



National Pg 4 Kiteto gets 400m/- health centre



National Pg 5 Reps want High Court judge in Pemba



National Pg 6 Teachers hailed for good performance



National Pg 7 CBA donates water tanks to hospitals



JPM hints on resumption of college classes, sports

Covid-19: Kenya cases rise to 887

NAIROBI

The number of coronavirus cases in Kenya has risen to 887 after 57 people tested positive in the last 24 hours, the highest tally since the first case was reported in the country in March.

The cases comprise 23 females and 34 males, all aged between two and 61.

In a statement released yesterday afternoon, Government Spokesperson Cyrus Oguna said of the new cases, 35 were reported in Mombasa, 17 in Nairobi, three in Kajiado, and one each in Kwale and Kitui.

The new cases were discovered after the ministry conducted tests on 2,198 samples. Cumulatively, the country has tested 43,712 samples.

In the statement, Col Rtd Oguna said of the 35 cases in Mombasa, Mvita had 22, Likoni four, and three each in Changamwe and Nyali. Kisauni had two and Jomvu one.

The cases comprise 23 females and 34 males, all aged between two and 61

In Nairobi, Kibra had nine cases, a mandatory a quarantine centre in the city had two, Eastleigh two, while Aga Khan Hospital, Kamulu, Dandora and Pangani had one case each.

As the Covid-19 pandemic rages, many private hospitals are grappling with a different side-effect - financial problems.

The growing costs and shrinking revenues are now forcing hospitals to ask their employees to take a pay cut.

The issue has caused a push and pull between the health workers and their employers, with some moving to court through their unions.

Several private hospitals in the country are feeling the economic crunch due to a decline in patients and suspension of elective surgeries, which contribute a huge chunk of their income.

Aga Khan University Hospital has communicated to its employees about plans for a pay cut. The MP Shah Hospital has also communicated the same to its employees.

"The pay cut will be effective from May 2020 and the gross salary will be adjusted downwards by the respective percentage and will be reviewed in three months," read the memo signed by MP Shah Board Chairman Manoj Shah.

AGENCIES



Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) chairman and CRDB Bank Plc managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (L) speaks at a press briefing in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the Bank of Tanzania's strategies to strengthen the country's economy amid efforts to combat the Covid-19 pandemic and how other banks plan to realise the central bank's objectives. He is with TBA deputy chairman and Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania CEO Sanjay Rughani. Story on Page 13 in Business Section. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Smart cards may speed up retirement benefits release

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government is working to introduce smart cards which will incorporate civil servants' working historical information to enable speedy issuance of retirement benefits.

The special smart cards are expected to unravel long time challenges that retirees have been facing in getting their benefits, including bottlenecks in the flow of detailed information to the Treasury.

Finance and Planning Minister Dr Philip Mpango made set out these policy objectives

when winding up debate on the ministry's Budget estimates for the 2020/2021 financial year. The National Assembly approved 12.39trn/-for the Treasury.

"Delay in issuance of retirement benefits is mostly caused by slow flow of information since the verification exercise is conducted manually by going through the books. Introduction of smart cards will solve these problems," the minister asserted.

Apart from producing the smart cards, the

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Standard Chartered Bank announces Covid-19 relief measures for clients

By Guardian Correspondent

STANDARD Chartered Bank Tanzania has announced relief measures for its individual and business clients whose income and cash flows have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ajmair Riaz, (pictured) the bank's Country Head of Retail Banking, said in a statement issued yesterday that his team has been working very closely with the bank's clients in the individual and business segments "to understand the financial challenges that they are facing during this unprecedented time".

"During this unprecedented period, we understand the challenges that prevail including from a financial aspect. In this regard, we have



been reaching out to our clients to discuss how the pandemic is affecting them and the various challenges that they are facing," Riaz said. "Therefore, based on discussions with our

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By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has said the number of Covid-19 cases in the country has gone down and if the situation remains unchanged by next week, the government will reopen colleges and allow tourism activities to resume.

He made the remarks after attending Sunday prayers at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) church in Chato Diocese, Geita Region, yesterday.

President Magufuli thanked religious leaders for allowing their adherents to continue with prayers while taking precautions against the pandemic.

He said he did not institute a lockdown across the country or close its borders since the move would have adversely affected production, implementation of projects, employment as well as availability of basic needs including food.

He said the disease will spread but it will come to an end, so closing the borders would mostly affect those living close to neighbouring countries.

Giving an update on Covid-19 cases, the president said that as of Saturday Amana regional referral hospital in Dar es Salaam which had 198 patients remained with 12, Mloganzila Hospital that had 30 patients remained with six and Lulanzi Centre in Kibaha district, Coast region has 22 patients from 50 admitted in previous weeks.

Other Covid-19 treatment centres and patient numbers were Aga Khan (31), Hindu Mandal (16), Regency (17), TMJ (7), Rabinisia (14), Moshono (Arusha) (11), Longido (0), Karatu (0),

TURN TO PAGE 2

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity. Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT 2 For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people. For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

FACT 4 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Stay home when you are sick. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT 5 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms: Fever, Cough, Shortness of breath. Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms. AND Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.



cdc.gov/COVID-19

JPM hints on resumption of college classes, sports

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Buswelu (2), Misungwi (20), Ukerewe (0), Magu (0), Mkuuyuni (0), Nyahunge (0), Sengerema (0), Kwimba (0), Bugando and Sekou Toure (2), Dodoma (2), Kongwa (0) and Kondoa (0).

He stated that many patients are in good condition.

"I personally believe in God. He has answered our prayers", the president said, insisting that Tanzanians continue taking precautions against the novel disease.

In case the situation continues as it is now, government will re-open colleges and sports activities be allowed to continue, he affirmed.

He said there is currently a large number of tourists wanting to come into the country and have shown intention by buying air tickets, thus he directed the relevant authorities including the ministry not to prevent them from coming.

He stressed that Tanzanians should not worry so much over the disease to the point of causing other health problems. He urged health workers to ensure better services to patients with other diseases and be careful not to cause panic by telling them they also suffer from Covid-19, while they have not been confirmed to be infected.

He said: "There are people who were told they suffer from the coronavirus but tested for the second time they were found to be negative. Officials should not prevent family members from burying their relatives with respect. Burial procedures should be conducted in a similar manner like those who are buried after dying from other diseases including HIV/Aids, TB and measles."

The president further said his child also tested positive for Covid-19 but has recovered, after consuming lemon, tangerine and undergoing steam inhaling.

He beseeched religious leaders and Tanzanians generally to use the coming Friday, Saturday and Sunday to conduct thanksgiving prayers to Almighty God

for the reduction in Covid-19 cases.

On Covid-19 testing at the National Health Laboratory, President Magufuli said the commission tasked to investigate the lab appointed by Health Minister Ummu Mwalimu has completed its great job and that its findings will be announced by the docket minister.

In another development, President Magufuli said there is enough sugar in the country after 26,000 tonnes of the commodity was received from Uganda through Mwanza port.

"We recently experienced an acute shortage of sugar. I talked to President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and thousands of tonnes of the commodity had now arrived by ship. An extra 10,000 tonnes came through the Dar es Salaam port. What would the situation be if we had closed our borders?" the president demanded.

He stressed that Tanzanians continue working hard especially to ensure ample food production as once neighbouring countries re-open its borders they will need food from us.

The ELCT presiding pastor at the Chato Diocese, Thomas Kangezi thanked the president for joining them in the Sunday prayer service and for allowing churches to conduct prayers during the pandemic. He pledged to continue praying for him to execute his duties under God's guidance.

In the prayer service President Magufuli and First Lady Janeth Magufuli contributed 10m/- towards the construction of a new ELCT church in Chato and 1m/- to the church choir.

"There are people who were told they suffer from the coronavirus but tested for the second time they were found to be negative. Officials should not prevent family members from burying their relatives with respect. Burial procedures should be conducted in a similar manner like those who are buried after dying from other diseases including HIV/Aids, TB and measles."



Works, Transport and Communications minister Isack Kamwelwe (L) has a word in Dar es Salaam at the weekend with Vodacom Tanzania Plc head of M-Pesa business Happiness Shuma (R) at the launch of an experimental e-ticketing system for long-distance commuter buses. The system is the work of the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (Latra). Looking on (2nd-R) is Latra director general Gilliard Ngewe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Smart cards may speed up retirement benefits release

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Treasury is carrying out a verification on the Tanzania Pensioners Payment System (TPPS).

Dr Mpango stated that during the 2019/2020 financial year, the government paid a total of 57,607 retired servants and inheritance benefits to 1,006 beneficiaries.

At the same time about 457 civil servants who were employed on a contractual basis received their

retirement benefits in the same year.

He said the government is mandated to pay pension benefits to civil servants who are not contributing to national social security funds, including those on contracts and political leaders.

Earlier Siginda East MP, Miraji Mtaturu (CCM) questioned the minister on government plans to pay retirement benefits to retired civil servants who have been following up their payments for over a year and often well beyond

that time frame.

"There are many retired civil servants who have served the nation with passion and commitment, but their payments are taking too long. There is need to link the Treasury with social security funds to ensure timely payments," the MP underlined.

He also requested the ministry to release funds for construction of the Mang'onyi irrigation project in his constituency, as the project is beneficial to the public.

"There is an irrigation scheme at Mang'onyi where the government allocated funds for its implementation in the 2017/2018 fiscal year, but as I speak the monies have not been released," he said. The water level in the dam was going down due poor rains experienced in the area, he pointed out.

The government needs to ensure timely release of funds allocated for development projects in different places across the country, he added.



Military exercises involving members of the Tanzania People's Defence Forces well under way at Msata in Bagamoyo District at the weekend. Photo: Lieutenant Selemeni Semunyu

MOGADISHU

Govt starts aerial sprays to stop desert locust invasion

Young desert locusts that have not yet grown wings jump in the air as they are approached, as a visiting delegation from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) observes them, in the desert near Garowe, in the semi-autonomous Puntland region of Somalia.

Somali officials say they have deployed helicopters to spray new swarms of desert locusts that are eating crops and threatening the country's fragile food supply.

In an interview with VOA, Somalia's Minister of Agriculture Sa'id Hussein Iid said that "hired Canadian experts will engage with the swarms by spraying bio-organic pesticides from the air, using three helicopters."

Iid said the spraying, which began Thursday, is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Experts have said the desert locust invasion that began last year is the worst East Africa has seen in at least

25 years. Neighboring Ethiopia also began spraying locust-infested areas this week.

"Before we have been conducting hand-spraying and using machines mounted on vehicles, but we have realized that is not enough to fight with the pest and avoid devastation to our pasture and agricultural land," said Iid.

This aerial spraying will focus on areas in the central Somali region of Galmudug, Puntland in the northeast, and the self-declared republic of Somaliland, the minister said.

Conflict limits efforts

But, security experts say, due to conflict and chaos in much of Somalia, there are limits to spraying pesticide by airplane.

"We know there are areas where al-

Shabab militant group controls, where a ground co-ordination is impossible. I think this shows the limitation of the power of the government when it comes fulfilling its mandate and responsibilities," said Hussein Moalim Mohamud, Somalia's former national security adviser.

Both Somali officials and the international aid agencies have been warning of a humanitarian catastrophe in Somalia due to combined COVID-19, flooding, and locust which threatens the livestock and the food of millions of Somalis.

Early this year, after extreme rainfall that created favorable breeding conditions, swarms of desert locusts from the Arabian Peninsula began rampaging across East African countries.

In February, the pests traveled to Somalia and were seen flying over land used for grazing animals in a remote part of Somalia, forcing the country to declare a national emergency.

Somalia's minister of agriculture says the pests have been laying eggs, meaning the swarms could get bigger and spread farther.

"It posed the threat to us, a country in the east Africa region, since December last year, but our particular fear has been the damage it can cause if the situation is not brought under control" before this year's crops can be harvested, the minister said.

According to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, FAO, desert locusts can travel up to 150km in a day. Each adult insect can eat its own weight in food daily.

Standard Chartered Bank announces Covid-19 relief measures for clients

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various clients, we have decided to take proactive actions to introduce relief measures that will ease the financial burden for our individual and business clients whose income and cash flows have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic," he noted.

Riaz explained that they looked into a number of options for supporting their clients "and have narrowed down to two effective measures which comprise either a payment holiday or tenor extension for loan repayments".

He said that the options are open to individual clients who have personal loans or mortgages with the bank as well as business clients, mainly in the SME sector, who have taken loans from the bank.

He added that the relief measures to be granted to the bank's clients will be based on criteria that will consider the financial impact arising from cases such as unpaid leave, salary reduction, job loss, Covid-19-infected customers, loss of business "and other reasons the bank may find reasonable during this unprecedented time".

Elaborating on the specific options of the relief measures, Riaz explained that clients preferring the option of a payment holiday will get a three-month moratorium, "while the option of the extension of the loan tenure entails a twelve-month additional period to make repayments, resulting in smaller repayment instalments that the bank's clients can bear".

"Our clients continue to be the reason we are in business and why we are 'here for good' as per our brand promise," said Riaz, adding: "We are also committed to enhancing prosperity for our clients. As we go through this unprecedented period, we remain committed to supporting them to come out of it with minimal impact, if any, on their financial status."

"Therefore, we believe that the options will go a long way in minimising the financial impact to our clients, and we will discuss these options with them accordingly as and when we receive their requests," he added.

With the country busy combating the

spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, Riaz appealed to Standard Chartered clients to make greater use of the bank's digital capabilities.

He said the bank's Full Digital Bank on Mobile offers over 70 banking services, thus enabling users to carry out all their transactions without needing to actually visit any of the bank's branches.

"As we go through this period, the health of our clients is our priority. In this regard, we continue to advocate and drive branchless and cashless banking," said the Standard Chartered executive.

"With our Full Digital Bank on Mobile, our clients can make their utility payments and move money from their accounts to their mobile phone accounts, and vice versa. They can carry out foreign currency transactions as well as manage their debit cards, from activating to deactivating them," he explained, noting that all this can be done from the safety of their clients' premises.

Touching on the bank's SME clients, Riaz said that the bank's enhanced Straight2Bank Digital Platform enables business owners to fully carry out their financial obligations, including payment of salaries, tax payments as well as payment to vendors at the safety of their premises.

While stressing the need for their clients to continue using the bank's digital banking capabilities to reduce physical interaction at branches and decrease the handling of cash, Riaz explained that it was important to continue to follow precautionary measures put in place by the government and recommended by medical experts.

"I believe that we will make it through the Covid-19 pandemic when we stay diligent, keep our hope towards the future, and foster cooperation," he added.

"As we go through this period, the health of our clients is our priority. In this regard, we continue to advocate and drive branchless and cashless banking"



A rice farmer dependent on Dodoma Region's Nahi Makulu irrigation scheme covers part of his harvest with canvas yesterday, with recent floods having wreaked havoc on some 11,000 hectares planted with the crop. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has appointed Siha MP, Dr Godwin Mollel the new deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

According to a statement from the Directorate of Presidential Communications unit, Dr Mollel replaces Dr Faustine Ndugulile, whose appointment was revoked for the reasons yet to be established.

Dr Ndugulile sacking follows massive changes made at the Health Ministry a fortnight ago.

This is the second shake up within weeks at the ministry following the transfer of Permanent Secretary, Dr Zainab Chaula, to the communications

JPM drops Ndugulile, names Mollel new deputy minister

docket and the retiring of Chief Medical Officer Prof Mohamed Bakari.

Dr Ndugulile, a microbiologist and public health advocate, has served at the ministry for about three years.

Ndugulile, who is an MP for Kigamboni assumed the post in 2017 when President Magufuli reshuffled his cabinet.

He replaced Dr Hamisi Kigwangala who is now minister of Tourism and Natural Resources.

The changes have come at a time of a Covid-19 pandemic when all eyes are

on the ministry which is responsible for the health docket.

Prior to becoming deputy minister, he served in a number of regional and global bodies, including as Chairman for the Inter-Parliamentary Union Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS, as a member of the Governing Council representing Africa in the International AIDS Society, and as a member of the Pan African Parliament.

On his twitter page, Dr Ndugulile said that he received the message of his

sacking with humility.

"I have received the President's decision with a lot of humility," he said, thanking President John Magufuli for giving him the opportunity to serve in his administration.

He said the Health Ministry has registered tremendous achievements during the past years and thanked minister Ummu Mwalimu and her team for job well done.

"I wish the new deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollel all the best," tweeted Dr Ndugulile.

Rwanda genocide suspect Kabuga for appearance at Arusha's IRMCT for trial

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE fugitive Félicien Kabuga, one of the world's most wanted renegades believed to have masterminded the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and who was recently arrested in France, is likely to be brought to Arusha for trials.

Kabuga, who has been on the run for over quarter of a century, was nabbed in Paris by French authorities as the result of a joint investigation with the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) Office of the Prosecutor.

A statement from the Arusha-based, International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals quoted the Mechanism Chief Prosecutor Serge Brammertz as saying: "The arrest of Félicien Kabuga is a reminder that those responsible for genocide can be brought to account, even twenty-six years after their crimes."

"... Our first thoughts must be with the victims and survivors of the Rwandan genocide. Advocating on their behalf is an immense professional honor for my entire Office. For international justice, Kabuga's arrest demonstrates that we can succeed when we have the international community's support," stated the Prosecutor.

French police arrested Kabuga in a sophisticated, coordinated operation with simultaneous searches across a number of locations; this paper was told in additional statement.

Following completion of appropriate procedures under French law, Kabuga is expected to be transferred to the custody of the Mechanism, where he will stand trial.

The officials credited the achievement as being the result of unwavering commitment of the United Nations Security Council, which established the Mechanism to continue the accountability process in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

The International Residual

Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (Mechanism) was established by UN Security Council Resolution to complete the remaining work of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (Arusha) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, which closed in 2015 and 2017, respectively. The Mechanism has two branches, one in Arusha, Tanzania, and one in The Hague, Netherlands

Chief Prosecutor Serge Brammertz added "I would like to extend our appreciation to France and its law enforcement authorities, particularly the Central Office for Combating Crimes against Humanity, Genocide and War Crimes and the Office of the Procureur Général of the Paris Cour d'Appel. This arrest could not have been made without their exceptional cooperation and skill."

The Prosecutor also took time to recognize other partners whose contributions were essential, including law enforcement agencies and prosecution services from Rwanda, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland, the United States, EUROPOL and INTERPOL.

Earlier this year a delegation from the Prosecutor's office visited the Ntarama genocide memorial in Rwanda to honor the memory of the victims and renew the facility's commitment to justice.

Felician Kabuga was indicted by the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in 1997 on seven counts of genocide, complicity in genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, attempt to commit genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, persecution and extermination, all in relation to crimes committed during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

COMMUNICATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

Position Description

SERA BORA, which in Swahili means Better Policies, is a USAID funded project through Michigan State University and implemented in collaboration with ASPIRES NGO in Tanzania. The 5-year project aims to accelerate adoption of more effective policies and programs, drive broad-based agricultural sector growth, improve household food security and nutrition, and reduce poverty in Tanzania. SERA BORA project has three components, namely:

Policy Research and Data; Policy and Regulatory Reforms; and Institutional Capacity for Policy Architecture.

ASPIRES Tanzania in implementing SERA BORA and works closely with Agriculture Sector Lead Ministries. ASPIRES Tanzania seeks to recruit qualified dynamic Communication and Knowledge Management Specialist (C&NM) who will have the following responsibilities:

a) Technical and Leading Roles

- Support implementation of SERA BORA communication strategy that includes media outreach and social media content creation
- Manage USAID branding and marking plan for SERA BORA Project
- Manage internal communications (memos, brochures, newsletters etc.)
- Draft content (e.g. press releases) for mass media or SERA BORA website
- Lead effort in preparing policy briefs from various research reports
- Organize initiatives and plan events and press conferences
- Liaise with media and handle requests for interviews, statements, etc.
- Acquire and maintain a detailed knowledge of SERA BORA policies, principles and strategies and to keep up to date with relevant developments
- Foster relationships with advocates and key stakeholders of SERA BORA
- Perform "damage control" in cases of bad publicity
- Provide quality assurance for SERA BORA communication materials
- Assist in communication of strategies or messages from senior leadership
- Development of success stories for the project
- Build and maintain relationship with journalists and key external role players

b) Administrative and Supporting Roles

- Liaise with the M&E Specialist in the preparation of monthly, quarterly, annual and end of project reports
- Liaise with the M&E Specialist in reviewing various internal documents including the Annual Work Plan; Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan; and similar documents
- Liaise with M&E Specialist in ensuring quality control of various project documents

Requirements (Knowledge and Skills)

- Proven experience of at least 5 years as communications specialist in development projects
- Experience in digital communications including managing content for organizations' website and social media
- Experience in copywriting and editing
- Working knowledge of MS Office; photo and video-editing software is an asset
- Excellent communication (oral and written) and presentation skills
- Outstanding organizational and planning abilities
- Proficient command of English



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Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir bin Ally (2nd-L) with Prof Mohamed Janabi, Executive Director of Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute, at the weekend shortly after a visitation to patients admitted to the specialised medical facility. Photo: JKCI

Ministry: No scrap metal business without licence

By Guardian Reporter

In order for anyone to do business as a scrap metal dealer they have to obtain a licence. The licences will last for three years. Trading without a licence is a criminal offence.

The government has ordered all scrap metal dealers in the country to get business licences in a bid to curb destruction of infrastructures such as water pipes and electric cables.

Speaking in Tanga at the weekend, Deputy Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Mussa Sima directed that all such traders immediately visit the offices of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to acquire licences for their operations.

This follows a wave of destruction and theft of metal materials affecting both public infrastructures and private properties which is blamed on rampant trade in scrap metal.

Sima made the statement during his meeting with the scrap metal businesses held in Tanga City and directed that all traders be licensed so as the NEC law requires.

He said the government will not impose fines on the scrap metal already stored by dealers currently but warned that it is readying for an operation to weed out unlicensed dealers.

"We want to know who are involved in the businesses and establish if they operate legally" he said.

Sima added the government's role is to ensure that everyone abides by the rules. He also encouraged those businesses to form associations that can help in processing permits issues among other things.

"In 2019 we made regulations stating that each of us is obliged to have a permit and we are responsible for granting the permit and if there is a challenge to granting these permits we collectively discuss where we have a problem and solve it and we are not here to stop this business," he said.

Meanwhile, during his official tour to Tanga region, Sima visited Neelkanth limestone factory and instructed the investor to develop infrastructure to prevent dust.

He noted that existing machines at the facility are not capable of preventing dust which is a health risk to the public.

Sima directed NEMC to inspect and assess the impacts health risks.

He added that the country is inviting stakeholders to invest in the manufacturing sector but it also has a responsibility to ensure the private sector is doing businesses without affecting the environment and the surrounding communities.

For his part, NEMC eastern regional acting manager Ndimbumi Yoram said there were complaints from citizens about pollution and smoke coming from the factory.

By Guardian Reporter, Manyara

THE Minister of State in the President's Office -Regional Administration and Local Government (RALG) Selemu Jafo has launched a health centre at Sunya in Kiteto district, Manyara region and appealed to health workers to offer good services to the people.

Jafo also called on the people to ensure they take care of the infrastructures of the health centre to realise the government aim to bring health services closer to people.

Minister launches health centre worth 400m/- in Kiteto district

Jafo said the district had faced many challenges including the lack of a health centre at Sunya that forced them to travel long distances for health services delivery.

He said Sunya health centre is

among health centres that received 400m/- and its construction had been successfully completed

Jafo also inspected construction work of the district council headquarters and called on the contractor - Pacha

Construction Ltd to complete the work in time as per contract agreement.

Kiteto District Commissioner Tumaini Magege appealed to the government for two more health centres to ease health service delivery

due to the huge size of the district.

He said the main challenge facing the health centre is lack of electricity and resort to the use of generators.

Presenting construction report of the district headquarters, Kiteto district

Executive Director Tamimu Kambona said the work started in January 2018 and was completed last year at a cost of 510m/- that will serve a population of 38,273.

He said the money spent so far was 483.4m/- and 35m/- will be spent on the construction of a pharmacy.

Kiteto Member of Parliament, Emmanuel Papiam, on behalf of his constituency members thanked the government for the construction of the health centre and urged the minister to convey his thanks to President John Magufuli.

WMA urges industrialists to invest in effective packaging

By Guardian Reporter

THE Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) has called on industrialists to heavily invest in quality packaging of their products to win the international competitive markets.

Director of technical services division at WMA, Stella Kahwa, made the call over the weekend when speaking ahead of World Metrology Day, an annual celebration of the signature of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875 by representatives of seventeen nations.

She said that proper packaging is an important yardstick in excelling in business undertaking within and beyond borders.

Kahwa said that this year, WMA will dwell on proper packaging to ensure that customers get better products that are in line with value for money as well as ensuring that there is fair competition. "We want to see manufacturers use the correct measurements that have been verified in order to protect the consumer and give the required quantity of the products," she said.

According to Kahwa, properly packaged goods give a room for manufacturers to get into local and international markets. "And this is our target to ensure that traders win the competitive markets and this is in accordance with this year's theme - 'Measurements for Global Trade'.

Through proper packaging, Kahwa said that the government can get correct taxes, hence the sector contribute handsomely to the national

coffers.

"Proper packaging also involves all key information of the products and addresses, something which is key to promote someone's business. So, traders should invest in this area if they are to grow. This also builds trust amongst customers and give confidence to traders to promote goods globally," she suggested.

In implementing Tanzania's industrialisation agenda, the director said that WMA has been in the forefront in educating industrialists to package their products in line with the law governing MWA.

The law is in accordance with section 340 of the Weights and Measures Act, 2002 which was revised in 2016.

On regular basis, WMA inspects industries to make sure that goods are packaged with the correct measurements, she said. The official said that the agency has ultra-modern facilities, which are installed in every WMA regional office across Tanzania.

WMA is an Executive Agency, responsible for fair trade transactions through certification of weights and measures. It is the sole agency in Tanzania for enforcing the Weights and Measures Act No.20 of 1982.

Since 1999 and in pursuance to the Executive Agencies Act Number 30 of 1997, the WMA replaced the former Directorate of Weights and Measures under the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The move was part of the Civil Service Reform Programme (CSR) to increase efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery.



Feed the Future official Malaki Msigwa (R) updates Lands, Housing and Human Settlements deputy minister Dr Angelina Mabula (L) on a land ownership and use formalisation project in Iringa villages implemented by the NGO. This was at the Iringa District Lands office library at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government plans to modernize court buildings for better service delivery and will move to ensure legal aid is made available to all the citizens.

