points at the Morogoro Open and 15 points at the Arusha Open.

Back on home course, Daudi, 24, added another 15 points at the Lugalo Open.

His lead was further solidified with 18 points each at the CDF Trophy and Moshi Open tournaments.

He capped off his stellar season with a spectacular 20-point performance at the prestigious Tanzania Open, earning his place as the nation's top golfer.

Daudi said: "I want to thank God for an amazing 2024 journey. It was not as easy as it might seem; I had to put in a lot of effort to achieve such a high level of success."

"I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been part of or contributed to my journey. A special thank you

goes to my coach, professional golfer Athumani Chiundu, who has played a significant role in helping me reach where I am today."

In second place was Ally Isanzu of TPC Club Moshi, who scored 82 points, while Enosh Wanyeché of Lugalo claimed third with 69 points.

Michael Massawe (Lugalo) and George Sembi (TPC Moshi) rounded out the top five with 53 and 50 points, respectively, showcasing the dominance of Lugalo and TPC Moshi clubs.

The top 10 also featured emerging talents like Samweli Kileo (41 points) and Marius Kajuna (36 points) of Lugalo, Ibrahim Mtemi (33 points) of TPC Moshi, Aliabas Kermalli (31 points) of Arusha Gymkhana and Prosper Emmanuel (29 points) of Lugalo, highlighting the depth of talent in Tanzanian golf.

Kasiga applauded the golfers' dedication and extended gratitude to sponsors and stakeholders for their crucial support.

"We appreciate everyone's continued support and look forward to another exciting season in 2025," said Kasiga.

In addition to his GOT title, Daudi also clinched the elite amateur category win in the newly introduced Lina Professional Golfers (PG) Pro-Am Tour.

He ultimately secured a coveted slot to Dubai by edging out his closest competitor, Isanzu, in a thrilling five-series battle held across various courses in the country.

Despite a tied record between the two—Isanzu finishing 1-1-5-2-3 and Daudi 2-2-4-2-1—the countback favoured Daudi, who emerged as the winner and claimed the Dubai slot.

With such an impressive season behind him, Daudi has solidified his place as a rising star in Tanzanian golf and a player to watch in the years ahead.



Tanzanian Open 2024 Winners

DGC

steals limelight in Gymkhana Derby showdown

By Staff Reporter

Golf can bring an incredible atmosphere, enthusiasm, excitement and a fantastic experience, especially when golfers from Tanzania's two oldest golf courses lock horns.

It was worth noting the dominance of the host, Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC), against their opponents, Arusha Gymkhana Club (AGC), during the Gymkhana Derby Inter-Club Golf tournament held on August 25, 2024.

The tournament was unique, bringing together golfers from DGC and AGC who lit up the DGC course near the Indian Ocean in Dar es Salaam City.

The Gymkhana Derby Inter-Club match-play battle between the two oldest golf courses in the country saw over 14 top players from each club competing in double match-play.

The hosts seemed well-prepared to avoid home disappointment, fielding their strongest team for the Sunday morning encounters.

Host Captain Fred Lazier, who led by example to ensure the title stayed in Dar es Salaam, said, "The tournament format was double match-play; our opponents (AGC) fielded 14 golfers (7 pairs) like us. Our 5 pairs won their matches, AGC won two, so we took the trophy by a convincing 5 & 2. This is a huge victory for us as we understand we met tough opponents."

Captain Lazier's handicap 10 partner, Shaizad Bhanji (handicap 6), was the first to tee off on Sunday morning against AGC's Sheetal Aggarwal (handicap 12) and Kush Lodhia (handicap 7), recording a 4&3 victory.

This was followed by DGC's Kiki Ayonga (HC 10) and Harshid Barmeda (HC 19) securing a huge 7&6 victory over Hiten Nathwani (HC 11) and Hussein Kermali (HC 18) of AGC in the second encounter.

In an epic battle, visitors Luv Lodhia (HC 8) and Cyril Brown (HC 15) lost 2&1 against hosts Raj Lavingia (HC 7) and Om Joshi (HC 17) in an exciting match.

AGC's Tejinder Bansal (HC 12) and Hatim Khanabai (HC 15) made their opponents dig even harder before falling 2&0 to Stephen Chuwalo (HC 5) and Kunal Lakhani (HC 12) of DGC.