Zanzibar Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs Khamis Juma Mwalimu said when tabling to the House of Representatives ministry's budget estimates for financial year

Z'bar plans facelift for court buildings

2020/21.

He said work on renovation of High Court building at Vuga and in Chake Chake, Pemba had started.

He said after rehabilitation of the buildings will accommodate more people coming to hear various court proceedings.

He said similar renovation work has been carried out in district courts - at Mfenesini in Zanzibar North Region and Makunduchi in Zanzibar South Region.

He said work on the construction of modern High Court building at Tunguu in Zanzibar Central district

was continuing and is expected to be completed next year.

Mwalimu said already the government has begun providing legal aid to various citizens.

He said the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) continues with investigation pace for special

procedures in the prosecution of cases stemming from gender abuse and illicit drugs.

The minister said the procedure has reduced the backlog of cases in courts and restored public trust of the judicial system.

He said in the year 2019-2020 a

total of 19,382 cases were opened in various courts in Zanzibar out of which 17,097 were determined upon, and added that the Judiciary has been beefed up by increasing the number of judges from four to nine including three women.

He urged the House to endorse a total of 23,204,200,000/- for the ministry's recurrent and development expenditure for FY 2020-2011.

Reps request for resident High Court judge on Pemba Island

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MEMBERS of the Zanzibar House of Representatives from Pemba have appealed to the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs to station a High Court judge on the island to preside over cases referred to the High Court.

The appeal was given by the Ole Member of the House of Representative Mussa Ali Mussa when contributing to debate of

budget estimates of the Ministry for Constitutional and Legal Affairs tabled by its minister, Khamis Juma Mwalimu.

Mussa said residents of Pemba Island want the services of High Court judge who will be stationed in the island that has two administrative regions in order to determine cases for the High Court including murder cases.

"There are many cases in Pemba, including murder cases awaiting for

the services of High Court judges," he said.

A Ziwani Representative Suleiman Ali Makame said a resident High Court judge in Pemba will residents enhance the concept of good governance and human rights.

He said there are suspects who appeal to the High Court but it takes very long time for such appeals to be heard, let alone ruled upon due to lack of resident High Court judges in Pemba.



Tanzania Revenue Authority's Mbeya regional manager, Eunice Liheluke (R), hands over to Mbeya regional commissioner Albert Chalamila (L) 15,000 entrepreneurs' identity cards at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister for Minerals Stanslaus Nyongo has called on officials of Buhunda village in Misungwi district, Mwanza region to educate their people understand investment issues in the mining sector.

He gave the directives last week during his visit at the new mining project owned by Busolwa Mining Ltd in the district after being told of the hardships they encounter when giving way to the project in the area.

"It is the question of understanding, education on investment development issues for the people and service providers.

"When a prospective miner applies and issued with a licence, the owner

Educate the public on investment development issues, says minister

of the land is supposed to be paid compensation and then give room for the project," stressed Nyongo.

On the issue of goods clearance from the port, the Deputy Minister promised to discuss the issue with Tanzania Shipping Agency Ltd (TASAC) to ensure it speeds up clearing procedures from ports so that the equipment for big projects are cleared in time.

Covid-19 pandemic worldwide had delayed essential equipment for the mining projects not arriving on time, Nyongo said the challenge will soon be solved.

He said Chinese factories, from where most of the equipment for the

mining project had been ordered, have started working.

On the issue of employment Baraka said the mine expects to employ 88 permanent workers out of who seven will be foreigners to help train local workers how to operate the plant and machinery, including 200 other businesses opportunities around the mine.

Misungwi District Commissioner Juma Sweda urged the government to establish a mineral market in the district, saying already his office in collaboration with the district mineral office has set aside a building for the purpose.

'Tobacco is harmful to sexual health'

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

Sexual arousal requires good blood circulation, yet tobacco exerts a negative effect on blood circulation by constricting blood vessels. Most of the available studies show that smoking has a negative impact on the arousal phase - erection and lubrication, experts have warned.

"It is primarily for this reason that tobacco is harmful to sexual health in the medium term. However, we now know that numerous substances contained within smoke may also exert a more immediate effect, leading to a significant reduction in erectile capacity after just one cigarette. Furthermore, smoking can also negatively affect fertility, promote certain sexual diseases and lead to an early menopause," experts explained.

The link between long-term smoking and arousal disorders (erectile dysfunction or lubrication problems) is well known and has been demonstrated. Although sexual health problems may be caused by many things, smoking can and should be seen as a risk factor in itself, especially when an arousal problem suddenly develops. Smoking effectively poses a well-known risk to cardiovascular health.

"Given that circulation problems are the main physical cause of erectile dysfunction, it is clear that nicotine and tobacco will have a very negative impact on the sexual health of a smoker thanks to their detrimental effects on blood supply. The correlation between erectile problems and cardiovascular illnesses, as well as the constriction of the penal arteries, underpins the concept of the "sentinel symptom", given that erectile dysfunction can be an early warning sign of broader cardiovascular illnesses. Erectile dysfunction can therefore appear several years before the first cardiac symptoms.

The harmful effect that smoking exerts on the whole network of veins seems to depend on the dosage and on how long the person has smoked. Some studies describe an increase in erection problems as high as 40 per cent among regular smokers.

Despite the alarming situation, they said there was a serious poor awareness among women and girls to turn out and diagnose for the killer disease.

Cervical cancer is the most common cancer in Tanzania, whereby statistics depicts that, excluding human immunodeficiency virus, lower respiratory infections, malaria, diarrheal diseases, and tuberculosis, cervical cancer kills more women than any other form of illness in Tanzania.

Cervical Cancer happens when cells change in a woman's cervix, which connects her uterus with her vagina. This cancer can affect the deeper tissues of her cervix and may spread to other parts of her body (metastasize), often the lungs, liver, bladder, vagina as well as rectum. Most cases of cervical cancer are caused by infection with human papillomavirus (HPV), which is preventable with a vaccine.

Mary Ngowi, a health expert at the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH)'s Oncology via Screening Department, said only few women and girls were attending at the department to diagnose for the dangerous infection.

"This department has been initiated by the government since last year for giving free cervical cancer screening services among women and girls, but unfortunately responses among the targeted groups remains very discouraging," she observed.

Ngowi informed that few patients attending to the facility were at critical stages, added "cervical cancer is treatable, but due to ignorance over the disease many patients find themselves seeking treatment while at critical stage, a situation which have

often caused deaths.

She said at critical stage of illness, it was complicated and expensive for the patient to recover and that the only option is always to remain home under palliative care, just taking pain-killer drugs, waiting for a rarely fortune of surviving.

"The disease is 'dangerous' and continue to kill many in the country, especially in rural areas, there's a need for more awareness campaign to educate and sensitize them (women and girls) to turn out in large number and test for the disease before situation went out of their hands," she urged. She named Mwanza, Mara, Musoma and Bukoba among regions with high prevalence in the country.

Tanzania has a low doctor-to-patient ratio (1:50,000) and nearly 7000 women die each year from cervical cancer disease.

The disease is the fourth most common cancer in women globally, with over 500,000 new cases and an estimated 250,000 deaths each year. The burden of cervical cancer is disproportionately high in developing countries, which account for 85 percent of cases worldwide and nearly 90 percent of cervical cancer deaths.

Tanzania has a population of 14.88 million women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 9772 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 6695 die from the disease.

Cervical cancer ranks as the first most frequent cancer among women in Tanzania and the first most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age.

About 3.3 per cent of women in the general population are estimated to harbor cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 68.0 percent of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPV-16 or 18.



MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FOR HEALTH (MDH)

Provision of Consultancy Services for the Final Evaluation of MDH HIS Project

Background

Management and Development for Health (MDH) is a non-profit Tanzanian public health organization that focuses primarily on public health service, education and research in the United Republic of Tanzania.

From 2015 MDH with funding from The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has implemented the Health Information System (HIS) Development and Systems Integration Support Project.

The project aimed to strengthen the health information system in order to support the use of patient information for providing quality HIV and other health services. Furthermore, the project aimed at improving retention, improving linkages along the continuum of care, improving the use of available resources, and improving evidence-based decision making across all levels of health care in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

Management and Development for Health (MDH) is seeking an experienced and qualified organization to perform the project final evaluation.

Scope of the Assignment

Prepare and submit a technical proposal to MDH on how the assignment will be undertaken through working on but not limited to the following:

- 1) Create a checklist of the requirements for final evaluation; continuous reports, best practices and compile in one document and dataset.
- 2) Conduct consultative meetings with MDH HIS staff to collect information, review the baseline indicators and data on various systems/components and compare what is existing in our systems, identify data gaps and needs to collect more evaluation data then work on list and tools required to collect additional data to ensure all data necessary for quality and sound final evaluation will be available and clean.
- 3) Develop evaluation protocol and facilitate submission for review and approval by ethical boards both in Tanzania Mainland (NIMR) and Zanzibar (ZAMREC)
- 4) Conduct detailed review of various Health Information systems in Tanzania, including, client level systems for various programs: HIV, RCH, TB, HIV-Laboratory, HIV supply chain, and other electronic medical records systems, National level systems (DHIS2, HFR, mHealth, NHCR) and any other area that will be suggested in addition to these that might provide valuable information.
- 5) Conduct detailed review and interview various stake holders including MOHCDGEC, PORALG, Funders (CDC, USAID, DOD), National HIS Partners, Regional IPs, Sub grantees (UCC, UDSM) etc. involved in the implementation process
- 6) Review all best practices, ensure that they are all properly documented as per acceptable standards and review data appropriateness for inclusion in the final evaluation.
- 7) Review available data sources such as program report, supervision reports, SIMS reports to facilitate establishment of project outputs and outcomes.
- 8) Undertake a random sampling process for facilities (management, data clerks and health care providers), R/CHMTs and Regional IPs who are beneficiaries of the supported systems under this HIS project.
- 9) Sample and visit facilities using these systems (CTC-2, CTC-3, HFR, NHCR, Biometrics). Conduct focus group discussions, key informant interviews and checklist guided observation to document processes and the infrastructure for best practices and challenges /limitations and how they are addressed at site level.
- 10) Review and document the impact of these systems with respect to defined project goals
- 11) Perform data Analysis of data and presentation of findings

Expected Outputs

- 1) Evaluation plan and tools approved by the appropriate ethical review boards
- 2) Progress reports
- 3) Final Evaluation report
- 4) At least 5 case stories and best practices (high impact stories)
- 5) Visual presentations (video clips, photographs and graphs) should be included in the report to depict trends and performance.
- 6) Policy briefs, flies, brochures to facilitate dissemination of evaluation findings

Timeline

MDH expects to finalize selection of the consultant by end of June 2020 and the consultant have to start work by July 1st 2020. It is imperative that applicants have internal resources and capacity to undertake this work and accomplish by September 27, 2020

The Evaluation Criteria and Award shall be based, at a minimum, on the following:

- Understanding the terms of reference
- Overall quality of the proposal, quality of the work and methodology.
- Qualification of experts and experience in the field of the proposed assignment
- List of local experts.

How to apply

Interested and qualified organization/consultants are invited to submit technical proposal (maximum 10 pages, 12-point Times New roman font) on how they will undertake the evaluation. The proposal should specify capacity of lead consultant (CV, Experience) and at least 3 other consultants readily available to rapidly undertake the assignment.

Also include the financial proposal, in a separate attachment, describing clearly the budget in relation to each proposed activity. Appendices will not count towards the page limit.

Application Deadline

All proposals should be sent through e mail to the address below before 5pm June 10, 2020. Hand delivered proposals will NOT be accepted.

Chief Executive Officer
Management and Development for Health
Mwai Kibaki Rd Plot 802, Mikocheni B
P. O. Box 79810
Dar es Salaam.
mdh@mdh-tz.org

Arumeru district factory set to produce affordable face masks

By Guardian Correspondent, Arumeru

THE health sector in Arumeru district, Arusha region is set to curb COVID-19 following the establishment of a factory worth 40m/- that will manufacture affordable face masks to be distributed to health facilities across the district.

Dr Her Rhee, executive director of the factory-innovative technology and energy centre (iTEC) said the institute will provide raw materials as well as funds for operational activities including payment of workers.

Dr Rhee added the industry has already produced over 6000 face masks that will be distributed to Arumeru district hospital, health centers and dispensaries.

He said the project has been funded by Korea's Seoul National University as part of efforts in helping Tanzania to combat Covid-19.

"The face masks making project is financially supported by Seoul National University and Korea's Ministry of Science and Technology (ICT) under iTEC.

He added: "We have been touched to support the government in Arumeru district since the demand for protective gear including face masks is currently high. We have so far manufactured over 6000 face masks".

Speaking during the launch of the factory, Arumeru District Commissioner, Jerry Muro said the face masks making industry has been established by the district authority in collaboration with iTEC.

According to Muro the face masks which are currently important for

protection against Covid-19 will also be given to the residents and civil servants.

Arumeru district senior medical officer, Fokasi Maneno commended efforts by the district authority and iTEC for their efforts in production of the protective gear.

He was optimistic that the protective gear will motivate health workers who are frontline fighters in combating the novel coronavirus.

Maneno said Arumeru district has a total of 61 health centres and 10 hospitals.

"We have provided land for establishment of the industry; our partners have provided machines and raw materials. They will also be responsible for payment of workers", he noted.

Representing Arumeru district hospital workers, Heavenlight Nkya and Okuli Meena said establishment of a factory boosts government efforts in the fight against Covid-19.



We have provided land for establishment of the industry; our partners have provided machines and raw materials. They will also be responsible for payment of workers



Preparations for the installation of a 2-million-litre water tank under the Kisarawe-Pugu project have begun at Pugu Kajiungeni in suburban Dar es Salaam. The project, which is being implemented by the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa), is meant to supply potable water to Kisarawe District in Coast Region as well as Dar es Salaam's Pugu, Gongo la Mboto, Airwing, Ukonga, Kigogo and Majohe suburbs. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Itilima

NGO unveils Covid-19 control project in Itilima District

KAWIYE development, a private non governmental organisation (NGO) has launched a project to control Covid-19 infections in Itilima district, Simiyu region that is expected to reach 60,000 people.

The project aims at building capacity for women, elders and children in protecting themselves from the coronavirus infections as they are a vulnerable group.

Speaking during the project's launch yesterday the institution's director Ezekiel Kasanga said implementation will involve government officials at district level,

the Health ministry, village chairmen, religious leaders, traditional healers and community health workers (CHWs).

"We expect to reach over 60,000

people and ultimately strengthen the understanding and ability in the community to control Covid-19 infections in Itilima district," Kasanga said.

He said the project is expected to cost 30m/- the subsidy from the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS).

Kawiye development has its headquarters in Maswa district.



Masasi district commissioner Selemani Mzee cuts a ribbon at the weekend when officially handing over an ambulance assigned by President John Magufuli to Masasi District Council's Nagaga health centre. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbinga

Mbinga DC praises teachers for good performance in national examinations

MBINGA District Commissioner Cosmas Msheni has hailed teachers in the district for good performance of the national examinations results for the year 2019/2020. The same vein he also advised them to take precautions against Covid-19 infections.

Msheni expressed his gratitude at the weekend during the meeting of the Tanzania Teachers Union (TTU) to elect leaders in Mbinga that was attended by 280 teachers.

He said teachers in Mbinga district deserve praise for good performance

of national examination results of Std 7, Form 4 and Form 6 as compared to other districts in the region.

He said it will be better if all teachers in the district become good ambassadors in educating their students and the people in general on

Covid-19 infections.

Earlier, TTU secretary for Mbinga district Peter Simwanza, said the main task for the union is to ensure that teachers are diligent when in class by abiding by better teaching methods.

At the meeting the election supervisor, Bernard Mbawala announced that Nicodem Hyera was the new TTU chairman for Mbinga district for the next five years.

Mbawala who is also TTU secretary for Songea district announced

other winners as Grace Mbele as the new treasurer, Winfrida Mbata as the representative for women teachers, Hekelius Ndunguru as the representative for teachers with disabilities and Lenzile Malema as the representative for young teachers.

National Parole Board feted for a job well done

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has commended the National Parole Board for a job well done despite facing various challenges.

The parole board is an independent body that carries out risk assessments on prisoners to determine whether they can be safely released into the community.

Speaking in Dodoma last week at the launch of the new National Parole Board, deputy minister for Home Affairs Hamad Masauni called board members to work diligently according to the laid down regulation.

"The government is well satisfied by your performance in the rehabilitation of criminals for allowing inmates to finish part of their jail time outside the prisons under the supervision of the community. Well done," said Masauni.

He said the main basic principle that enables board members is to understand parole's concept, its philosophy and its importance to the community.

Meanwhile, Masauni said all inmates who have been released should observe strict discipline and must cooperate well with the communities around them to ensure that they have been rehabilitated and desist from further criminal activities.

The chairman of the National Parole Board Augustine Mrema said he will make sure he works diligently in cooperation of board members and ensure even more achievements and thanked President John Magufuli for appointing him to lead the Board.

The Commissioner General of Prisons Suleiman Mzee, who doubles as the board's secretary congratulated Mrema for being reappointed to the board with all its members which proves the government's continual trust on him.

He said since the board started operations it has deliberated on 5,237 inmates and 5,535 benefited, while applications on 702 were rejected on various grounds, and 25 inmates had violated parole conditions.

The national parole board is an important institution in the rehabilitation of criminals in cooperation with the communities.



Diana Madukwa (L), CCM women's wing secretary in Dodoma District, pictured at Hombolo's Msamaria Mwema camp in Dodoma Region at the weekend presenting buckets specially fitted for use in hand washing to Rhoda Andrea and other elderly persons with disabilities. The items are meant to help in efforts to combat Covid-19. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Bank donates water tanks worth 10m/- to hospitals in Dar

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

COMMERCIAL Bank of Africa (CBA) has donated eight water tanks worth 10m/- to four public hospitals in Dar es Salaam to heighten the fight against Covid-19 pandemic.

Hospitals that have benefited from the donations are Amana, Sinza, Mwananyamala and Lugalo.

The CEO of CBA (Tanzania) Gift Shoko said the donation means to support the government's efforts in combating the spread of Covid-19.

"We're committed to help hospitals provide the right tools for patients and people who visit their patients adhere to hand washing practices as a key weapon to fight coronavirus," he said, adding:

"As we know, coronavirus infections can occur through cross-contamination, hence we made sure the water tanks are fitted with foot pedals to further protect users...we think of providing other sanitation kits and reach more hospitals in days to come."

"Immediately upon learning of the growing demand of hand washing facilities, CBA secured water tanks for hospitals, which were in need of the facilities at this critical time when the world and the country is grappling with the pandemic," Shoko said.

Shoko further said in order to enhance lack of Coronavirus awareness among clients, CBA bank has placed communication in form of emails, text messages, posters, pull-up banners as well as use social media accounts (facebook and twitter) to drive mass messages on correct information on what Covid-19 is and how to protect, prevent and/or take action.

"CBA has placed major priority on safety of staff and customers by strategically placing hand sanitizers in entrances and rooms for easy

access and use by our staff. In case of an emergency the bank has allocated special rooms to accommodate such cases as medical support is sought thereafter, this is both at the Head Office as well as across all branches countrywide."

CBA's Head of Marketing and Communications, Julius Konyani said despite the current situation of Covid-19 pandemic people should continue working as well as helping the community. The demand of sanitation gear such as gloves, sanitizer and masks is still high.

He added that the Bank has also put systems for non-critical departments to work from home and use digital tools for communication and business continuity ... and urged other corporations to do the same in order to reduce movement and the potential spread of Covid-19.

CBA Tanzania aims at providing customers with exceptional financial services that enable them to save, invest and grow wealth which has indeed developed a reputation to the Bank as a go-to provider for large corporations, institutions, diplomatic missions, NGOs and high net-worth private clients.

“We’re committed to help hospitals provide the right tools for patients and people who visit their patients adhere to hand washing practices as a key weapon to fight coronavirus”

RC hails border villagers for fighting against the Covid-19

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

RUVUMA Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme has congratulated residents of Mtupale village near Tanzania/Mozambique border on how they have been fighting the Covid-19 infections by abiding by

preventive measures issued by the government.

The RC was speaking yesterday to the villagers during her unexpected tour of the village located in Chiwanda ward

She stressed on the villagers to wear face masks and that they can manufacture them cheaply at home.


However Mndeme called upon the wananchi to continue with their economic and social activities as advised by President John Magufuli that each person must work.

"Our President has allowed Tanzania to continue working so as to have their daily basic needs but he also insisted

on taking precautionary measures," she said.

She also called the villagers to report on any visitors coming in and out of the country so that they are isolated as a measure to curb infections.

Ruvuma is among the regions that have Covid-19 patients.



Tanganyika Law Society

TERMS OF REFERENCE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: BASELINE SURVEY CONSULTANT

Assignment	To conduct baseline survey for new TLS Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025
Location of the assignment	Tanzania, United Republic Of
Period of Assignment	30 days
Type of contract	Consultancy contract
Open to	Experts with a proven track record in research, monitoring, and evaluation assignments
Deadline for submitting applications	May 29, 2020.
Submit to	research@tls.or.tz

ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT

The call for applications invites experts to design a methodology and carry-out a baseline study that will lay a foundation for setting achievable and realistic indicator targets for each outcome and output level results in the new TLS Strategic Plan (2020 - 2025)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Tanganyika Law Society abbreviated as TLS is a statutory professional organization established by an Act of Parliament - the Tanganyika Law Society Ordinance of 1954. Currently TLS is governed by the Tanganyika Law Society Act, Cap 307 as amended.

One of the core components of TLS statutory mandate outlined in the TLS Act, Cap 307 is to assist the Government, Judiciary and Parliament in all matters affecting legislation, and the administration and practice of the law in Tanzania. Other TLS statutory mandate include; to facilitate the acquisition of legal knowledge by members of the legal profession and others, to protect and assist the public in Tanzania in all matters touching, ancillary or incidental to the law, and to represent, protect and assist members of the legal profession in Tanzania as regards to conditions of practice and otherwise.

In line to the statutory objectives mentioned above, TLS has developed a new Strategic Plan (2020 -2025). The Strategic Plan provides TLS with a strategic direction in the next five years. It mentions the strategic objectives, anticipated outcomes and outputs to be achieved. TLS has planned to conduct a baseline study at the level of strategic objectives, intermediate results and outputs. The baseline is expected to be used for setting targets against which effect of TLS work in the next five years will be measured.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BASELINE

The objectives of this baseline survey are;

- o To describe/assess the situation of the Law Society and the legal profession before or at the beginning of the implementation of new TLS Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025
- o To collect baseline data relevant to outcome and output indicators outlined in the Strategic Plan Results Framework in order to establish a foundation on which change can be measured at the end of strategic plan period

DELIVERABLES

- o Inception reports
- o Validation report
- o Final report

SELECTION CRITERIA

Criteria	Weight (%)	Max Point
Proven experience in conducting baseline studies and programme evaluation	15	15
Experience in socio-legal studies	10	10
Proficiency with qualitative and quantitative data analysis packages (including strong statistical analysis skills)	15	15
Demonstrated experience and technical know-how with strategic planning processes	10	10
Proven understanding of the legal profession and legal sector in Tanzania	10	10
Proven understanding of members-based organizations	10	10
Methodology for undertaking the baseline survey	15	15
Budget	15	15

QUALIFICATION NEEDED

- o A minimum of a Master's degree in the field of Law, Social Sciences, Development Studies, Business Administration or any other related field
- o At least six (6) years' experience in conducting baseline surveys and programme evaluation
- o Sound understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methodology is highly desirable
- o The consultant should be conversant with the legal profession and members-based organizations
- o Should be a citizen of Tanzania
- o Non-Tanzanians interested in the assignment should comply with the immigration laws

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

To be considered for this assignment, interested consultants are invited to submit the following;

- o Technical proposals clearly describing the survey methodology, sampling procedures, survey tools and work plan
- o Itemized financial proposal detailing all costs to be involved in undertaking the survey assignment
- o CVs of the consultant(s) highlighting their experience relevant to the assignment
- o Names and contacts of three recent professional referees (previous clients) for whom similar work has been conducted.

The deadline for submission of proposals is **May 29, 2020**. These should be submitted over email to the following email address: research@tls.or.tz.

For more information visit our website www.tls.or.tz.



Request for Bids

Supply of Small Solar Radio

RFP No. PIT/CO/40/FY20

1. Plan International is an independent child rights and humanitarian organization committed to children living a life free of poverty, violence and injustice. We actively unite children, communities and other people who share our mission to make positive lasting changes in children's and young people's lives. We support children to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to claim their rights to a fulfilling life, today and in the future. We place a specific focus on girls and women, who are most often left behind. We have been building powerful partnerships for children for more than 75 years, and are now active in more than 70 countries.
2. Plan International Tanzania is therefore issuing this request for bids from suppliers with good qualification, experience and track records to supply solar radio
3. Interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to tenders@plan-international.org Attn: Head of Procurement and Logistics. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email. Plan Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the bid documents.
4. Bidders must submit the Price Quotation proposals Electronically to: electronic.bids@plan-international.org before **5PM Wednesday 27th May 2020**, marked the respective RFP number. Late bids will be rejected, not evaluated.

Country Director
Plan International Tanzania
 P O Box 3517
 Dar es Salaam

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

MONDAY 18 MAY 2020

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Global coordinated actions should aim at promoting, expanding demand for tea

TEA is the manufactured drink most consumed in the world. Discovered about 2700 BC, it is one of the oldest beverages in the world.

International Tea Day is observed annually on May 21, according to the United Nations. International Tea Day aims to draw global attention of governments and citizens to the impact of the global tea trade on workers and growers, and has been linked to requests for price supports and fair trade.

The global tea market reached a volume of 6.2 million tonnes in 2018. The market is further projected to reach a volume of 7.58 million tonnes by 2024.

Tea manufacturers have introduced health-oriented products by adding several healthy ingredients to their organic tea formulations in order to target some of the common health conditions including diabetes, beauty, obesity, heart health. Therefore, a shift towards the consumption of organic tea acts as an emerging trend which is having a positive impact on the growth of the tea market.

Another major factor driving the growth of tea is its strong consumer acceptance. Currently, it represents the world's most consumed beverage after water. It has very high penetration levels in Asia and Europe with people consuming tea on a daily basis. Tea represents an inexpensive beverage and is consumed across all socio-economic consumer groups. Black tea is the most popular type of tea as it is anti-allergic, anti-viral and anti-spasmodic.

Today, Tanzania produces 15-18,000 tonnes of processed tea annually from a planted area of around 19,000 ha. Only Kenya and Malawi in Africa produce more. About 75 per cent of the production is exported and tea has become the third largest foreign exchange generator in the Tanzanian agricultural sector.

The first experimental tea was planted in 1904 by German settlers at the Agricultural Research Station at

Amani, near Tanga and at the Kymbila Mission near Tukuyu.

Until 1978 research support for the industry was provided by the Tea Research Institute of East Africa with its sub-station in Amani.

Tanzania stopped importing tea in 1979. Of the tea exported about 60 per cent goes to the UK. The Sudan comes second and other important markets include Ireland, Canada, Pakistan, the USA, Somalia, W. Germany, the Netherlands and Ethiopia.

The tea industry has been going through a difficult period. In the estate sector there are soon going to be problems of continuity with many expatriate senior managers approaching retirement age. Recruiting qualified Tanzanian staff is difficult because the estates cannot reward them adequately for the responsibility they are charged with or for the necessity of living away from the main towns. There is also a lack of adequate training at all levels of the industry and an urgent need to establish a viable and relevant research and extension programme staffed by well qualified people.

However, during the last year confidence has increased despite recent reductions in the world price of tea. This is partly due to changes in government economic policies and to devaluation which has led to new investments and expansion plans. Given that this new-found confidence is supported by real improvements in the well-being and living standards of all those associated with the industry, then the tea industry seems set to develop again in a positive way.

By 1934 there were an estimated 28,700 farmers producing 4,000 tonnes of processed tea from about 9,000 ha. Most smallholder grown tea is individually managed and is planted either in isolated patches or within a larger block comprising all the tea from one village. The average holding is about 0.3 hectares, the largest being about 5 hectares. Much of the tea is clonal.

We ought to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem

WORLD Bee Day is celebrated on May 20. On this day Anton Janša, the pioneer of beekeeping, was born in 1734. He is considered the greatest Slovenian beekeeper. His birthday was on 20th May, and in 2017 this date was officially announced as World Bee Day. He was also a Carniolan apiarist and painter. Janša is known as a pioneer of modern apiculture and a great expert in the field. He was educated as a painter, but was employed as a teacher of apiculture at the Habsburg court in Vienna.

The purpose of the international day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem. The UN member states approved Slovenia's proposal to proclaim 20 May as World Bee Day in December 2017. Most beekeepers in Tanzania focus at honey only. They are not aware that other products like bee wax and propolis are equally profitable.

Various bee products stakeholders in Tanzania have recognised that the beekeeping sector is not yet contributing optimally towards fighting the high poverty levels and that there are needs to be supported and coordinated for it to grow and thrive. Amongst these actors are producers and their organisations, processing companies, traders, support agencies and development NGOs, financiers and government departments.

Tanzania has established Honey Council (THC) is a nongovernmental, nonprofit apex body that encompasses all stakeholders in the beekeeping subsector. It is a member based organization with membership comprising of individual beekeepers, cooperative societies, institutions, business entities including corporations and individual traders as well as individuals.

The Council aims at improving competitiveness through development of value chain in the subsector.

The organization structure for THC is provided for in the MEMART. The organization is governed by an Executive

Committee of 12 members, elected by the AGM. The committee is composed of the following members; Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and representatives from various stakeholders as follow: 2 from beekeepers, one trader, one researcher, one government representative, one from institutions/NGOs and one from beekeeping technology institution.

Day to day activities are to be performed by a full-time secretariat, headed by a Chief Executive and constituted by other necessary staff. The secretariat is yet to be put in place for the moment.

In the past, the beekeeping subsector had been organised and the development was coordinated by the government and the donors. Beekeepers' organizations were established that supported the small beekeepers. One such organization was the Tabora Beekeepers Cooperative Society (TBCS) with membership spanning throughout the Tabora region and parts of Mbeya and Rukwa regions. However with some trade reasons TBCS collapsed in 2005. This shattered the confidence of the many members who become reluctant to form into groups and associations. This had a dire consequence on the organization of the sector. It was only recently, that efforts have gained speed to revive the cooperatives under the banner of the newly registered Association of Tanzania Beekeepers Cooperative Unions and several primary cooperative unions.

In absence of the cooperative or other forms of organization, the sector witnessed a rapid decline into an unorganized disenfranchised situation where any and every player used their own preferred methods of beekeeping, harvesting, processing and marketing. All the past efforts at improving production and productivity through use of better technology, and at ensuring quality and improving revenues through collective processing and marketing, were lost. So were the efforts at standardization of the beekeeping processes and marketing.

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By Benjamin Mkapa

AS researchers and scientists study the novel coronavirus, lessons from the past. Africa is young and our past archives easily accessible. Grandfathers gather children to narrate traditional folktales and wise anecdotes they can pass on to their own children's children. Last year, I wrote a memoir about my time as President of Tanzania from 1995 to 2005, though it was not just a tale of my past, but of my present and my vision for the future.

During my presidency, I knew that Tanzanians were ready to work to have better education, healthcare, roads, agricultural systems and, above all, a better life. I understood the importance of conservation and the implications of poor practices against nature. After my time in office, I have been compelled to advocate for the protection of wildlife and wild lands. Participating in discussions with others continues to teach me the inter-connections of industries and the importance of mainstreaming conservation into all sectors of the economy.

As humanity, we must start to see nature as our insurance policy against diseases like COVID-19. The disease lays bare the consequences of neglecting nature and thinking that human health and economic development are separate from it. It is healthy biodiversity and ecosystems that provide us with food, medicines, wood energy and water.

Conservation should be viewed as an investment that can create jobs, support livelihoods and reduce the costs of reacting to pandemics like COVID-19. African governments must recognise that conservation is an important

By Special Correspondent

THERE was nothing shocking in the '2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria' report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) which revealed that more than 83 million Nigerians live below the national poverty line. But given the current COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for our economy, the report should compel action by government at all levels. We must commend the NBS for the report which makes planning easier by revealing the true state of our national economy and what can be done to address the challenges.

For years, while states and local governments seek oil rents and jeopardise productivity, successive national governments have also not adequately used oil revenue to lift the ordinary Nigerian out of poverty. More disturbing is the geo-political dimension to the report. While Sokoto State in the North-west has the highest poverty rate of 87.73 per cent in the country, Lagos in the South-west has the lowest rate of 4.50 per cent.

Africa will rise if we do it right

pillar of economic development. They need to acknowledge that the livelihoods of rural communities are directly connected to nature, local food production systems and biomass energy.

Environmental emergency funds
The response to the pandemic by most African governments has been urban-focused since it is cities that tend to be coronavirus hotspots. The threat to rural areas and nature including protected areas has received little attention. States have tried to provide safety nets and economic support for business and services like health and water. But nature-based sectors such as environmental conservation and tourism are not receiving the same help. Governments should establish environmental emergency funds to cushion protected areas, revive the tourism sector, and provide a safety net for communities dependent on conservation.

It is predicted that COVID-19 will hit African economies hard. The best case scenario is a growth reduction from 3.9% to 0.4%. The worst case scenario is a growth rate of -5%. The World Bank has said Africa's economies will collectively face their first recession in 25 years.

In the face of this, we must come together. Collaboration between nations is not as evident as it should be. Many responses have been about standing independently and protecting borders.

But we have been working together to stop crimes such as Illegal Wildlife Trade and recorded better results when doing so. We need this same collaborative approach again. I applaud

the East African Business Council for creating a regional platform for the private sector to combat the pandemic. They aim to complement the efforts of governments, the East Africa Community, the African Union and development partners in information sharing, best practices and monitoring the economic impact of COVID-19 in a bid to bring forward solutions to boost intra-regional trade. This approach is a step in the right direction and a model that should be replicated across Africa. Remember, we are only as strong as our weakest link.

The time to shift course
Whilst challenges remain, the pandemic presents huge opportunities for our continent. We should reflect on existing wildlife management and biodiversity conservation models. Some of these have served conservation well. One example is the significant investment made to protect endangered species and stop trade in illegal wildlife products. This also reduces interactions between people and wildlife, as hunting, transportation and preparation of wildlife products is reduced. COVID-19 has revealed that illegal wildlife trade can raise the risk of human-wildlife proximity. Commitment to address illegal wildlife trade needs reaffirmation, enforcement and additional funding across all countries.

Africa's protected area network also needs to be strengthened. While I commend governments for their commitment to establish these parks, most are grossly underfunded and rely on NGOs to assume the responsibility for management. These protected areas are home to iconic species that attract

tourists as well as other species that are essential for the resilience of these areas. They are the nucleus of Africa's wildlife-based tourism that provides direct and indirect employment including business opportunities for small and medium-scale entrepreneurs. Given their importance to conservation and economies, governments need to demonstrate a sense of ownership and provide much needed funding.

African leaders now more than ever have the greatest power to shift the course of their countries with new policies. The lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic is that there are significant costs associated with undervaluing our biodiversity and ecosystems, and that separating economic development from nature is a false choice. We need to strive for greater harmony between our economic models of growth and nature.

We are on a pathway to a sustainable and resilient future where nature is centre stage. However, we can only rise if we do it right. If we set our priorities right, have the resolve to rise, and present a united front. This is consistent with the spirit of Agenda 2063 ("The Africa we want") and my advocacy for the inclusion of the statement that Africa must have the means "to drive its own development, with sustainable and long-term stewardship of its resources and where Africa's unique natural endowments, its environment and ecosystems, including its wildlife and wild lands are healthy, valued and protected, with climate resilient economies and communities".

Benjamin Mkapa served as President of Tanzania from 1995 to 2005.

Poverty index amid pandemic

Meanwhile, the survey was conducted in 35 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) with Borno State excluded as a result of the prevailing security challenges arising from the Boko Haram insurgency. This NBS report merely reaffirms this year's earlier World Bank report which painted a gory picture of the endemic poverty ravaging the North.

In all, the central message of the index report is that Nigeria has not made much progress. A 40 per cent poverty rate in a country with huge natural and human resources is an embarrassment to those in authority. Growth and development in any economy are measured by three indices, viz: low unemployment rate, low poverty rate and declining inflation.

This report, like other similar ones, underscores the country's high unemployment, poverty and inflation rates. Nigeria's unemployment rate was said to have risen to 33.5 per cent in 2020 while its current inflation rate is

12.26 per cent as at last March.

It is unfortunate that Nigerians continue to be ranked among the poorest people in the world almost every year. Some of the factors responsible for this state of affair include high incidence of unemployment, predominant production of primary goods over finished products, aging public infrastructure, increasing insurgency and opaque systems of governance.

The high rate of out-of-school children and poor output in the education sector also contributes to deepening this problem as the nation churns out a crop of uncompetitive youth in a world driven by technology.

The challenge is even bigger. Many of the rural communities in the country today are not connected to the national grid and as such, do not have any electricity. Some do not have access to potable water supply and many lack critical infrastructure for storage and transportation of raw materials from

their places of production to markets. Farmers are at the mercy of middlemen who exploit them and make significant profits on resale of the same goods in other geographies.

We must as citizens demand equity, fairness and accountability lest this deepening cycle of poverty continues. But the government, at all levels, must also focus on the people, their safety and welfare; the optimal allocation of scarce resources and the effective implementation of policies for service delivery. Until we begin to do all these, Nigerians will find it difficult to maximise their potential in the bid to enjoy better lives.

All said, we hope the federal government and the authorities in all states of the federation will see the latest report of the growing poverty in Nigeria as another wake-up call for a nation blessed with enormous natural and human resources, but which has consistently been held down by poor governance at virtually all levels.

Who regulates the political industry?

By Chidi Amuta

SINCE 1999, democracy has delivered two persisting dividends to Nigeria: a predictable calendar of national ritual and a gigantic all-powerful political industry. Imperfections and disfigurements notwithstanding, we now have a fair idea of what must happen in this polity every four years. The campaigns. The festival of rallies. The pageant of politicians who address mobs of starving illiterates in English. The parade of known villains as born again messiahs crowned by the reduction of our national hopes into party marketing slogans and lazy catch phrases. Afterwards, the mournful processions of losers and their crashing ambitions drowned by the drums of triumph and ascension trails of winners to power, wealth and glory.

Beyond this drama, the real dividend of democracy may be the emergence of politics as a huge unregulated industry. Politics and politicians regulate and direct our lives. The political industry through its control of the mechanics of government is the ultimate allocator of wealth, opportunity and privilege. It owns and controls the public sector through the complex machinery of the administrative state. It also controls the private sector through regulatory institutions like the stock exchange and the Central Bank in addition to frequent legislative disruptions and interventions. The political industry has a monopoly of the awesome power of outlandish pork, patronage and elaborate rents.

But who actually regulates the political industry? This question has become urgent and necessary as the nation reels under a prevalent and crippling deficit of competence, accountability and responsibility among key captains and operatives of the nation's mammoth power and politics industrial complex.

We are dealing with an expansive all-dominating industry. It is a manpower dominant industry, employing a huge army of people with their own extended family of hangers on. It is equally an influence pervasive industry. Most importantly, this is an industry that controls every other industry, regulating the environment in which others practice, thrive or wither. The political industry is a super ordinate behemoth, one that determines its own rules and regulations, sets its own entry requirements, procedures and performance standards. For the nation at large, the choice of who leads us is vested in the political parties which act as clearing houses for the political industry.

We can only guess the precise size of this industry when we estimate the sheer number of elective and appointive



offices and their correlates that have featured in the political cycles since 1999. There are at any given time, the President, Vice President, about 36-42 ministers, 30-100 advisers (special, senior special, plenipotentiary etc), 109 Senators, 360 House of Representative members (add at least 500 legislative aides), 36 Governors, 36 Deputy governors, about 540 commissioners, about 1,000 plus members of state houses of assembly, 776 Local government chairmen, 9,288 Councillors.

Take the total emoluments, allowances, perquisites, paraphernalia and benefits of all political office holders at the various levels of government and you begin to imagine the expanse, size, capital and recurrent cost of the political industry. A recent industry market survey has determined that official Nigeria alone buys more Japanese SUVs every four years than all the desert safari companies of the Gulf Arab states put together!

Most importantly, the captains of this army of political officialdom are responsible for determining the national, state and local government budgets. They allocate the resources, appropriate the funds and expend same on behalf of all of us.

Yet somehow, politics has managed to disguise its industrial scope and status by focusing public attention on the myth and ritual of democracy decorated with the rhetoric of representative government and public service. Some-

times, politicians have focused attention on the game aspect of politics, playing it more like a vicious but unserious sport. A few honest political actors have, however, come close to admitting their role as players in an all important industry by emphasizing public service as the essence of political leadership. In other words they are in it to serve 'the people', a sort of enlightened service industry that renders an invaluable service to a nebulous client called 'the people'.

As leaders and controllers of the mechanics of government, political industry captains and operatives determine the basic outlines of our lives and livelihood as citizens, corporate or private. They determine your access to basic services, how much you will pay as tax and what will be left for you and your family. They determine how much you will pay for darkness punctuated by electricity, the quality of teachers that your children will be saddled with, what your essential drug

will cost, how many toll gates will dot your way to your village as well as the size of your retirement pension if any.

We may endlessly trumpet the relative independence of the private sector and its power to determine the economic fate of the nation. This is only to the extent that the political industry creates the legislative and general macro economic environment in which such private sector can thrive. Otherwise, even the boldest and most massive private sector investment and economic power can be drowned and destabilized overnight by a casual regulatory twist by the presiding political establishment.

The political industry is the most attractive sector of the economy, guaranteeing an out of this world return on investment. Here is one industry that powers the creation of new social classes at a rate that would make any business entrepreneur blue with envy. It used to be the belief that education or entrepreneurship are the quickest routes out of poverty. Not anymore. The political industry is the only one in which a destitute can leapfrog into the billionaire club in less than four years. A local government councilor or chairman can transmute in a very short time from a miserable jobless pauper into an upper middle class poster boy cruising around in fancy cars, living it up in five star hotels and jetting casually across the globe.

This is precisely because the main unofficial activity of the political industry is rent seeking and rent sharing. This is a complement to the allocation of pork as well as the privatization of constituency benefits. In Nigeria, political office holders tend to be state officials in the day and rent seekers and pork administrators at night. Due to the preoccupation with rents, a political city like Abuja is easily the most expensive piece of real estate anywhere on the African soil. Property prices

and rentals as well as the general price levels for luxury goods tend to bear no relationship to the value of the item on sale.

This is not peculiar to Abuja. It tends to apply to most political capitals in the world. In the United States for instance, of the ten most expensive neighbourhoods nationwide, five are in Washington DC. In a rent seeking economy, the proceeds come from an invisible trade in favours, influences and connections up to the highest level.

Like every other industry, our political industry has a monopoly of its own recruitment and entry requirements. The strengths and defects in the system are showcased by the performance of the leaders of today especially our imperious state governors. In all fairness, the system has thrown up a few good men.

One outstanding governor is leading the charge against the Covid-19 emergency with clear, articulate and sensible strategies to the delight of the enlightened citizens of his diverse and cosmopolitan state. Another has spent the better part of the last four plus years leading a charge for visionary modernizing governance in a northern citadel state where decadent tradition is battling his efforts. Another has called out soldiers engaged in the Boko Haram counter insurgency for collecting tolls at checkpoints while the terrorists regroup and unleash mayhem.

One other governor, claiming ever so often to be a scholarly expert in fields ranging from epidemiology to semantics has urged his citizens to avoid social distancing but wear only face masks. Another has usurped the exclusive functions of the federal government by seizing aircraft, arresting pilots and oil workers at will for infringements against his imperial diktat.

Why the cut 'n' paste lockdown failed Nigeria

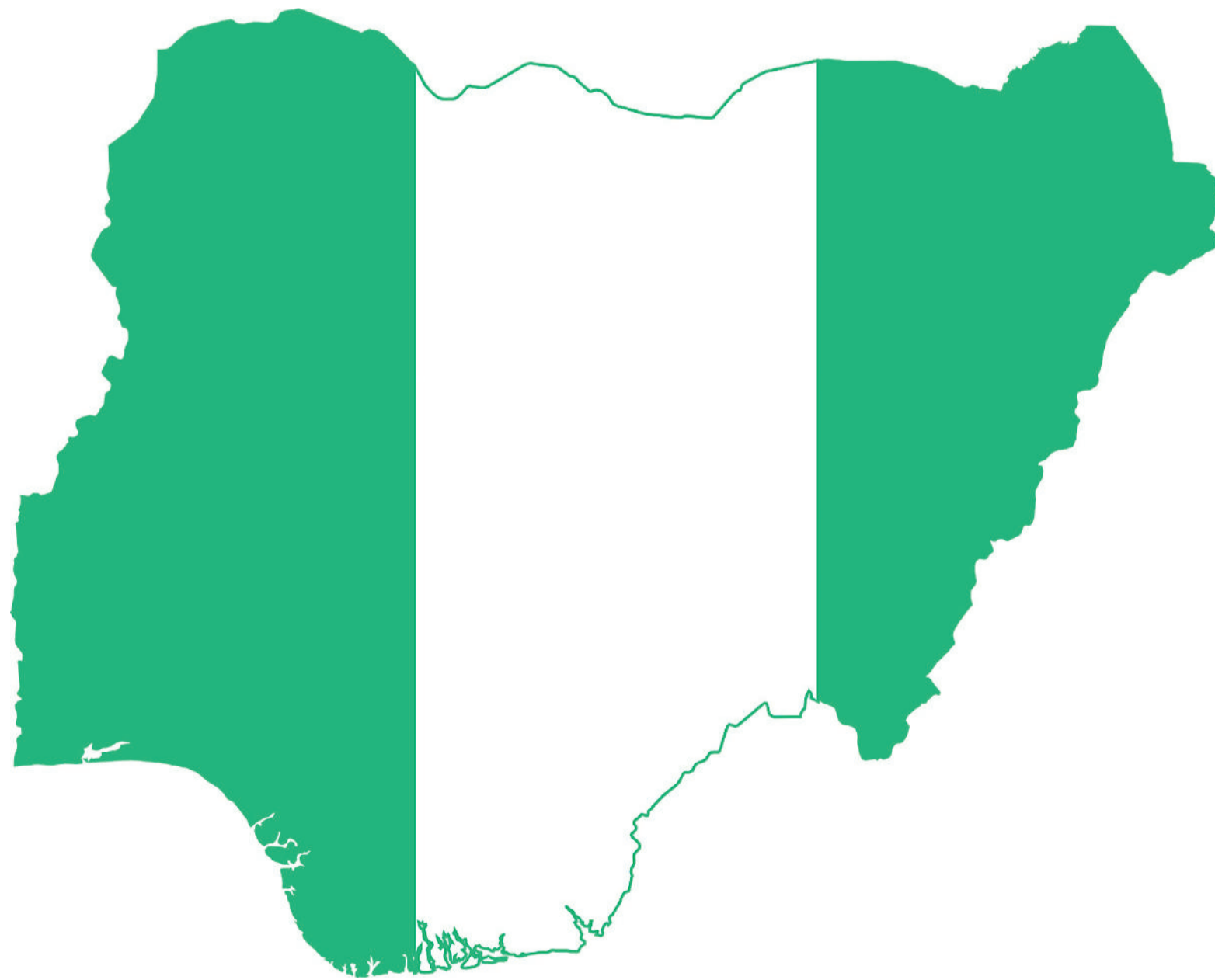
By Tunde Asaju

THESE are not the best of times to approach governance without blueprint. Covid-19 has not been kind to governments with tailor-made dress rehearsals for national and global emergencies. One could then imagine the effect on people enamoured to the privileges of office who deny its responsibilities. The evidence is growing, that as the virus crosses borders, it mutates. It took over 40,000 deaths for America to discover that heat and humidity weakens it. And America's medical advancement is badass even when its cutting-edge medical innovation hardly favours the indigent.

It is often amusing to read on social media how developed nations were sending palliatives to their citizens while Nigeria is not. Weevil infested rice apart; we do not have cheques going to taxpaying citizens or repayable loans to help small and medium scale businesses grounded by the lockdown with generous amortization. Developed countries have insurance pay outs to businesses under receivership. Most of these palliatives are possible because of established systems of taxation. We have a system where even taxes deducted at source are not remitted to the relevant agencies in Nigeria.

We need to fix that. Nations like Canada embraced selective lockdowns. All non-essential services are closed and their workers sent home as well as schools. However, with unemployment insurance, people who lost jobs were not left in the lurch. Insurance companies would carry the burden for a few months before they too could need the help of government to hold out. This is the reason people physically slug it out over fender-benders and disappear when a bad accident occurs resulting in injury or death. Those years spend acculturated to insurance fraud are coming back to haunt us. This too cannot be fixed overnight, but we could at least try. Is anyone listening? There's no executive order or instruction to that effect so far.

These are not the best of times to approach governance without blueprint. Covid-19 has not been kind to governments with tailor-made dress



rehearsals for national and global emergencies. One could then imagine the effect on people enamoured to the privileges of office who deny its responsibilities. The evidence is growing, that as the virus crosses borders, it mutates. It took over 40,000 deaths for America to discover that heat and humidity weakens it.

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We have a system where even taxes deducted at source are not remitted to the relevant agencies in Nigeria. We need to fix that. Nations like Canada embraced selective lockdowns. All non-essential services are closed and their workers sent home as well as schools. However, with unemployment insurance, people who lost jobs were not left in the lurch. Insurance compa-

nies would carry the burden for a few months before they too could need the help of government to hold out. ADVERTISEMENT Dear valued readers, subscribe to the Daily Trust e-paper to continue enjoying our diet of authoritative news. Kindly subscribe here Ninety-percent of the cars on Nigerian roads have let-my-people go insurance papers.

This is the reason people physically slug it out over fender-benders and disappear when a bad accident occurs resulting in injury or death.

Those years spend acculturated to insurance fraud are coming back to haunt us. This too cannot be fixed overnight, but we could at least try. Is

anyone listening? There's no executive order or instruction to that effect so far. In the other world, grocery remained open, and inter-state truck drivers operated freely. In Nigeria, western-style grocery stores partially serve only big towns and cities.

The poor have no access to such luxury; they patronize makeshift markets where wares are spread on mats or torn jute bags. You can't correct that in a hurry. When Lagos attempted to schedule neighbourhood markets, it didn't work as urchins were reported to have looted the goods in transit. Neighbourhood market should be a national feature. We should stop pretending to be who we are not and embrace what

works. On the virus itself, established nations have testing kits that are reviewed for efficiency and effectiveness based on field findings.

Nigeria with an estimated population of 200 million is yet to test up to 20,000 since its index patient. The NCDC details shared daily is totally at variance with population estimates. Some states that are yet to carry out a single test bask in the false notion that they are virus free. Covid-19 loves to hit such bogus confidence with massive infection and mass deaths. That is Covid's way of showing how living on hope is a death wish. Ability to get palliatives to those critically in need is the result of accurate census and planning. Planning works best with accurate figures. A household without the knowledge of the number of mouths to feed would either prepare more than it needs or less than is required. Nigeria needs to stop playing politics with a credible census. I believe our finance minister felt queasy citing NBS projections instead of rock-solid census data. Established societies are governed by their constitutions that define citizenship. That we have descended to the level of deporting citizens within state borders reflects how detached from our grundnorm.

Progressive societies confer citizenship based on criterion other than birth, naturalization or/and ancestry. No nation develops on the expertise of only its indigenes. Nations like Saudi Arabia are totally closed to 'settlers'. It is shameful to see Nigeria destroying its constitution without challenge. With these fault lines, lockdown is as faulty as its partial lifting. We also have a society that is not ruled by rationality but dogma. Nigeria is a battleground for religion. With some sects believing that Covid-19 was invented to diminish their capacity to keep and increase membership, they challenge authority based on who heads it. They do not see institutions, but oppressors.

We are also attached to our dead. This is why people fight wars - to conserve burial grounds. Covid-19 anonymizes its victims, and in death it wipes out traces of their former existence - that is hard to swallow for Nigeria or any African nation where burials are big-time ceremonies and final initiation into ancestorship. We got it wrong on what to do with those who break the curfew.

COVID-19 strategies Africa can learn from

BY ZACHARY DONNENFELD

As COVID-19 resurfaces in Japan, Singapore and elsewhere, it's becoming clear that this virus will be an uncomfortable fact of life for the foreseeable future. But much remains unknown about the disease. As African policymakers wrestle with how to respond to outbreaks, there are places in the world to look for clues about what to expect.