The host's fifth victory came from David Jansen (HC 2) and Deo Chuwa (HC 8), who challenged visitors Mark Walker (HC 14) and lady player Bellah Sikwattah (HC 18), beating them by 2&1 in a thrilling duel.

However, two DGC pairs could not handle the visitors' pressure and were well beaten.



Shaizad Bhanji (left) and Om Joshi.

Hosts Son Vengetsamy (HC 2) and Rabin Bista (HC 20) lost 3&2 to Simon Travers (HC 6) and Adrie Brown (HC 24).

Ayne Magombe (HC 7), the only lady in the DGC team, partnered with Peter Fiwa (HC 6). Their skills were well tested by AGC's Teresia Ndivo (HC 23) and Abid Omari (HC 9), who sealed a huge 6&5 victory.

Lazier explained that the idea behind organising the event goes beyond winning the title.

"It always feels good to win, but today we are very happy to host our friends in this manner. Our primary goal for hosting this tournament is to increase or strengthen the relationship between us as golfers and as one of the oldest clubs in the country," he explained.

He said the tournament is just the start of a long-term relationship between the clubs and they would like to sustain that.

Lazier added that the next game is not scheduled, but they are counting on it before the end of the year; they will

meet in the return match in Arusha.

His counterpart, Aggarwal, said their golf trip to Dar es Salaam was an exciting one where they had the pleasure of competing against DGC.

"The experience was not only a competitive delight but also a showcase of exceptional hospitality," he said.

"From the moment we arrived, Dar Gymkhana went above and beyond to make us feel welcome. The warm reception, outstanding facilities and

attention to detail were remarkable. Their team's commitment to ensuring our comfort and enjoyment was evident throughout our visit," he added.

He stressed that the match itself was a thrilling showcase of skills and sportsmanship, with DGC's players putting on an impressive performance.

"Special mention goes to Captain Fred (Lazier) and his team for their standout performances in the match play. Their excellence on the course was a testament to the high standards of DGC.

"Unfortunately, we lost by 5&2, but a shout out to Imani Alfayo, Shaizad Banji, Hiten and Luv for making this visit of ours possible."

Aggarwal said despite the defeat they left with great memories and a deep appreciation for the hospitality extended to them.

He explained that it was a fantastic example of how golf brings people together and they look forward to future opportunities to compete and collaborate with such a gracious host.

"We are now looking forward to hosting DGC's very soon at Arusha Gymkhana Club and we hope we can reciprocate the same towards the fantastic hospitality that was given to us," emphasises Aggarwal.

He insisted that DGC were incredible hosts and had met amazing people and bonded very much.

Aggarwal noted that they look forward to having them in Arusha for the return match and hopefully winning the trophy this time around.

AGC's Captain Sheetal Aggarwal presents Trophy to winning Captain Fred Lazier.



DGC Golfers celebrate victory.

Waitara

hailed for Lugalo Golf Club vision



Enosh Wanyeche lifts the winning trophy, presented by chief guest General Jacob Mkunda (second from left), as Lugalo Golf Club Chairman Brigadier General (rtd) Michael Luwongo looks on with a smile.

By Staff Reporter

The Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), General Jacob Mkunda, has lauded General (Retired) George Waitara for his vision and dedication in founding the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) Lugalo Golf Club of Dar es Salaam.

Established 19 years ago during General Waitara's tenure, Lugalo Golf Club has since evolved into a premier hub for nurturing star players, thanks to the leadership of current Chairman Brigadier General (rtd) Michael Luwongo and Club Captain Major Japhet Masai.

Other current club leaders are -Col David

Mziray(Manager), Lt Col Shabani Kitogo (rtd) (Secretary), Captain Chedi Msechu (Administrator), Capt Jeffer Mtuya (Treasurer), Captain Samwel Moshia (Vice Captain), Lt Dafroza Elam (Matron), Civ Ernest Sengeu (Handicap Secretary).

The club has not only produced elite golfers but also created a space for networking and recreation for a diverse group of leaders, including ambassadors, army officers, diplomats, policymakers, CEOs and company directors.