Perhaps it is fitting that the United States (US), the wealthiest country in the world, should offer insight for Africa - the world's least developed region. Africa can look to the US for signs of what is to come, some useful policy responses, and plenty of examples of how not to react to this pandemic.

Like the United States, Africa is a largely continuous landmass with highly porous borders, a large and heterogeneous population and no single coordinated response to COVID-19. There are of course huge differences between US states and African countries, but consider for a moment that the US has one international border.

It has made illegal immigration a top priority and devoted jaw-dropping finan-



The United States' failing coronavirus response holds some important lessons for Africa. File photo

cial resources to stopping it. Still, roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants inhabit the US. Regardless of policy, movement is widespread. This means that in the US, if Georgia and Florida are 'open for business' in the face of COVID-19, it matters little what restrictions are put in place in North Carolina or Tennessee.

Though the US may be rich, it lacks many of the social protections found in the developed world.

In Africa, if Zimbabwe and Mozambique experience severe outbreaks, it will almost certainly spill over into neighbouring countries like South Africa and Tanzania, and vice versa. COVID-19 thrives on connectivity, so watching highly integrated countries will help anticipate

outbreaks.

In the US, groups of states are spontaneously banding together specifically to align their response to the virus. In Africa, there's no need to organically develop ad hoc organisations - they already exist, as regional economic communities (RECs).

Many are already aligning member states, but currently the East African Community appears to have the most robust policies and could serve as a model going forward. Its immediate focus appears to be restoring commercial activity. Other RECs should watch to see what policies might apply to their region.

As African states work together within the RECs to coordinate responses, share data and arrange for the bulk pur-

chases of personal protective equipment, the regional bodies should aim to align with each other as well.

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention is already doing this by establishing Regional Collaborating Centres. The centre has extensive experience with emergency response situations and has much expertise to offer, especially since it's still unclear how COVID-19 reacts with comorbidities like TB, HIV, malaria and malnutrition.

Africa needs regionally coordinated strategies that are responsive to the needs of individual states.

Africa has many vulnerable populations - poverty, hunger and conflict put millions of Africans at risk - and a huge infor-

mal sector that won't be easy to protect from the negative economic impacts of lockdowns. Though the US may be rich, it lacks many of the social protections found in the developed world. As states scramble to roll out social safety nets, there may be lessons for some African countries.

Another disturbing trend emerging from the US surrounds domestic violence. Experts note that domestic violence tends to increase when families spend more time together. Preliminary reports from around the world also suggest that quarantines may negatively impact safety in the home.

However, across the US, domestic violence calls are down. In Cincinnati, Ohio, they dropped almost 50% from March 2020 and nearly two-thirds from April 2019. In Los Angeles, California, calls decreased by roughly 20% from last year. The New York City Police Department is reporting that domestic violence calls have 'progressively declined' since the beginning of the outbreak. New York relief hotlines are also showing dramatic declines.

This makes sense. Being confined to your house with your assailant means there are strong incentives not to call the police and provoke your attacker during lockdown. As African

countries work to control the extent of outbreaks, they should be aware that statistics can be misleading, particularly during the early days.

Ensuring that women continue to have access to critical support systems during lockdowns should be a priority. Bolstering whatever services already exist also provides opportunities to make meaningful, lasting advances in gender equality across the continent.

COVID-19 is a fake news bonanza in the US; Africa must be ready for attempts to exploit the uncertainty.

The pandemic is also stimulating structural drivers of instability that increase the potential for violence, crime and political unrest. In Africa, much of the violence is emanating from the state, with accusations of police brutality against civilians in South Africa and Kenya, among others. In the US, the current is running the other way. On 30 April, would-be rioters stormed the Michigan State Capitol building to re-establish 'normal' economic activity.

There is a clear opportunity for extremist groups to use lockdowns to exploit pre-existing narratives about government overreach, incompetence or

any other grievances, real or perceived. There is also the potential for economic hardship to create new opportunities for crime and violence.

African states must watch social media channels and other propaganda outlets. COVID-19 is a fake news bonanza in the US, and Africa needs to be ready for attempts to benefit from the uncertainty by pushing false narratives. Likewise, civil society must be prepared to hold government to account if it starts using misinformation to suit its own ends.

The current policy experiment being conducted in the US will serve as a useful laboratory for African policymakers. Africa needs regionally coordinated strategies that are highly responsive to the needs of individual states. It will also be critical to rapidly design new (or modify existing) social safety programmes that address hard-to-reach and rapidly changing populations.

While the US has failed to exploit its federalist system to implement an aggressive top-down strategy, Africa can make the most of its regional advantages to build a continental approach from the ground up.

Agencies

How sunlight, the immune system and Covid-19 interact

By Markham Heid

Last month, during a now-infamous press conference, US President Donald Trump speculated about the ways in which sunlight and chemical disinfectants could help protect people from the threat of Covid-19. He seemed to suggest that injecting disinfectants could have some utility - a comment that drew immediate scrutiny and scorn.

Much less attention was paid to the president's statement that sunlight might safeguard people from the virus. "Supposing we hit the body with a tremendous - whether it's ultraviolet or just very powerful - light," Trump asked rhetorically, adding: "Supposing you brought the light inside the body, which you can do either through the skin or in some other way."

When it comes to potential Covid-19 treatments, the president's speculations have been numerous and frequently misguided. But the idea that sunlight could counteract Covid-19, both inside and outside the body, is not all that far-fetched.

Richard Weller, MD, is a dermatologist and sunlight researcher at the University of Edinburgh in the UK. He says he has looked at Covid-19 data in the United States, and that there seems to be a correlation between states that get a lot of sun and lower rates of death.

"I think there are probably several pathways by which sunlight and sun exposure may exert beneficial effects," Weller notes.

For thousands of years, humans have recognized that the seasons play a role in the emergence and transmission of certain illnesses, including viruses.

"Annual epidemics of the common cold and influenza hit the human population like clockwork in the winter," write the authors of a 2020 review paper from a team at the Yale University School of Medicine.

They also point out that two deadly coronaviruses - first SARS, and now Covid-19 - both emerged during the winter months. "This indicates that the winter environment promotes the spread of a variety of respiratory virus infections," they write.

While the seasonality of many common respiratory illnesses is well-established, it may surprise some to learn that experts haven't nailed down the exact causes of this phenomenon. For the most part, they tend to agree that a mix of environmental factors - such as temperature and humidity - play a role in pathogen transmission.

So does human behaviour; people are more likely to crowd together indoors during the winter months, and stagnant indoor air can increase the likelihood of spreading germs.



But that Yale review also lists sunlight as a possible explanation for the seasonality of certain pathogens.

In a recent preprint, which is a scholarly work that has not yet undergone peer review or formal journal publication, researchers at the University of Connecticut used country-level climate and infection-rate data to estimate the likelihood that certain environmental factors - namely, temperature, humidity and ultraviolet light - will lead to lower rates of Covid-19 infection during the upcoming summer.

That doesn't mean that the virus will be wiped out; it just means its harmful effects may be somewhat muted.

"As we were reading the literature on other viruses - particularly SARS, the earlier coronavirus - there were indications that UV light could at least inactivate the virus on surfaces and could also either decrease the risk of getting the virus or reduce symptoms," says Mark Urban, PhD.

Co-author of that preprint and director of the Centre of Biologi-

cal Risk at the University of Connecticut, he adds: "Our best model predicts that Covid-19 risk will decrease this summer in the US, largely owing to the increase in UV light as days become longer."

Urban says his models include a high level of uncertainty; no one is suggesting that it's a foregone conclusion that the United States will experience relief from Covid-19 this summer.

But Weller says that there are a number of plausible mechanisms by which increased sunlight could counteract Covid-19. Along with inactivating viruses on surfaces, he says UV light can also kill airborne virus particles - a view supported by research from Columbia University and elsewhere.

But Weller says the benefits of sunlight may extend beyond its ability to slay Covid-19 outside the body. When people are exposed to UV light, he says, this may cause changes inside the human body that both strengthen the immune system and block Covid-19 from replicating and causing severe illness.

"The data are strongly sugges-

tive that sunlight does indeed have benefits," he says.

How the human body reacts to UV light

The sun's ultraviolet rays damage the cells of the skin in ways that promote wrinkles, blemishes and other signs of aging. UV damage also raises a person's risk for skin cancer, the most common form of cancer in the United States.

These dangers are well established, and so virtually all public health messaging advises people to apply sunscreen, don protective clothing, and take other measures to shield the skin from the sun's rays.

But some doctors who have studied the interaction between sunlight and human health say that "avoid the sun" recommendations are too strident, and that the benefits of moderate sun exposure without sunscreen may counterbalance - or even outweigh - the risks.

"Making people phobic about being outdoors in the sun is just so counter to our evolutionary basis - it just doesn't make sense," says James O'Keefe, MD, a cardiologist at Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute in Kansas City who has studied the interactions between sunlight and human health.

He says human beings evolved to live outdoors - "We're not moles. I think there are a lot of potential mechanisms by which sunlight could benefit health," he says - and that our absence of hair or fur suggests that our skin is meant to encounter some direct sun exposure.

Asked for specifics, O'Keefe says that sun-exposed skin releases large amounts of nitric oxide into the bloodstream. "Nitric oxide keeps vessels soft and supple, and it gives them a Teflon-like surface so that platelets don't stick," he says.

"The vessels naturally produce a lot of nitric oxide when you're healthy, and especially when you're young," he points out, adding: "Deaths due to cardiovascular disease - the most common cause of death in the United States - tend to peak in winter both in the United States and in Europe, and that the absence of sun and its attendant nitric oxide boost may be a contributing factor."

Weller, the University of Edin-

burgh dermatologist, has studied the relationship between sunlight and nitric oxide, as well as the effects of both on human health. He says that sun-triggered elevations in nitric oxide could help protect people from Covid-19, and his belief is based in part on a 15-year-old Swedish study that examined another deadly coronavirus: SARS.

The first SARS outbreak occurred in 2002 in the Guangdong province of China. Like its close cousin Covid-19, SARS is a respiratory illness.

The Swedish group showed that, in lab models, nitric oxide prevents the SARS virus from reproducing. "Covid-19 gets into the body by binding to the same receptor as the SARS virus," Weller says, adding: "And this Swedish group found that nitric oxide stops SARS from doing damage because it stops it from binding to this receptor."

If this lab work turns out to be accurate and applicable to Covid-19 - both big ifs - this could be one way in which sunlight defends the body against Covid-19. Another possibility, Weller and others say, has to do with "the sunshine vitamin".

Vitamin D and Covid-19

Vitamin D is an essential nutrient, which means that the human body needs it but can't make it. While some foods contain vitamin D, people have traditionally gotten most of their vitamin D from the sun: when exposed to ultraviolet light, a chemical reaction takes place in the skin that results in the production of vitamin D.

For a just-published study in the journal *Aging Clinical and Experimental Research*, researchers examined the average vitamin D levels among residents of different European countries. They found a correlation between low vitamin D levels and higher rates of Covid-19 infections and - even more so - Covid-19 deaths.

"Previous studies have shown that vitamin D protected people against acute respiratory tract infection overall, and older adults - the group most deficient in vitamin D - are also the ones most seriously affected by Covid-19. Our finding was that getting vitamin D levels into the normal range might help," says Petre Cristian Ilie, PhD, co-author of the study and a re-

search director at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in the UK.

Ilie says that there are several mechanisms by which vitamin D could counteract Covid-19. First, it enhances the expression of an enzyme called angiotensin-converting enzyme 2, or ACE2.

"Previous studies identified associations between higher levels of ACE2 and better coronavirus disease health outcomes," Ilie says, adding that, in the lungs, ACE2 has demonstrated protection ability against acute lung injury.

Ilie also says vitamin D has "multiple roles" in the immune system that may strengthen its ability to repel Covid-19. One example: low levels of vitamin D seem to impair the development of macrophages - white blood cells that eat invading pathogens, including viruses.

He says the vitamin also helps prevent inflammation from running amok. Furthermore, there's evidence that the low vitamin D levels are associated with immune system-related dysfunction and disease.

Although his study did not look specifically at sun exposure, Ilie says sunlight is a natural source of vitamin D. His analysis partly relied on a 2019 study from the *European Journal of Endocrinology* finding, somewhat counter-intuitively, that older adults living in Portugal tend to have much higher vitamin D levels than the same demographic in neighbouring Spain.

Older adults in the Nordic countries meanwhile tend to have higher levels than those living in Italy and other sunnier Southern European countries. While both Spain and Italy have been hit hard by Covid-19, Portugal and the Nordic countries have thus far experienced relatively light rates of death and infection.

What explains the vitamin D discrepancies among these countries? The authors of that 2019 study point out that diet, behaviour, clothing choices and skin colour all affect vitamin D status. The darker a person's skin, the more sun they require to make vitamin D.

A report in *Elemental*, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Markham Heid is a health and science writer.

Covid-19: The small-scale farmers fill African city's food supply gap

By Ignatius Banda, Bulawayo

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe's second city of some 700 000 people, has experienced a shortage of vegetables this year, with major producers citing a range of challenges from poor rains to the inability to access bank loans to finance their operations.

But this shortage has created a market gap that Zimbabwe's smallholders – some 1.5 million people, according to government figures – have an opportunity to fill.

"Smallholder farmers are the highest producers of diverse food crops, some estimate that they supply over 80% of what many of us [in the whole country] are even currently consuming," Nelson Mudzingwa, the national coordinator of the Zimbabwe Small Holder Organic Farmers Forum (Zimsoff), the local chapter of the Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum (ES-AFF), said.

Smallholder farmers have long been feeding this southern African nation by producing the bulk of the country's maize staple, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Zimbabwe's controversial land reform programme – where late former president Robert Mugabe's government urged black Zimbabweans to take ownership of white-owned farms in 2000 – is generally considered a failure that resulted in the country, which was once considered the breadbasket of Africa, becoming a net food importer.

But for a while now, small-scale farmers and other community gardeners scattered across Bulawayo have concentrated on growing on-demand horticultural produce such as tomatoes, cabbages and onions.

This shift in the food production ma-

trix has only increased since the country announced the Covid-19 lockdown on March 30.

According to the Famine Early Warning System (FewsNet), Zimbabwe's lockdown has crippled the movement of agro-products, further increasing shortages from larger farms across the country.

"Smallholder farmers have continued to supply the urban markets that are open daily, which is a clear testimony of what smallholder farmers are able to produce despite very limited support," said Mudzingwa.

From a small plot at her home in Bulawayo's medium-density suburb of Kingsdale, Geraldine Mushore grows all sorts of greens: from peas to tomatoes to onions and lettuce.

This has become her hustle, she said, at a time many Zimbabweans are seeking ways to escape grinding poverty.

Mushore set up her thriving 900-square-metre green garden less than two years ago but wishes she had started it much earlier.

"It started as a small experiment to see what I could grow, if I was up to it. But now it is my full-time occupation," she said.

Mushore sells her produce in bulk to vendors in Bulawayo's bustling downtown vegetable market and also to local supermarkets.

"The business just grew itself, I suppose. The borehole has been a boon especially now when larger farms are failing to meet the demand for greens as many rely on rainfall or have boreholes that are no longer pumping any water," said Mushore.

She added that while she had been doing well previously, since the lockdown her business has been thriving.

In Ntabazinduna, a hamlet 30 km



A woman works on a community vegetable garden in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

from Bulawayo, Joseph Ntuli has a thriving vegetable garden on some 2,000 square metres of his 18-acre plot.

While the plot is dominated in large part by thorny bushes, Ntuli has cleared the portion of land to grow cabbages, tomatoes, peas and carrots.

Demand for fresh produce has grown this year on the back of economic hardships that have seen families abandoning preferred protein-rich diets such as meat, fish and chicken in favour of vegetables that cost less.

"We used to be overshadowed by bigger farms who produced much of the vegetables in this part of the country, but we see now they are struggling, which has put even more pressure on us to supply vegetable markets and feed our people," said Ntuli.

He said that while previously he would sometimes have to watch his produce rot because he had no customers, now he sells at least 20 crates of toma-

atoes a day, and has since had to hire extra help.

"I am supplying the Bulawayo market and people there say other vegetables are actually coming from other parts of the country far away because there is a shortage from our own local producers," he said.

As smallholder farmers across the country start growing more produce, there are concerns that demand will outstrip supply as these farmers lack the sophisticated and well-financed production lines of commercial farmers.

"Smallholder farmers have been up to the task to feed the country although they have fallen short in terms of meeting demand.

"The demand, especially for the upper end of the market such as supermarkets, [and before the lockdown] hotels and restaurants, has largely been met by imports of horticultural produce.

"The smallholder farmers, on the oth-

er hand, have largely met the demands for the medium to lower end of the market largely through such localised outlets," said Ali Said, chief of the food and livelihood support programme at the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in Zimbabwe.

"Smallholder farmers are also a major supplier of such institutions like boarding schools and hospitals in their localities.

"If current bottlenecks to horticultural production by smallholder farmers are addressed, they can produce enough to meet demand," he said.

"Massive food production needs capital resources, which smallholder farmers should have access to without stringent conditions," he said.

Last year, Zimbabwe established the Zimbabwe Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion project (Zim-Shep), with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency

(Jica).

According to the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement, smallholder farmers are the country's major horticulture producers and Zim-Shep is designed to assist these farmers with specialised skills and also help with access to markets.

Self-taught farmers such as Mushore have already shown the contribution of smallholders in meeting local needs, despite the lack of access to agri-finance. "I wouldn't mind having more space to expand vegetable production, but I am also aware that expanding will require more resources, which I cannot afford at the moment," Mushore said.

Despite the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) supporting Zimbabwe through the Smallholder Irrigation Support Programme, where communities are provided with irrigation systems with particular interest in horticulture, such support is yet to reach Ntabazinduna farmers such as Ntuli.

"We would certainly welcome any form of support," Ntuli said.

"We have already proven to ourselves how much we are contributing towards feeding such a big city like Bulawayo. Obviously we can do more, but for now this is what we can do."

FAO's Said said smallholder horticulture production can grow with proper interventions from both government and private investors as they have already proven their capability to meet localised needs.

"Climate change and the accompanying reduced rainfall and dry spells has dealt a huge blow to horticultural production, most of which relies either on surface and underground water.

"The water sources have become unreliable and no longer able to sustain crop production throughout the year as in the past.

"There is thus need to ensure availability of reliable water through drilling of boreholes and well as construction of dams and weirs where feasible."

1,000-year-old bones represent oldest tsunami victims in East Africa

By Michael Greshko

A Thousand years ago, a thriving early Swahili village bustled on the banks of Tanzania's Pangani River, a few miles inland from the Indian Ocean. Residents built their houses out of wood lattices daubed with earth. They filled their nets with fish and crafted beads from shells. Their ceramics were plain and functional.

And then one day, a tsunami barreled in, triggered by an earthquake on the other side of the Indian Ocean.

New research, funded by the National Geographic Society and published on Tuesday in *Geology*, describes a macabre rarity in the geological record. The villagers evidently had no chance to escape the torrent that overtook them. Many drowned in their razed homes and were buried in the wreckage. As far as the study's authors know, the Tanzanian site is the first—and oldest—tsunami deposit bearing human remains found in East Africa. The oldest such deposit with human remains in the world, found across the Indian Ocean in Papua New Guinea, is 7,000 years old.

The Tanzanian site adds a crucial data point in the study of Indian Ocean tsunamis, which can prove devastating. Even though large tsunamis in the region occur relatively infrequently, about once every 300 to 1,000 years or so, they do happen—and in East Africa, the stakes are high. Tanzania's economic center Dar es Salaam, which sits on the coast, is one of the world's fastest-growing cities. United Nations projections forecast that Dar es Salaam will become a "megacity" with more than 10 million residents by 2030 and may exceed 70 million by the end of the century. (Find out more about the rapidly growing Dar es Salaam—and how its planners are trying to keep up.)

East Africa got lucky in 2004, when a tsunami triggered by a huge earthquake off the coast of Indonesia killed more than 227,000 people. The bulk of the damage and fatalities from that tsunami occurred in South and Southeast Asia. The waves also made their way to the shores of East Africa, but the first wave made landfall on the continent during an extreme low tide, miti-

gating its impact.

The tsunami that occurred a thousand years ago, however, was a different story. "It doesn't seem to have been that big of a tsunami, but if people are living on low ground, and they have no idea what's coming, it's probably the worst situation," says Jody Bourgeois, a sedimentologist and tsunami specialist at the University of Washington who reviewed the new study before publication. "There's no earthquake to warn you, because you're on the other side of the Indian Ocean."

Despite the potential for Indian Ocean tsunamis to reach East Africa's shores, the region's tsunami risk hasn't been studied much. The Tanzanian site is one of only a handful of known East African tsunami deposits from the past 12,000 years. "This kind of information needs to be known by governments and by the population," says lead study author and National Geographic Explorer Vittorio Maselli, a geologist at Canada's Dalhousie University.

Maselli started studying the thousand-year-old tsunami in the spring of 2017, while he was working in the University of Dar es Salaam's geology department. By chance, he found out about the work of archaeologist Elinza Mjema, also at the University of Dar es Salaam, who had been working at a site 95 miles to the northwest, near the town of Pangani. An early Swahili fishing village, the area once abounded with beads and ceramics, and the university used it to teach proper archaeological field techniques.

But when Mjema took students there in 2010, test pit after test pit revealed human bone. "Every student was going: Teacher, there is a skeleton," he says. "It was a surprise."

Mjema returned to the site in 2012, 2016, and 2017, and his further excavations found bodies that were randomly oriented in the dirt—including one with intact iron bracelets around its ankles. War and disease didn't seem to account for the village's sudden demise. No cut marks or signs of illness were on any of the bones. By the looks of it, the village's men, women, and children had drowned and were buried in the shattered remains of their homes.

A team of researchers includ-



ing Maselli and study co-author Andrew Moore, a sedimentologist at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, visited the site in 2017 to take more sediment samples. They were facing a race against time. The University of Dar es Salaam had begun digging holes on the property to make fish ponds to teach aquaculture, destroying some of the archaeological site in the process. The researchers dug their trenches along the ponds' margins and collected whatever they could. "Within about three months' time, maybe less, they were going to fill those ponds with water," Moore says. "Some of this was very much salvage geology."

The sand that buried the village

contained the remains of fish, rodents, birds, amphibians, and even the shells of small marine mollusks—a sign that water had washed in from the Indian Ocean, several miles downriver. And wherever the researchers dug, they kept finding more human bones. "Sometimes, it was kind of emotional—we needed to think about the science, but in the meantime, we were working with the people who died there," Maselli says.

Radiocarbon dating of charcoal and bone in the deposits confirmed that the flooding event happened about a thousand years ago. Tsunami deposits from around the Indian Ocean also date to that time, suggesting

that an event similar in scale and intensity to the 2004 tsunami occurred a millennium ago.

Computer simulations found that an earthquake along the Sunda megathrust—the fault off the coast of Indonesia that triggered the 2004 tsunami—could have formed big enough waves to explain the Pangani deposits. The Pangani River's funnel-shaped bay would have amplified the tsunami waves as they raced upriver, making the flooding at the site even more destructive.

"If we go to other places around Africa that saw 2004-like events... would we find this ancient event writ in the rock history?" Moore wonders.

Revisiting risk

The research team hopes their study will motivate work to assess the tsunami risks facing East Africa. In particular, more detailed mapping of the region's ocean floor is needed, Maselli says. Just like mountain ranges channel the flow of air, the ocean floor's topography affects the movement of waves and currents. And tsunamis don't just come from earthquakes; they can be triggered by underwater landslides, too.

"The United States has a huge program for mapping the entire shelf and slope all along the Atlantic coast for understanding landslides," Maselli says. "We don't

know for East Africa."

As for the ancient community, Mjema's archaeological work shows signs of post-tsunami renewal. Within 50 to 100 years, people were building atop the flood deposits. Even today, buildings in the area continue. Though local officials have started moving construction out of the lowlands, Mjema says, recent buildings have been erected on old tsunami deposits along the Pangani River. Will these communities be prepared for the next possible catastrophe?

"We can learn a lot from the past, if we really want to understand what we are facing," Mjema says.

I'm not against online teaching, but what about us?

By Wandisile Mdepa

THE use of learning technology or online learning is a pipe-dream for most rural students and learners.

In the past few days, I've experienced issues with the reliability of my network connectivity and the ever-increasing costs of data. I could consider myself relatively privileged because I used to be in full-time employment and access to WiFi was not an issue at all. I recently moved to a small town in the Eastern Cape called Whittlesea, located about 35km from Queenstown CBD.

The use of platforms such as Skype or Zoom to make video calls are a luxury, the network coverage is poor and prohibits connection not only for educational purposes but also for social reasons as my family is based in Cape Town and it is very difficult to communicate with them. We, however, keep in touch via phone calls, but the network for audio calls is also unreliable.

I cannot but wonder how the emerging trend in higher and basic education to blend face-to-face learning with online learning in order to minimise the spread of the coronavirus at our schools, colleges and universities will affect our students. At the moment, only the privileged few in our country benefit from using technology for home schooling during this health pandemic.

While I appreciate the efforts made by the government to prevent the spread of Covid-19, particularly for the poor and destitute who are without the best medical care, there are other factors which need to be looked at, such as the geographical spread of our students in tertiary institutions across the country and public schools. The lockdown has had serious educational consequences as the majority of students in rural areas might not be able to access the internet due to network coverage and the fact that some students are using their mobile phones to access the online learning material.

Many historically disadvantaged



and historically privileged universities have gone the extra mile to purchase laptops for students through the NSFAS scheme and endowments for the rich institutions, a move which is welcome. However, a question that lingers is what purpose will the purchase of a laptop and data serve if the network connection is the issue for the rural students? What about the missing middle students who

do not qualify for NSFAS? Is the learning then reserved for some? During the lockdown, I have seen an exponential growth and reporting of technologies for online learning in Higher Education institutions, not only in South Africa, but all over Africa and the entire world. Academics have set up WhatsApp groups, Zoom and have facilitated collaborative learning groups using expensive data – under

difficult times of no or sporadic network coverage.

The use of these learning technologies are, in my view, not enabling learning for all, but reveal a huge gap in an unequal society which is permeating the socio-economic space and how unequal the students are. It is unfortunate that learning through technology, for now, only benefits the children of the rich and middle class, who are mostly located in urban areas and big cities.

Many higher education institutions have reported that mobile service providers have partnered with them to ensure that virtual learning takes place, an initiative I welcome and fully support. Sadly, the very same mobile providers are intentionally or unintentionally hiding the fact that network coverage is generally a problem. Many students are now back in their home communities where these challenges are experienced.

In addition to the connectivity problem is the lack of access to laptops by some. One university in Cape Town reported that more than 30% of its students did not have access to computers. The university will need about R38-million to assist those who do not have access. As with inequalities in society, there are also inequalities in the higher education sector and schools too, which means those who are not privileged may unfortunately be left behind in their studies. How much more so for our universities and schools in the Eastern Cape.

The use of learning technologies is not under question as there is much literature which supports it and it is unquestionably important. However, proper learning using technology is enabled by an environment under which a student finds himself/herself. As such, I want to argue that the current environment in many rural areas in the Eastern Cape is not suitable for learning under the lockdown.

In an academic article published by Hicks, Reid, and George, there are demands for universities to provide for a larger and more diverse cross-section of the population, to cater

for emerging patterns on educational involvement which facilitate lifelong learning and to include technology-based practices in the curriculum.

The lockdown has served as a harsh reminder that the South African higher education sector attracts students from diverse backgrounds with unequal access to learning technologies, internet connectivity and stable sources of income. Access to learning technologies and the internet enables learning, more especially so during the lockdown. However, it seems as if many universities are oblivious to the daily struggle of students who come from some of the deep rural areas where network coverage is a privilege. The students and communities most hard hit by lockdown as far as technology and access to the internet are concerned are from rural communities.

The Eastern Cape is largely rural with a high unemployment rate and, based on South African Social Security Service statistics, has more beneficiaries than any other province. Minister of Social Services Lindiwe Zulu was quoted in an IOL article published in August 2019 as saying that 71% of Eastern Cape social grant recipients are young people.

It would therefore be prudent for academic departments and institutions to have a deeper understanding of the different contexts and environments of students' backgrounds when developing e-learning tools and learning technologies. For instance, Unisa online learning is best suited for the urban, rich and middle-class students, as rural students have constant internet and network coverage challenges.

All network providers should look at these issues and install cellphone towers across the province to provide access. The Department of Basic Education should also consider partnering with local broadcasters in order to share prepared lessons for home schooling.

It's easier said than done but well, a personal image matters regardless online or physically.

Covid-19 climate crisis, environmental justice must take centre stage

By Jenny Hall

COVID-19 has forced a shift in mindsets across the world, and it's this same acute shift that needs to be applied to our environmental crises.

It is only a few short months since environmental issues such as climate change featured regularly in the news and arguably with a prominence that they had never enjoyed before. Greta Thunberg became a household name as she and her supporters raised awareness about the impending climate change crisis.

In the lead-up to COP-25, the United Nations meeting which was held in December to advance climate change responses, world leaders were urged to step up their levels of ambition in responding to climate change by the UN Climate Change's Executive Secre-

tary. Thousands of people added their voices to this appeal as they protested outside the meeting halls, and in vast gatherings around the world. Our own Environment Minister, Barbara Creecy, agreed with the calls when she said: "Science is sending a clear message that we face a climate emergency and that everybody needs to act with a renewed sense of urgency."

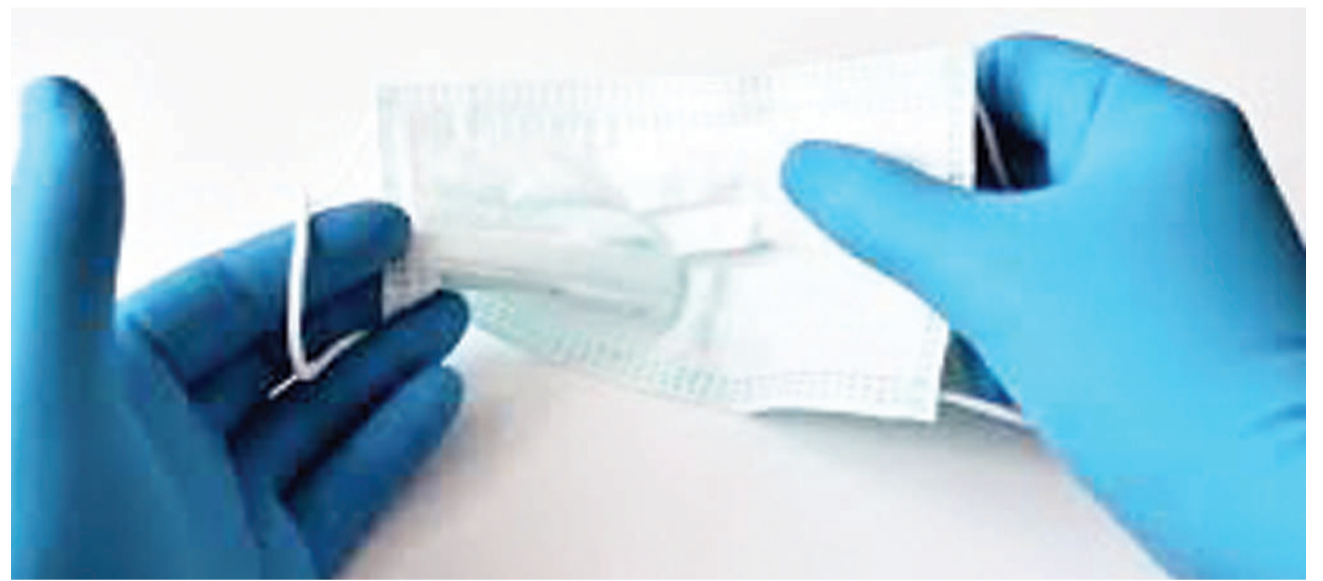
Despite these calls, COP-25 did not result in meaningful progress. Government leaders were simply unwilling to take the hard decisions that would necessarily and significantly change our world.

Scarcely a month later, the Covid-19 pandemic began dominating news headlines. Since then we have seen that responses to Covid-19 have resulted in what was unthinkable a few short months ago during COP-25. Economies have been shut down across the globe.

Health systems have been stretched to their outermost limits.

Closer to home, largely supportive responses to the government's swift decision to implement the initial lockdown were nevertheless met with concerns about the economic impact and food security. These concerns were not without merit – a survey of nearly 20,000 people by the Human Sciences Research Council shows that during lockdown approximately two-thirds of township residents and nearly a quarter of informal settlement residents had no money for food.

Reports such as these make the different experiences between rich and poor South Africans horrifyingly visible. The president's indication that South Africa cannot be allowed to return to pre-pandemic ways and that we need to forge a new economy, therefore, ought to be welcomed.



Ironically, the pandemic has created an opportunity to reset our thinking, not to return to business-as-usual and to tackle inequality. However, if this new approach is going to result in meaningful and systemic change, environmental issues must be part of the thinking and design.

The Covid-19 situation is the most immediate reminder of the consequences of taking a leisurely approach to addressing environmental issues. Early statistics show the aggravated effects of the virus experienced by people living in polluted cities and linkages between poverty and higher death rates. This is in addition to the fact that an underlying environmental issue lies at the heart of the outbreak – namely the destruction of habitats.

Before the pandemic, warnings of the urgent need to implement far-reaching and dramatic changes to our current economic and development approaches had been made by scientists such as the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The panel made it clear in their report last year that if dire impacts on people across the planet are to be avoided, the time for treating environmental issues as negotiable has long passed and that the window for implementing responses is urgently narrow.

The challenge of raising the environ-

ment as a priority in the new economy called for by the president lies in the need to respond differently to traditional attitudes. Although mainstreaming the environment into economic and social decision-making has been a requirement of international law for nearly 30 years, the facts show that we are a long way off this being a reality. In practice, environmental issues are kept in the margins of political priorities. Tenacious narratives such as environmental issues being considered a luxury which developing countries cannot afford remain, and need to be debunked as soon as possible.

Claims that addressing environmental concerns in a time of crisis presents a serious obstacle to economic recovery and development need to be similarly resisted. If the discourse doesn't change, then neither will the outcome. The poor will continue to experience more environmental hardship because of their economic status.

At a time when the controversial ban on cigarette sales remains in force because of the respiratory implications, it may also be a good time to take other causes that impact the respiratory system just as seriously.

Eskom's coal-burning power stations, for example, are known to cause respiratory illness and premature deaths, often among the poorer of our

society. Daily Maverick reported that a study commissioned by Eskom itself reveals that its emissions result in more than 300 premature deaths a year. Studies by NGOs such as Greenpeace estimate that the annual deaths are closer to 1,850, a number substantially higher than the total deaths from Covid-19 in South Africa so far.

Notwithstanding this, Eskom has made various applications seeking to delay compliance with stricter air emission limits. It is also currently appealing a compliance notice issued by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries to its Kendal power station for non-compliance with its existing emission limits. This even though Kendal falls in a priority area because of high levels of pollution which present a danger to health.

Holding Eskom to higher account in the context of its financial difficulties and attempts to keep the lights on highlights the enormity of the shift that is required in approaching our economy differently. It will test the government's ability to resist immediate economic factors trumping environmental performance and finding new ways of making the seemingly impossible possible. If it succeeds, the foundations for building a truly equal society can begin to emerge.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 85 00--

WORD-FIT

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

3 LETTERS: SEE, LIT, GET
 4 LETTERS: BACK, UEFA, CAFE, RAGE, EBON, SOON, IDEM
 5 LETTERS: ABODE, AGAIN, LASSO, ELECT, NDAMA
 6 LETTERS: ELITES, ADHERE, STAGER, PLUNGE, TABOOS
 7 LETTERS: ALLOWED
 8 LETTERS: LEGALESE
 10 LETTERS: BOUNDARIES

CROSSWORD

1 a native of the south
 5 a large perching bird with mostly black plumage
 7 bear native to bamboo forests in China
 8 Kathmandu is the Capital city of the ship built by Noah
 10 Latin from Greek Khorea
 13 break with a sharp cracking sound
 15 accept
 17 movements of hands when you talk
 19 a person who uses something
 20 feel doubt

Down:
 1 ill
 2 formal term for on
 3 not imagined or supposed
 4 tolerate
 6 put on clothes
 7 canal connects the Pacific ocean and Atlantic ocean
 9 medium for communications
 12 stoat
 14 stone in Greek
 16 a diving waterbird with a long neck
 17 a weapon with bullets
 18 join fasten

SOLUTIONS

SEE, LIT, GET
 BACK, UEFA, CAFE, RAGE, EBON, SOON, IDEM
 ABODE, AGAIN, LASSO, ELECT, NDAMA
 ELITES, ADHERE, STAGER, PLUNGE, TABOOS
 ALLOWED
 LEGALESE
 BOUNDARIES

1 SOUTH AFRICAN
 5 BEE
 7 GIANT PANDA
 8 NOAH'S ARK
 10 KOREAN
 13 CRACK
 15 ACCEPT
 17 GESTURES
 19 USER
 20 DOUBT

1 ILL
 2 OFFICE
 3 FANTASY
 4 BEAR
 6 COAT
 7 PANAMA CANAL
 9 TELEPHONE
 12 SKUNK
 14 MARBLE
 16 DIVER
 17 GUN
 18 ZIP

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 85 00--

SOLUTIONS

SEE, LIT, GET
 BACK, UEFA, CAFE, RAGE, EBON, SOON, IDEM
 ABODE, AGAIN, LASSO, ELECT, NDAMA
 ELITES, ADHERE, STAGER, PLUNGE, TABOOS
 ALLOWED
 LEGALESE
 BOUNDARIES

CROSSWORD

1 a native of the south
 5 a large perching bird with mostly black plumage
 7 bear native to bamboo forests in China
 8 Kathmandu is the Capital city of the ship built by Noah
 10 Latin from Greek Khorea
 13 break with a sharp cracking sound
 15 accept
 17 movements of hands when you talk
 19 a person who uses something
 20 feel doubt

Down:
 1 ill
 2 formal term for on
 3 not imagined or supposed
 4 tolerate
 6 put on clothes
 7 canal connects the Pacific ocean and Atlantic ocean
 9 medium for communications
 12 stoat
 14 stone in Greek
 16 a diving waterbird with a long neck
 17 a weapon with bullets
 18 join fasten

APPRECIATION

Bankers' chair praises central bank for COVID relief measures

By Guardian Reporter

RECENT measures taken by Bank of Tanzania to provide relief to banks which are battling the impact of the novel coronavirus will go a long way in stimulating the economy.

Tanzania Bankers Association's Chairman, Abdulmajid Nsekela, said in Dar es Salaam over the weekend that BoT's measures will help cushion the economy in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Nsekela, who is also the Group CEO of CRDB Bank Plc, said the decision by the regulator to institute mitigation meas-

ures will ease pressure on the economy, resulting from the constraints brought about by the global challenges caused by COVID-19 outbreak.

"BoT has not only been proactive in engaging players in the sector on pertinent matters but also demonstrated proactive leadership in implementing policy interventions that are aimed at stimulating the economy, protecting livelihoods and ensuring continuous growth of the banking sector," Nsekela said

He acknowledged that the BoT measures which include reduction of discount rates from 7 to 5 percent and

lowering the statutory minimum reserve from 7 to 6 percent will safeguard the stability of the financial sector, and more importantly, create a supportive environment for growth.

"As industry players, we appreciate this effort and commit to continue engaging with one another on how to best protect the economy, our customers and businesses in the light of the prevailing challenges," he added.

The TBA chief further noted that by lowering of the SMR threshold, the central bank will boost liquidity in the economy which then translates into banks having the ability to continue lending to customers despite the economic slowdown.

Reduction of the discount rates will give banks more room to borrow funds from the central bank for onward lend-

ing to businesses while reduction on the value of collaterals used against government securities, mainly Treasury Bills and Bonds from 10 to 5 percent and 40 to 20 percent respectively, will enhance the ability of banks to borrow from BoT with less collateral hence provide cheaper loans.

Further, Nsekela noted that approval of loan restructuring, subject to thorough assessments by individual banks, to accommodate borrowers who are adversely affected by the COVID-19 will also cushion customers directly affected by the pandemic while checking against an increase in non-performing loans.

The central bank also endorsed the an increase of mobile money transaction daily limits from 3m/- to 5m/- while the daily balance also has been

increased from 5m/- to 10m/-. "This measure will go a long way in accelerating adoption of digital payments while at the same time reducing risks associated with cash transactions," the TBA Chairman underscored.

He expressed confidence in the country's leadership, under President John Pombe Magufuli and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa for their enduring commitment to deliver strong economic growth, better livelihoods and creating an enabling environment for business amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As bankers in Tanzania, we are committed to supporting efforts by the government and other stakeholders towards checking the adverse impact of COVID-19," Nsekela pledged while noting that TBA has already set

in motion internal mechanisms to help its members rollout out changes in line with the announced BoT measures.

He said the association is keen to maintain close engagements with the regulator to ensure its members remain apprised on the policy changes during this unprecedented period. "I want to thank our central bank Governor, Professor Florens Luoga for his astute leadership and patronage and, by extension, the BoT Monetary Policy Committee, for the continuous support and foresight," he stated.

Nsekela who is a career banker for over 20 years, joined CRDB in October 2018, after more than a decade of service at the country's largest, state-owned financial institution, NMB Bank Plc, where he provided strategic leadership for the lender's retail division.



Tanzania Bankers Association Chairman, Abdulmajid Nsekela, speaks at a past event.

INCAPACITY

Cargo piles up at Mombasa port over slow testing of transit drivers

NAIROBI

THE Port of Mombasa is facing a pile-up of goods as majority of truck drivers are yet to be tested and issued with Covid-19-free certificates, a move that risks derailing movement of goods to the hinterland and neighbouring countries.

Less than 5,000 of the more than 25,000 truck operators plying the Northern Corridor route have been tested, meaning that they cannot transport cargo at a time when Kenya has frozen shipment of goods through the standard gauge railway (SGR) line due to restrictions of movement in both Mombasa and Nairobi to contain the spread of the virus.

This has paralysed cargo transport and some landlocked East

African States could find themselves facing shortages of fuel and other key imports. Mombasa port, which was built in 1895, is the main trade gateway to Eastern Africa, serving Kenya and seven neighbouring countries including Uganda, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Burundi.

Lack of adequate testing kits has delayed the issuance of the Covid-19-free certificates, with State authorities unable to meet demand. Kenya International Freight and Warehousing Association (Kifwa) chairman Roy Mwanthi said the government was only testing 100 drivers per day at the Miritini Health Centre in Mombasa, triggering the cargo pile-up.

"More than 400 trucks pick

cargo at the Port of Mombasa on a daily basis but at the moment very few drivers have acquired the Covid-19-free certificates and fewer than 150 trucks are accessing the port," said Mr Mwanthi. "We expected to have at least three testing centres so that more drivers are tested."

The current congestion being experienced at the port is a result of lack of enough drivers to pick the cargo."

Port stakeholders have termed the requirement that all cargo crew be tested and issued with a certificate before being allowed into ports and through border points as premature although the number of infected drivers at border points has been a real threat to efforts to slow down the spread of Coronavirus.

The tests, which were announced last Wednesday by Transport Secretary James Macharia, have seen the clearance and transportation of essential goods delayed further. Exports make up just 15 percent of the cargo that goes through Mombasa every year, as Kenya, the region's biggest economy, takes up the lion's share.

Popular imports include clinker for cement manufacturing, steel, fertilizer and grain.

Transporters have questioned the capacity of government hospitals to carry out the tests efficiently, considering that the Health ministry is conducting an average of 1,500 tests per day countrywide.

"We are thankful the process has begun, but we want more

centres to be set up to avoid congestion at the port and ensure minimal cargo transport delays," said Mercy Ireri, the chief operating officer at the Kenya Transporters Association (KTA).

CS Macharia had directed that drivers loading cargo at the Mombasa port and the Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Nairobi would have to be tested for Covid-19 and issued with a certificate 48 hours before driving into the loading points.

They will then be retested every 14 days to confirm they have not been infected with the deadly virus.

The few trucks that are leaving the port are taking an average of 10 days between Mombasa and Kampala, a journey that previously took about 3.7 days.

This has increased the cost of cargo shipments and slowed down the movement of critical cargo into the hinterland and neighbouring countries. Said Ms Ireri: "The situation will get worse if the Ministry of Health will not come in to expedite the process. We need more personnel for this requirement to be effective since there are more than 1,000 trucks that leave with the transit cargo daily."

The cost of the tests will be borne by the importers, who are expected to transfer the same to the consumers, adding to the cost of doing business.

East Africa's truck drivers have emerged as a weak link in the region's efforts to fight the spread of the disease. This has been especially the case for Uganda, where

over seven Kenyan drivers have tested positive with zero community infections.

A number of them have also been held in isolation in foreign countries after testing positive, making experienced drivers shy away from the work.

Some transport companies are also beginning to shun the transit goods business, preferring local transport instead.

The requirement for a Covid-19 free certificate seems to be gaining popularity across different sectors across the world as countries seek to resume business after weeks of inactivity.

Kenyan companies exporting consumer goods also welcome the tests in the hope that this will speed up clearance of the goods at border points.

SIDE-EFFECTS

Lockdown fatigue spreads quicker than coronavirus disease in Africa

JOHANNESBURG

TWO months after most African nations closed their borders and imposed lockdowns to contain the spread of the coronavirus, they're deciding it's not worth the economic cost.

Countries began shutting their economies soon after the first case was detected in Nigeria in February and before the disease started to take hold on the continent. That helped keep Africa's reported case count well below 80,000 out of a population of some 1.2 billion people. But as the pandemic risks dragging them into the worst economic recession on record, governments from Ghana in the west to Rwanda in the east have started to ease restrictions.

Faced with an impossible dilemma – starvation and deepening poverty or a wider outbreak – many leaders are opting to save people's livelihoods. "Africa is now victim of its success," said Nana Poku, a political economist and vice chancellor of the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. "Thanks to a strong public-health response, we have kept the number of infections and deaths relatively low. Compared to those numbers, the economic cost of Covid-19 in terms of lost output and increased poverty seems very large."

The first country in sub-Saharan Africa to ban travellers from high-risk countries, Ghana also led the way in easing curbs when it lifted its 21-day lockdown on April 20.

Even though the number of confirmed cases subsequently increased five-fold after the easing, the situation had become financially untenable in a country where the informal economy accounts for 90% of employment, the government said.

"We can't stop economic activity in our country, our social lives, our children's education, so we need to do something that will enable us to live our normal lives," Health Minister Kwaku Agyeman-Manu said May 14. "We should begin to accept the fact that the disease will be with us for a while."

Rich flu Ghana's neighbours are following suit. Ivory Coast on Friday began lifting a curfew in its biggest city, Abidjan, allowing restaurants and bars that play



Ghanaian Health minister, Kwaku Agyeman-Manu.

an outsized cultural role, similar to those in France, to reopen immediately. Mosques and churches are being allowed to receive worshippers again from this weekend in Burkina Faso, where many people see Covid-19 as a flu that mainly affects the rich and adherence to restrictions is low.

In Nigeria, a five-week lockdown of the two main cities was only half-

heartedly observed, with traffic jams and crowded streets persisting. Exasperated by dense queues at banks and residents venturing outside without face masks, the governor of Lagos warned this week that a new lockdown may be imposed if people continue to flout public-health guidelines.

As many as 190,000 people could die of Covid-19 and 44 million could

be infected in Africa in the first year of the pandemic if containment measures fail, according to the World Health Organization. The body has urged a gradual easing of lockdowns to avoid a surge in infections.

Gradual approach "Containment measures, which include contact tracing, isolation, improved personal hygiene practices and physical distancing aim to slow down the transmission of the virus so its effects happen at a rate manageable by the health system," the WHO said May 7. "Physical distancing is not about the confinement of people, but rather avoiding unnecessary contacts as people live, work and socialise as a means to interrupt transmission."

In South Africa, which has the continent's highest number of confirmed infections, the government is taking the gradual approach – on May 1 it began relaxing one of the world's strictest lockdowns in place since March 27.

But with thousands of small businesses at risk of collapse and the central bank expecting the economy to shrink 6.1% this year, business leaders and mining companies are asking the government to reconsider its rules and accelerate the easing of restrictions.

The country's largest platinum miner, Sibanye Stillwater, urged President Cyril Ramaphosa this week to let mines run at full capacity in order to avoid a complete shutdown. Even though miners have been allowed to restart operations with half their normal workers, that isn't sufficient, chief executive officer Neal Froneman said. "We are causing more harm by constraining the economy than we are impacting positively on Covid-19," he said. "We have gone too far now, we now need to get the economy to start up."

BLACK-MARKET

Cigarette ban is 'failing,' can create lasting illicit market - study

CAPE TOWN

THE ban on cigarette sales is failing in what it set out to do – and rather than stopping smokers from smoking, it could be setting up an illicit market for survival well beyond the coronavirus outbreak, a

new study has found.

The study, by University of Cape Town researchers Corne van Walbeek, Samantha Filby and Kirsten van der Zee, is titled Lighting up the illicit market: Smokers' responses to the cigarette sales ban in South Africa, and is based on a survey

among 16,000 respondents.

"Our findings suggest that the ban on cigarettes is failing on what it was supposed to do," the authors write.

"While the original intention of the ban was to support public health, the current disadvantages

of the ban may well outweigh the advantages. Smokers are buying cigarettes in large quantities despite the lockdown, and unusual brands are becoming prevalent."

The ban also does not make "economic sense", they argue. "While one should not exagger-

ate the revenue potential of excise taxes on tobacco products, since it contributes only 1% of total government revenue, it does not make economic sense to not collect this revenue.

"The current sales ban is feeding an illicit market that will be increas-

ingly difficult to eradicate when the lockdown and the Covid-19 crisis is over. It was an error to continue with the cigarette sales ban into Level 4 lockdown. "The government should lift the ban on cigarette sales as soon as possible."

The researchers found that most

smokers had continued to smoke under lockdown.

According to the survey results, 41% of smokers tried to quit. Thirty-one percent did, but of these, 12% said they intended to start smoking again as soon as the ban is over.

OBJECTION

Zim court declares conversion of US dollar bank balances to local currency invalid, offensive

HARARE

A High Court in Zimbabwe has set aside a central bank exchange control directive which had unilaterally ordered conversion of US dollar bank account balances into Zimbabwe dollar balances at a fraction of their original value.

At the time, the directive destroyed billions of dollars in savings and wreaked havoc on pension

funds. In 2018, through Exchange Control Directive No. R120/2018, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe directed that all bank deposits made prior to October 2018 be converted from then-existing United States Dollar balances into Zimbabwe dollar balances, provided they were not deposited from offshore sources.

Zimbabwe was, prior to October 2018, using a pegged exchange rate

of 1:1 between the US dollar and the local Zimbabwe dollar, then known as the bond note. The directive left individual and corporate depositors smarting from exorbitant exchange losses.

Banks, on the other hand, benefited, as they had to pay out much less than had been deposited after the local currency had significantly lost its value. Just before the October 2018 effective date, banks held

deposits of approximately US\$9 billion. The case saw applicants Penelope Douglas Stone and Richard Stuart Beattie suing a local bank for disabling any withdrawal of United States dollars from an account which had held a balance of US\$142,000 before the exchange control directive.

They took their bank, Old Mutual-owned Central African Building Society (CABS) to court, seeking

to have the value of their savings repaid. The second and third respondents were the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe and the Minister of Finance respectively.

Judge Happiness Zhou of the Harare High Court on Thursday ruled in a scathing judgment that equality of value could not be arbitrarily or capriciously imposed. "It is offensive to any sense of justice that a person who holds money in a bank

can wake up on any day to be told that his money means something else different from what it has always been," reads part of the judgment.

Zhou noted that the applicant's money was now likely worth less than 4% of its value at prevailing official rates, "which this court cannot ignore." This could not be defended in a democratic society, he added, and declared the direc-

tive null and void, saying the decision was not only arbitrary and irrational, but failed the test of being reasonable.

The judgement went on to describe the exchange control directive as illegal, unconstitutional and consequently invalid. The court ordered CABS to pay the applicant US\$142,000 with interest, or transfer it into an account nominated by the applicants within seven days.

INNOVATION

COVID-19 to change the face of digital education in Africa

WINDHOEK

ONCE the COVID-19 crisis is over, the face of digital education will change forever. Decision-making around providing stable and quality-driven access and productivity to support remote learning and working will be pushed to the top of the list.

So says Myles Thies, director of Digital Learning Services at Eiffel Corp, an e-learning and blended learning specialist. One technology that will be increasingly used to support digital learning in Africa, he says, is the cloud. "We have experienced a gradual migration to cloud-based offerings over the last three years but this is now accelerating quickly due to the challenges revealed by the pandemic."