It has also opened doors for young individuals from various socio-economic backgrounds, making the sport more inclusive.

Speaking at the 2024 CDF Golf Trophy hosted

at Lugalo, General Mkunda praised General Waitara's determination, particularly during a time when golf was far less popular than it is today.

"When he established this course, golf was not a popular sport as it is today. He worked tirelessly to make it happen.

"But the fruits of his labour are evident today. He has left us with

something very significant. He achieved great things in challenging circumstances," said Mkunda insisting TPDF's commitment to support President Samia effort to promote sports includes golf.

One of the standout outcomes of Waitara's efforts is the TPDF golf teams' success on the international stage.

These players have honed their skills at Lugalo and their achievements include the TPDF Women's Team's stellar performance at the 15th International Military Sports Golf Tournament (CISM) in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, last year, where they earned a bronze medal. The team includes Sara Dennis, Khadija Lusakale and Leticia Kapalila.

2024 CDF Trophy Highlights

The 2024 CDF Trophy, a three-day, 54-hole national competition, drew over 250 male and female amateur and professional golfers from across the country.

Organised by TPDF Lugalo Golf Club in partnership with the Tanzania Golf Union (TGU), the event celebrated the TPDF's 60th anniversary and honoured CDF Mkunda.

Enosh Wanyeche, the host golfer, claimed the overall title with a total of 224 strokes, defeating his closest challenger by two shots. His victory followed rounds of 75, 72, and 77.

Established **19** years ago during General Waitara's tenure, Lugalo Golf Club has since evolved into a premier hub for nurturing star players, thanks to the leadership of current Chairman Brigadier General (rtd) Michael Luwongo and Club Captain Major Japhet Masai.

Enosh thanked the tournament organisers, TPDF Lugalo Golf Club, and sponsors for their unwavering support, receiving a record prize of 4mil/- from main sponsor NMB presented by General Mkunda.

He also expressed gratitude to his siblings, professional golfer Isaac Wanyeche and national ladies' team captain Hawa Wanyeche, for their encouragement.

Other top performances included Lugalo's Isiaka Daudi and Marius Kajuna, who placed second and third with scores of 226 and 230, respectively.

TPC Moshi's Ally Isanzu and Lugalo's defending champion Michael Massawe completed the top five.

In the nett categories, Benson William won the Overall Nett title with a 134 score over two rounds. Khalid Shemndolwa claimed Division A with 143, John Idd took Division B with 138 (on countback) and Kennedy Kajuna triumphed in Division C with 141 all of Lugalo.

In the Ladies' category, Q Zhang edged out Maryanne Mugo on countback, both scoring 144 nett.

Dr Edmund Mndolwa won the Seniors' title with a 132 nett, while Joseph Tairo came second with 140. Among professionals, Nuru Mollé emerged victorious, with Isaac Wanyeche finishing second.

The event was made possible by NMB Bank, the main sponsor, alongside Toyota, Serena Hotels, TBL, and Just Feat Sports.



General Jacob Mkunda (centre, front row) in a group photo with Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU) President Queen Siraki (left), Lugalo Golf Club Chairman Brigadier General (rtd) Michael Luwongo, Major General Marco Gaguti, tournament main sponsor representative Filbert Mponzi, NMB Bank Chief Retail Banking Officer and other co-sponsors.



Bunge hails Tanzania Royal Golf Magazine for promoting sports tourism

By Staff Reporter, DODOMA

On June 20, 2024, officials from the Tanzania Royal Golf Magazine were honoured to be guests of the Speaker of the National Assembly during a marathon budget session. The invitation provided a unique opportunity for the magazine team to present 400 issues of their quarterly publication, which supports the government's efforts in promoting sports and tourism.

The visit also aimed to boost the profile of golf among Members of Parliament (MPs), who play a crucial role in supporting President Samia Suluhu Hassan's initiatives to enhance sports and tourism. During the visit, the Tanzania Royal Golf Magazine's officials were welcomed by Deputy Speaker Mr Mussa Hassan Zungu. He praised the magazine's role in advancing sports and tourism and emphasised the importance of its vision.

On behalf of the National Assembly Speaker, Dr Tulia Ackson, Deputy Speaker Zungu expressed strong support for the magazine's mission, stating, "This is a far-reaching and significant vision; I will convey this message to the Speaker.

Parliament stands with you in supporting these efforts."

Mr Zungu also highlighted the need to challenge the perception that golf is a sport reserved for the wealthy. He stressed the importance of supporting the government's efforts to develop all sports disciplines, including golf and leveraging them to promote both domestic and international tourism.

Ms Mbonile Mwamasangula, one of the magazine's founders, shared that Tanzania embarked on a new chapter in tourism in 2021 with the launch of Golf Tourism Tanzania. She emphasised that both the tourism product and the Tanzania Royal Golf Magazine are committed to promoting sports tourism. Ms Mwamasangula noted the increasing popularity of golf in Tanzania, driven by the impressive achievements of Tanzanian golfers both locally and internationally. "Today, golf is no longer seen as a sport for the affluent and colonialists," she said.

In response, Mr Zungu urged stakeholders, including sports and tourism organisations, ministries, companies and institutions, to support the magazine. The Tanzania Royal Golf Magazine is distributed free of charge at key locations and is also accessible online at www.leviam.co.tz.

Ms Mwamasangula called on stakeholders, companies, institutions and sports enthusiasts to collaborate, advertise and partner through the platform for mutual benefit.

PICTURES



Murtaza Jariwalla



Wagichoi Wambugu



Mohamed Rweyemamu



Golfers during one of DGC events. From left are Paritosh Babla, Foty Gwebe, Kelly Simon, Yvonne Ondari and Lucas Malele.



From right are TGU Chairman Gilman Kasiga, Kain Mbaya and Venance Masebo posing for a souvenir photo.



Senior golfer Gulam Dewji (centre) and his family, Hussein Dewji and Maahad.

How golf changed Hole-In-One hero Woiso

By Staff Reporter

Many people initially think golf is a strange game. Those who watch it on television often wonder if it even qualifies as a sport, seeing players walking around and hitting a tiny ball. However, once they start playing, they quickly realise it is one of the best sports ever and the rest is history.

Alfred Woiso is one such person. He achieved a remarkable hole-in-one just eight months after being introduced to the game by his wife. Woiso joined the select group of golfers who have achieved this feat at the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) Lugalo Golf Club in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, August 20, 2024.

In golf, a hole-in-one occurs when a ball hit from the tee finishes in the cup, most commonly on par 3 holes, the shortest distance holes on a standard-size golf course. For any golfer, making a hole-in-one is a milestone achievement that resonates for a lifetime. It's a fleeting touch with perfection in a game inherently about imperfection, and a moment on every golfer's bucket list.

While skill undeniably helps in achieving an ace, a healthy dose of luck is also needed to make this dream a reality. In an exclusive interview with Tanzania Royal Golf, Woiso shared his experience after achieving this feat.

Question: Can you tell us how the hole-in-one happened and who witnessed it?

Answer: I just took a shot as usual after my preparation. When I looked at the ball, I thought it was off the line, but it somehow came back and dropped near the green. Then the ball veered towards the hole and slowly went in! Two caddies near the green shouted 'Hole in one'. One was Ali, my caddy. I don't know the name of the other caddy, who was caddying for another player. Professional golfer Abdallah Yusufu (Pro Dulla), who was at the



Alfred Woiso

number 4 tee, witnessed the ball going into the hole. He came back to number 3, made a video, and informed the club captain, Japhet Masai.

Question: Do you remember the type of club and ball you used?

Answer: I used a 7-iron, and the ball was a Titleist 1.

Question: What was the distance for the hole-in-one?

Answer: It was hole no. 3, and the distance is 121 metres, but I need to

confirm that as I'm not entirely sure.

Question: What is your current handicap?

Answer: According to the latest communication from HNA, my handicap is 30.

Question: Is this your first hole-in-one?

Answer: Yes.

Question: How did you feel after achieving this milestone?

Answer: Awesome! I feel confident now that I can play, although I still make some horrible shots.

Question: When did you start playing golf and at which club?

Answer: I started playing in December 2023 at Lugalo Golf Course.

Question: Who introduced or motivated you to play golf?