Cloud technologies such as those provided by large players like Microsoft Azure have become a critical component of how the company rolls out, maintains and supports its technology services. Clients that had the foresight to embark on a cloud-based

strategy have been the least technically affected by the current lockdown restrictions and have had far less security, availability, latency and other challenges to deal with than others, he adds.

Educational institutions are traditionally slower at making big strategic decisions as they tend to involve multiple stakeholders and have smaller budgets to play with, says Thies.

Under the current situation, however, plans already in place to move to the cloud are being pushed through far more quickly and decision that affect how the students and learners access their digital learning spaces are getting major focus whereas they were only secondary considerations before.

Maturing open source
"We also see a big shift in the acceptance and application of maturing open source solutions, paired with professional support and services that we offer," he adds. "With the traditionally more open structures prevalent

in learning institutions, open source technology has enjoyed a wider acceptance.

"This has allowed us to provide highly customised and needs-specific solutions with minimal configuration and development for a fraction of the cost of international proprietary systems."

This means that Eiffel Corp can service many more customers who would not consider expensive enterprise systems such as a learning management system, or student management system, due to the historical costs associated with three to five-year dollar-based contracts.

"Our rand-based pricing models guarantees resourcing and budgetary certainty which is critical, particularly at a time like this when exchange rates are causing sleepless nights for any institution with a foreign denominated payment."

A lot to be done

Thies says there is still a lot to be done in Africa. "Capable and depend-



Virtual illustration of a digital workstation.

able infrastructure is still lacking in places and access to information and the Internet is well below other parts of the developing world. Authorities in many African countries have only just started or are still in the early stages of enabling digital economies and strategies."

He says pockets have emerged that are showing how fast things can be changed and caught up. "One of the

great benefits of being a latecomer to the development party is that countries can apply the latest innovations without the complicated legacy of past technology and regulation." Speaking of how Eiffel Corp is addressing Africa's challenges, he says, as a rule, his organisation thinks about the context in which its technology solutions are used.

"Being born and bred in Africa

means we understand the challenges faced by the typical learner who encounters myriad technical and resources shortages on a daily basis. We design and implement systems that meet the needs of data-scarce environments but which are enabled to cater for rapid growth, adaptation and increasingly sophisticated levels of application as our customer and their stakeholders' capabilities grow."

RECOGNITION

Local medics to benefit from Qatar Airways' 100k complimentary tickets

By Guardian Reporter

LOCAL frontline health workers against the novel coronavirus will be among global peers to benefit from Qatar Airways' 100,000 free tickets to thank them for their heroic work.

In a statement, the airliner said the giveaway opened at 00.01 am on Tuesday last week and will close at 23.59 later today (Doha time). Healthcare professionals can register for this exclusive offer at qatarairways.com/ThankYouHeroes by submitting a form to receive a unique promotion code, offered on a first come, first served basis.

Healthcare professionals from every country in the world will be eligible for the tickets. To ensure the application process is fair and transparent, each country will receive a daily allocation of tickets, depending on its population size, staggered over a seven day period from 12 to 18 May.

Healthcare professionals that receive the promotion code can book up to two complimentary Economy Class return tickets on Qatar Airways operated flights - one for themselves and one for a companion - to anywhere on the airline's global network.

Tickets must be booked before 26 November, with travel



Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker

valid until 10 December 2020. The tickets will be fully flexible, with an unlimited number of destination or date changes allowed without any fees. Fare and surcharges will be waived on tickets, airport taxes apply.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive,

Akbar Al Baker the Doha based airline is incredibly grateful for the commitment and hard work of healthcare professionals around the world who looked after people in these times of uncertainty. "Their heroic display of kindness, dedication, and profes-

sionalism has saved hundreds of thousands of lives around the world. We have built a strong level of trust with passengers, governments, trade partners, and airports as a reliable partner during this crisis and we intend to continue delivering on this mission by acknowledging the incredible efforts of these heroes," Al Baker said.

He explained that the airline's crew and operation has never given up during the past three months, never abandoned hope or the mission to help people get home to their loved ones and during the peak of the pandemic when most governments went into lockdowns.

"United in dedication, we share our gratitude. Now it is our turn to give something back to those on the healthcare frontline. There are no words or gestures that are enough to repay these brave men and women but we hope that our small offer of a complimentary return flight on Qatar Airways will allow them to enjoy a well-deserved holiday, visit family and friends or explore a destination they have always dreamed of, as travel restrictions start to ease," he added.

By maintaining 24/7 operations in recent months, including the provision of over 100 charter flights, Qatar Airways' mission to repatriate over one million people has received widespread praise and thanks from passen-

gers and governments as the foremost airline taking people home.

As a further gesture of appreciation, healthcare professionals will be offered additionally a voucher with 35 percent discount to redeem at Qatar Duty Free retail outlets at the airline's state-of-the-art hub, Hamad International Airport (HIA) in Doha, valid for use up to 31 December 2020.

Qatar Airways recently announced that it has begun a phased approach to expanding its network in line with passenger demand evolution and the expected relaxation of entry restrictions around the world. It aims to rebuild its network to an initial 52 destinations by the end of May and 80 in June.

A multiple award-winning airline, Qatar Airways was named 'World's Best Airline' by the 2019 World Airline Awards, managed by Skytrax. It was also named 'Best Airline in the Middle East', 'World's Best Business Class', and 'Best Business Class Seat', in recognition of its ground-breaking Business Class experience, Qsuite.

Qatar Airways maintains the highest possible hygiene standards, which include the regular disinfection of aircraft, the use of cleaning products recommended by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and thermal screening of crew.

GREEN-ENERGY

Floating wind farms explored for South Africa seas - where wind speeds are faster

CAPE TOWN

THE Swedish floating wind-farm developer Hexicon has launched a new joint venture with a local company to explore the possibility of generating electricity from offshore wind in South Africa.

Hexicon is currently working with Shell to build what could eventually be the world's first large scale floating wind farm in South Korea. The Swedish company is teaming up with the local company Genesis Eco-Energy Developments, which was involved in building wind farm projects in Jeffrey's Bay in the Eastern Cape, as well as two farms in the Northern Cape.

Seven potential sites have been identified, Davin Chown, managing director of Genesis Eco-Energy Develop-

ments told Business Insider SA. Chown says that the sites will be narrowed down as the company assesses factors including sea conditions. South Africa has fairly rough seas - which impacted exploration for the Brulpadda gas field. The fields would also need to be relatively close to the electricity grid and a port, but not in the way of marine traffic.

While onshore wind farms are currently cheaper than offshore option, this may not be the case in the long run, Chown says. According to the American Geosciences Institute, offshore wind speeds tend to be faster than on land, which means that floating wind farms may be able to generate more energy than land-based wind farms.

According to the institute, a turbine in 24km/h wind can

generate twice as much energy as a turbine in 19km/h wind. "Faster wind speeds offshore mean much more energy can be generated." Offshore wind speeds are also usually more stable than land wind speeds, which means a more reliable source of energy. But building floating wind farms is complex and expensive, and there are questions about the impact on marine animals.

This week, government dismissed appeals against plans for a large new wind farm near Strandfontein on the West Coast. GroundUp reports that the Juno Wind Energy Facility, which is about five kilometres from the coast, will have 49 turbines, some of which will stand nearly 180m high. The Spanish renewable energy specialist AMDA will build the wind farm.



A wind farm at Jeffrey's Bay in the Eastern Cape.

RELIEF

Germany is reopening with one of the world's lowest death rates

BERLIN

ON balance, Germany has dealt with its coronavirus outbreak much better than most nations around the world.

The peak of its outbreak - the period marked by the highest numbers of new daily infections - came between March 26 and April 3, during which it maintained a death rate far below the likes of Spain and Italy.

As Business Insider reported in late March, this was attributed to an early lockdown, swift mass-testing drive, a well-oiled healthcare system, and clear government messaging. Seven weeks on - as the country starts to reopen - not much has changed.

The reproduction number (R) - which indicates how many people the average person infects, and indicates how fast the virus is spreading - has wholly remained below 1, but for one surge from 0.65 to 1.1 last weekend. But the country weathered the storm with minimal fuss, and its R rate subsided to 0.8 by Wednesday.

Authorities said the surge was caused by outbreaks in a few nursing homes and a factory. North Rhine-Westphalia, where the factory was located, reacted by briefly reimposing lockdown, it ended on Friday.

"If one compares the German death rate with that of other countries, it becomes clear that the number of deaths in Germany has not increased as much as one might have feared,"

Die Zeit newspaper, whose virus tracker has become a go-to resource in Germany, wrote on May 14. Even so, the government is continuing to move against the virus with purpose.

The Infection Protection Act

On Thursday, the Bundestag passed the Infection Protection Act, a set of precautions to help steer the country from danger as it begins returning to normal. Testing in care homes and hospitals will be drastically increased. Germany is already testing hundreds of thousands of people a week.

Health authorities must log every negative test result and people considered "cured," so the government can map the virus. Nurses and care workers will be entitled to a 1,000-euro (\$1,080) bonus. Before the crisis there was a shortage of these key workers due to low wages.

Health insurers must now pay for their customers' antibody tests even if they have no symptoms. Health insurers must make flu vaccines readily



Medical volunteers walking to a medical facility after taking blood and throat mucous samples in Berlin on March 27.

available. As winter nears, the government wants to minimize the strain that flu patients place on health services.

'We are seeing half-empty ICUs'

In recent weeks, Germany kept testing people en masse, monitoring those who test positive, and kept intensive care units remained well under capacity. It allowed those in the most critical of conditions quick, unfettered access to life-saving apparatus like ventilators.

"We are seeing half-empty ICUs in Germany," the country's lead epidemiologist, Christian Drosten, said on April 26. "This is because we started diagnostics early and on a broad scale, and we stopped the epidemic - that is, we brought the reproduction number below 1."

Germany currently has the capacity to test around 838,000 samples for COVID-19 per week, Reuters reported on Tuesday. Those who test positive are supervised closely, even after they return to recover in their homes.

In Heidelberg, southwestern Germany, medics were driving around the city checking in on those recently diagnosed with COVID-19, taking blood tests and checking to see if they had deteriorated. The New York Times reported in April.

DIVERSIFICATION

Saudi Arabia's public investment fund sinks big money in Boeing, Disney and Facebook

RIYADH

SAUDI Arabia's sovereign wealth fund has invested billions of dollars in stake purchases in major US companies in sectors spanning from aerospace to entertainment that include Boeing, Disney and Facebook, according to a filing to the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The Public Investment Fund (PIF) said it bought a \$73.7 million stake in Boeing, \$495.8m holding in Disney and \$521.9m in Facebook stock in the first quarter of 2020, according to a May 15 quarterly disclosure on the SEC.

The sovereign wealth fund also disclosed an \$827.7m investment in British oil giant BP via American Depository Receipts (ADRs) listed in the US, \$487.6m in Bank of America and \$522m in Citigroup. The fund, which manages about \$320bn of assets, has previously and picked up stakes in Uber Technologies, Tesla and SoftBank Group's Vision Fund to expand its global portfolio.

PIF began snapping up more minority stakes in international companies during the first three months of the year as the coronavirus pandemic disrupted global business, sunk stock prices and forced companies to sell debt. The investment in some of the biggest names of the US corporate world is a bet that they have the potential to generate returns in the long-term and drive Saudi Arabia's economic growth.

"PIF is a patient investor with a long-term horizon. As such, we actively seek strategic opportunities both in Saudi Arabia and globally that have strong potential to generate significant long-term returns while further benefiting the people of Saudi Arabia and driving the country's economic growth. These opportunities include sectors and companies that are well positioned to drive economies and lead sectors moving forward," PIF said in an emailed statement.

The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted daily life, paralysed air travel, wiped out at least \$17 trillion from stock markets globally and forced governments to introduce economic stimulus packages worth more than \$8tn as countries went into lockdown.

Other holdings disclosed by the fund on Friday include \$513.9m in Marriott International and \$78.4m in Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway. It also accumulated shares in energy players Suncor Energy, Canadian Natural Resources, France's Total and Royal Dutch Shell.

Last month, the PIF purchased an 8.2 per cent stake in US cruise liner operator Carnival Corporation, which has been hit by the coronavirus crisis, sending its shares surging at least 20 per cent higher. Saudi Arabia's PIF is pursuing a strategy of broadening its global portfolio while also investing in key domestic projects as part of wider economic diversification plans to reduce the country's reliance on oil revenues.

Speaking at a Future Investment Initiative virtual event in April, PIF's governor, Yasir Al-Rumayyan, said the fund was looking into investment opportunities in areas such as aviation, energy, and entertainment, adding that there would be a lot of potential for investment opportunities once economies start to reopen. "You don't want to waste a crisis from the opportunities. For us, we're looking into any opportunities," Mr Al-Rumayyan said. "If you look at different sectors like airlines, oil and gas, entertainment - they're all put on hold with the stoppage of the economy. We think once the economy is opening up, I think we will see a lot of returns."

The PIF's investments in technology are "doing extremely well" as the use of tech technology has helped some sectors to flourish during the pandemic though it cannot help companies such as cruise-liners or airlines, he said.

The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted daily life, paralysed air travel, wiped out at least \$17 trillion from stock markets globally and forced governments to introduce economic stimulus packages worth more than \$8tn as countries went into lockdown.



PIF governor Yasir Rumayyan



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	23:30	8:00	22:15	14:00
SATURDAY 16 May	The Base	Kumekucha Michezo	Kesho leo rpt	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	00:30 Al Jazeera	8:55 Habari za saa	22:45 Isidingo rpt	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
6:00 HABARI	02:00 DWTV	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	01:30 DWTV	16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
6:40 Kumekucha	TUESDAY 19 May	9:30 Isidingo		17:00 EcoAfrica rpt
7:00 Habari	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	9:55 Habari za saa	SUNDAY 24 May	17:30 Meza huru
8:00 Al Jazeera	6:00 Habari	10:00 Watoto	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	19:00 The Décor rpt
9:00 Watoto wetu	6:40 Kumekucha	10:30 Shamba lulu rpt	6:00 HABARI	19:30 Shamba lulu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5	7:30 HABARI	10:55 Habari za saa	6:40 Kumekucha	20:00 Series: Itohan
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	11:00 The Base rpt	7:00 Habari	20:45 The Monday Agenda
11:15 The Base rpt	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	11:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera	21:30 Capital Prime News
11:45 The Great Queen Seonduk	9:30 Isidingo	12:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 Watoto Wetu	22:00 Kipima Joto
12:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt	10:00 Watoto wetu	12:30 Ijue Sheria	10:00 Isidingo	00:00 Al Jazeera
13:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt	12:55 Habari za saa	11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	Tues 19 May
15:30 Igizo rpt: Mapito	11:00 The Base rpt	13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Watumishi housing	12:00 Bongo Movie rpt:	06:00 Al Jazeera
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	12:00 Al Jazeera	13:30 Tanzania yetu rpt	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
16:20 Shamsam za Pwani	13:00 Kipindi maalum: TMDA na Jamii	13:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Mwangaza	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
18:00 Jiji Letu	13:30 Shika Bamba rpt	14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	16:00 The Great queen Seonduk	13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destino
18:15 Mapishi	13:55 Habari za saa	16:00 Watoto Wetu	16:45 ITV Top 10	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
18:30 Igizo: Mapito	14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	16:30 The Base	17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
19:00 Jungu Kuu	14:55 Habari za saa	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	16:30 Capchat rpt
19:30 Shika Bamba	15:00 Meza Huru	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	17:30 Meza huru
20:00 Habari	16:30 Watoto wetu	18:30 Jagina	19:30 Igizo: Mtego	19:00 Innovation
21:00 Art and lifestyle	17:00 The Base	19:00 Usafiri wako	20:00 Habari	19:30 Jagina rpt
21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo	18:00 Jiji Letu	19:30 Isidingo	21:05 Mizengwe	20:00 Series: Itohan
22:15 Kesho leo rpt	18:10 Yu wapi	20:00 Habari	21:20 Mjue Zaidi	20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destino
22:45 Isidingo rpt	18:15 Mapishi rpt	21:00 Malumbano ya hoja	22:05 Bongo Movie:	21:30 Capital Prime
01:30 DWTV	18:30 Uchumi na biashara	23:00 Habari	23:35 ITV Top 10	22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
SUNDAY 17 May	19:00 Jarida la wanawake	23:30 The Base	00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	22:30 EcoAfrica
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	19:30 Isidingo	00:30 DWTV		23:00 Al Jazeera
6:00 HABARI	20:00 Habari	FRIDAY 22 May		Wed 20 May
6:40 Kumekucha	21:00 Tanzania Yetu	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi		06:00 Al Jazeera
7:00 Habari	21:30 Chetu ni chetu	6:00 HABARI		07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
8:00 Al Jazeera	22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	6:40 Kumekucha		09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Watoto Wetu	23:00 Habari	7:30 HABARI		13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destino
10:00 Isidingo	23:30 The Base	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo		14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
11:40 Jukwaa la fikra rpt	00:30 DWTV	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo		16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
12:00 Bongo Movie rpt:	WEDNESDAY 20 May	9:30 Isidingo		16:30 Culinary delight rpt
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	10:00 Watoto wetu		17:00 Innovation rpt
15:00 Mwangaza	6:00 HABARI	10:30 Usafiri wako rpt		17:30 Meza Huru
16:00 The Great queen Seonduk	6:40 Kumekucha	11:00 The Base		19:00 Sports Gazette
16:45 ITV Top 10	7:30 HABARI	12:00 Al Jazeera		19:30 Chetu ni chetu
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco		20:00 Series: Itohan
18:00 Jiji Letu	8:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Jagina rpt		20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destino
18:15 Mapishi	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt		21:30 Capital Prime News
18:30 Matukio ya wiki	9:30 Isidingo	14:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost		22:00 Dakika 45:
19:30 Igizo: Mtego	09:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru		22:45 The Décor
20:00 Habari	10:00 Watoto wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu		23:15 Al Jazeera
21:05 Mizengwe	10:30 Uchumi na biashara	17:00 The Base		Thurs 21 May
21:20 Mjue Zaidi	10:55 Habari za saa	17:30 Ibada ya kislamu		06:00 Al Jazeera
22:05 Bongo Movie:	11:00 The Base rpt	18:00 Jiji Letu		07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
23:35 ITV Top 10	11:55 Habari za saa	18:30 Shamba lulu		09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	12:00 Al Jazeera	18:55 Mizengwe rpt		13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destino
MONDAY 18 May	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA na jamii		14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	12:55 Habari za saa	19:30 Isidingo		16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
6:00 Habari	13:00 Dakika 45	20:00 Habari		16:30 Business edition rpt
6:40 Kumekucha	13:45 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Utawala bora na utumishi	21:05 Kipima Joto		17:00 In good shape
7:30 HABARI	13:55 Habari za saa	23:00 Habari		17:30 Meza huru
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	23:30 The Base		19:00 Turning the spotlight
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	14:55 Habari za saa	00:30 DWTV		19:30 Tanzania yetu
9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need	15:00 Meza huru	SATURDAY 23 May		20:00 Series: Itohan
10:00 Watoto wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi		20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destino
11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:00 The Base	6:00 HABARI		21:30 Capital Prime News
12:00 Al Jazeera News	18:00 Jiji Letu	6:40 Kumekucha		22:00 Capchat rpt
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Ewura	18:15 Mizengwe rpt	7:00 Habari		23:00 Al Jazeera
13:00 Mjue Zaidi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Ewura	8:00 Al Jazeera		Fríd 22 May
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	19:00 Ijue Sheria	9:00 Watoto wetu		06:00 Al Jazeera
14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	19:30 Isidingo	10:00 Shika Bamba 5		07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
15:00 Meza Huru	20:00 Habari	10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt		09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
16:30 Watoto Wetu	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	11:15 The Base rpt		13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destino
17:00 The Base	21:10 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe?	11:45 The Great Queen Seonduk		14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
18:00 Jiji Letu	21:15 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	12:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt		16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
18:10 Aibu yako rpt	21:45 Ripoti Maalum: Watumishi housing	13:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost		16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
18:15 Mapishi	22:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	15:30 Igizo rpt: Mapito		19:00 Drive it
18:45 Kesho leo	23:00 Habari	16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe		19:30 EcoAfrica
19:00 Afya ya Jamii	23:30 The Base	16:20 Igizo: Mtego		20:00 Aibu Yako
19:30 Isidingo	00:30 Al Jazeera	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani		20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
20:00 Habari	2:00 DWTV	18:00 Jiji Letu		20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destino
21:05 Dakika 45	THURSDAY 21 May	18:15 Mapishi		21:30 Capital Prime News
21:45 Kipindi Maalum: Utawala bora na utumishi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	18:30 Jungu Kuu		22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	6:00 HABARI	19:00 Shika Bamba		00:00 Al Jazeera
23:00 Habari	6:40 Kumekucha	20:00 Habari		
	7:30 HABARI	21:00 Art and lifestyle		
		21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo		

WORLD

Trump says he is considering restoring some funding to WHO

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT of the United States Donald Trump said on Saturday his administration was considering numerous proposals about the World Health Organization (WHO), including one in which Washington would pay about 10 percent of its former level.

Late on Friday, Fox News reported that the Trump administration was set to restore partial funding to the WHO.

Commenting in a Saturday retweet of Fox Business host Lou Dobbs' Twitter post on the reported proposal, the

president said that no final decision had been made and that US funding for the global health agency remained frozen.

The Trump administration will "agree to pay up to what China pays in assessed contributions" to the health agency, according to the Fox News.

It has been a month since Trump announced a halt to the funding, accusing the WHO of having "failed in its basic duty," adding that "it must be held accountable," amid criticisms both from authorities at home and all over the world at a time when coronavirus in-



US President Donald Trump pumps his fist as he departs the White House on Marine One, on Friday, in Washington. (AP)

fections still soared.

Top public health official Robert Redfield, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said publicly that the agency will continue its ties with the WHO, as the two sides have "had a long history of working together in multiple outbreaks around the world."

The WHO also immediately pushed back against Trump's comments, urging the US leader

to think twice on the decision.

"I hope the freezing of the funding will be reconsidered and the US will once again support WHO's work and continue to save lives," the head of WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said in a virtual briefing regarding the issue. "I hope the US believes that this is an important investment, not just to help others but for the US to stay safe also."

Agencies

Probe lunched after Trump fires State Department watchdog

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATS in Congress on Saturday launched an investigation into President Donald Trump's move to oust the State Department's internal watchdog, accusing the president of escalating his fight against any oversight of his administration.

Trump announced the planned removal of Inspector General Steve Linick in a letter to House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi late Friday night, making Linick the latest government inspector general to be ousted in recent weeks under the Republican president.

The top Democrats on the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees questioned the timing and motivation of what they called an "unprecedented removal."

"We unalterably oppose the politically-motivated firing of inspectors general and the President's gutting of these critical positions," House panel chairman Eliot Engel



State Department Inspector General Steve Linick

and Senator Bob Menendez, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations panel, said in a statement announcing the probe.

The two Democrats said it was their understanding that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo personally recommended Linick's firing because the inspector general "had opened an investigation into wrongdoing by Secretary Pompeo himself."

Asked about the investigation, a

White House official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said: "Secretary Pompeo recommended the move and President Trump agreed."

A State Department spokesperson confirmed Linick had been fired but did not comment on the Democratic investigation or Pompeo's role in the dismissal.

The agency said Stephen Akard, director of the Office of Foreign Missions, would take over the

watchdog job.

Linick, who was appointed to the role in 2013 under the Obama administration, is the fourth inspector general fired by Trump since early April following the president's February acquittal by the Republican-led Senate in an impeachment trial.

Pelosi called the ousting an acceleration of a "dangerous pattern of retaliation."

'PART OF A PURGE'

In April, Trump removed a top coronavirus watchdog, Glenn Fine, who was to oversee the government's COVID-19 financial relief response. Trump also notified Congress that he was firing the inspector general of the US intelligence community, Michael Atkinson, who was involved in triggering the impeachment investigation.

Earlier in May, Trump ousted Christi Grimm, who led the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General, after accusing her of

having produced a "fake dossier" on American hospitals suffering shortages on the frontlines of the novel coronavirus outbreak.

"Trump is methodically eliminating anyone who would bring wrongdoing to light," Senator Jeff Merkley, a Democrat on the Foreign Relations panel, tweeted.

Engel and Menendez called on the Trump administration to turn over any related documents by May 22. Trump and his administration have repeatedly balked at Congress' power to check the executive branch, refusing to turn over records in multiple probes and triggering lawsuits over its oversight power. It was not immediately clear what, if any, other action lawmakers would take outside the probe.

Walter Shaub, the former head of the US Office of Government Ethics, who exited after clashing with Trump, said the 30-day notice gave lawmakers a window to act, if they wanted to, including calling Pompeo to testify.

Agencies

Russia's Transport Ministry hopes to resume international air service in July

MOSCOW

THE Russian Ministry of Transport hopes for resumption of international air service in July this year, domestic transportation can begin gradual recovery in mid-June, Minister of Transport Yevgeny Dietrich told reporters on Saturday.

"It is very important for us to understand that the countries where our people could fly are safe. You know that many European countries are slowly opening their own borders, their own flights.

We will look and focus on the current situation. Of course, recommendations of our doctors and specialists regarding the possible safe opening of flights will be key for us, and we hope that such decisions [to resume flights] may take place in July, but first of all they will depend on the situation in the countries where we take our passengers," he said.

He added that the decisions of the operational headquarters and the government will also be a necessary condition for resuming international flights.

At the same time, according to him, domestic air transportation can begin to recover in June. "Domestic transportation, which I hope will begin to be intensively restored starting from the second half of June, will provide us with a base [for safe travel]," the minister said.

Agencies

China supports UN, WHO playing due roles in global anti-epidemic cooperation -Xi

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said on Friday that China firmly supports the United Nations and the World Health Organization in playing their due roles in international cooperation against the COVID-19 pandemic.



In a telephone conversation with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Xi (pictured) stressed that China stands ready to work with Hungary and other members of the international community to effectively carry out joint prevention and control efforts and resolutely curb the spread of the coronavirus disease.

Xi also called for concerted efforts to strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination to jointly address the challenges the pandemic has brought to the world economy.

He noted that during the special period of jointly combating COVID-19, the Chinese and Hungarian peoples have been helping and supporting each other.