Answer: My wife, Jacqueline Woiso, introduced me to the game, and then professional golfer Geoffrey Leverian took over.

Question: How often do you practice golf, and what motivates you the most in the game?

Answer: I play mostly three times a week. My motivation comes from the urge to improve, hitting straight balls, improving putting accuracy, mastering short games and specific clubs.

Question: Do you have any advice for youths and seniors who have yet to engage in golf?

Answer: Just start playing. I was one of those people who watched golf on TV and wondered whether it was even a sport. People walking around, hitting a tiny ball, etc. But once I started, I immediately realized it is one of the best sports ever, and the rest is history.

Question: Can you share an interesting story about sports and your life?

Answer: I grew up playing soccer on rough streets and fields (chandimu) on the outskirts of Moshi. I like the game but as a spectator. I hardly played beyond form two in secondary school. I love sports and games in general, but I seldom compete because I hate losing.

Night golfing lights up Morogoro Gymkhana

By Staff Reporter, MOROGORO

From the brink of despair, the Morogoro Gymkhana Club (MGC) has emerged as a beacon of hope for golfers in the region. Once struggling with limited options for late evening practice, the club has recently made significant strides by installing lighting from the first hole's tee box to the ninth green.

Dickson Sika, Chairman of the Morogoro Gymkhana Club and Honorary Secretary of the Tanzania Golf Union (TGU), shared with Royal Golf Magazine that these enhancements cater to players who cannot practice during the day. "We're thrilled to offer evening play opportunities, which have been a long-term aspiration for our members," Sika explained. "The new lighting has revitalised the club, allowing us to host chipping and putting competitions and keeping the club vibrant."

The ongoing installation aims to extend lighting to three more holes (Nos. 1, 8 and 9) to provide ample visibility for nighttime play. This initiative not only enhances golfers' skills but also aligns

with the government's goal of promoting physical activity for community health and well-being.

Sika expressed gratitude for the support from the Morogoro region authorities, particularly Regional Commissioner Adam Malima. Malima's active participation in the club and commitment to the sport have been invaluable. "We're grateful for Minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro's efforts in bringing RC Malima into the game. Despite his busy schedule, he consistently practices, which has invigorated the club," Sika noted.

RC Malima has pledged to involve more stakeholders and encourage them to join the club and take up golf. Support has also come from Morogoro Mayor Pascal Kihanga and other municipal officials who have recently joined the club.

RC Malima endorsed the club's initiative, emphasising the importance of accessible exercise opportunities for those with busy schedules. He believes this move will help Morogoro produce top golfers who can represent both the region and the country. "The

government supports this initiative and is committed to ensuring safety and promoting physical activity for everyone," Malima said.

Morogoro Gymkhana Club stands out as the only brown course in Tanzania, offering a unique golfing experience compared to the country's green courses. Thanks to the support from Minister Dr Ndumbaro and RC Malima, the club is now focused on further development, including investing in junior programmes.

Minister Dr Ndumbaro, during the Lina Professional Golfer's Tour Pro-Am tournament in April, pledged to revitalise golf courses across the country, including

Morogoro Gymkhana. He highlighted the government's commitment to restoring the once-abundant golf courses in Tanzania, aiming to reinvigorate the sport nationwide.

Morogoro captain Seif Mcharo



Former Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports Damas Ndumbaro (right), Morogoro Regional Commissioner Adam Malima (centre) and Morogoro Gymkhana captain Seif Mcharo.



Morogoro Golf Chairman Dickson Sika.

The Premier League star who became a golf pro

London, England

Peter Odemwingie first played golf in 2012 while on a pre-season tour of the United States with West Bromwich Albion.

"It's like watching David Beckham bend one with his right foot and Roberto Carlos doing it with his other foot."

It is perhaps unsurprising that Peter Odemwingie reaches for a football analogy when explaining his love for a graceful golf shot, given the success the former Premier League star had in the penalty area before swapping it for the fairway.

The 43-year-old scored 36 league goals for West Bromwich Albion, Stoke City and Cardiff City during a six-year spell in England's top flight, as well as winning 65 caps and an Olympic silver medal with Nigeria.

But now Odemwingie is a new member of the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) - an organisation with roots dating back to 1901 - and he has big ambitions for himself and his country.

"You have to have a dream and chase it, right?" he quoted by BBC Sports tells reporter when met on the tee at Aston Wood Golf Club near Birmingham and asked about his ambitions to play on the PGA Tour.

"I'll play in Q School (the PGA Tour's development circuit that awards tour cards), see how far I am off that mark.

"I'm going to play the Open qualifiers next year. It's possible. I have the talent."

Former England striker Peter Crouch was one of the regular partners who helped Odemwingie "fall in love" with golf during his time at Stoke City.

Born in Tashkent - then in the Soviet Union but now capital of Uzbekistan - to a Nigerian father and Russian mother, Odemwingie only began his golf journey after joining West Brom in 2010.

But it was during his time with Stoke

that he "fell in love" with the game.

"The magic of golf brought us together. The camaraderie grew a lot in the dressing room," he says of his time with the Potters, where then manager Mark Hughes rewarded players with time off for a round on overseas trips, and where Peter Crouch, Glen Johnson and Charlie Adam were regular golf buddies.

"We took that on to the pitch and had lots of success together as footballers."

And Odemwingie sees plenty of similarities between the two sports.

"Sometimes the weight of the pass in football is as important as how hard you hit a putt in golf, so [it's] not just all about power," he explains.

"I loved scoring goals, especially in the last minute of the game, and with golf it's like holing a putt on the 18th hole to win a tournament."

Having retired from football in 2019, he also loves the fact that golf is extending his time as a professional.

"My competitive nature is fed, and the good thing about golf is I can play this for many years to come," he says.

"My status as a sportsman is still there.

To get to this point, Odemwingie had to do something unusual for a footballer - go back to school.

He spent four years studying at the University of Birmingham, graduating with a foundation degree in



The 43-year-old scored

36

league goals for West Bromwich Albion, Stoke City and Cardiff City during a six-year spell in England's top flight, as well as winning 65 caps and an Olympic silver medal with Nigeria.

professional golf studies.

"It was a proud moment for me," he remembers.

"On graduation day, seeing how everybody else was happy made me realise it took all of us some effort to get over the line, because a few people quit.

"I kind of miss it now."

Odemwingie lists communication skills, time management, retail, taxation, sports science and nutrition among the subjects he studied, but admits there was one area in which he struggled.

"I didn't give enough time to the business finance



module," he confesses.

"I had to re-sit. But then I had to obviously focus - as a striker, I see the target, I have to hit it!"

Having passed second time around, he is hoping the skills he learned will be transferable and help to educate his three young children, while also giving him the opportunity to work as a coach.

And he is not limiting himself to golf, because he also plans to study for football's Uefa coaching licence.

"It will be a dream to coach my nations: Russia, Nigeria, England."

Odemwingie won Olympic silver with Nigeria at the 2008 Games in Beijing and also remains West Brom's leading scorer in the Premier League era with 30 goals.

If talk of coaching the Three Lions and Super Eagles seems fanciful, Odemwingie has a back-up plan to help him return to the global sporting stage.

With golf having been readmitted to the Olympics in 2016, he wants to see a Nigerian aiming for the pin at the greatest show on Earth.

"If I cannot play as a golfer, I can at least be in the team of a golfer who will play there," he explains.

"I want to introduce

people to the game and build a generation of golfers, from Nigeria in particular, that will participate in the Olympics."

The former striker knows all about the thrill of the Games, having been part of the Nigeria squad that lost the Beijing 2008 final 1-0 to Argentina.

While not every nation values Olympic football, Odemwingie says Nigerians see things differently.

"The medal is very well respected," he says of his silver, while also referencing the gold medal won by the men's team in Atlanta in 1996.

"It's a way to sell the project to our state government."

As he bids to spread the gospel of golf, Odemwingie is already planning meetings with officials and big corporate names back in his homeland, hoping to promote the benefits of his new sport.

"If we have more golf courses, there will be tourism. Kids can get scholarships in good countries.

"If somebody sees an opportunity, they can latch on to [it] and give themselves an amazing life."

And he is hoping to add his name to the mission, with future plans for a golf and football academy in Benin City.

"It's like any other sport. The earlier you start, you have a chance to become an elite."