China firmly supports the Hungarian government and people in their anti-epidemic efforts, and will continue to provide as much assistance as its capacity allows for the European country, Xi said, adding that he believes that under Orban's strong leadership, the hard-working Hungarian people will surely win the battle at an early date.

Xi pointed out that through the test of the joint fight against the pandemic, the traditional friendship between the two countries will grow even deeper and bilateral cooperation will embrace broader prospects.

He called on the two sides to actively plan the development of bilateral relations after the pandemic, maintain high-level contact, strengthen cooperation in such traditional areas as economy, trade and investment, actively explore cooperation in such new fields as digital economy and artificial intelligence, and promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Xi said he looks forward to meeting with Orban at an early date after the pandemic, so as to help lift the China-Hungary comprehensive strategic partnership as well as cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs) to higher levels.

Orban, for his part, said he congratulates the Chinese people on having successfully contained the COVID-19 epidemic through arduous efforts.

He added that the Hungarian people will not forget and is deeply grateful for the timely assistance China has provided for Hungary's fight against the disease, including urgently-needed medical protective supplies.

Hungary always firmly adheres to the one-China policy, he stressed.

He noted that Hungary and China have carried out good cooperation in high-tech fields, which has promoted Hungary's economic development.

Hungary, he said, is willing to strengthen cooperation with China in such fields as economy, trade and finance, and will continue as always to support and participate in CEEC-China cooperation.

Xinhua

Deported Honduran says no water, food or COVID-19 test in US detention

TEGUCIGALPA

"THEY didn't give us water or food, they threw us in the back like dogs, and they didn't check if we had a temperature," Marvin Javier Cubas, a Honduran national deported from the United States, complained about his inhuman treatment there.

In a recent telephone interview with Xinhua, Cubas, who is currently undergoing a mandatory quarantine in Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras, recalled his miserable experience after he was exposed to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the hands of U.S. border police following his detention in the United States.

"We didn't even receive a test for the coronavirus, they didn't even give masks to us, they only took our fingerprints when we were detained in Texas," he said, adding his dislocated shoulder was not treated in the detention center.

"I swear to you by the most sacred thing, which are my daughters, that they didn't even give us



American policemen guard near the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico, in San Diego, the United States, April 30, 2018. (Xinhua)

a pill when we were sick," Cubas said.

Cubas left the municipality of Siguatepeque in central Honduras on March 10 with two friends. All of them were arrested by U.S. agents in Texas. He said they were not transferred to a shelter but put in an open-air tent, where they lost all their belongings.

"We are going to get in the car and send you to Mexico to return to Honduras," he quoted the U.S. agents as saying.

Cubas said that because there were no health screenings for migrants, the process of returning to their country of origin from the United States exposed the migrants and many others to

COVID-19.

According to U.S. media reports, since the coronavirus hit the United States, the U.S. immigration authorities have deported thousands of migrants, with dozens infected of COVID-19, which left Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean governments struggling to respond.

Xinhua

Chinese dredging company gains reputation in Saudi Arabia for its sense of responsibility

CHINESE companies operating in Saudi Arabia are widely lauded by the local community for their efforts to maintain strict containment measures amid COVID-19, advance construction and protect local environment.

CCCC Dredging, a subsidiary of China Communications Construction Company is one that has gained reputation. The company is currently building an artificial island in the Berri field in Jubail, eastern Saudi Arabia, to help the field expand crude production capacity.

At CCCC Dredging's project site around 10 nautical miles from Jubail Industrial Port on the Persian Gulf, a cutter suction dredger named Lilong which means a "powerful dragon" was pouring sand and stones into the sea with its

arm stretching out. The machine is able to make a two-meter-high cushion that covers an area of a standard football pitch in just an hour.

Over the past ten years, CCCC Dredging has reclaimed a total land area of 30.35 million square meters using more than 160 million cubic meters of sand.

A large percentage of land in Saudi Arabia is covered by desert, which makes land reclamation from the sea a major way for the country to expand development space. The Berri artificial island is a typical project under such development strategy.

Partnering with the Saudi Arabian oil company Saudi Aramco, Chinese companies including CCCC Dredging have constantly strengthened prevention

and control of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Chinese companies quickly responded to the pandemic, adopted comprehensive measures, and learned from the effective practices of China in curbing the virus, in an effort to push ahead with the project," said Abdullah A. Al-Abdali, Industrial Investments Development Coordinator of the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu (RCJY).

He introduced that the three projects surrounding the Berri artificial island participated by CCCC Dredging created an output of nearly \$30 million amidst the pandemic, adding that Chinese companies have made constructive contribution to Saudi Arabia's containment efforts and production.

The Chinese companies also pledged

not to impose negative impacts on local environment during construction.

They set up floating barriers stretching 2,000 meters from the coastline to collect pollutants. Besides, they also placed anti-pollutant nets under the floating barriers to stop the mud from escaping and polluting the environment.

"The anti-pollutant nets we use are tough, adaptive and stable. They can prevent 90 percent of the pollutants," said project manager Mohammed Ali.

To assess the environmental impact of the project on marine environment, the Saudi Arabian environmental authorities entrusted a team of frogmen to collect samples under the project on a regular basis.

"The Chinese companies have done a

good job in environmental protection, which is proved by the video I've just filmed," said the team leader surnamed Salih who dived 15 meters deep and filmed a video clip. In the video, the water is crystal clear in which fishes swim through the gently swaying colorful corals.

Salih said the video will be used as a reference for the environmental authorities when they access environmental impact.

According to a senior engineer of the project surnamed Mohammed, the Chinese companies attach high importance to environmental protection during construction, and he was quite impressed by their proposal to avoid impacts on the sea turtles laying eggs and the growth of

seagrasses.

"The coastal landscape has been improved a lot with the water and the beach getting cleaner," said Alabdali, adding that the environmental protection measures taken by the Chinese companies bear huge significance to the construction of the whole industrial zone, and have improved the awareness of local enterprises about environmental protection.

The CCCC Dredging has also promoted international cooperation by contracting the southern part of Berri artificial island to Dutch builder Boskalis. Helios, a cutter suction dredger owned by the Dutch sub-contractor, works at a construction site 2,000 meters south of Lilong.

People's Daily

Brazil passes Italy and Spain in confirmed virus cases

BRASILIA

BRAZIL'S confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus rose on Saturday past those of Spain and Italy, which was once the epicenter of the pandemic, making Brazil's outbreak the fourth largest in the world, according to official figures.

Brazil's Health Ministry registered 14,919 new confirmed cases in the prior 24 hours, taking the total to 233,142, behind the United States, Russia and the United Kingdom. Brazil has done just a fraction of the testing seen in those three countries.

Brazil's Health Ministry on Saturday also reported 816 new deaths related to

the virus, bringing the total to 15,633.

The global distinction is likely to pile pressure on President Jair Bolsonaro, who lost his second health minister in a month on Friday as he defies public health experts and calls for widespread use of unproven drugs.

Bolsonaro has been fiercely critical of the orders by many of Brazil's state governors for strict social isolation and quarantine to combat the spread of the virus, including the closure of schools, shops and restaurants.

Bolsonaro argues that the toll on the economy is becoming unbearable and businesses must be allowed to reopen as soon as possible. The government

now expects Brazil will post its biggest annual economic contraction this year since records began over a century ago.

Bolsonaro has undergone several coronavirus tests after ministers and other close aides tested positive.

Nationwide testing in Brazil still lags far behind European nations. Brazil had processed nearly 338,000 novel coronavirus tests in official labs by the beginning of the week, according to the Health Ministry. Another 145,000 tests were under analysis or waiting in line.

Italy
Within the past 24 hours, 153 new COVID-19 deaths had been registered in Italy, bringing the country's death toll

from the coronavirus-caused disease to 31,763 out of the total infection cases of 224,760, according to fresh figures on Saturday.

The number of recoveries rose to 122,810, an increase of 2,605 compared to Friday. Nationwide, the number of active infections fell by 1,883 to 70,187, according to the Civil Protection Department.

Of those who tested positive for the coronavirus, 775 are being treated in intensive care, a decrease of 33 compared to Friday, and 10,400 people are hospitalized with symptoms, a decrease of 392 over the past 24 hours.

The remaining 59,012 people, or 84

percent of those who have tested positive, are in isolation at home without or with only mild symptoms.

France

French health authorities reported 96 new coronavirus deaths on Saturday, as the country eases from a two month lockdown.

In a statement, the health ministry said the figure had fallen slightly from 104 fatalities on Friday. This brings France's total to 27,625, the fourth-highest tally in the world, after the United States, Britain, and Italy, and just ahead of Spain.

Agencies

COVID-19 may have occurred before mid-January in US, says health officer

SAN FRANCISCO

COVID-19 may have occurred before mid-January in the United States as two persons with positive serology or blood-based tests had COVID-like illness last December, a health official from the U.S. state of Washington said on Friday.

Among 295 probable cases, 35 had positive serological or blood tests and two of those individuals investigated reported having a COVID-like illness in mid- to late December, the Snohomish health district confirmed in a media release on Friday.

These two persons told their district's case investigators they got sick with COVID-like illnesses in mid- to late December, several weeks prior to the country's first confirmed case in mid-January.

"Given reports like the ones that we've had and others around the country, the introduction of COVID-19 may have occurred prior to mid-January," Chris Spitters, the district's health officer said.

"A positive serology test indicates prior coronavirus infection. It does not provide details on when the infection was acquired," he added.

Spitters noted that respiratory-tract symptoms experienced in December in each case overlap with other illnesses. "It is hard to determine if their illness in December truly was COVID-19, or if it was due to another respiratory infection and they later acquired an asymptomatic COVID-19 infection."

Xinhua

Xi calls for more international support for Africa's COVID-19 fight

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Friday urged the international community to step up support for Africa's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and actively participate in the initiative endorsed by the Group of 20 (G20) to suspend debt service payments for the world's poorest countries.

Xi made the remarks in a telephone conversation with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (pictured).

Noting that the spread of COVID-19 is accelerating in Africa, Xi said that under Ramaphosa's leadership, the South African government has adopted a series of epidemic response measures and

achieved positive results.

China will continue to provide firm support and as much assistance as its capacity allows for South Africa, and strengthen bilateral medical and health cooperation, he said.

China, he added, is willing to maintain regular communication with South Africa, and boost coordination on multilateral platforms such as BRICS, the G20 and the United Nations, so as to push for greater development of the China-South Africa comprehensive strategic partnership and jointly safeguard the fundamental interests of the two and also other developing countries.

Meanwhile, Xi stressed that China and Africa enjoy a profound



traditional friendship and trust each other, and that they are good friends, good partners and good brothers.

The Chinese side empathizes with the dual pressure faced by African countries from the epidemic and the economic downturn, Xi said, adding that while still facing great pressure in its own battle against the epidemic, China has provided a substantial amount of anti-epidemic supplies in multiple shipments for the African Union and African countries.

China has also actively dispatched medical teams to African countries, held video conferences of experts with the African side, and carried out exchanges on diagnostic and therapeutic technologies without reservation, he said.

Under the current circumstances, China and Africa need more than ever to stick together, combat

the disease in solidarity, and jointly overcome the ongoing crisis, said Xi, adding that the Chinese people will continue to stand firmly with their brothers and sisters in Africa.

Xi also suggested that the two sides support the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO) in playing their active roles in coordinating global anti-epidemic cooperation.

China, he said, is willing to join hands with the African side to build a closer China-Africa community with a shared future.

For his part, Ramaphosa said that South Africa and China share common ground on many issues and enjoy solid and sound relations, adding that his country supports China's stances on the

Taiwan question and other issues concerning China's core interests and is willing to work closely with China to safeguard the two countries' common interests.

Ramaphosa thanked China for continuously providing valuable assistance and support for African countries, saying that China is a true friend of South Africa and other African countries as well as a partner that can be relied on when they are faced with difficulties and challenges.

The African Union and African countries firmly support the United Nations and the WHO doing their work and playing an active role in international anti-epidemic cooperation, he added.

Xinhua

Three COVID-19 vaccines enter clinical trials in China

THREE vaccines - one adenovirus vector and two inactivated - have entered clinical trials in China, and experts say more research is needed to evaluate their safety and efficacy.

The vector vaccine, which completed phase-one trial at the end of March and started phase-two trial on April 9, is spearheaded by Chen Wei, an academician at the Institute of Military Medicine under the Academy of Military Sciences. It is also the first COVID-19 vaccine to enter the second stage of clinical trial in the world.

One inactivated vaccine is jointly created by the Wuhan Institute of Biological Products Co., Ltd and the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the other is developed by Sinovac Research and Development Co., Ltd based in Beijing. The two inactivated vaccines entered clinical trials on April 12 and 13, respectively.

Vaccine development is a complex and long-term process, and its entry into clinical trials marks a step closer for human beings to better protection.

Ding Sheng, director of the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Tsinghua University and director of the Global Health Drug Discovery Institute, told People's Daily that market application of a vaccine has to abide by laws and regulations and follow technical standards, and there is a relatively fixed procedure for vaccine research and development, which usually takes a long time. The safety and efficacy must be strictly verified before the vaccines are mass-produced to the people, he



explained.

Ding introduced that in order to accelerate the R&D of COVID-19 vaccines, researchers have adopted unconventional methods in preclinical researches.

For example, they have designed, evaluated, and built animal models in a simultaneous, rather than successive manner to earn more time.

Developing COVID-19 vaccines is like walking fast on a steel wire because the researchers have to treasure every minute and ensure the vaccines' safety and efficiency. "We understand that people are eagerly waiting for the vaccine, but from a scientific point of view, we can't lower the standards," Ding stressed.

A number of scientists believe that the COVID-19 vaccines will be approved to hit the market in 12 to 18 months based on optimistic estimate, which is much shorter than

the general situation as it normally takes over 10 years to develop a vaccine.

They predicted so because of the all-out research efforts made by scientists around the globe, the green channels opened for faster approval, the improved technologies for vaccine manufacturing and the development methods with higher efficiency.

Yan Jinghua, a researcher from the Institute of Microbiology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, told People's Daily that as the research on life sciences is making progress, more methods for vaccine production have emerged and vaccine technologies have improved. He added that each vaccine has its own characteristics, and the advantages and disadvantages complement each other.

To raise the success rate for R&D of COVID-19 vaccine, China has five types of vaccines in development,

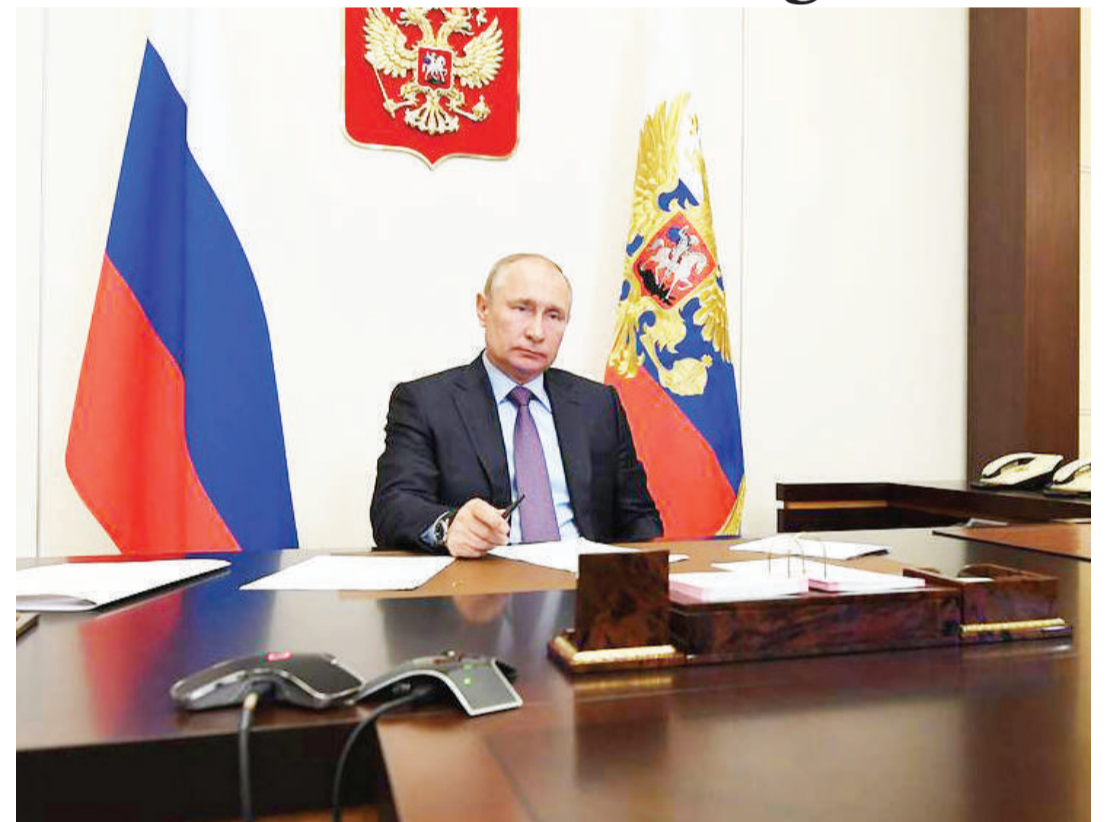
and they are progressing smoothly. The five vaccines include inactivated vaccine, recombinant protein vaccine, adenovirus vector vaccine, nucleic acid vaccines, and attenuated vaccine, covering the major types of COVID-19 vaccines under study worldwide.

The process from vaccine R&D to production is a long chain, and China enjoys the advantage of integrating all the resources along the chain, which enables the country to simultaneously advance vaccine R&D, approval, and production.

At present, countries in the world are at different stages of pandemic prevention and control. It is necessary to strengthen international cooperation to form a joint force on R&D so as to develop a safe and effective vaccine as soon as possible.

People's Daily

Putin says Russia's combat aircraft outshine foreign rivals



Russian President Vladimir Putin

NOVO-OGARYOVO

THE state must maintain the domestic aviation industry, which is competing on a par with foreign producers and demonstrates its superiority in the sphere of combat aircraft, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting on the support of the aviation industry and air carriages

In the current situation, it is necessary to maintain the industry's base, namely, aircraft-building enterprises and utilize the capacity of this complex production

unique by many parameters," the head of state said.

Russia is among few countries in the world that are capable of producing the whole range of military and civil aircraft and helicopters, which is a big competitive advantage and the implementation of the potential of the Russian economy, industry, science and education, Putin stressed.

"Domestic aircraft are competing on an equal footing with foreign rivals and world market leaders by many characteristics and, as a matter of fact, considerably sur-

pass them by some [parameters], in the category of combat aviation," the Russian president said.

The potential of the Russian aircraft-building industry makes it possible to work on new and promising models, including on the MC-21 medium-haul airliner, which is now undergoing flight tests, the Russian president said.

"As far as I know, it has performed over 300 flights. This is actually a third of what is required," the head of state said.

Agencies

'It's a right decision to stay in Wuhan' - foreign students in China talk about their experience during COVID-19

"IT'S a right decision to stay in Wuhan."

That's a common answer given by many young foreigners in Wuhan, China during a recent interview with People's Daily when they recalled their life in quarantine in the city.

During the interview, they shared with People's Daily their personal experiences of combating the COVID-19 pandemic, expressing sincere gratitude.

They chose to stay by the side of the Chinese people, instilling confidence in Wuhan, Hubei and China with concrete actions.

Aurelien Viard is a French man who went to Suizhou, Hubei with his Chinese wife to spend the Chinese New Year in mid-January, but happened to encounter the COVID-19 epi-

demic. He declined the offer from his country to evacuate French nationals and decided to take his responsibility together with his Chinese family to get through the difficulty.

"I felt I was also in the all-out efforts of China to combat the novel coronavirus." What Viard said echoes many foreigners who stayed in Hubei during the pandemic.

Pakistani student Sunjeet Kumar who's currently enrolled in a doctoral program at the Institute of Hydrobiology under Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wuhan, said he was taken good care of by the city's community workers when he had an ear inflammation in February this year. He described his experience as homey.

Raphael Mwatela, a PhD candidate in international relations at Central China Normal University, said that the Chinese volunteers and school staffs who were there throughout are the "unsung heroes."

The foreigners witnessed "unexpected" orderliness when China adopted the most comprehensive, strict and thorough prevention measures. They saw the well-organized medical teams arriving in Wuhan from across the country, as well as the people's active response to the unprecedented quarantine measures.

They lauded the "China speed" in the construction of makeshift hospitals Huoshenshan and Leishenshan. The Chinese government was doing

its best to save lives, and it was amazing that makeshift hospitals were established and facilitated in such a short period of time, they said.

"It's impossible for any other country in the world to mobilize over 42,000 medical workers to assist a province," said a foreigner in the interview, hailing the strong power formed in China that enabled countrywide efforts to assist Hubei in the health crisis. "The strict lockdown measures didn't stop the government from delivering fresh vegetables and fish from other parts of the country to communities and foreign students in Wuhan," they said.

Anila Poovanmalapandinjattethil Ajayan, who's also a post-doctoral student at the In-

stitute of Hydrobiology under Chinese Academy of Sciences, believes that unity is the most important reason for China to conquer all challenges.

"One of the biggest asset during any crisis is the level of trust that the common people have in their government," said Mwatela. He noted that the Chinese people have a lot of trust in their government, which helped him feel safe.

Viard also said he felt the value of collectivism and saw the advantages of the Chinese political system.

The spreading COVID-19 pandemic is triggering a battle between the just and the evil in international public opinion, while the young foreigners in China have seen through the

plots framing up China - some Western forces are just reluctant to see more people recognizing China's progress in pandemic response.

Moroccan doctoral student Hanane Thamik at Wuhan University said those who fabricated rumors are those who "don't want to see Chinese development," while Viard believes that the stigmatization came from the fear that they might be further surpassed by China.

By posting messages on social media platforms and presenting reality in videos, the young foreigners in China have been sharing Chinese stories with their relatives and friends back home. They are telling the world that China is doing all it can to protect the lives of the Chinese peo-

ple and has achieved remarkable results. They also convey a message that racial discrimination doesn't exist in the country, which can be proved by all foreigners living there.

China's anti-pandemic actions shall not be denied and tolerate no misleading, said postgraduate student Soleimani Amine from Algeria at Central China Normal University. He believes it was China's anti-pandemic measures that protected him.

"Rather than wasting their time on stigmatization that is not even worth refuting, some politicians had better find ways to save people and learn from China's experiences," said Davlatov Khairiddin, a Tajik pursuing bachelor degree in China.

People's Daily



In this July 26, 2018, file photo, former Los Angeles Laker Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna watch during the U.S. national championships swimming meet in Irvine, Calif. (AP Photo)

Autopsy: Bryant crash pilot had no drugs, alcohol in system

LOS ANGELES

THE pilot flying Kobe Bryant and seven others to a youth basketball tournament did not have alcohol or drugs in his system, and all nine sustained immediately fatal injuries when their helicopter slammed into a hillside outside Los Angeles in January, according to autopsies released Friday.

The reports by the Los Angeles County coroner's office provide a clinical but unvarnished look at the brutality of the crash.

One of the most popular sports figures in Los Angeles and a celebrity around the globe, Bryant was broken beyond recognition when his body was found outside the wreckage of the chopper. His remains had to be identified by his fingerprints.

The report made it clear: Bryant and the passengers almost certainly were dead in an instant due to blunt trauma.

"These injuries are rapidly if not instantly fatal," wrote Juan Carrillo, senior deputy medical examiner, in Bryant's report.

The crash that killed the 41-year-old retired Los Angeles Lakers star, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna – clad in the jersey she would have worn to play that morning, with the word "Mamba" on the front and her last name on the back – pilot Ara Zobayan and the others is considered accidental.

Bryant was headed from his Orange County home to his daughter's tournament at his Mamba Sports Academy in Thousand Oaks on the morning of Jan. 26. The group, including one of his daughter's coaches, and two of her teammates, encountered thick fog in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles.

Zobayan, an experienced pilot who often flew Bryant, climbed sharply and had nearly succeeded breaking through the clouds when the craft took an abrupt left turn and plunged into the grassy, oak-studded hills below.

When it struck the ground, it was flying at about 184 mph (296 kph) and descending at a rate of more than 4,000 feet per minute. The impact caused a crater and scattered debris over an area the size of a football field in the Calabasas hills. Flames engulfed the wreckage, but burns on the bodies were determined to have occurred after death.

Bryant's body was found on one side of the wreckage and his daughter was found in a ravine on the opposite side.

The autopsy noted Bryant's tattoo of a crown on his right shoulder, above where his wife's name, Vanessa, was imprinted. On the lower right arm were the names of three of his four daughters: Bianka Bella, Natalia Diamante and Gianna Maria-

Onore, the daughter who died with him.

The youngest girl, Capri Kobe, only 7 months old when her father died, is not mentioned.

The only drug in Bryant's system was methylphenidate, which is sold under the brand name Ritalin and used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and narcolepsy.

The National Transportation Safety Board has not concluded what caused the crash on the outskirts of Los Angeles County but said there was no sign of mechanical failure in the Sikorsky S-76. A final report is not expected for months.

The aircraft did not have a device called the Terrain Awareness and Warning System, which signals when an aircraft is in danger of hitting ground. While the National Transportation Safety Board has recommended the system be mandatory for helicopters, the Federal Aviation Administration only requires it for air ambulances. Both California's senators have called for the FAA to mandate the devices in the wake of the tragedy.

The others killed were Orange Coast College baseball coach John Altobelli, his wife, Keri, and their daughter Alyssa; Christina Mauser, who helped Bryant coach his daughter's basketball team; and Sarah Chester and her daughter Payton. Alyssa and Payton were Gianna's teammates.

Bryant is the only NBA player to have his team retire two numbers in his honor. He was selected last month for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. A ceremony is scheduled for late August though it may be delayed until at least October because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Bryant and his daughter were honored at a star-studded public memorial Feb. 24 at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles, with 20,000 in attendance at the arena where Bryant spent most of his two-decade career with the Lakers. The date 2/24 corresponded with the No. 24 jersey he wore and the No. 2 worn by Gianna.

The same day, Vanessa Bryant filed a lengthy lawsuit alleging that Zobayan was careless and negligent to fly in the fog and should have aborted the flight. She has also filed a claim, a precursor to a lawsuit, against the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department after deputies allegedly shared unauthorized photos of the crash site.

Zobayan's brother, Berge Zobayan, has said in a court filing that Bryant knew the risks of helicopter flying and his survivors aren't entitled to damages from the pilot's estate, while the helicopter company, Island Express, says they are not responsible for damages, calling the crash, among other things, "an act of God" and "an unavoidable accident" that was beyond their control.

AP

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The aircraft did not have a device called the Terrain Awareness and Warning System, which signals when an aircraft is in danger of hitting ground. While the National Transportation Safety Board has recommended the system be mandatory for helicopters, the Federal Aviation Administration only requires it for air ambulances. Both California's senators have called for the FAA to mandate the devices in the wake of the tragedy.

No contest: In corona era, Eurovision seeks to unite Europe

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

THIS was no contest.

Shut down by the coronavirus crisis, Europe's annual musical spectacular that pits countries against one another instead sought to unite them Saturday.

The Eurovision Song Contest whose final was scheduled for Saturday night was canceled amid restrictions aimed at reining in the global pandemic.

So rather than judging songs from 41 artists from Albania to the United Kingdom and having countries allocate points to elect a winner, organizers created a two-hour show called "Eurovision: Europe Shine A Light" that was broadcast in more than 40 countries.

Underscoring the effects of the coronavirus, the show opened with a montage of videos of the deserted streets of European cities before cutting to an almost empty studio in the Netherlands.

It was a stark contrast to the frenetic scenes of flag-waving, screaming fans that form the backdrop for normal Eurovision finales.

Part of the Ahoy convention center in the port city of Rotterdam that was to have hosted the contest was transformed earlier this year into a makeshift care center to ease strain on regular hospitals treating COVID-19 patients.

At the end of the show, it was announced that Ahoy and Rotterdam will host the 2021 Eurovision Song Contest.

Saturday's show featured appearances by past favorites as well as the artists that were to have taken part in this year's competition jointly performing 1997's winning song,



In this Saturday, May 16, 2020 image provided by EBU/NPO/NOS/AVROTROS, the three hosts Edsilia Rombley, Chantal Janzen, and Jan Smit, from left to right, joke during rehearsal for the Eurovision's Europe Shine A Light remote television show, in Hilversum, Netherlands. This was no Eurovision Song Contest. Forced by the coronavirus crisis to retreat into a Dutch television studio, Europe's annual musical spectacular that pits countries against one another instead sought to unite them under the shadow of the global pandemic. (AP)

"Love Shine a Light," made famous by Katrina and the Waves.

From its humble beginnings in 1956, the contest has become a vector of camp and kitsch with almost 200 million viewers tuning in for the finale.

Johnny Logan of Ireland, who won twice as a singer and once as a writer, opened Saturday's show with a performance of his 1980 winning song, "What's Another Year," accompanied by Eurovision fans on screens like a Zoom meeting and

the three Dutch presenters of the show. Organizers called it "a huge Eurovision choir."

Måns Zelmerlöw of Sweden sang his 2015 winning song, "Heroes," this year dedicated to health care workers battling the virus.

Snippets of the 41 songs that were to have taken part in this year's contest were played throughout the show with recorded messages from the performers.

The Mamas, Sweden's entry, urged viewers to stay safe and wash their

hands.

One of Sweden's brightest musical stars, Bjorn Ulvaeus of ABBA, paid tribute to the contest that catapulted him and the band to global fame after their song "Waterloo" won in 1974.

"It still remains one of the most genuinely joyous events of the TV year – and it's so disarmingly European," he said in a video message. "It so allows you to escape and be happy – even forget about the coronavirus for a little while."

AP

For DJ Black Coffee, COVID-19 signals pause to rethink music business



DJ Black Coffee

JOHANNESBURG

HE rose from South Africa's poorest province to become one of the world's most successful DJs, entertaining millions in dance clubs all over the globe, but the COVID-19 lockdown has got DJ Black Coffee wondering about the future of the music business.

Like most artists, the 44-year-old's income depends on live gigs because the digital age has killed revenue streams from recorded music. Under lockdowns and air travel bans, the money has dried up.

"Regardless of what revenue you were making before, you are gonna get to a point where you

are making zero, it's gonna affect all of us," Black Coffee, whose real name is Nkosinathi Innocent Maphumulo, told Reuters in a video interview on Friday.

"We perform for crowds and crowds is a 'no-no' ... A thousand people in the room means good business. If you say 80 people in the room, no one is going to make a party for 80 people."

Like other artists he has turned to performing "virtual gigs" that fans can access via the Internet in their living rooms, raising money for charities mitigating the fallout from the coronavirus in South Africa.

The country's strict lockdown has left millions in need of food aid. South Africa now has nearly 13,000 cases of whom 238 have died.

His last virtual charity performance is on Saturday. Then he is going to try and figure out how to make money online.

It won't be easy: listeners are used to getting music for next to nothing on streaming sites.

"Even if you get a million views, if you get 5 million on YouTube, the cheque you're going to get for that is like a joke," he told Reuters by videolink from the front seat of his car, wearing a casual sweater and brown-tint aviator shades.

"Money is in performances."

Black Coffee's sound blends classic electronic 'house' music with jazz and sometimes traditional South African folk songs in homage to his Eastern

Cape roots.

"By virtue of who I am, even if I want to create something that's more electronic than African, the African in me always comes out," he said.

Black Coffee's big break was in 2010, when he won the Guinness World Record for the longest-ever DJ set, spinning vinyl for 60 hours non-stop. It was no mean feat for a DJ who lost the use of his left hand in a car accident while celebrating the release of Nelson Mandela in 1990.

He expressed the hope that advances in virtual experiences could recreate at least some of the "vibe" from live gigs. But for that fans need better technology such as virtual reality sets in their living rooms.

Who's saying what as the Bundesliga returns

BERLIN

THE German Bundesliga on Saturday became the first major European league to resume playing after a two-month coronavirus lockdown.

Matches were played without fans while goal celebrations were banned and benches observed social distancing.

AFP Sport looks at the reaction: "There is something surreal about it. In the two hours before the match, you receive text messages from all over the world, people who tell you that they are going to watch the match on TV, and then you drive through your city and there is absolutely nothing happening. You have to get used to it."

- Borussia Dortmund chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke after his team's 4-0 win over local rivals Schalke

"There is no noise, you shoot at the goal, you make a great pass, you score, and nothing happens, it's very, very weird."

- Dortmund coach Lucien Favre

"We had many conversations before hand and knew that it was actually nothing more than like the games we used to play as children: without anyone watching and just having fun. The result just now also makes people happy who are watching in front of the TV."

- Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Bürki

"Not necessarily for the players, who may have to buy one less Lamborghini, but for the economy that depends on it - the coaches, ground staff, fan shops. On a match day, some shops, including fast-food stands, rake in revenues equivalent to that of a normal week."

- Long-standing Dortmund supporter Marco Perz on why it was crucial the German season restarted

"For us the situation is not really

new. We have already been training in empty stadiums. Also as a coach, I have trained youth teams in the past and I always heard myself shouting. We are just as happy to be able to go back to our work as the cook who prepares a good meal again. We are just as happy as anyone else who tries to do creative things."

- Freiburg coach Christian Streich
"It wasn't easy without the same push that you usually get when 50,000 are in the stands. You have to somehow motivate yourself when you come into an empty stadium. We did it pretty well and got the tension up. It was unfamiliar to everyone and it will remain unfamiliar to everyone for a while."

- Freiburg midfielder Robin Koch
"The day was a bit odd. I am an emotional man, I like to take a player in my arms, which I obviously couldn't do today."

- Uwe Rosler, the coach of Dueseldorf

"The fact is that this is part of football. We've been tested so many times that we can allow it. If you can't celebrate anymore, then something else has broken. I'm just glad that the team had reason to cheer today."

- Bruno Labbadia, Hertha Berlin coach after some of his players celebrated the goals in a 3-0 win at Hoffenheim with hugs, breaking the league's hygiene protocol

...and the not so serious
"I remember when I was at Hamburg, I played in an empty stadium - it didn't put me off, I bagged twenty goals in as many minutes. Then I got rolloxed by a groundsman who told me we were in fact playing away at Bayern that day and no bugger had told me. It did explain a lot."

- Parody Twitter account @GalacticKeegan

AFP

All league teams cleared to start group training in Spain

MADRID

ALL Spanish league clubs can begin group training sessions this week despite stricter lockdown restrictions remaining in place in parts of Spain because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Cities like Madrid and Barcelona have not been allowed to loosen confinement measures like most of the country, but teams such as Real Madrid and Barcelona have been given the go-ahead to move into the second phase of training.

The league has told clubs that on Monday all players can start small group sessions regardless of the lockdown phase in their regions. Players had only been allowed to train individually across Spain until now.

The Spanish government has been gradually easing lockdown restrictions that had been in place since mid-March because of the pandemic, with different levels of clearances from region to region. Teams in Madrid and Barcelona theoretically would not be allowed to start training in groups if the government hadn't created exceptions.

Teams in regions with tighter restrictions will be allowed to practice with 10 players in the same session, while clubs in areas with fewer restrictions can use up to 14 players. Teams in the latter regions also can make greater use of their

facilities, reaching up to 50% of their capacity. The rest of the clubs can only use up to 30% of the facilities.

Group meetings between players and the coaching staff are also now allowed in some regions if distancing guidelines remain in place, and referees are now being allowed to train in sports facilities.

The next training phase will allow for clubs to start full squad sessions.

Clubs and players have been asked to follow strict health safety guidelines during training. Players, club employees and everyone else involved in the training sessions have to be tested daily for COVID-19. Five players from teams in the first and second divisions tested positive before the individual practice sessions resumed.

The league wants to resume on June 12 with games in empty stadiums, though the media is expected to be allowed to cover the matches on site. The media has not been able to attend the practice sessions.

The Bundesliga this weekend became the first main soccer league to resume.

More than 27,000 people have died with COVID-19 in hard-hit Spain. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Saturday said he will ask Parliament for what he hopes will be the last extension of the state of emergency.

AP

City of Malmo set to relocate vandalized Ibrahimovic statue

By JARI TANNER

THE city of Malmo has had enough of the repeated acts of vandalism on soccer star Zlatan Ibrahimovic's statue outside the local football club's stadium and wants it transferred to a new location.

The Sydsvenskan newspaper said Saturday that the municipal council in Sweden's third largest city is poised to make a decision on Monday and is seeking suggestions from top-flight team Malmo FF as to where the statue should be moved later in the year.

In an emailed comment to The Associated Press, Anders Malmstrom, City of Malmo's media spokesman, confirmed the plan. He said a council working committee will propose

Monday that "the statue should stay in Malmo but get a different location than at the (Swedbank) Stadium."

The club's CEO Niclas Carlsen told the Sydsvenskan newspaper he wasn't aware of the city's plans and wouldn't comment on the matter. Malmstrom did not say whether the Malmo club had been briefed on the issue.

The 500-kilogram (1,100-pound) bronze statue of Ibrahimovic, who now plays for AC Milan, was unveiled in October to much fanfare outside Malmo's stadium, commemorating one of Sweden's greatest sports stars.

Created by sculptor Peter Linde, the statue is three meters (9-foot-10) tall and shows the football star standing bare chested with open arms.

AP

Football but not as we know it: Odd sights from Bundesliga comeback

BERLIN

GERMANY gave football-starved fans reason to be cheerful on Saturday with the Bundesliga's return to action behind closed doors, on a day in which Borussia Dortmund hammered local rivals Schalke in an echoing Signal Iduna Park.

Here AFP looks at some of the most eye-catching things from a memorable day in the history of the sport:

Haaland keeps it socially distanced

Wonderkid striker Erling Braut Haaland began where he left off with the first Bundesliga goal of its restart after a two-month break caused by the coronavirus.

Haaland turned home Thorgan Hazard's low cross just before the half hour to open the scoring against Schalke. It was the 19-year-old's 10th goal in just nine Bundesliga appearances and set his team on their way to a thumping 4-0 derby victory.

Instead of being mobbed by jubilant teammates, Haaland made sure that they all kept their distance as he bobbed a cheeky little dance on the sidelines, in homage to the strict hygiene rules that the league has to follow.

Schalke take five

Schalke became the first team to make use of the rule change that allows five substitutions in a game, with David Wagner using the maximum number at Dortmund.

Timo Becker replaced Everton loanee Jonjoe Kenny with three minutes remaining as Schalke suffered a destruction at the hands of Lucien Favre's flamboyant side.

Favre, meanwhile, used four substitutions, with man-of-the-match Raphael Guerreiro replaced by Marcel Schmelzer in the final moments after adding to Haaland's opener with an impressive brace.

The increase in subs, approved by the game's lawmakers earlier this month, was adopted by the Bundesliga to limit the risk of injury following two months without matches.

Masked men line the dugout

As well as the unusual sight of normally packed stands shorn of the boisterous support that accompanies the Bundesliga, fans watching on TV saw players wearing masks on the sidelines.

Players on the bench wore protective masks in compliance with the stringent safety guidelines implemented to allow the Bundesliga to resume before Europe's other top leagues.

Schalke alternated players on the bench in order to respect social distancing rules while a contact sport was being played out on the field.

Augsburg fans question restart

NICOLE Bartelt has been a loyal fan at all but two of Borussia Dortmund's home matches since 2008, but when the Bundesliga restarted Saturday after a two-month hiatus because of the coronavirus, she was forced to keep away from the stands.

Nevertheless, Bartelt, 44, was not complaining that the derby with Schalke was played behind closed doors.

"It's better to have 'ghost games' to slow the epidemic than to have a health catastrophe," she told AFP.

"Even if we detest Schalke, a season without such a derby doesn't have the same flavour," added Bartelt, wearing a black Dortmund jersey, before heading to her friends' place to watch the game.

Likewise, Marco Perz, 45, who has been a regular at Dortmund matches since 1987, was in front of the television at his friends'

"It's sad that matches are played in empty stadiums, but it's better than nothing - the more we keep to health rules, the sooner we can return to normality," said Perz, with a beer in hand.

It would be "absurd and dangerous" to not allow the season to run its course, said Perz, who was wearing a jacket emblazoned with a dozen Dortmund logos.

"Not necessarily for the players, who may have to buy one less Lamborghini, but for the economy that depends on it - the coaches, ground staff, fan shops. On a match day, some shops, including fast-food stands, rake in revenues equivalent to that of a normal week."

- "Not very comfortable"

Unlike typical match days, when the city centre would be buzzing with fans, the atmosphere downtown was muted.

Pubs and restaurants have reopened, but they were far from full for the match.

"We can take in only 50 people, compared to 500 usually," said Joerg Kemper, who manages Wenkers pub, popular with Dortmund fans.

"People are also not very comfortable about gathering in the current context," he told AFP.

In the pub, decked out with a dozen black and yellow BVB jerseys, the flooring is now marked with tape denoting the required physical distance.

"Usually such a derby would draw euphoria but, this time, we're happy even with very little," he said, adding that on a regular match day, revenues are comparable to that of a week's takings.

"Borussia champion!" the 40 or so people who turned up at the pub sang at the final whistle as their club won 4-0 - the biggest margin against Schalke since 1966.



Erling Braut Haaland keeps his distance after opening the scoring in Borussia Dortmund's 4-0 win over local rivals Schalke (AFP Photo)

While fans across the world celebrated being able to watch top-level live football after a two-month drought, some supporters questioned the wisdom in restarting the league.

Augsburg followers hung a banner in front of an empty stand that read "Football gives life - your business is sick" in protest at football being played while the pandemic still takes lives across Europe.

There was little joy for the home side on the pitch either, with Daniel Ginczek's stoppage time strike handing Wolfsburg a 2-1 win and deepening Augsburg's relegation fears.

Dortmund salute empty wall

A resounding victory over Schalke would usually see Dortmund's players celebrating in front of a throbbing 'Yellow Wall', the massive terrace behind the

goal at Signal Iduna Park that holds up to 25,000 passionate fans.

However, with the stadium all-but-empty and the only noise being the cheers and clapping of players and coaches, Dortmund still jogged over to applaud the 'Sudtribune' in honour of the fervent support that usually pours from the stand.

Clean balls, please

The decision to allow German football to restart came with a host of government regulations, including the masks on the bench and plexiglass separating players and journalists for post-match interviews.

One of the rules states that match balls need to be regularly disinfected by personnel wearing gloves, as the German Football League attempts to limit the spread of the virus and finish the 2019-20 season.

Leipzig go one step beyond

RB Leipzig came up with a novel solution to helping players obey German Football League (DFL) rules which stipulate there must be at least 1.5 metres distance between each person on the substitutes bench.

With not enough room in the subs area for the matchday squad, some players had to sit in the stands, which are three metres above the pitch and the dugout on the sidelines.

So Leipzig borrowed a set of aircraft stairs which are normally used to board and disembark passengers from planes, from nearby Halle/Leipzig airport.

"Special situations require special measures. We are happy to help," airport spokesman Uwe Schuhardt told Bild.

AFP

It's TV at home as German football returns with 'ghost games'

DORTMUND, Germany



On the outside: A Borussia Dortmund worker wears a mask outside the Signal Iduna Park stadium before the team face Schalke 04 as the Bundesliga resumes (AFP Photo)

While the fans sought at first to keep their distance, their efforts melted away as Dortmund hit their fourth in the 63rd minute, with some fans giving each other kisses.

"It's important that life restarts again slowly," said Georges Gourlay, 57. "Even if we are happy that things are going fine in Germany, we must stay cautious."

- Calm -

Ahead of the match, police sent out repeated appeals on Twitter, urging fans to

stay home to enjoy the game.

Police were in out in force, with several vans parked at the city centre and outside the main train station, with the twin task of stopping fans from assembling as well as to maintaining order as anti-lockdown demonstrations were expected at the same time.

While stay-at-home measures have largely been lifted, social distancing rules forbid more than two families mingling.

People are also required to stand 1.5 me-

tres (five feet) apart, to avoid contagion.

Outside the stadium, the atmosphere was unusually calm.

Only a few cyclists and pedestrians were to be seen while the shutters remained down over ticket windows.

The only signs that something was stirring were vest-clad stadium staff wearing face masks standing at the main entrances and police on patrol.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Football but not as we know it:
Odd sights from Bundesliga comeback

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Juma Kaseja

Simba SC clash with Zamalek a toughest game in my career, says Juma Kaseja

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

SENIOR national football squad 'Taifa Stars' shot stopper Juma Kaseja has disclosed the 2003 CAF Champions League second round's return leg duel pitting his former club, Simba, against Egypt's Zamalek is the toughest clash he has played in his career in the game.

Simba went on to post a memorable 3-2 victory over Zamalek in the penalty shootout and secure qualification for the group stage of the 2003 CAF Champions League.

Zamalek, the then CAF Champions League holders, were as a result dethroned.

Kaseja, a famous Tanzanian keeper that is lately donning Vodacom Premier League side KMC FC jerseys at the club level, revealed Simba players had earlier felt they will easily cruise past Zamalek in the return leg, thanks to the former's 1-0 victory over the latter in the first leg encounter played in Dar es Salaam.

Simba though faced stiff opposition in the clash that took place in Cairo on June 1 in 2003.

The second leg's regular time had ended with the Egypt soccer big guns notching 1-0 victory over Simba, forcing the duel to the penalty shootout.

Simba later fully exploited the penalty shootout to bundle the former out.

"I have never played in such a tough clash like that," he said.

Kaseja disclosed Zamalek were way better than Simba in every department in the clash and they took the game to Simba for the better part.

"It is easy to talk about the clash but it was really tough out on the pitch. Zamalek were better than us," he pointed out.

"They were then the CAF Champions League holders. We had to work really hard and we were at some point truly lucky."

The diminutive shot stopper put in scintillating displays in the clash and steered Simba to victory.

Kaseja recollected that apart from seeing Zamalek off, there were several issues which include a verbal spat involving Simba defender, Said Swedi, and the team's coach Talib Hilal.

Hilal had been hired by Simba leadership to temporarily work with the outfit's technical bench in the tournament.

"Talib had asked winger Athumani Machupa to stop making forays on the flank and track back to help fullback Swedi, but I must tell you we were still attacked through the same flank," Kaseja disclosed.

"When Talib was seemingly infuriated by the two players' failure to frustrate our opponents' attacks on the flank, Swedi angrily told the tactician to get into the pitch and play if he felt it was an easy task."

"Defender Amri Said, who was in the list of our team's substitutes, also refused to get into the pitch in place of Victor Costa, forcing Costa to keep on playing up to the final whistle."

"Said settled for the decision after having seen the clash's competitiveness."

"We at some point wished our opponents should drill in a goal that could have prompted them to go for a relaxed approach to the duel, we nevertheless bundled them out in what was a memorable feat for our team."

Kaseja, who has featured for several domestic clubs including Yanga, stated: "Honestly Simba player who played in the clash will tell you it is his best game in his participation in soccer."

In the 2003 CAF Champions League, Simba knocked BDF XI of Botswana out of the preliminary stage, posting a 4-1 aggregate victory and cruising to the first round.

Simba later sailed through to the second round, thanks to an aggregate 9-8 victory against South Africa's Santos in the first round.

Penalty shootout had to settle the clash because both the first and second legs had ended with the teams settling for 0-0 draw.

“

Defender Amri Said, who was in the list of our team's substitutes, also refused to get into the pitch in place of Victor Costa, forcing Costa to keep on playing up to the final whistle

PCB 'very optimistic' about England tour

KARACHI

THE PCB is "very optimistic" about the operational plans being put into place for this summer's tour of England by Pakistan and has reached an agreement in principle after ECB assurances, as elite-level cricket plots a re-start after months of worldwide lockdown.

The two boards held a meeting on Friday in which the ECB talked the PCB through plans for keeping players in a bio-secure environment, from the moment they land in the country through the three Tests and three T20s they are scheduled to play.

Working plans include flying the Pakistan squad into the UK on a chartered flight in early July and allocating them one venue as a base, where they can not only carry out their training and intra-squad practice games but also spend the mandatory two-week quarantine period put in place by the UK government for all visitors from outside the country.

That venue, with a hotel in near proximity, is yet to be confirmed, and would be separate from the two venues the series of six international matches is to be played in. The Tests are currently scheduled to begin early August, once Pakistan have undergone the quarantine and put in a few weeks' worth of practice and training.

"We were presented with a lot of the planning and detail that the ECB are putting into place for this summer, especially on the operational side, right from the plane for travel to the bio-secure venues we will play in," Wasim Khan, the PCB chief executive, told ESPNcricinfo. "It was very, very encouraging from that point of view and the PCB is very optimistic about the plans in place."

The tour going ahead will still depend on a number of factors, foremost among them how the UK continues to move slowly and gradually out of the lockdown imposed in the country since late March.

The UK has been among the worst-hit countries in the world by the coronavirus pandemic, although it is accepted now that it has passed the peak of the epidemic.

Earlier this week, a few restrictions - such as on outdoor exercise and the return of some people to work - were lifted and the government also put out guidelines for the return of professional sport as part of a two-stage plan. England players are expected to return to individual skills-based exercises next week, with the second stage - which will allow 'social clustering' among training groups - to be governed by safety assessments from Public Health England.

Pakistan are also fortunate in that they are the second visitors this summer, and so will be able to observe how well the ECB's plans are executed if West Indies agree to go ahead with their rescheduled tour.

And not least, it will come down to how Pakistan's players feel about travelling to England. "We're going to be speaking to the players this coming week and update them on the ECB's plans," Khan said. "We're not going to force any player to tour if they don't feel comfortable."

AGENCIES



Dar es Salaam's African Lyon players participate in training in the city recently to prepare for this season's First Division League (FDL). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Sporting activities nearing restart in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has said he will likely give green light to a restart of sporting activities in Tanzania this week, should there be much fewer people infected by the Coronavirus disease.

Magufuli issued the statement after he had joined members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT)'s Geita Parish in a mass held yesterday.

Sporting activities in Tanzania have, as directed by the government, been suspended indefinitely in an effort to contain the disease.

He said as per yesterday's statistics, Dar es Salaam's designated center for the disease's patients, Amana Hospital, which had 198 patients, has remained with 12 patients, Mloganzila Hospital which had 30 patients now has six patients, Lulanzi center (Kibaha) which had over 50 patients now has 22 patients left.

Dar es Salaam's other designated center for the disease's patients, Agha Khan Hospital,

has 31 patients left, whilst the city's other center, Hindu Mandal Hospital, has 16 patients left.

Magufuli said Dar es Salaam Regency Hospital has 17 patients, TMJ Hospital has seven patients, Arusha's Rabinisia has 14 patients, Moshono (Arusha) has 11 patients, Mwanza centers, Buswelu (two patients) and Misungwi (two patients).

He added Longido, Karatu, Ukerewe, Magu, Mkuyuni, Nyahunge, Sengerema, Kongwa, Kondoa and Kwimba centers have no patients.

Magufuli disclosed Mwanza's Sekou Toure Hospital and Dodoma center have two patients apiece from over 40 patients apiece they earlier had.

"I believe God and He has answered our prayers, we indeed have to thank God for listening to our prayers, and we should continue taking precautions for this disease," he said.

Magufuli had earlier this month said he is thinking of granting resumption of the 2019/20 Mainland Premier League.

The domestic top flight competition and the remaining sporting events in Tanzania, as it is the case for other parts of the world, have been suspended in a bid to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

Magufuli issued the comments after swearing in new Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Mwigulu Nchemba.

Nchemba has been appointed for the post after Ambassador, Augustine Mahiga, that had been holding the post had passed away on May 1.

The President disclosed he is waiting for an advice from his advisers on the better way Mainland Premier League should take place.

"Tanzanians must keep on with their daily activities, we must work whilst taking precautions and honestly I'm even thinking of granting the Mainland Premier League resumption," Magufuli said.

He asked people to opt out of living in fear, maintaining people can continue living in harmony.

"Players should get back to the pitch, fans should watch matches on Televisions. We ought to set up better procedures because I know there is no any sportsman that has been affected by this disease," he added.

"This proves it is not easy for people who take part in training to fall prey to infection. Preventing them from playing amounts to leaving them prone to infection."

The President's statement might turn out to be good news to soccer officials, players, and the sport's supporters in Tanzanians that had for almost a month not watched a sports event because of the pandemic.

The same could be said of other sporting activities, among others, athletics, boxing, and volleyball that were as well put on hold.

Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, had on March 17 issued a government order, saying all sporting events in Tanzania should be suspended for one month because of the Covid-19 spread.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

IF CHINESE MAKE THE MOST OF HUMAN BEINGS...



WE ARE ALL CHINESE BY DEFAULT!

5 EATV Sports

TONIGHT @ 9:30

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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