For a man who has now operated as a professional in two sports, Odemwingie's golf evangelism shines through.

"One of my dreams is to see a Nigerian flag on the European Tour or PGA Tour.

"Hopefully my story will encourage people to start participating, encourage parents to take their kids and give them a feel of golf. I'm sure many of them will fall in love with the game just like I did."

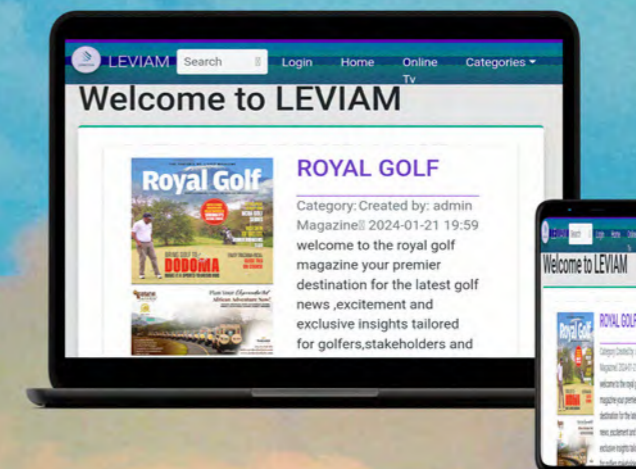
TLGU 2025 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

S/N	EVENT	DATE	VENUE	HOLES	REGION
1.	Corporate Masters Golf Series	Feb 15 th	AGC	18	Arusha
2.	Lina PG Tour (PRO – AM)	Feb 20 th – 23 rd	DSM / Moro	72	DSM / Moro
3.	Lugalo Ladies Open	May 10 th – 11 th	TPDF Lugalo Golf Club	36	Dar es salaam
4.	Lina PG Tour (PRO – AM)	May 15 th – 18 th	TPC	72	Moshi
5.	Morogoro Ladies	TBC	Morogoro	36	Morogoro
6.	Lina PG Tour (PRO – AM)	JULY 3 RD - 6 TH	DSM /Moro	72	Morogoro
7.	Corporate Masters Golf Series	August 02 ND	LGC	18	Dar es salaam
8.	Tanzania Ladies Open	September 5 TH - 7 TH	TBC	54	TBC
9.	Lina PG Tour (PRO – AM)	September 25 th – 28 th	Moshi / Arusha	72	Moshi / Arusha
10.	East and Central all Africa challenge trophy	November	Kenya	54	Nairobi
11.	Lina PG Tour (PRO – AM)	November 13 th – 16 th	Kili Golf	72	Arusha

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- Vice President – Ayne Magombe
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- Competition Secretary – Rehema Athuman
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TANZANIA

National Parks

"A world of unrivalled wildlife and nature"



Tanzania proudly boasts of 21 National Parks that have vast potentials as tourism destinations. While visiting the parks, visitors are privileged to enjoy exceptional wildlife tourism products including incomparable and unique day game viewing, night game drives, bush lunch and dinner, picnicking, walking safaris, bird watching, sports fishing, mountain hiking and climbing, chimpanzee trekking, canoeing, balloon safaris, horse riding, kayaking, Mawenzi Technical Climbing, biking and paragliding.

Interestingly each park is unique from the other. Arrays of spectacular biodiversity and scenery views of each park make a visitor forget the rest and decide for a longer stay or plan to visit again. Today Wilderness taste, solitude and enjoyment are what your heart and brain deserves.

The National Parks of Tanzania- the uncompromised natural splendors provide an excellent amazing experience combining all natural values one can think of. The first safari one makes to any park is and will be different with the second safari to the same or another park-it is hard to match. Once you visit, you know. When it comes to adventure safaris clearly- Tanzania National Parks means your best choice again and again.

These spectacular national parks are Arusha, Burigi-Chato, Gombe, Ibanda-Kyerwa, Katavi, Kilimanjaro, Kitulo, Lake Manyara, Mahale Mountains, Mikumi, Mkomazi, Nyerere, Ruaha, Rubondo Island, Rumanyika-Karagwe, Saadani, Saanane Island, Serengeti, Tarangire, Udzungwa Mountains and Ugala River.

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